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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Ancient Indian Astronomers Knew Speed Of Light?

From: Moderator, UFO UpDates
Date: Mon, 20 Jul 1998 06:38:58 -0400
Fwd Date: Mon, 20 Jul 1998 06:38:58 -0400
Subject: Ancient Indian Astronomers Knew Speed Of Light?

The UFOMind Mailing List at:
<http://www.ufomind.com/misc/1998/jul/d18-001.shtml>

From: Glenn Campbell <campbell@ufomind.com>
Date: Sat, 18 Jul 1998 00:15:27 -0800

This evening (July 17) I was listening to the BBC World Service on shortwave radio -- a highly regarded source of news. I was listening to a science news program; I don't recall its name.

A segment of the program said that Vedic astronomers in 14th Century India had accurately predicted both the speed of light and the age of the universe.

I remember only the general outline of the claims...

A modern Indian scholar, while researching ancient Vedic texts, came across a hymn to the sun which specified the speed at which the sun's light travels to the earth. When the ancient measurement system was translated into modern units, it came to some 300,000 km/second, which is the figure we know today. Related texts seem to estimate the age of the universe -- about 8 billion years.

The question is, how would they have known this figure?

The program was vague about how the ancient astronomers might have measured this. However, the possibility of random coincidence was ruled out.

The program said that Western science began to measure the speed of light in the 17th century and didn't have an accurate figure until the 19th century.

The program assigned no great significance to the finding; it was presented simply as a scientific oddity. Certainly no extraterrestrial theory was offered.

I tried a web search for more info about this specific claim but haven't found anything yet - however, I did create a web page for Vedic astrology at:

www.ufomind.com/para/spirit/astrology/vedic/

Does anyone know how to further investigate this? Certainly there must be a news story in print somewhere on the recent discovery.

It smells like an interesting anomaly.

Glenn

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