

The Vanara People, an Archeological View *by Potluri Rao In Seattle ©2018 (CC BY 4.0)*

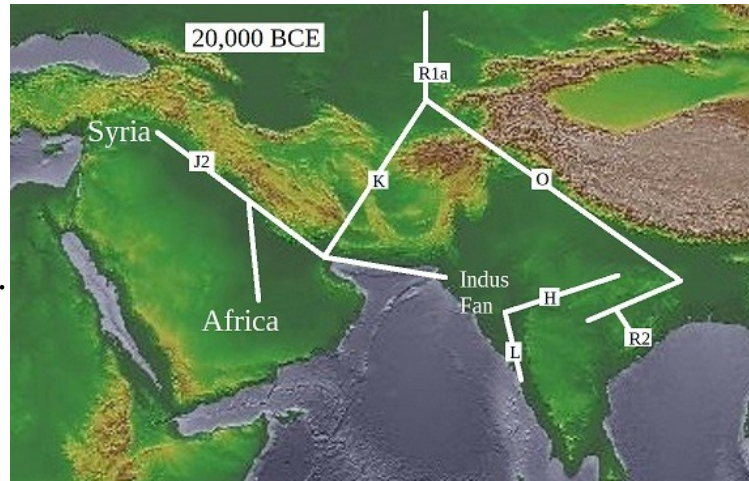
In the epic Ramayana, the Vanara were portrayed as forest monkeys that helped Rama recover Sita. The Vanara were genetically the Mundari speaking Naga people, found from the Mizoram State to Arunachal Pradesh. Before 2,200 BCE, they occupied all of the Nagpur Plateau. Unfavorable climate forced them to vacate the Plateau. All of them moved to South East Asia, Tibet, and China.

People who share the same DNA are called a Haplogroup. The Vanara (Naga) are the O group. Currently, there are no O group in India, except on the east edge. The history of the O group remained a mystery. They vacated the Plateau leaving no archeological evidence behind.

The recent DNA research, combined with Geology, Geography, and Archeology, helped us reconstruct the ancient history of the Nagpur Plateau of the Vindhyas. The O people lived in the Plateau for thousands of years. They were the Mundari people.

What follows is an analysis of archeological evidence to document the history of the Vanara (Naga) people. They are a significant part of the ancient Indian history.

Humans originated in Africa 200 thousand years ago. They migrated out about 60 thousand years ago. They migrated in three groups: H, J2, and K. Around the time of the Ice Age (20,000 BCE), the seawater was about 400 feet below the current level. The West Coast of India (Indus Fan) extended another 100 miles to reach the then Arabian Sea. It was a fertile valley that attracted people.



By 40,000 BCE, the H group walked over to the Indus Fan. The glaciers started to melt and the rising sea levels swallowed the Indus Fan. The H group, in the Indus Fan, were forced to move out. At that time, there was a huge natural dam in the Vindhyas. It was the source (headwaters) of many rivers including the Narmada river. The H group reached the Dam. The east bank of the Dam was the Nagpur Plateau.

Around the time of the Ice Age, the O group evolved in the present-day Iran, from the Parent K group. They were culturally very advanced. They grew up in forests and evolved the highlander lifestyle. They migrated east along the Himalayan ridge. They were the Himalayan people. They spoke the Mundari language. When they reached the area where the Vindhyas and Himalayas met, they migrated south along the Vindhyas to reach the Dam. They were on the east bank of the Dam, in the Nagpur Plateau, spread over a distance of 500 miles.

The H were on the south bank of the Dam. The O were on the east bank. The natural Dam was 300 miles long and 100 miles wide.

The R2 were a subgroup of the O. At the Dam, the R2 separated from the O. The O stayed only on the highlands. The R2 moved to lower elevations. In the language of the O, the word Naga meant High as in highland. The O people were distinguished from the R2, and were called the Naga.

The H were lowlanders. The H, O, and R2 were aware of each other and lived in peace and harmony minding their own business. They lived at different elevations with different lifestyles. They lived that way for thousands of years. The Dam was the ancient India.

Around the time of the Ice Age, there was another ancient advanced civilization that evolved in the present-day Syria. They were the J2 group. They invented logic. A subgroup of the J2, called Agni, migrated east to reach the Dam. In those days, the Indus river was not habitable. It was unstable, flood prone, and constantly changed course. The Agni skipped the Indus to reach the Dam. By 5,000 BCE, they reached the west bank of the Dam (Chitrakuta).

A small group of the O wandered to the west bank of the Dam and lived in the Chitrakuta area. The J2 were aware of the O, the highlanders. The J2 were lowlanders. In the language of the J2, the word Vanara meant forest people (highlanders). The J2 referred to the O as Vanara.

The J2 were a logic-based culture. They kept a meticulous record of their migration path. Their keen sense of geography helped them cross the Indus. They developed an ingenious way to preserve their knowledge of geography.

The Agni Ramayana (not the original name) was a collection of folktales to teach geography. Geography along their migration path was spun into fascinating stories to make it unforgettable. The tales were lyrical and sung as nursery rhymes and folk songs,

for wide circulation and longevity. They were authentic geography, vital information required on the migration path. The Agni Ramayana (geography) had nothing to do with the epic Ramayana.

The Agni folktales were scattered in the Jain and Buddha (Jataka) literature, and also in the epics. Using scientific tools, we were able to excavate bits and pieces of the Agni Ramayana (folktales) from various sources.

The excavated stories revealed a fascinating story of the ancient India. It was corroborated by Geology and Geography to be authentic.

Around 4,000 BCE, the Dam was surrounded by H to the south, O to the east, and J2 to the west. The H and J2 were the lowlanders. The O were the highlanders.

Some of the O were on the west bank, near the J2 people. The J2 lived only on the west side of the Chitrakuta, in the lowlands. The O lived only on the east side, in the highlands. They were aware of each other, and lived in peace.

Around 2,200 BCE, also known as the 4.2 Kiloyear event, there was a global drought, for an extended period. The people around the Dam were forced to vacate.

The O, the highlanders, who migrated south from the Himalayas, retreated to the Himalayas. From there, they moved to South East Asia. The lowlanders had a different lifestyle. They could not follow the highlanders. The R2 stayed behind.

The O group (Naga, Vanara) that once occupied the entire Nagpur Plateau, from Ranchi to Nagpur, vacated the area leaving no trace behind.

The J2, on the west bank, faced starvation. There was a mass migration of the J2 from the west bank to the east bank. They had no choice. They had to search for ways to climb over three walls of rock and swim the Dam. They were forced to survey the area. They had a keen sense of geography. They managed to escape.

The Agni Ramayana (folktales) documented the exodus, for everyone to follow, with precise measurements of the migration path. They passed through three treacherous gorges that were barely wide enough for a mule cart to pass. They passed through the Dam. The water level in the Dam rose by more than 100 feet in the rainy season and took several months to be emptied. The path covered a distance of over 300 miles of mountain terrain. They painted an accurate picture of the Geology and Geography of the path. They gave exact locations of streams, lakes, rivers, caves, hills, and clefts. It was

a cartographic map, a navigation tool. It was authentic. The Agni Ramayana (folktales) was used as a travel guide for several decades. The drought lasted for several decades.

Before 2,200 BCE, the H, J2, and R2 lived as separate people for thousands of years. They had no social interaction. They were forced by the drought to vacate the Dam as one people, to the east side of the Dam. They helped each other to survive the harsh climate. They evolved a common perspective on social values and community spirit. They were intermarried. They became one people with common social structure. They encouraged all people to study logic. They invented the Indian Scientific Method. They combined logic and trade to produce a new form of civilization, the Hindu Civilization.

The Vanara (Naga) People

The O group lived only in highlands. They vacated the Plateau without leaving any conventional archeological material behind. The recent DNA research provides us some valuable information on their history. Some of the evidence is provided at the end.

In the J2 language, the word Vanara meant forest people. In the J2 folktales, the Naga were called Vanara. The Naga (Vanara) were compassionate. They helped the J2 evacuate. Both J2 and O used the same path to evacuate the west bank. It was a team effort. They helped each other. According to one of the excavated folktales, they built a ten mile long walkway, in the Dam, with rocks and trees. After they crossed the Dam, the Vanara (Naga) went to the Himalayas, and the J2 joined the H and R2 who were also on the move.

The DNA analysis suggests that the O (Naga, Vanara) had many subgroups. The important ones, for our analysis, are the O2a and O3. The density maps for the O2a and O3 are presented at the end. The maps also have inset-maps that show the density before the climatic change.

The density maps show that around 3,000 BCE, only the O2a, not O3, lived in the Plateau and Arunachal Pradesh.

A table of various tribes from Jharkhand (Plateau) to Arunachal Pradesh, by Haplogroup, is presented at the end. It shows that the O2a is present in all the samples. The O3 is present only in the Mizoram State. The O3 migrated to India after the O2a left India to reach South East Asia. The O3 migrated along the Himalayan ridge to Tibet and China.

Currently, the O group is absent in India, except for remnants of the past, on the east end. At one time, they were the majority of the Indian population. They existed all

along the foothills of Himalayas and the Nagpur Plateau. They were the first inhabitants of North India. They were highlanders. They were originally from Iran.

The ancient Indian history was beyond the reach of conventional Archeology. We needed the help of Geography and DNA research to excavate the lost O group (Naga, Vanara). The J2 kept an accurate record of the geography of their migration path, as folktales. The excavated folktales provided an accurate picture of the geography of the Vindhyas of 2,200 BCE. The Vanara in the folktales were the O group. The original folktales portrayed Vanara as an advanced civilization. They were not forest monkeys as portrayed in the epic Ramayana. The extant version of Ramayana is an obvious corruption.

People in India existed only at the Dam for thousands of years. They were advanced civilizations before they moved to the Dam. They were attracted by the perennial rain water of the Dam. They were forced to vacate the Dam by climatic conditions.

The excavation of the Dam, with the help of the Agni folktales and DNA samples, provides us valuable research material on the history of the ancient India.

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