

Importance of the Legend of Dhruva for Indian Chronology

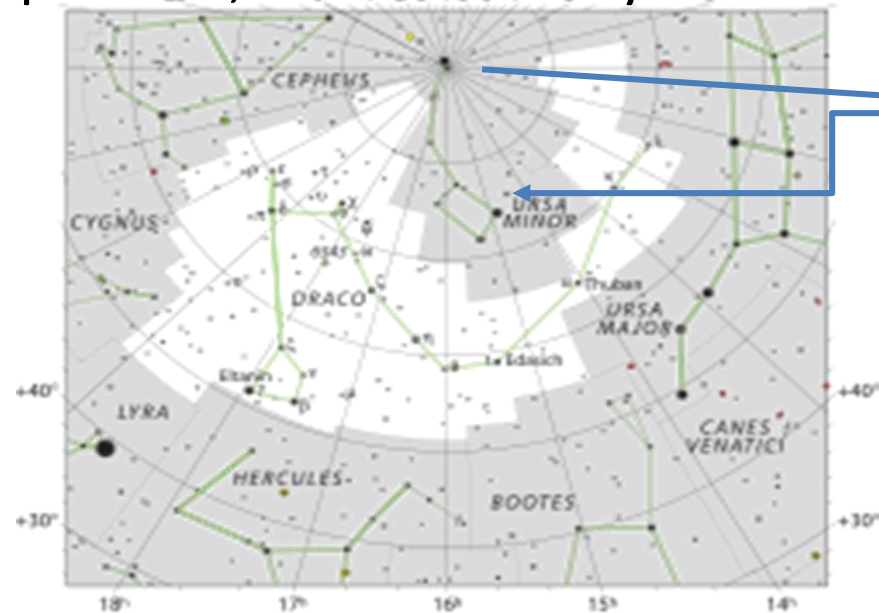
[Temporal Overlap between Vedic & Harappan]

Prof. R. N. Iyengar
Centre for Ancient History & Culture
Jain (Deemed) University
Bengaluru

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The story of the child prince **Dhruva s/o king Uttānapāda**, doing penance standing on one leg, eventually obtaining the boon of immortality from Vishnu, to remain as the **North Pole Star** is well known. His mother **Suniti** also was to be with him as a star till the end of the Universe.

Dhruva means fixed, stable, certain, true, steadfast,..... Anything that is fixed/ unchanging (mountain, hill, tree, earth) can be qualified as Dhruva. But our Dhruva's story is about the **POLE STAR** that remained motionless in the night sky, when other nakshatras/taaras change their position, as observed by our ancestors in India.



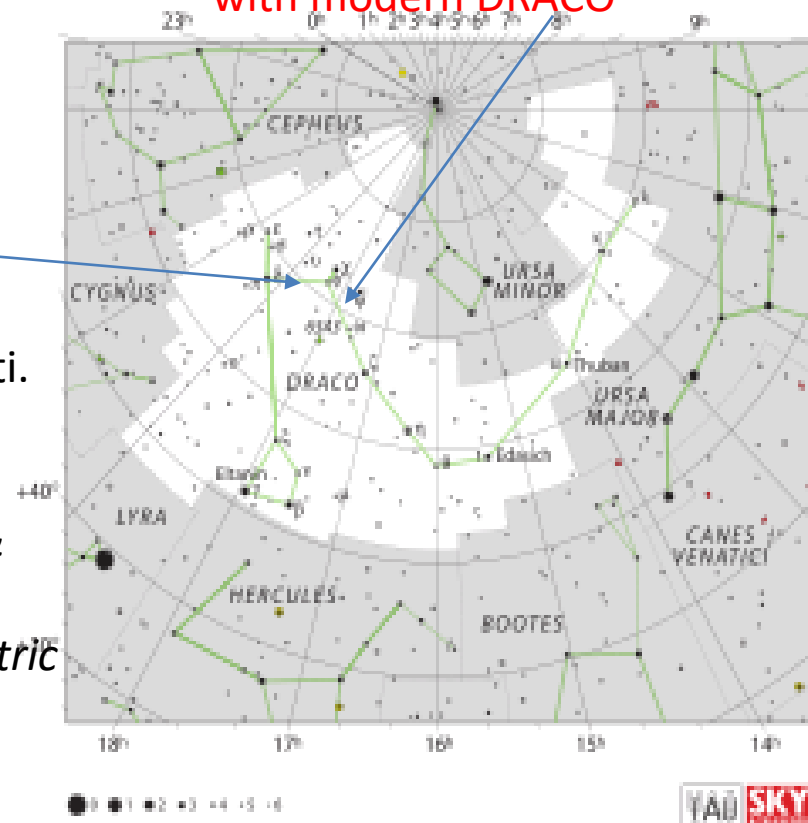
We can see such a star today in the sky (Polaris/Alfa-U.Minor) or show to children in the Planetarium. But this was not what the Purāna story refers to as the Pole Star.

Why the Puranic Dhruva is not now the Pole Star ?

1. There was no Pole Star for people to look at and call it DHRUVA during approximately 2000 BCE-1500 CE; for 3500 years.
2. Purana describes Dhruva to be at the end of a constellation called Shishumara with 14 stars,
3. All stars named and to be marked on the body of the heavenly animal.
4. A small star is to be next to Dhruva to be called Suniti.

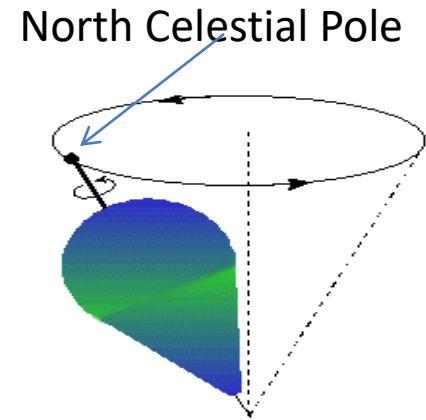
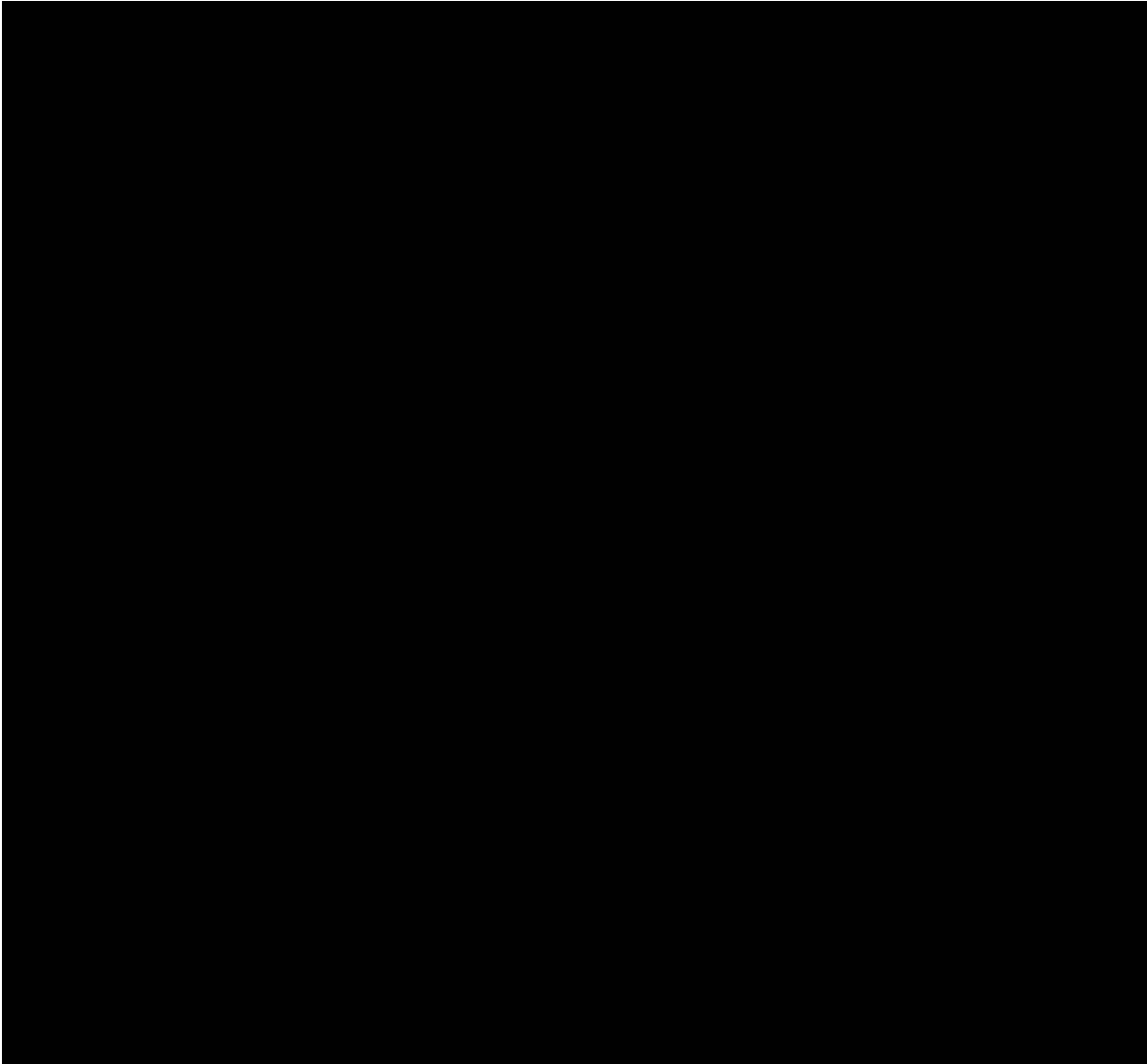
If there was no Visible star at NCP how did Brahmanda & Vishnu Purana scripted around 400-500 CE know about Dhruva as fixed star? Purana proposes Meru-Dhruva centric cosmology. How this idea that Earth is connected to Dhruva by an invisible Meru/Medhi (Pole) arise?

Purana description matches with modern DRACO



1. *Purana should have recorded inherited tradition of ancient memories*
2. *Earth's axis wobbles slowly such that over millennia there may be no star at the North Pole that looks fixed. At present we can see Polaris (alfa-U.Minor) as 'fixed' in the night sky without movement.*
3. *During 3200-2400 BCE 'Abhaya' of the Taittiriya Aranyaka (Yajurveda) was the Dhruva or fixed star! This star is called 'Thuban' or alfa-Draconis in modern astronomy.*

Scientific Evidence of Axial Precession of Earth



~27,000 years required to complete one cycle

ब्रह्मोपस्थानकाले सर्वात्मकस्य परमेश्वरस्य शिशुमाराख्यजलग्न (ग्रा ?) हरूपत्वं
ध्यानार्थं दर्शयति—

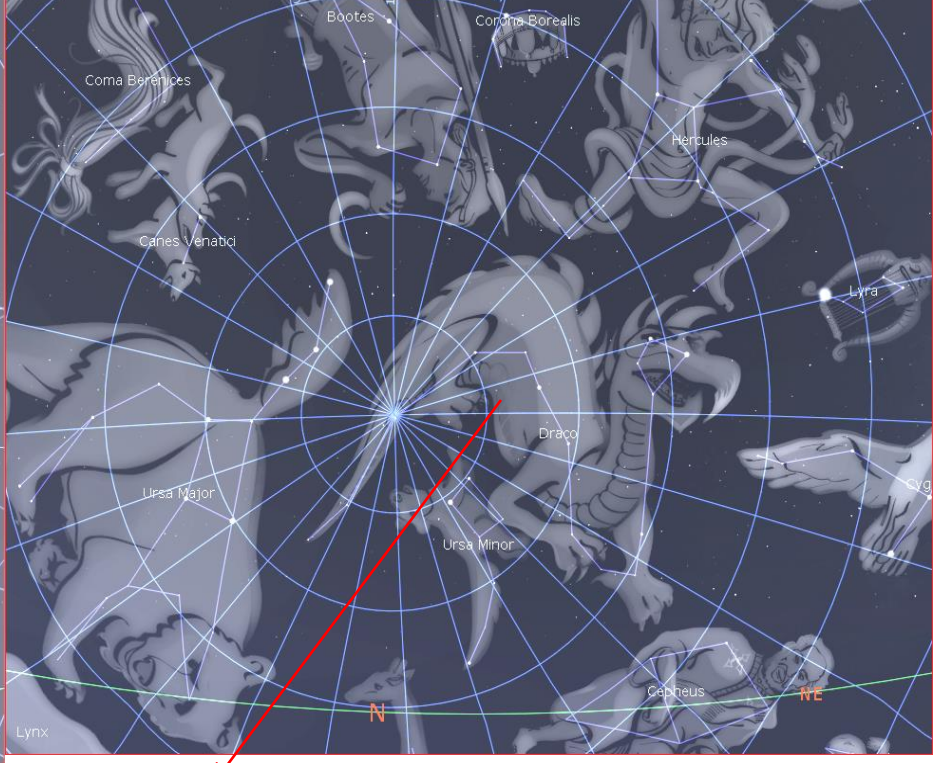
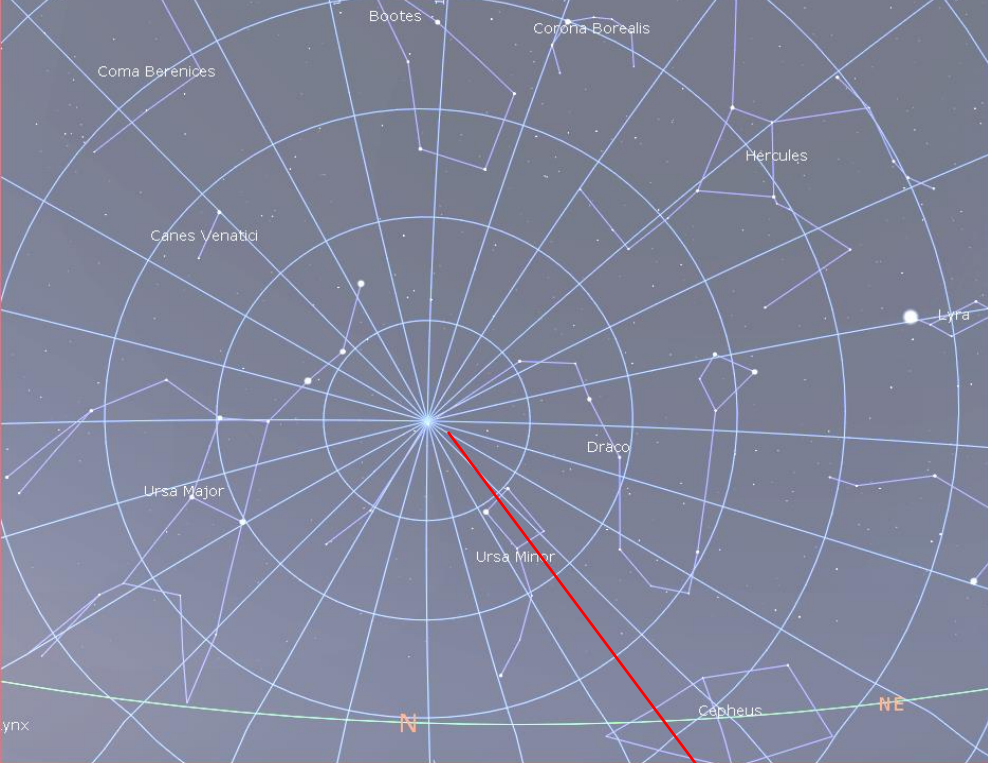
यस्मै नमस्तच्छिरो धर्मो मूर्धानं ब्रह्मोत्तरा हनुर्यज्ञोऽ-
धरा विष्णुर्हृदयं संवत्सरः प्रजननमम्बिनौ पूर्वपादा-
वत्रिर्मध्यं मित्रावरुणावपरपादावग्निः पुच्छस्य प्रथमं
काण्डं तत इन्द्रस्ततः प्रजापतिरभयं चतुर्थं—, इति ।

यस्मै परब्रह्मणे नमः सर्वैर्नमस्कारः क्रियते तत्परं ब्रह्मात्र शिशुमाराख्यध्यात-
व्यस्य जैलग्राहस्य शिर उत्तमाङ्गस्थानम् । योऽयमनुष्ठेयो धर्मः स मूर्धानं मूर्धस्था-
नीयः, शिरसो मूर्धश्चैकस्मिन्नेवाऽऽयतन ऊर्ध्वाधोभागभेदेन भिदा । योऽयं चतुर्मुखो
ब्रह्मा सोऽयं तस्य ग्रा (ग्रा ?) हस्योत्तरा हनुः । यो यज्ञः सोऽधरा हनुः । यो
विष्णुः सोऽयं हृदयस्थानीयः । यः संवत्सरः सोऽयं प्रजननेन्द्रियस्थानीयः । याव-

स वा एष दिव्यः शाकरः शिशुमारस्तं ह, —इति ।
य एवं वेदापं पुनर्मृत्युं जयति जयति स्वर्गं लोकं
नाध्वनि प्रमीयते नाश्रौ प्रमीयते नाप्सु प्रमी-
यते नानपत्न्यः प्रमीयते लघ्वान्नो भवति,—इति ।
ध्रुवस्त्वमसि ध्रुवस्य क्षितमसि त्वं भूतानामधिपतिरासि
त्वं भूतानां श्रेष्ठोऽसि त्वां भूतान्युपपर्यावर्तन्ते नमस्ते
नमः सर्वे ते नमो नमः *शिशुकुमागय नमः(१) इति ॥

This hymn is about the constellation Shishumaara, made up of 14 stars. The text describes the head, jaws, heart, forelegs, hind legs, tail in detail as stationed in the sky with names for the fourteen stars. The commentary of Sayana attests this to be describing the celestial aquatic animal Shishumara.

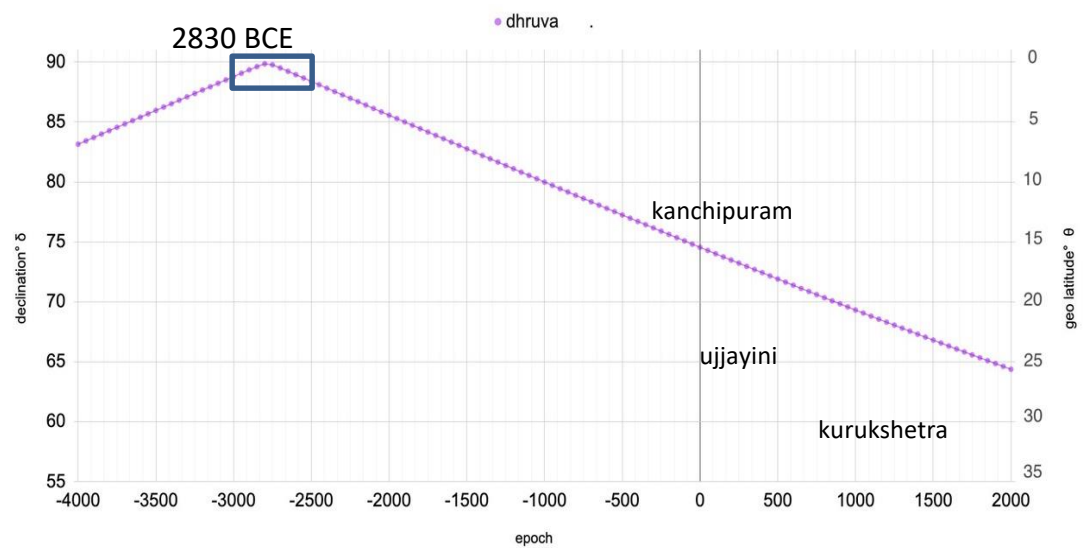
1. Head: Dharma
2. Upper Jaw: Brahma
3. Lower Jaw: Yajna
4. Heart: Vishnu
5. Genital: Samvatsara
- 6,7. Forelegs: Ashwin (twins)
8. Navel: Atri
- 9,10. Hind legs: Mitra & Varuna
11. Tail-First part: Agni
12. Tail 2nd part: Indra
13. Tail 3rd part: Prajapati
14. Tail End: Abhaya-Dhruva



Shishumara of T.Aranyaka c3000 BCE

α -Draconis was the Pole Star during 3200-2400 BCE. In this long period, the declination of this star varied from $87^{\circ}56'$ to $87^{\circ}36'$, reaching $89^{\circ}53'$ in 2830 BC

In the Maitrayaniya Aranyaka, king Brihadratha among several other questions, asks “why even Dhruva moves”



Kamalakara Bhatta, 1658 CE Which Dhruva to be seen by the bride in her marriage?

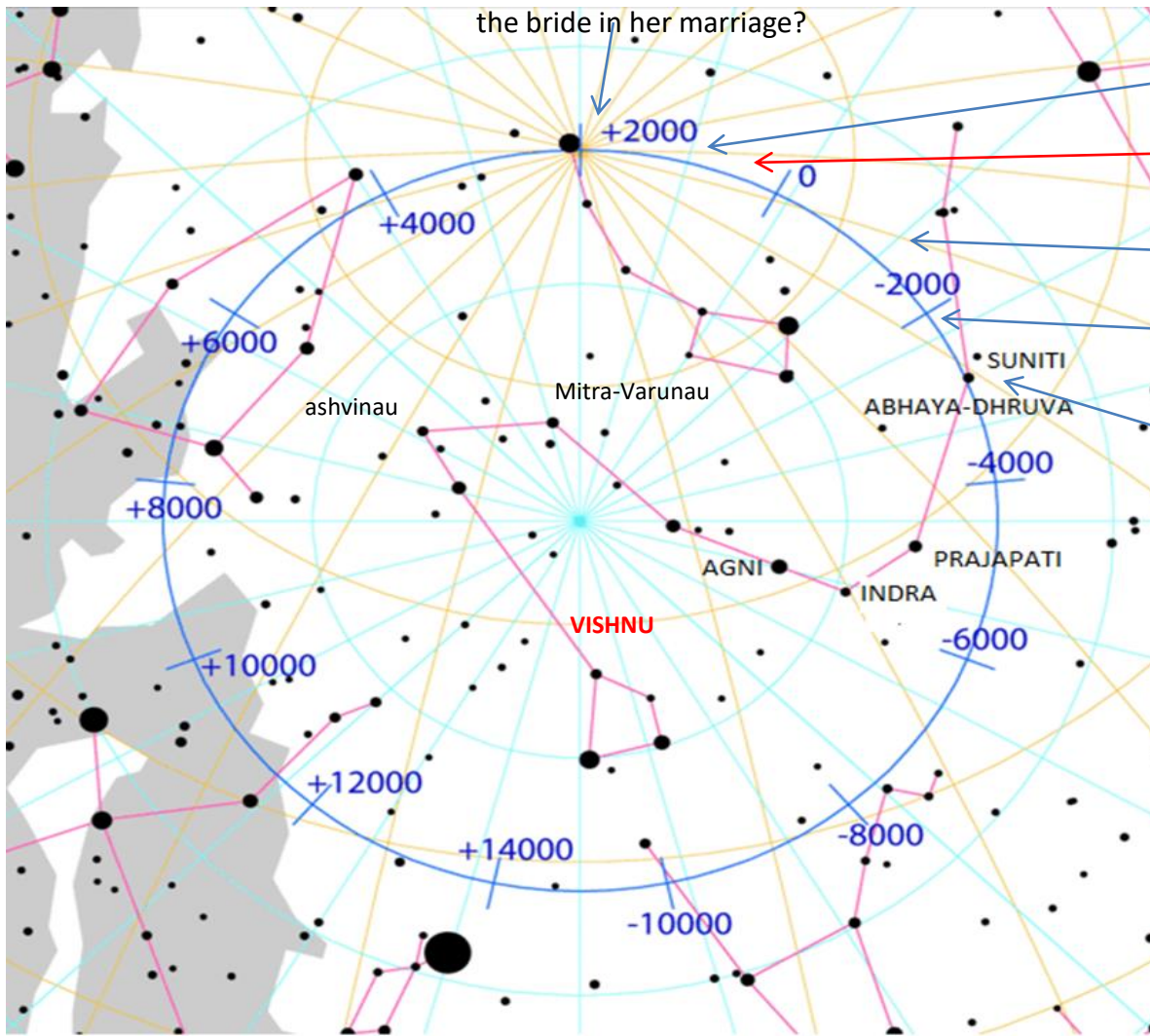
AlBeruni 1025 CE, Hindus believe their Pole star to be in Shishumara

SHANKARACHARYA 800CE, Quotes, Tai.aranyaka to locate Vishnu at the heart of shishumara

Maitrayaniya Aranyaka. 1800 BCE Why Dhruva moves?

Tai.Sam, KS, KKS; Dhruva Graha/sthali, Abhicara using Dhruva, to bring down leaders/kings

Taittiriya AraNyaka 3000 BCE



Taittiriya āraNyaka describes constellation Draco as Shishumara with 14 stars at the end of which Abhaya-Dhruva (α -Draconis or Thuban) was stationed. (2400-2800-3200 BCE) *Ekāgni of Krishna Yajurveda* pictures this as a Fixed Peg driven in ground around which animals go round.

This Dhruva-mantra is used in Hindu marriages to show the bride the Pole Star Dhruva so that she is like the Fixed Star in her new home.

dhruvakṣītiḥ dhruvayoniḥ dhruvamasī, dhruvataḥ sthitaṁ | tvaṁ nakṣatrāṇāṁ methyasi ... ||

Yajurvedic Shrauta Sacrificial Rituals Related to Dhruva

Reference to stability or otherwise of 'Dhruva' appears in several Vedic rituals. The *shrauta* rites exhibit a congruence/similarity between the sacrificial pot 'Dhruva-graha' and the star of the same name. The Samhita part has the mantras (from Rgveda + YV) but the Brahmana part has the explanations or reasons preserved in the form of allegorical legends. [Taittiriya, MaitrayaNiya, Katha and Kapisthala-Katha have similar rituals].

In the Agniṣṭoma sacrifice, Soma (Juice) is drawn in the morning in nine cups (*graha*), the ninth being the *dhruvagraha*. Hymns and rites with Dhruva-graha are available in detail:

R.V 6.7.1

मूर्धानं दिवो आरतिं पृथिव्या। कर्वे सम्राजमतिथिं जनानाम् देवाः ॥ उपयामगृहीतोसि ... ध्रुवोऽसि ध्रुवक्षितिः ध्रुवाणां ध्रुवतमः अच्युतानामच्युतक्षित्तम एष ते योनिरग्नये त्वा वैश्वानराय ॥ (TS 1.4.13)

Explanation:

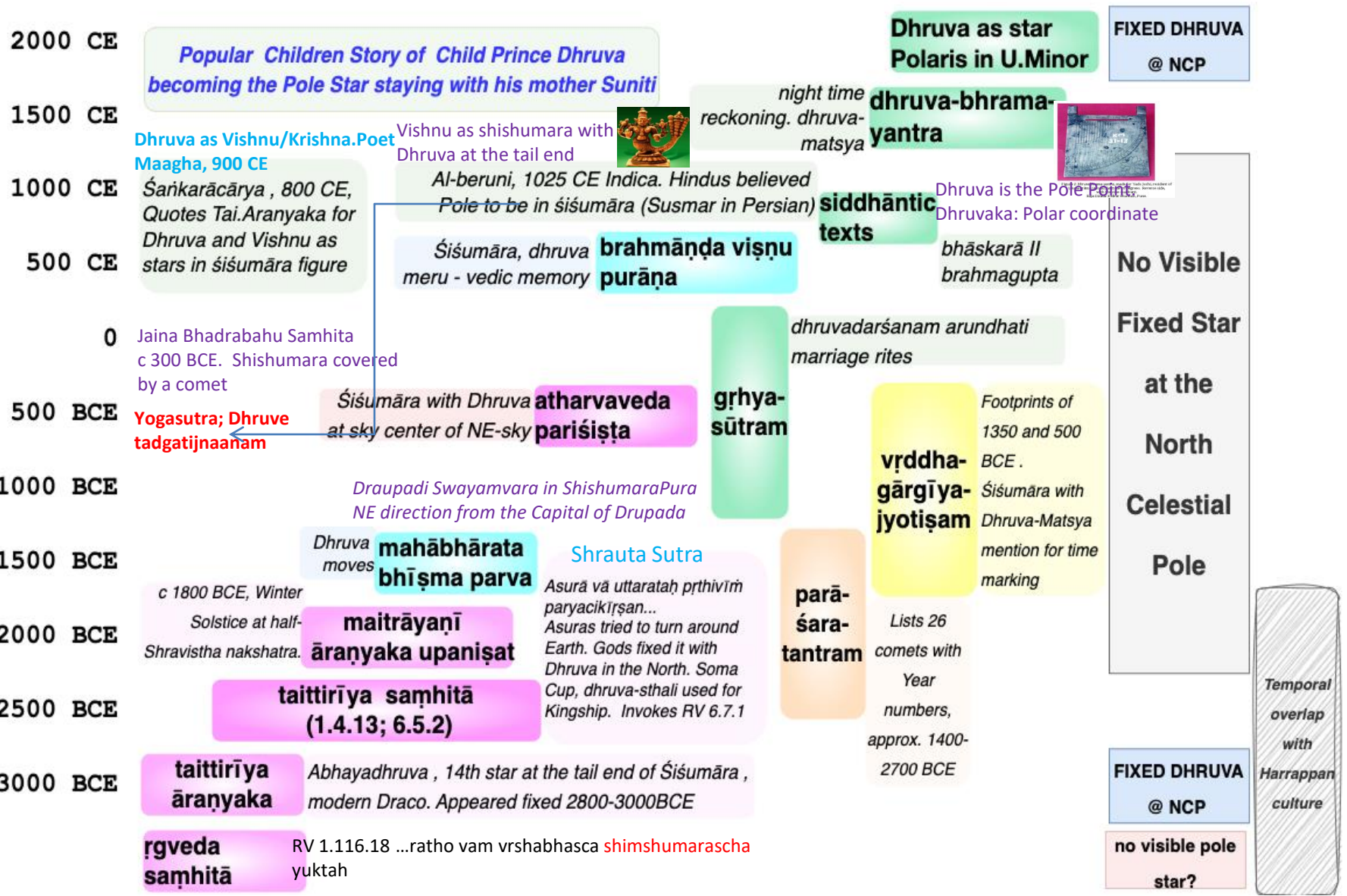
आयुर्वा एतद्यज्ञस्य यद्द्रुव उत्तमो ग्रहाणाङ्गृह्यते॥ असुरा वा उत्तरतः पृथिवीं पर्याचिकीर्षन् तान्देवाद्द्रुवेण अदंहन्त तद्द्रुवस्य ध्रुवत्वं यद्द्रुवः उत्तरतस्साद्यते TS-Br(6.5.2)

The asuras from above (from north) attempted to turn the earth around; the gods firmed it up with Dhruva; that is how Dhruva got its name; for Dhruva is placed in the north for fixity.

MS has similar rituals, **but also refers to black magic** by displacing Dhruva-cup to displace a leader/king.

yadyabhicaret| idamaham amuṣyāṁ amuṣyāyaṇasya ayuḥ pravartayāmi|| iti dhruvaṁ pravartayet, āyurevāsya pravartayati|| dhruvaṁ tvā dhruvakṣitiṁ amuṁ āsthānāt cyāvayāmi|| iti āsthānāt eva enaṁ cyāvayati, pramāyuko bhavati, dhruvaṁ vai pracyavamānaṁ viśvā bhūtānu pracyavante, pra yajamāna āsthānāt cyavate,....||

Stratigraphy of Dhruva as Fixed Pole Star in Sanskrit Texts



Call the story of Dhruva by any name; mythology, legend, cultural astronomy, ethno-astronomy or Vedic cosmogony.

**Indic civilization, as can be gleaned from Vedic & Puranic texts,
has preserved knowledge of
Two Distinct Dhruva-Pole Stars Spanning ~5000 Years**

First one at *tail-end* of constellation Shishumara (Thuban) → Tai.Aranyaka; (~3000 BCE)
Second in *mouth* of Dhruva-matsya (Polaris) --> Siddhanta-tatva Viveka (1658 CE)

Any ancient text by itself may be stratified zig-zag not to yield a specific date for its composition. But the inviolable effect of precession has left its verifiable foot prints through the oral textual descriptions of DHRUVA providing us the backbone to Indian chronology, linking the Vedic and the Harappan.

THANK YOU