

# The Current Age of Darkness

According to the cosmology of the Vedic culture of India, we are now experiencing the effects of the Kali Yuga, also known as the Age of Darkness. There are four Yugas in all and Kali is the darkest and most difficult of all. It began in 3102 BC or around 5000 years ago just after the time in history when Lord Krishna walked the earth. Krishna, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, came to earth at the end of the previous Yuga to rid the earth of the demons. According to ancient literature, Vishnu always incarnates at the end of each age to rid the planet of the demons. During Krishna's life there was a great battle, described in the book, The Mahabharata, in which millions upon millions of men were killed. It was shortly after that battle that the Kali Yuga began.

Our current age of Kali was foretold and described in detail in several ancient texts and their descriptions were accurate. The overshadowing nature of the Kali Yuga is a lack of righteousness and dharma and the prevalence of 'adharma' or ill conduct. Basically it means a lack of morality and truth and a preponderance of lust, greed and amorality. The ways this immorality can be expressed are nearly limitless but we see it today as commonplace. Some examples are:

1. Governments bought and controlled by financial interests.
2. Stealing and theft on a grand scale.
3. Sexual misconduct of all kinds, including rape, incest and others.
4. Family members killing each other over money and property.
5. Justification of all kinds of immoral acts.
6. Lack of honor, loyalty, charity and other noble traits.

Tens of thousands of years ago, accurate descriptions of the coming Kali Yuga were given:

Vivid descriptions of the Kali Yuga are found in the ancient Indian texts, especially the Vishnu Purana. A terrible picture is painted of Kali Yuga, which is considered to be the age of decline and degeneration of human values. People in the Kali Yuga are seen to be wicked, quarrelsome and beggar-like. They also eat indiscriminately, much like pigs and live in cities filled with smoke and thieves. It is truly the age of darkness, where the people are oppressed by their kings and by the ravages of war, calamities, diseases, fatigues and anger. There is distress, anxiety, hunger and fear...

According to the Vishnu Purana, one of the most ancient Indian texts, during the Kali Yuga, *"property confers rank, wealth buys virtue, passion the only bond between husband and wife, sex the only means of enjoyment, falsehood the source of success and ceremonial trappings are confused with reality"*.

The lifespan of men and women is different in the different ages. The Puranas indicate that in Krita or Satya Yuga (the Golden Age) the average life-span is 100,000 years;

In Treta Yuga ( Silver age ) it dropped to 10,000 years;

In Dwapara Yuga ( Bronze age ) it further dropped to 1,000 years.

At the beginning of Kali Yuga ( Iron age ) it came down to a mere 100 years and

At the end of Kali Yuga it could be expected to last no more than say, 22 years.

Keep in mind that these things were written many thousands of years before this age actually began. How accurate these descriptions are! Also, keep in mind that there are three other ages, all of which are much better than the Kali. Fortunately the Kali Yuga is the shortest age of the four.

Basically, in this age, greed and lust predominate and we see a sort of negative evolution of these into lower and lower forms each year. We experience a *continuous decay* of morality, higher values, and goodness and continuous growth of evil deeds on all levels.

I was reading an article written by a man in 1870. In it, he describes the decay of our society. He said, our government is being bought and paid for by special interests, etc. Everything he said is exactly what one would say about our situation today. So, what is a unique quality of the Kali Yuga is that at any time in the Yuga, we will experience this sense of decay of righteousness and morality on a grand scale. Now, here is the kicker: The Kali Yuga will last another 427,000 years, as it is 432,000 years long.

It has been true for the last 5,000 years and it will be true 20,000 and even 200,000 years from now. People alive at any given time in this age will say, "These are dark times when people do atrocious things to each other. And, it is getting worse."

This is really what is experienced in this age, a continual sense of 'things are getting worse.' In my own lifetime, I can say that things have gotten worse and worse. Not to me personally, but to our society. I do not remember a time when the world at large is getting better. Nowadays, instead of **Leave it to Beaver** we have **The Osbournes**. If you do not define that as decay, I do not know what would qualify. In our country, our education is getting worse each year. There seems to be more and more dishonesty in government and businesses, more theft, rape, incest, pornography and the people in society that we hold as role models, such as politicians and movie stars, seem to act out more and more in dishonorable ways. Now we have serial killers who are as popular as politicians and movie stars. I would assume that anything our government is doing, whether here or internationally, is all based upon greed and the lust for power. In other words, there are no higher values that we are making decisions upon. There really isn't anyone around to hold up as a positive role model these days. I imagine the same will be said a hundred years from now, and thousands of years from now.

During the past 20 years or so a lot of people got excited about the coming Age of Aquarius. There was a happy sense that things would get better, somehow because the Age of Aquarius is somehow better than the Age of Pisces from which it evolved. Every astrological age, each of which lasts 2,000 years, has its unique characteristics. However, during the Age of Kali, all of these astronomical ages will be expressed in the most negative fashion imaginable. Now in the Age of Aquarius, instead of people doing horrible things to each other in the name of religion (Pisces), we have people doing it in Aquarian ways, such as high technology, the internet, etc. You might as well expect the worse expression of Aquarius: that is what we will get. Well, here we are. We are in the Aquarian Age now. Has anything improved?

I say expect more of the same because it has been my experience that it is much better to be aware of the real nature of the world around us as opposed to holding some dreamy expectation that all of a sudden people in the world are all going to miraculously wake up and start acting better. Some would say I hold a negative perspective on the world but actually I am an optimist. I just want to make sure that my optimism has a firm foundation in reality. Optimism only meets with success when it is grounded in reality. Otherwise it is a fantasy that will someday cause much pain and suffering. Having accepted the conditions of the world I am living in, I can now make the best of it.

I believe it is very important to those on the spiritual path these days to realize that they are the minority in the extreme. I do not know what the exact numbers are, probably no one could know. But those who are conscious and living a life based upon principles and morality are the rare exception today in this age of darkness. Everything we see today in the news is all a reflection of the consciousness of the majority. Those who are 'in the world, but not of it' are few and far between and do not dictate the rules of society. One must realize that all the governments, media and societies of all countries are affected. All are being led by people whose main motivations are fear, greed, and lust for money and power. And this is how it will remain.

And that is not the end of the story. The Kali Yuga is regarded by enlightened masters to be the best possible time to incarnate. The reason for this is because under such circumstances, an individual has a greater possibility of evolving and attaining enlightenment. Thus, in this age, we find some individuals who become enlightened. Of course, many fall. Like the many teachers and gurus who have succumbed to the lure of power, sex and money, many climb high only to fall back. But that is also part of the spiritual path. We must all be lead into our own temptations and come to terms with them before we can finally be set free.

This is considered a special time to be born, a precious time to be here. And just the fact that you and I are here now is an indication of a spiritual favor being bestowed upon us. If we can realize how precious our time here really is, we can remain more focused on self-development and less caught up in the alluring drama of the illusion (Maya). This is the time of the greatest illusion and thus, the greatest danger. But it is also the time of the greatest opportunity.

When Kali ends we go directly to the highest age of all, The Satya Yuga or Age of Light. There will be nothing but purity and dharma in that age. But we must keep in mind that this age is going to be around for a long time. You and I will incarnate again and again in this age, unless and until we reach personal enlightenment and forgo the need to incarnate again. So I say lets make the best of it while we are here. You must admit we do live in interesting times!