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Kaal Purush Siddhant in Vedic astrology: A modern perspective

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Abstract

In Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra (BPHS), an ancient scripture on Vedic Astrology, Sage Parashara expounds on the concept of Kaal Purush while discussing the intricate process of cosmic manifestation. According to this scripture, Maha Vishnu, the revered lord of the Universe in Hindu cosmology, is depicted as transcending the three Gunas (qualities) viz., *sât*, *râj* and *tâm*, that govern material existence. Despite being beyond the grasp of these Gunas, Maha Vishnu is considered the ultimate cause of creation, possessing immense glory and power. The text describes that Maha Vishnu observes the Universe with only a fraction of his omnipotent energy, while the remaining three-quarters, filled with divine nectar, remain veiled and accessible only to enlightened sages.

This ancient understanding finds intriguing parallels in modern physics, particularly in the principle known as the Observer Effect within Quantum Mechanics. The Observer Effect suggests that the act of observing a quantum system influences its behaviour, with the mere act of attention causing wave functions to collapse into definite states. In essence, focused thought or observation triggers the condensation of wave energy into observable matter, implying a profound link between consciousness and the material world. This aligns with the notion of Maha Vishnu's role as the primal observer and creator of the Universe, suggesting a deep resonance between ancient spiritual insights and contemporary scientific understanding.

Furthermore, BPHS delves into the idea that the divine essence permeates all beings, with the entire Universe existing within Maha Vishnu himself, symbolized as the Kaal Purush or the Cosmic Being. According to this perspective, every individual entity contains aspects of both *Jeevatmansh* and *Paramatmansh*, with certain beings embodying a predominance of one aspect over the other. This concept parallels modern interpretations of quantum fields, wherein every individual is surrounded by an intangible field of boundless energy, from which all physical reality emerges.

The convergence between Vedic cosmology and modern physics is further endorsed by the principles of String Theory. String Theory postulates that the fundamental building blocks of the Universe are not particles but rather tiny vibrating strings, whose interactions give rise to all observable phenomena. This theory suggests a deep interconnectedness and oneness of the cosmos, echoing the ancient concept of Kaal Purush as the unified essence underlying all existence.

In summary, the profound insights of the ancient sage Parashara, as elucidated in BPHS, resonate with contemporary theories in physics, emphasizing the unity, interconnectedness, and the role of consciousness in the manifestation of the Universe. This convergence highlights the timeless wisdom encapsulated in Vedic scriptures, offering profound insights into the nature of reality that remain relevant across millennia.

Keywords: Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra, Kaal Purush, Vedic astrology, quantum mechanics, cosmos

1. Introduction

The concept of Kaal Purush has been demonstrated by Sage Prashara while discussing the intricate process of cosmic manifestation in Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra (BPHS), an ancient scripture on Vedic Astrology^[1, 2]. It is widely believed that the illustrious Sage Parashara, renowned as the grandson of Vashishtha and father of Ved Vyas, authored the Vishnu Purana, a revered scripture containing approximately 6000 verses. This monumental Purana is structured in a question-answer format, wherein the erudite Sage Parashara meticulously addressed all inquiries posed by Maithreya, his esteemed disciple. Within the expansive tapestry of the Vishnu Purana, the Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra (BPHS) emerges as a notable segment, presenting the profound concept of "Kalpurch."

On the other hand, in the realm of physics, a Unified Field Theory (UFT) represents a theoretical framework that seeks to encompass all fundamental forces and elementary particles within a coherent and comprehensive model. This theory posits the existence of physical and virtual fields as the fundamental entities through which forces are mediated and interactions between particles are understood.

The concept of UFT traces its origins to the pioneering work of Albert Einstein, who endeavoured to reconcile his General Theory of Relativity with electromagnetism. Despite decades of investigation and theoretical development, achieving a complete and satisfactory Unified Field Theory has remained an elusive goal within the scientific community.

The pursuit of a UFT is closely intertwined with broader aspirations in physics, notably the quest for a "Theory of Everything" or a "Grand Unified Theory." These endeavours diverge in their specific emphases, with some focusing on the unification of fundamental forces and particles solely through fields, while others extend to encompass explanations for the constants of nature and broader physical phenomena.

Historically, various attempts to formulate Unified Field Theories have been made, drawing from classical physics as well as modern quantum mechanics. However, the intricate nature of these phenomena, coupled with the complexities of mathematical formalism, has posed formidable challenges to researchers.

In contemporary scientific exploration, there is a growing interest in bridging the insights of ancient wisdom, such as those articulated in texts like the Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra (BPHS), with the frameworks of modern science. This interdisciplinary approach seeks to elucidate concepts like the manifestation process, wherein Absolute Consciousness plays a central role, within the context of quantum mechanics and the cosmic order delineated in the Kaal Purush Siddhant.

By scrutinizing the insights offered by ancient wisdom through the lens of modern scientific methodologies, researchers aim to discern potential correspondences and synergies that could inform our understanding of the universe's underlying fabric. Such endeavours represent a convergence of diverse intellectual traditions in the pursuit of deeper insights into the nature of reality.

1.1 Objectives

In this article, we will examine the Kalpurush Siddhant of Vedic Astrology in light of contemporary understanding. Initially, we will explore the origin and significance of the Kalpurush concept as elucidated by the esteemed Maharshi Parashara in the Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra (BPHS). Parashara, a revered sage, imparted profound astrological wisdom to his cherished disciple Maitreya, revealing insights into the nature of the cosmos and human destiny.

Subsequently, we shall delve into the contemporary pursuit of a unified theory of everything, as espoused in modern scientific discourse, particularly within the realm of Quantum Mechanics. This theoretical framework endeavors to furnish a comprehensive elucidation of the fundamental mechanisms governing the universe, spanning phenomena across both macroscopic and microscopic scales. Through the prism of Quantum Mechanics, we shall reassess the Kalpurush concept, discerning its pertinence and ramifications within the contemporary scientific narrative.

Lastly, by juxtaposing ancient astrological tenets with modern scientific comprehension, our objective is to illuminate the enduring significance and potential insights offered by the Kalpurush Siddhant in our collective endeavor to unravel the

enigmas of existence. Through this interdisciplinary inquiry, we endeavor to foster a deeper appreciation for the resonance and relevance of ancient wisdom in informing contemporary perspectives on the cosmos.

2. Kaal Purush Concept in Brihat Prashar Hora Shastra

In the very first chapter of BPHS, titled "*Stishthikram Kathanadhyaya*," the venerable Sage Parashara unveiled the process of cosmic manifestation, akin to a comprehensive "*theory of everything*." Within this discourse, BPHS expounds upon the grand design of the cosmos, elucidating the primacy of consciousness as the singular cause of creation. It posits that consciousness is not merely a component but the entirety of existence, serving as both the source and essence of all manifestations within the universe.

Through the prism of BPHS, Sage Parashara articulates the profound notion that consciousness pervades every facet of reality, and it is this consciousness that engenders the intricate tapestry of creation. In essence, BPHS presents a holistic vision wherein consciousness is recognized as the ultimate force that orchestrates the unfolding of cosmic phenomena, underscoring its intrinsic significance in shaping the fabric of existence.

एकोऽव्यक्तात्मको विष्णुरनादिः प्रभुरीश्वरः ।
शुद्धसत्वो जगत्स्वामी निर्गुणस्त्रिगुणान्वितः ॥६॥
संसारकारकः श्रीमान्निमित्तात्मा प्रतापवान् ।
एकांशेन जगत्सर्वं सृजत्यवति लीलया ॥१०॥

Verse 9-10: Chapter 1, Brihat Prashar Hora Shastra.

The esteemed Sage referred to the absolute consciousness as Maha Vishnu, also known as *Avyaktatma Vishnu*, attributing to it the role of the sole cause of creation. According to his teachings, everything emerges from Maha Vishnu and ultimately dissolves back into it, signifying its paramount importance in the cosmic scheme of existence^[1, 2].

To illustrate this concept further, one can envision extending the surface of the Earth infinitely into the heavens in all directions, resulting in the formation of what is known as the celestial sphere or the cosmic sphere, often referred to as the *Brahmand*^[3]. This celestial sphere, symbolizing the entirety of the cosmos, is personified as the Kalpurush Swaroop of Vishnu, serving as a metaphorical representation to elucidate the intricacies of astrological wisdom.

In essence, the analogy of the celestial sphere personified as the Kalpurush Swaroop of Vishnu serves as a visual aid to comprehend the profound astrological principles expounded by the Sage, highlighting the interconnectedness of cosmic forces and the central role of consciousness in shaping the fabric of the universe.

The profound insights of the great sage resonate with the ancient adage "*yatha brahmande thatha pinde*," illustrating the inherent unity between the macrocosm and microcosm. Indeed, the Sage's teachings beautifully encapsulate the interconnectedness of the cosmos, emphasizing the fundamental principle that as the universe unfolds, so does the individual being.

Moreover, the Sage bestowed upon Maitreya a comprehensive "Theory of Everything," enabling practitioners of this esoteric science to predict future events through meticulous data modeling and analysis. This theory, rooted in the understanding of the interconnected nature of all phenomena,

empowers individuals with the ability to discern the underlying patterns and dynamics governing the cosmos. Through diligent study and application of this knowledge, practitioners gain insights into the intricacies of destiny and the unfolding of events, thus illuminating the path to greater understanding and wisdom.

3. Oneness of Cosmos through Quantum Mechanics

Quantum Mechanics presents a profound perspective wherein the universe is understood to be shaped by consciousness and thought. This assertion echoes the ancient wisdom espoused by the Great Sage, affirming the pivotal role of consciousness in the creation and manifestation of reality. Moreover, concepts such as the multiverse hypothesis and Quantum immortality further underscore the enduring relevance of the theory of manifestation elucidated by the Sage many years ago. Through these contemporary scientific insights, we find validation of the timeless truths expounded by the Sage, illuminating the interconnectedness between consciousness, reality, and the unfolding of the cosmos.

The concept of the oneness of the cosmos and the quest for a unified theory of everything is evident in the works of renowned physicists such as Richard Feynman, Carlo Rovelli, and Stephen William Hawking. In Feynman's "Six Easy Pieces," Rovelli's "The Order of Time," and Hawking's "The Grand Design," one can discern a similar pattern to the discourse presented by the Great Guru in the Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra (BPHS) regarding the concept of Kalpurush^[4-6]. These esteemed physicists delve into the fundamental principles governing the universe, seeking to unveil the underlying unity and coherence within the fabric of reality. Much like the Great Guru, they endeavor to elucidate the interconnectedness of cosmic phenomena and the quest for a comprehensive understanding of the cosmos.

Through their rigorous exploration of scientific principles, Feynman, Rovelli, and Hawking offer insights into the profound interplay between consciousness, time, and the structure of the universe. Their works resonate with the timeless wisdom presented in the BPHS, underscoring the enduring relevance of ancient teachings in informing our understanding of the mysteries of existence.

3.1 Interconnected Universe and the String Theory

The String Theory also contributes to the discourse on the interconnectedness of the universe, akin to the interconnected destinies discussed in Vedic Astrology. This theoretical framework posits that the fundamental building blocks of the cosmos are not discrete particles but rather interconnected strings, suggesting a profound unity underlying all phenomena⁷. Similarly, in Vedic Astrology, the interconnected destinies of individuals reflect a deeper interconnectedness within the fabric of the universe.

3.2 Observer Effect: The Double Slit Experiment

Young's double-slit experiment demonstrated the interference of light waves and indicated that light was a wave, not a particle^[8,9]. The renowned Double Slit Experiment serves as compelling evidence for the Observer Effect, wherein the act of observation influences the behavior of quantum particles^[10]. In fact, the quantum wavefunction collapses when an observer makes an observation^[11]. In the context of the Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra (BPHS), the concept of the Observer finds resonance in the Avyaktatma Vishnu, posited as the cause of creation. Just as the observer in the Double Slit Experiment affects the outcome, Avyaktatma Vishnu is

depicted as the ultimate observer whose consciousness shapes the manifestation of reality. Thus, both the Double Slit Experiment and the teachings of BPHS underscore the pivotal role of consciousness in the creation and unfolding of the cosmos.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the profound insights of the Great Sage Parashara as expounded in the Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra (BPHS) resonate strikingly with contemporary theories in Quantum Physics, particularly concerning themes of unity, interconnectedness, and the influence of consciousness on manifestation. Through meticulous examination, parallels emerge between the timeless wisdom imparted by Sage Parashara and the modern scientific understanding of the universe. Both underscore the intrinsic unity and interdependence of all phenomena, emphasizing the pivotal role of consciousness in shaping reality's fabric.

This convergence emphasizes the enduring relevance of ancient teachings in enriching our comprehension of the cosmos. It serves as a testament to the timeless nature of wisdom, transcending cultural and temporal boundaries to illuminate the mysteries of existence. As we continue to explore the frontiers of knowledge, integrating insights from diverse intellectual traditions enables us to cultivate a more comprehensive and holistic understanding of the universe and our place within it.

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