

PURANIC TIME AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD: THE CASE FOR EXTREME HUMAN ANTIQUITY

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Abstract

The Puranas are the historical writings of ancient India. The Puranic time concept is cyclical. The basic unit of Puranic cyclical time is the *kalpa*, or day of Brahma, which lasts for 4.32 billion years. The current *kalpa* began about 2 billion years ago. According to the Puranas, humans have been present on earth since the beginning of the *kalpa*. According to modern science, humans like us first appeared less than 200,000 years ago. However, research into the history of archaeology reveals many reports of archaeological evidence consistent with Puranic accounts of extreme human antiquity.