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IS SWASTIKA A BRAHMI WORD?

KEY WORDS:

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ABSTRACT

[Is the Swastika a symbol, as it has been depicted for so many years? Or is it a word from the long-lost script of Brahmi? In this current discussion, we try to understand what this single symbol could mean when identified as separate alphabets brought together by some ancient people. As we cover this quest step by step, we help develop an understanding about the word and the language of Brahmi in the process. If you wish to find out more of what the word could mean, you need to know its alphabets first. There are four to five alphabets making up the word, and it means 4^4 to 5^5 possibilities arising out of it. We have not solved the entire riddle behind this existing word, but we do prefer to know more about it. To understand which word is the best possible explanation for this ever-lingering phenomenon and what it is here for.]

Brahmi- is it the script of the Gods?

According to Georg Buhler's book¹, Brahmi, or Brahma, was the language of the learned, and Kharosthi was used by commoners, a language that came into existence from Gandhara and Sindh which were chiefly dominated by the invading Persians.

Interestingly, the author indirectly states, though not completely, that the Brahma script was created to keep worldly affairs in a proper course and to remove doubts about the legal transactions by Lord Brahma himself. To prove his points, he cites references from Narada Smriti (later than Manu Smriti and before Bana) and Brihaspati Smriti. In a passage, he refers to the Brahmanical sculptures and portraits of Brahma and states that in the earliest images of Brahma, like the ones in the Badami caves from the 6th century AD, Brahma had a palm leaf in his hand with these viewpoints in writing (the palm leaf had it in Brahmi and in other suitable languages with change in time), and now it has been replaced with a piece of paper containing a few illegible lines.

If we are to believe history, there is no proper date when Brahmi was recorded to have been created as a script. There are many who differ on the same, and according to some, they trace it back to Ashoka². But if it was in use by the 3rd to 5th century BC, it can be safely said that the script might have even been in use prior to his period. During the Buddhist period, we were aware of Prakrit and Pali's dominance. But with Asoka using it for his inscriptions, it shows that Brahmi prevailed through changing times of languages.

Brahmi is an Abugida script in which the basic consonants are its basic characters and are followed by particular vowels, while diacritics denote other vowels (it seems like a complete script, which means the sounds, pronunciations and intonation used earlier when praying or talking were different from our current ones).

Can we then not say that Brahmi is the script that gave our ancestors everything, as the language itself was complete and capable of communicating with the universe? Now that we have altered our language, we have further limited ourselves. There is no doubt that our languages have changed, and even when you look at Brahmi, it shows different variations through time, which means we truly still don't know if we are looking at the original letters of Brahmi right now.

The reason why the Brahmi script got lost in between is not quite known. It is widely believed that Brahmi as well as Kharosthi were found extinct by the 4th century AD. Or did they go through a process of evolution in between?

Interestingly, Subhajit Ganguly³ wrote a paper in which the author shows how the alphabets of Brahmi changed over time.

He assumes that the Brahmi script underwent a huge transformation and became what we know today as the Devanagari script (we write Hindi and many other Indian languages using the same script). The same assumption is made by many, citing the striking resemblance of characters between different stages of Brahmi and Devanagari. What is projected in various places or the way the language seems to have evolved, according to many, does not have a confirmed linear display through any of the recorded forms but are mere assumptions.

However, others say that the language altogether became extinct⁴.

The reason cited for it is the destruction of the Indus Valley civilization.

According to the article citation, there was no written language post Indus Valley Civilization destruction for a long time. Noone has really understood what the Indus Valley Civilization was still, and the reason behind its destruction is equally unclear. Some also say that there is no definite relationship between Brahmi and Indus script⁷.

The reason we are talking so much about Brahmi here is due to a lingering symbol in our lives. The Swastika is the purest symbol, and is as sacred to humanity as the symbol, Om. We are well aware of the cross, 13, the crescent moon, and the star symbols as well but they depict later religions.

Symbolically, and as per the science of symbology, every religion, new or old, starts by creating its own symbol. We create such symbols even for our daily lives as well. Even for our websites, we create a symbol, we now call a logo. No matter how modern we try to become, we cannot ignore our psychological bonds to our past.

The meaning of Swastika, what it actually does to our lives, why it has been around for such a long time, and how or if it is related to Brahmi is part of this entire discussion. To understand the available meaning of Swastika, we will try to go through a few research papers to gain our ground on it.

Understanding the available meaning of Swastika.

According to Lao Tzu, "Returning is the motion of the Tao, and going far means returning. The idea is that all developments in nature, those in the physical world as well as those in human situations, show cyclic patterns of coming and going, of expansion and contraction."

In a research dissertation, author VN Giri confirms that the symbol itself is pre-Aryan and dates back to more than 11,000 years⁵.

According to the author, a Yale-Cambridge expedition in 1935 covering the northern and central Indian plains suggested the existence of ancient Indian Palaeolithic civilization in Kashmir, the Salt Range Valley (Punjab province, from Jhelum to Indus, and the Vindhya, Satpura, and Aravalli ranges), covering up to the Narmada and the central Indian Plateau. It was found out by geologists Helmut de Terra, Patterson, and Pierre Teilhard.

The study states that the Smithsonian Foundation published Thomas Wilson's work on Swastika, which is nothing but evidence and manifestations of the symbol Swastika throughout the world. The caves of Bhimbhetka and Edakkal serve as evidence for the existence of Swastika during 40000 to 10000 years.

Geometric symbols are what Swastika is classified into. Symbols of seeds and cycles, life and death existed in India, Sumeria, and even Anatolia, and in the tribes of Tammuz, Adonis, Sabazius, and Demeter in the Ancient Mediterranean according to the team's analysis.

In the VrihadAryanak Upanishad and Mundaka, infinite and undivided absolute reality is nothing but the seed, and Brahma is the root. The earliest known Swastika was found in Mezine, Ukraine carved in ivory.

Swastika was used even in old Europe, the Neolithic Danube Valley civilization, Cucuteni-Trypillian, and Vinca. According to the philosophy of Kapil Muni, the human body is a measurement of the universe.

A micro-or nano-circuit arrangement is what a human is to the bigger cosmos. Human consciousness, as it is currently established through the recent works around anthropic principles based on the rational human consciousness is beyond all modern quantum and relativistic sciences.

During this journey to understand the Swastika better, we halt to understand who we are briefly depicted well through these studies undertaken by the Indian Institute of Technology.

During the creation of the cosmos, the twin Asvini Kumar represented a special lineage of sages- the Atharvans. If we are to believe our Vedas, the Atharvan twins spread their lineage to Iran and India. Zoroaster is known to have been an Atharvan himself. The Athar Bahram priests, or the worshippers of fire, were also from the land of Azerbaijan today. It could have been possible that Iberia and Ukraine were touched by the same civilizations. We can see the spread of the Swastika and its variant forms and track its course throughout history.

The Swastika is even compared to the human form, to the existence of consciousness, and to the entire cosmological existence through a series of well-researched treatises and articles from the Indian Institute of Technology.

You can see that Swastika is a symbol that emerged 11,000 years ago. But how we see it today is what makes all the difference. The problem is that we see it as a symbol. We see it as a wholesome symbol like the cross or the chalice.

Through this discussion, we will try to find out a different way in which we can see it and try to understand if it changes what we have tried it to be.

Hindus are the only ones in the world who have been painting the swastika on their doors, pots, and houses even though they have lost touch with it. The strangest part of it is that it has lingering for so many years. No one knows why, no one tries to know it, and no one is aware of its full potential.

According to the books, Brain Science Under the Swastika by

Lawrence A. Zeidman and Law Under the Swastika by Michael Stolleis, we find out what kind of experiments were done with the image of a levo-rotatory Swastika hanging over the heads of the victims by the Nazis.

An essential point that usually seems to have been missed is that we can never call the Nazi symbol, a Swastika. The primary reason being that they built a levo-rotatory Swastika, which is just the opposite of what we ordinarily know it as- a dextro-rotatory symbol.

Symbols with an opposite rotatory orientation cannot be called by the same name that they are usually addressed as. Strangely, it has remained with us over the years as one of the most used symbols, and every corner of India except a few states has strived to keep the swastika alive.

When asked, our ancients will state one or another reason for using it. Some say it is used for protection, while others say it is for our wellbeing. On some occasions, some even say it connects man and God during a special ceremony.

Now that we know more about Brahmi and the Swastika, we will try to find out the relationship between the language and the symbol.

Relationship between Brahmi and Swastika

Brahmi is just not seemingly a language of the mortals, and given Swastika's proven presence in our culture for more than 11000 years, this points to the fact that even Brahmi could be that old. Both are intimately connected. Given there is a reason why we are still using it and why we still believe it to be a link between God and man, it spans around this inter-relationship between man and god.

Not much research or understanding is done in this regard, and for my review, I am trying to go back to each paper that has spoken anything around these two concepts. But there is nothing satisfactory about combining the Swastika with the language.

What I am about to say is that the symbol of Swastika is nothing but a word in Brahmi/Brahma. Since it is a superior language, it has fairly hidden its abilities from us. Here, I will take you closer to the meaning of the word.

How do you know which Brahmic alphabets to refer to?

1. While there is no genuine understanding of the development of the alphabets of Brahmi over the centuries, we still know or can begin with one understanding: each of these alphabets that have surfaced in the current world might have existed some or another time in the entire span of its use.
2. The alphabets we refer to here can be found widely available everywhere across the world of languages.

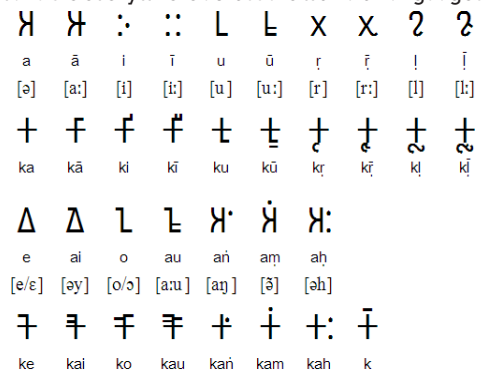


Figure 1
We would next find the closest similar alphabets to the swastika. Before we move on, there are few other important considerations to look into.

Observations

1. We know that Brahmi is an Abugida script. It is not a linear script at all. Similarities in the script exist with the Tibetan scripts, and even some reference is drawn to the Aramaic scripts.
2. It is written from left to right, like our Devanagari script. Other than that, it is also a script that is written from top to bottom. In some instances, author Paras Duhan also depicts a merging of these alphabets into one another to create a distinct word in itself.

नाग = 𑀓 𑀣 = 𑀓𑀣 (नाग) <Snake>

Figure 2

3. Another essential point to consider in this discussion would revolve around the fact that Brahmi is the only ancient language whose origin can be traced far into the southern side of India and in the southernmost Sri Lankan Island. A language that has travelled the length and breadth of the country must have been of immense importance.
4. A very vital point to consider from this discussion is that if a language was so well established and almost everyone could use it, then why is it that it underwent a transformation, alteration, or egressed out of a civilization with a few illegible traces left behind?
5. It is further capable of pointing out that there are two observable conclusions that we can come to.
 - It might have been a language that was probably not used by all.
 - It was probably such an important language that its immediate exit from the world was deemed necessary at some point in time. Languages are the pillars of human understanding and as we know, they unlock certain doors of understanding that we don't often want people to know, and in such cases, we might not want to use that particular language at all.

We all know how our calendars underwent a change, as well as our languages. The Great Vowel Shift is well evident, and it is what is making the English language, along with many other such changes.⁸ Every language is made of many transformations, some additions and some deletions.

6. Altering a language could be due to many reasons, the most uncommon of which is the threat to the use of the language in the wrong ways. If there is a language that can open doors and portals to the world, or at least help you understand how to do it, it would always be a treasure for those who protect such secrets. Thus, transforming some parts of the language while vanishing some of the others was perhaps what people did to the Brahmi language.
7. Obviously, their sound variations, lexical and semantic ways were what could connect you to the creator. Ideally, there are four kinds of transformations you could bring to a language: sound (how we sound the words), semantic (language or logic), syntactic (grammatical arrangement in a sentence), and lexical (words and vocabulary).
8. There is an undated saying in Devanagari and other local North Indian and even South Indian dialects where we say, "Shabd Brahma." The literary translation of the word would be, "Word is Brahma, which means once you speak your thoughts, they become God. They serve the purpose of an arrow. If words become gods, it would mean they will have a destiny, a future.

However, it could also mean, "Words are Brahma." It could therefore obliquely point out that Brahmi had importance, way beyond what we know now, and possessed indefinite powers capable to connect the universe to us, maybe it was a language, the universe understands. However, nothing in this saying goes beyond the colloquial uses of the term, and no solid data points to these assumptions.

DISCUSSION

Knowing that we can merge the alphabets of Brahmi to create a word, something unlikely with many of the modern available languages, we would use the same to find out what we can make of these alphabets together.

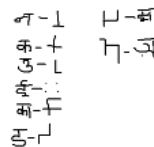


Figure 3

Kaa, Ee, Da, Oo, Jha, Nha, and Na all seem close to what is there in the Swastika.

How do we start arranging them?

If you start with Ka and proceed with the required words, you can make a word using Ka, Ga, Da, and Ee.

Brahmi was known to have been written from left to right, but a coin unearthed from Eran from the 4th century BC depicts that it was also written from right to left, as stated by Buhler, who called it a Boustrophedon script⁶.

In a Boustrophedon script, one line is written from left-to-right, while the next line is written from right-to-left. So, every alternate line has an opposite orientation from the first. Knowing that it was also written from top to bottom, we can safely conclude that the right to left alphabets are mirror images of the right to left alphabets in arrangement.

If we apply the same logic here, we get a few options for what the word could be trying to tell us throughout the centuries.



Figure 4 from Wikipedia

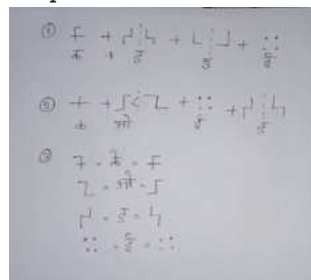


Figure 5

In this sense, the author or creator has gone a step ahead. Now that we know their way of arranging, we will move ahead with their understanding a bit more.

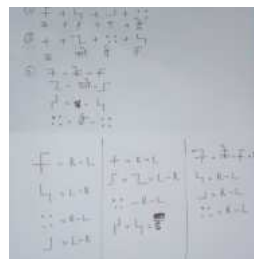


Figure 6

Here, you can see two arrangements.

- In the first and second columns, there is a boustrophedon arrangement, but in the last column, the arrangement is purely right to left.
- It is only these two ways that can fit the characters in a boustrophedon pattern. While trying to combine other alphabets, possibilities exist for two more alphabets to be a part of the system.

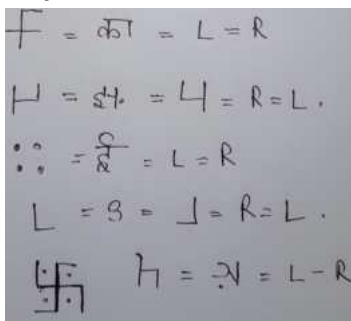


Figure 7

Ideally, there are a few words that can be made from these combinations.

A few words that form out of many possibilities are kudee, dukee, kadui, duika, keduee, kajhušni, keejhušni, □nieejhuki. What words are meaningful and showing up here include;

1. Kajhugni does not have a direct meaning anywhere, but the closest to it is Kazhugu, a word that means a keen-sighted bird in Tamil.
2. Kudee: In Punjabi, it means a girl; in Tamil, means a home.
3. The next word for which some meaning is available includes Kadi (“blade of grass”), a tribe in South India, a grain measure in Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Dravidian languages, in Guinea and Kannada, it means a plant, *Jatropha curcas*.
- In Marathi, interestingly, Kadi means a ring or a circle of metal like a chain link, a ring or a window hook.
- In Hindi too, it means a small beam or a line of song.
- In Prakrit, it could mean any of these: the hip, the buttocks, the elephant's cheek, long pepper, a wish or a learning, and the name of an ancient sage.
- Even in Nepali, there is a meaning to the same word, which means a plan or a design, a knack to do a thing, a ring or bracelet, or merely a link.
4. The next word to consider here is Duika which means a diligent and preserving worker enjoying a chore. It's a Croatian name.
- Dvika also means a couple.
- It could also mean a crow or goose in Sanskrit, as well as a pair.
- In India, the word has usage in Kannada, where it means to lose, decay, defeat, violate, miss, die, dull, spoil, or injure.
- The word is also found in the Igbo language, where it means, 'How are you or how are things?'

The commonest expression of all is tied to everything that we are today, we feel and we live. Each of these words have a strange and uncanny way of looking down on us. *What I could understand from all of these words is that the word is not a blessing in particular but a reminder as to who we are and what we will become.*

The origin and the end come together, with just one word. If this is true, then it could also be the tail of the lost portal that is left in our hands to use. How we use it or what we make of it is going to alter everything. There are a few essential points to keep in mind from the Swastika.

1. The Swastika is an indicator of the dextro-rotatory and the levo-rotatory world surviving with each other in perfect unison.

The fact that everything that we are seems to be the opposite of what we should have been points to the fact that we are a levo-rotatory world.

It would then mean that there is a dextro-rotatory world with us where everything is right as we know it. The consciousness comes from a world where everything is right; we consider this world to be that way, but then we don't end up that way, rather, we end up in a levo-rotatory motion, and things go wrong around us for different reasons.

2. In the earliest assemblage, the Swastika is depicted as a maze, as is depicted as such in these Greco-Roman meander patterns or Greek keys (figures available for them on Wikipedia).

If we take the maze to be true then we need to conclude that the Greeks and Romans probably knew of the ideas and our existence way before even, we knew it. Aren't we also in a maze where we are completely oblivious to the end and the beginning of our lives and our meaning?

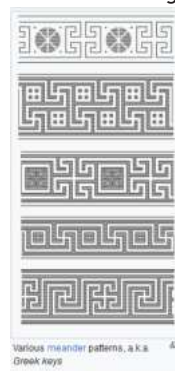


Figure 8 from Wikipedia

Image taken from Wikipedia

3. It is true that we live in a parallel-dimensional world, but when we try to draw parallels, there is always an origin and an end point. Can we create a parallelogram, a circle, parallel sound waves, or parallel vibrations just from anywhere?

Even the use of a tuning fork is based on the concept of generating longitudinal waves. Longitudinal waves transport back and forth, either parallel or anti-parallel to the energy transport direction.

We too live juxtaposed between millions of parallel worlds existing between the levo and dextro-rotatory worlds, which serve as the endpoint and the origin point, respectively.

CONCLUSION

What would happen if we could catch the tail of this universe? How do we use it to open a portal that directly takes us to the right world from the left? Is it a portal and if it is, then how do we use it? That is the question we need to get to. There is no word as old as this one, and if someone left it behind for us, it might be of great relevance to humanity.

What the Nazis did was turn it levo-rotatory. It was just not a symbol for them, it was done on purpose to make it an effective weapon. The moment they turned it left; the whole world underwent a massive change. It was officially adopted as a symbol in 1920. But it was used before the first world war, and often some war tale tellers believe the rotation of the symbol brought upon earth doom, and who knows if they had already opened the portal from the left world further left? It might have been easier to open it that way rather than traverse to the right side of the spectrum and then open the right portal.

Additionally, an interesting finding comes up from all of it. Few of the English words are unchanged forms of the Brahmi

alphabet. They are either levo or dextro-rotatory. Additionally, even one or two of their numbers seem to be alphabets of Brahmi. You can compare the tables and check them accordingly.



Figure 9 from Wikipedia

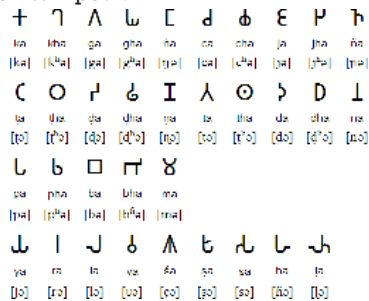


Figure 10 from Wikipedia

Table 1

+	Equivalent to our plus sign
V	Upside down Ga which has been straightened
I/I	Na/Ra
P	Ca
T	Sa
D	Dha
T	Na
C	Ta
Y	Ta
K	Ka
L	Uu
T	Na
X	Ra
H (h)	Jhyan or Nyan
F	Ka (modified)

Not just the Devanagari script but also the English seems to have used these alphabets, impacting the roots of the English language thereby.

A thorough study of the Swastika might be the beginning of our journey towards understanding the missing points.

Scientifically, it's just a symbol and is being treated as such by the world, but then it's being a word could change a lot in our understanding of the world and ourselves. Something to notice here is the fact that there could be 4 to 5 alphabets in making the word within the Swastika symbol which means 4^4 to 5^5 words could come out of it. The right word could in itself be the pot bearer, or it could indicate us in the right direction. The journey to find its path might take a lot of understanding, discussion, and analysis. Words that do not make any sense today could have meant something yesterday, and that means a lot of experiments and observations could be required to go through each of these 256 to 625 words that could be created out of those Brahmi alphabets.

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