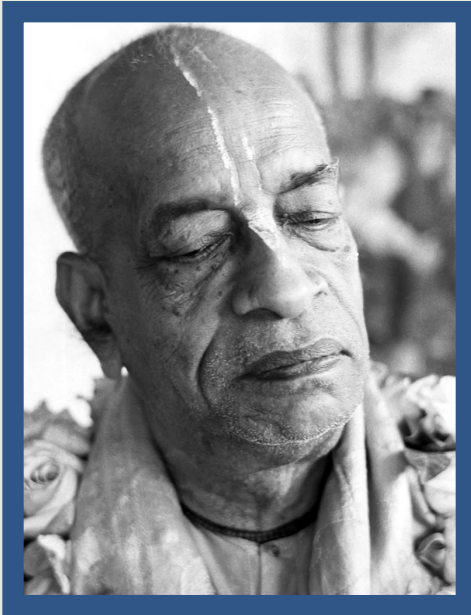


Bhu-gola the Universe - not the Earth



Addressing serious inaccuracies and misinterpretations in the subject of Earth's shape as proposed in the documentary "Vedic Cosmology" and the book "Bhu-gola-tattva", using as reference Vedic literature, common sense and technical observations.

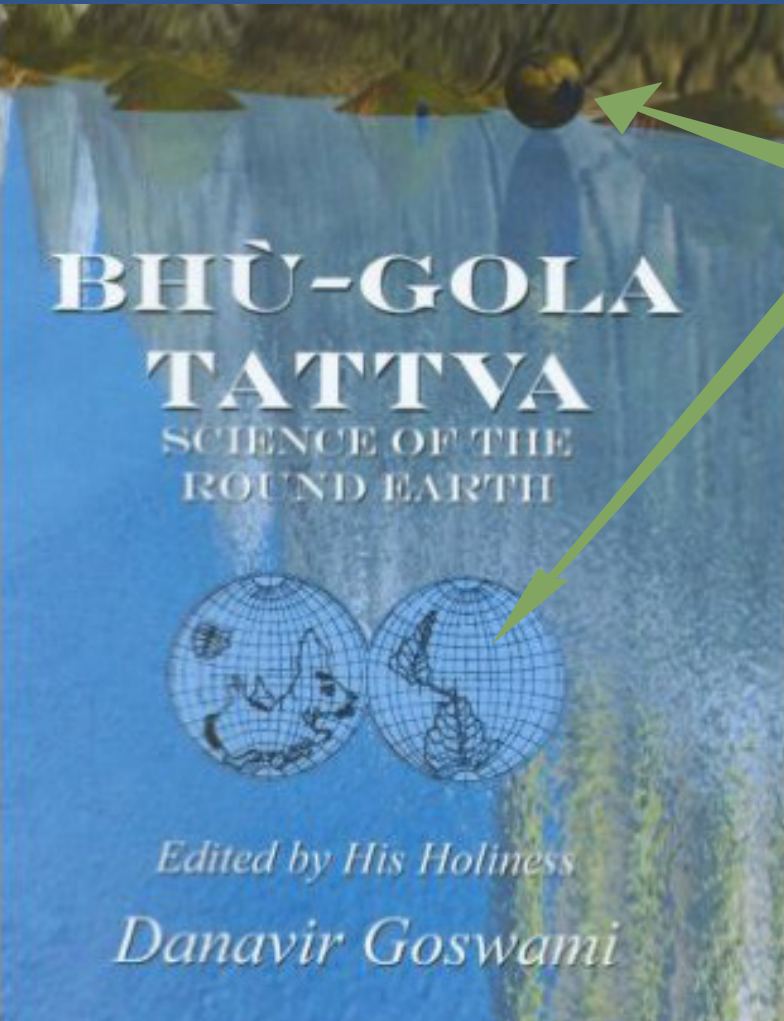
Collective work by Bhumandala group and the worldwide community of independent vaishnava researchers



Śrīla Bhakti Vedānta Swami Mahārāj
Prabhupada

"...Acyutananda told us that in the late 60s Srila Prabhupada spoke a bit about the 5th Canto and that the earth is flat. But Ṇayagriva told him (paraphrasing), "If you tell people the earth is flat they will think we are crazy!" Ācyutananda said that from that point on Srila Prabhupada always said planet or globe." (from Uttanmaśloka Prabhu's letter, Decemeber 17th, 2016)

Prabhupada intentionally translated words *loka* and *mandala* as planets or planetary systems, which in fact mean: *realm, society, surrounding, people, and circular plane, flat circle etc.*



Bhu-gola the Universe - not the Earth

Addressing serious inaccuracies and misinterpretations in the subject of Earth shape as proposed in the documentary “Vedic Cosmology” and the book “Bhu-gola-tattva”, as supported by vedic literature, common sense, and technical observations.

Collective work by Bhumandala group with support from the worldwide community of independent researchers.

- Polish/English group - Bhu-mandala - <https://goo.gl/lh9OKH>
- English group - Vedic Cosmology As it is in the 5th Canto of Srimad Bhagavatam - <https://goo.gl/ns0DZY>

Introduction

In 2007, His Holiness Danavir Goswami (Dr. Dane Holtzman), president of Rupa-nuga Vedic College in Kansas City, Missouri USA, released “Vedic Cosmology”, a documentary on the subject. He also published the book “Bhu-gola-tattva”. This paper was written in response to the statements postulated by the author.

Here is the whole “Vedic Cosmology” as a reference: <https://youtu.be/Gknmqp-Gy6tE> (52 min)

The movie explains what the central island of the whole Bhu-mandala is:

Jambu-dvipa is a central island (dvipa) of the whole BHU-MANDALA. In the

Bhugola is described as being 500 000 000 yojana (4 billion miles), so it cannot be the Bhu-kanda, the Earth, which is much smaller.

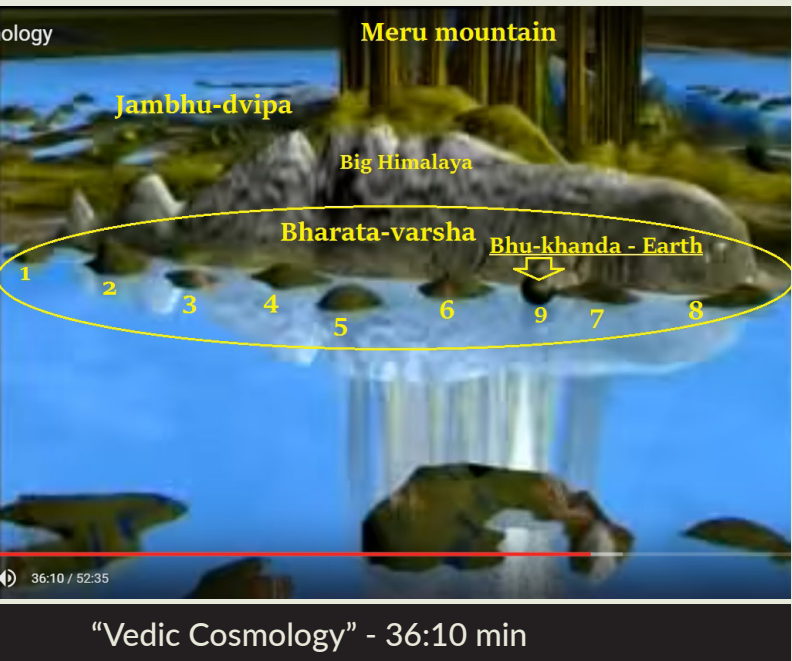


center of Jambhu-dvipa is mount Meru. Jambhu-dvipa is divided into nine regions (varshas). The southernmost is extended Bharata-varsha.

Misquoting

In 36:00 minute of the movie, Danavir Maharaj says that Bharata-varsha was divided by the sons of Sagara into 9 islands (dvipa). This is not true. In Srimad Bhagavatam 05.19.29-30 we read - (par) Sons of Sagara created 8 islands surrounding Jambhu-dvipa. They did not divide Bharata-varsha into 9 khandas, parts. The Bharata Varsha with its nine islands already existed. It is separated from other parts (khandas) by the Big Himalaya (Himalaya high mountains).

Bhu-khanda or Bharat-Khanda is our Earth. It is one of the nine islands (dvi-pas) of Bharata-Varsha. By definition the island is flat. It is not gola, a ball.



The screen shots from the movie show the controversy. Oddly Bhukanda, the ninth island, is shown as a ball. There is no clear reference in the literature about it. The only reference to Bhugola, or Earth as a ball, says “an area looking like a ball”. Also, it does not specifically says that the continents are on the shell of the ball, as we know if from school. **Knowing that the Earth is an island tells us that it is a plane on a much larger plane.** The assumption that the Earth is a ball, is incongruent with commons sense and above description. To claim that Bhu-kanda is a ball with the mass of land on its outer shell and 70% of its surface filled with water, sticking to it like a velcro, is questionable not only from the vedic point of view but also physically impossible. Water doesn't have magnetic properties and is proved in physics to always go to the lowest level, not to curve. But this, of course, opens another long discussion.

As we will read later, the reference to the ball is used to describe the whole universe, not the Earth.

Veda means knowlage,
or to know. Not allegory.



This or That?
Modern science confusion

These screen shots, shwoing Earth ball sitting on the top of an ocean, simply present the whole Vedic cosmology as nothing more than allegory.

On the other hand showing all Bhu-kanda, the Earth, as an island seems to be reasonable and consistent understanding in the light of the whole Vedic cosmology.

Besides, the subject of Flat Earth, which is a separate topic and can take pages to present with undeniable conclusions, we can only demonstrate the serious mistake in the research of His Holiness Danavir Maharaj.

To promote non-Vedic conclusions in the name of Vedic knowledge is a serious error that promotes degradation of knowledge with far-fetched consequences yet to be seen few generations down the line.

Other arguments presented in the documentary

As we keep watching the “Vedic Cosmology” we see a devotee scholar from Sri Sampradaya, revered Sripad Vishvananda Swami, saying in the interview: “Modern science being only a few centuries old, cannot be the basis for thousands of years old Vedic Science (par)”. Also all other Vaishnava scholars, interviewed in the documentary, agree that we should not try to prematurely understand Vedic cosmology and definitely not to mix with much younger modern science and its beliefs. Please refer also to [Rupert Sheldrake’s “Science Delusion”](#) or [“Science set free”](#).”

Danavir Goswami suggests that the Earth is a ball while Neil DeGrass Tyson is challenging NASA by suggesting that the Earth has to be a oblate spheroid due to its outer rotating force that makes the globe bulge. So even science is not consistent with the version of the ball Earth. One may ask what are those photos of the prefect spherical Earth in the school books and since magazines? Who is right? Are they all wrong? Thus, the suggestion that Earth is a ball is based on speculation. We should take strength in Veda, not in science. This is what Prabhupada



wanted.

Vishvananda Swami quotes a verse from Mahabharata describing Bhu-khanda, through which he got inspiration after he meditated on how to present the description of Rabbit and Pipal leaves. As narration goes "... *By divine inspiration, he sketched a rabbit and leaves of Pipal ...*"

As we can see in the movie, he gives an explanation:

- the rabbit body is represented in the shape Asia, Europe, and Africa, with India and Indonesia being humps on the back of the rabbit and Japan being his tail
- the Pipal leaves represent North and South Americas, connected by latin America strip of land

After reversing the figures we have the map of the continents on the Earth.

The postulation by the author that each element is placed in separate halves of the hemisphere is non-scientific [page 7]. There is no mention about two circular halves. They perfectly fit in one circular flat Earth model as shown on page 6.

One may ask, how is it possible to see the shape of a rabbit on a ball, as it is described in Mahabharata. On a ball Earth model, we cannot possibly see the shape of a rabbit for simple reason, it is **too large**.

Besides, these verses come from Mahabharata, which is the conversation between Dhritarashtra and Sanjaya. They are not talking about the bell fruit and the globe. This conversation describes the geography of Bharata-Varsha, Jambhuvipa etc. and it took place just before Sanjaya's narration to the blind king



Super imposition of the rabbit and two pipala leaves over the continents on the mandala.

Dhritarashtra about the battle of Kurukshetra. This is in connection to Bhagavad-gita, so it is a very important moment of the Mahabharata. The tone is sober.

Analysis of the verse from Mahabharata

Here is the original text in Sanskrit transliteration:

- 12 sudarśanaṃ pravakṣyāmi dvīpaṃ te kurunandana
 parimaṇḍalo mahārāja dvīpo 'sau cakrasaṃsthitaḥ
 13 nadī jalapratīcchannaḥ parvataiś cābhrasamnibhaiḥ
 puraiś ca vividhākārai ranyair janapadais tathā
 14 vṛkṣaiḥ puṣpaphalopetaiḥ saṃpannadhanadhānyavān
 lāvaṇena samudreṇa samantāt parivāritaḥ
 15 yathā ca puruṣaḥ paśyed ādarśe mukham ātmanaḥ
 evaṃ sudarśana dvīpo dṛśyate candramaṇḍale
 16 dvir aṃśe pippalas tatra dvir aṃśe ca śaśo mahān
 sarvaauśadhisamāvāpaiḥ sarvataḥ parivrmhitaḥ
 āpas tato 'nyā vijñeyā eṣa samkṣepa ucyate

Translation:

“O son of Kuru’s race, I will, however, describe to thee the island called Sudarśana. This island, O king, is circular and of the form of a wheel. It is covered with rivers and other pieces of water and with mountains looking like masses of clouds, and with cities and many delightful provinces. It is also full of trees furnished with flowers and fruits, and with crops of diverse kinds and other wealth. And it is surrounded on all sides with the salt ocean. As a person can see his own face in a mirror, even so is the island called Sudarśana seen in the lunar disc. Two of its parts seem to be a peepul tree, while two others look like a large hare. It is surrounded on all sides with an assemblage of every kind of deciduous plants. Besides these portions, the rest is all water. What remains I will describe to thee

ology



35:31 / 52:35

"Vedic Cosmology" - 35:31 min

Verse of Mahabharata quote in the movie

ology

सुदर्शनं प्रवक्ष्यामि द्वीपस्तु कुरुनन्दन ।
 परिमण्डलो महाराज द्वीपोयं चक्रसन्धितः ॥
 यतो हि पुरुषः पश्येददर्शनं मुखमात्मनः ।
 एव सुदर्शनद्वीपो दृश्यते चन्द्रमण्डले ॥
 द्विरंशे पिप्यलस्तत्र द्विरंशे च ससोमहन् ।
 सर्वाधिपसमवायैस्सर्वतः परिवारितः ॥

33:48 / 52:35

"Vedic Cosmology" - 33:48 min

shortly. The rest I will speak of afterward. Listen now to this that I describe in brief.

Explanation:

IN THE QUOTED TEXT THERE IS NO MENTION ABOUT THE GLOBE, OR SPHERICAL FRUIT BEL, ETC. If someone insists that the Sudarshana-Dwipa, the Earth, is a globe and it looks like a bel fruit, he or she will be embarrassed after hearing that description.

← Description Sudarshana-dwipa in Mahabharata is the same description as the description of Jambhu-dvipa from Srimad Bhagavatam.

Front cover of the book 'Bhu-gola-tattva' shows the picture of a spherical Earth floating on a surface of the vast ocean of sea water. **The globe with the shapes of a rabbit and Pipal leaves are superimposed on the two halves of the globe.** This is a misrepresentation of the actual facts as we read in the Bhagavatam, Mahabharata, and Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita.

The word Bhū-gola in Bhagavatam defines the whole universe and has the same meaning as the word Brahmanda, which is also cited in Śri Caitanya-caritamrita.

The verse from Mahabharata misquoted

Bharat-khanda is described in the Mahabharata in Jambhu Khanda, Chapter 5:

*This Bharat Khanda is called Sudarshana Dwipa
 Since it looks beautiful to the eyes of the onlookers
 Being circular it looks like the disk of the Lord*

*And it is attached to cyclic time in a form of a disk
Presided over by Lord Sudarshana, Bhart Khanda is in the form of a globe.*

*Since all of its four corners are rounded like the bell fruit.
When viewed from the moon half of Bharat Khanda
Appears like a rabbit and a small pipala leaf
While the other half appears in a form of a big pipala leaf
With all of them surrounded by varieties of vegetation*

Common sense explanation

As described above, the Earth is shown as Bhu-khanda that floats on the waters of the Ocean surrounding the entire Jambhu-dvipa. However, author of the documentary "Vedic Cosmology" and book "Bhu-gola-tattva", presents that only the Earth is a ball, in contact with the Antarctic. The remaining Khanda (wings of Bharata Varsha) are shown as described in Puranas, as the island (dvipa).

The word bhugola or gola indicating a sphere if taken out of the context will defy the earlier description in the line before, in the same verse (Mahaharata). It is up to the interpreter to make a sensible conclusion. **To conclude that Earth is a globe from this one statement is premature and inconstant in the context of the whole description of Vedic cosmology.**

A closer look on Varaha Lila

From the other sources, we learn that in the first Varaha Lila when Bhumi desh slanted to the Rasatala region and was immersed in waters it was manually lifted by Varahadev with His tusks. That pastime was illustrated by ancient artists depicting Earth as a plane, not a globe. Imagine the Lord balancing as He is trying to lift the wobbly ball. For such past time, assuming Earth is a ball, Lord would accept more suitable form, for instance - a seal. When we scrutinize Varaha Lila we



Varaha, c. 1740 Chamba painting

Brass terrestrial globe in North India, 1867 AD - London British Museum



cloth painting cosmology
15th-19th century AD

the world is divided into four spheres: the upper quarter is ruled by celestials, the lower quarter by the earth, and the lower quarter by the sea. Mount Meru, the central axis of the world, is the geographical centre of the world.

2 Brass terrestrial globe
North India
1867 AD

This *bhugola*, or 'earth ball' represents the disc-shaped regions of the world as conceived in traditional Indian science. Here can be seen the concentric rings of oceans, plains, mountains and rivers. The central mass of land is the *Jambudvipa*, the southern quarter of which is India (*Bharatvarsha*).

Donated by Henry Willett, Esq.
Asia 1886,1127.1

learn that the Lord lifted the whole Jambhudvipa with Bharata Varsha and Earth on it. Varahadev lifting the Earth as a ball is fictitious. When Dhruva Maharaj, after attaining his sidhis, stepped on the surface of the Earth, the whole bhumandala moved down, the whole disc including the Earth, Bhukanda, the island, entire plane. The Earth has to be an extended physical part of Bhumandala if this happened. Conclusion - the Earth is not floating independently in space.

Other findings in London British Museum





Also on the subject of cosmology, we find artifacts like a brass ball with engraved flat regions (mandalas) as if inside the ball. We do not see continents on the surface of that "ball Earth". This further suggests that the Bhu-kanda, Earth, is an island on the Bhu Mandala (flat plane) within the ball Universe.

More evidence found in London British Museum

The description of the brass globe (1867 AD), on the previous page, is clearly saying that the engravings on the ball represent the interior disc-shaped regions, concentric rings of oceans, planes, mountains and rivers. The central mass of land is the Jambhudvipa, the Southern quarter of which is India.

It is clearly a model of the universe, not the earth.

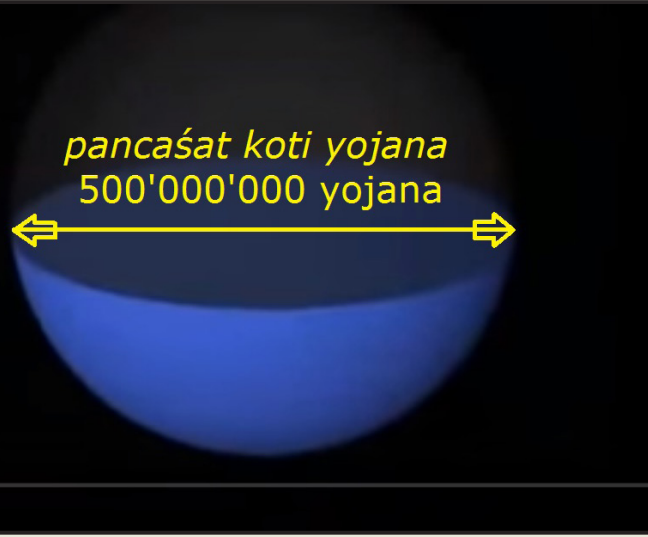
Is Bhugola the Earth or the Universe?

Srimad Bhagavatam. 05.20.38

etāvāḥ| loka-vinyāso māna-lakṣaṇa-saṁsthābhir vicintitaḥ kavibhiḥ sa tu pañcāśat-koṭi-gaṇitasya bhū-golasya turīya-bhāgo 'yaṁ lokālokācalaḥ.

Word for word transliteration:

etāvān – this much; loka-vinyāsaḥ – the placing of the different planets; māna – with measurements; lakṣaṇa – symptoms; saṁsthābhiḥ – as well as with their different situations; vicintitaḥ – established by scientific calculations; kavibhiḥ – by learned scholars; saḥ – that; tu – but; pañcāśat-koṭi – 500,000,000 yojanas; gaṇitasya – which is measured at; bhū-golasya – of the planetary system known



11:19 / 52:35

"Vedic Cosmology" - 11:19 min

as Bhūgolaka; turīya-bhāgaḥ — one fourth; ayam — this; lokāloka-acalaḥ — the mountain known as Lokāloka.

Translation:

Learned scholars who are free from mistakes, illusions, and propensities to cheat have thus described the planetary systems and their particular symptoms, measurements, and locations. With great deliberation, they have established the truth that the distance between Sumeru and the mountain known as Lokāloka is one-fourth of the diameter of the universe — or, in other words, 125,000,000 yojanas [1 billion miles]

A note:

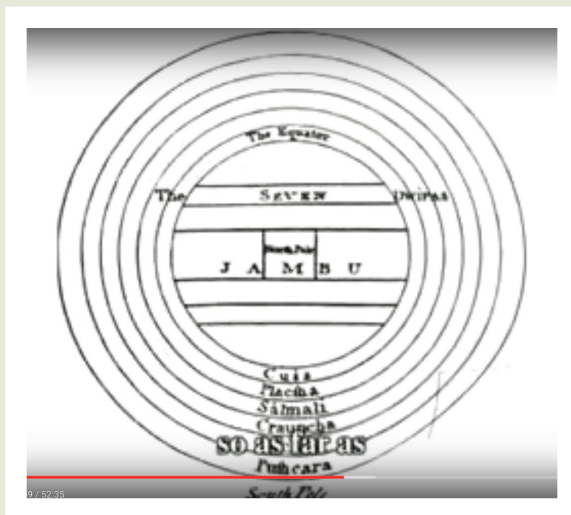
1. Pay attention to phrase “learned scholars who are free from mistakes, illusions and properties to cheat...”. Can we say that about modern scientists? If not why do we hold to scientific ideas and trying to see Vedas through the eyes of modern science? What will we see?
2. Pay attention to the size of the universe as it will echo in other verses

CC Madhya 21.84

kṛṣṇa kahe, “ei brahmāṇḍa pañcāśat koṭi yojana
ati kṣudra, tāte tomāra cāri vadana

Word for word transliteration:

kṛṣṇa kahe — Kṛṣṇa said; ei brahmāṇḍa — this universe; pañcāśat koṭi yojana — four billion miles; atikṣudra — very small; tāte — therefore; tomāra — your; cāri vadana — four faces.



Translation:

“Kṛṣṇa said, ‘Your particular universe has a diameter of four billion miles; therefore it is the smallest of all the universes. Consequently, you have only four heads.’

Explanation:

Therefore, we can see that the two words ‘Bhu-gola’ and ‘Brahmanda’ mean the same, the Universe. Thus the size of this universe is:

pancaśat koti yojana – 500’000’000 yojana * 8 miles = 4 bilions miles

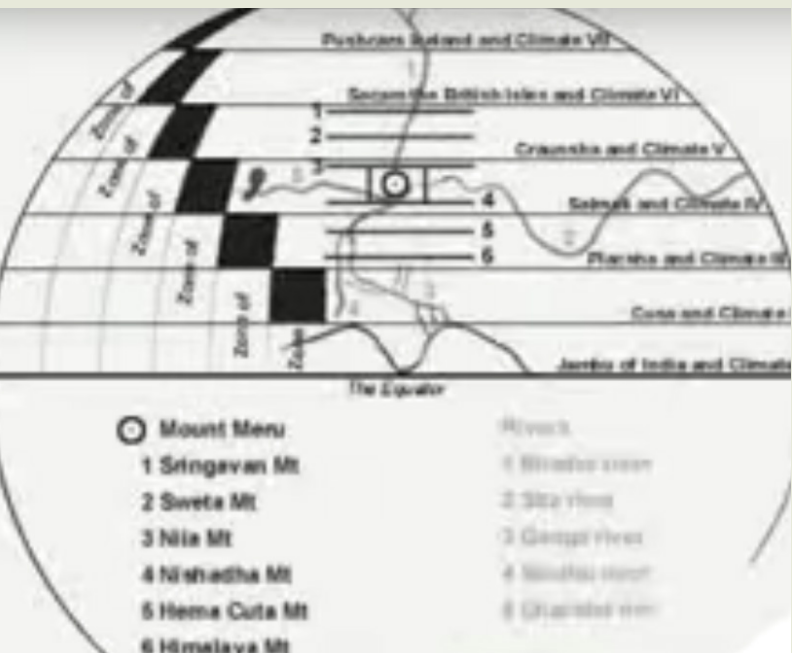
pancaśat = 50

koti = 10’000’000

yojana = 8 miles

Does it mean that our Earth is 4 billions miles in diameter? Certainly not.

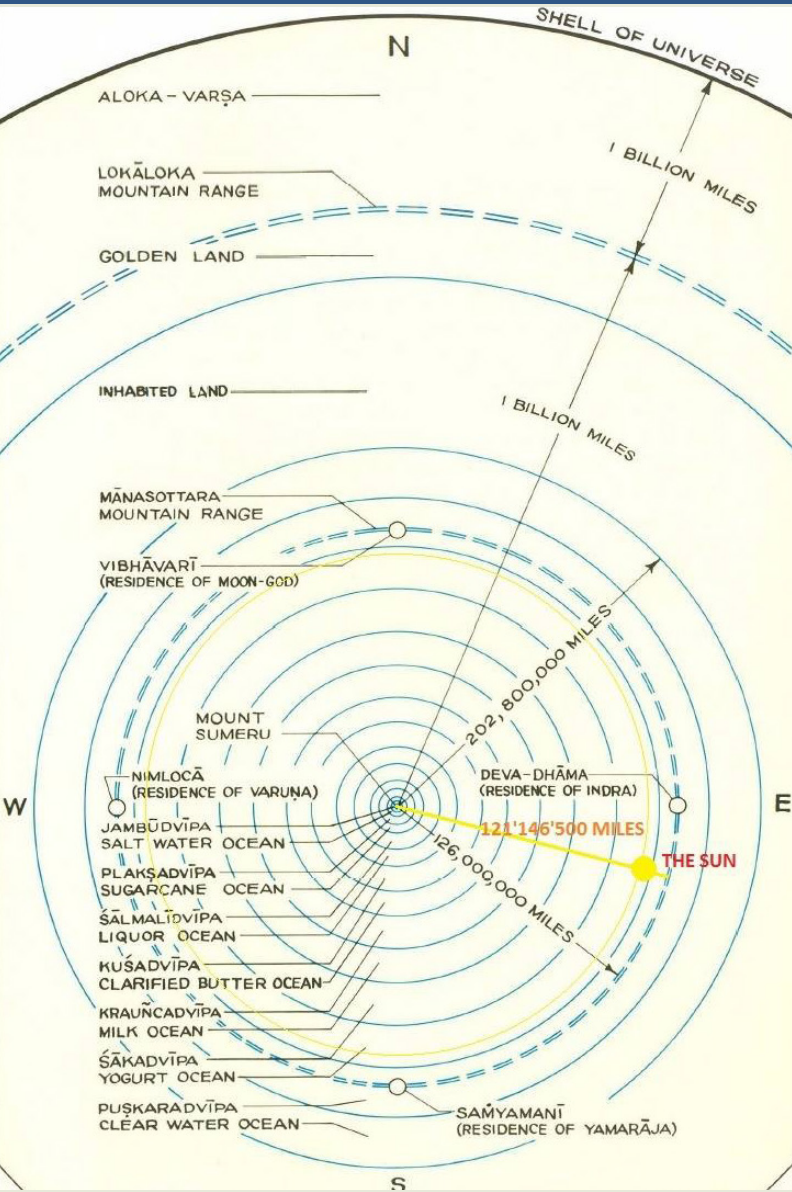
Therefore referring to Earth as Bhū-gola, is incorrect. Both Śrīmad-Bhagavatam and Śrī Caitanya-caritamrita explain that Bhū-gola is actually our universe with the diameter of pancasat koti yojana - 500 000 000 yojanas.



Clips from the movie

Final Conclusion

The shape of the whole Bhū-gola, the universe or Brahmanda, is spherical. We do not find a reference in Vedic literature to support that the Earth as Bhū-gola, a sphere. It is an honest and unbiased explanation, consistent with the description in Śrīmad-Bhagavatam and Śrī Caitanya-caritamrita, our top most literature. It is also logical, observable and scientific that the Earth is not a globe.



From the facebook group “Vedic Cosmology as it is in 5th Canto of Srimad Bhagavatam”

Uttamasloka Das (ACBSP)

I’ve been reading Danavira Gosvami’s 5th canto with the 10 Acarya commentaries. Kudos to him for putting this together for us. However, it seems blatantly obvious that he arbitrarily inserted the word ‘planets’ in places where it doesn’t exist in the Sanskrit, because that fits his perspective.

Srila Prabhupada also did this, but for a different reason IMO. I believe he did it as a sort of bridge to make it easier for western educated minds to grasp the astonishing and inconceivable Vedic model. Verification of my opinion is borne out in his private conversations about these details, where he stays strictly with the Vedic model in his explanations.

Danavira Maharaj inserts earth planet in many places, but when you read the collective commentaries of the acaryas it becomes clear that in most cases they are referring to the entire Bhu-mandala and not the ‘earth planet’, which is really just Bharata-varsa. Bhanu Swami did the same thing in his translations of Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura’s commentaries of the 5th canto.

For example, in the description of the lower ‘realms’, which is exactly what they are, ie: they are not ‘planets’, it is said that they are ‘subterranean realms’, which means they are part of the physical structure of Bhu-mandala, but far below the surface where the dvipas and oceans are. And that’s exactly what the descriptions indicate ie: they start 10,000 yojanas below Bhu-mandala, starting from the bottom part of Meru which is below the surface of Bhu-mandala.

They are described as being 10,000 yojanas high and wide, which is not the description of a planet. Even Danavira shows that in his DVD presentation. The Sun

doesn't shine there so illumination comes from jewels on the heads of the residents and other places. One commentary even says there are 7 'holes' in Bhu-mandala leading to these realms, but the book says 7 holes in the Earth! Visvanatha Cakravarti Thakura says the Nagas in Patala live in caves. How can there be subterranean realms of 80,000 miles height and breadth within the Earth globe, which supposedly has a circumference of 25,000 miles? It makes no sense.

Yet the word 'planet' is used many times, which IMO, is very misleading and incongruent with the text and commentaries. The planets - grahas - are all in the antariksa - outer space, which exists between Bhu-mandala and the celestial svargas, which are also realms and not planets.

Nowhere does it say that Bharata-varsha is in the antariksa, so how can it possibly be a planet? And why only Bharata-varsha and not the other varshas? And there is certainly no description of a small ball floating right above Bhu-mandala south of Meru or anywhere else for that matter.

So this obviously causes confusion in the minds of many who are studying these texts. We have to start with the actual terms used in the text and commentaries and let that be our guiding focus. Then everything starts to make more sense and the conception of the whole picture becomes easier to envision.

And we have to stop using the term 'geo-centric' IMO, because the Vedic model is not geo-centric - it is Meru-centric. It is not centered around Bharata-varsha. I know this is just used to be more accommodating, but if we don't change the language of our discussions to match the new paradigm, it will just perpetuate the confusion IMO.

Reading and comments page - <https://goo.gl/4YNcwd>

This document is available on line at - <https://goo.gl/NUwAe3>



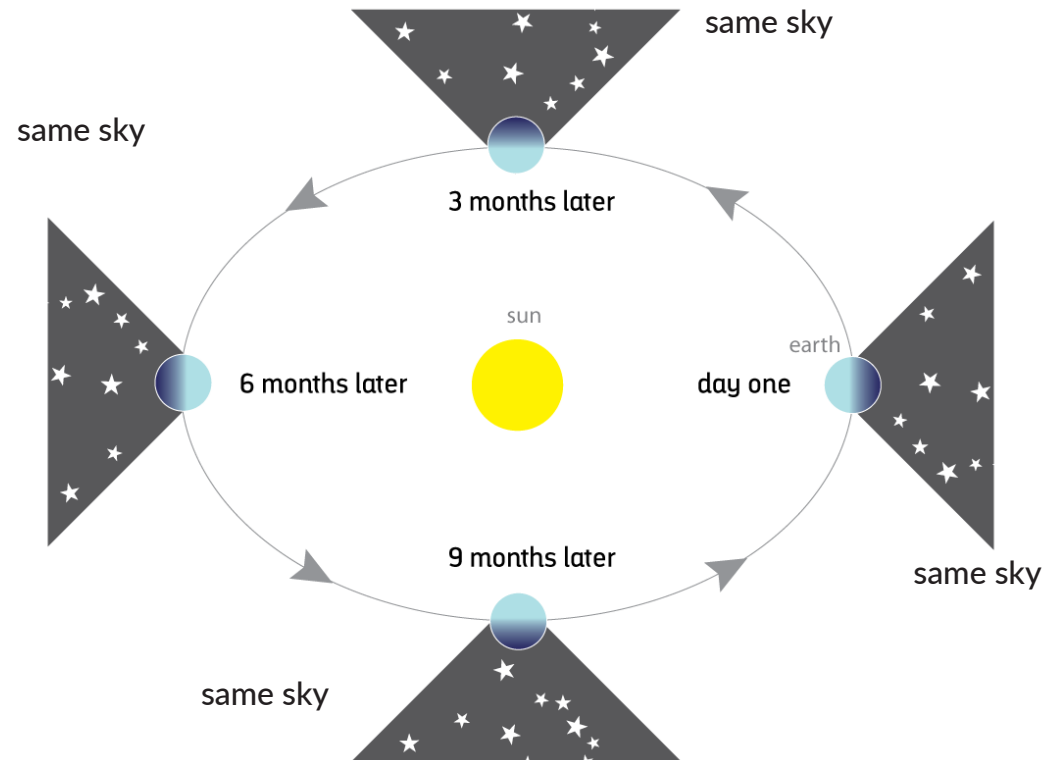
At night all stars move in a perfect circle and constellations are in a same shape for thousanda of years. This does not make sense in the proposed solar system.

Appendix

FLAT EARTH CLUES (reccomended: <https://youtu.be/eNbjFoA8sIQ>)

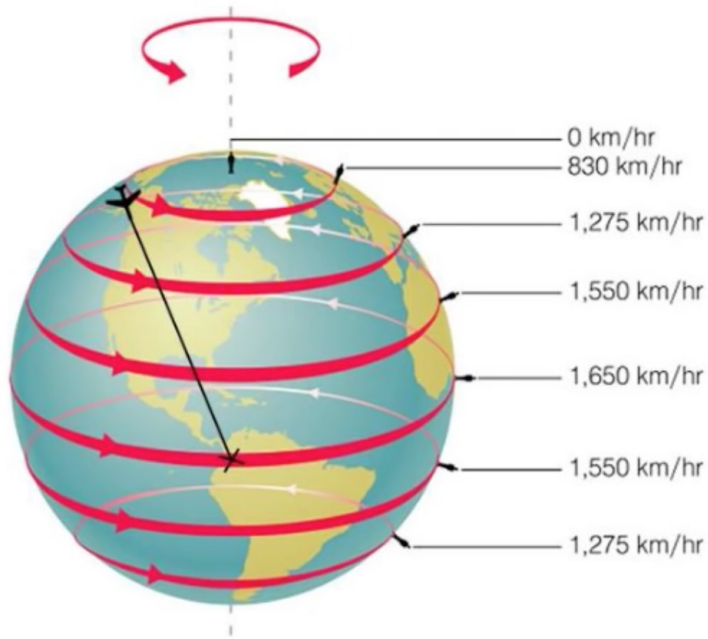
1

We see same sky every night. Is that even possible in the Solar System, thought in schools?



Another suggested observation is that the night will be 12 hours later or earlier in six months. As we can see that the face of the Earth in a day-one will be facing away from the sun in six months.

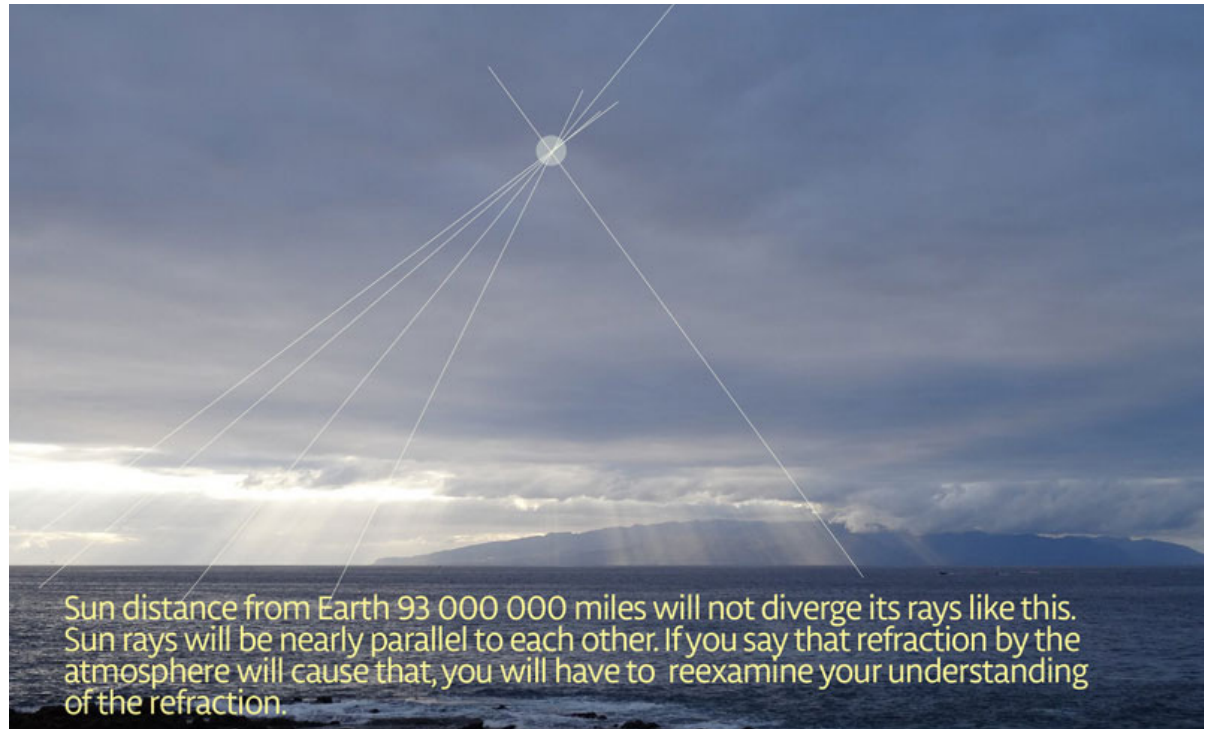
Undetected supposed speeds on Earth we live



Imagine you are getting off a plane in Congo coming from Norway. The difference of Earth speed you will experience is $1650\text{km/h} - 830\text{km/h} = 820\text{km/h}$! However upon landing in Congo you do not feel any of that. How is that you feel any slight motion while going by elevator, car or bus but you do not feel 820km/h when landing in equator coming from northern latitudes?

2

If sun is 93 million miles away from the Earth then this picture will not exist.



3

Earth moves 1000mph at the Equator and about 800mph at say Grece. If I take a plane to Kongo in Africa, and after landing I will not feel the difference of speeds, then there is something wrong. Considering the fact that we are equipped with motion sensory organs that tell us the motion we can tolerate. We can detect with ease even the slightest difference in motion. But why I don't feel 200mph motion at the Equator coming from 700mph speed zone? What to speak about Alaska? Just asking.

There are hundreds of fake space images and videos NASA puts out every year. NASA admits that all their slick images are composite, not real photos of Earth made by one click of the camera. Why? The satellite they claim is up 22 000 miles up which is the perfect distance to make a photo of an Earth in one shot. Search Google.

The Earth is a stationary plane as mentioned in Vedic literature and hinted in this booklet. The flat earth phenomena have to be researched and understood before attempting to understand the Seasons, Moon and Sun eclipses, Moon phases, Nakshatras, Astrology, etc.

4

NASA does not produce genuine materials. For instance the 2015 amazing Earth shoot posted in NASA official website, the inverted image shows a formation of clouds with the word SEX on it. A mockery.



More clues:

Allegedly Dave aka dmurphy25 goes on
Macedonian Late Night Talk Show to spread
awareness about our flat earth -
<https://youtu.be/eNbjFoA8sJQ>

200 Proofs Earth is Not a Spinning Ball Vid-
eobook -
<https://goo.gl/ZnC10L>

The Stationary Immovable Fixed Flat Earth-
<https://goo.gl/QYQXUt>

The Astro-Plate, Luminaries and Ecliptic in
the Flat Earth Model -
[https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=O4P3E5ZQvWk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4P3E5ZQvWk)

The End

om tat sat
satyam bhruyat priyam bhruyat

*By the inspiration and amazing contribution of sincere devotees: Uttama Sloka Prabhu,
Padmaksha Prabhu, Radhakanta Prabhu, Vamsi Daran Prabhu. Collected, edited and for-
matted by Vidya Sundar das to celebrate the Truth.
Surrey, Canada. 2016*