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Rudra and Apollo [A thread]

In Vedic literature, one of the most frequent names of Rudra is ■■■■ ("archer").

Yajurveda 4.5 (Taittiriya Samhita) is popularly known as Shri Rudram or ■atarudr■ya

Its fifth Anuvaka starts with

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Infact, the ■atarudr■ya starts with:

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"Veneration to your wrath, O Rudra. Veneration to your arrow as well; Veneration to your bow and veneration to your arms" (Yajurveda 4.5.1.1).

The bow of Rudra was ■■■■■

In fact, in the entire Vedic literature, tri■■la is not mentioned anywhere as the weapon of Rudra-■iva. This is only mentioned in Post Vedic literature(Epic and Puranic)

Likewise, God Apollo is renowned in Ancient Greek literature as "The Archer".

In Illiad (c. 800 BC), The most frequent phrase used by Homer to describe Apollo is "Apollo who shoots from afar"

The Homeric hymn to Apollo starts with

"I will remember and not forget Apollo who shoots from afar."

"Apollo who kiIls from afar"- Euripedes

This phrase has a parallel in ■atarudr■ya which describes Rudra as ■■■■■■■■■ (he who shoots/kiIls from afar)

https://t.co/SZQshE8PgP

In Illiad, Homer describes Apollo as παι■ν ("healer").

In the later Greek literature, "divine healer" is the most common epithet for Apollo.

Before the advent of Christianity. The Greek physicians ritually worshiped Apollo before commencing their craft.

Infact, one of the names of Apollo is ■ατρ■ς/iatros ("doctor").

This terms is now found as the suffix "iatry" in several medical terms.

Pediatry,Psychiatry,holiatry, chemiatry, hippiatry etc.

Again, a parallel can be found in the ■atarudr■ya.

In the very first Anuvaka, Rudra is defined as Daivyobhishak("divine healer").

Ayurvedic doctors traditionally began their craft by praying to Rudra.

This is why Rudra-■iva is called "Vaidyanath" ("Lord of doctors")

Caution: Before ignorant outrage activists descend again to pollute my mentions, here is the caveat.

Am I saying that Rudra and Apollo are one and the same? No, I am NOT.

Am I comparing Rudra to Apollo? No, I am NOT. In my personal belief, there is no one equal to Rudra.

I am a Vaidika & like my forefathers did for thousands of years, I chant ■atarudr■ya almost everyday.

I noticed some connections that I document in this thread.

If you cannot keep an open mind, there is no need to read this thread. I will block anyone misinterpreting/abusing

Are there differences between Apollo and Rudra?

Yes, there are many. But most of these differences spring from later, post Homeric times. Greek society has made innovations and the sect of Apollo kept changing with time, associating Apollo with attributes not originally found.

The Greek frequently depicted Apollo as Apollo Didymeus.

In this form, Apollo was depicted as half male & half female, encompassing both masculine & feminine forms of reality.

There was a large temple dedicated to Apollo Didymeus.
at Miletus (Anatolia)

https://t.co/f71xdtuQVp

The Ardhan■r■■vara form of Rudra-Siva is quite well known in India and the earliest representations date back to the Kushan age.

Apollo was considered as the God of Music and Dance.

Before the advent of Christianity, the Greek Pagan Musicians and Dancers worshiped Apollo as their patron deity.

Apollo is frequently shown dancing with Muses (who are minor Greek goddesses personifying arts)

Infact, the Homeric hymn to Apollo opens with a scene of Apollo singing and dancing at mount Olympus.

This Ballet of the Greek age is infact the originator of modern western Ballet.

https://t.co/QloIMbKXLJ

The modern American Ballet was has the theme of Dancing Apollo and his muses as its subject and takes its name from Apollo: Apollon musagète

https://t.co/L5cVLG7BAf

Likewise, Rudra-Shiva is well known in India as Nataraja: "The king of dance"

Apollo is known as the protector of animals, cattle, herds and shepherds.

One of his epithets is Νυμφηγ■της. He is also known as ζοοποσισ("Lord of animals"). From Zoo=animals+ Posis=protector/Lord.

Rudra is called 'Pashupati' which literally means "Lord/Protector of animals".

In the ■atarudr■ya, Rudra is thrice addressed as "Pashupati".

In Anuvaka 2:

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Anuvaka 5:

■■■■ ■■■■■■■ ■ ■■■■■■■■■■ ■■ ■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■ ■ ■■■■■■■■■■ ■■ (4.5.5.2)

Anuvaka 8:

■■■■ ■■■■■■■■ ■ ■■■■■■■■■■ ■■(4.5.8.2)

In Greek art, both Apollo and his twin Artemis are frequently shown holding a deer in their hands.

At Gudimallam, in what could one of the earliest known Anthropomorphic representations of Shiva, he is showing holding a deer in his right hand.

It is dated to 3rd-2nd century BC & is considered by many historians as "one of the earliest surviving &unequivocal images of Shiva"

In his Bhik■■■anam■rti form, he is showing holding the deer with his fingers. Sometimes, the deer's head just points towards his finger.

Even in many of the Utsavamurtis of Shiva, he is shown holding the deer with his fingers.

There are many other similarities too, which I will write at some point.

What do we make of this? I leave the interpretation to the readers. But there is a pattern.

In the earlier Homeric age, Apollo shares many attributes with Rudra. There are many differences too.

Of course, the interpretation and perception of the deities is different.

A religion is a continuum. Even if we talk about the common attributes, their perception is different across cultures. Interpretation and perception is a continuous product and keeps changing with time

Perhaps a deity similar to an early Vedic form of Rudra was indeed worshiped in Ancient Pre Homeric Greece. However, his worship was later mixed with many local Greek beliefs and customs. With time, the deity grew apart and developed into classical Apollo.

As cautioned earlier, this thread does not intend to compare Rudra and Apollo. It points out certain similarities just to explore how extensive the geographic horizon of Rudra worship and Sanatana Dharma was in the past.

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