



An Aryan Journey is a work of great scholarly research. The author has studied the Vedas and Zoroastrian scriptures in depth, along with Greek and Latin literary works of ancient times to bring out certain startling facts of the remote past. The book brings out evidence on two very important and debated issues of the history of the ancient world, (a) the place of origin and the migratory route taken by the Indo Aryans in coming to India and (b) the Indian origin of the Phoenicians. The origin of the Aryans is a hotly debated topic, with several theories being put forward, including one which claims that they were the original inhabitants of India. The evidence emerging from the Vedas and the Zoroastrian scriptures, not only gives the place of origin, but also information about some very significant events that took place as they migrated and moved all the way to come to India. Evidence from the Shahnama of Firdausi, as well as, that emerging from ancient Greek and Latin literary works goes to support what emerges from the Vedic and Zoroastrian sources.

The book brings out evidence to show that the original Aryan group, from which a small compliment came to India, was in the Arctic Circle, to start with. This emerges from the references to the Geographical description of the year as one long day and one long night. This is found in the Vedas, the Avesta and Greek works. From there they seem to have moved to the western shore of the Caspian Sea, where agriculture emerged. There are clear references to agriculture being developed in the Vedas and the Avesta. From a single Divine Entity they created four gods for seeking their assistance and blessings in agriculture. Their location on the western shore of the Caspian Sea emerges from hymns of the Rig Veda wherein the rising Sun has been portrayed to be rising from the sea. This imagery could have emerged only by watching the Sun rise from the western coast of a sea and the Caspian Sea is the obvious choice in view of the route taken by them for their further movement. Next they are found in the delta of the Ili River by the side of Lake Balkhash in modern Kazakhstan. The events that took place here have had very significant effects, not only on the history of the Aryans but the entire world. The Aryan group

developed a schism over a religious dispute and split into two. The side that carried the Vedas with them, called itself Devs and its opponents Asurs. Later, after Zoroaster emerged, the Asur religion became Zoroastrianism. They fought a series of wars after which both sides got uprooted from the delta of the Ili River. Indications are there to show that the Asurs moved to modern Iraq to establish the Assyrian Empire, but evidence on this point is not conclusive in the Vedas and the Avesta for which further study from other sources is required. The Devs moved to the delta of the Amu Darya by the side of the Aral Sea. As the split between the two sides was not deep enough to start with, initially some Devs and Asurs, trusting racial affinity, went with the other side too.

Some Devs are next noticed in the Iranian capital as the priests of the king and the people, while the main body of their group remained along the Amu Darya and the eastern coast of the Caspian Sea. The Dev homeland is found to be called Turan. Zoroaster came onto the scene at a certain stage and tried to establish the Asur religion again. He didn't succeed initially and was imprisoned by the Iranian king. Iran and Turan developed hostile relations and fought two wars, in each of which the king of the losing side was killed. Perhaps distrusting the Dev priests, the Iranian king adopted the religion propounded by Zoroaster and took up a state policy of suppressing the Dev religion. In the background of this religious persecution some of the Devs fled and came to India as refugees to be called the Indo Aryans. The Indus Valley Civilization was flourishing at that time and had a vibrant trade with West Asia and beyond. The evidence that emerges, shows that these fleeing Aryans came in Indian trade ships and were given refuge by the Indians in their cities.

Evidence that emerges on the other point, the Indian origin of the Phoenicians, is from ancient Greek and Latin sources. The Phoenicians were a very important race in the Mediterranean region in the ancient world. They were great traders and colonists, who established an empire of their own. Greece, as well as, the Western Civilization is deeply indebted to them. Their origin is shrouded in mystery. The book brings out very strong evidence to show that these were the people from the Indus Valley Civilization, who initially went as traders, but after the collapse of their Civilization because of the change of course of the Saraswati River, went in large numbers and became a dominant power in the region.

The book is of immense importance for historians as it brings out many facts which are presently unknown. It would also be of great interest to our readers who are interested in history and culture.