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RAMAYAN 3392 A.D. is a re-imagining of one of the greatest myths ever told – the Indian epic RAMAYANA. As is the original, created over 5,000 years ago, ours is a story of mystery, magic, intrigue, adventure, heroism, courage, betrayal, fall-from-grace, and redemption. It embodies the eternal themes common to all great mythologies – the juxtaposition and inevitable balance between the sacred and the profane, the divine and diabolical, the saint and sinner; the redemptive power of unconditional love; the corruptive force of forbidden lust; triumph in the face of tragedy; life instinct and death instinct.

This new tale, inspired by the original Ramayan, is not meant to replace the original but instead to showcase just how timeless it is, how even today its themes continue to give meaning to life, create a cultural mindset, forge an idealist vision to which to aspire, serve as a bridge from what is to what could be, allay collective anxieties, and fuel collective desires and a collective imagination.

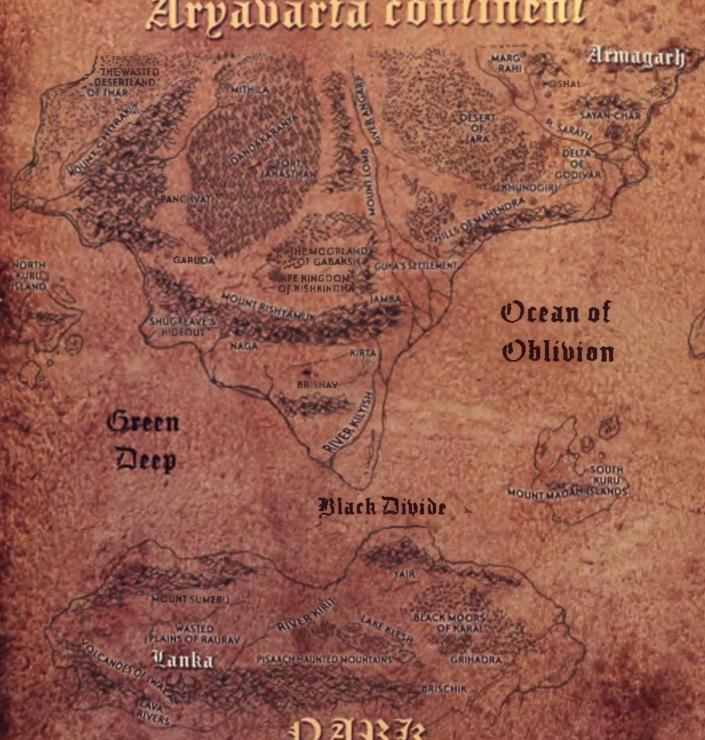
Ours is not a re-telling of Ramayan but a symbolic representation of similar mythical symbols that are meant to be understood in the contextual framework of a cross-cultural post-modern, multi-ethnic, global society. From time to time, new mythologies spark the imagination of the collective consciousness and lay the ground for the telling of a story that has such impact that it influences the behavior, the values, and the codes of morality of an entire civilization. We hope that RAMAYAN 3392 A.D. will ignite a new interest in mythology and nurture the deepest longings and aspirations for achievement, adventure and the desire to accomplish grand and wondrous things. For it is time.

Deepak Chopra

Shekhar Kapur



Aryavarta continent



DARK



y name is Vishwamitra and I will be your guide for now. In the course of this tale, you will come to know me. But first come to know this land.

As we sail upstream on the river of time, we will come to the shores of distant lands. Far ahead in the mists of our future we will arrive in a world, surviving holocaust, an apocalyptic war that once destroyed the atmosphere and ecology. Still, life has found its way and evolution has taken another turn.

Various creatures, anthropomorphic beings, and intelligent life forms thriving and marching ahead the path of evolution populate this new world. Geography has changed the planet's complexion, a singular land forging two separate continents: Aryavarta and Nark. The greater continent Aryavarta is populated by various intelligent anthropomorphic races like the ape-men 'Vanaras,' the bird-men 'Garudas,' bear-men 'Bhalus,' the bovine people 'Brishavs,' and finally the very last remains of the human race. The humans of this age are far evolved, and they hold their last bastion in the land of Armagarh, situated in the North east of Aryavarta. Armagarh boasts a superior technology and lifestyle since it is the only land blessed by the light of sun, enabled by a futuristic marvel, a reactor 'Shakti Kundali' that emits an energy beam that cuts through the noxious cloud cover that enwraps the planet. In these war torn times, Armagarh breeds its own protectors, the finest of warriors, the Kshatriyas, matchless in martial supremacy and unparalleled in courage.

To their extreme south, the polar opposite in every sense, is Nark, a dark continent filled with myriad savage races called Asuras. Ravan, a monstrous and enigmatic being, spawn of the Apocalypse, rules the whole continent. The ambition of this Dark Lord now threatens Aryavarta too, as his Asura legions march forth spreading his virulent conquest. Ravan desires to bring the whole world into his iron grip, but the free willed races of Aryavarta are not going to give up without the most bitter of fights. Still, Ravan's influence grows, as nothing can bring all the races of Aryavarta together. Until...



