The Creation, Death, and Rebirth in the Universe

*Maha Yuga = Great Age*

4,320,000 years long, made up of 4 shorter ages each becoming morally worse for shorter duration

“The last age is always a time of cruelty, pain, grief, and unnecessary death, and is always the age in which the reader is living.”¹

1st Age = *Krita Yuga = Age of Virtue and Moral Perfection*
Duration of 1,728,000 years
Golden Age on earth

*Vishnu* in the form of *Brahma* = Grandfather and creator of the world presiding

Dharma (ideal, righteous, behavior and moral duty walks on 4 legs

No shelter needed
Gift giving trees provide abundant food, clothing, and decorative objects

Everyone born good
Live happy, contented, unselfish, beautiful lives
Devoted to meditation
Loyal to dharma
Work for pleasure of it
No sorrows

2nd Age = *Treta (three) Yuga*
Duration declines by 1/4 (-432,000), lasts 1,296,000 yrs

*Vishnu, lord of heavenly light, preserver of life on earth*
Dharma on 3 legs

Moral virtue and perfection exist but decline by 1/4
Pursuit of knowledge = highest virtue

Gift giving trees provide all until the greedy make them private property
They disappear
Life difficult for the 1st time

Heavy rainfall provides fertile soil
New trees grow but people must work hard for food and clothing
Must build shelters

Greed and Passion increase
Dissatisfaction, resentment, anger
Strong take frm weak, including others’ wives

3rd Age = **Dvapara (two) Yuga**
Duration 1/2 that of Krita Yuga, lasts 864,000 yrs

*Vishnu, preserver of life on earth*
- Dharma on 2 legs
- Balance shifts from good to evil
- Virtue and moral perfection still exist but decline by 1/2 of Krita Yuga
- People devoted to sacrifice they consider the highest virtue

Disease, misfortune, suffering, death; all part of existence
- Passion and greed increase
- War commonplace
- Religious doctrine developed to guide toward dharma

4th Age = **Kali (quarrel, war) Yuga = Dark Age**
Duration 1/4 of Krita Yuga, lasts 432,000 yrs

*Vishnu is Shiva-Rudra, destroyer of life on earth*
- Dharma on one leg
- Virtue barely exists

- Noble rank based on money and property
- Virtue measured by material wealth
- Sexual passion only binds husband and wife
- Success based on lies
- Enjoyment comes only from sex
- Constant fear of hunger, disease, death
- Only the poor are honest
- Charity only virtue
- Oppressed by greedy kings
- Some retreat to isolation
- Clothes of bark and leaves
- Gather foodstuffs
- Harsh weather, primitive living conditions
- People prey to illness

1,000 Maha Yugas = 1 Day of the Life of the World