

3200 years, or about the epoch of Moses.\* Nay, perhaps those who give credit to the assertion of Megasthenes†, that in his time the Indians were not acquainted with the art of writing, who reflect that none of the ancients has made mention of their superb temples, those immense pagodas, the remarkable monuments of the religion of the Bramins, and who are aware that the epochs of their astronomical tables have been calculated backwards, and ill calculated, and that their treatises of astronomy are modern and antedated, will be inclined still farther to reduce the pretended antiquity of the Vedas.

Yet even in the midst of all the Brahminical fictions, circumstances occur, whose agreement with the result of the historical monuments of more western countries cannot but astonish us. Thus, their mythology consecrates the successive devastations which the surface of the globe has already undergone, or is yet destined to undergo; and it is only to a period somewhat less than 5000 years, that they refer the last catastrophe.‡

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\* See Mr Colebrooke's Memoir on the Vedas, Calcutta Memoirs, vol. viii. p. 493. 8vo edition.

† Megasthenes apud Strabonem, lib. xv. p. 709. Almel.

‡ The epoch which gave birth to the present age, *Caliyug* (the earthen age,) 4927 years before the present day, or 3200 years before Christ. See Legentil, Voyage