

Chapter 1—The Prehistoric Past





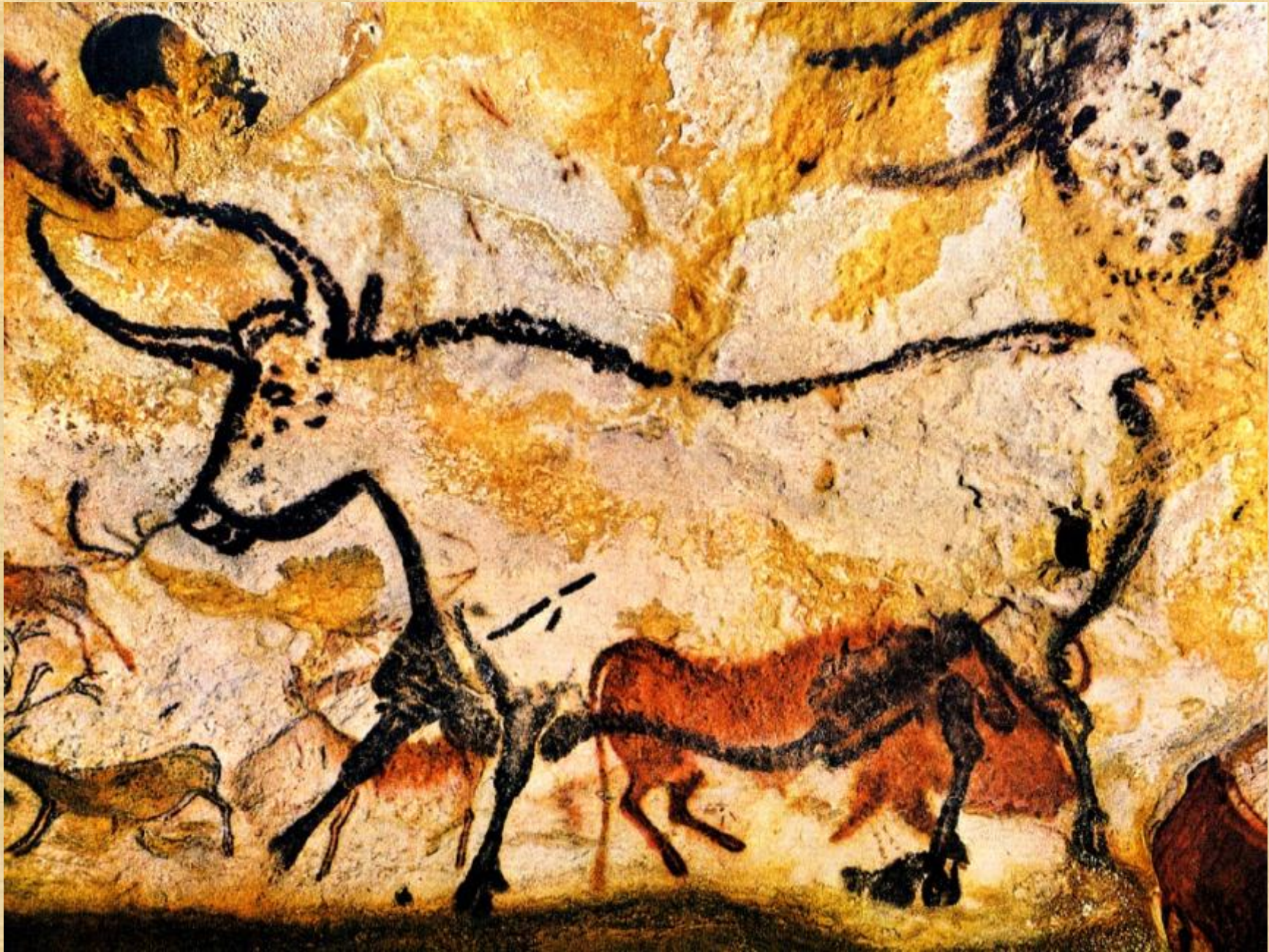
**The cave drawings go back to at least
30,000 and maybe 100,000 years.**

Paleolithic = Old Stone Age from 2.6 million years ago
Neolithic = New Stone Age after 10k years when ice age left



<http://www.lascaux.culture.fr/#/en/00.xml/index.html>



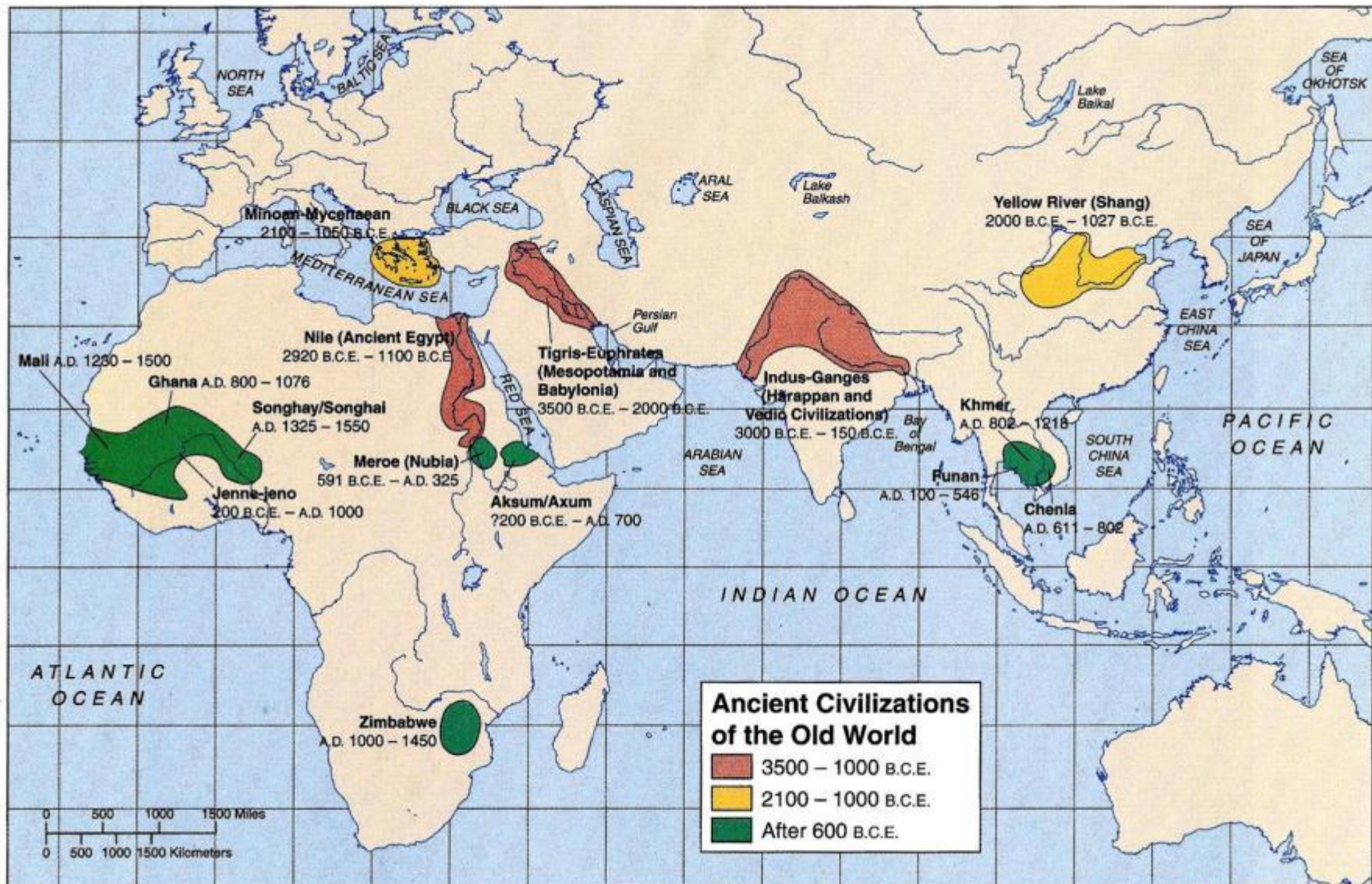




**Caves had some reason for the paintings...
hunting, worship, teaching, etc.**

Civilizations develop





**They have found *human* footprints
in South Africa and Ethiopia
5.7 million years ago.**

**2.5 million years ago these hominid
were using stones as tools.**

**Homo sapiens (one who knows)
go back at least 150,000 years.**

Bryan Sykes wrote
The Seven Daughters of Eve.

[Bryan Sykes](#)

THE SEVEN DAUGHTERS OF EVE

THE SCIENCE THAT REVEALS OUR GENETIC ANCESTRY

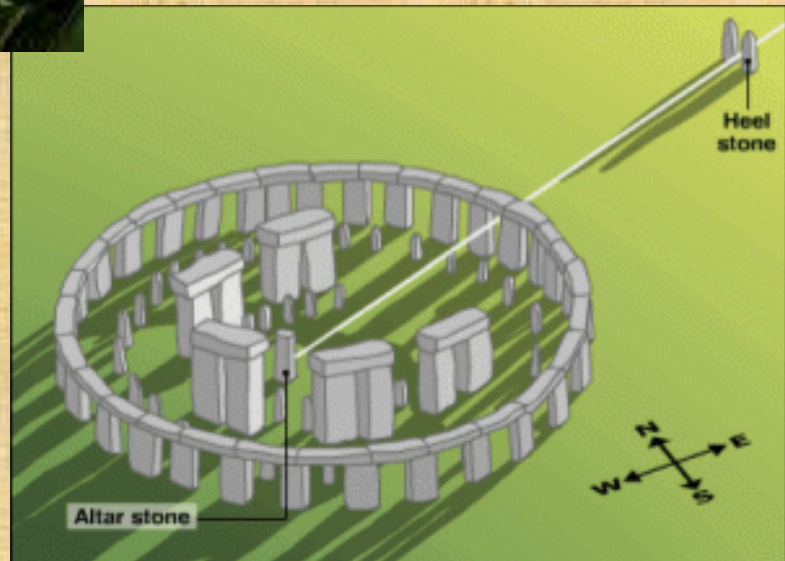


BRYAN SYKES



**Venus of Willendorf
raises all sorts of issues
about the place
of women in the
Paleolithic period.**

The Neolithic Megalith at Stonehenge in England ca. 2100 BCE



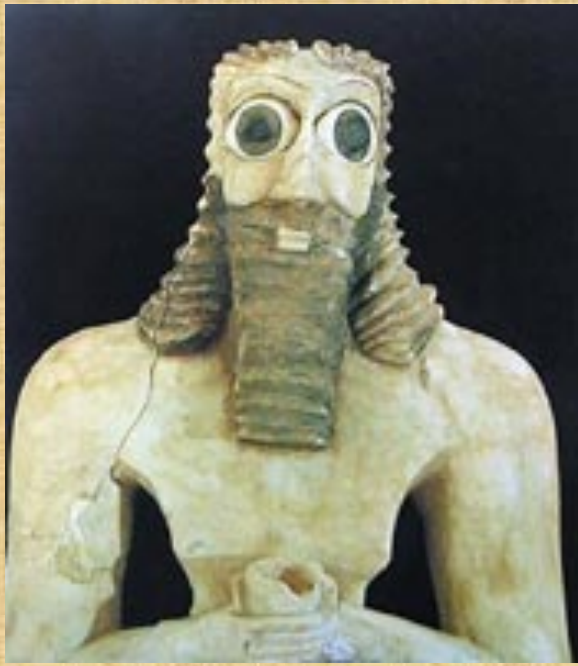


**The Ur ziggurat
ca. 2100 BCE**





**Μεσοποταμία or Mesopotamia—
“the land between two rivers”**



**Statues looking maybe at their god
at Abu Temple in Iraq.**





**Royal Standard
of Ur ca. 2600 BCE**



**Code of Hammurabi
with 282 laws written
in 1772 BCE**





***The Gilgamesh Epic* ca. 1200 BCE, which makes it earlier than Homer's *The Odyssey* or *The Iliad*.**



The Nile, like the Tigris and Euphrates, created the civilization of Egypt just like the one in Mesopotamia.

The Nile is more than 4,000 miles from Lake Victoria.

“Egypt is the gift of the Nile.”

-Herodotus



Votive palette of King Narmer (Menes) 3100 BCE
He was the first pharaoh to unite Upper and Lower Egypt.



The step pyramid at Saqqara parallels the ziggurat.



The pyramids at Giza are also influenced by the ziggurats.

Parallels between culture and artistic expression:

- 1. Pyramidal**
- 2. Static**
- 3. Traditional**
- 4. Other worldly**
- 5. Autocratic**
- 6. Unity and continuity**
- 7. Polytheistic with Amon, Re, Ra, and Aten are various names for the Sun god. Exception: Akhenaten and the El Amarna experiment**
- 8. Osiris—ruler of the underworld**
- 9. Resurrection central for the gods, pharaoh, and commoners**
- 10. Theocracy with the pharaoh as god's representative**

NB You will need to be able to compare and contrast these characteristics with the Greeks.



The left foot is always forward, arms by side, and a smile. Only the smile will change over the centuries.

2515 BCE

2550 BCE



Egyptian Dynasties

Old Kingdom 2700-1990 BCE

Confident period until 2200 conflicts

Middle Kingdom 1990-1575 BCE

Ever-growing uncertainty about future

New Kingdom 1575-1100 BCE

Akhenaton (1379-62) changes religion and art

Late Period 1100-500 BCE

Persians in charge

**The Egyptian stability is in juxtaposition
to the instability of Mesopotamia—
and you see it in their culture, religion, and art.**



Akhenaten and his family ca. 1348-36 BCE





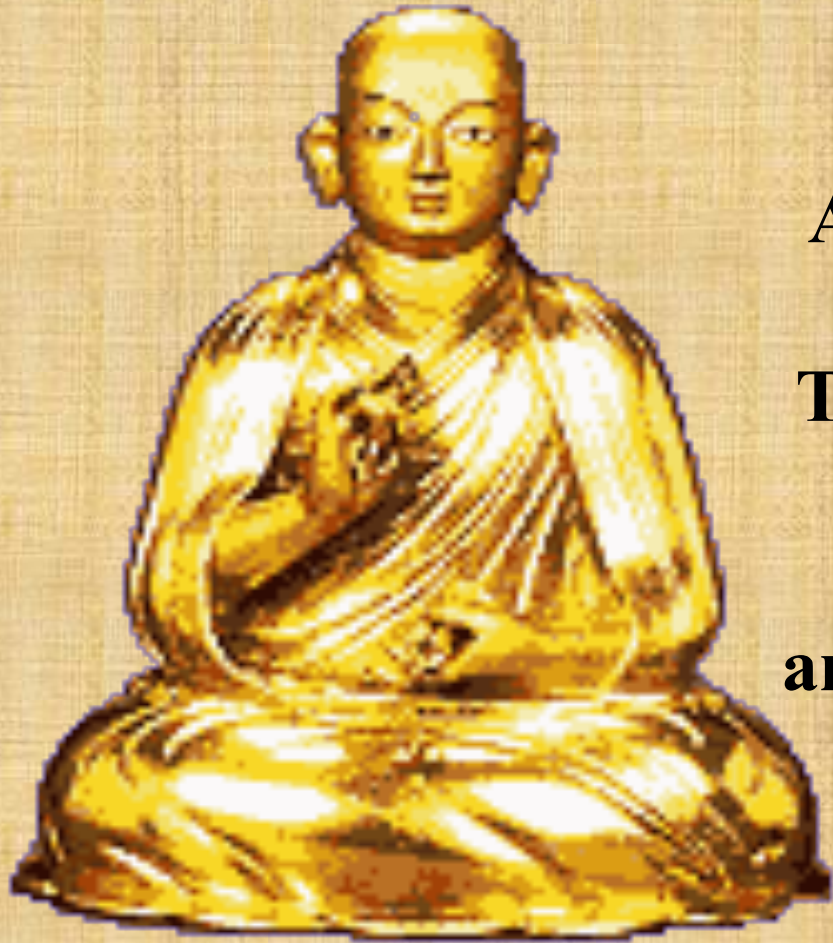
**Nefertiti was
Akhenaten's queen.
ca. 1355 BCE**



King Tutankhamen aka King Tut

[King Tut Live](#)

[King Tut on Saturday Night Live](#)



And now for a moment of Zen:

**The Egyptians had nearly 3,000
years of a centralized societal
control without producing
any artistic growth or new ideas.**



China's geologic climate had changed by 4000 BCE. The Yellow River played a similar part in the development of China like the river valleys in Mesopotamia and Egypt.



By the 221 BCE, the Qin Dynasty started to tear down the old wall separating feudal states within China. The Great Wall was begun to stop northern invasions.



**The yin-yang symbol is an example of balance...
much like the Egyptian's understanding of balance.**



Ancient map of India ca. 2nd century BCE.

**The Aryans entered
India from the
northwest ca. 1500 BCE.**



Ancient Indus Civilization

THE Bhagavad Gita

The Divine Song of God



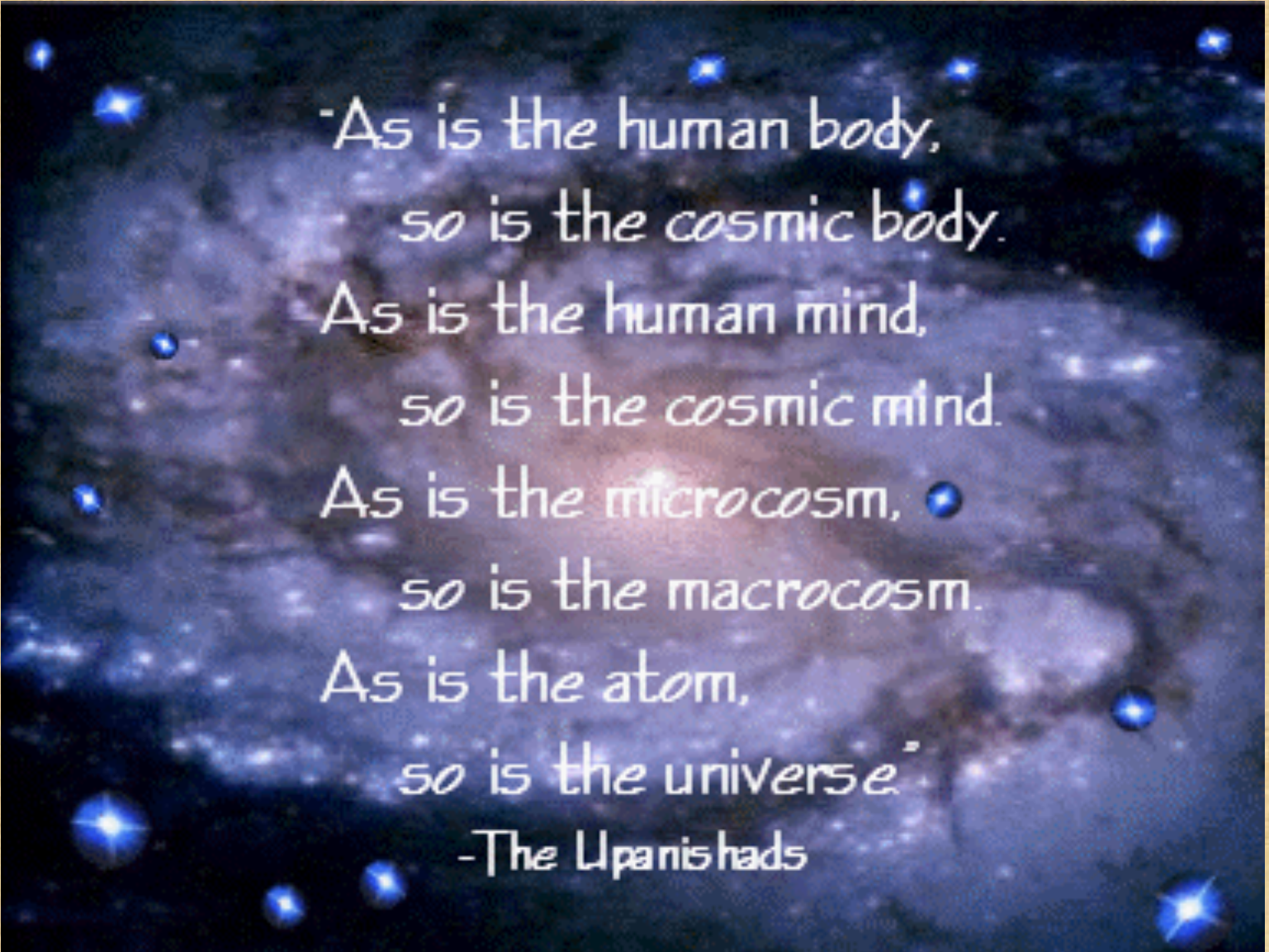
The Bhagavad Gita (or Gita) is a 700-verse religious tale as opposed to the philosophy of the Upanishads.



Krishna and Arjuna display courage in the face of war.

**Upanishads is the philosophy of Hinduism.
Brahman (the greatest one or all) and Atman
(immortal spirit of all living things) are one .**





-As is the human body,
so is the cosmic body.

As is the human mind,
so is the cosmic mind.

As is the microcosm,
so is the macrocosm.

As is the atom,
so is the universe."

-The Upanishads



**Trimurti:
Brahman,
Vishnu, and
Shiva**

