VEDIC PHILOSOPHY
AS PRESERVED IN ETRUSCAN CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

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Abstract

The earliest evidence of a culture that is identifiably Etruscan dates from about 1st millennium BCE. At the present state of scientific research, the scholarly consensus is decidedly against any Indo-European origin for Etruscan language and culture. However, such a categorical claim is largely contradicted by the authentic inscriptions in Etruscan language and the remnants of cultural artifacts from the Etruscan era. The preserved Etruscan artifacts and Etruscan language itself reveal a strong undeniable connection with the Indo-Aryan Vedic culture and philosophy. Moreover, the latest genetic investigations have corroborated indisputably the genetic relationship between the Etruscans and the Vedic Aryans from Indian subcontinent.

Keywords: Etruscan, Indo-Aryan, Vedic, svastika, 5 elements, ether
Introduction

The linguistic analysis of Etruscan inscriptions points impeccably to the Aryan Vedic spiritual tradition. It cannot be precisely determined when the Etruscans and the Vedic Aryans actually split apart, but the recent genetic investigations leave no any doubt about their symbiosis in antiquity. The Etruscans appeared on historical scene around 900 BCE (Bartolini 2012) in Iron Age Italy, but Etruscan language did not appear in written form until the 7th century BCE (Huntsman 2013). They were closely associated with the neighboring Venetians with whom shared the same system of writing. Who were the Etruscan and Veneti peoples and what language did they actually speak? Recent genetic studies seem to throw more lights on it and with the help of linguistic comparanda add to the successful decipherment of the Etruscan language.

Genetic Investigations

The recent genetic investigations (Skulj 2005) of the Slavic population of Slovenia (neighboring with Italy, viz. Venetia and ancient Etruria) came at some far-reaching conclusions: “Genetic information indicates that inhabitants of Slovenia are genetically very ancient population. There is evidence of genealogical continuity between 5,200-14,000 year old skeletons from the Alps, the ancient Etruscans and Veneti and the present day Slovenes. Genetic information makes it evident, that Slovenes are indigenous to their land as indicated by the mtDNA relationship with the ~2,500 year old skeletal remains of the Etruscans and Veneti, particularly those from Adria. The Y-chromosome DNA data on the extant populations also support this premise. Genetic evidence supports the historic quotation from the biography of St. Columban written in 615 A.D. and cited by Tomažic “Termini Venetiorum qui et Sclavi dicuntur” viz. the land of the Veneti who are also called Slavs (Šavli 1996).” (Skulj 2005).

The genetic data viewed from the Y-chromosome perspective has been interpreted by Skulj as follows:

“What language did the Etruscans and/or Veneti speak? Barbujani has made an intriguing observation, that partial correlations with language are stronger for the Y chromosome than for mtDNA (Barbujani 1997). Conventional opinion has it, that Etruscans spoke a language isolate, a non-Indo-European language and that it disappeared ~90 B.C., when they lost their autonomy to the Romans (Vernesi 2004).

Some Slovenian scholars held/hold a different view. Bor had postulated that Etruscans were people originally linguistically related to the Veneti; (the genetic evidence supports his hypothesis); they came from the north and in course of time merged with another people, which in turn influenced their language. By using Slavic languages, as a point of reference, he was able to decipher some of the older Etruscan inscriptions, including the Pyrgian
Tables, but not their later inscriptions. On the other hand, he was quite successful in deciphering the Venetic inscriptions (Šavli 1996).” (Skulj 2005).

Furthermore, the genetic ties between the Slavic people of Europe and the Vedic Aryans of India seem unquestionable: “Linguistic comparisons between Indo-Aryan languages, Vedic Sanskrit in particular, and Slavic languages show evidence of remarkable similarities in words of elemental nature and those describing the process of domestication of animals specially the terminology regarding the sheep and the cattle. Similarly, Haplogroup (Hg) R1a1 (HG3 in Rosser’s nomenclature), the male lineage Y-Chromosome genetic marker found at high frequencies both in the Slavic and the Indo-Aryan male populations points to a common genetic origin of a large percentage of speakers of Slavic and Indic languages. Judging from the linguistic evidence, the separation of these Indo-European branches appears to predate the advent of cereal domestication. Applying Alinei’s ‘Lexical Self-Dating’ (LSD) methodology to date the linguistic and the genetic evidence, we estimate that the split between Indo-Aryans and the ancestors of Slavs occurred, after the domestication of the sheep and cattle, about 10,000 years ago, but before cereal farming became a common industry amongst the ancestors of Slavs in Europe and Indo-Aryans on the Indian sub-continent. Moreover, the genetic evidence does not indicate that there were any major migrations of people from Europe, including the ancestors of the present-day Slavs, to the Indian sub-continent during the last 8,000 years. The migration appears to have come from the Indian sub-continent to Europe.” (Skulj et al. 2008).

The more recent investigations of the Y-chromosomal sequences of diverse Indian populations confirms that “A closest neighbor analysis in the phylogeny showed that Indian populations have an affinity towards Southern European populations… Surprisingly, the two South European populations (Toscani in Italia, TSI, and Iberian Population in Spain, IBS) are the closest neighbors of North Indian populations outside India” (Mondal et al. 2017).

According to another recent study by Stanford University “collected data dating from 900 to 200 BCE (including the Republican period) … shows a clear ancestry shift from the Copper Age, interpreted by admixture as the addition of a Steppe-related ancestry component and an increase in the Neolithic Iranian component… the genetic shift by an introduction of ~30 to 40% ancestry from Bronze and Iron Age nomadic populations from the Pontic-Caspian Steppe… The presence of Steppe-related ancestry in Iron Age Italy could have happened through genetic exchange with intermediary populations” (Antonio et al. 2019). Thus apparently, the Etruscans also shared a Steppe-related ancestry of the Indo-European people, despite their speaking presumably a non-Indo-European language.

And the latest collective study by Max Planck Institute, Universities of Tübingen, Florence and Harvard, devoted especially to the origin of the Etruscans comes to the same conclusion: “The origin, development, and legacy of the enigmatic Etruscan civilization from the central region of the Italian peninsula known as Etruria have been debated for centuries.
Here we report a genomic time transect of 82 individuals spanning almost two millennia (800 BCE to 1000 CE) across Etruria and southern Italy. During the Iron Age, we detect a component of Indo-European–associated steppe ancestry and the lack of recent Anatolian-related admixture among the putative non–Indo-European–speaking Etruscans.” (Posth at.al. 2021).

Thus, unquestionably, there exists a genetic relationship between the Etruscans and the Aryan branch of people from the Pontic-Caspian Steppe and India likewise.

**Linguistic Relationship and Slavic Autochthonous Danube-Balkan Theory**

With respect to the above results, Perdih and Jandáček quite justifiably emphasize the intimate linguistic relationship between Vedic Sanskrit and Slavic languages in general, and Slovene in particular:

“Significantly, Slovene is more similar to Sanskrit than is Russian, even while geographically Russian is more proximal to India. Furthermore, Slovene language, due to its archaic character, still preserves many lexical and grammatical forms present in the Sanskrit, but no longer used in the present-day Indic and most IE languages. The still active daily usage of the dual in the grammatical forms of the nouns and verbs is noteworthy as well. Linguistic comparisons between Indo-Aryan languages, Vedic Sanskrit in particular, and Slavic languages, Slovene in particular, by Skulj & Sharda (2002), Skulj et al. (2004, 2006, 2008) show evidence of remarkable similarities in words of elemental nature and of those describing the process of domestication of animals especially the terminology regarding the sheep and the cattle. It is more probable that the uniform Slavoform Satem gave rise to the peripheral multiform Non-Satem or Kentum. Uniformity spawns multiformity. Not other way around. On the other hand, how could it happen from patently Kentum languages: Latin “Celtic” and Germanic, with their various mixing and blending did not produce anything like a true Kentum but rather Semi-Satem. The Slavic toponymy observed in many parts of Europe (Šavli et al. 1996:13-47) could be inherited from prehistoric Venetic Slav populations or their predecessors.” (Perdih, Jandáček 2012).

Additionally, it is further strengthened by Florin Curta and his epoch-making findings that there is also archaeological evidence to move away from the ‘migrationist model’ and affirm positively the **autochthonous position of the Slavs in the Balkans and Danube civilization**: “More important, assemblages of the Lower Danube area, where, according to the migrationist model, the Slavs migrated from the Priet marshes, long antedate the earliest evidence available from assemblages in the alleged Urheimat.” (Curta 2001: 337). Regarding the connection between Slavs or Sclavenes and Veneti, Curta’s conclusion is breathtaking even if applied only to the northern Veneti: “Archaeological research has already provided an enormous amount of evidence in support of the idea that the Venethi were Slavs.” (Curta 2001: 13)
Proto-Slavic-Sanskrit

From the abundance of genetic data and linguistic as well, it appears that the Etruscan language was actually a form of Proto-Slavic with strong affiliation to Vedic Sanskrit, which we may appropriately call Proto-Slavic-Sanskrit.

As Vodopivec already pointed out “there are on the one side recognized Venetologists who do not understand the inscriptions and on the other side the Slovenetologists who understand these inscriptions on Slavic bases. While the transliterations are in principle not different, between Venetologists and Slovenetologists there are essential differences in understanding the inscriptions. Italian, French and German Venetologists argue the source of Venetic expressions from Kentum group on basis of Greek, Latin, Romance, and even on German bases, although for such arguing they have no real base, because by their own statements they do not understand them. As a rule they read in inscriptions only names, what makes possible almost any explanation, while with fictitious names all texts even those completely not understood could be explained. Such readings can be treated only as working hypotheses, which are convincingly rejected on comparison of their translations and the translations of Venetic and some Etruscan inscriptions on Slavic bases. Slovenetologists represents the Satem and Slavic origin of Venetic inscriptions and by good understanding of Venetic and many Rhaetian, Wendic, Phrygian and Etruscan inscriptions they confirm the regularity of their suppositions… At successive treatment on giving hypotheses, analysis and results is visible that all Venetic texts can be understood on Slavic basis… Slovenian and its numerous dialects as an archaic language is an exceptional tool for studying the oldest Slavic texts. Its usefulness proved also in this case, so there was no need to use the reconstructed Old Slavic… Such results confirm Veneti as Slavic and Slovenian language ancestors. By the last data of archaeology, genetics and linguistic, Veneti settled the territories, at that time Venetic and now Slavic, as well as a bigger part of present-day Germanic and Romance ones, already in Old Stone Age. These latest scientific statements are bests incorporated by the Continuity Theory, which is efficiently supported by facts, so we can consider it as a winner among the development and migration theories.” (Vodopivec 2006).

The Etruscan language is undoubtedly best understood from its Slavic and Sanskrit bases as is further demonstrated by the elaborate exposition of its scientific and philosophical Aryan Vedic background.

Vedic Philosophy of the Etruscan language

Starting from the general philosophical principle, language is to be viewed as a scientific invention of homo-sapiens. By thinking about the issue of language invention, I was inspired by the ideas of philosopher L. Wittgenstein (1922) which interpret the forms of the linguistic expressions as an abstract model of reality (viz. “Der Satz ist ein Model der Wirklichkeit”). The relations between the objects we call the principles, or as in natural science, laws of nature. The most general principles, which likewise the structure of ancient language underlie, are the principle of duality and symmetry. Etruscans were Vedic proto-scientists
who practiced the pagan rites. They expressed their knowledge about nature, astronomy, medicine, and spirituality through some universal principles, which also the modern natural science obeys. I wish to spend a few words about how this abstract “thought models” function in modern natural science. On the level of micro-universe, every elementary entity behaves by following the wave-particle duality principle. This behavior represents the uncertainty relation, introduced by W. Heisenberg:

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

It is the fundamental law of nature. It tells us that we can’t measure the uncertainty of the electron space-position and the uncertainty of its wavelength (momentum), with the same precision. Decreasing the value of one quantity during the measurement process, it causes the other to increase, and vice versa. We say that electron has characteristics of a wave, while it spreads through space, but in its interaction with matter, it behaves like a particle.

Let me now explain how natural science exploits the principle of symmetry. Our far-ancestors have watched the sky every day, which probably inspired them to think about the laws of nature. Walking along the see-bank during daylight, they could see the sky pattern mirroring onto the water surface. It could be the very beginning of thinking about nature in terms of abstract principles of symmetry. As an example ad vivum, we put the sphere of radius R in front of the mirror.

![Sphere and Mirror Diagram](image)

We use to say, the equation of the sphere is invariant on the horizontal mirroring transformation, i.e., it obeys the mirroring symmetry.
That is how it works in physics, but what about the Etruscan language? RASE, as Etruscans called themselves, certainly had a significant natural science knowledge, but as far as I know, they did not use the mathematics to express that. They used their sophisticated language, most appropriately styled Proto-Slavic-Sanskrit. The phrase "as above, so below - as forward, so backward" describes the Vedic principle of symmetry. The symbol of SVASTIKA, one of the oldest ideogram of the humankind, represents this principle ad vivum. Even the theory of relativity may someone express in the Svastika-like manner: physical laws are identical as in standing so in moving. Most Etruscan inscriptions are written and read from right to left. What was the reason for that? Most naturally, this is because each text can be also read from left to right, in so-called PALINDROME MODUS. In this way, we get a kind of different language, but the semantic of the statement remains the same. In the manner of nature science symmetry, we can say: Etruscan inscriptions remain invariant on the horizontal mirroring. If we read the Etruscan texts in the mirror, it emerges the language that is morphologically a new one, but the sense does not change.

The principle of duality applied to Etruscan language means that every inscription can be read at least in two ways:

a) SACRAL MODUS – This language is metaphorical and scholarly, very well matching the Proto-Slavic Sanskrit. I speculate that Sanskrit was the Lingua franca of the Bronze/Iron Age. Knowledge was a privilege of the small group of enlightened individuals, who were unwillingly ready to share it with the ordinary people. It is probably one of the reasons why Etruscan inscriptions are metaphorical, and thus sometimes not easy to understand.

b) SECULAR MODUS – It is colloquial, ordinary folk language, that in my paradigm, is the best matching the Proto-Slavic or Old Slavic speech. Polysemy and symbolism of the ancient language is the natural outcome of the principles of symmetry and duality, which it obeys. For example, when the wolf hunts the horse on the earth, it is a symbolic way to describe the moving of the moon and sun on the sky.

Since the appearance of the first abstract symbols of humankind until the intriguing Etruscan inscriptions, a few thousand years of cognitive development passed over. The Etruscan language sublimed all the features of men’s spirituality, which I mentioned above. Furthermore, by using the ingenious morphology of a single phonemes (diphthongs and triphthongs) as well as the ad hoc syntax and grammar, the Etruscan’s writer were able to express the UNIFIED MODEL OF UNIVERSUM. In terms of Vedic philosophy of the five elements (water, fire, air, earth, and ether), whose followers the Etruscan undoubtfully were, it means through a single statement express all five aspects of the world.
The Philosophy of 5 Vedic Elements applied on the Decipherment of the Pyrgi Tablet

Now, let’s demonstrate exemplary, how the section from the Pyrgi Tablet I (Zailac 2020) could someone read in five ways, whereby every one refers to the corresponding Vedic element. Consequently, the primary interpunction cannot be then respected. The same idea expressed through the language of mathematical equations, we call in modern natural science Unified Field Theory.

The event to which the text on the Pyrgi Tablets has been dedicated, was the festivity of the Springtime Equinox. In terms of the Vedic postulate, it was the phenomenon when all five elements harmonize.

The text yields the following meanings in relation to 5 elements:

1. **AIR** - LVERAM AZVA VATJEČE UNIAL ASTRE S GREMIA SA MEČ
   Werewolf runs the horse away, earth and sky are joining into the pair.

2. **WATER** - LVE RAMA ZVAVA TIEČE, U NI ALA S TRES GREMIASA MEČ
   The devil-river Zvava flows and the three-head monster it hides.

3. **FIRE** - LFERA MAS VAVAT JEČE, UNIA ALAS TRES KREMIA SAMEČ.
   A jackal barks to the moon, a young angler shakes his foot by waiting.

4. **EARTH** - LVE DA PIJE JAZVA VAT IEČE, JUP HIJALA STDES GDJENJA SA MEČ
   A wolf is drinking blood from a wounded horse, noble people left here the memorial-pair.

5. **ETHER** - ČE MASA I MERG S ERTS ALAINU, ECIE I TAVA V ZAMAR EVL
   Sun´s and Luna´s paths are joining, our ancestor is faithing with a devil.

That what makes Etruscan inscriptions non-trivial and thus not easy to understand is their metaphoricity. This feature is a natural consequence of the principle of the earth-sky symmetry (as above, so below). For example, the idiom *EpEITAV AVZAMAREI* - LVERAM AZVA VAT IEČE - *A horse runs in front of the werewolf (jackal), literally; a jackal runs in horse’s sleastream, whereby the Etruscan term for ‘horse’ is the same as Sanskrit अश्व AZVA, whereas LVERAM ‘werewolf’ matches Sanskrit फेर PHERA ‘jackal’ (Etruscan LV=F or H corresponds to Sanskrit PH) symbolic for the मास MASA ‘moon’ (SD 2021). In accord with Vedic symbolism, considering a jackal (or werewolf) as a symbol of the moon, and a horse as a symbol of the sun, this idiom we can interpret then as a metaphorical expression of the astronomical phenomenon *springtime equinox* when sun´s and moon´s paths are crossing on the sky.
The pair *AVZAM AREL* LVERAM-AZVA viz. *werewolf-horse*, describes the unity of the moon (its symbol is a werewolf as a metamorphosis paradigm) and sun (its symbol is horse or number 7-seven standing for the 7 colors of the rainbow). It embodies the Vedic Principle of Duality or the fundamental doctrine of Vedic Dialectics also known as the Unity of Opposite but complementary principles.

On the day of the Vernal Equinox the paths of moon and sun are matching on the sky, hence, in the philosophical sense, we could say that the *unity of opposites* occurs. This statement is likewise in accordance with the principle *as above- moon and sun in the sky, so below- werewolf (wolf) and horse on the earth.* (Source: Zailac 2020)

These are the principles on which is to build the proper understanding of the Etruscan language.

This idiom is a manifestation of the Vedic element Wind, Sanskrit [*वात* VATA (SD 2021)], Etruscan VAT, (Slavic vetar) which symbolizes likewise the thought-flow, i.e., a scientific knowledge. Another essential attribute of the literary Etruscan language, which we likewise assign to the *principle of symmetry* (as forward, so backward), is its palindrome modus. That what in Vedic philosophy describes the principle as forward so backward, we call today *principle of space-time horizontal mirroring* (in terms of the math symbols; x-> -x, t-> -t).

Thus the knowledge, spirituality and skills of the Etruscan inscription-engravers seem to have been more advanced two thousand years ago, than the ability of modern man to decipher and read the messages they left for posterity. The language of the Etruscans was apparently the Proto-Slavic-Sanskrit in form and usage. Two essential features of this language, which enable the scientific code structuring, are *using the declinations and the semantic-invariance in relation to the placement of the single words* in a sentence. That is what makes Slavic (independent of the prefix attribution; pre, proto, old, etc.) languages motherly-ancient and to the very beginning of the European civilization aboriginal. The fact is that the pre-antique Slavic tribes populated almost the whole territory of Europe, and ignoring Slavic-influence on the development of the Etruscan language is a kind of pseudo-scientific ignorance.
The mainstream Etruscan theory can read any text barely in only one single modus, interpreting the major of terms as toponyms or personal names, names of goddesses, divinities—in the manner of quasi-Christianity, ignoring at that the real nature of Etruscan’s paganism. It has been proved beyond doubt that the Aryan Vedic tradition implicitly expressed in their inscriptions could be correctly understand, only by utilizing the Proto-Slavic-Sanskrit vocabulary.

The arguments which I provided by analyzing various texts, especially those on the Pyrgi Tablets I, and II (Zailac 2020) are consistent, plausible, and in my opinion, pretty rational, or at least, non-circular, and non-backward compatible. The backward-compatibility I see as a typical linguistic semi-scientific proceeding when scholars try to construct (deduce) a hypothetical ancient language on the substratum of corresponding already-known vocabulary.

Applied on the Etruscan language (see Example 2 below), it means that the reading of the text in the mirror conserves the sentence-semantic. If we interpret the terms forward and backward as time categories, i.e., into the future, into the past, we conclude that the palindrome modus of Etruscan literary language denotes the language of their ancestors (the language which has been spoken in the past). Consequently, the palindrome language symbolizes the Vedic element Ether, i.e., its manifestation of a sound. This language is morphologically different, and semantic equivalent to its primary form.

The text yields the following meanings in relation to 5 elements:

Example 2:

1. EARTH – TURUG E MUNISTAS GRIUVA S TAMERESKA -
   *Let’s offer the wreath of Tamaris to the Augur*

2. WATER – TJRU GE PJUUIISTAŠ GDIJVA STAIJ JEDEŠGA
   *Let the sacrificial animals be offered to the Pietist.*

3. FIRE – TU RUKA MUNI ISTAS GRIUVAS TAM ERE S GA
   *The hands of Master of lightning are warming up you here, but the song of Hero beyond*

4. AIR – TURUGE MU NISTA S GRIUVASTA MERESKA
   *The Horse is consecrated with the fragrant wreath*

5. ETHER (palindrome) – A KSEREM, AKAVUIRG SA TSIN UME GURUT
   *The necklace and serum to the Guru of Tin-smelting*
Here we have again common Slavic-Sanskrit-Etruscan terms: मुनि MUNI ‘ascetic, saint, sage, devotee, priest’ इष्ट ISTA ‘sacred rite, sacrifice’ ग्रीव GRIVA ‘neck’ (Slavic ‘mane’) whence ‘neck decoration’, तुरग TURAGA ‘horse’, निष्ठा NISTHA ‘devotion, application, attachment’, गुरु GURU ‘spiritual teacher’. Besides, the Horse sacrifice was considered the supreme Vedic sacrifice (cf. Eliade 1978: 218).

As I finished the analysis above, there was no doubt anymore; Etruscan language is the Proto-Slavic. Parsing of the logical syntax-units of the PT-text into the five-element pattern provides only the PS-Sanskrit ingenious language structure. How did the author of PT create such a perfect structure, which with the only single statement expresses the entirety of the world, deserves our respect.

Intuitively, it seems to me that there must be some numerical algorithm, which the sentence-structure underlies. In terms of math, it would be equivalent to the problem of the equation with the five solutions. Here, I want to emphasize the postulate:

*The palindrome modus of the Etruscan literary language equals the language of Etruscan’s ancestors, as well as it refers to the Vedic fifth element-Ether.*

The Ether is an immaterial substance, the base object of Etruscan’s religion-philosophy-science, in which rest the soul of ancestors and various demons. The category sound, although not in terms of air-deformation propagation, more as string-vibration - was the human-sense perception of ether.

**The Symbolism of Aryan Svastika**

The Aryan symbol of Svastika appears on innumerable Etruscan artifacts, which is an indisputable proof of their ancient Aryan genetic and linguistic roots. Besides, it is accompanied by other specifically Vedic features, as is demonstrated by the Etruscan figurine below.
The brass-figure, inscribed with the name – KENOGRUNTOVJO, symbolizes the skills of word-manipulation - a kind of linguistic-science which expresses the Universal Model of World. His hands and legs are put up into the pose, imitating the symbol of SVASTIKA. The head-horns and the three-leaf pattern shoe, symbolize the Principles of Duality and Triality, while the stuck-out tongue symbolizes the Vedic element FIRE, i.e., its manifestation, speech. To the mental category of our language, the sight-perception of the outer world underlies. The term GRUNTOVJO corresponds to the ग्रंथ – GRANTHA (Sanskrit, noun, m) - arrangements of the words, book in prose, text.

 Needless to underline, the svastika was a widely popular among Slavic peoples as a Solar symbol and a symbol of fortune in ancient Slavic folklore. In fact, though the term itself is Indo-Aryan, the earliest finds of the symbol come from the Slavic countries of Eastern Europe, viz. the earliest known svastika dated 10 millennium BCE is found in Ukraine on a figurine of a bird carved from a mammoth ivory. Thus, svastika appears to be another cohesive element of the unquestionably common Aryan-Slavic-Etruscan culture and tradition.

**Conclusion**

As is demonstrated during the exposition of the present treatise, the Etruscan language and culture in general bear indisputably all the essential features of the Aryan Vedic tradition, its philosophy, its symbolism, and share the common Aryan-Slavic-Etruscan lexemes. This conclusion is well supported by the recent genetic investigations and meticulously made studious analyses of their so far achieved scientific findings and promising but not compromising results.

**References**


