

CHAPTER-11

WHY SEVEN DAYS IN A WEEK?

**Highlights about the chapter
WHY SEVEN DAYS IN A WEEK?
in MATERIALISTIC UNIVERSE by Ramesh Varma.**

Note: Chapter over WHY SEVEN DAYS IN A WEEK? is not an encyclopedia. Challenger has illustrated only which relates to the new or contrary findings/understandings with some existing references to make the subject understandable.

- **Why we have seven days in a week, not eleven or so and which factor had given the sequence to the day's names?**

- World knows the reason but very few people know this fact, so for the concerned, seven days in a week are due to the seven known celestial bodies to our ancestors, which shine to its most as compared to other stars in the sky.

CHAPTER - 11

WHY SEVEN DAYS IN A WEEK?

1. Why we have seven days in a week, not eleven or so and which factor had given the sequence to the day's names?

World:

World knows that why we have seven days in a week.

Author:

Note: Author has written this chapter without knowing the fact that the World already knows that why we have seven days in a week. In general public, awareness about this fact is almost nil thus he under revision of this chapter has not deleted this chapter to make the concerned aware about the said fact.

- Author has observed and concluded the facts that the seven days in a week were/are due to the seven known celestial bodies, which shine to its most as compared to others stars in the sky. So our ancestors decided to have seven days in a week. These celestial bodies are: Sun, Moon, and the five early known planets Venus, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, and Saturn. Our ancestors considered the Earth as flat with endless dimensions on all sides (North, East, South, & West) and also endless towards beneath the surface. They could not observe the Earth as a planet. No body in the past or now could see the Earth shining while living over the earth. So the Earth remained from the purview of the planets or a shining body in the sky. It was not until the time of Copernicus (the sixteenth century) that it was understood that the Earth is just another planet. Remaining three other planets, other than the Earth were not known as planets till the year 1781 (Uranus), 1846 (Neptune) and 1930 (Pluto).

1-A Seven days of the week in India; in Indian language Hindi:

(1) (Ravi-Var) (रविवार)

'Ravi' (रविवार) means the Sun. This is the brightest object in the sky.

(2) (Soom-Var) (सोमवार)

'Soom' (सोम) means the Moon. This is the second brightest object in the sky.

(3) 'Mangal' (Mangal-Var) (मंगलवार)

(मंगल) means the planet 'Mangal' (Mars).

(4) (Budh-Var) (बुधवार)

'Budh' (बुध) means the planet 'Budh' (Mercury).

(5) (Brahspati-Var) (ब्रहस्पतिवार)

'Brahspat' (ब्रहस्पत) means the planet 'Brahspat' (Jupiter).

(6) (Shukar-Var) (शुक्रवार)

'Shukar' (शुक्र) means the planet 'Shukar' (Venus).

(7) (Shani-Var) (शनिवार)

'Shhani' (शनि) means the planet 'Shani' (Saturn). This is the least bright among the planets.

1-B Seven days of the week in English:

(1) Sunday.

'Sun' means the Sun. This is the brightest object in the sky.

(2) Monday.

'Mon' means the Moon. This is the second brightest object in the sky.

(3) Tuesday.

(4) Wednesday.

(5) Thursday.

(6) Friday.

As brightness of the planets Mercury, Venus, Mars and Jupiter observed from the Earth is variable at different locations over their orbit track, if a person observes brightness today through the naked eye, he/she may not observe the same brightness after some days/years or so, because of the longer sidereal period. Sidereal period of Mercury, Venus, Mars and Jupiter is 88.97 days, 224.7 days, 686.98 days and 11.86 years respectively. So Author had observed that our ancestors at different segments of the Earth must have given different names to the different planets and different days must have been linked to different planets as per brightness observed by them at different periods. So it is the work of the historians to find out that which planet had been linked to which day. But Author is sure that the said four days (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) had been named by linking with the brightness of the four planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars and Jupiter).

(7) Saturday.

'Satur' means the planet Saturn. (Saturn is the root of the English word Saturday). This is the least bright object among the planets known to the ancient people.

1-C Why sequence of brightness does not tally with the four days (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Author had observed that when seven names were given to seven days in a week in any first civilized Nation/Culture, the person/king/Astronomer who created the seven days was not aware of the distances of the planets from the Sun, he simply observed the brightness on that particular day of its foundation. That brightness may vary later to some extent at the same place of observation due to sidereal period.

After some centuries another Culture/Nation in their own understanding by knowing that a leading Culture/Nation has given the seven days to a week by observing the brightness of the Sun, Moon and the five planets. They also kept seven names as per their observation and understanding. The brightest, Sun and the Moon and the least bright Saturn could not find an error in observation to their brightness, thus are named in sequence properly. But the remaining four names of the days in relation to the name of the planets due to their brightness observed got a disturbed sequence.

This disturbed sequence, we now understand, because, now we are firm that which planet is which. But for those ancient people this error was not an error as concerned to their own Nation or Culture, because all were living in a separate world. During very initial stages it might be possible, rather it must have happened, the proof of the disturbed sequence gives us a guide line that in some culture/Nation four bright planet might have different understanding as regards to different planet than the other Culture/Nation. Later, as the World kept on coming closer to each other information and understanding of the planets. Astronomers and the people had to follow the leading Nation/Culture to accept its understanding. The name of the seven days remain in the same sequence as these were existing but the World had to accept the planet's name as per the leading dynasty.

Now the World knows and understands the sequence of brightness as follows:

		Sequence of brightness as per the modern World	Sequence of brightness observed by our ancestors.
1.	Brightest	Sun	Sun
2.	2 nd brightest	Moon	Moon
3.	3 rd brightest	Venus	Mars
4.	4 th brightest	Jupiter	Mercury
5.	5 th brightest	Mars	Jupiter
6.	6 th brightest	Mercury	Venus
7.	7 th brightest	Saturn	Saturn

It is not possible now to rectify the errors committed earlier. But the Author understands by observations that the originator must have given the seven names to a week as per the brightness sequence observed by the founder.

