

## **Filme Response**

### **Gupta Empire**

The Gupta Empire was a powerful ancient Indian empire that ruled from approximately 320 to 550 CE. The Empire is considered a "golden age" of Indian history. During this time, art, literature, science, and mathematics flourished. This period is known for its contributions to literature, including the famous Sanskrit plays and the Hindu epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. The Gupta era in ancient India was a time of significant intellectual and cultural flourishing, including in the fields of mathematics, astronomy, and philosophy. While there is no direct evidence of how people during this era may have reacted to the idea of an infinite universe, they would likely have been open to considering such a possibility.

Four things that I learned about the Empire from this film were:

The Gupta Empire was known for its religious tolerance. The Empire was predominantly Hindu, but other religions like Buddhism and Jainism flourished. The rulers of the Empire respected and supported different faiths, and the people of the Empire were free to practice their beliefs. Both Buddhism and Hinduism coexisted and thrived during the Gupta Empire. While the Gupta rulers were Hindus, they were also known to support Buddhism and patronize Buddhist monasteries and universities. This support helped to further the spread and development of Buddhism during this time. Despite the support for Buddhism, the Gupta Empire also saw a resurgence of Hinduism, and many Hindu temples and shrines were built during this time.

The Gupta Empire was renowned for its significant contributions to mathematics. The decimal system, the basis of modern arithmetic, was invented during this period. The concept of zero as a numerical digit was also introduced, a crucial development in the history of mathematics.

Aryabhata provided arguments for why he believed the Earth was a sphere, including the fact that the shadow of the Earth on the Moon during a lunar eclipse is always circular, regardless of where the eclipse is observed from on Earth. While Aryabhata did not directly prove that the Earth is spherical, his observations and reasoning influenced the understanding of its shape and place in the solar system.

The last thing I noticed was that the universe is infinite and humans are relatively small in comparison. It has been a topic of philosophical and scientific contemplation for centuries. While

it may be daunting to consider our relative smallness in the universe's grand scheme, it can also be awe-inspiring and humbling. And the Indians were not traumatized by the revelation that the universe is infinite. The universe that was infinite and eternal. These ideas were explored in depth and considered with the human experience.