

Background Guide

Telugu film industry

“When dharma is destroyed and adharma rises, I shall manifest myself in every age.”

- Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 4, Verse 7-8



Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings from the Kaliyugam.

To everyone reading this: you are not attending a Model United Nations committee about a movie. You are being brought into a world at a specific point in time before an ending that has already happened once before (5,999 years ago on a field called Kurukshetra), and is about to happen again, in almost exactly the same shape, unless the people in this room choose otherwise.

Everything in this Background Guide is true within the world of *Kalki 2898 AD*. You will also receive separate documents for geographic specifics, and other key stuff. Nothing in this

Guide tells you how the story ends, because at the moment we have chosen to begin, no one knows how it ends. Not Ashwatthama, who has been waiting almost 6000 years to find out.

Not Bhairava, who has already made a promise he has not yet kept. Not even the Saptarishi, who have watched every yuga turn and are, for the first time, uncertain of the outcome of this one.

That uncertainty is the exact point. Read through this whole thing not as a summary of a film you have already seen, but as an intelligence briefing for a war that has not yet been fought.

Read it more than once. Read the verses slowly, as they were not chosen at random. And then finally, walk into the room and do what no one at Kurukshetra managed to do: change the ending.

Regards,

Your Executive Board.

Yashas Yallapragada - Chairperson

Nagapranadeep Yenigalla - Vice-Chairperson

Kartheek Varma - Co-Rapporteur

Renu Alampally - Co-Rapporteur

The Premise

What this committee is actually about

“That which pervades this entire body cannot be destroyed.

It is not born, and it does not die; it is not slain when the body is slain.”

Bhagavad Gita 2.17, 2.20

Kali Yuga, the last and darkest of the four great cycles of time, is ending. The rivers have gone dry, the skies have turned to the color of rust, the gods have withdrawn behind silence, and the last trees on Earth are dying one by one. A single city remains. And a single child may or may not be born who will end this age entirely. Now, it would be easy to make this committee be centered around that child and whether she will be born or saved. But that is not the real question on the table. The real question, is much older and harder.

“What does it mean for an age to end, and who gets to decide what comes next?”

Every person in this room believes they already know the answer. The Complex on one hand believes order must be imposed from above, at any cost. On the other hand, Shambala believes faith and sacrifice will be enough, if the world manages to hold on a little bit longer. Some people in Kashi believe that survival itself is the only dharma that matters when nothing else is left. And then we have the ancient & divine (Ashwatthama being one of them), believe that history is a wheel, and that this argument has already been lost once, at the

Kurukshetra, and may be lost again. Over the course of this committee, you will discover that you are not the first batch of people to have this argument. You are simply the latest. What you do with that discovery is the only thing that has not been written.

Understanding the Freeze Date

Where history ends and you begin

*You have a right to your actions,
never to the fruits that come from them.*

*Act, but do not act for fruit's sake,
and do not cling to inaction either.*

Bhagavad Gita 2.47

This committee does not begin at the start of the film *Kalki 2898 AD*, and it does not begin at the end either. It begins at a single, deliberately chosen hour buried inside the film's second act (a moment that the EB likes to call the "Quiet Hour"). Understanding exactly what has happened before this hour, and exactly what has not yet happened, is the single most important piece of preparation you can do.

What Has Already Happened

By the time this committee opens, the following is settled history and not speculation:

- Sumathi (once known only as SUM-80) has escaped Project K's laboratories inside the Complex, survived the crossing in the desert region, and has reached Shambala. She is for now: alive, pregnant, and safe.
- Ashwatthama has succeeded in protecting her. The Tree of Life at the heart of Shambala has bloomed in her presence for the first time in living memory. This is the clearest confirmation the world has yet received that the Kalki prophecy is real.
- Raya has returned Ashwatthama's stolen gem back to him (the Shivmani), restoring much of his ancient power, and also confirming that Sumathi is the one carrying the true avatar.
- On the other side of things, Bhairava has privately accepted the offer made to him by Commander Manas: to deliver Sumathi and in exchange get full citizenship of the Complex. He (Bhairava) has told no one.

What Has Not Yet Happened

Nothing after the events stated above.

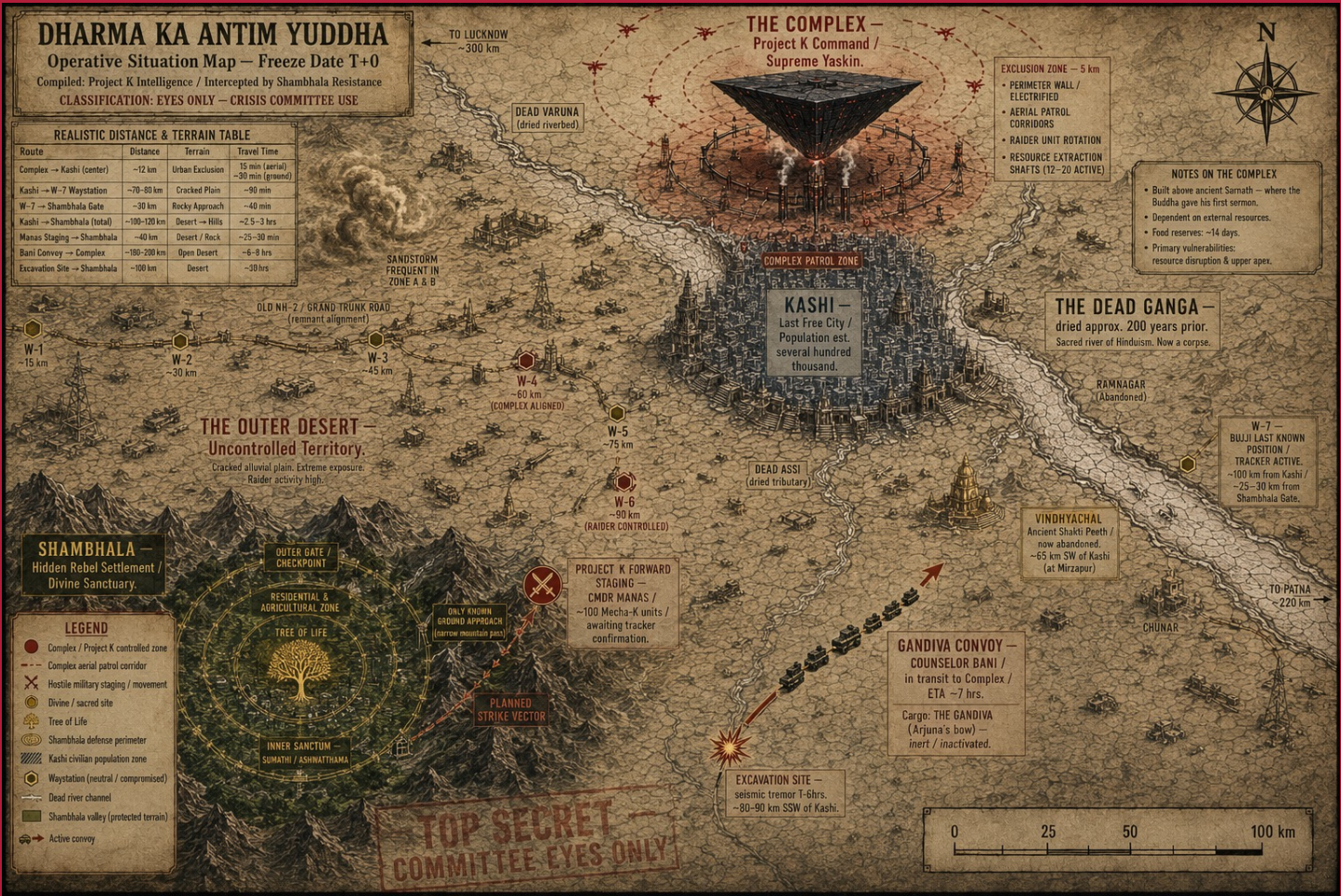
THE WORLD OF KALKI 2898 AD

Three realms, one dying river, and the desert between them

*Better is one's own dharma, imperfectly performed,
than the dharma of another, well performed.*

Better to die within one's own duty; another's duty invites danger.

Bhagavad Gita 3.35



The Complex

This is a vertical, climate-sealed megacity that was built by Supreme Yaskin. This city was built upward rather than outward, giving it the shape of a colossal inverted pyramid. As it hovers above the ruin it feeds on, the life inside of it is curated, comfortable, and entirely dependent on the extraction that happens below. Entry into this place costs one million units, which is basically a sum that might as well be infinite to anyone born in Kashi. This is where Yaskin rules, and where Project K's laboratories process the bodies of the desperate into years of borrowed life.

Kashi

Essentially the last free city on Earth. It's full of dust, densely packed, and is an ancient sacred ground buried under generations of urban decay. Having narrow streets, scavenged technology, and black markets, it's a hunting ground for the Complex to feed off of. Bounty hunters and Rebels both work these streets.

The Outer Desert

This is a cracked, sun-bleached wasteland that separates Kashi from Shambala. It's littered with the wastage of the old world: waystations, scavenger camps, raiders, and bounty hunters. Sandstorms and heat make unshielded travel extremely dangerous. Every faction that chooses to move through it is making a gamble.

Shambala

A hidden settlement that's built into a mountain valley, it's also shielded from aerial detection or any other form till date. Inside, it's a beautiful place. It consists of agricultural terraces, a layered defense with checkpoints, zones, and an inner sanctum. At its heart though, there is the Tree of Life, which has just bloomed for the first time in an entire generation. Right now, it is both the safest and most watched place in the world.

THE MASTER TIMELINE

From Kurukshetra to the Quiet Hour (Freeze Date)

Whenever dharma declines, O descendent of Bharata,

and adharma rises up,

I send myself forth, age after age,

for the protection of the good,

the destruction of the wicked,

and the setting up of the law.

Bhagavad Gita 4.7 - 4.8

I. PRATHAMA BHAGA

3102 BCE, Day 18 of the Kurukshetra War: The 18 day war between the Kauravas and the Pandavas reaches its final day. The Kaurava cause is basically annihilated. Its king, its generals, and its armies are gone. Among the last of the Kaurava loyalists that are still standing, is Ashwatthama, who is the son of Commander Dronacharya, who was slain.

3102 BCE, That Night:

In violation of almost every law and ethic of war, Ashwatthama slips into the sleeping Pandava camp and slaughters their heirs in their beds under the cower of darkness. This is one of the darkest single acts of the entire epic.

3102 BCE, Later That Very Night:

Learning that Uttara (wife of the fallen prince Abhimanyu) carries the last unborn heir of the Pandava line, Ashwatthama invokes the Brahmashirastra (one of the most destructive weapons described in the old texts) directly at her womb. Krishna, the Pandavas' guide and the 8th avatar of Vishnu, has already taken the action to shield the child. The line survives.

3102 BCE, Dawn:

Krishna places a curse on Ashwatthama with three main points: immortality without peace, wounds that will never heal, and the loss of his Shivmani (the divine gem that Krishna tears from his forehead). His one way back to redemption is to protect the mother of the final avatar when the Kali Yuga is ending. His surroundings will give him hints letting him know when the time has come, and his Shivmani will come back to him. He is responsible for making sure Krishna is born again, in the form of another avatar.

3102 BCE - 2698 AD:

Ashwatthama wanders the Earth alone. He is unable to die, unable to heal, and watches as wars accumulate, and the atmosphere slowly sours. Nearly every city on Earth falls. Only Kashi endures.

2698 AD:

The holy river Ganga runs fully dry, exactly as Krishna foretold.

2698 AD

A being named Yaskin begins to consolidate absolute control over what remains of organized society. He raises and creates the Complex, then declares himself its Supreme authority. From that moment onwards, he is referred to as the "Supreme Yaskin". The true source of his unnaturally long life stays hidden for more than two centuries.

2898 AD, Present Year:

The star which was foretold at Kurukshetra reappears in the sky. Yaskin's Project K is operating at full scale inside the Complex, harvesting fertile women from Kashi's streets in the search for a life extending serum for a currently weakened Yaskin. Ashwatthama moves about unrecognized.

II. DVITIYA BHAGA

Every entry below is timed against Hour 0:00 (The Quiet Hour), which is the moment this committee opens. Negative values count down towards it.

T-45d:

Divya and Rumi are captured by Commander Manas' Raiders. They are then publicly executed. This sends a warning to anyone else harboring fugitives.

T-31d: A girl named Raia, fleeing conscription into Project K disguised as a boy, takes refuge in an abandoned temple-like structure in the outer wastes after being rescued by Rumi. Here, she discovers Ashwatthama. Unknowingly, she is carrying the Shivmani, which has been passed hand to hand through Shambala's rebels for generations. She returns it to him, marking the first time he's held it in around 6,000 years.**T-30d:** With a portion of his old power restored, and the gem's light confirming his suspicions, Ashwatthama begins to actively track signs that the prophecy is converging on Kashi.

T-24d:

Subject SUM-80 approaches the 150-day gestation threshold, which is a point no Project K subject has ever survived to reach (the previous record being 91 days). The monitoring inside the labs intensifies.

T-23d, Night:

Lilly, a fellow captive inside the labs of Project K, helps SUM-80 escape the laboratories. Lilly status back to hold off the Raiders.

T-23d, Before Dawn:

SUM-80 reaches Kashi's undercity and is found by an agent of Shambala's Rebel network.

T-22d:

A Rebel named Kyra takes responsibility of moving SUM-80 to safety, and renames her Sumathi, which echoes "Sumati".

T-20d:

The extraction convoy departs from Kashi and begins to cross the outer desert.

T-18d:

The convoy is ambushed in the open desert. Kyra loses her life in the process. Bhairava and Ashwatthama clash in the desert with opposing motives. Ashwatthama gets rid of Bhairava, and buys the time to travel back with Sumathi to Shambala.

T-15d:

The ancient Gandiva bow is recovered back to the Complex where Counselor Bani is very curious and astounded by its abilities.

T-10d: Krane awakens from the desert, and is determined to track Sumati after secretly placing a tracking device on their vehicle. Bhairava convinces Luke to guide him to the location of Shambala.

III. TRITIYA BHAGA

Hour-9:00:

Sumathi's group passes Shambala's outer checkpoint.

Hour-8:00:

She is formally welcomed inside by Mariam, Shambala's leader. Ashwatthama confirms her safety.

Hour-6:00:

In the presence of Sumathi, the Tree of Life (which has been dormant for a generation), finally blooms. It is the clearest confirmation Shambala has ever received that the prophecy is real.

Hour-2:00:

Commander Manas strikes a deal with Bhairava that offers him something larger than any bounty: a full, permanent Complex citizenship. Bhairava accepts. He tells no one, not even Luke.

Hour-0:00:

THE QUIET HOUR. The tracker is live. Bhairava begins his journey to the Complex inside Bujji with Luke. Krane and the Raiders are ready to launch an attack on Shambala. Mariam is worried because of tremors and signal anomalies she cannot yet explain. Sumathi believes the worst is behind her. Ashwatthama is willing to do anything and put an end to anyone who comes in the way of the child's birth. Nothing has been fired.

Everything has been loaded.

History ends here. What happens next is for you to decide.

CONCLUSION

What comes after the Kali Yuga

*Wherever there is the Lord of all Yoga,
and wherever there is the Archer, unmatched with the bow,
there, surely, will be found
fortune , victory, and unshaken dharma.*

Bhagavad Gita 18.78

Six thousand years ago, on a field not so different from the one your committee will argue over, a room full of powerful, righteous, terrified people made a series of decisions that they believed, in the moment, were the only decisions available to them. They were wrong about that. They simply could not see it yet, because no one on that field had the distance to recognize the pattern they were living inside. You have something the Kurukshetra did not: you have this document. You know, walking in, that this has happened before.

Kali Yuga does not end because a prophecy says so. It ends because, at some specific hour, in some specific room, someone chooses differently than the last people who stood where they are standing. That hour is six hours after a tree bloomed in a hidden valley you will never see with your own eyes, and it is happening right now, in the room you are about to walk into.

Think fast, and act fast. We've waited long enough for this moment.

Alasyam ayindha Acharyaputra?

DHARMA KA ANTIM YUDDHA

The Final War Of Righteousness

