

MURALS OF DOAB

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In the ancient times, when humans started expressing their feelings through art, they first started painting on the wall itself. The tradition of mural painting in India has been very ancient.

In Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh, the area of Doab (between two rivers Ganga and Yamuna), the art of mural paintings is scattered in the splendor area. Typical examples of mural paintings have been found in Saharanpur (city), Gangoh, Nakud, Nanauta, Manki pheasants and Chilkana, Sultanpur, Kota, Badgaon, Thola, Devvrind and Sarsawa etc.

Two systems of mural painting have been prevalent since ancient times. In the first system, the drawings made of lime plaster in wet condition are named pure fresco (bruno) and in the second system the drawings done on dry plaster are called fresco secco. (The word fresco is derived from the Italian word fres, which means fresh plaster.) A long traditional method has been used in the manufacture of these murals of Saharanpur district which is called fresco secco. The subjects of these paintings of Saharanpur district are religious and social.

The mural painting in Saharanpur district has been mostly influenced by religious themes. Shri Krishna's GiriGovardhan wearing Leela, Kansa-Vadh, Bakasura-Slaughter, Rasleela with Gopis, Kaliya Daman, Chir-Haran, Vishnu-Sudama, Couple image of Vishnu-Lakshmi, Vishnu on Sheshnag bed, Ganesha Singh VahiniDurga with Siddhi-Siddhi, Apart from Bhairav, Rudra, Ramachandra's coronation, SitaSwayamvar, Ram-Ravan war, Kumbhakarna, Hanuman ji and Sita-Ram, Mother Ganga, depiction of fourteen gems obtained from the churning of the ocean, Brahmaji, MatsyaPurana, Mother There is a religious depiction of Kali's fierce form etc. Remarkable pictures of Madonna and infant Jesus, fairies and Mother Mary, derived from Christianity, have been religious subjects, through which religious sentiments would be felt in simple ordinary society. There is no doubt that art has been inspired by religion from time to time.

The expression of religious tales as well as religious symbolic themes has been a distinctive achievement of the Indian art. The theme of the murals of Saharanpur district and their representation has also been inspired by symbolism. In "The Elephant of the Nine Queens", Shri Krishna is depicted as a

mahout with a hook on an elephant made of nine female figures representing the three gunas of Maya and the six senses, in which the yogi form of Shri Krishna is realized. In the same spirit, other paintings "Ghoda of nine queens" have also been painted, in which the gopis are depicted wooing Shri Krishna. In one picture, the mood of the deranged girl has been realized with the symbolic support of the Kadali tree, while in the second picture, the Kadali tree is depicted inspired by the symbol of social welfare and auspiciousness.

In Saharanpur district, the most notable majestic men and women, maidservants adorning their mistresses in moments of rest for upper-class men and women, high-class men in luxury while drinking, boating, dancers, concierge, Soldiers, watchmen, servants, high officials, women doing household chores, a woman swinging a fan with a child in her lap, a mother breast-feeding, the heroine of a folk saga, KunwarNihalde and NayakNarsultan, A woman looking at her image in the mirror, a young woman with a bindi on her forehead, a child staring hard at her mother to the mirror are subjects that present before us the image of aristocracy and life.

Many embellishments and motifs have been used for the beauty of Indian art. Due to this ornamental trend, Indian art has got a distinction in the world art. In the murals of Saharanpur district, artists have composed many different types of attractive motifs and drawings. Animals and birds have been used in these drawings and decorations, among them the main fish, snake, hand, peacock, eagle, hawk,



pigeon, parrot, mynah, swan, cuckoo, bird etc. have been depicted in a panoramic picture. Due to this ornamental trend, Indian art has got specialization in world art. In the murals of Saharanpur district, artists have composed many different types of attractive motifs and drawings. Animals and birds have been used in these drawings and decorations, among them the main fish, snake, hand, peacock, eagle,

hawk, pigeon, parrot, mynah, swan, cuckoo, bird etc. have been depicted in a panoramic picture. The art here is indicative of the golden age of splendor and presents evidence of its history.

Reference

Field Work

