

The Everlasting Impact of Spiritual Symbols

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'Symbolic language is very simple to learn and understand spiritual facts easily. Due to this simplicity, they are able to have a wide impact on the society'

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Abstract—The symbols created by artists in ancient times were not very difficult. At that time literature explaining those symbols was available. But today's artist is attracted by the outer cover of the object and is completely indifferent to the ancient significance of those symbols. Contemporary artists try to present only visual emotions through paintings. Modern art is reaching the last limit of symbolism. If we talk about religion, philosophy and psychology, all of these have helped in symbolization. This is a major reason for their eternal influence. The study of symbols and symbolism is not only necessary but also mandatory to understand art and the feelings of the artist. In the modern era, the use of symbols has increased a lot in both the fields of art and literature. Artists have started expressing their feelings in new symbols. But spiritual symbols are still used today with their realistic significance. Even in ancient times, deep emotions and thoughts were expressed through symbols. Thus, it can be said that all arts resorted to symbols and the influence of spiritual symbols in symbols has been eternal.

Index Terms—Spiritual, Everlasting Impact, Symbols, Sign, Religion etc.

I. INTRODUCTION

In ancient times, symbols were traditionally used as signs and signals. Their origin took place. Thereafter, they were determined in the way by religious leaders and scholars. After this, their continuous use without any change in their significance has made their influence eternal. For example, Gautam Buddha became a symbol of enlightened souls and thus, how souls incarnate in the world and attain knowledge and nirvana. Jesus Christ became a symbol of the world's humility, love, harmony and sincerity. The Indian trinity is said to be a symbol of creation, sustenance

and destruction of the universe. Sheshshayi Vishnu in which Sheshnag himself is a symbol of the remaining stage of the universe. Vishnu is a symbol of divine power and Ksheer Sagar is a symbol of infinity. The lotus in Vishnu's navel is a symbol of fertility. Brahma is a symbol of development/creation of the universe. Vishnu is a symbol of water. The third eye of the gods is a symbol of supernatural power and special intelligence. In this sequence, symbols, from whichever field they are from, their influence has been there from the beginning till the present, they reflect the faith and spirituality of man. Symbolism is the art of showing something through symbols. In general terms, a symbol is an outward sign of some inner meaning. Traditionally, religions have regarded spirituality as an integral aspect of religious experience.

II. CLASSIFICATION OF SYMBOLS

Different scholars have classified symbols keeping in view different viewpoints, for example, according to WM Urban, there are following types of symbols:

Tradition free or free symbols- The symbols falling in the first category are simple and understandable. These include both art and science. Symbols prevalent in religious sects also fall in this category. The actual or interpretive symbol not only adds to the connecting links of the next symbol in this sequence but also establishes its own internal relation with the symbol.

Insightful – Insightful symbols are true symbols. Acharya Ramachandra Ji has mentioned two types of symbol schemes-

Emotional awakening means awakening of emotions. Thought-provoking, that is, those that awaken thoughts.

Dr. Premnarayan Shukla has mentioned four types of symbols

Human symbol.

traditional symbols.

national symbol.

contemporary symbol.

Apart from this, many critics have described symbols in different ways which have been divided into the following categories.

Natural Symbols-Natural symbols have developed on the basis of the shapes of animals, birds, flowers, trees etc.

Cultural symbols- These include symbols related to the culture of a nation or community. These are also divided into two types- mythological symbols and spiritual symbols

Historical Symbols- This includes symbols related to historical events.

Classical Symbols- It includes symbols related to science, politics, philosophy, psychology and mathematics.

Human symbol- Human symbol is the symbol of the power of the universe. Vaishwanara's Brahmā Manav, symbol is considered to have seven parts. The highest place is the symbol of human brain, Sun and Moon are the eyes, Agni is the mouth, direction is the ear, atmosphere is the lungs, the space between heaven and earth is the abdomen and earth is the feet. Since it is related to bra, it remains separate from the physical forms.

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Human symbols- The human symbol is the symbol of the power of the human universe. The universe of Vaishvanara, the human symbol, is considered to have seven parts. The highest place is the symbol of the human brain, the sun and the moon are the eyes, the fire is the mouth, the direction is the ear, the

atmosphere is the lungs, the space between heaven and earth is the abdomen and the earth is the feet.

The heart has not been described in these symbols. Since the heart is related to Brahma, it remains separate from the physical forms. The human symbol includes both man and woman equally and on this basis, Artha Narishwar has been imagined as a combined symbol of both. An attempt has also been made to present the mysteries of creation through divine symbols.

Many of these ideal forms have evolved from human forms like Ram, Shri Krishna, Radha-Krishna, Shiv Shakti, Gautam Buddha, Jesus Christ etc. Many gods and goddesses are considered symbols of divine power. They have their own different types of symbols-

Geometrical and subtle: These are also called classical symbols, but in some places geometrical symbols have been described separately.

Color related symbol-In Indian colour philosophy, the three colours of the triguna universe have been considered - white for Satva, red for Rajas and black for Tamas, brown for Karuna (pigeon's colour), black for fear, golden yellow for the wonderful, white for humour, fair for the brave, blue for the ghastly and white for the tranquil rasa. Green colour is a symbol of hope and prosperity. According to psychology, the effect of colours is no less than that of shapes.

Mudra/currency Symbols- Mudras have been used more in Eastern art. Their tradition is clear that they have not been used in a systematic way. Religious people and artists have given them new meanings at different places. They can be classified mainly in two categories. One is those mudras which are used by worshippers or religious people during worship. The second are those which are used in arts to identify a deity or to express the meaning of an action. First category mudras can be called a part of worship. Second category mudras have been used in arts. Especially in sculpture and painting, gods and small powers under them are represented by second category mudras.

Pot /Utensils related symbols - Utensils have a prominent place in the symbols based on equipment. A pitcher or Kumbh filled with water is a symbol of prosperity and perfection. In Rajput art, utensils have also been used as a symbol of adornment. In Mughal

art too, pitchers and cups have been depicted symbolically. In China, drums and flutes are depicted as male-female.

It is an expression of nature. The scales are a symbol of justice. The rod is a symbol of power and shelter. The seat is a symbol of status.

III. SPIRITUAL SYMBOL CONTEMPLATION

Secular spirituality refers to a person whose spiritual outlook is more personal, less structured, more open to new ideas/influences, and more pluralistic than the organized and doctrinal beliefs of religions. Within this broad category, some atheists are also considered spiritual, while atheism is inclined to doubt supernatural claims and the existence of a real soul. Some atheists define spirituality as nurturing thoughts, feelings, and words that are consistent with the belief that the entire universe is connected in some way.

In contrast, the modern trend sees spirituality as an active engagement with some force/energy/spirit that facilitates a deeper sense of self. In religious literature, many things are expressed through signs or symbols. For example, Lord Vishnu is shown holding a conch, a discus, a mace and a lotus in his four hands. This means that God actually holds these material objects and hence these objects express His immense significance in a very concise manner, making it easier for seekers to meditate on concrete objects rather than on formless forces. This science of signs or symbols is very detailed. The explanation of the basic symbol of the Aryan race, OM, is so detailed that it can fill a very large book. Similarly, hundreds of symbols like Ganesha's trunk and riding a mouse, Devi's ten arms and riding a lion, Shiva's trident, garland of snakes and riding a vine, etc. are found in Hindu religious texts. A lot of religious and spiritual knowledge is hidden in them. Many scholars have tried to explain these mysterious symbols and this has increased our knowledge to a great extent. According to some enlightened people of the Theosophy (Brahmavidya) society, there is a secret group of sages who run the spiritual system of the world. Its ashram is inaccessible to ordinary people. The description of two pages of a book found there is as follows-

In this book, named 'Knowledge', there is a white circle or enclosure on the first page; it indicates the

formless (unmanifest) state of God. Second, in which the above mentioned indications of the book of knowledge are given. Many people have seen it by visiting the ashrams of Mahatmas. It is so full of divine power that just by taking a page of it in hand, a strange effect is produced.



fig no. 1

Reference-

<https://images.app.goo.gl/fmpNRCEWBKBasqPs5>

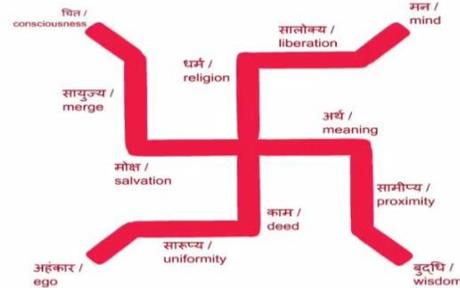


fig no. 2

Reference

<https://images.app.goo.gl/vkdXAKpndzErnuD38>

IV. CONCLUSION

According to Jung, the tendency of spirituality is like other tendencies of man. It does not arise from any other tendency. In a symbol, the form and meaning of the object become stable and it remains the same everywhere. There is a difference between a symbol and thought and belief. A symbol has spiritual significance and this brings mysticism in it. The

symbolic figures contained in the mythological world imagined in ancient civilizations have been accepted with faith by later ages and this has helped in creating a connection between the physical and spiritual aspects. Symbols are not created only on the basis of the forms visible in the world. Artists also create symbols by combining many mundane, supernatural and real imaginary objects. With the development of human civilization, symbols have evolved from reality to imaginary and from imaginary to subtle figures. The relationship between creation and creation is also clear in the symbol. In fact, symbolic creation is a reflection of its creator. Countless symbols have existed since ancient times all over the world and artists and thinkers keep creating new symbols. Therefore, the influence of spiritual symbols has been eternal, because symbols present the unconscious to us in visible form instead of dry logic. They coordinate between the unconscious and the conscious within us, which is why the impact of spiritual symbols has remained eternal in the minds of people.

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