

Indian Culture and Religion of Spread Abroad

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I. INTRODUCTION

Indian culture and religion spread abroad by Traders, teachers, temples and monks

India's cultural legacy is a rich tapestry woven from diverse threads of knowledge systems, languages, art, architecture, social practices, and festivals, all shaped by centuries of interaction and adaptation. It's a testament to India's unique ability to blend unity with a vast pluralism of traditions and beliefs.

Indian culture spread abroad through various means, including traders, teachers, scholars, temples and monks who travelled along trade routes like the Silk and sea

Indian culture spread to other parts of Asia and beyond through the combined efforts of traders, teachers, emissaries, and the construction of temples and religious institutions. This cultural diffusion occurred primarily through peaceful means, with Indian cultural values being adopted and adapted in various regions.

II. HERE'S A BREAKDOWN OF THE KEY FACTORS

Traders:

Indian merchants traveled extensively for trade, establishing commercial links and cultural exchange with various regions, including Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and even the Roman Empire. These traders often carried not just goods but also ideas, customs, and religious beliefs.

Teachers and Scholars:

Universities like Vallabhipur, Nalanda and Vikramashila attracted foreign students and scholars who, upon returning to their home countries, disseminated Indian knowledge and learning. Eminent scholars like Kumarajiva also traveled abroad to

translate Indian texts, contributing significantly to the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism.

Emissaries and Missionaries:

Rulers like Emperor Ashoka actively promoted the spread of Buddhism through emissaries and missionaries. His son and daughter were sent to Sri Lanka, and missionaries were dispatched to Burma (Myanmar), among other places, to propagate the faith.

Temples and Religious Institutions:

The construction of temples and monasteries in foreign lands served as focal points for the dissemination of Indian culture, particularly religious practices and art forms. For example, the spread of Buddhism in Sri Lanka is closely tied to the establishment of monasteries and the preservation of Buddhist scriptures. Angkor Wat is a Hindu temple in Cambodia.

Central Asia:

The Silk Road facilitated the transmission of Indian culture to Central Asia, with Kuchi being a significant center of Indian influence. Evidence of this exchange is found in ancient stupas, temples, and paintings discovered in the region.

East Asia:

Indian culture, especially Buddhism, entered China with the arrival of monk scholars like Kashyapa Martanga and Dharmarakshita. Chinese emperors embraced Buddhism, leading to the translation of thousands of Sanskrit books into Chinese.

Southeast Asia:

Indian culture or legacy including religion, art, and language, influenced the cultures of countries like

Myanmar, Cambodia, and Indonesia. Indian artistic styles, such as the Amaravati style, can be seen in Sri Lankan paintings.

Essence: The spread of Indian culture was a multifaceted process driven by the movement of people, the exchange of ideas, and the establishment of cultural and religious institutions in foreign lands.

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