

Gandhar Style of Art

Sunita

Abstract

The new style of art that emerged in the north-western regions of the country due to the influence of Greek art is called 'Gandhara style'. Gandhara is the ancient name of a region in present-day northwest Pakistan. Which is surrounded by the Hindu Kush mountain range and the Himalayan foothills to the north. Statues of Buddha and Bodhisattva were mainly made in Gandhara style. Gandhara art is male dominated and realistic art. In this, the physical physique of Buddha has been shown in relief. Buddha's hair is curly, he has a moustache, he has slippers on his feet, he is wearing transparent clothes and his body is clearly visible. That's why it is also called nude art. The statue of Buddha in penance is its best work. Gandharan style Buddha sculptures resemble the Greek god Apollo.

Keywords: - Gandhara, Prabhamandal, Shah-ji's delay, Shalangjika, Abhaya-mudra

Introduction:

Because Gandhara style flourished and developed in the Gandhara region, this art is called Gandhara art. According to Cunningham, the boundaries of Gandhara were as follows - "Suvastu (Swat) in the north, Kalabagh hills in the south, Lompak and Nagarhar in the west and Sindhudari in the east". Thus, the region surrounded by the three rivers Swat, Kabul and Indus was Gandhara. And this was the birthplace of the great Gandhara art. According to the modern geographical area, Gandhara art was widespread in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Major centers of Gandhara art - Nagarhar (modern Jalalabad), Hadda, Bamiyan, Ohind, Uchand (all in Afghanistan) and Shahji-ki-Deri, Takhte-e Bahi, Purushpur, Charsa, Pushkalavati, Sahari-Bahlol, Jamalgarhi of Peshawar district. Magilyala (Rawalpindi), and Takshila etc. From the excavations conducted at these places, a unique and unique art style was born with the coordination of Buddhism and Greek sculpture, which was called 'Gandhara Art'. It is also known by Indo Greco or many other names.

Subject matter of Gandhara art -

The main theme of 'Gandhara style' of the Kushan period was the making of statues of Buddha and Baidhisattva. It is noteworthy that many western scholars give the credit of the first creation of Buddha statue to Gandhara art. They are of the opinion that due to Punani influence, Gandhara craftsmen first invented the 'Buddha statue'. Subsequently it was followed in contemporary Mathura art, but the authenticity of this fact is doubtful in the absence of concrete evidence. In the subject matter of Gandhara, in addition to the statues of Buddha and Bodhists, scenes containing important events related to the life of Buddha and his religion have been adapted on the stone tablets. Such as Maya Devi's visit to Lumbini, Buddha's birth, Dharma Chakra Pravartan, Mahaparinirvana, Maya Gods and Goddesses, Gautami, Prajapati, Brahma, Shakra, Mara, Kuber etc. In reality, the field of Buddha art was very important and wide in Gandhara art.

Features of Gandhara art

The main theme of this style is the visualization of scriptures related to Buddhism and Buddhism and the absence of sculptures related to Brahmin and Jainism.

- Despite originating from Punani influence, it is intrinsically Indian.
- Brown and gray colored stones have been used in the sculpture of this style, although Buddha statues were also made from plaster prepared by mixing lime and sand.
- Knee-high shoes, pleated lower garments, finely pleated garments are especially important in Gandhara style. These Greek clothes can be seen on the statues of Gautam Buddha, Bodhisattva or Maya Devi.
- Showing Buddha with a mustache is the specialty of Gandhara art, because Buddha's mustache is not shown in Mathura or any other Indian style.
- The trend of specific hairstyle and curly hair on the head of Buddha also started from Gandhara art.
- Before the rise of Gandhara style, there was a lack of aura in Indian iconography, its clear use started in Gandhara style only.
- Due to the influence of Hellenistic art, as a result of special attention given to the body shape of the Buddha statue, the main posture of these statues often appears to be void of emotion.
- The style of sculptures of Gandhara art is Indian but their artists were Greek. Therefore this art is a mixture of two cultures.
- Gandhara style artistry, style content and It is excellent and original in form of expression. Gandharan style in Buddha statues Darshan takes place. Although some scholars consider the Gandhara style Considers it as 'just the irony of imitation.

Opinions of leading scholars:-

- Dr. Kumaraswamy has also clearly said that "The contented expression and ostentatious attire of the Bodhisattva are at best incapable of expressing the spirituality of Buddhist ideology."
- Dr. Neehar Rajan Ray has also expressed the opinion that "Gandhar sculptures lack reality. He believes that those statues give the impression that they are not the work of a skilled artist but have been created by a machine."
- Percy Brown is of the opinion that the artists of "Gandhar style lacked artistic interest. As a result it became more popular in other countries than in India."

It seems that the opinions of the above critics of Gandhara style were not accepted in India, yet Gandhara style, despite foreign influence, can be considered a symbol of the excellence of Indian art. Renowned art connoisseur Dr. Kumar Swami is of the opinion that Gandhara art not only depicts the subject matter related to Buddhism but also includes various sculptures of Shiva.

Some major sculptures of Gandhara-art:

In the standing statue obtained from Sahari Bahlol, Buddha is depicted in 'Abhaya-Mudra' wearing a long cloak and having a moustache. There is a difference in the symptoms and expressions in the statue of Buddha. For example, the Buddha statue found from Swardheri near Charsadda (Pushkalavati) does not have aura. But Saghanti has contractions and mustache markings on the face. The tousled hair has been made tousled.

possibly The creation of 'aura' in the statue of Buddha and the representation of folds in Sanghanti started by imitating the Greek art of the Hellenistic period. It is noteworthy that the use of halo is not available in the pre-Gandhara style Indian iconography. Shalibhajikas have also been depicted successfully in Gandharan art. Dr. Vasudev Sharan Aggarwal has considered the idols of Huvishka and Roma to be the best. Buddhist sculptures made in Gandhara style have been found to be characterized by touching the ground, meditation posture, Dharma-chakra pravartana and abhaya posture. Gautam Buddha is sitting in the middle in Abhaya Mudra with aura on the golden bone-manjusha obtained from a place called 'Shah-ji-ki Dheri', and on both the sides, two Bodhisattvas with aura are standing with folded hands. From the point of view of art, flying swans have been displayed above the turn of the carved manjusha and a god wearing a garland has been displayed on the bottom of the outer roundness of the box. In the middle of which there are Buddha with aura in meditation posture and two other god figures. Gandharan art. This is a unique gift. It seems that the use of Prabhav Mandal in Indian art has clearly started on the basis of imitation of Gandhara style in the sculpture of deities.

Conclusion:

From the above perusal, the fact emerges that 'Gandhara style' represents a clear and original art. In this style, 'Hariti' is revered as the mother goddess of good fortune, children and grandchildren. Some four-armed idols of Hariti have been found. Who has Kamandal in one hand and triangle in the other hand. In the country of Gandhara, she was the mother goddess who fulfilled all the wishes of the householders. In fact, Gandhara craftsmen tried to take ideas like Shanlabhajika sculptures from the art of Mathura and Madhya Pradesh but probably did not succeed. In the end, one thing can be said undisputedly about the Gandhara style that the aesthetic sense of this art style, which ruled the vast land of Asia for centuries, could only marginally influence its inspiration land, India, because the Indians A very high quality indigenous art was already established in the heart of India. Thus, this imported style finally became extinct with the emergence of 'Gupta style' based on Indian ideals.

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