

## GLIMPSE ON MUGHAL PAINTINGS

**Ms. Siddhi Shah**

B.A.III

Det. of History,

Vivekanand College, Kolhapur

### ABSTRACT:

Art is an expression of our Thoughts, Emotions, Intuitions, etc. It's an expression of human creative skills. Then what is Painting? Painting is a powerful communication of Language that doesn't necessarily depend on using words to express meaning or feelings. It's a true Universal Language. So, we can say that Art is a vast field which includes Painters in it or we can say that "A Painter is an Artist, but not all Artist may not be necessarily Painters". Paintings are the oldest forms of art. Paintings is often included as one of the Visual arts

Indian painting as an art form evolved over a period of time. The first traces can be traced back to pre-historic times of walls or cave paintings. In the Medieval times, a prominent feature which started to emerge in the Indian Paintings was the linear and angular designs. During the 14th and 15th Centuries miniature paintings, and paintings on cloths was a trend. By the time Mughal empire set in a syncretic trend of Indian and Persian paintings was widely noted. This Paper highlights all the major developments undertaken during the Mughal reign.

**KEYWORDS:** Mughal Paintings, Developments, Features, Rise and Decline.

### INTRODUCTION:

Focusing on Mughal paintings, it reflects an exclusive combination of Indian, Persian and Islamic styles. Mughal paintings of India developed as well as prospered under the rule of Mughal Emperors. Mughal paintings have a special place in the history of Indian paintings. It was something different from the old style of paintings in India. Mughal style of painting was independent and was inclined towards real philosophy.

- **EMPEROR - WISE REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN PAINTINGS :**

**BABUR** the founder of the Mughal dynasty, was a worshiper of Fine arts. Babur loved paintings even before he came to India. When he came to India, or we can say when he invaded India, he brought some Persian painters to India. When he came to India, he already had his 240 paintings with him which today are left in London's Asiatic Societies

After Babur,

**HUMAYUN** came to power. But he went under the protection of Iran for some time as Sher Shah deprived him from the throne. There Babur came in contact with two famous painters, *Mir Sayed Ali* and *Abdul Samad*. His paintings had a profound effect on Humayun's mind. When he came on throne again, he called the two painters to his court. The two painters gave an Indian touch to the Iranian style of painting and introduced a new trend in paintings which was known as Mughal style of Painting's.

**AKBAR**- Paintings developed a lot during **AKBAR'S** reign. Akbar had been associated with painting and paintings since childhood. The Mughal painting style took root during Akbar's time. Akbar himself was fond of drawing pictures. Abul Fazal has mentioned in his book '*Ain-e-Akbari*' that Akbar had great respect and fascination for painting. Around 150 painters worked in

his court some of them were Iranians, some Hindus, and some Muslims.

Names of some famous Painter's of Akbar's Court :

- i. Anant Baswan
- ii. Daswat
- iii. Keshav Das
- iv. Mahadev Bhim Gujrathi
- v. Farooq baing
- vi. Jamshed
- vii. Tarachand
- viii. Jagannath
- ix. Mukund
- x. Hariband ,etc

He had a Liberal policy towards Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sufis, etc and made a conscious effort to create harmony in these religions. Considering Akbar's policies and tastes, the two great painters, Abdul Samad and Mir Syed, showed harmony in the field of art. They started Indianization of Iranian art and began to express the emotional beauty of Indian art through Iranian lines. Many of Akbar's queens were Hindus. Akbar's artistic tastes took a good turn in their company. The palaces were decorated by his painters. The paintings there were painted with emotions. According to Abul Fazal, Hindu painters did great work in Akbar's time and gave their paintings perfection and beauty.

Akbar had set up an Organization under the leadership of Abdul Samad to promote paintings. Akbar encouraged painters to increase their mindset. During Akbar's reign there was great development of paintings. Many beautiful pictures based on Baburnama, Taimurnama, Akbarnama, Ralliaindama, etc were drawn. There is a famous painting called "Amir Hamjavali" in it 11 painters have painted 1400 stories. Apart from this, there is a collection of paintings called "Ramzanama" which has 156 paintings and is currently found in the Museums of Jaipur

**Jahangir** was a nature lover and a lover of paintings. He had a hobby of paintings. If a flower or animal was seen, Jahangir would immediately draw a picture of it. He had sheltered many painters. Painting's developed a lot during the period of Jahangir.

Some of the famous Painter's during his time,

- i. Brishandas
- ii. Govardhan
- iii. Manohar
- iv. Tulsi
- v. Mahadev
- vi. Abul Hassan
- vii. Muhammad Nasis, etc

**Shah Jahan** was indifferent about paintings. His inclination was more towards architecture than paintings therefore the painters at Delhi darbar left and went to the provincial courts. However, there were some famous painters in his court.

**Aurangzeb** had no interest in paintings at all. According to the Sunni Gurus, art was against religion. Therefore, Aurangzeb banned the creation of all art. He not only hated paintings but also all other fine arts. He expelled all the artists from his court. The painters went under the shelter of Mewar, Jaipur, Bikaner, etc which shows a decline of the Mughal paintings.

**KEY FEATURES OF MUGHAL PAINTINGS :**

- The Mughal pictures were small in size and hence are known as 'miniature paintings'.
- The Mughal rulers brought Persian painters with them. At the same time, they patronized Indian painters and the collaboration between these two resulted in the synthesis.
- Paintings were based upon close observation of nature with high aesthetic merit.
- Painting activity in Mughal cultures was the most visible and tangible sign of dynastic power, wealth and prestige.
- Abundant use of bright colours depicted the glory of the era. Their fine drawing of calligraphic text enhance the appeal of their artwork.
- they had a blend of Indian and Persian ideas that had Chinese influences .

**Conclusion :** The history of Indian paintings dates back to the era of Ajanta, Ellora cave paintings, Buddhist palm leaf manuscripts, the Jain texts and the Mughal schools, etc . Mughal Paintings have been encouraged from generation to generation are very important as they successfully depict the life of rulers at that time. It shows the political and social condition of the people at that time. Also they portray social and courtly customs in these paintings. In short, these paintings are a clear depiction of the Mughal times and tell great stories. The era gave new life to the Indian form of paintings which was carried by provincial nawabs after the decline of the Mughal empire .

**Bibliography:**

- E.B. Havell : Indian sculpture and painting
- Edwards & Garrett : Mughal rule in India
- Percy Brown : Indian Painting under the Mughals
- R. P. Tripathi : Rise and fall of Mughal Empire
- Meera Singh : Medieval History of India
- Yusuf Husain : Glimpses of Medieval Indian Culture (1959)
- R. C. Majumdar : The History and culture of the Indian people Vol.3 The Mughal Empire
- Web Sources