

Lesson 30B

Cultural Production

Summary

Some of the cultural expressions like paintings, literature, food etc. are produced. There are regional variations in these productions. Different styles of paintings, textiles etc. may be easily found in India. In early times the cultural objects like pottery were produced which were both useful and beautiful. There was mass scale production. Gradually royal patronage was given to these activities. The paintings were made in royal courts. Now a days new forms of production like posters and hoardings have come up. The modern artistic works are done at a fast pace to meet the immediate requirement.

PAINTINGS, PAINTERS & PATRONS

- Pots and Pans, paintings, textiles, literature & food amongst other things are part of our culture.
- The most exquisite designs were produced by women on the threshold of their homes with rice flour, turmeric (haldi) and vermilion (kumkum) powders. The Madhubani paintings originated in this way.
- The earliest paintings which have come down to us are the cave paintings created by hunting and gathering tribes.
- The earliest of these are found at the famous caves of Bagh (in Madhya Pradesh) and of Ellora and Ajanta
- The themes in Ajanta are drawn from the life of the Buddha, especially depictions from the Jataka stories which record the many lives of the Buddha.
- The Mughal paintings were often times a pleasing blend of Safawid and Hindostani traditions.
- The Mughal and Rajput painters despite their distinctive styles also inspired each other.
- Book binding and manuscript illustrations were two associated art which sprang up around the same time.
- These manuscripts were beautifully illustrated through miniatures.
- It is believed that the first Tirthankara Rishabhadeva was himself a skilled painter.
- The best known miniature paintings on Jain religion and philosophy is the Trilokya Dipika

INDIAN TEXTILES AND COSTUMES

- Use of cotton from Mohenjodaro one of the largest cities of the Harappa civilization.
- Spindals have been found by archaeologists.
- Reference of woven cloth comes from the Atharva Veda.
- Colouring was traditionally done with vegetable dyes such as indigo and madder
- The earliest designs on textiles were geometrical
- The textile called tie and dye' and known within different cultural traditions as bandhini(Rajasthan

and Gujarat), ikat (Orissa) or chungdi (Tamil Nadu).

- The kalamkari textiles constitute a living tradition in Andhra.

Literally the term 'kalamkari' means wording (lean) with the pen kalam).

LITERATURE

•Both religious as well as nonreligious in content

Epics- Ramayana and the Mahabharata

Valmiki wrote the Ramayana known as the 'Adi Kavya' in Sanskrit, Tulsidas wrote Ramcharitamanas.

•Kamban wrote the Ramayana in Tamil while Ramayana in Telugu was written by a peasant woman called Molla.

THE CULTURE OF FOOD

- The food habits of Indians varies depending on the nature of crops grown in different regions, the cultural practices of different communities and the economic and social status of the consuming class/community or individuals.
- Pots were used for storing water and grain as well as for cooking
- Most regions have their own distinctive cuisine.
- The southern states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and

Tamil Nadu are rice-based cultures. Idli, Dosa and Upma prepared by south Indians

- Kerala like West Bengal which also has a coastal culture, is known for its fish preparations.
- 'Mughlai' dishes like the tandoori chicken and seekh kababs along with fruits like the water melon, became a part of Indian cuisine
- Portuguese introduced potatoes, tomatoes and green chillies into Indian food.

Evaluate yourself

Q. List the main cuisines of South Indian.

Q. Differentiate between kalamkari and tie and dye textile.

Q. Differentiate between religious and non religious literature.