



Ajanta Murals as a Reflection of the Contemporary Society

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Abstract

Art has been regarded as a mirror of society from ancient times. The artist preserves a visual history of the period by depicting what he sees in paintings. The paintings have the potential to serve as an illustrative record of the ordinary culture that existed throughout the Vakataka period. They show the Ajanta painter's personal interpretation of the world. The paper will look into why art is considered a reflection of society. Ajanta Caves are acclaimed for their magnificent Buddhist murals and sculptures. Ajanta's art closely corresponds with two major Deccan empires. They were excavated in Deccan during the Satavahana and Vakataka periods, roughly four hundred years apart. The paper will focus on the murals of the caves of the Vakataka period, i.e., Caves 1, 2, 16, and 17. The Vakataka period was characterized by significant political stability and prosperity in the Deccan region, both of which contributed to the development of artistic expression. The paper will analyse how murals reflect commerce and society. This paper will investigate the wide variety of cultural artefacts that are depicted in the paintings. This paper will examine the activities portrayed in these murals.

Keywords: Ajanta, Murals, Society, Culture, Cave.