



## VRKSHA HASTAS MUDRA & MRGA HASTAS MUDRA USAGES IN ODISSI DANCE

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### ABSTRACT

Aswattha (Pipal tree), Kadali (Plantain tree), Naranga (Orange tree), Likuca (a species of lime tree), Panasa (Jack tree), Bilva (Beel tree), Punnaga (calophyllum inophyllum), Mamdara (calotropis procera), Vakula (mimusops elengi), Vata (Banyan tree), Arjuna, Patali (trumpet-flower plant) and Hintala (the marshy date tree), Phuga (areca-nut tree), Campaka (michelia), Khadira (acacia catechu), Sinsapa (Dalbergiasissoo), Nimba (Margosa), Sala (terminalia glabra), Parijata (nictanthes orbortristis), Tintrini (Tamarind tree), Jambu (syzigium jambolaum), Palasa and Rasala (Mango tree), Simha (lion), Vyaghra (tiger), Sukara (Boar), Kapi (Monkey), Bhalluka (Bear), Marjara (Cat), Camari (Yak), Godha (Iguana), Salya (Porcupine deer), Krshnasara (black-antelope), Gokarna (animal called 'cow-ear'), Kuranga (antelope), Girika (Mouse), Sasa (hare), Vrsicka (scorpion), Sunaka (dog), Ushtra (camel), Aja (goat), Gardabha (ass), Vrshabha (Bull) and Dhenu (cow) take all these trees and animals and show them in odissi dance with the help of Mudras.

**KEYWORDS :** vrksha hasta mudra, mrga hastas mudra alapadma, pataka, ardhachandra, kangula, swastik

### INTRODUCTION-

Hastas or Mudras as they are generally called, constitute a characteristic feature of Odissi dance. Hastas are also used in Nritya or pure dance but not for any interpretative purpose. They are used for their decorative effect only. In Nritya or interpretative dance the hastas serve as a gesture language which endeavours to convey the meaning of the idea to be portrayed. Abhinaya Darpana of Nandikeswara clearly states "Hastanartham Pradarshayet". The meaning should be displayed through hands.

#### Vrksha Hastas Mudra (Abhinayam for the trees)

##### Aswattha (Pipal tree)

Alapadmou recitau cet aswatthe samprayu jate (754)  
When two Alapadma hastas perform recita hasta prana it denotes Aswattha vrksha (A.D. 754).

##### Kadali (Plantain tree)-

Kadalyam slishtamukulo recitodweshtito bhavet (755)  
If two Mukula hastas joined at the fingers, perform recita and udweshtita hasta pranas then it denotes Kadali Vrksha (A.D. 755).

##### Naranga (orange tree) Likuca (a species of lime tree)

Narange padmakosah syat bhramaro likuce bhavet (756)  
Padmakosa hasta denotes Naranga vrksha and Bhramara hasta denotes Likuca vrksha (A.D. 756).

##### Panasa (Jack tree) and Bilva (Beel tree)

Panasa caturah prokto bilwarthe caturu bhavet (755)  
Catura hasta denotes Panasa vrksha as well as Bilva vrksha (A.D. 756).

##### Punnaga (calophyllum inophyllum)

Pataka-caturaou proktou punnagataru nimaye (756)  
Patakacatura hasta denotes Punnaga vrksha (A.D. 756).

##### Mamdara (calotropis procera) and Vakula (mimusops elengi)

Mamdare khanda caturah samdamso vakule bhavet  
Khandacatura hasta denotes Mamdara and Samdamso hasta denotes Vakula

##### Vata (Banyan tree) and Arjuna

Patko- vata vrkshe syat arjune simhavaktrakah (757)  
Pataka hasta denotes Vata vrksha and Simhasya hasta denotes Arjuna vrksha (A.D. 757).

##### Patali (Trumpet - flower plant) and Hintala (the marshy date tree)

Patalyam 'sukatundah syat hintale' kartarimukhah (758)

Sukatunda hasta denotes Patali vrksha while Kartarimukha hasta denotes Hintala vrksha (A.D. 758).

##### Phuga (Areca-nut tree)

Padmakosou swastikou stah phugavrkshanirupane (758)  
Padmakosa hastas in swastika position denote Phuga vrksha (A.D. 758).

##### Campaka (Michelia)

Campake purwasastrajnah adhokangula mishyate  
Kangula hasta, held downwards, indicates Campaka vrksha (A.D. 759).

##### Khadira (Acacia catechu)

Adhonatah tamracudah karah khadira vrksha (759)  
Tamracuda hasta, bent downwards, denotes Khadira vrksha (A.D. 759).

##### Sami (Prosopis spicigera)

Sami vrkshe sam-akhy-atah karo yah slishtakartari  
Two Kartarihastas, interlocked, indicate Sami vrksha (A.D. 760).

##### Asoka (Jonesia)

Patakou manibandhasthou samyak tiryak krtou yadi  
Patakaswastiko hastah kathito bhara'ta'dibhih  
Patakaswastiko hastah asokabhinaye smrtah (761)  
If two Pataka hastas are in swastika position at the wrists, it is considered as Patakaswastika hasta by Bharata and others this hasta denotes Asoka vrksha (A.D. 760-61).

##### Simduvara (Oak tree)

Simduvara tarou yoyah karah slishtamayurakah  
Two Mayura hastas joined together denote Simduvara vrksha (A.D. 762).

##### Amalaka

Tarjanimdhayama hastatale sammisrite yadi (762)  
'Itare prasrtah so-ayam karah samyamanamakah  
Samya mabhidha hasto-ayam bhavet amalake drume  
If the fore finger and the middle finger are joined in the palm and the other fingers are extended, then it is known as Samyama hasta (refer verses 569-70); this hasta denotes Amalaka vrksha (A.D. 762-63).

##### Kuravaka (a kind of amaranth)

Kartari tripatakou ca jneyou kuravaka drume

Both Kartari and Tripataka hastas denote Kuravaka vrksha (A.D. 764).

**Kapittha (wood apple tree)**

Alapadmou swastikou cet kapittharthe niyujyate. (764)  
Two Alapadma hastas, in swastika position, denote Kapittha vrksha (A.D. 764).

**Ketaki (Screw-pine)**

Pataka caturabhikhyou swastikou manibandhay-oh  
Ketaki vrkshabhede-api yujyete devamantrini (765)  
Pataka and Catura hastas, crossed at the wrists denote  
Ketaki vrksha and devamantri i.e. Brhaspati (A.D. 765).

**Simsapa (Dalbergiasissoo)**

Ardhachandrou swastikou cet prajoyou simsapatare  
Two Ardhachandra hastas, in swastika position, denote  
Simsapa vrksha (A.D. 766).

**Nimba (Margosa) and Sala (Terminaliaglabra)**

Sukatundou swastikou cet nimbe salenirupitou, (766)  
Two Sukatunda hastas, in swastika position, denote Nimba  
and Sala vrkshas. (A.D. 766).

**Parijata (Nictanthes orbortristis)**

Vame patakako hastah tatra savye patakikah Udweshtitakro  
hastah trijnah parikirtitah II Trijnah parijatasya krode yadi  
dhrtah karah (767)

If two Pataka hastas, in both left and right hands, perform  
udweshtita hasta prana, then it is considered as Trijnana  
hasta this hasta, held before the chest, denotes Parijata  
vrksha (A.D. 767-68).

**Tinrini (tamarind tree) and Jambu (syzigium jambolaum)**

Tinrinyamapi kangulo jambwamardha patakakah (768)  
Kangula hasta denotes Tinrini vrksha and Ardhapataka  
denotes Jambu vrksha.

**Palasa and Rasala (Mango tree)**

Palase Ca Ardhachandra sca Rasale Tripatakikah  
Ardhachandra hasta denotes Palasa vrksha and Tripataka  
hasta denotes Rasala vrksha (A.D. 769).

**MRGA HASTAS (Abhinayam for Animals)****Simha (lion)**

Dakshine simhavaktrah syat tatp shthe vama hastata (769)  
Patakahastamasritya calat-praviralangulim  
Slishtasimhamukhah so-ayam simharthe viniyujyate (770)  
Right hand assumes Simhamukha hasta left hand assuming  
Pataka hasta is placed on the back of the right hand the  
fingers of the Pataka hasta are apart and wavy this is  
Simhamukha hasta and denotes the lion (A.D. 769-70).

**Vyaghra (Tiger)**

Ardhachandro-adhomukhah cet vyaghrarthe samprayujyate  
Ardhachandra hasta facing downwards denotes tiger (A.D. 771).

**Sukara (Boar)**

Purwokta matsya haste tu dakshinah kuncitah calah (771)  
Asyangulya praviralah pançasamkhyā yathakramam  
The right hand as Matsya hasta is held downwards and  
shaken the five fingers being severally held apart indicating  
bristles this is Samkirnamakara hasta and denotes the boar.  
(A.D. 771-72).

**Kapi (Monkey)**

Purwokta mushti hastastu madhyamangushtha yogatah  
Namna-adhomushti mukulah kaperarthe nirupyate (773)  
If the middle finger and the thumb of Mushti hasta are joined  
then it is Adhomushti mukula hasta and it denotes the monkey  
(A.D. 773)

**Bhalluka (Bear)**

Vamahaste padmakoso-adhomukhatwa-mupasrita

Dakshine tu patakakhyastasya prsh hatalasrita  
Bhallukarthe prayojyah syat padmakosa patakaka (774)  
left hand as Padmakosa hasta faces downwards and right  
hand as Pataka hasta is placed on the back of the right hand  
this indicates the bear (A.D. 774-75).

**Marjara (Cat)**

Purwokta mushti hastasyanamikangushtha yogatah  
Namna-ayamardhamukulo marjare samprayujyate (775)  
In Mushti hasta if the thumb and the ring finger are  
downwards ardhamukula this indicates marjara (A.D. 775)

**Camari (Yak)**

Vame mushtih dakshine va manibandhena misrita (776)  
Mudrika-adhomukha mush imudra hasto-ayamirithah  
Mushtimudrakara scapi camaryam samprayujyate (777)

When left hand with Mushti hasta joins the wrist of the right  
hand with Mudra hasta, and held facing down wards then it is  
Mushti mudra haste and it denotes the yak (A.D. 776-77).

**Godha (Iguana)**

Urdhwou kanishthikangushthou patake kimcidiritou  
Namna talapataka-ayam godhayam punjito bhavet (778)

If the thumb and the little finger of Pataka hasta are slightly  
raised it is Talapataka hasta and when bent it denotes godha.  
(A.D. 778).

**Salya (Porcupine Deer)**

Purwokta mrgasirshasya tarjanyurdhwa prasarita  
Namna candramrgo hastah salyarthe samprayujyate(779) |

If the fore finger of Mrgasirsha hasta is raised then it is  
Chandramrga hasta denotes the salya (Deer)(A.D. 779)

**Kuranga (Antelope)**

Kurange ca prayoktavyo mrgasirshakanamaka (780)

Mrgasirsha hasta denotes the antelope (A.D. 780).

**Krshnasara (black-antelope)**

Purwokta mushti haste tu kanishthangushtha saranat (780)  
Namna mushtimrgohastah krshnasare prayujyate.

If the little finger and the thumb of Mushti hasta are extended,  
it is Mushtimrgahasta and it denotes the black antelope.

The skin of the black-antelope is bad-conductor of electricity  
and resists the gravity of the earth hence ancient Rshis used to  
sit on it to achieve concentration of mind.

**Gokarna (animal called 'cow-ear') (mule)**

Dhenukame nagabandhou recitou yadi yojitou (781)

Nagabandha hasta, when directed upwards, denotes  
gokarna (A.D. 781).

**Mushika (Rat)**

Purwokta mukule haste tarjani samprasarita  
Namnayam khanda-mukulo mushikarthe niyujyate (782)

If the forefinger of Mukula hasta is fully extended, it is  
Khandamukula hasta and it denotes the rat (A.D. 782)

**Girika (Mouse)**

Purwokta mukule bhuyastarjani kuncita yadi  
Tiryak prasaritah khadgamukulo girikarthe (783)

If the forefinger of Mukula hasta is bent fully and stretched  
obliquely or moved to and fro, it is Khadgamukula hasta and it

denotes girika (A.D. 783).

#### **Sasa (Hare)**

Hasta talapatakakhyah sasake tiryagasraya (784)  
Talapataka hasta moved obliquely denotes the hare (A.D. 784).

#### **Vrscika (Scorpion)**

Adhomukho recitah cet karkato vrsike bhavet (784)  
Karkata hasta directed downwards denotes the scorpion (A.D. 784).

#### **Sunaka (Dog)**

Patakabhidha haste tu kuncita cet kanishthika  
Namna madhyapatako-ayam sunakarthe prayujyate(785)  
If the little finger of Pataka hasta is bent is Madhya pataka hasta it denotes the dog (A.D. 785)

#### **Ushtra (Camel)**

Purwoditanjali kare cangushthou kuncitou yutou  
Prasaritavurdhwabhage calitou capyadhomukhou  
Namna khandanjali-rayamushtarthe samprayujyate(786)  
If the thumbs of Anjali hasta are bent and moved up and down, it is Khandanjali hasta it denotes the camel. (A.D. 786-87).

#### **Aja (Goat)**

Sikharou slishta vadanou mesharthe samprayujyate (787)  
When two Sikhara hastas are joined face to face, they denote the goat (A.D. 787).

#### **Gardabha (Ass)**

Purwakhandanjalou misre kuncite tarjanidwaye  
Bhinnanjali-rayam namna gardabharthe niyujyate (788)  
If the two forefingers of Khandanjali hasta touch each other and are bent, it is Bhinnanjali hasta it denotes the ass.

#### **Vrshabha (Bull)**

Madhyamanamike kimcit kuncite talamasrite  
Angushthenopariyute seshe dwe ca prasarite  
Talasimha karah so-ayam shabharthe niyujyate (789)  
If the middle finger and the ring finger are bent into the palm slightly the thumb is placed over them and the other two fingers are extended it is Talasimha hasta it denotes the bull (A.D. 789-90).

#### **Dhenu (Cow)**

Madhyama vakrita yatra sesha sarwe prasaritah  
Dhenou yojyou yantra bhede bhavet sinkirnamudraka (790)  
If the middle finger is bent and all the rest are extended, it is Samkirnamudra hasta it denotes the cow as well as 'yantrabheda' (A.D. 790-91).

#### **CONCLUSION-**

These trees and animals can be easily understood by the dance loving audience by depicting them in odissi dance through this odissi dance can be propagated and propagated.

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