



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

History

GOLDEN MOMENT OF HISTORY: GETTING THE SCULPTURE OF BRAHMA FROM ULTA KHERA MOUND IN HASTINAPUR

KEY WORDS: Lord Brahma, Hastinapur, Ulta Khera Mound, Mahabharata

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ABSTRACT

The sculpture of Lord Brahma was recovered from Ulta Khera Mound situated in Hastinapur district Meerut of Uttar Pradesh. This idol has been recovered from the place, where it was previously excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India in year 1950-52. It has been obtained due to removal of large amount of soil from mound/due to falling of mud dunes. The sculpture recovered belongs to Gupta (?) or Post Gupta Period. The complete information of the sculpture of Brahma received is being given in this research paper.

INTRODUCTION

Hastinapur is situated in tehsil Mawana of District Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. It is well known site and many of the events described in epic Mahabharata was happened in Hastinapur.

According to local beliefs, Pandeshwar Mahadev Temple, Draupdeshwar Mahadev Temple, Karna Ghat Temple, Draupadi Ghat, Budhi Ganga [1], Barakhamba Mound [2] and Ulta Khera Mound in Hastinapur are connected to the Mahabharata period. Ulta Khera Mound is also known as Pandav Tila. The excavation work was carried out on Ulta Khera Mound under the leadership of Dr. B.B. Lal, in year 1950-52. By the excavation historicity of Hastinapur was come in lime light, the full description of Hastinapur excavation can be seen in Ancient India no 10 & 11 [3]. Coins, Shards of ancient pottery, bangles (with broken pieces), beads, Copper hoards, Terracotta human figurines and many more different items are recovered from this excavation. In this excavation sandstone image of Parvati (Gauri) been obtained. This image of Parvati is being placed in Period 5 i.e. late 11th Century A.D. to early 15th Century A.D. [2].

Lord Brahma sculpture was found near excavation site due to the falling of large amount of soil from small mounds or by any means. The head of the sculpture was only visible from soil. Soil was removed from the sculpture and preserve safely for further investigations. The sculpture is made up of sandstone with very fine and beautiful carving. In the sculpture, spider webs were also seen at the top end, and in many places the difference in the color of the idol was seen.

Description of Lord Brahma Sculpture

Lord Brahma's idol has 4 heads, 4 hands and sits on the lotus. The length of the sculpture is 53 cm and entire base is of 4 feet and weight approximately 50-60 kg. The idol is not fragmented or damaged by any means but the colour has landed from some places. In one right hand there is lotus stalk and oneright hand is in the *abhaya mudra*; in the left-hand they hold Vedas where as other left hand engaged with holding spouted vessel (*Kamandal*). Right leg is placed on left leg and Lord Brahma is sitting on Lotus. Lotus consists of 12 petals. In neck there is wonderful necklace. The bracelet like object is worn in the wrist of all hands except one.

The entire sculpture is depicted from figure 1- 9.

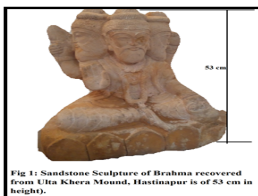


Fig 3: The base is of 41 cm (from front and entire base is of 4 feet in round).



Fig 4: Vedas in their hand.

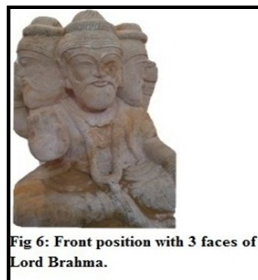


Fig 6: Front position with 3 faces of Lord Brahma.

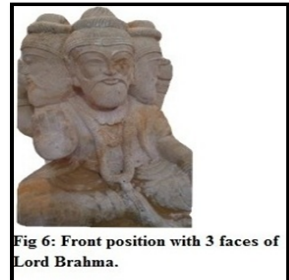


Fig 6: Front position with 3 faces of Lord Brahma.



Fig 7: 4 heads of Lord Brahma

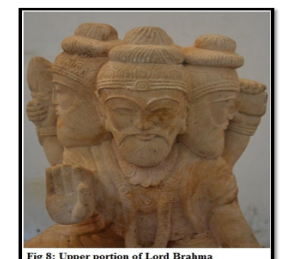


Fig 8: Upper portion of Lord Brahma



Fig 9: Sitting Position of Lord Brahma.

Relation of Lord Brahma with different dynasties with especial reference to Kuru Dynasty of Hastinapur.

The below list is somehow differ in different Purans. We took only that list which is mentioned in Chapter 95 of epic Mahabharata [4]. Here our intention is only to show the connection of Lord Brahma to different dynasties with especial reference to Kuru Dynasty of Hastinapur. Without discussing this, our paper cannot be completed. Refer Fig 10, 11 and 12.

CONCLUSION

The stone sculpture of Brahma has been recovered for the first time in Hastinapur; even during the excavation (in 1950-52) a stone statue of *Gauri* was obtained of Late 11th Century A.D. to Early 15th Century A.D. This stone sculpture has not been received during any excavation; it has been obtained due to removal of large amount of soil from mound/due to falling of mud dunes. According to Shrimad Bhagwad Mahapurana, Shri Harivanshpuran and Mahabharata, Brahma's direct connection was from Hastinapur. But literary evidence doesn't show the worshipping Lord Brahma in Hastinapur. We have taken sequence of kings (which is depicted in fig 10,11 and 12) as described in Mahabharata, because Mahabharata is considered to be the fifth

1200 CE. In this period 300–600 CE, the statue of Brahma has been obtained from many places [6], but their number is much less compared to other popular deities. In this time period, Brahma was seen as a subordinate deity and his statues were being constructed at some place in the temples of other folk deities [6]. This period is also known as classical age or golden age. In this era, the sculpture making was at its peak [7]. It might be possible that it has been taken to Hastinapur for trade, and the idol industry in Hastinapur is also at that time. Even today, statues are made in Hastinapur but of different stone.

Recovery of Lord Brahma sculpture in Hastinapur is a historical event. To the best of my knowledge no any historian/archeologist has ever been shown any connection of Lord Brahma from Hastinapur and since before no any statue of Lord Brahma recovered from areas nearby. The statue of Lord Brahma from Hastinapur opens new chapters of history because since before no any research done by any researcher on the concerned topic. Many chapters of Hastinapur still need to be opened. It might be possible; there may be a new debate on this idol in future. Until or unless complete research is done, it should not be considered provisional?

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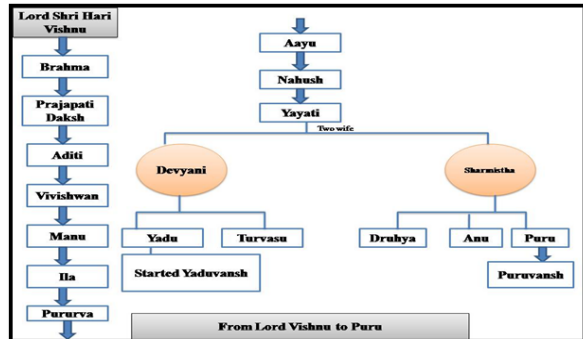


Fig 10: From Lord Vishnu to King Puru. Ila was considered Mother as well as Father of King Pururva.

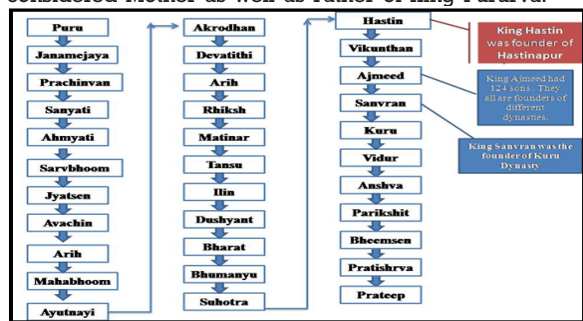


Fig 11: From Puru to Prateep.

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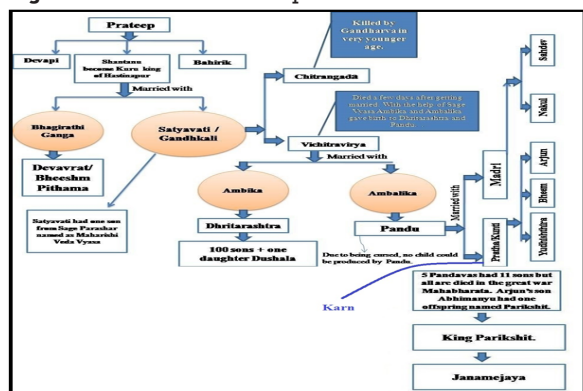


Fig 12: From Prateep to Janamejaya

Veda. King Yayati is considered to be ancestor of Pandavas [5]. and according to Mahabharata King Hastin was the founder of Hastinapur which was descendent of Lord Brahma.

The recovered sculpture of Lord Brahma might be belongs to Gupta (?) or Post-Gupta Period (?). According to literature, beige sandstones sculpture is to be made in Gupta Period or Post Gupta Period i.e. 300–600 CE or 600-