

Vinland saga

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Explanation:

-Ideas that are missing from major elements/ideas that the hindu gods enforce (what could be a new idea they would have)

-How do gods illustrate the connection between how people should live their lives (how gods give them purpose)

-What physical characteristics were synthesized

-How i synthesized current body ideas into drafts

caste

Major flaw is the social hierarchy using the caste system that is reinforced by Hinduism and the Hindu gods. The caste system comes from the Laws of Manu and it is the idea that people should be divided based on branches of the Creator's body. So the head is equal to Brahmins a priestly class and they are considered the most pure, arms are equivalent to Kshatriyas, the warriors and rulers, the lower limbs are equivalent to Vaishyas, the traders, and the feet equal Sudras, people who are meant to serve the other three. Unfortunately, the purpose of the Caste system was to prevent one social group from abusing power or ruling others, but the Caste system is set up for that to occur.

The two new synthesized versions of the hindu gods represent

1- No caste system (hierarchy within temple but doesn't translate to social and financial status)

2- fertility

These deities are two versions of the same god. It was made by synthesizing characteristics of the three Hindu gods Shiva, Brahma, and Vishnu and a Yakshi fertility figure. Like the three Hindu gods, the two deities also represent creation, preservation, and destruction.

The characteristics that were synthesized include skin, hair, Head, stance, arms, objects, body shape. I chose lighter (blue) and darker (purple) skin because Vishnu is often depicted with darker skin while Shiva is depicted

with lighter, ash smeared skin. The hair is supposed to be complex similar to what a Yakshi sculpture would have. I used a reference picture and drew the head piece based on a Yakshi sculpture. The four arms comes from Vishnu and their purpose is to show that the deity superior to the average person. The four heads on Brahma represent the cardinal directions, because of that I also wanted to include the four heads so I decided to put four heads on one deity. The standing deity is often depicted in a tribhanga pose. I decided that that was a major characteristic of Yakshi sculptures so I included it. I chose to make the other deity sit to contrasts with the tribhanga pose. The dramatic, voluptuous shape of the body comes from the Yakshi figures and it represents fertility. I wanted that idea to be clear in these figures so I exaggerated their breasts, waist, and hips to convey this idea. The objects that the deities are holding are a lotus, prayer beads from Brahma and an alms bowl from brahma , a chakra (discus) from vishnu and a gada/Kaumodaki (club) from vishnu, a trident from Shiva, and a lotus from Brahma/ Vishnu.

Unlike other religions where it is frowned upon to try and illustrate and worship a deity, it is encouraged in hinduism. The sculpture and depictions allow worshipers to worship in a way that allows a strong bond between the worshiper and deity. They are role models for the middle or way of life people should pursue so that when they die they aren't apart of the cycle of death and rebirth. For example the snakes around Shiva's neck represent temptation, because Shiva has them around his neck people can interpret that as Shiva conquering his desires and temptations. Another example of how the Hindu Gods demonstrate how people should live their lives is though Brahma's story. In Brahma's story he had a daughter and was lusting after her. After a while he married her, as punishment for his incestula acts Shiva cut his fifth head off. This is an exaple that teaches people that incest is bad.

Art major elements:

Yakshi

Characteristics:

- Body
 - (1) Has rounded form and sensuality of the torso
 - (2) nudity, smiling face and evident (often exaggerated) feminine charms that lead to their association with **fertility**.
 - (2) Often depicted as voluptuous with chauri in right hand fleshy cheeks wide hips and narrow waists broad shoulders knotted hair and exaggerated breasts
 - (3) Voluptuous full bust slim waist and wide hips 3 folds lines on neck and fold on waist
- Stance
 - Yakshi are depicted in a tribhanga pose
- Setting/what they're holding
 - (5) Sculpture of a woman with stylized feminine features standing near a tree grabbing a branch
- Hair/jewelry
 - (5) Often have complex hairdos or lots of jewelry
- (3) Has close to perfect body standards for historic India

Symbolises:

- (1) A nature spirit representing fertility
- (2) Ashoka tree associated with yakshins
- (2) Ancient motif indicating fertility
- (4) Associated with the fertility symbol and fruit bearing
- (5) Origin from ancient **tree deities**

Locations

- (2) Three places Bharhut (village), Sanchi (capital of Kalinga), and Mathura (a city in Uttar Pradesh)
- (2) Yakshins commonly found on stupas (meditation buildings)
- (4) **yakshi** was originally installed on one of the gateways that surrounded the Great **Stupa** at Sanchi
 - (4) A place of meditation

Other

- (2) Each is a guardian of one of the 24 Jain Tirthankara (savior and spiritual teacher of dharma)

Brahma (created world and creatures)

Characteristics

- Head
 - (9) Usually depicted with four faces
- Arms

- (9) Has four arms
- What they hold
 - (9) holding an alms bowl
 - prayer beads
 - (18) Help in the worship of a deity
 - (18) Mean to be used while repeating the name of a deity
 - (18) Aid in meditation
 - (18) used for repetition of a mantra
 - (18) (A **mantra** a group of words in Sanskrit believed by practitioners to have psychological and/or spiritual powers.
 - and a book
- Stance
 - (9) Possibly seated or standing on a lotus throne, a goose (Savitri and Saraswati)

Symbology

- 26 Ex myth the story on how Brahma lost his 5th head
- 26 Lusting after daughter Sandhya as punishment Shiva cut his head off
 - moral for people incest is wrong

Locations

Other

- (8) created world and creatures
- (8) Brahma major god in Hinduism from 500 BCE to 500 CE
- (9) Middle of 1st millennium CE attempt to synthesize dividing sectarian traditions was clear in the Trimurti which considers Vishnu Shiva and Brahma as three forms of the supreme unmanifested deity
- (9) No sect that worships Brahma (exclusively) and there are only a few temples dedicated to him

Other examples of god symbols

28 These animal vehicles represent good and bad traits:

Other examples

- 28 Dinka the (mouse) vehicle of Ganesh represents speed and sharpness
 - 28 Also represents Useless, dark thoughts Ganesh is able to get rid of them
- 28 Parvati the peacock the vehicle of Shiva represents splendor and majesty
 - 28 "Shiva reins in the peacock's vanity"

Vishnu preserves the universe

Characteristics

- Setting

- (10) sitting with consorts Lakshmi (shri) and Bhumidevi (earth)
- (10) Or laying in coils of Shesha (a serpents)
- Stance
 - (10) Also in standing position in royal garments
- Arms/hands
 - 4 (maybe 2) hands the
 - 25 Four arms represent higher power, superiority
- Items held
 - Shankha (conch)
 - chakra (discus),
 - (22) Literally means disk of auspicious vision
 - (22) Like a wheel of time
 - (22) Used as a weapon
 - gada (club),
 - (23) Kaumodaki used by vishnu
 - (23) First appears in Hindu epic Mahabharata
 - (23) Associated with Vishnu's avatar Krishna
 - (23) Usually a club but can be personified by being depicted as a woman
 - (23) The gada represents vishnu's power
 - padma (lotus)
 - (symbolize) **Lotus**
 - (16) lotus flower meaning is associated with beauty, fertility, prosperity, spirituality, and eternity.
 - Brahma, the God of creation is depicted as emerging from a Lotus that crawls from the Navel of the sustainer Lord Vishnu.
 - (17) symbolized of what is divine or immortality in humanity, and is also a symbol of divine perfection.
- Hair
 - (10) Chest has curl of hair known as shrivatsa mark
- Jewelry
 - (10) Wears auspicious jewel kaustubha
- Skin
 - (10) Often has dark complexion

Symbosize

- (10) Vishnu combines lesser divine figures with local heroes through avatars
 - Ex Rama and Krishna
- (10) Said to have 10 avatars but not the same 10
- (10) Rigvedic hymns from 1400-1000 BCE associated him with the sun
- 29 Vishnu vehicle is *Garuda, and eagle that represents power and courage*

Locations

Other

- (8) preserves the universe
- (10) Other avatars include fish that saves humankind from a great flood
- (10) Vishnu said it manifest portion of himself whenever he needs to fight evil and to protect the Dharma (moral and religious law)

Shiva destroys

Characteristics

- Skin
 - (11) depicted with white skin (from ashes of corpses that are smeared on his body) with a blue neck from holding poison that is from the churning of the cosmic ocean (that threatened to destroy the world)
- Hair
 - (11) Hair is arranged in coils that are locks with crescent moon and the Ganges
- Head
 - (11) Three eyes and the third eye bestows inward vision but can bring destruction when focused outward
- Jewelry
 - (11) Wears garland of skulls and
 - **serpent** around his neck
 - 19 Snakes have similar death and rebirth cycle though shedding of skin
 - 20 Snakes also represent passion and desire, wearing snake around neck shows devotees he was overcome desire (in control)
 - (11) a deerskin,
- Hands
 - (11) has 2 (sometimes 4) hands
- Items held
 - a trident
 - (21) Three points on the trident have multiple meanings
 - (21) Symbolize 3 gods Vishni , Shiva and Brahma
 - (21) Creation maintenance and destruction
 - (21) Used to protect devotee
 - (21) Used to liberate souls in the cycle of rebirth and death
 - small hand drum,
 - a club with a skull at the end
- (11) Skil identifies shiva as Kaplika (skull bearer) refers to when he decapitated the fifth head of brahma

Symbosize

- (11) Cosmic dancer Nataraja
- (11) Dalit with a dog (Bhairava)

- (11) Androgynous union of Shiva and Consort in one body that is half male and half female (Ardhanarishvara)
- (11) Great ascetic and master of fertility
- (11) Master of poison and medicine through power over snakes
- 27 Shiva- Nandi bull, symbolize brute and blind power and the sexual energy in man
 - 27 However these qualities can be controlled with shiv's help.

Locations

- (11) Uttar pradesh india is a sacred city to shiva

Other

- (8) Shiva destroys brahma created world and creatures
- (11) Shiva's vehicle into the world (vahana is the bull Nandi)

India Modern body ideals

- (7) Study done with about 80 heterosexual men and women average age 19 asked what ideals were for partners and themselves
- (7) Found men beefed up legs and chest
- (7) Women over emphasised chest size
- (7) 39 out of forty women had higher BMI than their designed body
- (7) Half of men were heavier than their ideal body shape
- (7) Desired BMI of 19 lowest on healthy scale

Caste system and Hinduism

- Society
 - (12) Used the caste system
 - (12) Ancient story explains how caste system came to be
 - (12) Primordial person Purusha "underwent sacrifice and produced a four part cosmos and a human counterpart
 - (12) Brahmins (priest)
 - (12) Kshatriyas (warriors and nobles)
 - (12) Vaishyas (commoners)
 - (12) Shudras (servants)
 - (12) Distinct way a person or group approaches truth which reflects their own perspective
 - (12) Says that hinduism needs social classes because without them one group can easily dominate another (?)
- Story
 - (12) Certain stories are only performed by a specific caste

- (12) Ex north india lower caste musicians do Alpha or Dhola because it reflects their own experience of the world rather than the upper caste
- (13) Rise of hindu fundamentalism has promoted “be proud of your culture” syndrom
 - (13) Cause greater segregation and separate temples and gurudwaras
- (13) 4,000 year old manu shastra or laws of Manu
- (13) Society divided into four branches Varnas arising from certain part of the Creator’s body
- (13) head = Brahmins a priestly class and the most pure
- (13) Arms = kshatriyas the warriors and rulers
- (13) Lower limbs = vaishyas the traders
- (13) Feet = sudras meant to serve the other three

Background of hinduism belief

- Core beliefs
 - (12) The purpose of that is to have a large range of perspective and enhance the broad view of religious truth
 - (14) Ultimate goal of hinduism is to achieve Moksha
 - (14) A point where you have detached yourself from feelings and perceptions that tie you to the world
 - (14) By doing so allows the person to realize the ultimate unity of things (soul (atman) connected to the universal brahman
 - (14) To get to that point a person can pursue knowledge, appropriate actions or works, or through the devotion of God
 - (14) Belief in karma and reincarnation
 - (14) Possibility of liberation and release (moksha) endless cycle of birth death and rebirth
- (15) Core concepts of hinduism
- (15)-pursuit of the knowledge and understanding of the truth/universe (can be achieved multiple ways)
- (15)Vedas are the ultimate authority
- (15)Work to achieve Dharma
- (15)Believe souls are in an ongoing cycle of rebirth and death
 - movement of the atman from one body to another is known as *transmigration*.
- (15) *Goal of individual would it moksha*
- (15) *Liberation from the cycle of rebirth and death*
 - Texts
 - (14) Two major texts that are important to all branches of hinduism
 - (14) Eternal and revealed texts
 - (14) Vedas are an example of eternal texts
 - (14) Ex the two great epics Mahabharata and Ramayana, belong to revealed text

- Mahabharata is a poem about the Pandava brothers and their cousins the Kauravas,(battle)
 - On the eve of the battle between Pandava brothers and their cousins the Kauravas, Krishna console the pandava warrior Arjuna famous passage known as the Bhagavad-Gita (meaning “the Song of the Lord”)
- (why is it important) That section is often referenced in addressing the duty of an individual, the importance of the Dharma and mankind's relationship to God and society

Worship

- (14) Hindu worship is puja
 - (14) Puja occurs daily
- (14) Most common form of worship takes place at home at family shrine or at a local temple
- (14) Worshipper might approach the temple, give thanks, ask for assistance, give penance, or contemplate the divine
- (14) Tied more to the individual than a service or congregational gathering
- (14) In the temple devotees assisted by the priest who performs ritual acts and blessing offerings for worshipers
- (14) Dashan
 - (14) Major concepts in Darshan worship is making eye contact with the deity
 - (14) Idea is that worshiper sees divinity and the divinity sees the devotee
- (14) Occurs in intimate domestic spaces or in crowded temples
- **(14) Dashan worship reinforces the importance of imagery in worship and ritual**
- (14) In hinduism depicting the hindu gods is believed to embody the divine (in contrast to other religions)
 -
- (14) Many gods
- (14) Deities linked to universal and natural process

Elements of hinduism

- (12) Five elements of Hinduism
 - (12) doctrine , practice, society, story, and devotion
- (12) Doctrine
 - (12) Connected to the Veda (knowledge)
 - (12) “Characteristic tensions” between devine and world, disparity between world preserving idea of dharma and Moksha (release from a flawed world), and the tension between individual destiny shaped by karma and the

individual bonds with family society and divinities associated with these concepts

- (12) Broadly called Puja (honouring the deity)
- (12) When performed in temple by a priest called Archana
 - ex : eating food and offering it to a deity
- Society
 - (12) Used the caste system
- Story
 - (12) How literature illustrate avatars and gods and interactions between humans and gods
 - (12) Focus on “genealogies of the human experience” ex forms of love the struggle between order and chaos and between duty and play
- Devotion
 - (12) Bhakti is the sharing or devotion of a bread tradition of a loving God that is associated with the lives and words of **Vernacular** poet saints in india
 - (12) Poems made for specific figures that represent both genders and all social classes
- Depiction (14) Depiction of shiva and vishnu combined to make Harihara (<http://searchcollection.asianart.org/view/objects/asitem/nid/10763>)
- (24) Dharma- includes things like law teaching and religion, also mean ones destiny or purpose

Temples

- (14) Throughout villages or cities vary in size
- (14) Dwelling place for the gods
- (14) Principal deities tend to be in the center (like a king) other deities can be included in the structure of the temple main deity is in central sanctuary (with image or symbol)
- (14) Active temples have rich fabrics and garlands
- (14) Central tower in sanctuary with bright paint symbolizes great mountain of the gods
- (14) Variety of temples is a result of personal preference of local culture and progression of architecture

Other Caste system info

- Don't have equal access to resources
- Not supported by the law
- Often assaulted, sexually assaulted and humiliated by village
- Some areas don't allow cast to live in village or “caste zones”
- Require to remove shoes or can't walk on certain paths when in village
- 2 cup system

focus :

Hinduism-

Brahma

How where he is depicted

Vishnu

How where he is depicted

Shiva

How where he is depicted

Additional gods in Buddhism

Social studies

Synthesis and how mixing would impact the belief structure

What is the most important element of hinduism

Look at karma and dharma

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-asia/beginners-guide-asian-culture/hindu-art-culture/a/roots-of-hinduism>

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History of hinduism:

- (14) Hinduism developed over centuries from cultural practices, sacred texts, and philosophical movements
- (14) As a result hindu practices are diverse
- (14) Indus valley civilization in pakistan (today)
- (14) Flourished from 2500 to 1700 bce
- (14) Cites haven't produces a lot of religious imagery but have found seals with bulls, figures in yogic position, terracotta figures symbolizing fertility
- (14) Also found prototype of stone linga (phallic emblems of hindu god shiva)
- (14) Later discovered evidence that indigeneous people engaged in linga worship
- (14) Set of hymns and popems know was Vedas