

PAINTING STUDY MATERIAL FOR CLASS 11TH BASED ON NCERT

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5. Seated Buddha—Gupta Period, Sarnath Style

Name	: Seated Buddha—Gupta Period, Sarnath Style	Artist	: Unknown
Place	: Sarnath	Collection	: Sarnath Museum, Varanasi, U.P.
Medium	: Stone		
Circa	: 5th Century A.D.		

DESCRIPTION

This image of Seated Buddha has been found in Sarnath, which belongs to Gupta period, (late 5th century A.D.). This sculpture has been made in Chunar sandstone. The **Buddha** is shown seated in **Padmasana** (cross-folded-legs) on a **throne** on which depicting a **chakra** and style of hand and fingers represents **Dharma Chakra Pravartana Mudra**. The panel below the throne depicted his disciples worshipping the image of Buddha. This is the representation of the historical event of **Dhamma chakra pravartana** or the preaching of the **Dhamma**. This Buddha image is the finest example of the **Sarnath School of Arts**.

The main features of this Sculpture are as follows:

- (i) The body of the image is well proportioned but slightly elongated.
- (ii) The outlines are rhythmic and delicately folded.
- (iii) Legs are expanded in order to create visual balance in the picture space.
- (iv) Drapery clings to the body and is transparent to create the effect of integrated volume.
- (v) The face is round, eyes are half closed, the lower lip protruding and the roundness of the cheeks has reduced in comparison to the images of Kushan period of Mathura.
- (vi) The hands are shown in **Dhamma chakra pravartana** mudra placed just below the chest.
- (vii) The neck is slightly elongated with two incised lines indicating folds.
- (viii) The **Ushnisha** has circular curled hair.
- (ix) The back of the throne is profusely decorated with different motifs of flowers and creepers placed in a concentric circle.
- (x) The central part of the halo is plain without any decoration by which the halo becomes visually impressive.

Buddha images of this period show considerable softness in the treatment of the surface and volume. There are many other Buddha images in the standing position from Sarnath having same features like transparent drapery.



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