

HISTORY, CHAPTER:- 09

**KINGS & CHRONICLES, THE MUGHAL
COURTS.**

NCERT BASED

REVISION NOTES :-

In praise of taswir:-

***Abu'l Fazl held the art of painting
in high esteem:***

Drawing the likeness of anything is called taswir. His Majesty from his earliest youth, has shown a great predilection for this art, and gives it every encouragement, as he looks upon it as a means both of study and amusement. A very large number of painters have been set to work. Each week, several supervisors and clerks of the imperial workshop submit before the emperor the work done by each artist, and His Majesty gives a reward and increases the monthly salaries of the artists according to the excellence displayed. ... Most excellent painters are now to be found, and masterpieces, worthy of a Bihzad, may be placed at the side of the

wonderful works of the European painters who have attained worldwide fame. The minuteness in detail, the general finish and the boldness of execution now observed in pictures are incomparable; even inanimate objects look as if they have life. More than a hundred painters have become famous masters of the art. This is especially true of the Hindu artists. Their pictures surpass our conception of things. Few, indeed, in the whole world are found equal to them.

**The flight of the
written word :-**

In Abu'l Fazl's words:

written word

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***The written word may
embody the wisdom of
bygone ages and may
become a means to
intellectual progress. The
spoken word goes to the
heart of those who are
present to hear it. The written
word gives wisdom to those
who are near and far. If it was***

not for the written word, the spoken word would soon die, and no keepsake would be left us from those who are passed away. Superficial observers see in the letter a dark figure, but the deepsighted see in it a lamp of wisdom (chirag-i shinasai).

The written word looks black, notwithstanding the thousand rays within it, or it is a light with a mole on it that wards off the evil eye. A letter (khat) is the portrait of wisdom; a rough sketch from the realm of ideas; a dark light ushering in day; a black cloud pregnant with knowledge; speaking though dumb; stationary yet travelling; stretched on the sheet, and yet soaring

upwards.