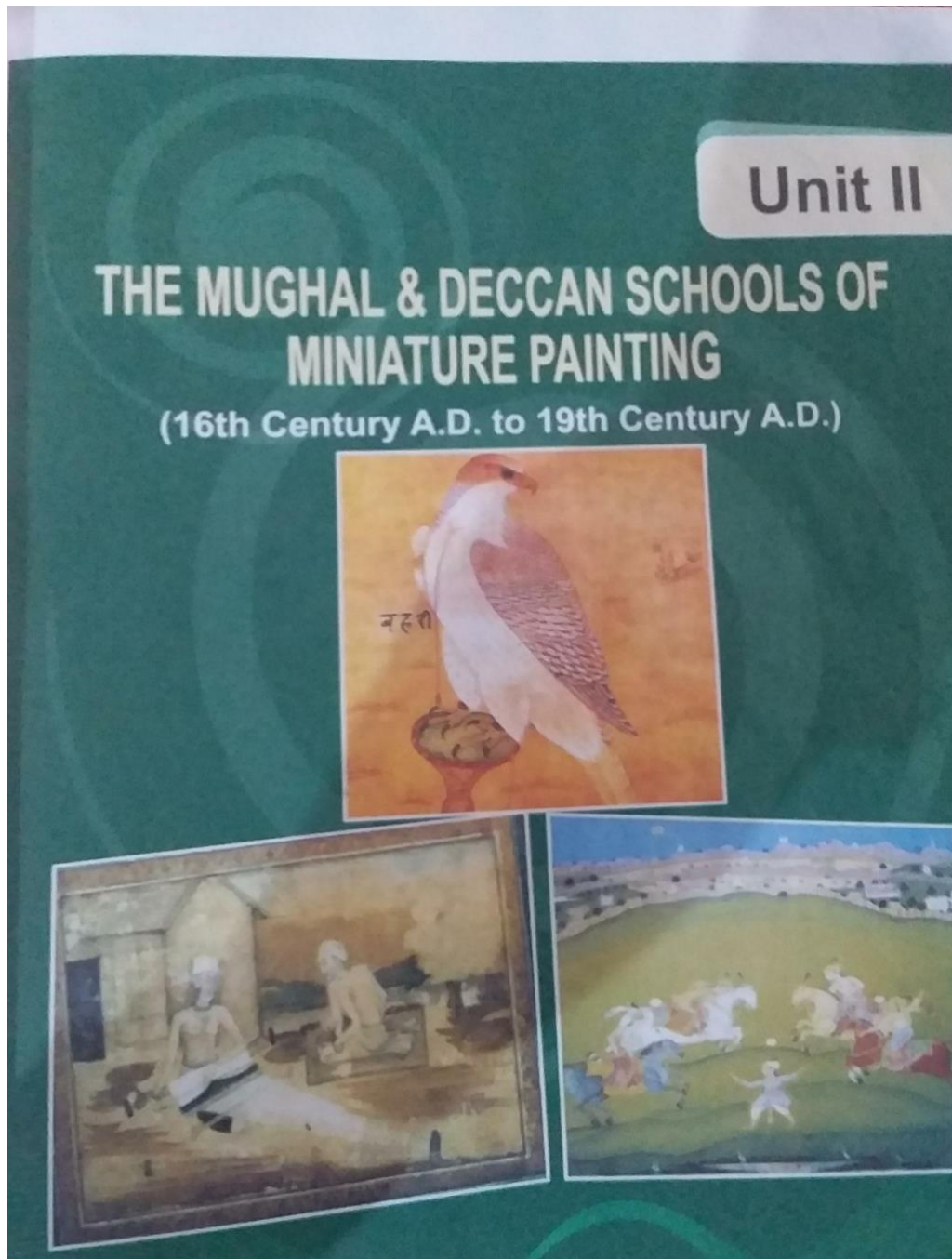


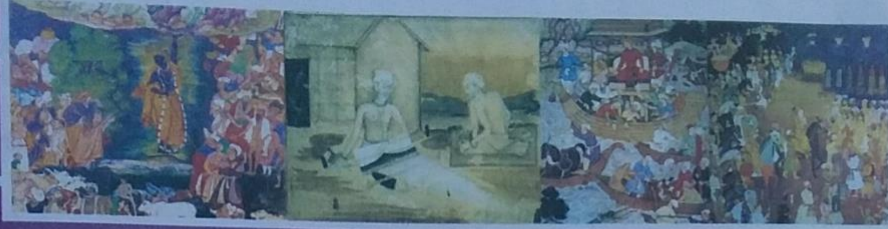
PAINTING STUDY MATERIAL FOR CLASS 12TH BASED ON NCERT

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Mughal School of Miniature Painting

Babur (1526-30), the fifth decendent of Taimurlung conquered Northern India in 1526 and established the Mughal empire in India. From his mother's side, he carried the blood of Chengiz Khan, the great Mongol and in him Babur carried the characteristic of greatness from both the dynasties. He inherited Taimur's qualities of patronising music, poetry and philosophical learning and had inherent love of art as well. His hectic life of four years of fighting and conquering gave him little time to setup an atelier of his own but he longed for the exquisite art work at Herat of Safavid dynasty. There he had seen the famous paintings of Bihzad Shah Musavir and his followers. This overwhelming love for Persian painting did not inspire him to understand and appreciate the art of India. So practically he left no influence in the development of Mughal art in India.

Humayun (1530-1556), his son was born with his father's artistic inclination but lacked the grit and determination of Babur. Before he could consolidate his empire, he was driven to exile by Sher Shah Suri, an usurper in 1540. He took shelter under the Persian Safavid rulers. There at Herat like his father Babur, he too fell in love with the grandeur of Persian painting. During his exile, he met two young masters of Tabrez and Shiraz, Khwaja Abdus Samad and Mir Sayyid Ali. He regained his empire in 1555 and brought the two master painters, Khwaja Abdus Samad and Mir Sayyid Ali. It is believed that Akbar in his childhood received painting lessons from Khwaja Abdus Samad while Humayun had setup his court in Kabul. This helped Akbar in acquiring the taste for artistic creation. According to some critics, Humayun before his death in 1556, had set his artists to take up illustrating the great and the earliest Mughal manuscript 'Dastan-i-Amir-Hamza' popularly known as Hamza-Nama while he was still in Kabul in 1550. The Hamza-Nama series, illustrating popular romantic stories with many legends of the prophet Mohammd's uncle and is considered a popular book in the Persian literature, painted on cloth.

Akbar (1556-1605) succeeded to throne at the age of thirteen in 1556. Though illiterate he had a thirst for knowledge and started the illustrations of several literary religious texts. He himself had

To be continues.....