

# VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYAPITH SHAKTI UTTHAN ASHARAM LAKHISARAI

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Ch: REGIONAL CULTURE and NEW. KINGDOM (Notes)

## Painting for Patrons: The Tradition of Miniatures

Another tradition developed- that of miniature painting. Miniatures are small-sized paintings-done in watercolour on cloth or paper-earliest miniatures were on palm leaves or wood-found in western India- used to illustrate Jaina texts-Mughal emperors Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan patronised highly skilled painters who primarily illustrated manuscripts containing historical accounts and poetry-generally painted in brilliant colours -portrayed court scenes, scenes of battle or hunting, and other aspects of social life- were exchanged as gifts -viewed only by an exclusive few – the emperor and his close associates. With the decline of the Mughal Empire, many painters moved out to the courts of the emerging regional states-result, Mughal artistic tastes influenced the regional courts of the Deccan and the Rajput courts of Rajasthan-they retained and developed their distinctive characteristics- Portraits of rulers and court scenes came to be painted-Mughal example-themes from mythology and poetry-depicted at centres such as Mewar, Jodhpur, Bundi, Kota and Kishangarh-Another region that attracted miniature paintings- Himalayan foothills around the modern-day state of Himachal Pradesh. By the late 17th century- region developed a bold and intense style of miniature painting called Basohli- popular text to be painted was Bhanudatta's Rasamanjari-Nadir Shah's invasion and the conquest of Delhi in 1739 resulted in the migration of Mughal artists to the hills to escape the uncertainties of the plains-they found ready patrons-led to the founding of the Kangra school of painting. By the mid 18th century- Kangra artists developed a style that breathed a new spirit into miniature painting-source of inspiration the Vaishnavite traditions-Soft colours including cool blues and greens- a lyrical treatment of themes distinguished Kangra painting-ordinary women and men painted as well – on pots, walls, floors, cloth – works of art- that occasionally survived, unlike the miniatures – carefully preserved in palaces for centuries.

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