

Dāstān-e-Jāshvir

The Story of Mughal Miniature Paintings

Class XII - Painting

Sub topic:-

Origin & Development of Mughal Miniature Paintings



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योग्यः
अस्मि



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NEW DELHI
(Affiliated to C.B.S.E.)

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PREFACE

This graphic novel is a way for learners to look at miniature paintings through a different lens, in a more enjoyable and accessible way.

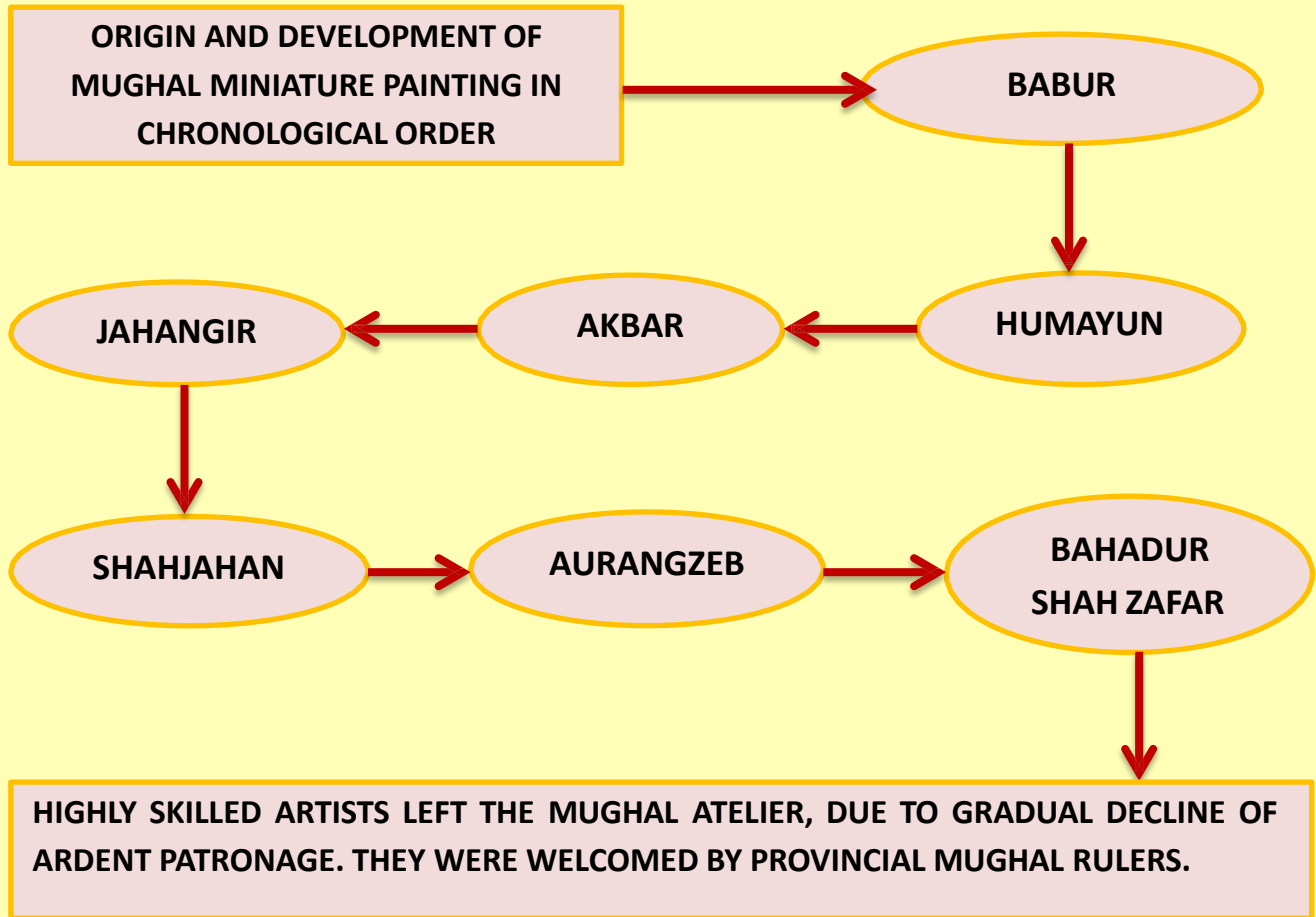
The novel comprises detailed descriptions of Mughal miniature paintings in chronological order. The novel will not only promote quick learning and better recall of concepts but will also help the students in acquiring creative thinking and critical thinking skills.

The world of miniature painting is a kaleidoscope of historical scripts and the lives of people through age. The earliest miniature painting in India can be traced back to the 7th century AD under the Patronage of Palas of Bengal but miniature art in India truly thrived under the Mughal style of painting. Mughal painting is the style of miniature painting that developed in the northern Indian subcontinent in the 16th century A.D. and continued till the mid–19th century A.D.

Every Mughal successor, based on his taste and preferences, contributed towards enhancing the status of art, viz. calligraphy, painting, architecture, bookmaking, book illustration projects, etc. They took keen interest in artists ateliers and nurtured unprecedented new styles that heightened and accelerated the existing art scenario of India.

The Mughal School of Miniature Painting was an amalgamation of religion, culture and tradition. Mughal miniature paintings were small in size, brightly coloured and highly detailed paintings, mostly used to illustrate manuscripts and art books.

STORY BOARD



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Readers will be able to:

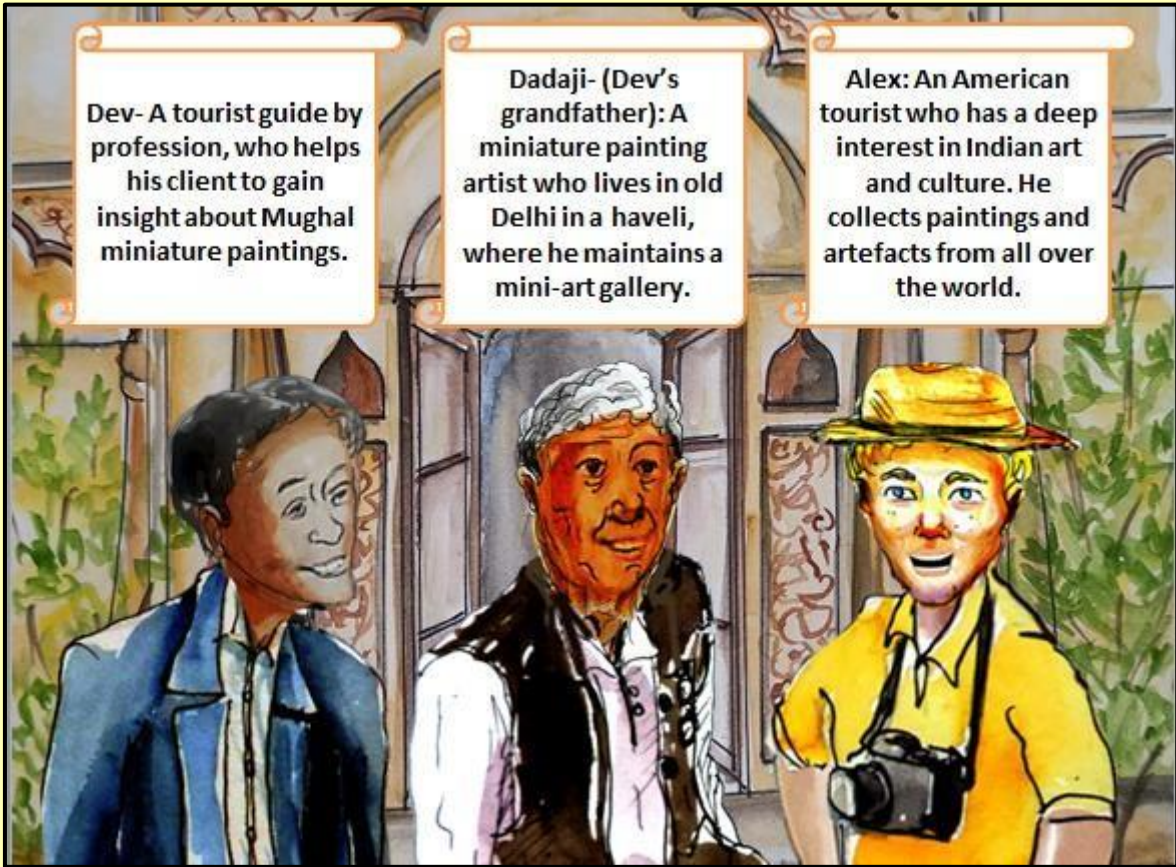
- classify Mughal school of art in a chronicle order
- recognise and appreciate the Mughal school of paintings
- know more about various textual resources written during the Mughal period
- apply artistic and aesthetic sensibility in their work
- conserve and preserve the heritage

CHARACTERS

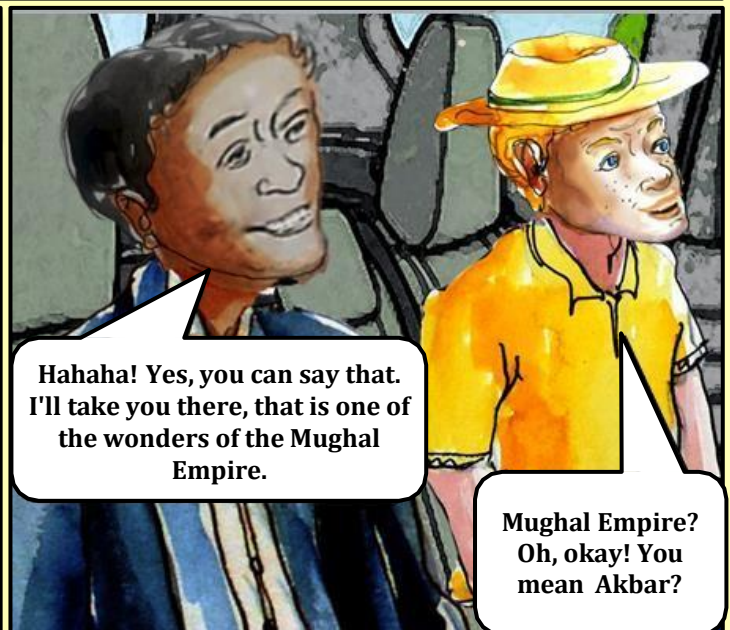
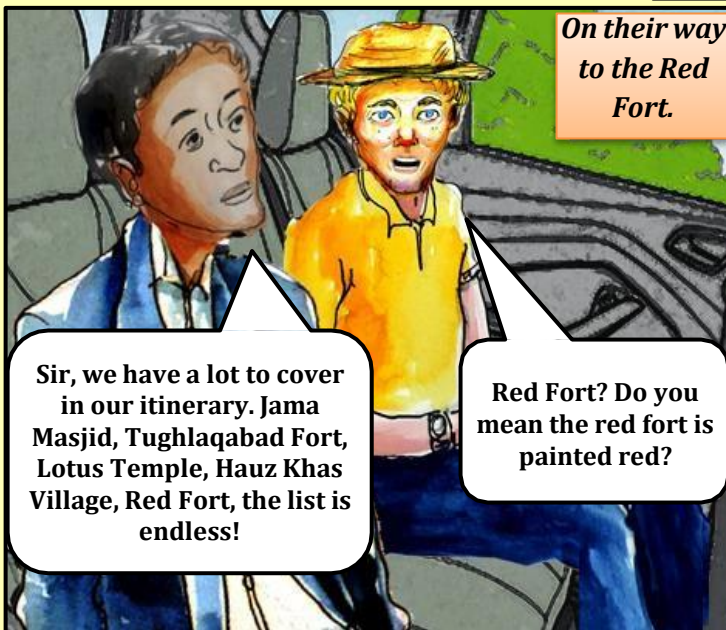
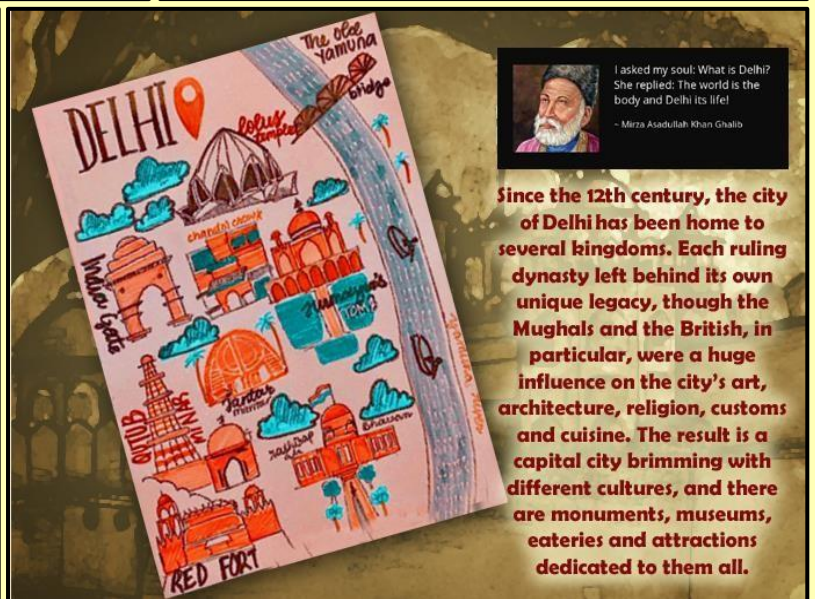
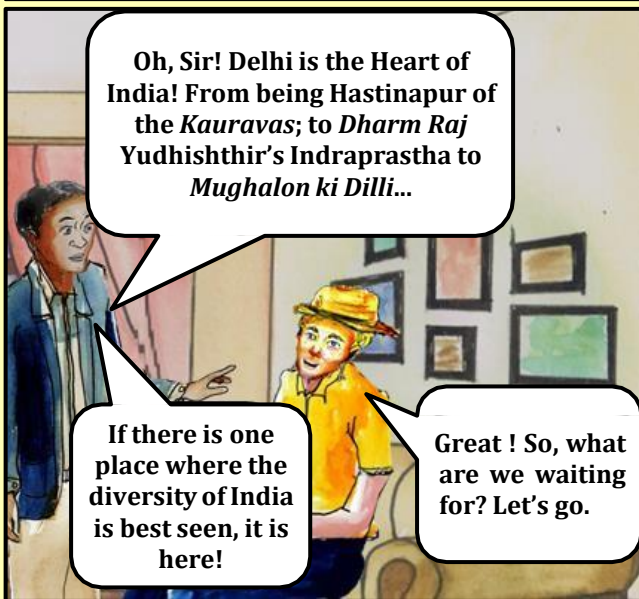
Dev- A tourist guide by profession, who helps his client to gain insight about Mughal miniature paintings.

Dadaji- (Dev's grandfather): A miniature painting artist who lives in old Delhi in a haveli, where he maintains a mini-art gallery.

Alex: An American tourist who has a deep interest in Indian art and culture. He collects paintings and artefacts from all over the world.



STORY OF MUGHAL MINIATURE PAINTINGS



Alex and Dev arrive at the Red Fort.

No doubt, Akbar was a great king, and you can say the founder of the Mughal school of miniature paintings. But, there is a lot more about Mughals!

Oh! Yes

I must find out more about Mughal Art...

Alex and Dev visit the Chatta Market inside the Red Fort.

Sir, this is the Chatta Market of the Red Fort. It is famous for Indian art and artefacts.

I have always been interested in the unique and diverse art and architecture of India, watching this so closely is overwhelming.

Hey! Can you tell me a little more about the Mughal Empire and the miniature paintings you were talking about earlier?

Ummm...Okay Sir, if you're so curious to know about Mughal Art, let me take you to the right person.

Who?

My grandfather, he is very fond of making miniature paintings and art journals.

Wow, an artist! That is great! Can you take me there right now?

Sure Sir! He lives nearby in his *haveli*. He loves to collect ancient artefacts for his private gallery, you'll surely like it.

I am eager to meet him and know about Mughal miniature paintings.

They visit the Haveli to see the Art Gallery

Namaste Dadaji! This is Alex from America, he collects artworks from all over the world.

Namaste beta, Hello Alex. Welcome to my *haveli*.

Hello sir!

Dadaji I want to know more about Indian Art, especially, Mughal miniature paintings.

Ah, great! I consider myself fortunate to pass on the knowledge to future generations.

Dadaji, why don't you go ahead and give Alex a tour? I will be back after an hour.

This *haveli* is beautiful

Okay beta! But do meet Dadi before you leave.

Dadaji and Alex go inside the haveli.

Come, Alex, let me take you to my favourite corner of the haveli and show you my art collection.

This is truly amazing!

Inside the haveli.

So Dadaji, what is your art collection about?

Well Alex, it is my years of prized collection of Mughal Miniatures arranged in chronological order.

How was this sophisticated technique developed in India ?

The earliest examples of miniature paintings in India exist in the form of manuscript illustration under the Pala's and Jain texts during 11th and 12th century.

I know about manuscripts but never knew they are illustrated hand written books.

You know, a painting activity that thrived largely in western parts of India known as Jain School of Miniature Painting and in the eastern part of India it is called the Pala School of Miniature Painting.

Why are those paintings called miniature paintings?

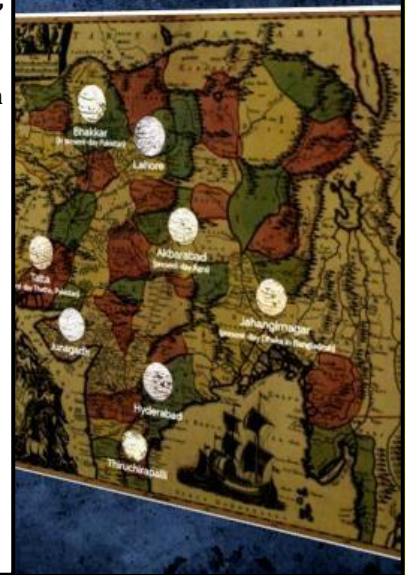
You see, Miniature Painting is a generic name given in medieval period to the relatively smaller size of paintings.

They were hand-held and observed from a closer distance due to their minutiae.

Alex had a pertinent question, though. He asked, 'Dadaji, the Mughal miniature painting techniques belong to which part of India?'

To this, Dadaji explained Alex the expanse of the Mughal Empire using a map... He said, 'Mughal miniature paintings developed in the Northern Indian subcontinent in the 16th century AD and continued till the mid 19th century AD!'

Alex was perplexed.



Dadaji takes Alex for a tour in his art gallery.

This is it! My pride and joy! This will make you understand about the origin and development of the Mughal School of Art.

Wow! What a wonderful collection.

You know Alex, scholars & students of art visit my gallery and study my collection.

Amazing! This is exactly what I was looking for.

Look! This is the Babur panel. He was not only a soldier and an able commander, but also passionate about art.

Wow! A warrior and an art-lover.

Fact: Babur was the founder of the Mughal Empire in Hindustan in 1526.

I've heard about the Mughal Imperial Movement that started during Babur's rule.

You know, he was always busy in battles and could hardly devote time for art...

Then, how did Mughal miniature paintings originate and develop in India?

Good question! Even as a warrior, he was inspired by Persian Art and had great love for nature. He has made many beautiful garden scenes.

Great! Dadaji, tell me something about the Baburnama.

Good that you asked son! Baburnama is the autobiography of Babur, covering diverse topics, from astronomy to poetry.

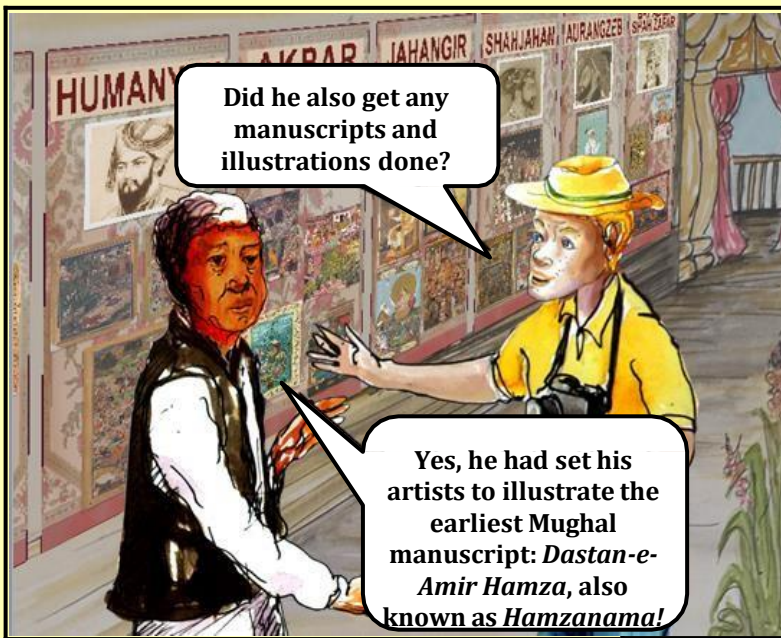
Wow, what a great ruler; scholarly and learned!

After Babur's death, Humayun succeeded as the ruler in 1555. He too, had great love for arts.

He appointed two master painters in his court: Abd-ul-Samad and Mir Syed Ali from the Bihzad School of Arts.

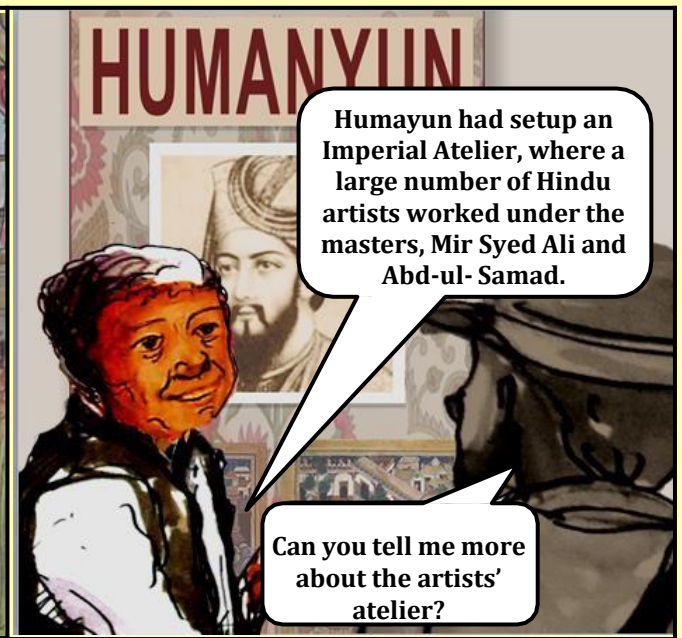
Were they Persian?

Yes, you are right.



Did he also get any manuscripts and illustrations done?

Yes, he had set his artists to illustrate the earliest Mughal manuscript: *Dastan-e-Amir Hamza*, also known as *Hamzanama*!



Humayun had setup an Imperial Atelier, where a large number of Hindu artists worked under the masters, Mir Syed Ali and Abd-ul- Samad.

Can you tell me more about the artists' atelier?



Sure! The chief artists made the layout and the rest made the figure drawings, applied colours and outlines...

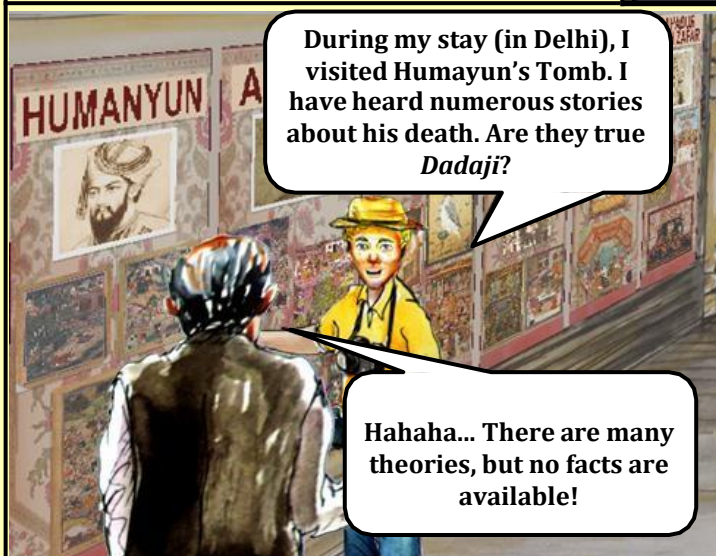
Ah, understood.

Mughal paintings were, thus, the creations of such collective efforts.



What a wonderful example of brotherhood! That means several features of Mughal miniature paintings originated and developed during Humayun's period.

Yes!



During my stay (in Delhi), I visited Humayun's Tomb. I have heard numerous stories about his death. Are they true *Dadaji*?

Hahaha... There are many theories, but no facts are available!

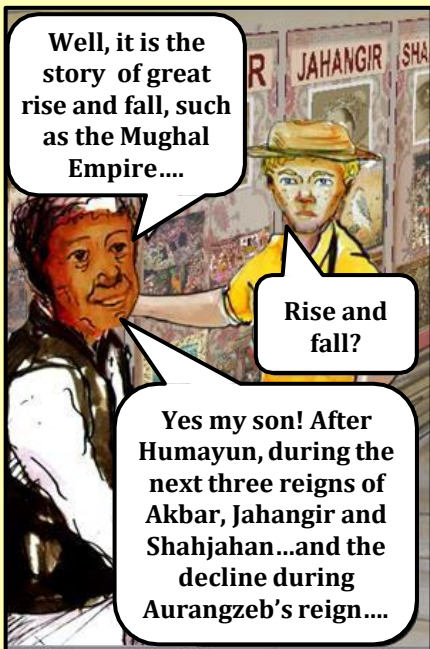


I am so fortunate that I got a chance to meet you, *Dadaji*. Please tell me more about Mughal miniature paintings.

Sure! My pleasure. The art of the Mughal miniature paintings was after the reflection of the patrons' taste and vision.

Hmm! So tell me, what happened Humayun?

Fact: Humayun's Tomb was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1993.



Well, it is the story of great rise and fall, such as the Mughal Empire....

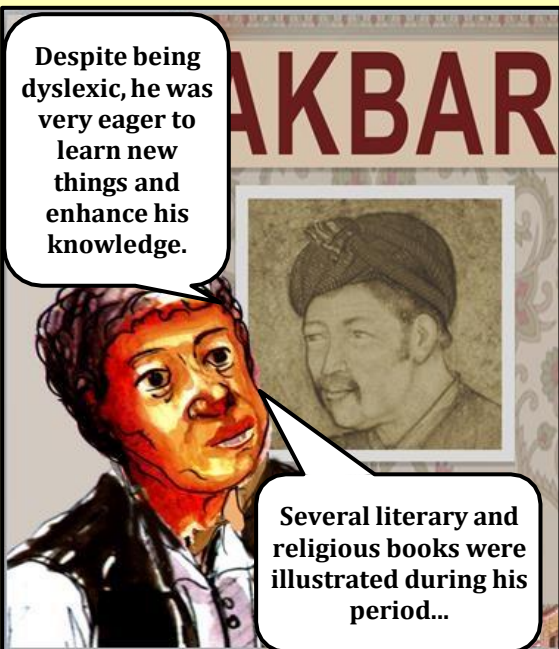
Rise and fall?

Yes my son! After Humayun, during the next three reigns of Akbar, Jahangir and Shahjahan...and the decline during Aurangzeb's reign....



It is believed that Akbar received his painting lessons from Khwaja Abd-ul-Samad in his childhood!

Fact: The rise of Mughal Art was during the rule of Great Akbar in 1556 AD. He succeeded the throne at a very early age after Humayun.



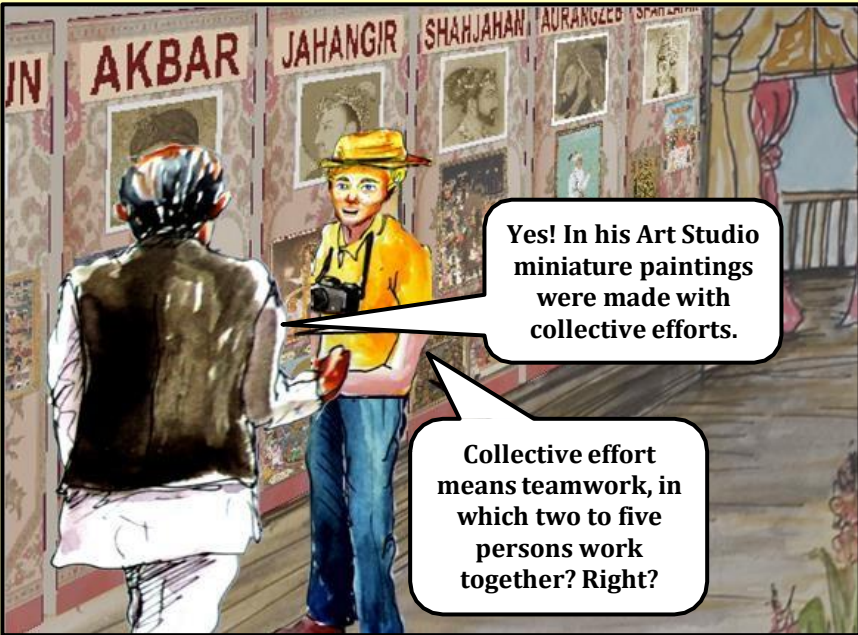
Despite being dyslexic, he was very eager to learn new things and enhance his knowledge.

Several literary and religious books were illustrated during his period...



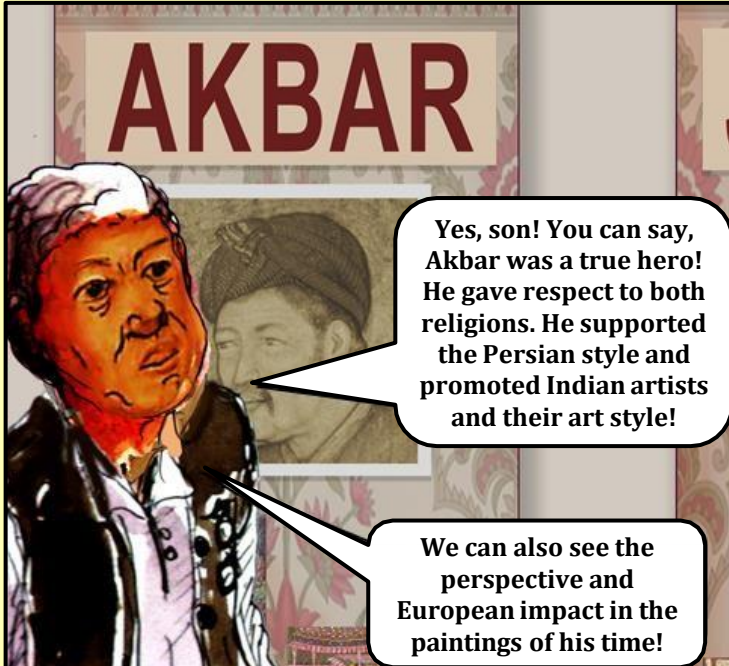
He set up his Imperial atelier equipped with the best equipments and tools. It is also known as *Tasvir Khana*.

You mean an Art Studio?



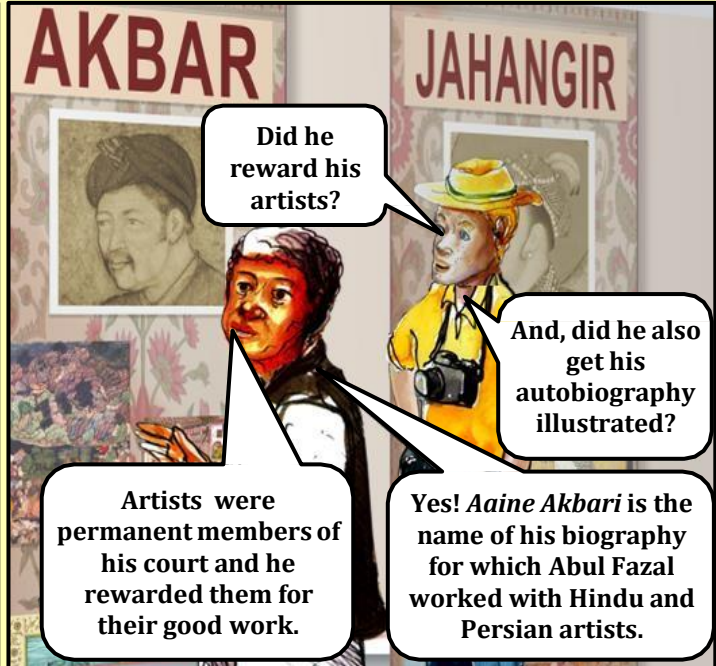
Yes! In his Art Studio miniature paintings were made with collective efforts.

Collective effort means teamwork, in which two to five persons work together? Right?



Yes, son! You can say, Akbar was a true hero! He gave respect to both religions. He supported the Persian style and promoted Indian artists and their art style!

We can also see the perspective and European impact in the paintings of his time!



Did he reward his artists?

And, did he also get his autobiography illustrated?

Artists were permanent members of his court and he rewarded them for their good work.

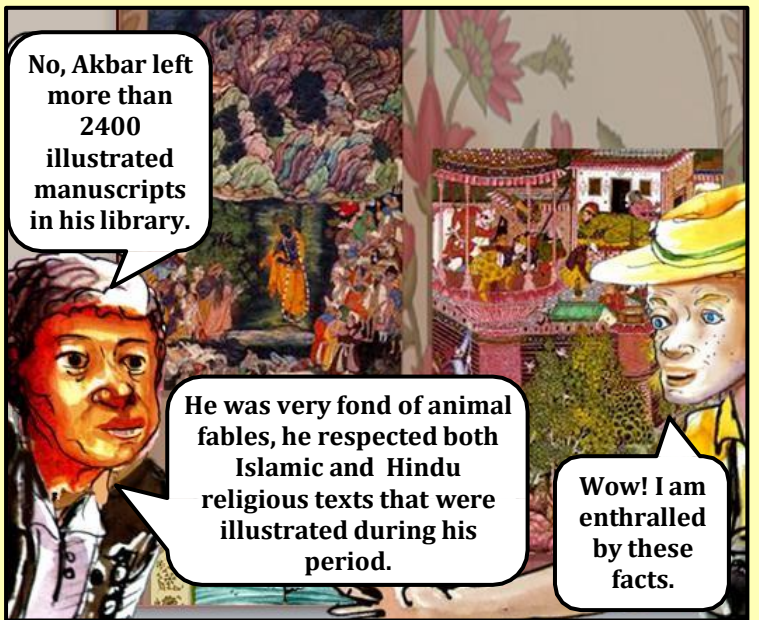
Yes! *Aaine Akbari* is the name of his biography for which Abul Fazal worked with Hindu and Persian artists.



What kind of illustrations were included in his books?

Most of the paintings were portraiture, male dominating court scenes, celebrations, etc.

So, only biographies were made?



No, Akbar left more than 2400 illustrated manuscripts in his library.

He was very fond of animal fables, he respected both Islamic and Hindu religious texts that were illustrated during his period.

Wow! I am enthralled by these facts.



Akbar must have been a popular Emperor! During his time Mughal miniature paintings reached their peak.

Yes, that is the reason why people call him the Father of Mughal miniature paintings. Also, he ruled for the longest period.



Who succeeded Akbar?

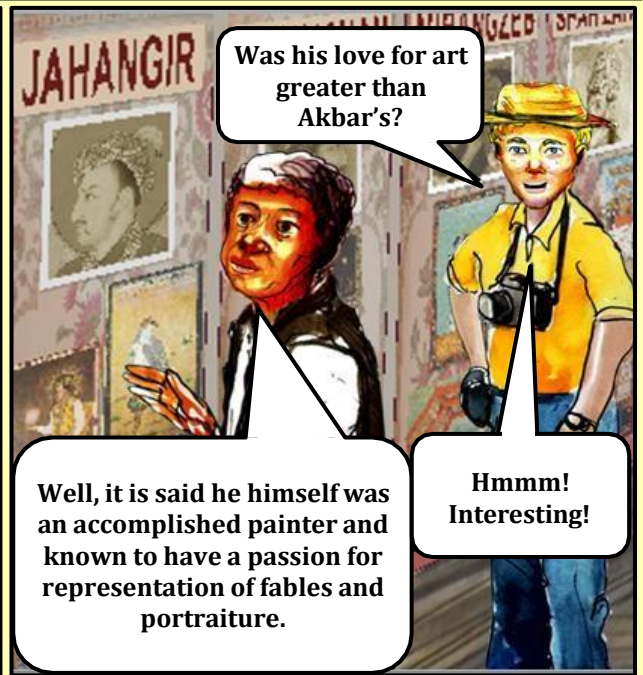
Prince Salim ascended the throne with the title Jahangir.

Fact: Jahangir reigned from 1606 to 1627 and extended Mughal power over most of the Indian subcontinent.



Ahh..Now I've understood that Salim and Jahangir is the same person! Also, he ruled for the longest period.

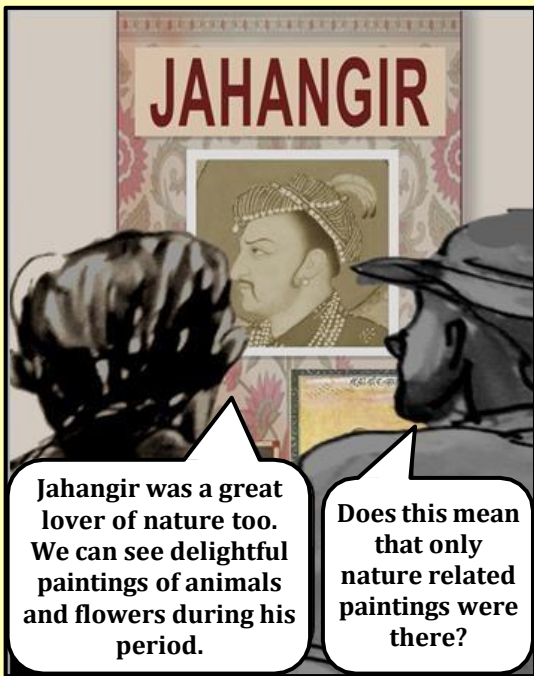
Hahaha... you know Jahangir can be considered as the greatest art critic and art lover.



Was his love for art greater than Akbar's?

Well, it is said he himself was an accomplished painter and known to have a passion for representation of fables and portraiture.

Hmmm! Interesting!



Jahangir was a great lover of nature too. We can see delightful paintings of animals and flowers during his period.

Does this mean that only nature related paintings were there?



No, no! That's not true! Court scenes and different episodes of his life were also painted!



You can see in these paintings that he even reintroduced the decorative borders of the Persian style. His paintings depict the splendour of the Mughal Empire.



Yes, you can say that he introduced certain improvements in the Akbari style.

But towards the end of his reign, paintings were made for self-glorification.

It seems certain new elements were added to the Mughal style!



Which ruler was the next to take charge? Was he interested in miniature paintings?

Shahjahan was the next emperor of the Mughal Empire. He did take interest in miniature paintings, but his love for architecture was greater.

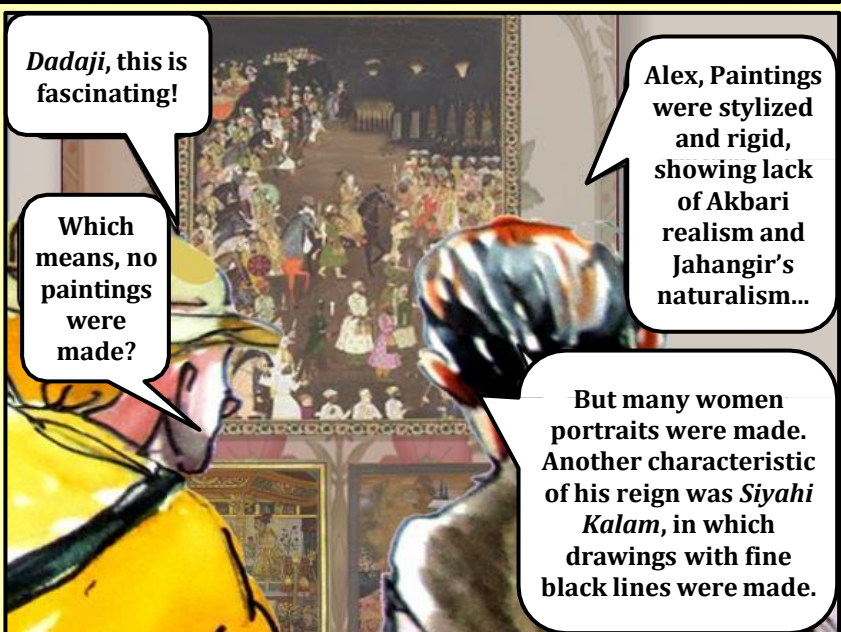
Oh yes! I know that one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World, the Taj Mahal, was made by him!



Fact: Shah Jahan, Mughal emperor from 1628 to 1658 AD.

Not only the Taj Mahal, but also the Red Fort, the Jama Masjid and many more....

They stand to show his love for splendid display and self-glorification.



Dadaji, this is fascinating!

Which means, no paintings were made?

Alex, Paintings were stylized and rigid, showing lack of Akbari realism and Jahangir's naturalism...

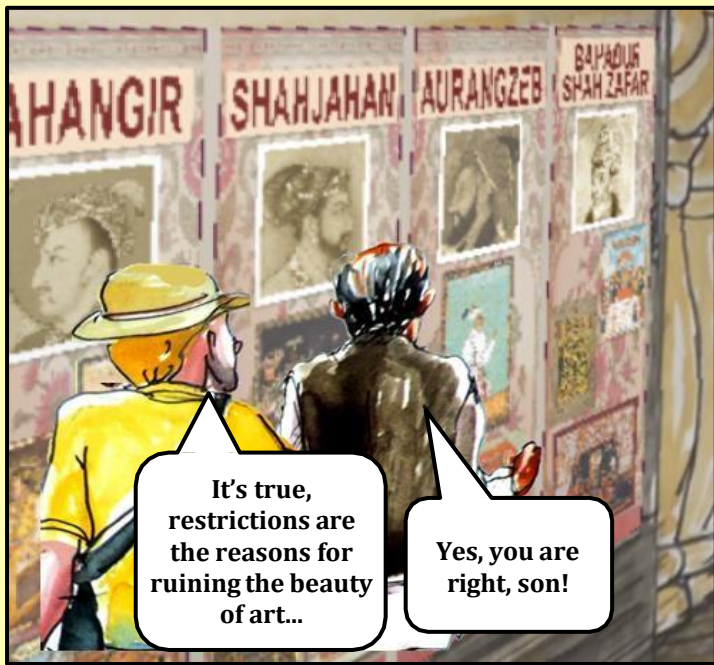
But many women portraits were made. Another characteristic of his reign was *Siyahi Kalam*, in which drawings with fine black lines were made.



I think the decline of miniature paintings started from this period.

Yes, you can say that miniature paintings became expressionless, motionless, and monotonous.

Strict discipline and fear did not allow the artist to work freely.



It's true, restrictions are the reasons for ruining the beauty of art...

Yes, you are right, son!



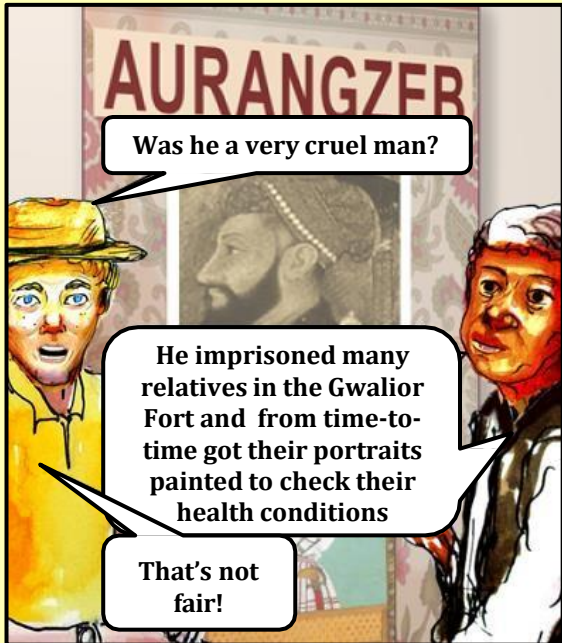
But the story doesn't stop here! Would you like to know what happened when Aurangzeb ascended the throne in 1658?

Would love to know..



He was more focused in expansion, and did not put much effort to elevate Mughal Miniature. Though the atelier saw a decline, but it did not end...

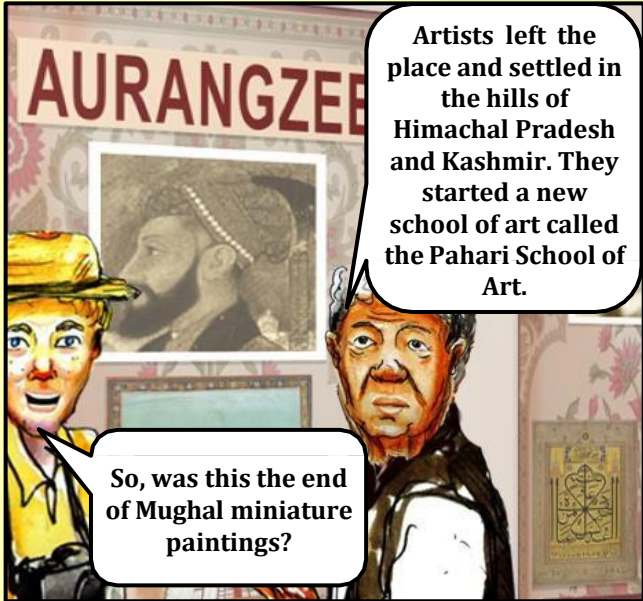
Fact: Aurangzeb was the Emperor of India from 1658 to 1707 AD.



Was he a very cruel man?

He imprisoned many relatives in the Gwalior Fort and from time-to-time got their portraits painted to check their health conditions

That's not fair!



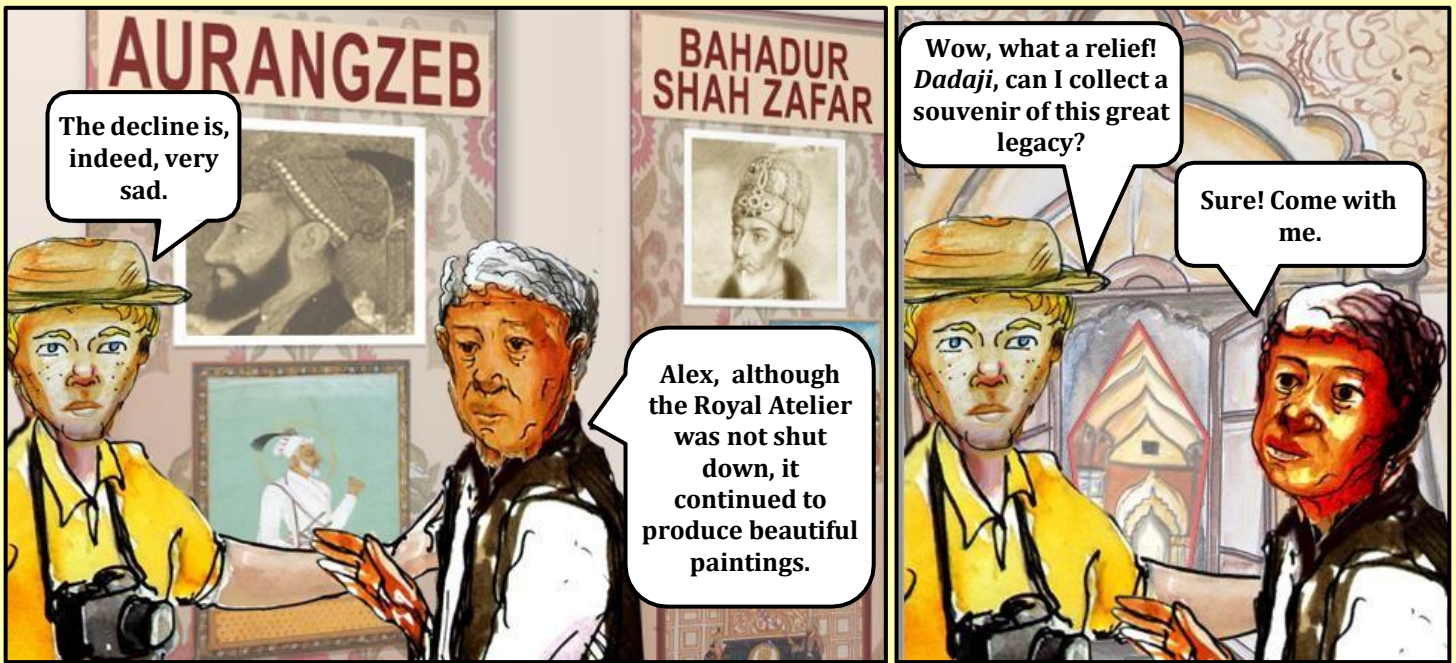
So, was this the end of Mughal miniature paintings?

Artists left the place and settled in the hills of Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir. They started a new school of art called the Pahari School of Art.



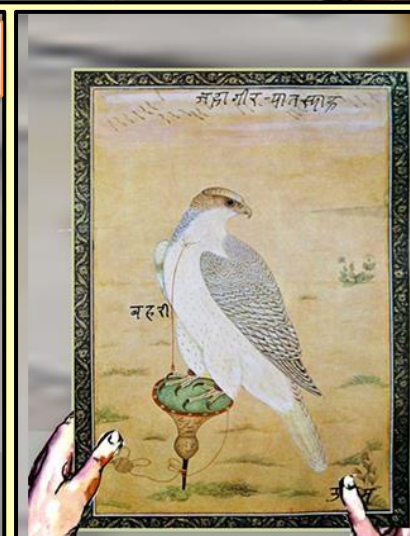
Yes, sort of! But, it gave way to the Mughal Schools, which were known as the Provincial Mughal School of Art, in different parts of India.

After Aurangzeb, the Mughal successors were not that powerful.



Alex checked out all the amazing prints of the Mughal miniature paintings in the portfolio.

*Akbar Period
Krishna lifting Mount Govardhan, by Miskin, 1585 AD.*



*Jahangir Period
Falcon on the Bird-Rest, by Ustad Mansoor, 1618 AD.*

Medium: water colour, technique: tempera

Medium: water colour, technique: tempera



ShahJahan Period
Kabir and
Raidas,
by Ustad
Faquirullah
Khan, 1640
AD.



Provincial
Mughal Period
Marriage
Procession of
Dara Shikoh, by
Haji Madni, 1740
AD.

Alex kept admiring the paintings in amazement.



Dadaji, thank you so much for enlightening me with some amazing historical facts of the Mughal School of Art.

You're most welcome, my son! India is a vibrant potpourri of art and culture.

My pleasure to carry it forward to the future generations.



Hi, I am back. Alex, I hope you had a wonderful time with Dadaji.

Yes my friend, the pure essence and grace of these paintings offered a satiating effect.

Next time when you visit India, I'll tell you more about Indian Art!

ACTIVITY 1

Match The Following:

Babur	Founder of miniature painting
Akbar	love for architecture
Humayun	Paintings for self-glorification
Shahjahan	Founder of Mughal empire
Jahangir	Hamzanama

ACTIVITY 2

Be an Art Critic!

What is the primary purpose of the painting? _____

Name the artist and the sub-school of the painting. _____

What are the mediums used for? _____

What do you infer when you look at the artwork of the artist? _____

Artwork is made of variety of elements (line, shape, form, texture, colour and space). Which of these strike out the most and how? _____

According to you, what is the most interesting segment in the artwork? _____

What might have happened before this painting & what will happen next?

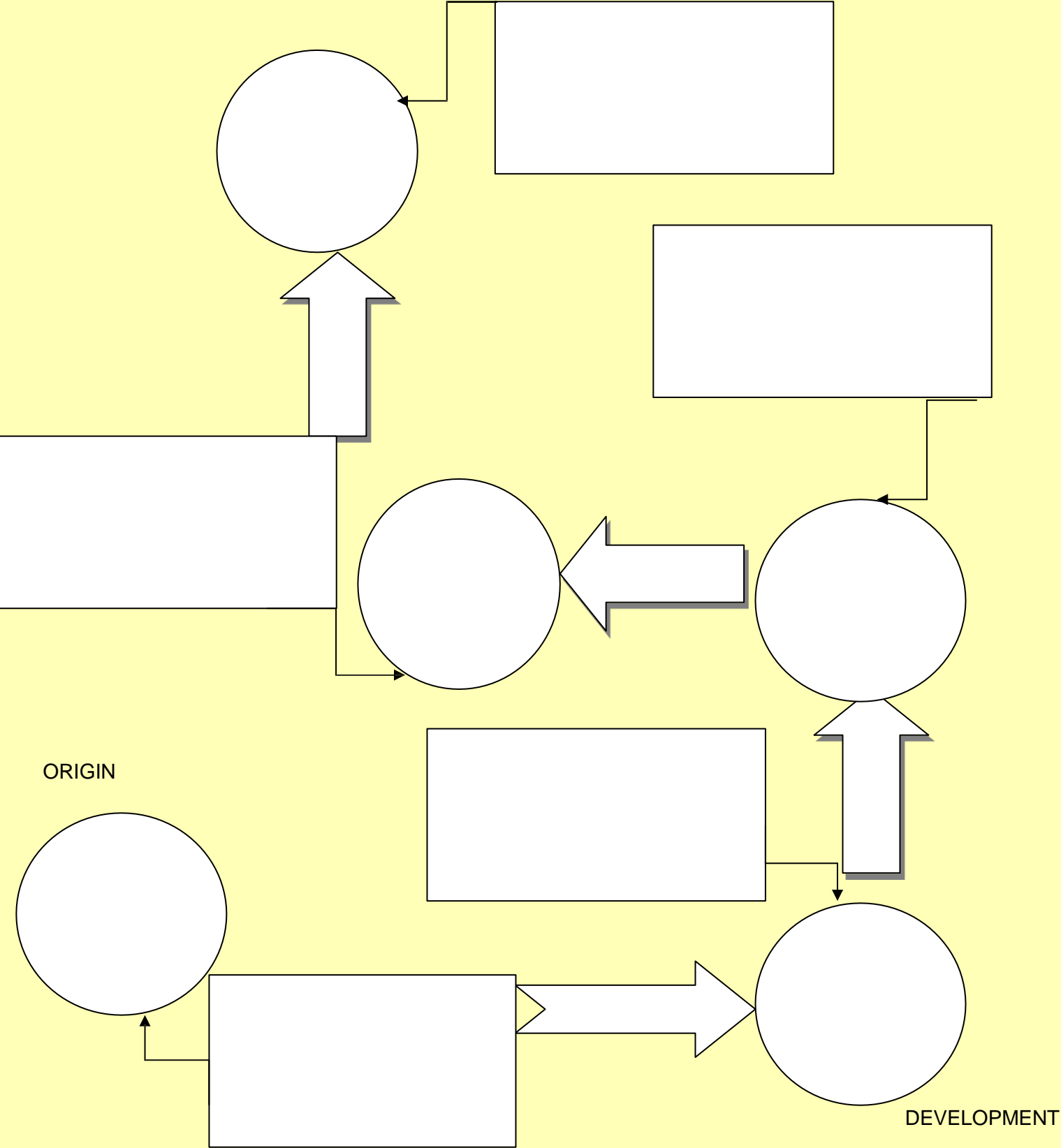
Before _____

After _____

Which human value do you think is depicted in the painting? _____

ACTIVITY 3

Draw a clip art or write a text to make the diagram of the origin and development of the Mughal Miniature Painting Tradition



ACTIVITY 4

Find the key words related to Story of Mughal Miniature paintings

D	A	T	E	L	I	E	R	P
R	E	A	L	I	S	M	O	R
B	T	C	O	U	R	T	U	O
A	A	P	O	R	T	R	A	F
B	S	R	A	R	M	R	I	I
U	V	W	Y	E	A	O	T	L
R	I	R	T	T	F	T	U	E
B	I	H	Z	A	D	M	I	V

1. R _ _ L _ SM
2. P _ R _ R _ I _
3. D _ C _ R _ TI _ E
4. B _ _ U _
5. A _ _ LI _ R
6. _ A _ V _ R
7. PR _ _ ILE.
8. C _ _ R _
9. B _ _ Z _ _

GLOSSARY

- **Chatta Chowk**-The famous Chatta Chowk (covered market), built by Shah Jahan, inside the confines of the Red Fort in Delhi.
- **Miniature paintings**-Miniature paintings are made on a very small scale especially for books or albums
- **Art journal**-An art journal is the same as a written journal, except that it incorporates colors, images, patterns, and other materials.
- **Imperial movement**-The Mughal emperors used the imperial hunt as an agency for knowledge acquisition.
- **Bihzad school**-Kamal-al-din and authorship of persianate paintings
- **Manuscript**-A manuscript was, traditionally, any document that is written by hand
- **Atelier**-A workshop or studio, especially one used by artists.
- **Perspective drawing**- Perspective Drawing is a technique used in art and design to represent three-dimensional images on a two-dimensional.
- **Realism**-Realism rejects imaginative idealization in favour of a close observation of outward appearances.
- **Provincial period**-During the "provincial Mughal period" other schools of Indian painting had developed, including, in the royal courts of the Rajput kingdoms of Rajputana etc.

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DISCLAIMER

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear readers,

‘Change is the only constant’, so said a wise man from the past. And so true indeed! With the coming of the National Education Policy 2020, the focus of education is shifting to more student centric education, and thus the need to produce the content in a way which can be easily understood by the students.

The Central Board of Secondary Education has also brought in alterations in the way education was being imparted in the classrooms of the nation. Art Integration with the curriculum, competency based education, stress on Physical Fitness are all endeavours to prepare the students for the necessities of the future. One such endeavour is also changing the curriculum to graphic novels.

Conceived and directed by Mr. Sandeep Sethi, his passion rubbed on to the teachers as well. He lent support through constant guidance.

I am also grateful to Ms. Anita Karwal, Secretary, Department of School Education, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, whose valuable inputs and constant motivation has encouraged teachers to curate the concepts in the form of interesting graphics. I am very sure that this will change the way topics are taught in the classrooms. Using comic strip as a tool, concepts will be explained in a simple way, more relatable to the students.

Our sincere thanks to the worthy team of Ms. Anita Karwal, Secretary, Department of School Education, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Mr. Manoj Ahuja, Chairman, Central Board of Secondary Education and Mr. Sandeep Sethi, the pilot of the project.

My sincere thanks are also due to the team of gifted teachers and students who in a time-bound frame produced creatively endowed content which will be a visual extravaganza for the students.

Enjoy reading!

Mallika Preman
Principal

SUMMARY

The world of miniature painting is a kaleidoscope of historical scripts and the lives of people through age. Mughal painting is the style of miniature painting that developed in the northern Indian subcontinent in the 16th century A.D. and continued till the mid-19th century A.D.

Every Mughal successor, based on his taste and preferences, contributed towards enhancing the status of art, calligraphy, painting, architecture, bookmaking, book illustration projects, etc. They took keen interest in artists' ateliers and nurtured unprecedented new styles that heightened and accelerated the existing art scenario of India.

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