

## LOVE: EMOTION THROUGH THE LENS OF PAHARI MINIATURE

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### **Abstract**

*Miniature is a detailed illustration or work done on small surfaces. Its main beauty is fine line, focus on minute details. From manuscripts to miniature paintings, each period has its specific impact and impression on it. Pahari miniature is among them, which was flourished in the hilly region of the Rajput hills of the Himalayas. The religious themes, literary works, and the beautiful landscapes of the hills fascinated Pahari artists, which was visible in their miniature works. Through their art they not only composed the figures and elements but also expressed the emotions through it. The way they express love emotion in their miniature, the types of elements, symbols postures they use to bring out inner feelings through outer world elements are discussed in this research paper.*

### **Keywords**

*Emotion, Miniature, Love, Divinity, Reunion, Lover, Feelings*

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Miniatures are detailed work on small surfaces. Each brush strokes, color, and fine line have its own story in miniature. Beginning its journey as a part of text to becoming the main center of artistic creation. Indian Miniature spreads its roots all over the country glorifying the beauty of Indian customs, and beliefs, by giving pictorial forms to the stories of Indian mythological, political, and social texts and verses. Miniature artists not only convey stories but also put effective effort into bringing out inner emotions and feelings beautifully in their works. The initial and developing stage of a miniature can be traced back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD in Gujarati text and Pala text. Each passing period left its impression on culture, lifestyle, and art. Passing different time periods in miniature each time moves toward development and Improvisation. These developments can be seen through by various factors like presentation of stories, and changes in shapes, postures, methods, techniques and material, but the only thing remains the same: emotion and feeling are the core of any art form. Miniature artist also developed their style and method with the passing of time, some followed their old tradition, and some evolved their style, theme and method according to the mood and taste of their patron. From moving generation to generation, miniature painting flourished under the Sultanate, Mughals, and Rajput. During the decline of the Mughal period, many artists working in the court of the Mughal under the Emperor moved to different places for shelter and work. Among them, some moved to the hilly region under the patronage of Rajput kings.

A style that was developed in these Rajput hills in the Himalayas comes to be known as a 'Pahari miniature'. This style was developed around the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was influenced by Rajasthani Miniature, Mughal miniature, and the folk art of the Hilly region. Its sub-school is Basholi, Guler, Kangra, Kullu, Chamba, Mankot, Nurpur, Mandi, Bilaspur, Jammu. This miniature is known for its delicate line, vibrant color, and lyrical depiction of love, poetry, religious themes, text, stories, and the beautiful landscape of the hilly area. Showing nature and emotions became the core of the Pahari Miniature. Pahari artist artwork is quite spectacular. The blend of nature with themes of choice and reaching the depth of emotions is what we see in the Pahari Miniature.



Pahari artists beautifully create an environment of different moods and emotions in their miniatures. Their work was inspired by various themes of religion theme as Ramayan, Mahabharat, Shiv Parvati, the Life of Lord Krishna, Durga Sapsati, and Bhagwat Puran not only this

Poetry and literature work also inspired them a lot like Ragamala, Rasakpriya, Geet Govind, Barahmasa, Nayak-Nayika Bheda, Nal Damyanti, etc. Pahari miniature artists were highly influenced by Rasa theory and with rare insight they selected such aspects of Sringar rasa that they harmoniously represent it pictorially in their themes. Artists depict figures in different postures, and positions using fine lines, and vibrant colors with a blend of nature emphasizing the beauty, and sensuality conveying intimacy and desire to express love and emotion in Miniature.

Here are several ways that artist represent love in their miniature:

• **Radha Krishna as an Expression of Divine Love**

Radha Krishna is the main character around whom the theme of miniature revolves. Artists depict Radha Krishna symbolically in Nayak-Nayika Bheda, Ragamala, and Barahmasa themes. Through them artists justify the Divine love and purity of human love. Radha was often portrayed as different types of heroines in Ashtnayika expressing her different state of emotions in various positions when in love. For example-

**Svadhinapatika-** Radha is seen loving and dominating her lover as she is happy that her lover is nearby.

**Vasakasajja-** Radha is seen adoring herself for her lover and waiting for him to come. This expression of love shows the inner feeling of a women when she is in love, she adores herself for her lover.



• **A certain state of Mind**

Pahari miniature artists try to show a certain state of mind in certain situation when love emotion or Sringar Rasa evokes.

**Viraha-** It shows the unhappy love due to separation. This is shown in different aspects like when the hero leaves the heroine for other women or the unhappiness happens when the heroine's love is not reciprocated. That's why the heroine is depicted either alone in a cloudy atmosphere, talking to a parrot or seeing lying in bed mentally and physically ill. For example: Since he is gone... Yearning for the beloved.

**Mana (Ego)-** This is shown to depict after after-effect of Viraha when the heroine is angry with her lover for ignoring her message. Artists depict the hero facing toward the heroine persuading her and she was sitting facing the other side in anger. Her resentment bars the true realization of love.

**Samyoga-** In this love is fulfilled from the union of hero and heroine.

• **Seasons and Nature**

The artist often produces the mood of love and romance through season and atmosphere. Barahamasa (the poem describing twelve months) is the favorite topic of artist, which explores the theme of love, devotion and separation. Artists show the inner feeling and emotions through the outer physical world. Changes in the season show the changes in the inner emotions and feelings of lover. So, artists personified the seasons associating specific moods and emotions. For example,

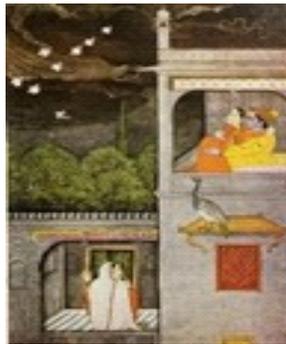
**Spring (Vasant)-** Depicted with vibrant color, and the blooming of trees, the atmosphere is filled with joyous reunion of lovers. The overall atmosphere is filled with love, hope and renewal.

**Summer (Jyestha, Ashadha)-** Represent passion and longing.

**Winter (Margashirsha, Pausha, Magha, Phalguna)-** Separation and isolation symbolize with cold, desolation and barren of winter.

**Monsoon (Shravana, Bhadra)-** The arrival of the monsoon represents the reunion of lovers, the height of love, and sensual pleasure.

**Autumn (Ashwin, Kartika)-** As nature becomes sweeter, so do the depictions of love. This was depicted with the gentle joys of autumn evening with lovers sitting close to each other.



• **Symbolic Imagery and Objects**

As the Pahari Miniature developed and flourished in hilly regions, artists were inspired by nature and their elements which not only beautify the Pahari miniature but also add the hidden message behind it. Artists often use flora and fauna symbolically in miniature backgrounds with figures to bring out the expressions and feeling of composition. The flavors (Shringara rasa) depend on external factors that enhance the mood like flowers, moonlight, animals, ornaments, etc.

**Crow-** The presence of the crow represents the return of the heroine's lover.

**Parrot-** The artist depicts Parrot companion of a lonely lady. Sometimes, it is shown carrying a message from lover to his beloved representing the loyalty and fidelity of love.

**Cuckoo-** Artists mostly depict the cuckoo with his high note cry, pleasing to unite lovers.

**Swan-** Artists depict swans to represent the purity of love.

**Antelope-** It is often used to represent the feeling of longing and yearning associated with love. When the heroine feels lonely or waiting for her lover, she is sometimes depicted with an antelope in the background to support her inner emotion.

**Fish-** fish in ponds or rivers, can symbol of fertility, love, and the depth of emotion.

**Lotus-** lotus is often associated with purity, beauty, and spiritual divinity. So, the artist used lotus to depict purity of love in between couple and give depth to purity behind the actions done by lovers. Sometimes depicts lotus in the hand of the heroine or hero, on bed, in the background or foreground.

**Garlands-** Garlands are also used as a symbol for the reunion of lovers. Sometimes artists picture the heroine with a garland in her hand waiting for her lover and sometimes both the hero and heroine holding a garland when they meet each other.



**Peacocks-** They represent beauty, romance, and passion.

**Dark cloud-** Lightning and torrential rains created a backdrop of emotional intensity, with depictions of lovers embracing in the rain or the women eagerly waiting for their beloved. It is often associated with Krishna and the anticipation of meeting.

**Dense forest-** Represent the challenge and obstacle in love.

**Mango Blossom-** The scent and arrival of the blossom announce the coming of spring. It symbolizes the new love.

#### • **Musical Instruments and Music**

The Ragnala series in Pahari miniature painting is a rich expression of love, romance and devotion, which was indicated by the musical ragas. Each melody motif is depicting the different moods and emotions in composition.

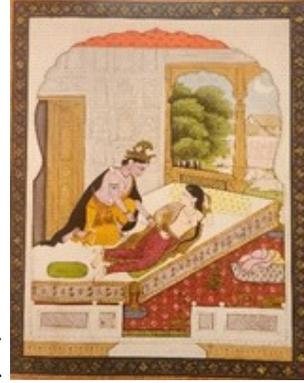
**Flute-** The flute is depicted in the hands of Krishna which symbolizes divine love and peace in the soul. The flute in composition represents that the surroundings are peaceful and soulful. In Pahari miniature some sometimes Radha Krishna is seen together with a flute which represents their eternal bond.

**Table and Mridang-** These instruments show the rhythmic beat often depicting the heartbeat and passion between lovers.

**Ragas-** There are many raags associated with lovers that represent the union and enjoyment among lovers. Raga Hindola is the song of spring which means the atmosphere is filled with joy, love and hope.

### **Conclusion**

Many court artists who left the Mughal court during its decline period moved to different places like Rajasthan, Bengal, Patna, etc. and like this reached to the hill for patronage and there an art was born named as Pahari Miniature. Pahari miniature is an eye-catching art piece that flourished and developed in Rajput hills starting its journey from Basholi school to reaching its peak in Kangra school. Pahari miniature artists developed Pahari miniature from Rajasthani miniature, Mughal miniature and folk art of that hilly region but their depiction with the blend of nature makes it more profound artwork. Depiction of Religious themes and literary themes is the master art of Pahari Miniature artists, but showing emotions in those themes is the second trait of Pahari Miniature artists. In the Pahari Miniature, artists beautifully show the inner beauty and feeling of a couple. Shringar rasa is a literary theme that fascinates Pahari artists, and they beautifully depict the essence of it in their miniature. The depiction of union, separation, joy, anger, symbols of beautiful landscapes, and animals all create a sense of richness and portrayal of love in the illustration.



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