

INTERPRETATION OF BUDDHISM WITHIN MUSEUM SPACE

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The sacred and religious artefacts housed within a public space are an interesting aspect for study. Types of narratives that museums present about religion are unique and multi-faceted. The National Museum, New Delhi houses a large number of Buddhist artefacts. The holy relics of Buddha from Piparwaha, Stūpa fragments from Bharhut, Sanchi and Amravati, Buddha sculptures from Kushan, Gupta, Ikshvaku period, Thangka paintings and other Buddhist ritualistic objects from various countries etc. creates an enthralling Buddhist trail around the museum. These artefacts together create an interactive space for understanding and interpretation of Buddha, his life and his teachings. Lord Buddha in a museum space is understood and interpreted at various levels. This paper will elaborate the contribution of museums in dissemination of Buddhist cultural representations and how visitors learn. National Museum gets a large number of Buddhist believers from various parts of the world regularly who visit the institution as pilgrims and this gives the museum a different aura and perspective. The paper will elucidate the various Buddhist artefacts within the museum space and study the impact they have on propagate Buddhist Cultural values.

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