



The Friends of the Pagoda Association
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INFORMATION SHEET EIGHT THE NEPAL PEACE PAGODA SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BRISBANE

THE PAGODA'S ICONOGRAPHY (III) SENSUALITY AND SEXUALITY DEPICTED AT THE PAGODA

If one notes the support struts of the Pagoda and Side Pavilion second and third tier levels, the top 2/3rds of the strut are dedicated to a Hindu God or Goddess, and the bottom 1/3rd of the strut depict a separate theme, or 'sub-theme'. All together, there are 24 sub-themes on the Pagoda's Second Tier level, and 16 sub-themes on the Pagoda's Third Tier Level.

Make a study of each of the sub-themes. You will note that whilst sensuality and sexual practice are depicted here, it is not the chief concern. Also depicted are acts of music-playing, embracing, and general merry-making and friendship.

Make then a further study of the type of sensuality and sexual practice depicted. We have two smiling monkeys, a few ladies in what would appear to be in the equivalent of a Playboy magazine pose, two naked women embracing each other, a man and a woman making love, and two beasts of the forest.

The Side Pavilions continue this theme, with other depictions of love making.

Whilst this may appear surprising at first, it also indicates that love making is an important part of life which is recognized by the Pagoda, and that there should be no fear or shame involved. Or, does the effect of the sensuality and sexuality depicted here, in full public view and discussion, have the reverse effect, where people then choose not to engage in the behaviour depicted.

Nonetheless, the result by most persons who visit the Pagoda with regards to the sensuality and sexuality depicted is to laugh surprisedly quietly to themselves. And if this has occurred, if a visit to the Pagoda has made a person smile, or even giggle with another, then it has lifted the spirits of the visitor into cheer and goodwill, which is the important work of any religion.