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INFORMATION SHEET FOURTEEN THE NEPAL PEACE PAGODA SOUTH BANK PARKLANDS BRISBANE

THE PAGODA'S ICONOGRAPHY (VII) THE PEACE BELL

The Peace Bell, located at the Pagoda's front entrance exterior right, celebrates themes of both Hinduism and Buddhism, in a many-icon codified format.

Firstly, at the top of the Peace Bell support, there is a depiction of the Universe's cosmic fireball, representing the everlasting creative energy of the universe, within which are two intersecting triangles, an upward triangle, and a downward triangle, representing the male force and female force respectively, and also representing the harmony of opposites in the Universe from which without there can be no life. This concept is further developed in the 'yin-yang' harmony of opposites, light-dark, and so on.

Within the two intersecting triangles there appears the Sanskrit writing for 'om', as we have explained earlier. Correspondingly, an interpretive reading of this iconography is that the Universe's creative energies are kept alight through the harmony of opposite uniting and complementary entities.

The Peace Bell support itself is also rich in iconography, where, the State Flag of Nepal and the eight auspicious symbols of Buddhism are communicated.

Interspersed with a floral flourish, they are:

The Mandala
The Lotus Flower
The Everlasting Treasure Vase
The Imperial Bullrushes
The Conjugal Fishes
The Victory Banner
The Conch Shell

Each of these symbols communicate a different story within the Buddhist religion.

The Mandala teaches us about harmony in the Universe.

The Lotus Flower is a symbol of spiritual enlightenment, and in particular, the white lotus flower represents purity.

The Everlasting Treasure Vase refers to great material prosperity, also in the sense of a never-ending money tree, its treasure is always replenished.

The Imperial Bullrushes are the sign of authority of a monarch. Also symbolic of a lion's tail, in the sense that a lion can use his/her tail to shoo away insects without perturbation.

The Conjugal Fishes. The Conjugal Fishes represent faithfulness in a relationship, and spiritual liberty, the ability to do anything with great ease.

The Victory Banner. Symbol of victory over an oppressor.

The Conch Shell. Also representing victory over an oppressor, and symbolizing the Buddha's thoughts as they are communicated throughout the land, in the same way that a shell is blown, and its sound can be heard.

You can also note here a depiction of Hanuman, the Monkey King, of the great classic Hindu epic, the 'Ramayana'. The left and right borders of the support structure once again host the guardian garudas.

What are the other pertinent stories here? Take a close look at the Peace Bell, and you will note the logo/name of The Association to Preserve Asian Culture, who was commissioned by the Kingdom of Nepal to create the Pagoda for World Expo '88.

THE PEACE POST

Note the Peace Post in the Pagoda's front right-hand side Garden. Some 1 metre high, the post has enscribed in English, French, Spanish and Japanese, an invocation for World Peace.

Can we investigate including seating near the Post, in the garden here, in the shade of the trees, so that the form of the Post and Pagoda can be respected jointly?

* Inclusion of the Pagoda and Peace Post into an international Peace Post network, including networking, hosting of World Peace Day events.