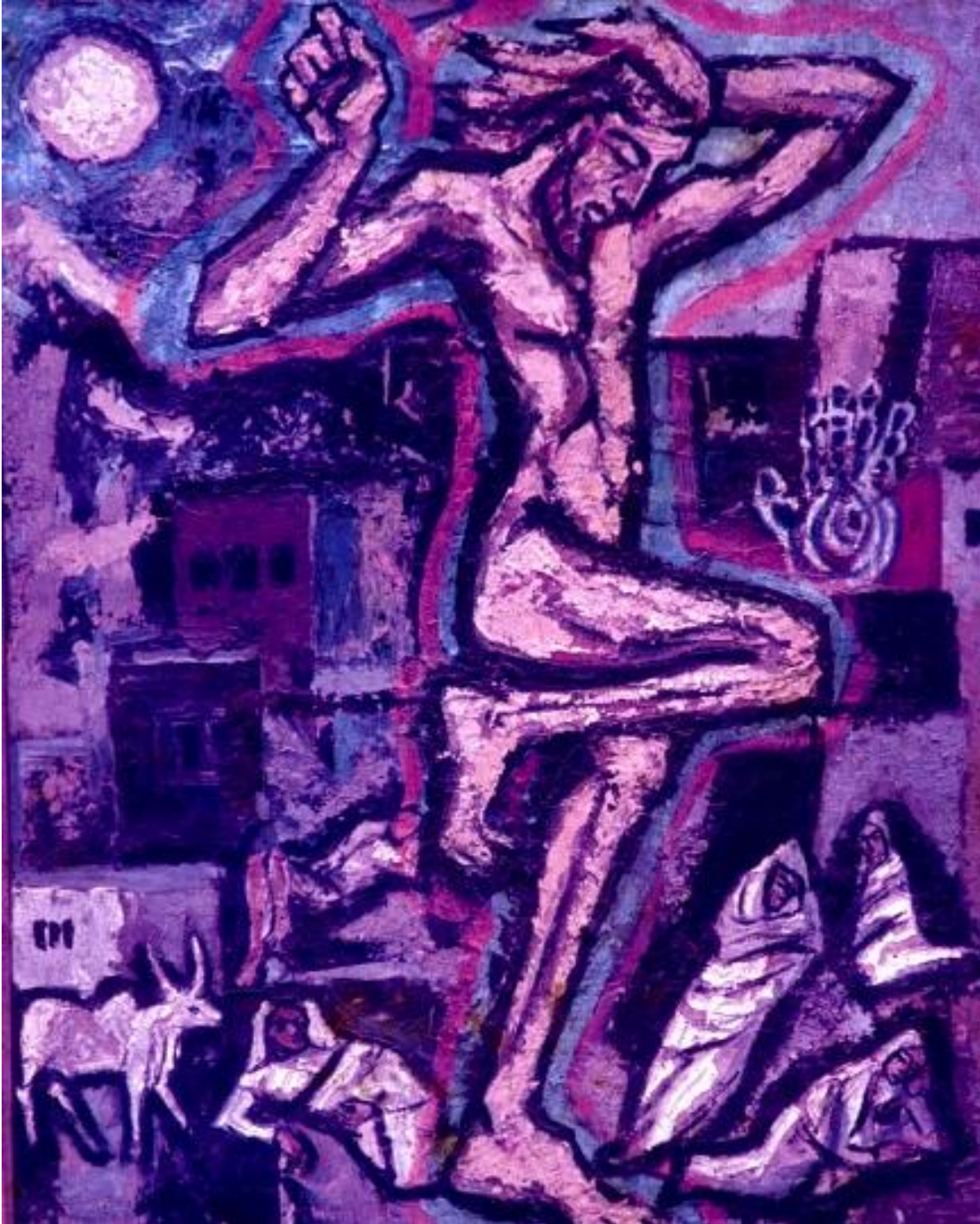


*Year 9 Resurrection Art Assessment Task: Suraya Lewis*



*Title: He Who Steps Over—The Tandavan*

*Artist: Jyoti Sahi*

*Date: 1975*

The mood of the painting seems humble and peaceful.

My initial reaction was the painting had a peaceful energy too it. Very different to other resurrection interpretations where Jesus is in agony. I liked this one because of the peaceful aspect, as if Jesus had accepted his pain and his conscious was already with God. He didn't let the pain in his earthly body have any effect on him.

The overall colour theme is purple. Purple is the most powerful energy centre in the entire chakra system. Jesus is glowing with different shades of glowing purple. This usually symbolizes connections to spiritual realms, God, wisdom, bravery, and spirituality.

The artist has used dramatic light and dark lighting effects. There is both dark and light in the painting. I think that it represents the fight between fear and hope. Christians at the time lived in fear and were punished for believing in Christian views, which the dark in the painting. They needed a beacon of hope, which is what the light signifies.

The viewer is positioned directly in front of Jesus in relation to the painting. The painting is semi abstract, and everything is a little distorted. Jesus is front and centre, and Mary Magdalene and other fallen bodies next to him are much smaller. There is also the Hindu hand "Hamsa, Mudra" by the tomb, which represents energy flow throughout the body.

Jesus is standing the Nataraja pose which symbolizes removing the illusion of "self", "ego" and the idea of believing that you are what you have. The Nataraja pose means we are all one consciousness.

After reading about this painting and the artist, I think the quote (John 20:29) "*Do not doubt but believe*" was what inspired the artist Jyoti Sahi. In an interview with artist he said "'Fear not.' These assuring words of protection and peace are spoken many times throughout scripture by God and his messengers, including Jesus. Jesus's Resurrection is the ultimate assurance that we need not fear death."

Jesus overcomes and defeats death by having faith and trust in God. He stayed true to his beliefs and values despite everyone around him belittling and threatening him. He believed death wasn't the end and completely trusted God. He truly overcame death with his resurrection giving early Christians a reason to believe. In his moment of doubt when he says "Father, why have you forsaken me?" this is his lower self feeling the separation from God. He feels this until he has the realisation, he is one with God. It is the same philosophy as the phoenix rises from the ashes. He had to go through pain because he was taking on sin to get the final goal, heaven. He overcame his lower self and ultimately overcame death.

Christians believe in an afterlife referred to as Heaven. This painting shows the peace already in Jesus and how he is fully with God, one with God and in a heavenly state. The moon in the painting is illuminating a path that Jesus is drifting up too. I think the moon's light represents "the source, God and heaven," as it the brightest point in the painting.

Christians can receive the gift of eternal life. Christians believe that eternal life is not an innate part of being humans but is gift from God. In this painting the Artist has drawn Jesus dancing the dance of bliss. The dance of bliss traditionally means destruction and creation, life and death. In the context of

Jesus's resurrection and this painting, it symbolises Jesus's crossing over to the other side, from death to life. The artist said "Because he has crossed over, we can too." The whole world now pulses with resurrection potential.

Ascension - Jesus ascended into heaven. This painting is a Hindu/Indian interpretation of Jesus's resurrection. In an interview with the artist Sahi, he seemed to have a deep connection with the Hindu gods shiva and shakti. The destroyer and creator. Shiva is the destroyer, once everything is destroyed new life can be created. I think this really shows in the painting because during Jesus's crucifixion, his physical body is destroyed and through his ascension new life is presented in heaven.

What does the painting "say" to you personally? To me the painting symbolises the ascension of Jesus as Christians see it, to what I see as an energetic shift and awakening towards samadhi or enlightenment.

How does the artwork or ideas relate to your life? I believe we are all on a journey towards enlightenment. Jesus shows this journey by surrendering his personal will/ego to God.



Title: Jesus as the Greater Jonah

Artist: Jyoti Sahi

Date: 2007

I think the mood of this painting is radiant and intense. All the colours and shapes remind of Brahmen (the source of everything). I see this picture as Jesus ascending and feels the connection to God. As if there's an energy so powerful and intense, and the divine connection is so a strong and built up, all this energy has nowhere to go but is burst from Christ. I think that is what the artist was trying to convey using so many colours.

My initial reaction to the painting was surprised that this was a resurrection artwork. It is very intricate with lots and lots of symbols woven into the picture. At first, it's hard to see everything but after a minute it comes into perspective.

The overall colour theme is bright and colourful. I think symbolises Jesus's bright, awakened spirit.

The artist has used dramatic light and dark lighting effects. The bottom of the painting is colourful but has a dark tonality whereas the top is bright. The dark represents the suffering on earth (fear, guilt, regret) and the light the peaceful path to heaven and the positive things it leads too. (bliss, kindness, enlightenment).

In relation to the painting, the viewer positioned is right in front of Jesus. The painting is divided into a triptych with embed symbols and messages.

Jesus is enclosed in a mandorla. Mandorla's are auras of light that are drawn around holy people. There's a variation of squares and diamonds in the background which signify his tomb. Jesus's arms are stretched out and open symbolising, "I am love, I welcome you". This outstretched position means several other things, it's a reference to his crucifixion and tree branches.

I think the quote "The Lord has risen" (Luke 24:34) is what inspired the artist because of how Jesus is positioned with his arms outstretched in a "risen" pose. This is very significant for early Christians, their faith in God and having hope. They lived in a time of suffering and fear and "The Lord has risen" gave them a reason to trust and be hopeful.

Symbolism: Jesus is embedded within the tree of life which means God's divine presence and the fullness of everlasting life accessible through God. There is a so a similar tree in the garden of Eden which is where the tree of life as symbol stemmed from. The tree doubles a fish, a very significant symbol in the bible. There is a backbone running through Jesus which is both the fish's skeleton and the tree trunk. Mary Magdalene and virgin Mary are on either side of Jesus, one person in each section of the triptych.

Jesus overcomes and defeats death by not fearing death. Not scared of suffering in his earthly body because he knew it was temporary and he would soon be living in bliss.

Christians believe in an afterlife referred to as Heaven. Jesus knew about this and preached it and other Christian beliefs. Christians can receive the gift of eternal life through Christ, by following him, his values and building a relationship with God.

Jesus ascended into heaven loyally, connected to God. In this painting Jesus is surrounded by many protection symbols, (mandora and multiple circles enclosing him) showing that God made sure he was safe and protected and he rose.

This painting says to me acceptance and love because of all the colours. I think it is a really beautiful piece and a very interesting way of interpreting of Christ's resurrection.

This artwork relates to my life by showing brightness and hope. It is a very open and expressive which I think are aeras I need to grow in. I really find this inspiring because a lot of people have a very closed view on Christ and I think this is true representation of how he really was; Loving and caring to everyone.

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