

Twitter Thread by Vibhu Vashisth ■■



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■Significance of a Lotus Flower in Sanatan and Asian culture.■

The lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) is an ancient and polyvalent symbol in Asian culture. Hindus revere it with God Vishnu, Brahma and to a lesser degree Kubera, and the Goddesses Lakshmi and Saraswati.



Often used as an example of divine beauty and purity. Vishnu is often described as the "Lotus-Eyed One". It is believed that a lotus sprang from the navel of Vishnu while he was in Yoga Nidra. The lotus then bloomed uncovering the creator God Brahma in a lotus position.



Its unfolding petals signify the expansion of the soul. The growth of its pure beauty from the mud of its origin holds a benign spiritual promise. Particularly Brahma and Lakshmi, the divinities of potency and wealth, have the lotus symbol associated with them.

The lotus flower is one of the Ashtamangala of Buddhism, symbolic of creation and cosmic renewal and "primordial purity" and shares in the chakra and mandala symbolism of the Dharma chakra, is also cited extensively within the Puranas and Vedas, for example:



One who performs his duty without attachment, surrendering the results unto the Supreme Lord, is unaffected by sinful action, as the lotus is untouched by water.

— Bhagavad Gita 5.10

The symbolic significance of a lotus is reflective in Chinese cultures with a famous statement..

...made by the 11th century Confucian scholar Zhou Dunyi, "I love the lotus because while growing from mud, it is unstained."

The padma is held to be a flower with a thousand petals and is thus associated with the Sahasrara and the chakra is all inclusive.

The padma is portrayed as an endemic dais upon which deities rest and it is also upon which the Hindu iconography is rooted.

In Buddhist symbolism, the lotus is symbolic of purity of the body, speech, and mind as while rooted in the mud, its flowers blossom on long stalks as...

...if floating above the muddy waters of attachment and desire. It denotes detachment as drops of water easily slide off its petals.

