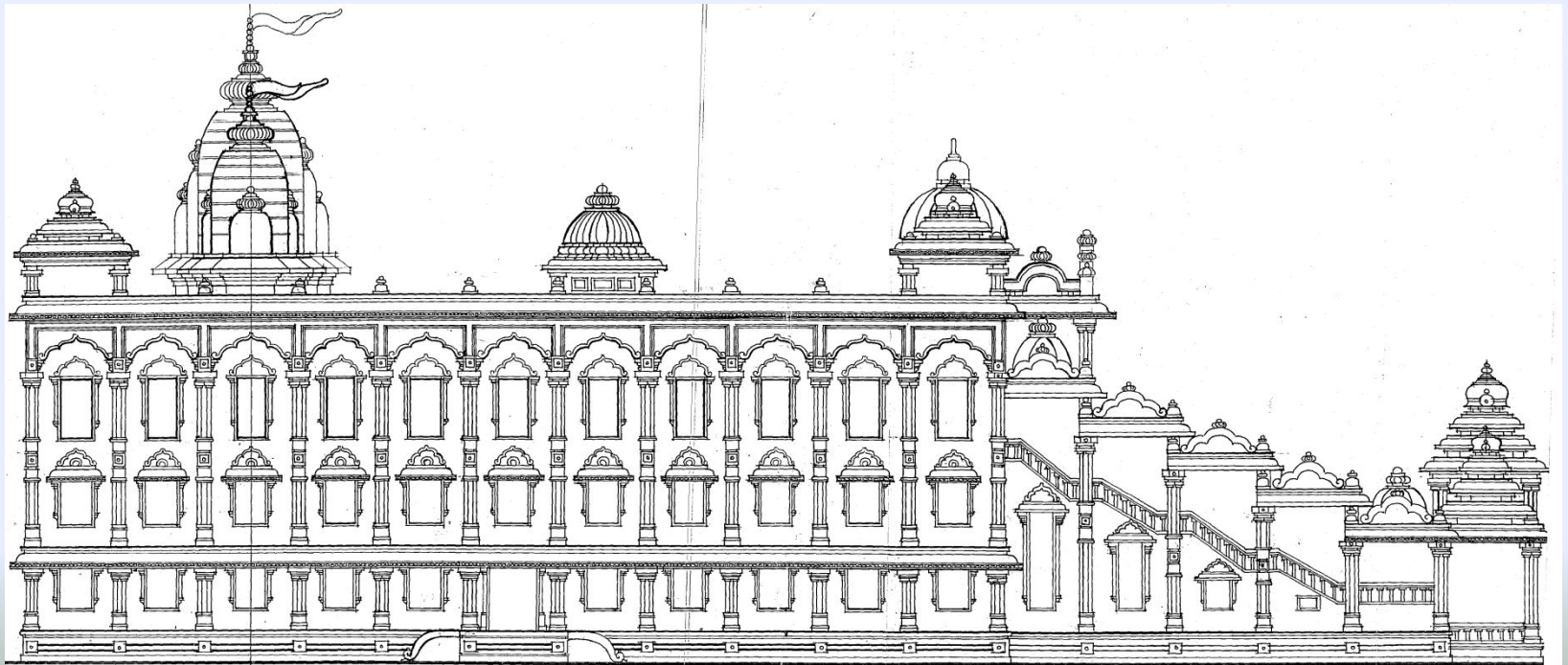


ISKCON Chennai







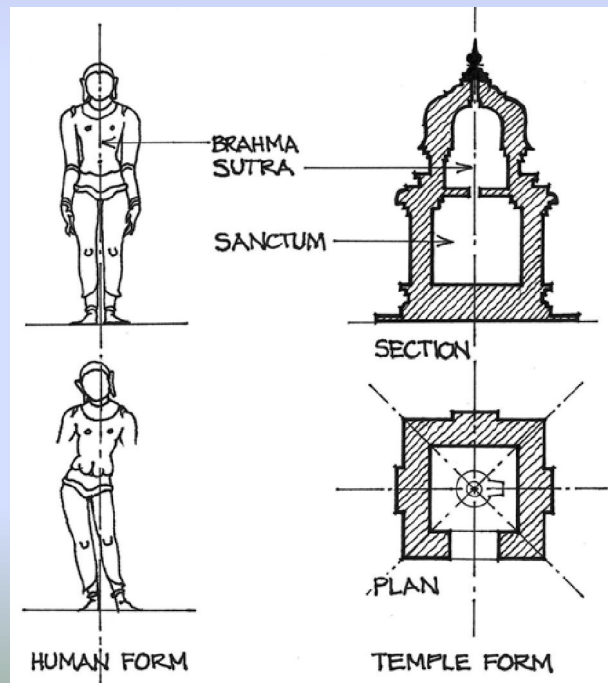






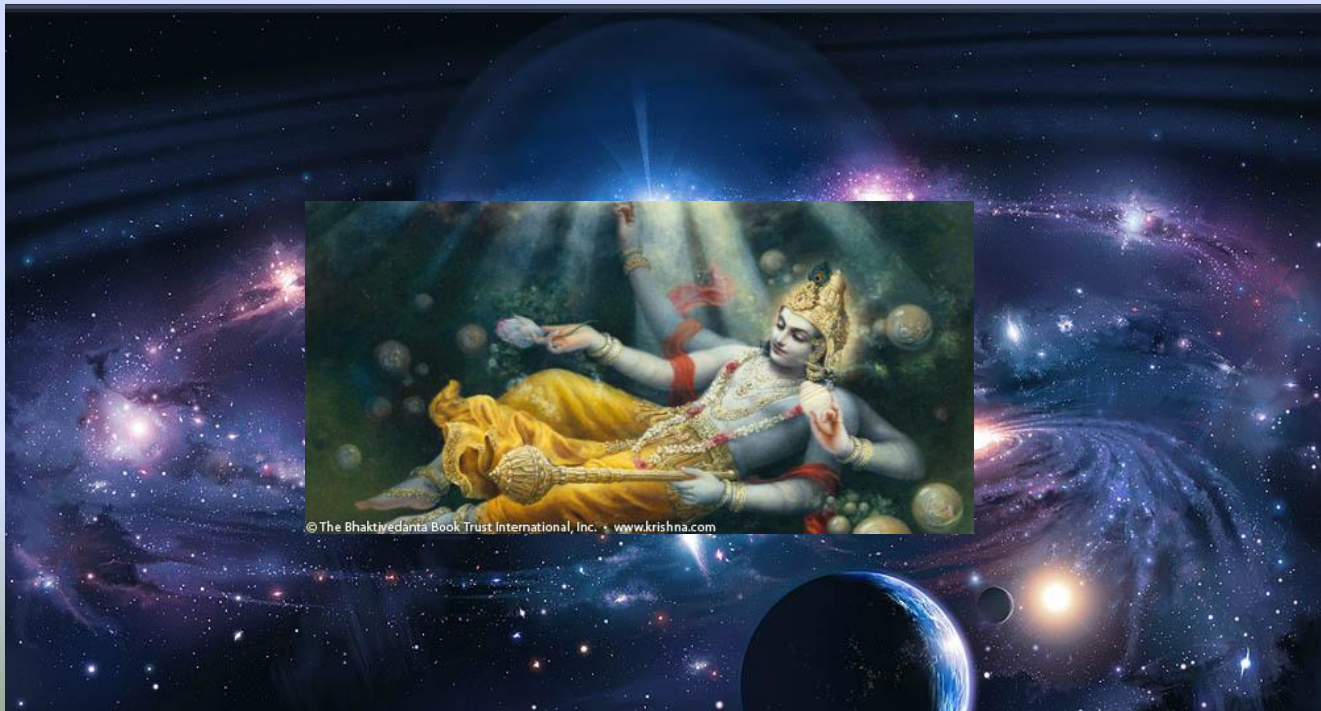
What is a Temple?

- Temple represents the Lord.
- Dimensions of deity and birth naskhatra of builder determine dimensions of temple.

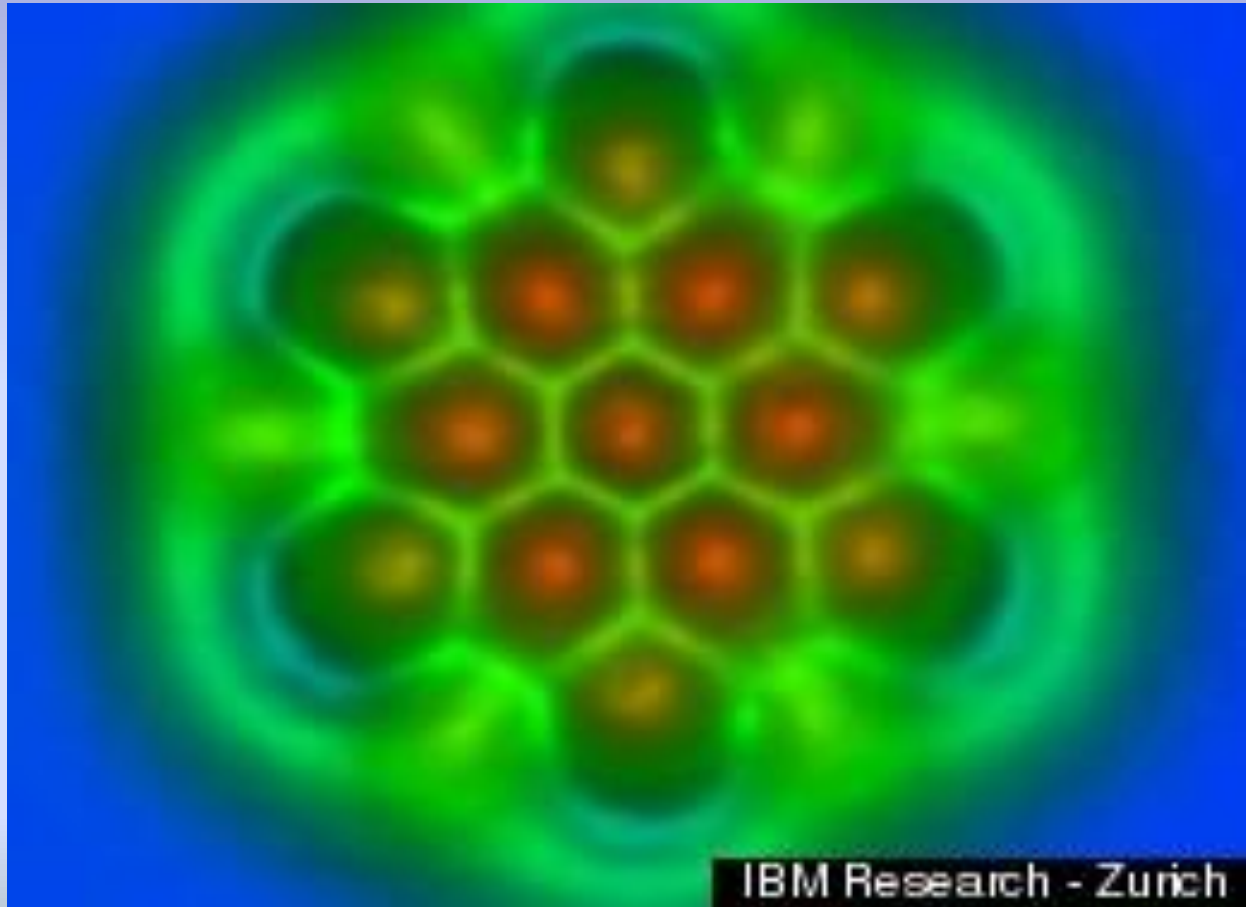


Temple and Universe

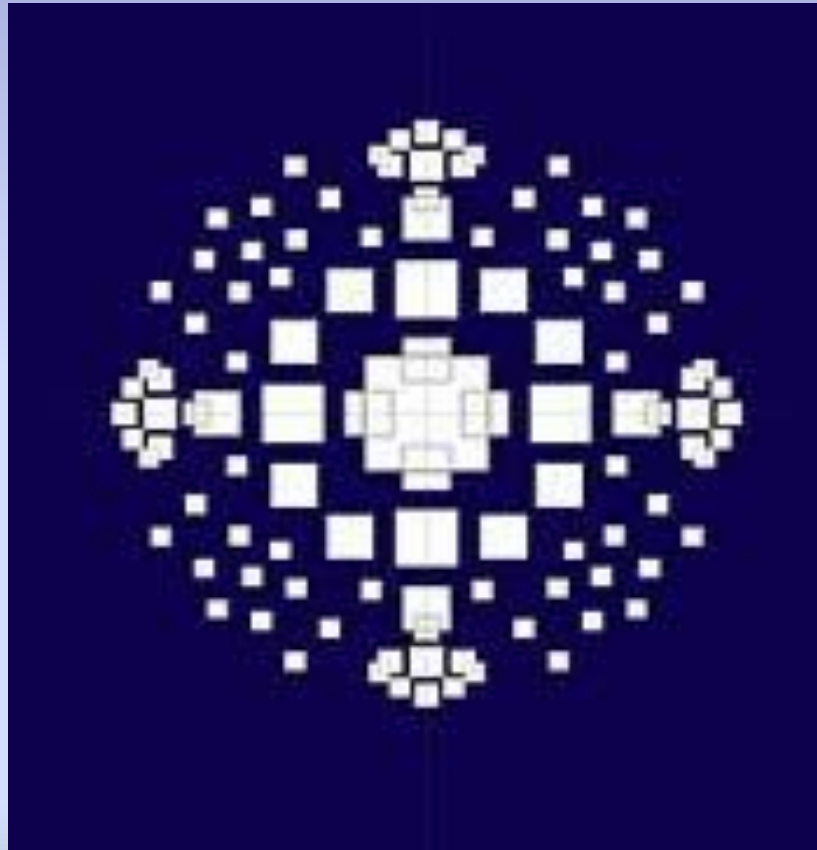
- As the temple is related to the deity, the universe is related to the supreme Lord.
- Universe expands by will of the Lord.

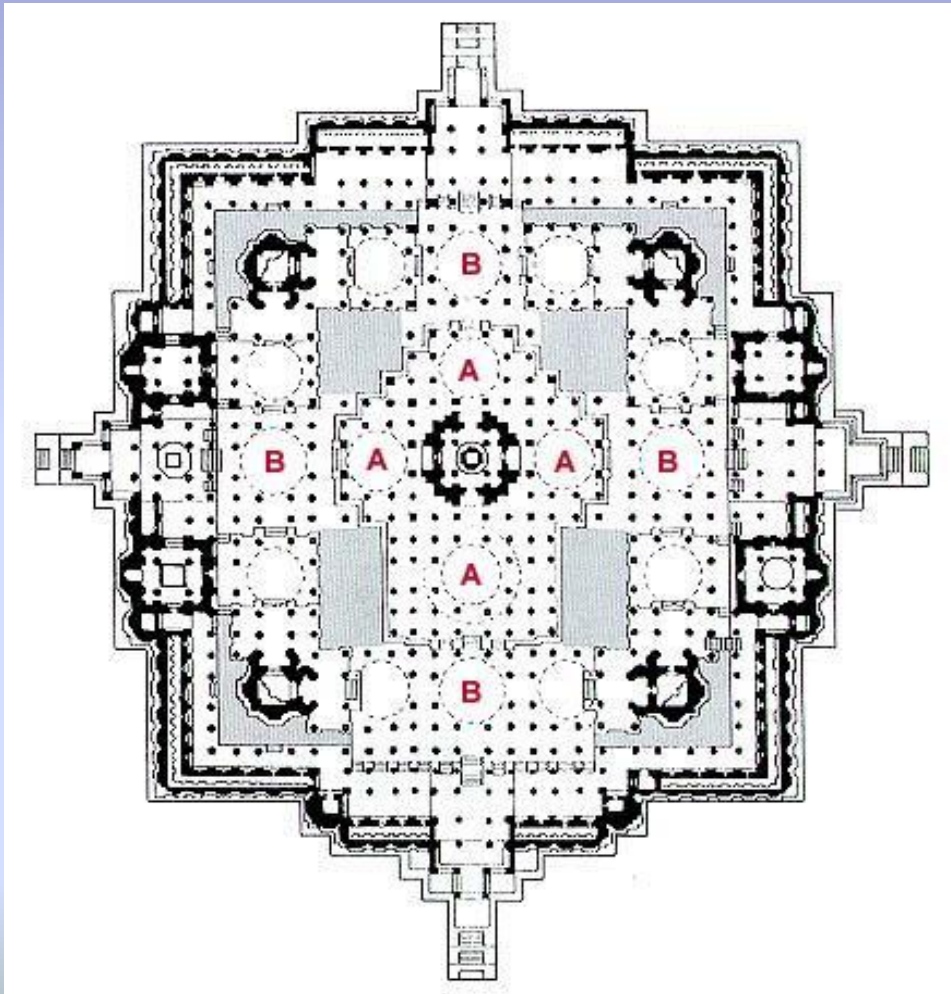


Carbon bonding photograph



Temple Plan –Horizontal Expansion

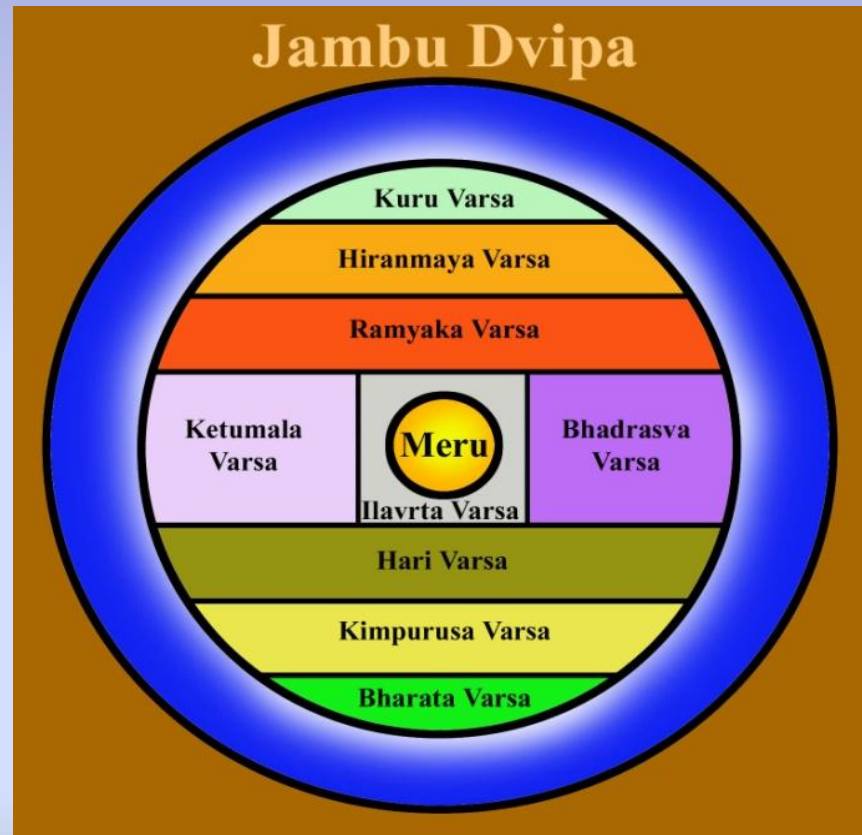




The temple represents the universe as **Bhu mandala** with **Meru** in the center



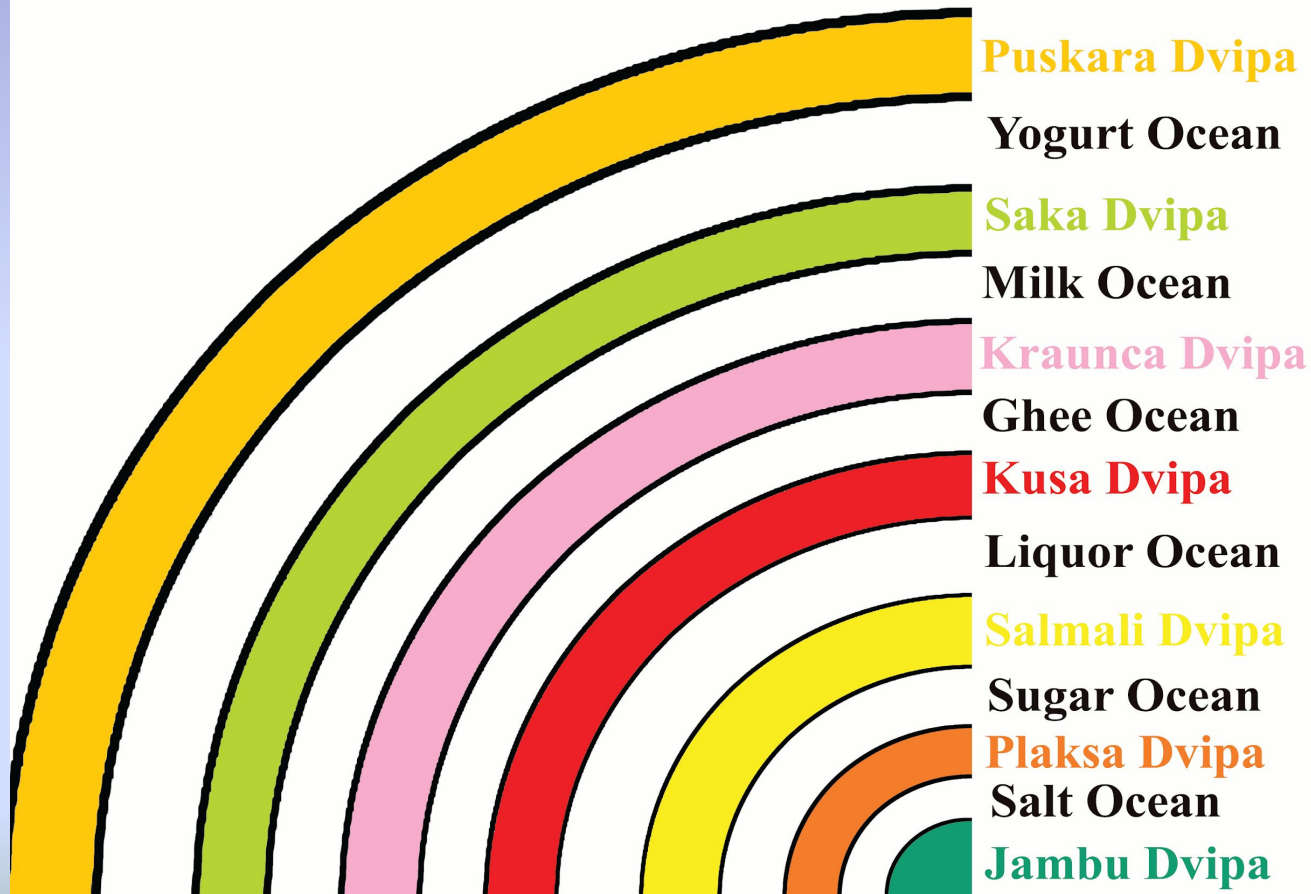
Jambudvipa and Meru



Sapta Dvipa

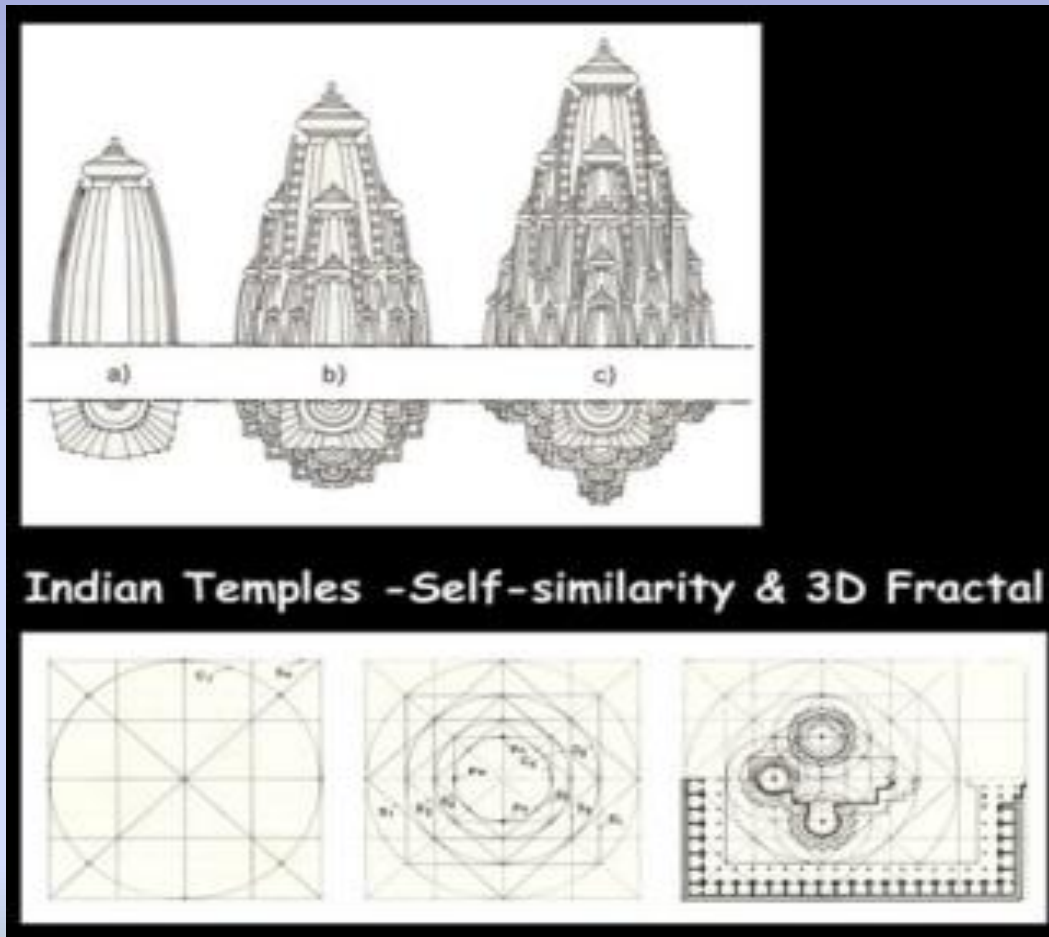
Seven Islands

Fresh Water Ocean

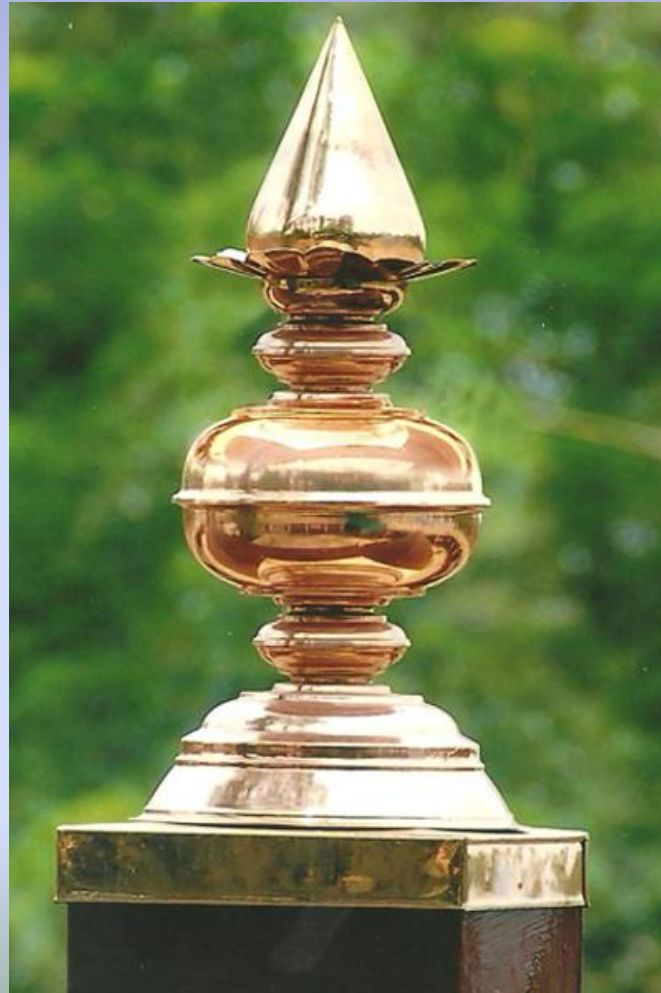




Vertical Expansion: Shikhara as Meru



The Golden Kalasa channels the
spiritual energy



Shikhara Channels Spiritual World to Earth

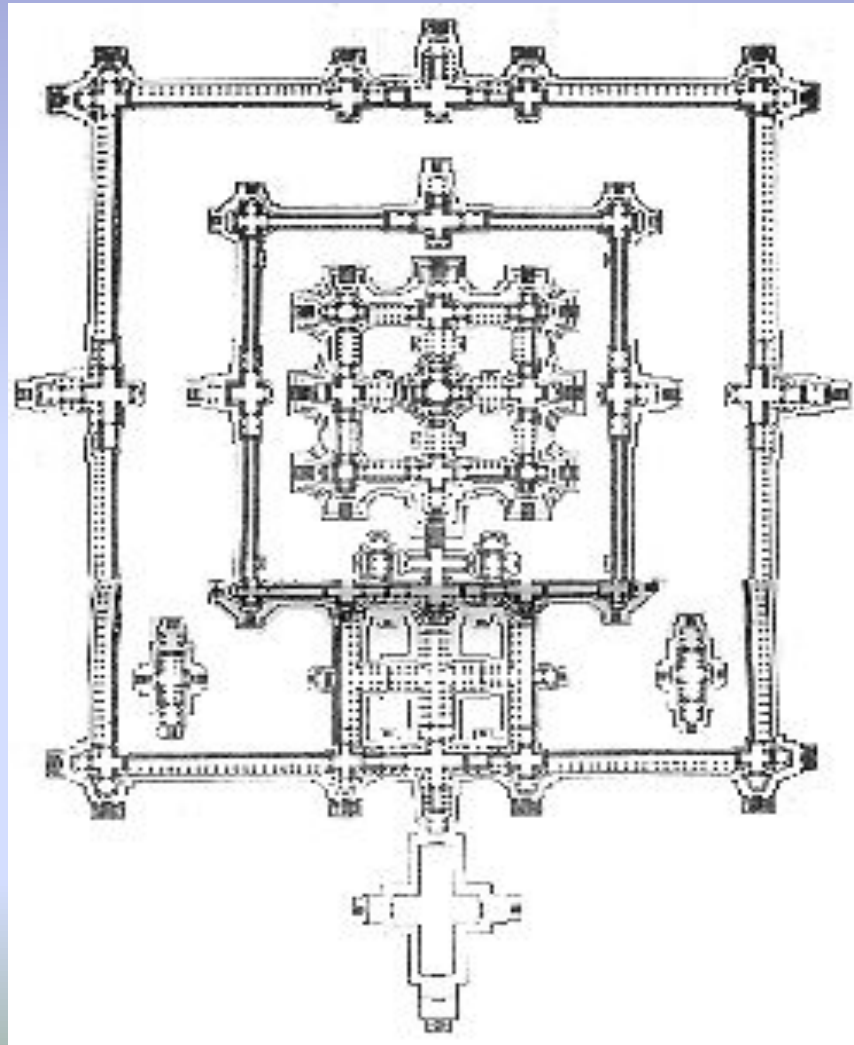




Meru at Ankor Wat, Cambodia







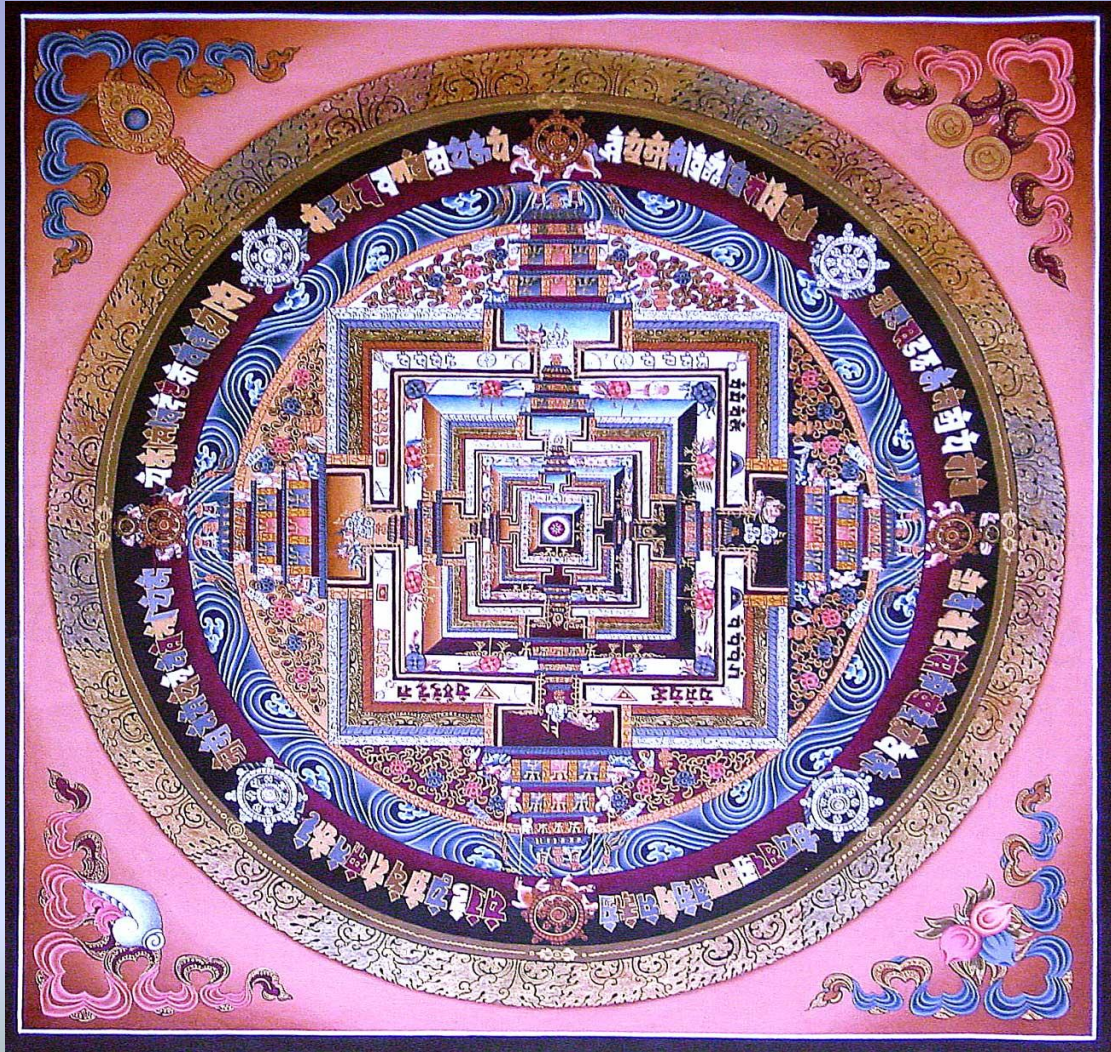
Meru



Sikhara or Meru represents the
Supreme Lord
center of the universe







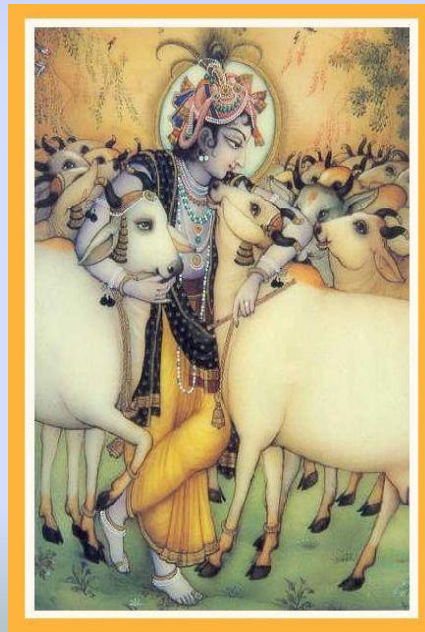
Cow represents earth

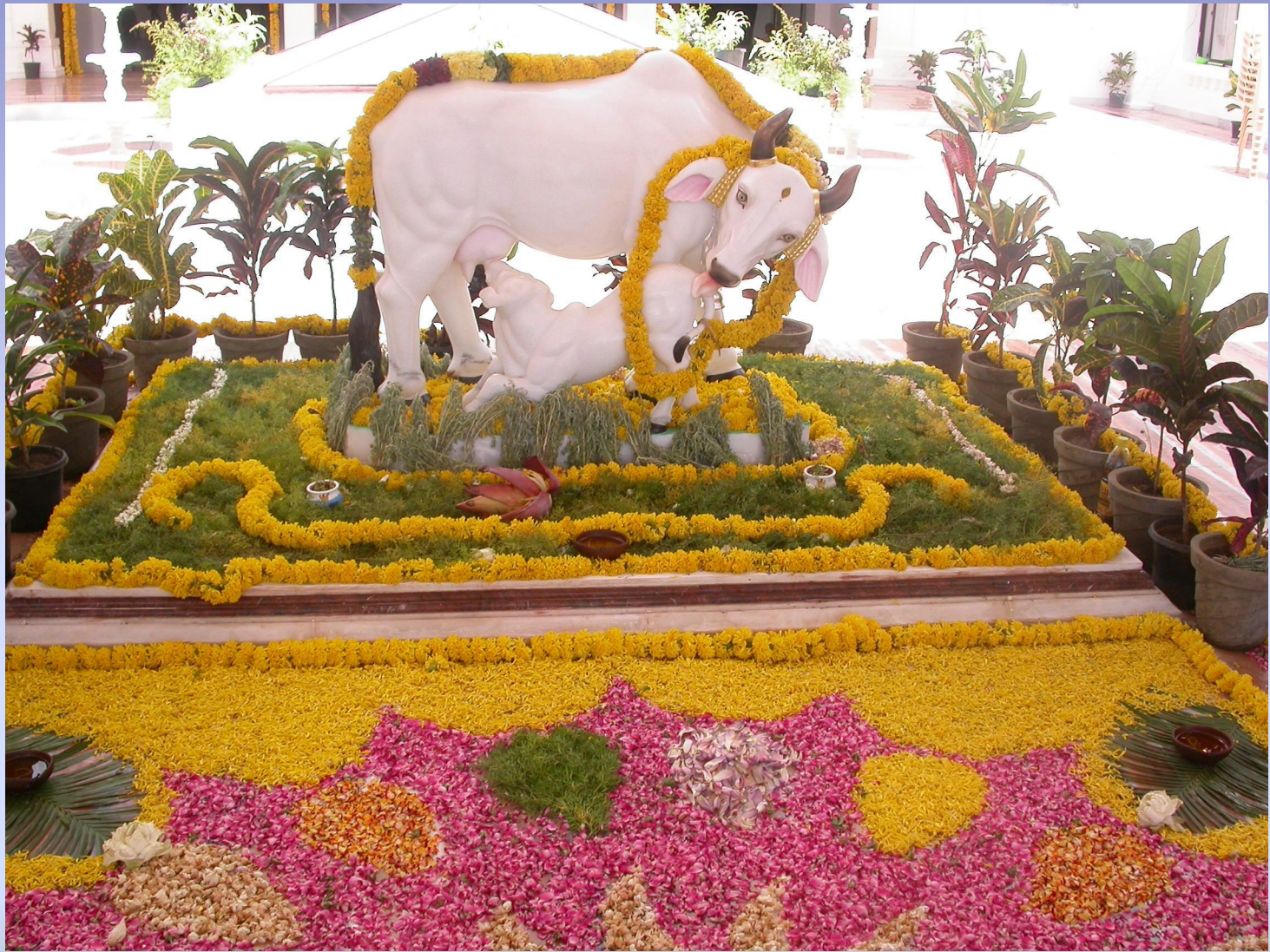


- The earth yields its produce when humans respect the Supreme Lord and his laws, which include respect for the earth.



- As the cow give milk to the calf when the bull is protected, the earth yields food when dharma is protected and the Lord is worshipped.





Dik Gaja: elephants supporting the directions

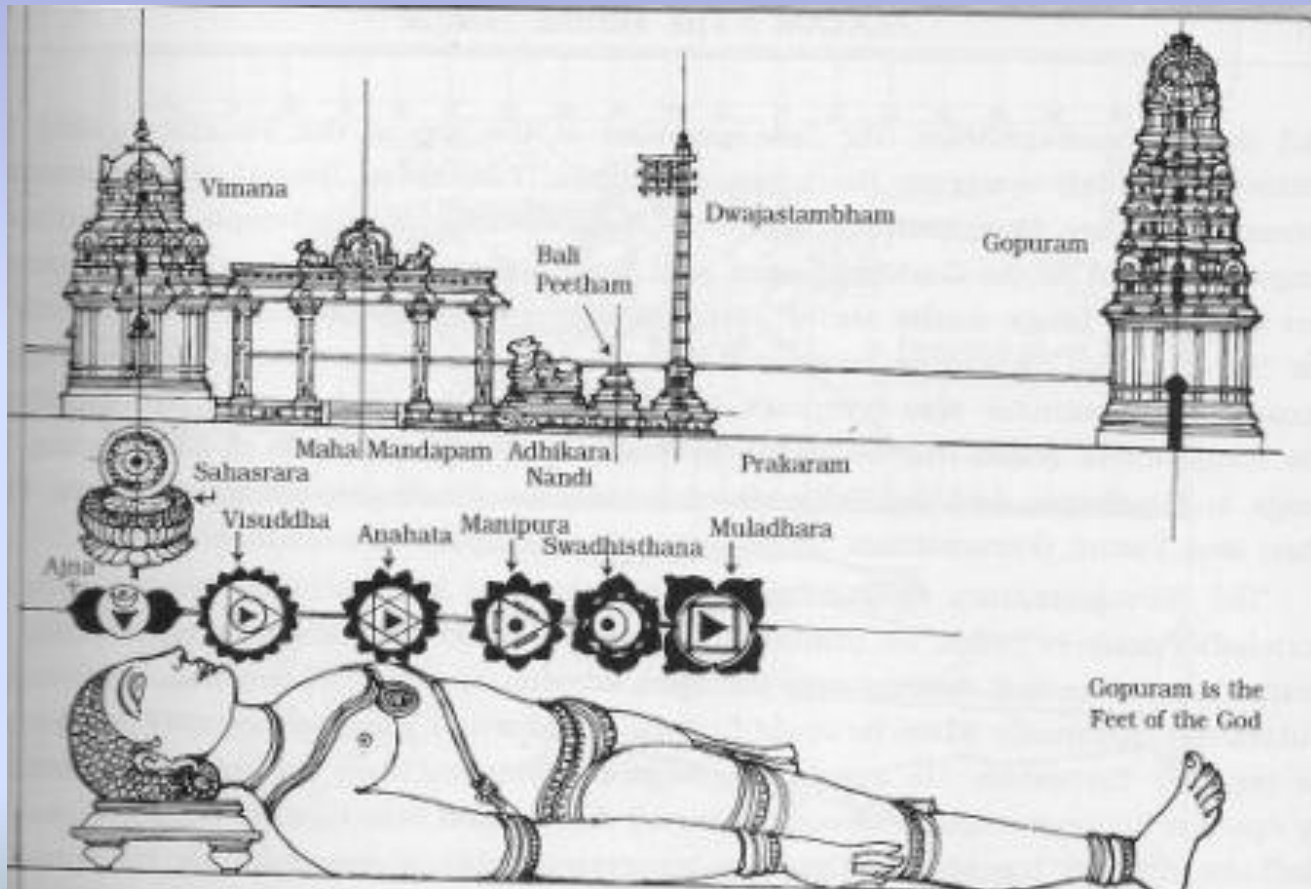


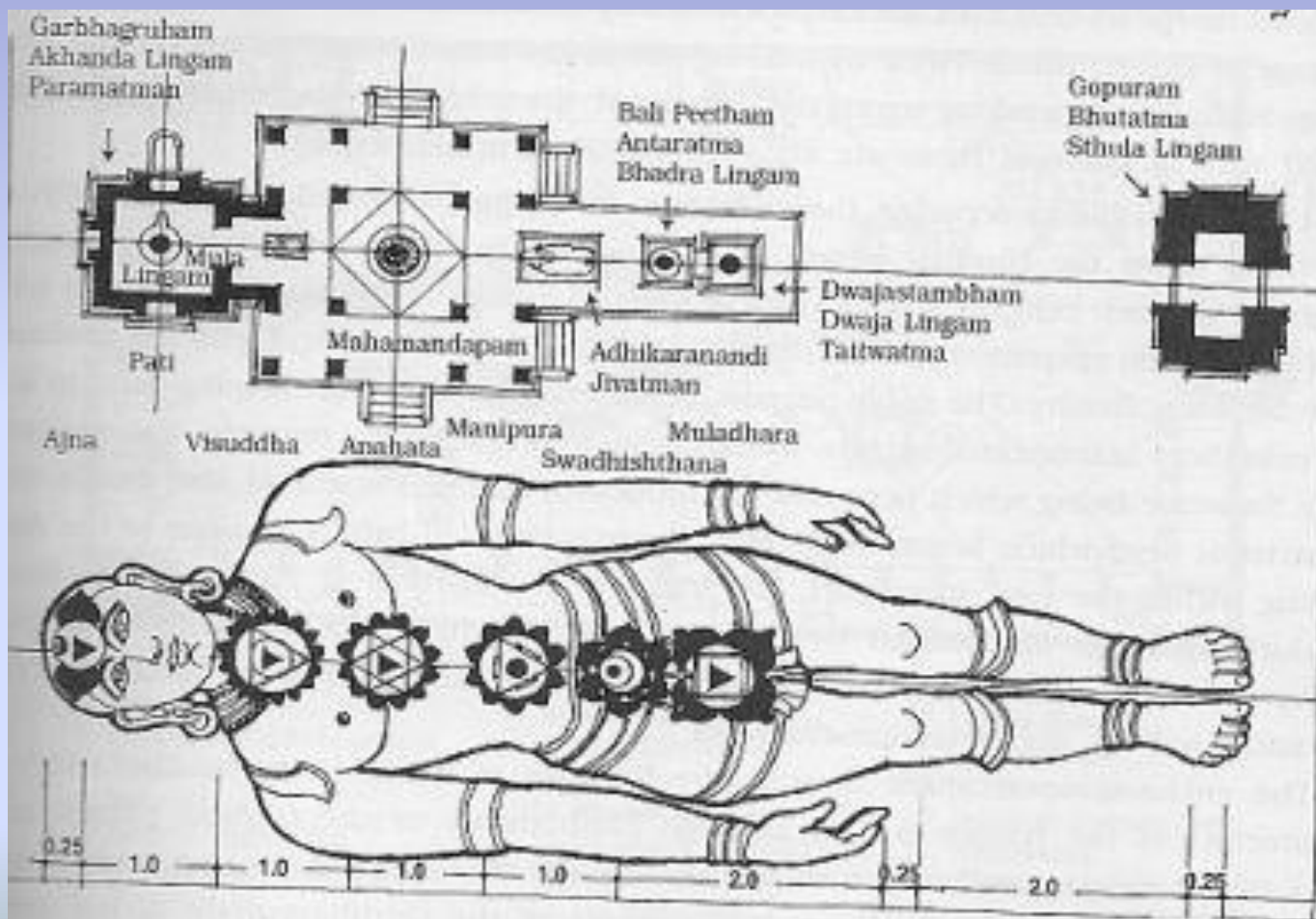


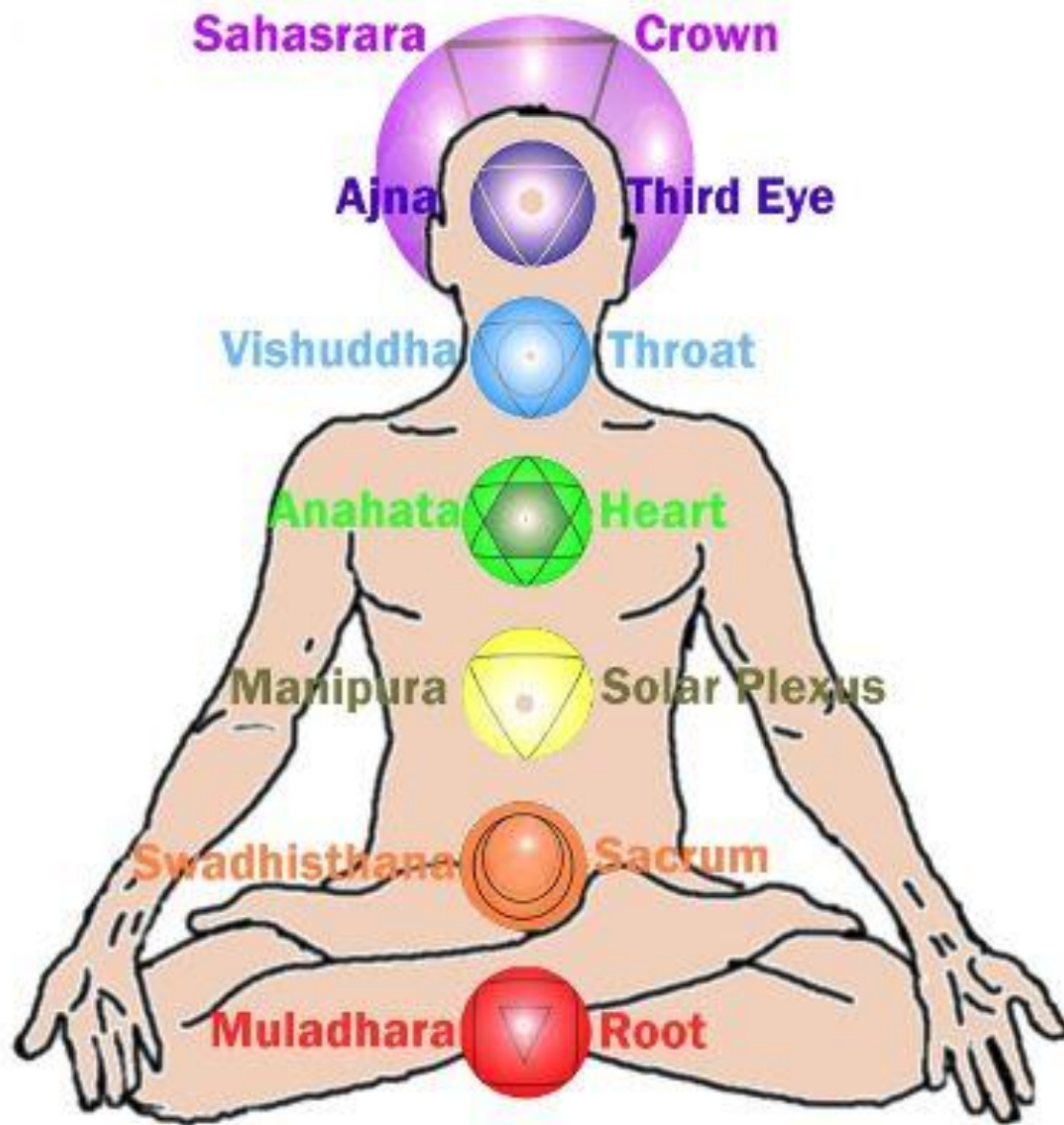
Temple is the universal form of the Lord



Temple is the Purusa with cakras





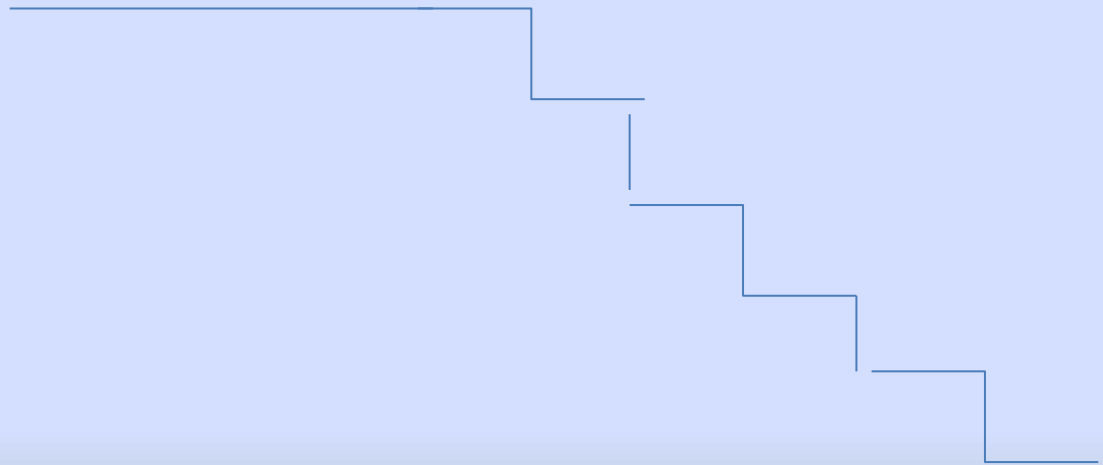


Cakras

- In the human body the cakras regulate bodily, sensory and mental functions, from lower to higher, culminating in the sahasrara cakra at the top of head, representing enlightenment, or realization of God.

Sahasrara	Crown	Soul God	Hare Krsna	Goloka & Brahmaloka	Inspiration	Spirituality
Ajna	Forehead	Mind	Om	Tapoloka	Concentration	Intelligence
Visuddha	Throat	Ether	Ham	Janaloka	Communication	Expression
Anahata	Heart	Air	Yam	Mahaloka	Compassion	Love
Manipuraka	Navel	Fire	Ram	Svarloka	Digestion	Low emotions
Svadhithana	Bladder	Water	Vam	Bhuvarka	Senses	Enjoyment
Muladhara	Base	Earth	Lam	Bhuloka	Body	Survival

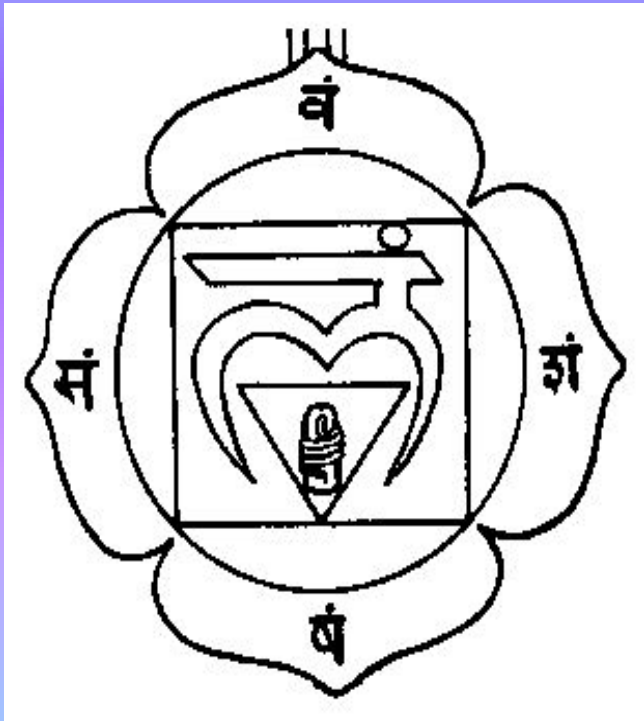
Cakras are represented on the 6
staircase landings





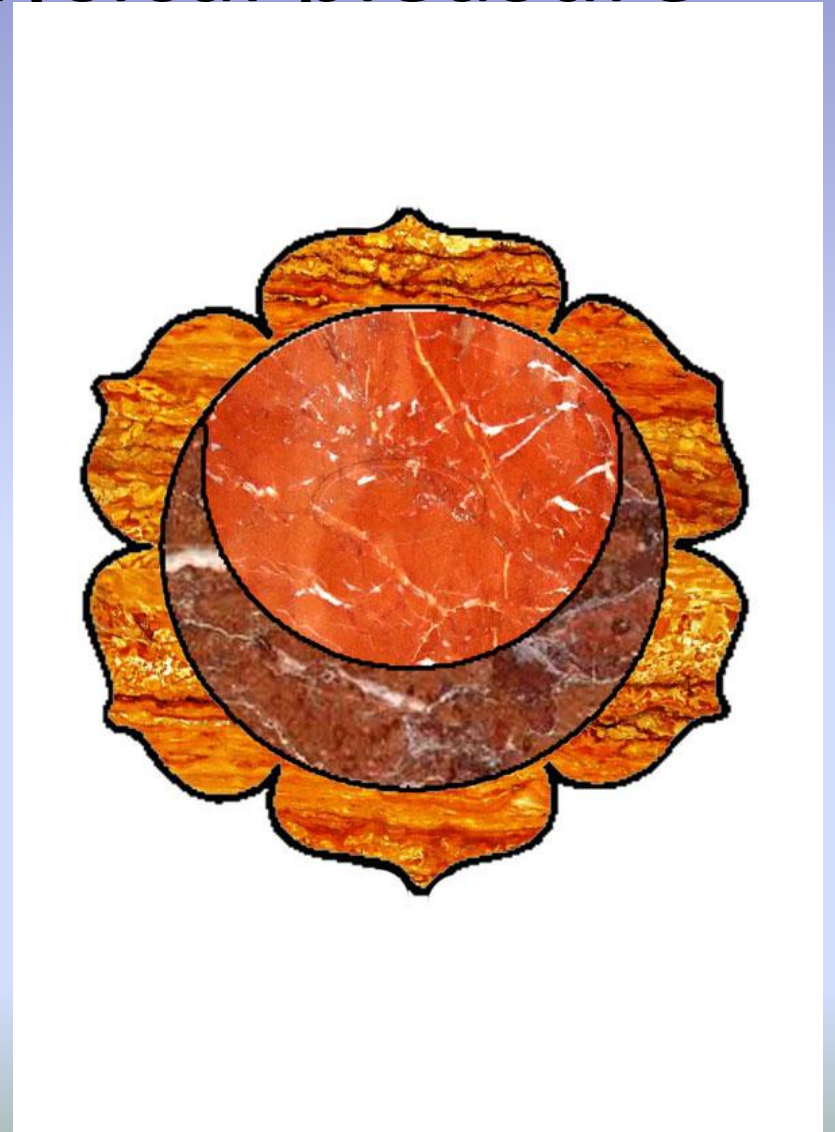
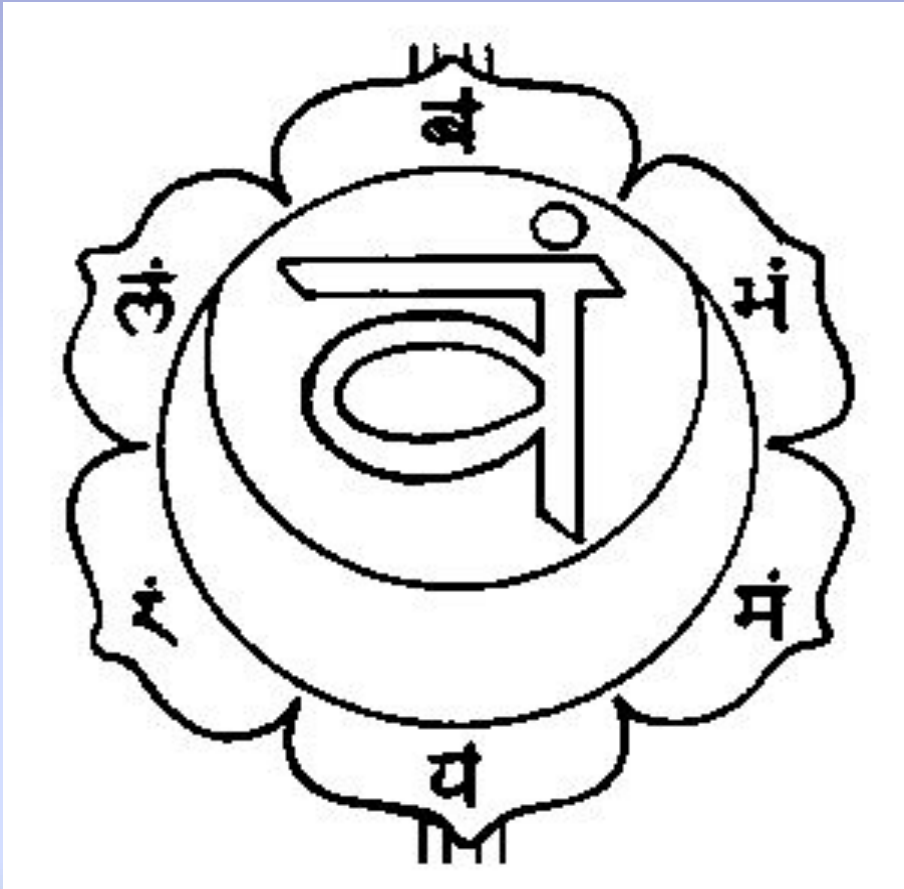


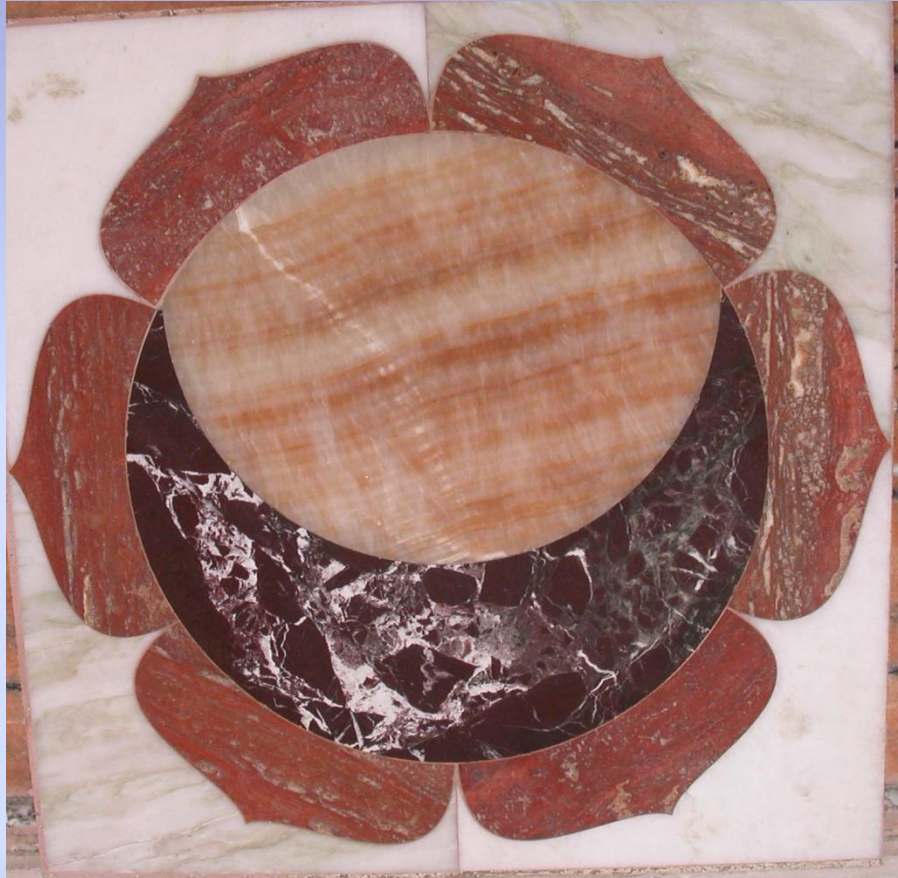
Muladhara physical energy, survival



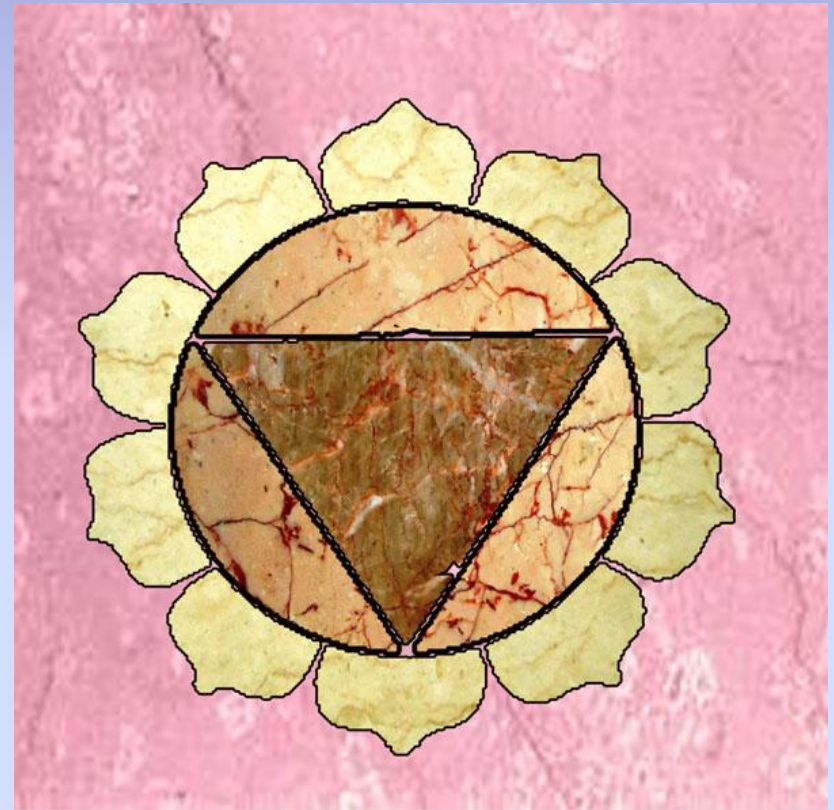
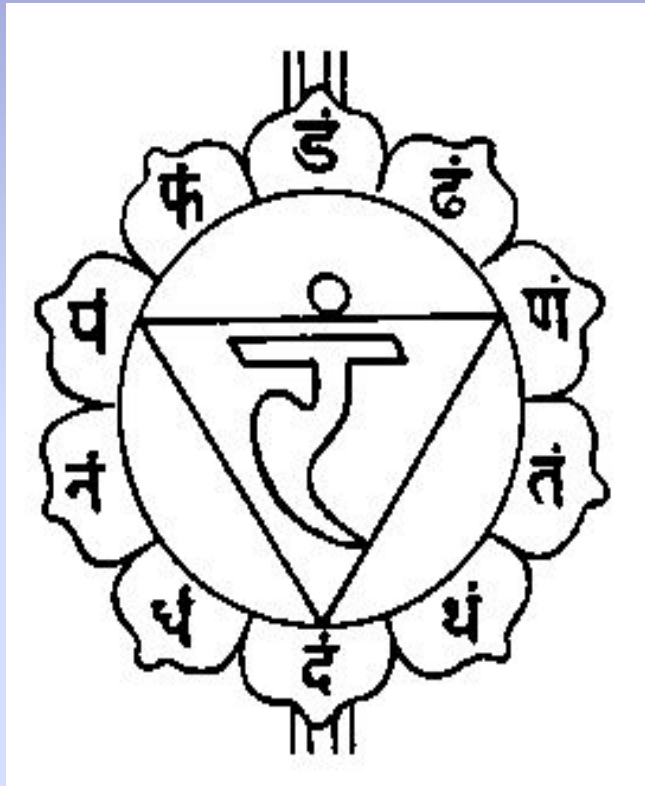


Svadhithana: physical pleasure



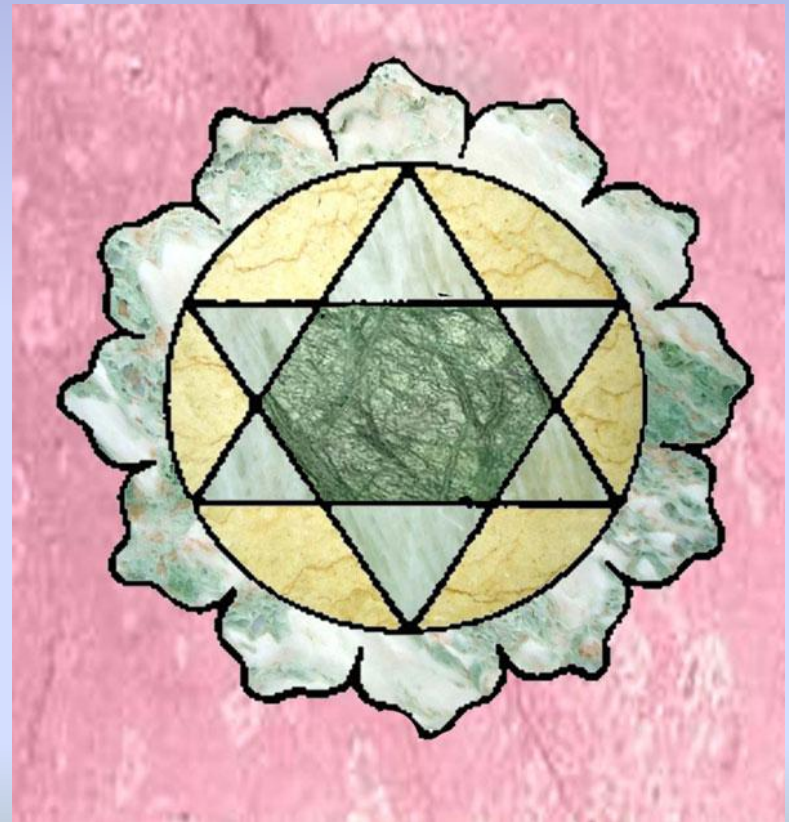


Manipuraka: emotion, relationships



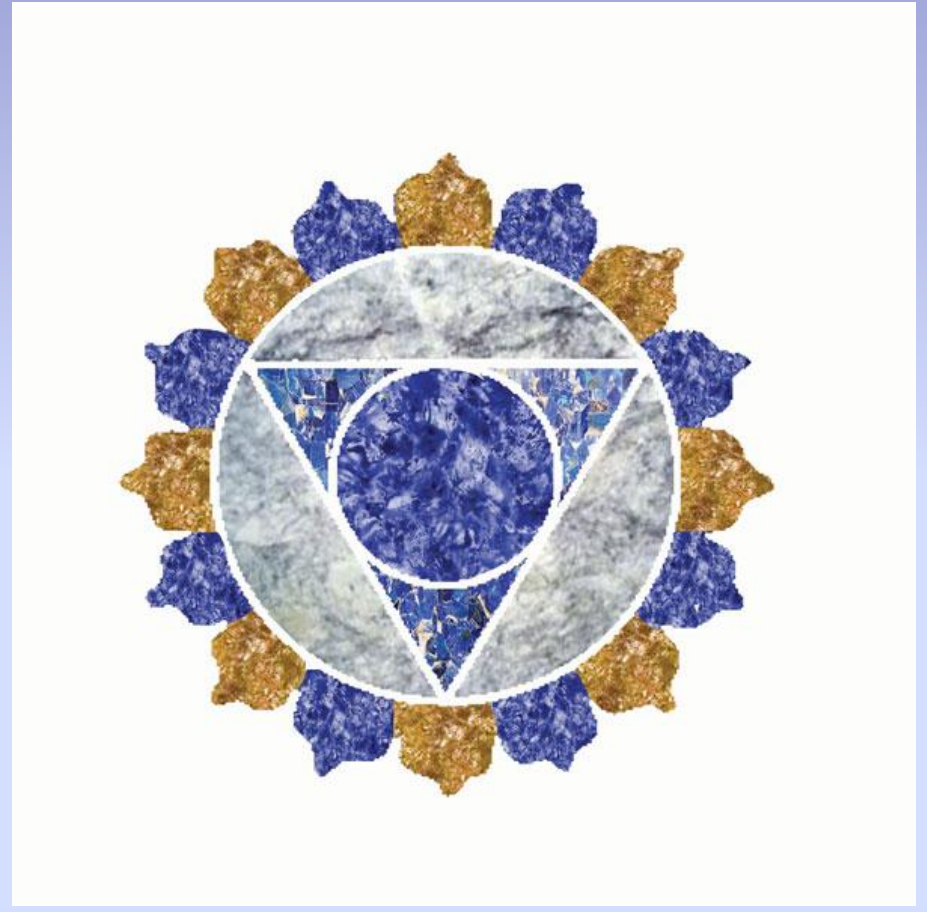


Anahata: love



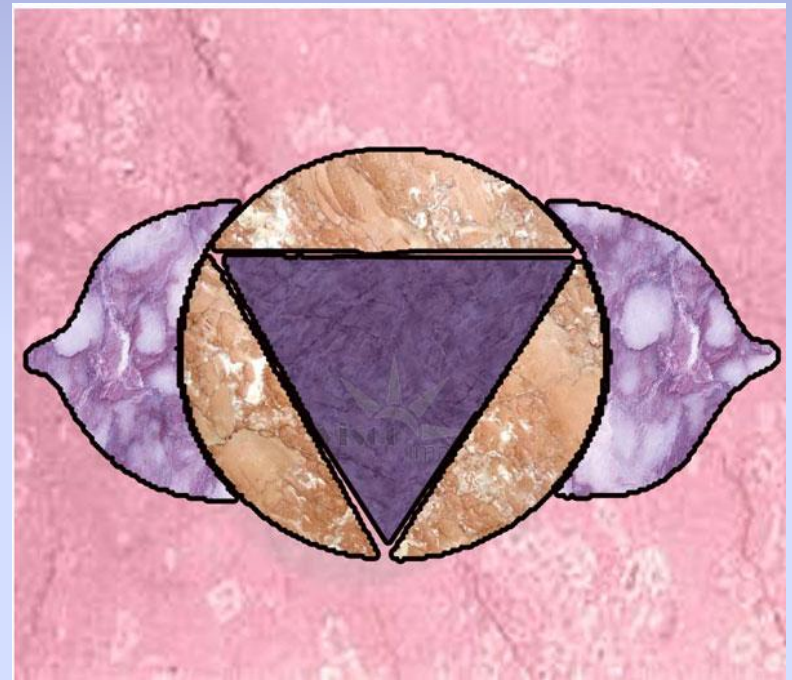


Visuddha: responsibility



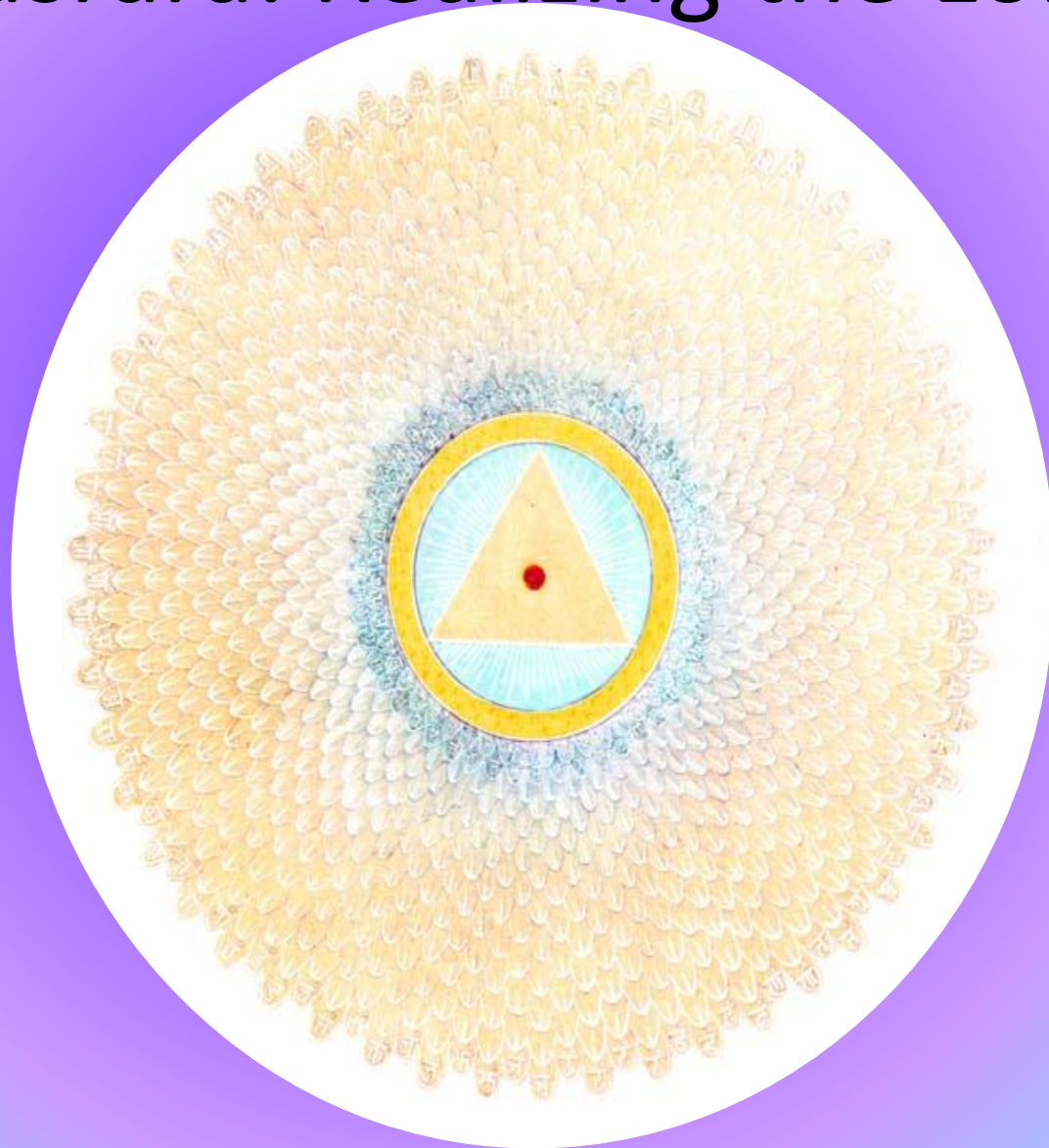


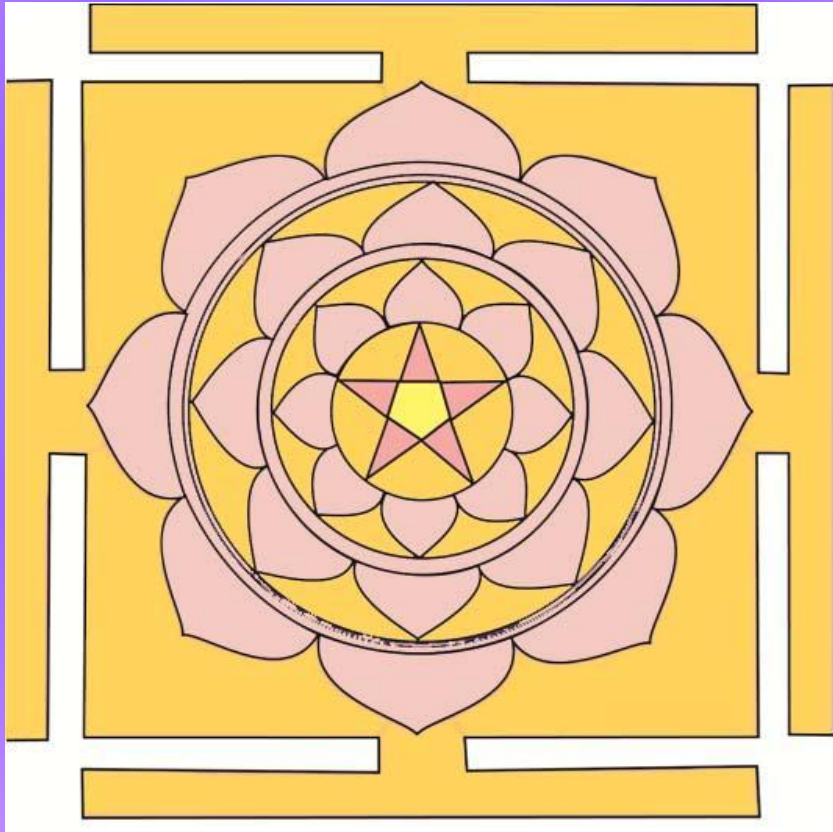
Ajna: view of world, conceptualization





Sahasrara: Realizing the Lord









Realization

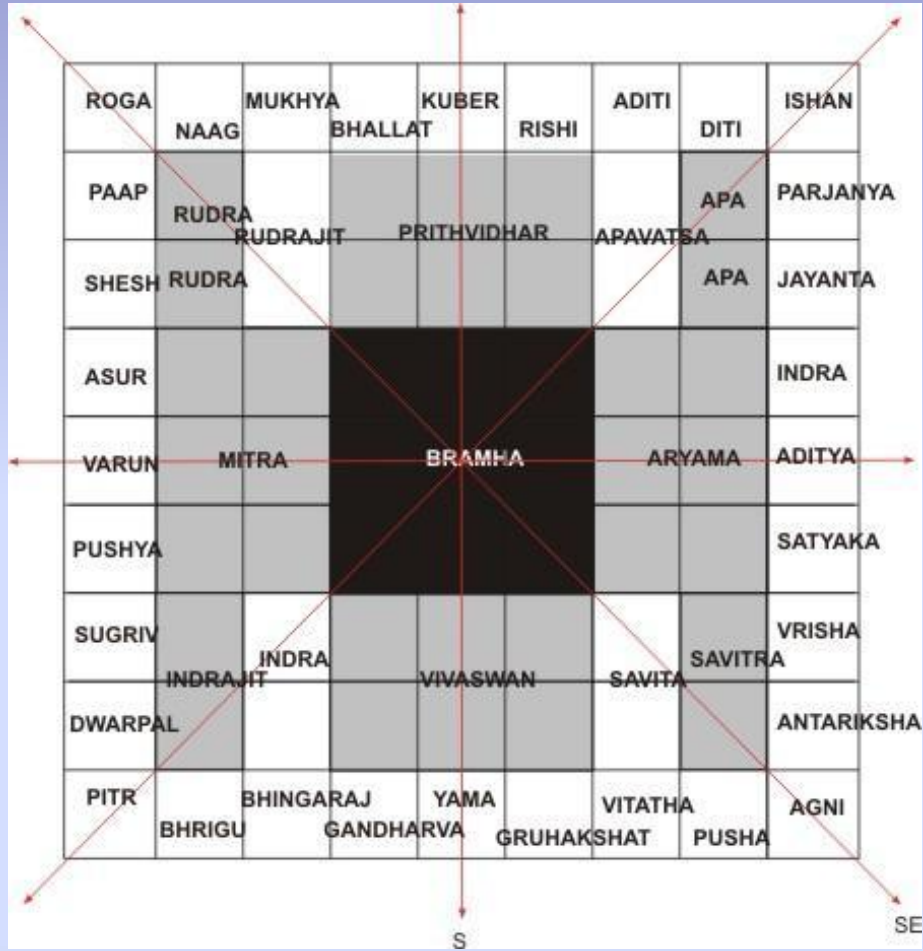


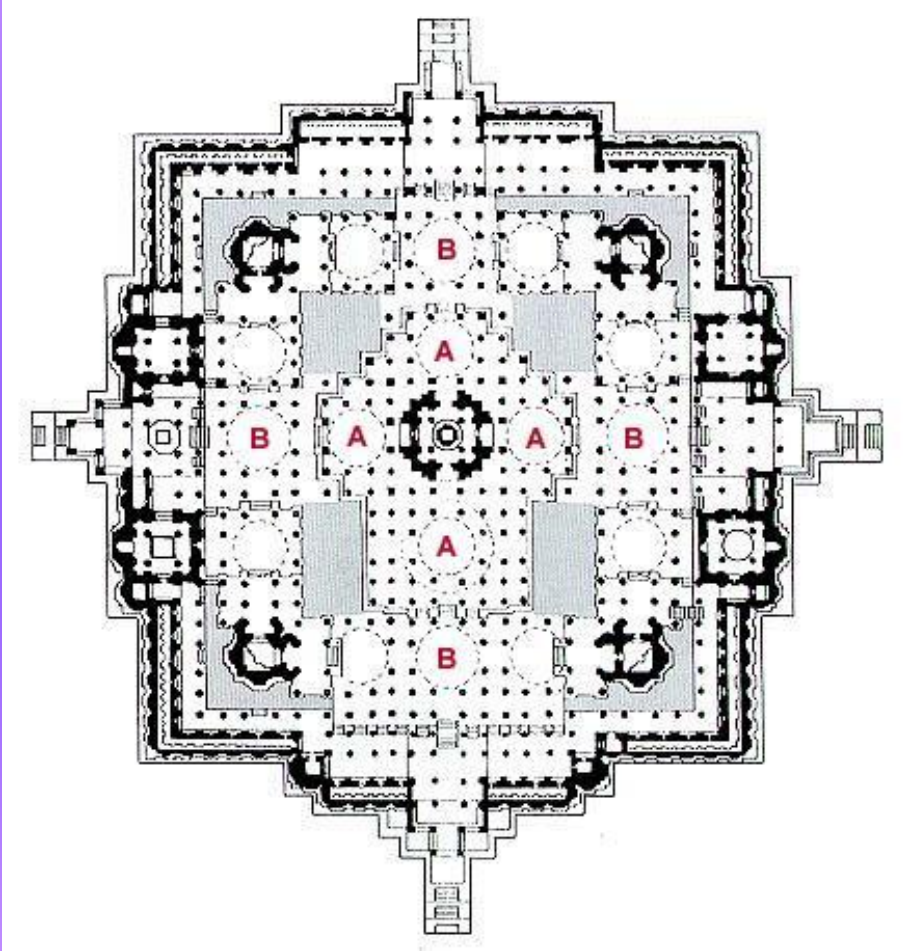








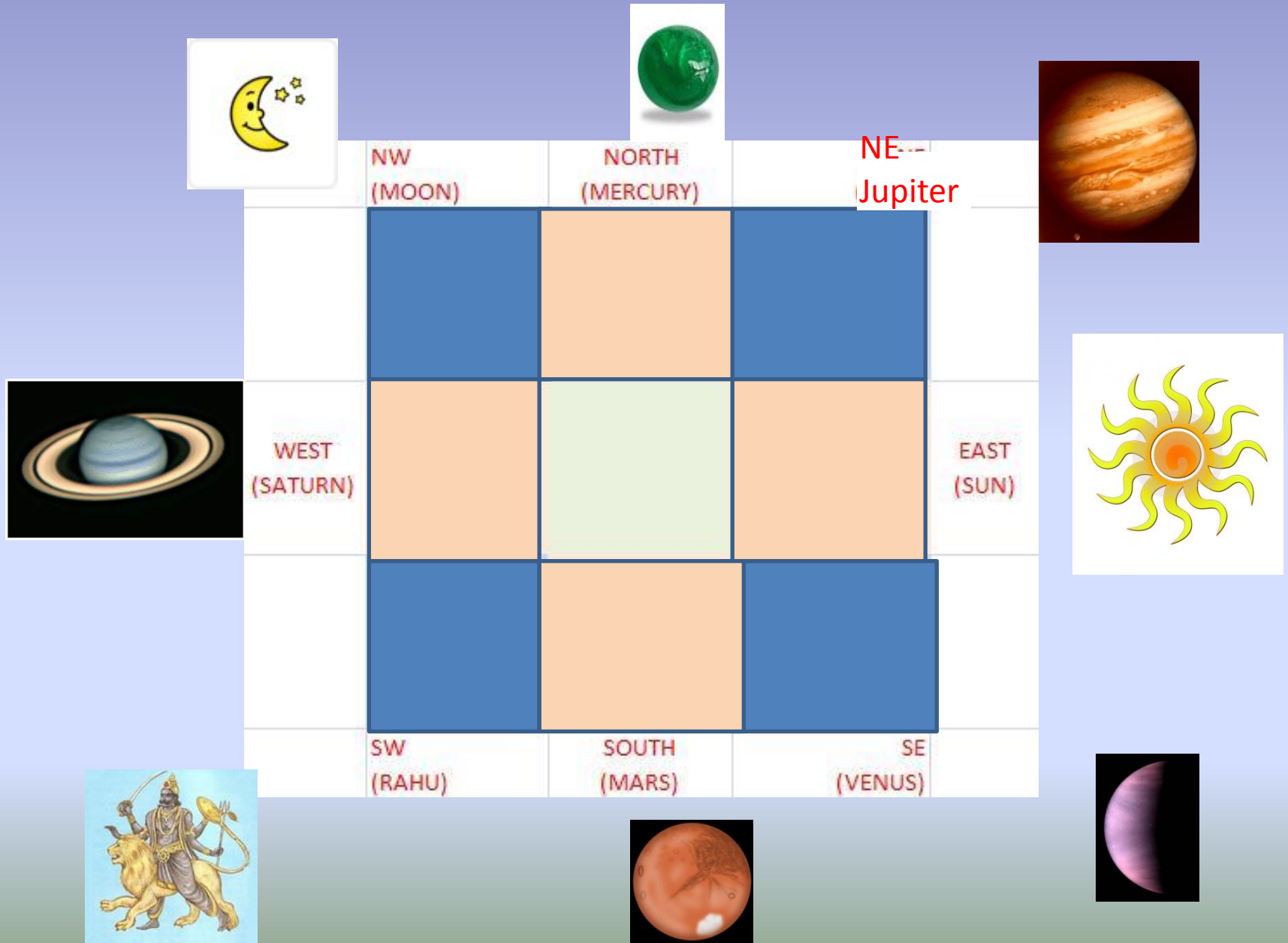




Planets revolve around the central space as they do around Meru



Planets govern the directions





- Mercury
- Buddha



- Northeast
- Jupiter
- Vamana



- Southeast
- Venus
- Parasurama



- South



- West
- Saturn
- Kurma



- Northwest
- Moon
- Krsna



The avatars of the directions and their yantras are placed on 16 windows in the temple room



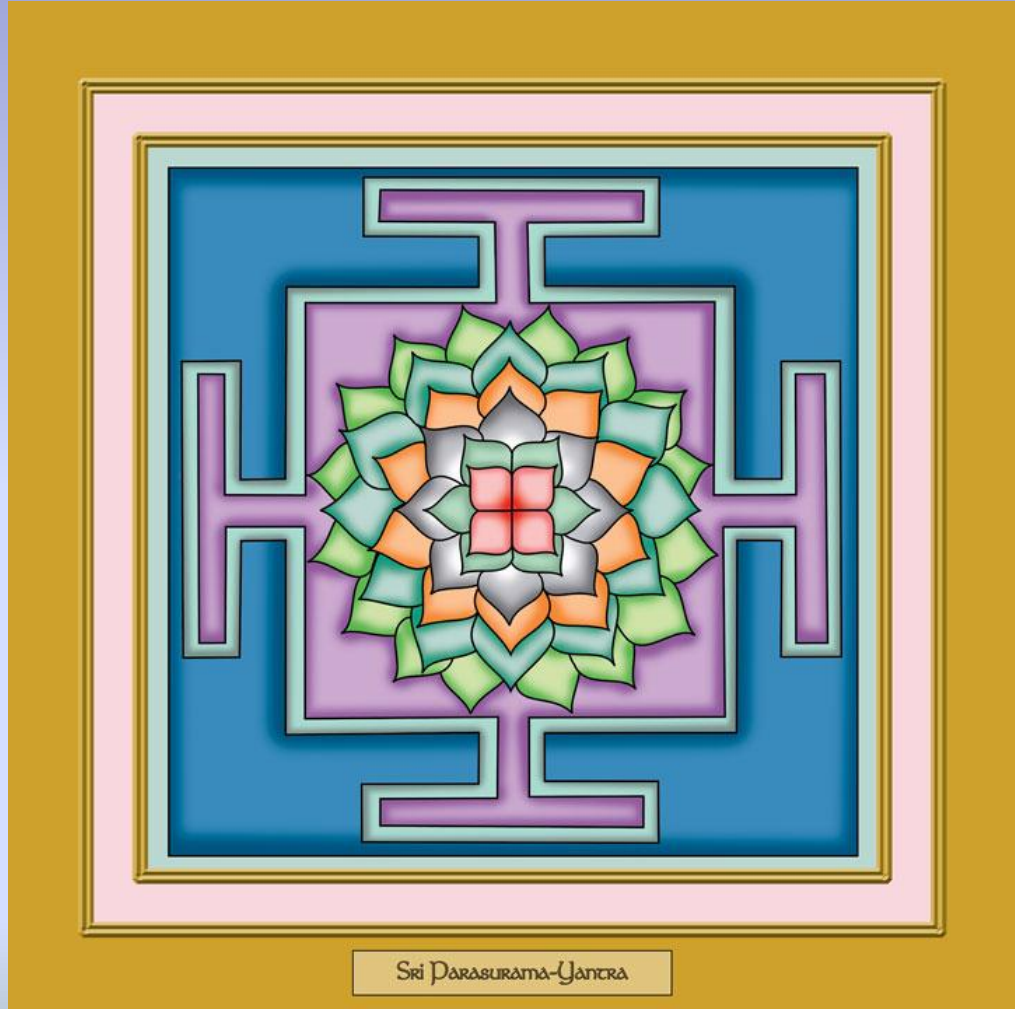
Rama--East



Rama Yantra -- East







Sri Parasurama-Yantra





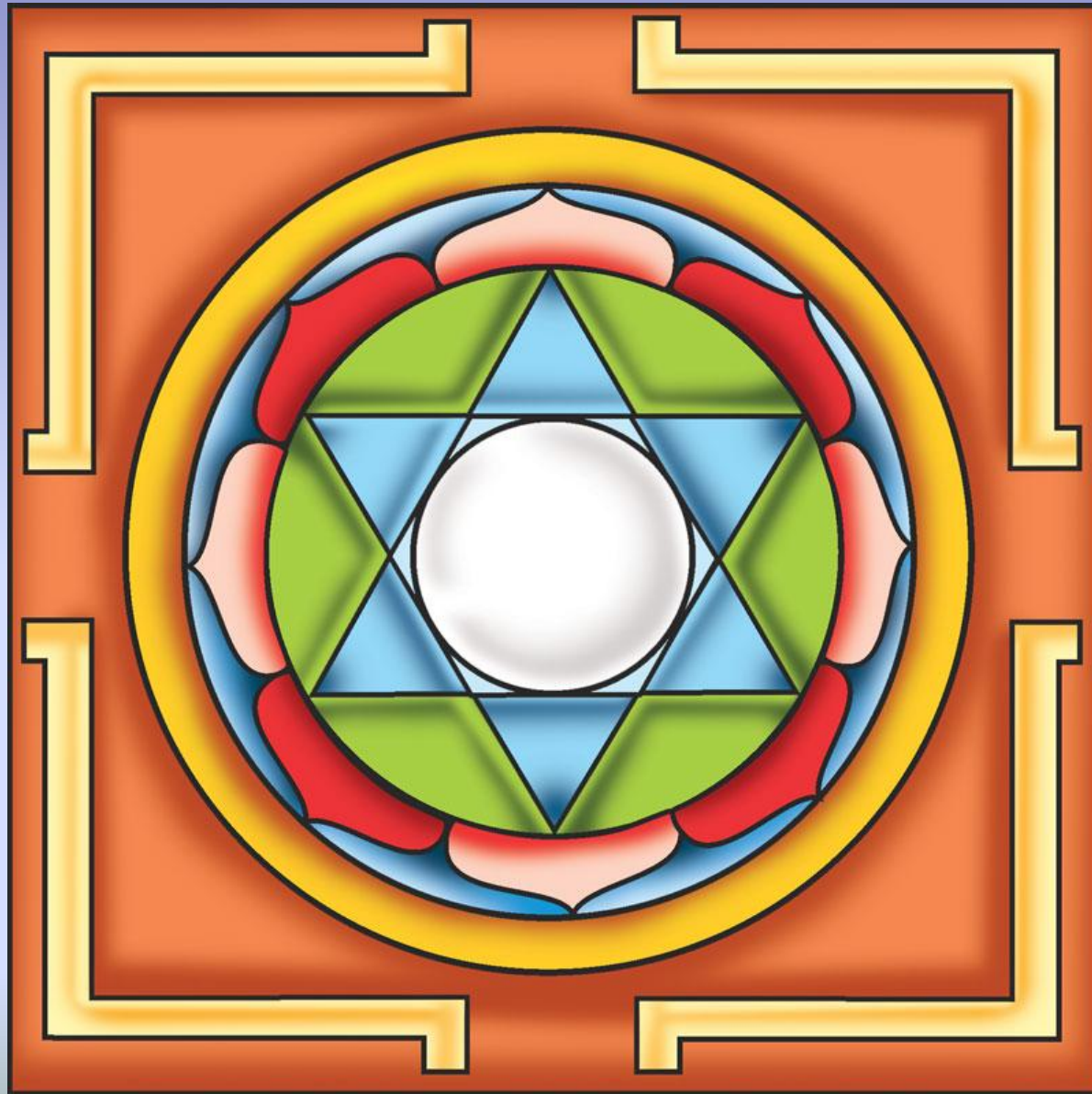






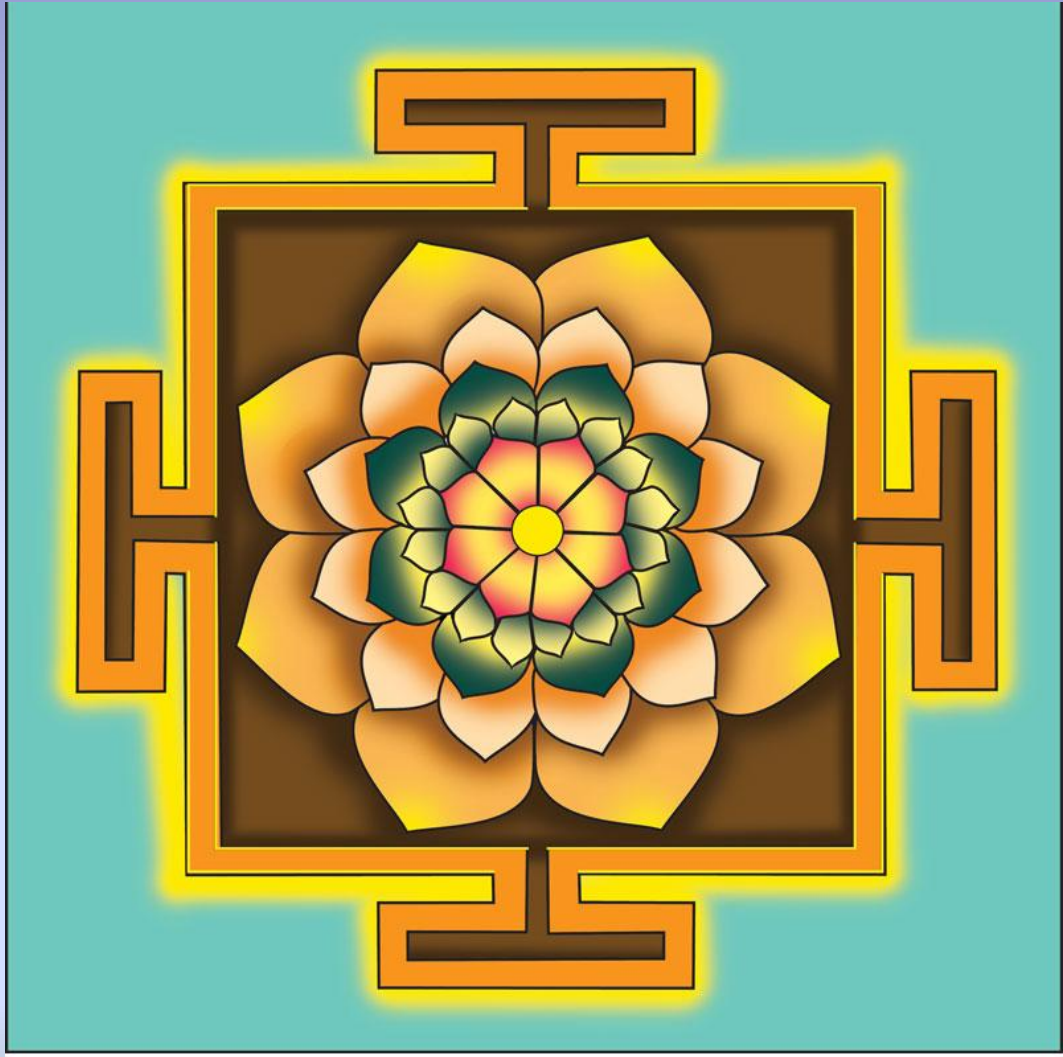
















The Lord is one but appears in many forms such as the avatars seen in the eight directions.

To illustrate the variety, changing colored lights illuminate the temple room and crystals which refract light into colors are suspended from the ceiling.









- Though it is difficult for the human eye to see God, by his mercy he appears with a visible form within the temple, displaying his power, beauty compassion and bliss.



- The same spiritual qualities are reflected in the temple itself, though its proportions and forms, horizontally and vertically, which represent the harmony and joy found in the natural universe and in the spiritual realm.



Snikar Photography

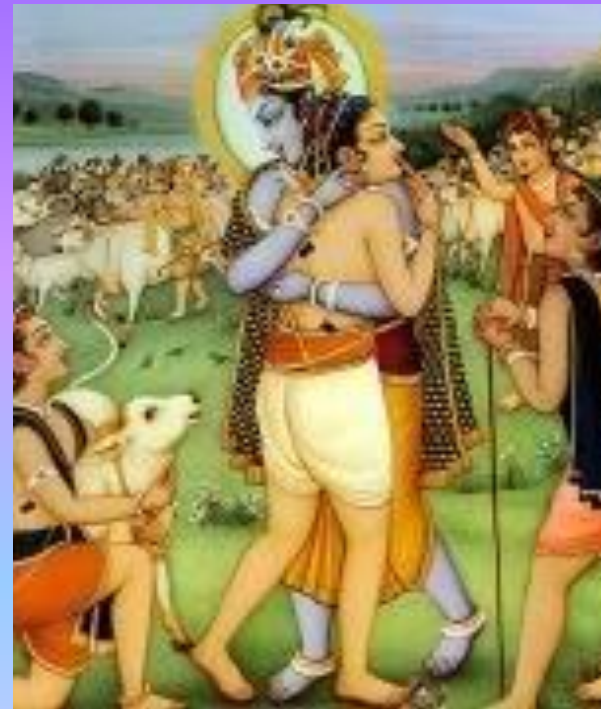


Service to the Lord

By installing the Deity of the Lord one becomes king of the entire earth, by building a temple for the Lord one becomes ruler of the three worlds.



- By worshiping and serving the Deity one goes to the planet of Lord Brahma, and by performing all three of these activities one achieves a transcendental form like the Lord's.



- One who simply engages in devotional service with no consideration of fruitive results attains Me. SB 11.27.52-53





