



DHAN Foundation welcomes you all for this
Lecture Series on WORLD HERITAGE AND CULTURE
Lecture No 93– Date 09-05- 2021

Sacred Geography of Cambodia focusing Angkor wat

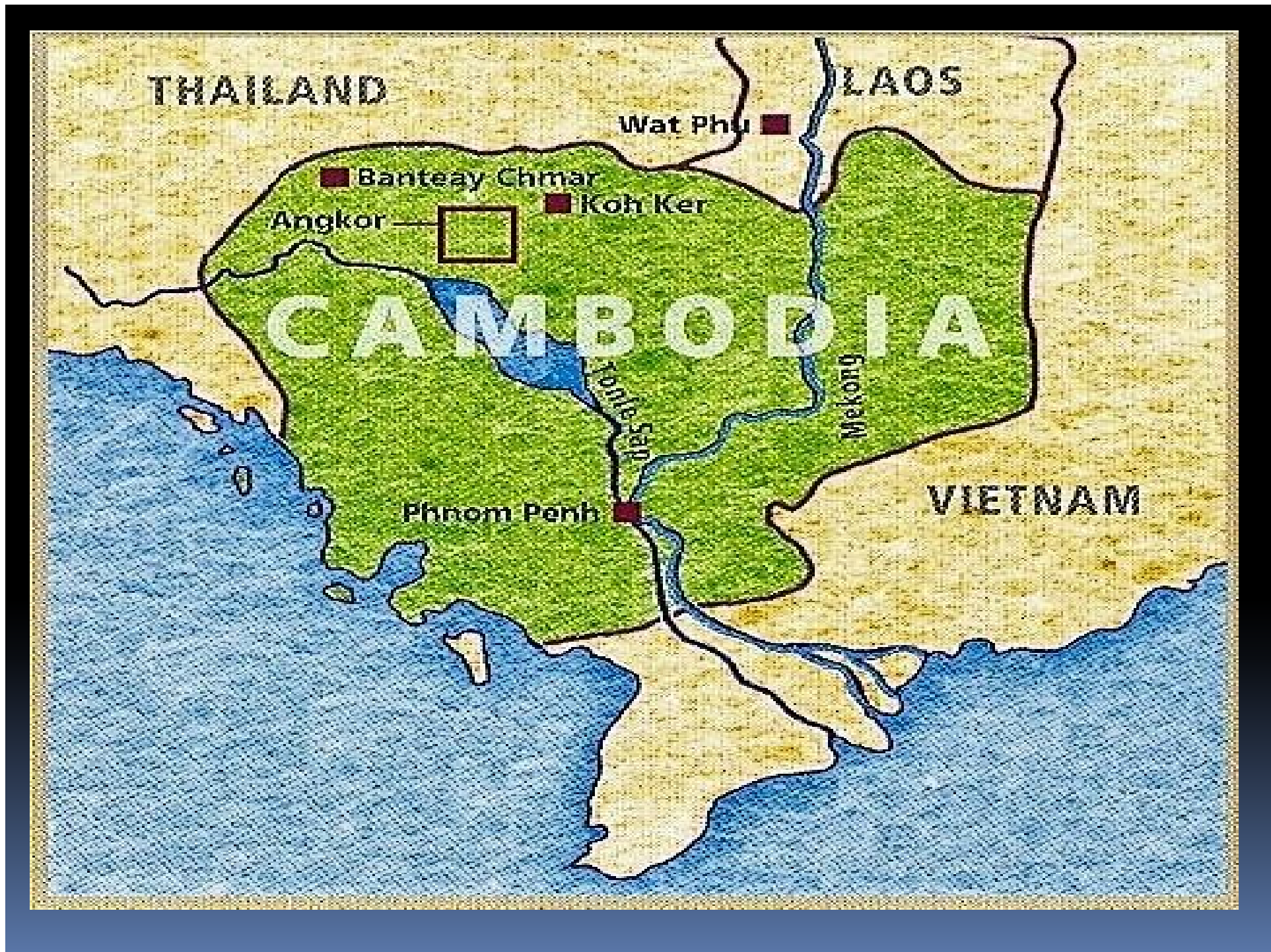
Dr. G.Sethuraman and Dr. V.Vedachalam

Lecture Series on WORLD HERITAGE AND CULTURE

DHAN Foundation is promoting Heritage Literacy among various stakeholders to sensitize the conservation and Development of Heritage sites by various ways and means like Heritage walk, Development tourism and Village Cultural immersion Programs etc.,

DHAN Foundation is organizing the a monthly lecture series on *World Heritage and Culture* for the benefit of Indian citizen especially to students, younger generations and interested individuals who wish to promote our traditional culture and heritage .

From 13.4.2013 This event will happen in 5-7 pm of every second Sunday of each Month .





Discovery of Cambodia

1. Nearly 200 years ago most of Cambodia was covered by forests. People believed the forests were haunted by Spirits of those who lived there.
2. In 1860 **Henri Mouhot**, a **French explorer** brought to light **Angkor Wat**. He **died in 1863** at the **age of 35**



Drawn by
Henri Mouhot

3. In 1867 Cambodia became a French colony. Since then, the French archaeologists & historians discovered the glorious past of Cambodia.

INDIANIZATION OF CAMBODIA.

1. The tribals believed in & feared spirits of mountains, trees, forests, water, fire etc.
2. The Brahmins transformed their fear into reverential love by projecting the spirits into benign protectors. Thus , the **Sky Spirit became Siva & all hills** became **Swayambhu Lingams**.
3. **Around 100 A.D Lin-Ye**, the daughter of a tribal chieftain, loved & married one **Kaundinya**. Since their progenies will be **Vradhyas** (Manu), the **first capital** of Funan was named **Vradhyapura**.
4. The successors of Kaundinya bore the Kshatriya title of **Varman** and all their inscriptions were in Sanskrit.
5. Royal ladies preferred to marry Brahmins from India.
6. Indianization grew rapidly from the **Guptan North (4th- 5th cent.s)** & the **Pallavan South India (5th-6th cent.s)**

3. ANGKOR PERIOD (802 – 1220 A.D) KHMER EMPIRE

1. 781 – 850 A.D. Jayavarman II. Capital: 1.Hariharalaya, 2. Indrapura, 3...& 4. Angkor. In 802 his Coronation as Emperor atop Mt.Pnom kulen (Mahendraparvata) with Grand VEDIC sacrifices. No temple or Inscriptions found. Constant military expeditions.
2. 877 – 889. INDRAVARMAN I. Built Preah Ko & Bakong temples.
3. 889 – 900. YASOVARMAN I. Capital : Yasodharapura. Phnom Bakheng temple. Dug two Reservoirs : a. Indra thataaka, b. East Baray.
4. 921 – 944. JAYAVARMAN IV. Capital : Lingapura + Koh Ker Temple. Now Jungle.
5. 944 - 966. RAJENDRAVARMAN. Built PRE-RUP & East Mebon as a Quincunx, using laterite, bricks & sandstones.
6. In 967. Yajnavaraha, a courtier of royal family built BANTEAY SREI, a Siva temple as a three tiered Meru in Angkor Thom.
7. 1113 – 1150. SURYAVARMAN II built ANGKOR WAT for GOD VISHNU.

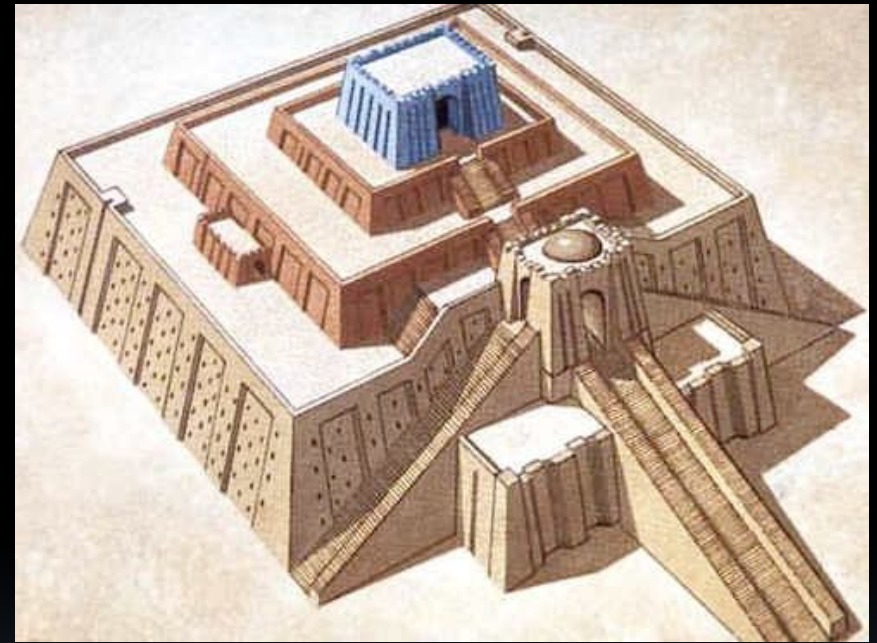
BAKONG SIVA TEMPLE , by **INDRAVARMAN I.** 877- 889
A MERU



PREAH KO SIVA TEMPLE by INDRAVARMAN I (877- 889)



Concept of MERU, the Cosmic Centre. (Compare the Sumerian Ziggurat)



Who were the **THREE GREAT KINGS** of **KAMBOJA DESA** ?

1. **JAYAVARMAN II** :
802 – 850 A.D

2. **SURYAVARMAN II** :
1113 – 1150 A.D

3. **JAYAVARMAN VII**
1181 – 1220 A.D

KOH -KER SIVA TEMPLE, at **LINGAPURA** by **JAYAVARMAN IV**
(921- 944)

Now in inaccessible jungle. Recently Roads are laid.





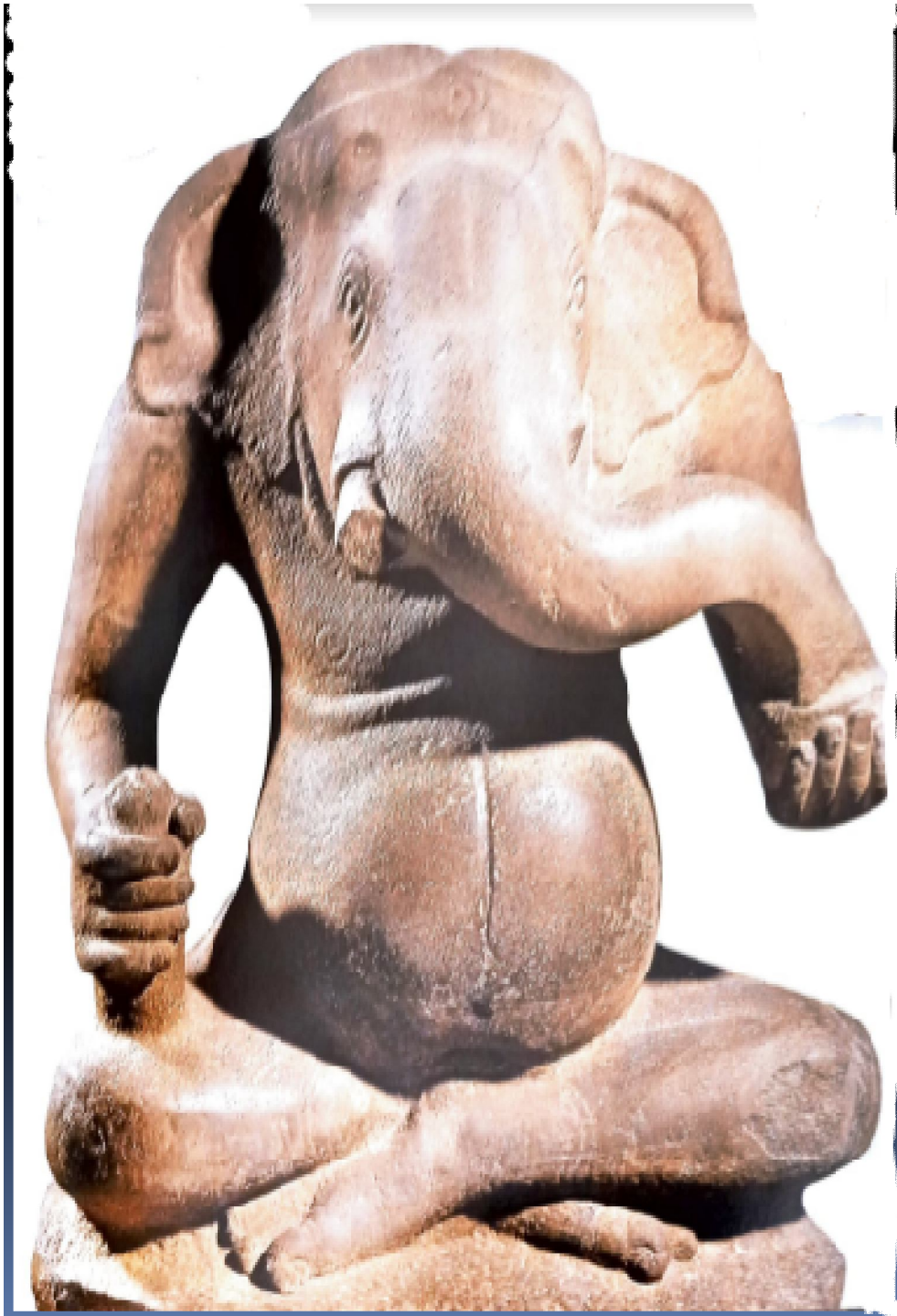
Harihara a composite of Vishnu at proper left and Shiva at right, was popular in the early Khmer period. 7th century.



- Bronze image of Vishnu- 12th cent.



Vishnu in Kulen style, circa 9th century.



Seated Ganapati in cross leg. It dates from the seventh/eighth century, found at Tuol Pheak Kin and now in the Phnom Penh National Museum, buries its trunk in a cup of sweets and holds a radish in its hand.



Khmer terracotta ware demonstrates a high degree of sophistication in terms of both shape and decoration, as demonstrated by the jar on the left. The celadon ceramics in animal shapes, like the elephant vase right of the jar, are particularly attractive. A glazed enamel coating was made by covering the vase with an oxide – based layer and firing it in a low – oxygen chamber

Aerial View of Angkor Wat



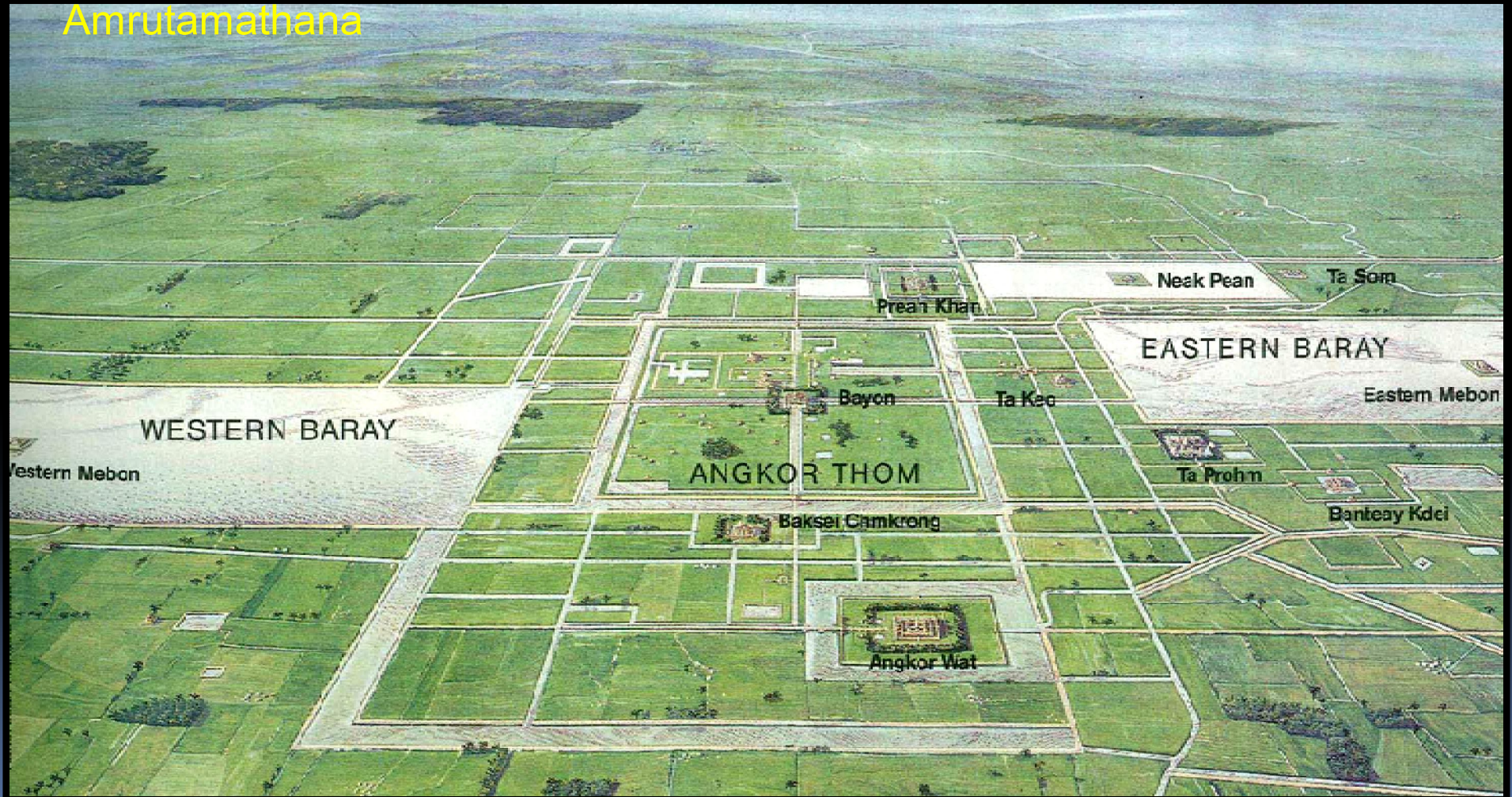
King Suryavarman II- 12th century



ANGKOR WAT

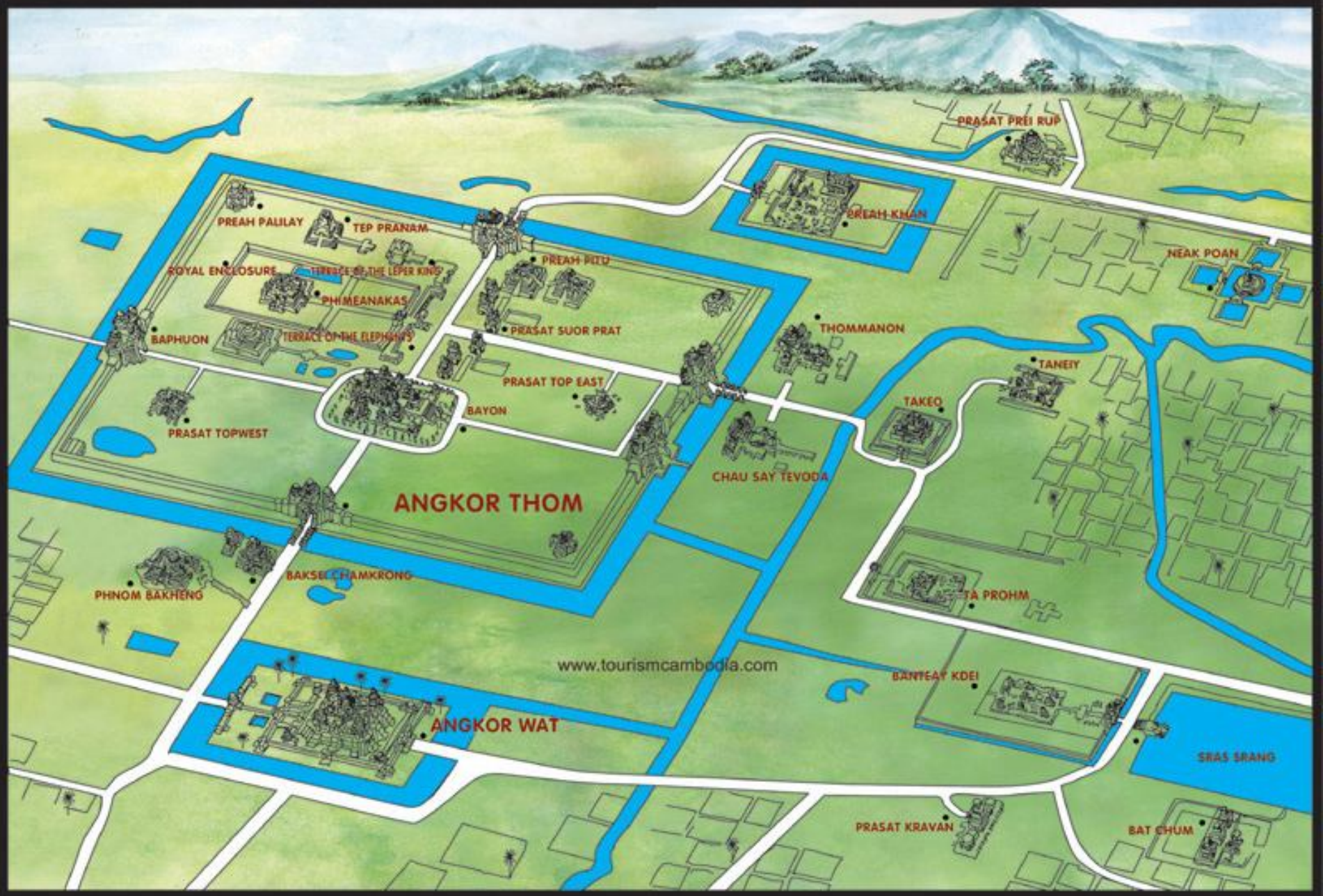
Its perfection in **composition**, **balance**, **proportion** (based on Yugas), **reliefs**, **magnificence**, **luxury** &c make it surpass pyramids & Taj. Role of **astronomy** is seen in its orientation, dimensions & reliefs (e.g.

Amrutamathana



ANGKOR= Nagara (Skt): **WAT**= temple : **THOM**= magnificent

Angkor Temple Map



DISCOVERY OF ANGKOR WAT (CAMBODIA)

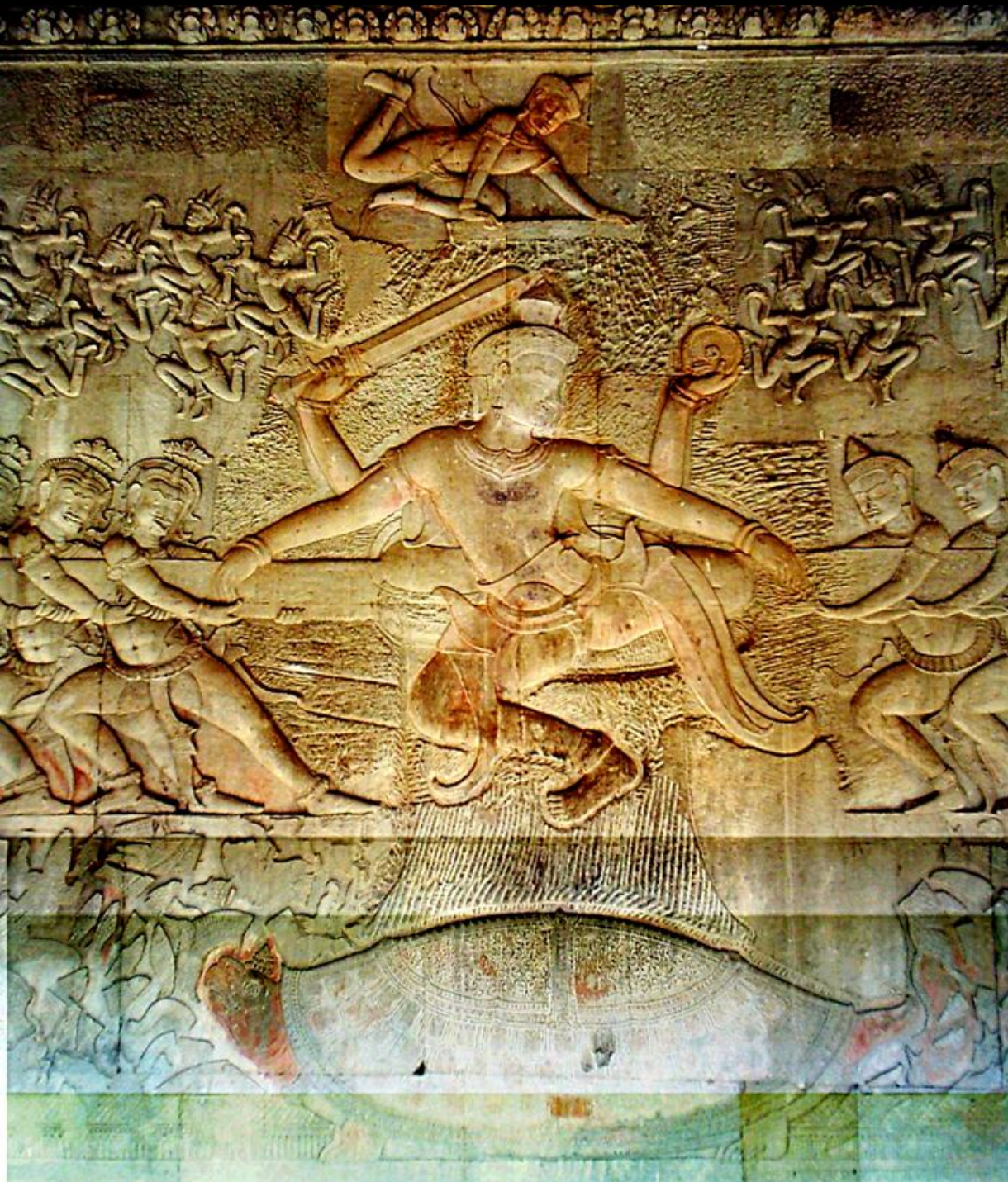
THE GLORY THAT WAS KAMBOJA





ANGKOR WAT





ANGKOR WAT

CHURNING
THE MILKY OCEAN
FOR AMRUTA

ANGKOR WAT



Fig. 15. The Anantashayana (reclining Vishnu).



Fig. 16. Vishnu or Sughna.

AMRITA MATHNA

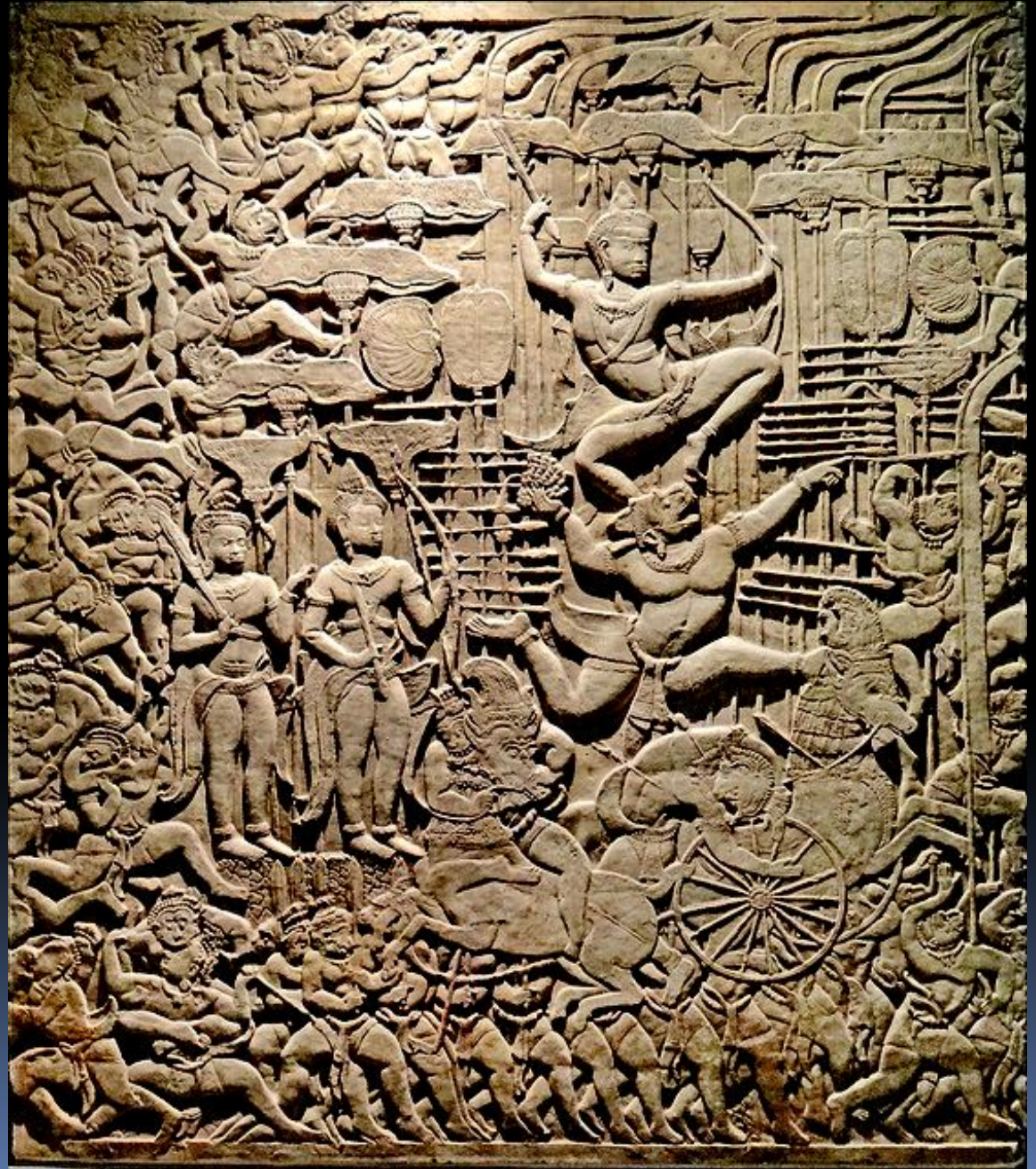


ANGKOR WAT

RAMAYANA SCENE

HANUMAN & RAVANA

ANGKOR WAT



Angkorwat Suryavarman as Sun God



Apsaras- Angkor Wat



ANGKOR WAT: Battle Scene



ANGKOR WAT. Procession of Victory.



Relief Sculptures- Angkor Wat



Elegant roof carvings—Ravana lifting Kailash at Banteay Srei.



Apsara carving at Angkor Wat



Ramayana scene- Angkor Wat



Ananthasayi image- Angkor Wat



Vishnu worshipped in the form of Varaha at Angkor Wat



Buddha- Siem Reap-Angkor Wat



Devas pulling Nagas- 12th century



Wall panels- Angkor Wat-12th century





Bas relief-Angkor
Wat

Wanderlust

BANTEAY SREI (Citadel of Ladies) **Siva Temple**, by **YajnaVaraha** (967)



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BANTEAY SREI (Citadel of Ladies) Siva Temple, by YajnaVaraha (967)



Krishna & Kamsa
or
Jarasandha & Bhima

BANTEAY SREI (Citadel of Ladies) Siva Temple, by YajnaVaraha (967)



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BANTEAY SREI (Citadel of Ladies) Siva Temple, by YajnaVaraha
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Ta Prohm temple ruins



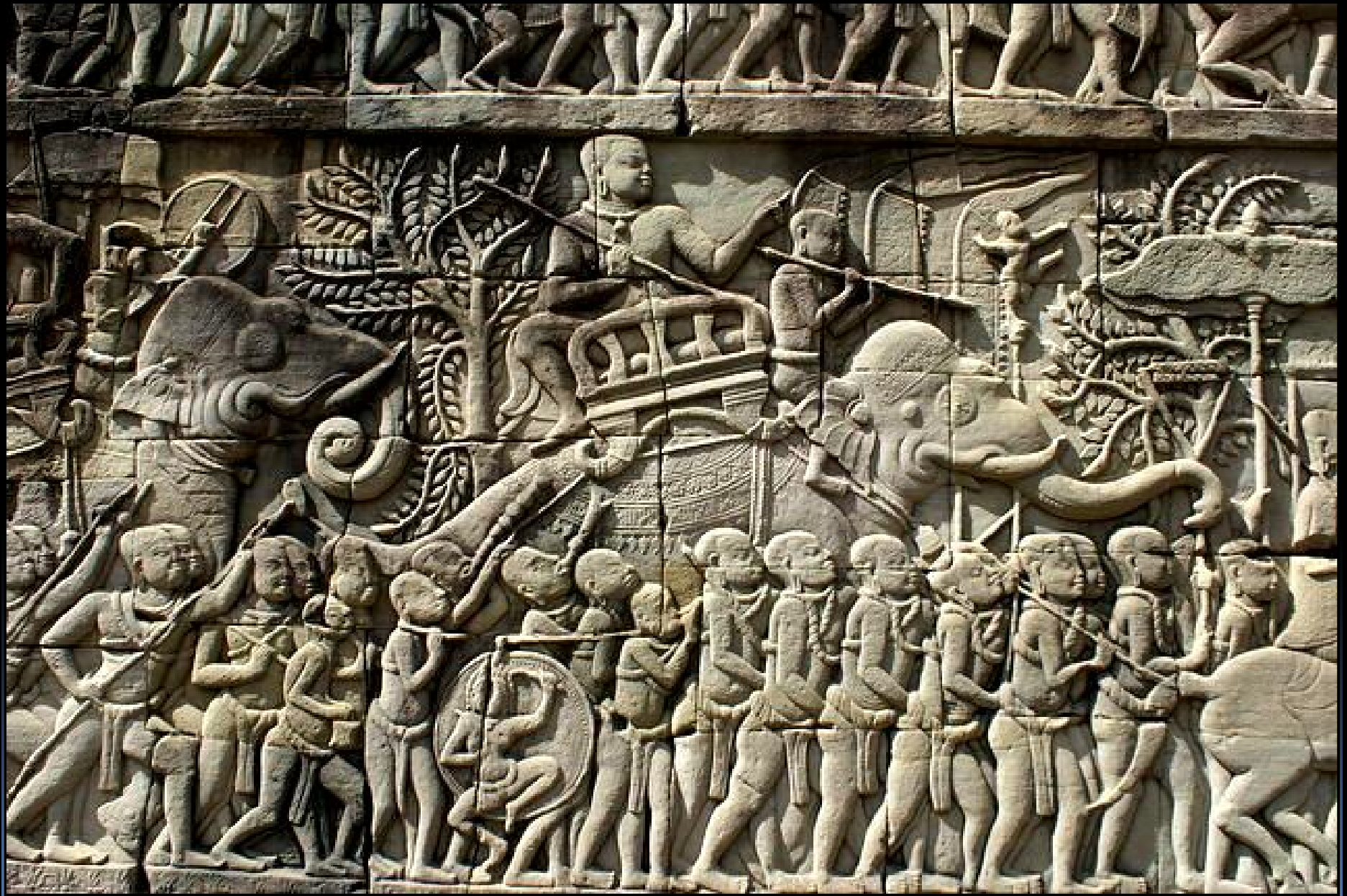
TA PROHM (Mahayana Vihar) **Jayavarman VII** built **in honour of his mother.**



JAYAVARMAN VII in Battle against the Camps in 1177 A.D



JAYAVARMAN VII Procession of Victory





Ta Prohm temple
sculpture



Ta Prohm - Treasures of Angkor. Unlike most of the temples of Angkor, Ta Prohm has been largely left to the clutches of the living jungle.

With its dynamic interaction between nature and man-made art, this atmospheric temple is a favourite for many - who can't help but feel a little like Indiana Jones or Lara Croft (which was filmed here) as they pick through the rubble. Construction on Ta Prohm began in 1186 AD. Originally known as Rajavihara (Monastery of the King), Ta Prohm was a Buddhist centre.



The prasat which covers the Bakong is a twelfth century reconstruction. Its pyramidal structure symbolizes the emanation of the manifest world from the bindu , the point at which everything originated

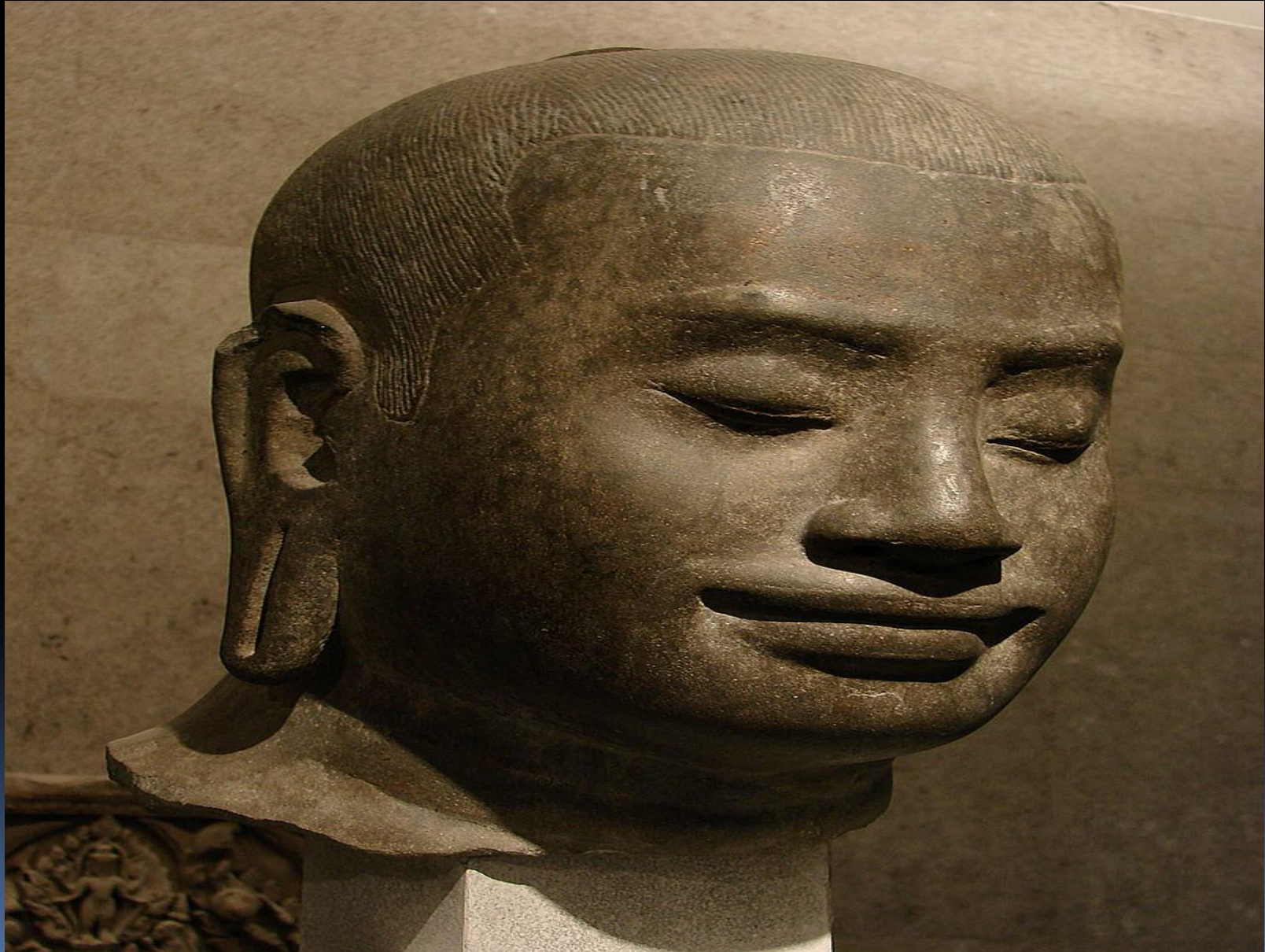
1. Entrance on the north - south axis the Bakong
2. Bakong built by Indravarman I in 881-Indreshvara. The foundation stele states that the building-amazed tvashtar(architect of the gods)himself



44 brick towers surrounding Bakheng temple



Portrait of Jayavarman VII meditating, Bayon style circa end of 12th century to early 13th century



South gate of Angkor Thom along with a bridge of statues of gods and demons. Two rows of figures each carry the body of seven-headed naga.



Bayon, Khmer temple constructed in the late 12th or early 13th century and located in the ancient city of Angkor, today Cambodia



BAYON TEMPLE : Jayavarman VII (1181 – 1220)



Bayon Temple – Angkor Thom



Head of Buddha- Bayon Temple



Face towers of the Bayon represent the king as the Bodhisattva Lokesvara





Bodhisattva Lokeshvara,
circa end of 10th
century to early 11th
century

Buddha statue at Bayon temple, Angkor Wat





Khmer Bronze Sculpture of
the Buddha Origin:
Cambodia Circa: 1200 AD
to 1300 AD



Buddha seated on the coils of the Serpent Mucilinda , the Bodhisattva Lokeshvara or Avalokiteshvara on his right , and the goddess Pregonaparamita on his left. It was a very common image during the reign of Jayavarman VII.



ANGKOR THOM

Jayavarman VII (1181 –
1220)

the **Builder of Bayon** with
216 faces of Bodhisattva or
himself as **Devaraja**.

Here he is shown as
Siddhartha
(with Muchlinda)

SIDDHARTHA



ANGKOR THOM



Jayavarman VII
(1181 – 1220)

the **Builder of Bayon** with
216 faces of Bodhisattva
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Preah Khan(Northeast of Angkor Thom) Temple-12th century



Double storeyed structure- Preah Khan





Garuda-Preah
Khan temple



The cult of Vishnu became very important in the twelfth century. The image of four armed Vishnu is reproduced 1020 times on the sides of the monument shown here found in the Preah Khan at Kompong Svay and now in the Gui Met museum.

Terrace of the Elephants



Bas-relief in the Terrace of the Elephants



RISE & FALL OF ANGKOR CIVILIZATION OR KHMER EMPIRE (802 – 1431)

1. Jayavarman III (1243 – 1295)

A. Usurped the throne from Indravarman II.

B.. A strong believer in Hinduism & brutal enemy of Buddhism. Caused massive destruction of Buddhist statues & historical records of his predecessor. Converted many Buddhist temples to Hinduism.

C. When Kublai Khan (Mongol) invaded, settled with tributes. Thus, empire survived.

2. Srinindravarman (1295 – 1309) Declared Theravada as State religion Issued inscriptions in Pali. Devaraja concept ended.

3. 1309 – 1431 A.D. Empire split into minor kingdoms.

A. No inscription is available. No more temples & monuments were built.

B. Khmers were unable to maintain the extensive irrigation system. Tanks & canals silted up. As a result could not prevent monsoon floods . No water storage in dry season.

C. The emergence of Ayutthaya kingdom (1351) in Thailand was a major threat to Angkor. It attacked Angkor repeatedly ,& finally in 1431 ,marching on the roads of Jayavarman VII , sacked the city.

4. This marked the end of Angkor Empire.

Thank you