



SACHI, The Society for Art and Cultural Heritage of India
invites you to

AUSPICIOUS ATMOSPHERE: INDIAN TEMPLE FACADE & AJANTA CEILING PAINTINGS



Mabisapatra, mythical fauna, Cave 1, Ajanta ceiling, 525-540 CE. Photo courtesy: Gautama Vajracharya

An Illustrated Talk by Dr. Gautama Vajracharya



Vrsapatra, mythical fauna,
Cave 1, Ajanta ceiling, 525-540 CE.
Photo courtesy: Gautama Vajracharya

Ancient India believed that sky is mother. She conceived for ten lunar months and gave birth to a rain child at the very beginning of monsoon. Using the Ajanta ceiling paintings, Dr. Vajracharya discusses the iconography and traditional symbolism of entrance and ceiling paintings of Indian shrines. This little discussed concept played an important

role in the development of art and culture of the Indian subcontinent.

Cave paintings at Ajanta are found on both walls and ceilings. The walls are painted with representations of the Buddha, the Bodhisattava, and scenes of the Jataka tales. The paintings on ceilings show human and celestial figures in addition to real and mythical flora and fauna. The focus of Dr. Vajracharya's talk will be the significance of the Ajanta ceiling paintings.

Thursday, May 10, 8:00 pm
Home of Bipin & Rekha Shah

91 Mount Vernon Lane, Atherton, Ca. 94027

Please join us for tea, coffee, and dessert following the presentation.

Dr. Gautama Vajracharya is a Sanskrit Scholar with a keen interest in South Asian art. He teaches Indian civilization and art history at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His most recent publication is the *Watson Collection of Indian Miniatures at the Elvehjem Museum of Art*. He is also the author of *Everlasting Flowers of Buddhist Art*.

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