

## Dadi's Ancient Knowledge: The Magnetic Giant of Devache Gothane

Long before the great empires of Maharashtra were forged, and long before foreign ships touched the Arabian Sea, the hard laterite plateaus—the *sadas*—of the Konkan coast held a profound secret. Over 10,000 years ago, during the Mesolithic era, ancient hunter-gatherers carved massive figures directly into the solid rock. These are the Konkan Petroglyphs, a vast network of over 1,500 geoglyphs that remained hidden beneath layers of soil and mud for millennia.

While many of these ancient carvings depict identifiable animals like elephants, tigers, and aquatic creatures like stingrays, the most baffling mystery lies near the small village of Devache Gothane.

Here, exposed on the flat, barren plateau, lies the carving of a solitary human figure. It is slightly larger than life-size, measuring roughly eight feet tall, with a strangely enlarged head. But the true mystery of Devache Gothane is not in the figure's size; it is in its unseen, invisible power.

According to local Konkani folklore passed down by village elders, this figure is not merely a drawing, but a celestial guardian locked within the stone. The old tales say that eons ago, a strange being fell from the sky, carrying an energy so intense that it disoriented the birds and disrupted the sea tides. To contain this chaotic energy and protect the land, the ancient shamans of the Konkan etched the being's exact outline into the earth, trapping its power within the laterite rock forever.

For centuries, this was considered nothing more than a bedtime story. However, modern researchers recently discovered a phenomenon that makes the old legends impossible to ignore.

If you stand at the foot of the carved giant and place a magnetic compass on the rock, the needle goes completely haywire. Depending on where you place the compass around the figure's torso, the magnetic polarity violently shifts, sometimes reversing completely. This intense magnetic anomaly exists exclusively at this specific carving. Nowhere else on the vast laterite plateaus of the Konkan does the rock behave this way.

To this day, geologists and archaeologists cannot definitively explain why this single, ancient carving defies the earth's natural magnetic field. Is it a geological coincidence involving a concentrated meteorite strike hidden exactly beneath the carving? Or did the ancient inhabitants of the Konkan possess an understanding of magnetic fields 10,000 years ago, deliberately choosing this highly charged piece of earth to carve their giant?

The Magnetic Giant remains one of the greatest unsolved mysteries of the Konkan, quietly watching the sky from the stone.