

# **Influence on and by Vedic Gods & Vaishnava Art on Copper Hoard: Anthropomorphic Figures**

## **Abstract:**

Knowledge of copper hoard in Indian subcontinent has been restricted since 1822. B. B. Lal was the first who identified and suggested the possible association of Ochre Coloured Ware with Copper Hoards. Copper hoard consisted of various copper objects ranging from sword, antenna sword, spearhead, celt etc. However, among all, the most notable and bewildering was the anthropomorphic figure. Till the date it is very hard to understand the utility of such figure but several scholars have postulated different hypothesis regarding there association and representation with Indian deities, Ochre Coloured Pottery Assemblage, Northern Black Polished Pottery Assemblage etc. For instance, some scholar believed that the anthropomorphs are the images of Indra of Late Rig Vedic Period, while others believing in representation of Indra and Vishnu. In this paper, a synthesis attempt is made on providing a brief enumeration of the early literature on Copper Hoards and none the least regarding anthropomorphic figures. Henceforth, this paper primarily emphasizes on defining the Copper Anthropomorphic figures and later by closing examining the influence of Vaishnava Art on Anthropomorphic figures. Notwithstanding, this paper will also attempt to provide a brief enumeration of earlier influence on and by Vedic Gods on the Copper Hoard as well. Apart from that, this paper will also look into the domination and depiction of *Indra* and followed by depiction of *Viśnu* including his *avatars* through early art that had a great impact on depictions of non-Vaishnava deities, particularly with regards to the akimbo hands of the copper anthropomorphs. Nonetheless, after discussing the root cause for the predilection or the lack of it with regards to the overwhelming imagery of the copper anthropomorphs and its impact over centuries, the recapitulation spells out the clearly noticeable influence of the human shaped metal figures on the other cults. The influence of Vedic gods other than *Indra* and *Viśnu*, especially in the early historic period, is also elaborated herein.

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