

ITCH CCA – 1

SARGA AND ILLUSTRATION OF AYODHYA

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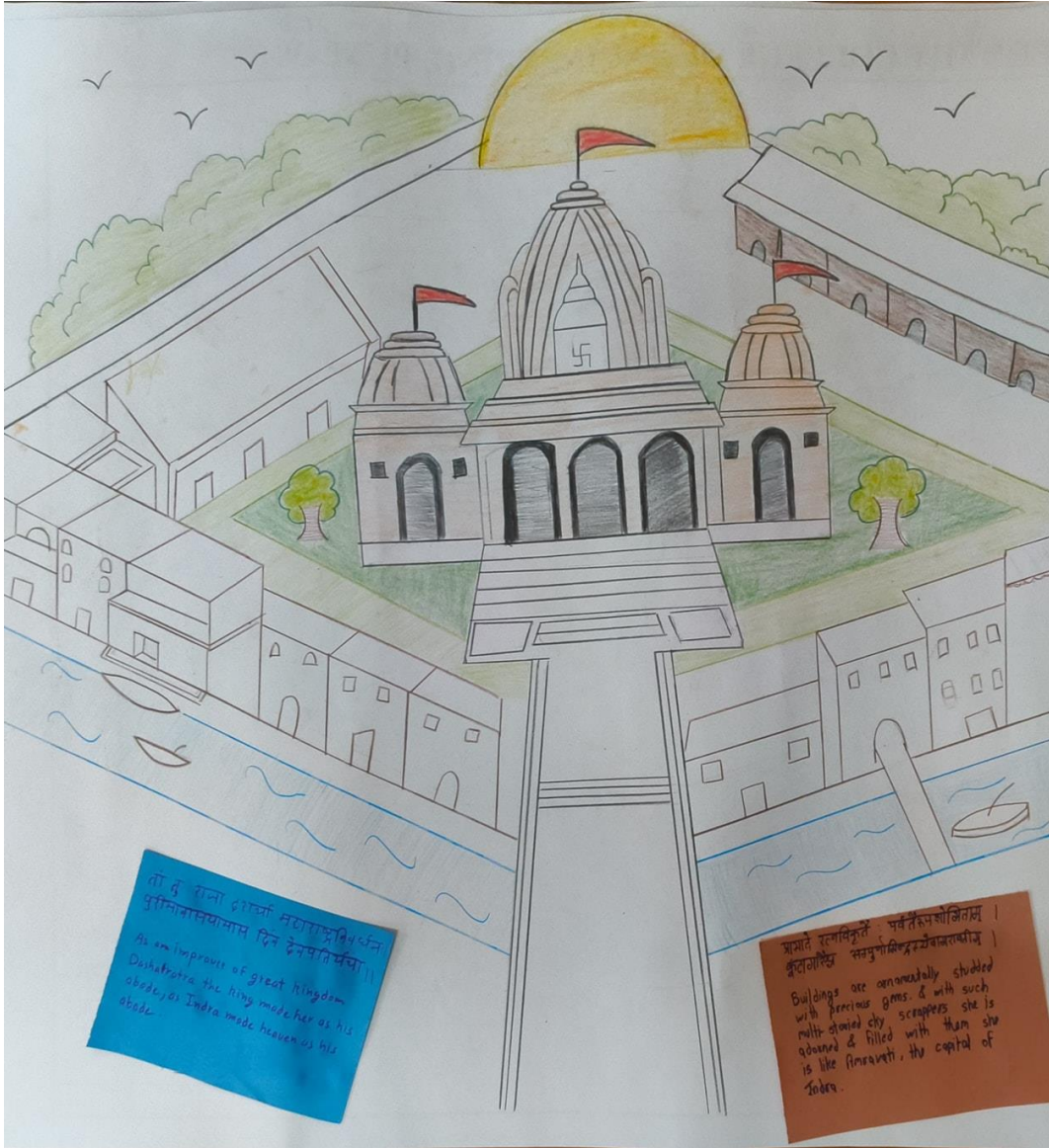
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Drawing:



अयोध्या

अयोध्या नाम नगरी
रामायणीयकथिता ।
भद्रनाम नगरेव वा पुरी निर्मिता
अवधम् ॥ १-५-६६

A world-revered city is there in
that Kingdom, which is personally
built by Rama, the foremost ruler of
mankind.

पित्रात्मोपायदाकारा वत्सारागौपुत्रा
सर्वरत्नमयीणां विशालनगरि स्थिता ॥

Amazing is Ayodhya for its lay-out is
like a game board called as Tosand
with its flock of beautiful women
moving thereabout, where all kinds of
precious gems are heaped up and where
its seven storied buildings are picturesque.

अवधतः पुरा नगरेव कोशलकी
समाधुरा ।
श्रीमती प्रसीदन्ती दुर्धमता
महामहती ॥ १-५-६७

That glorious city with well-attended
highways is named, gorgeous, high-
way and three, yugama's beautiful town.

तौ तु राजा दशरथ महापुत्रमिधम्
पुरीगामसमाप्तं दिन देवमतिमया ॥
He an emperor of great kingdom
Dushetra the king made her as his
abode, as Indra made heaven's his
abode.

प्रभाते रत्नमयैः पर्वतैरुपकोशिता ।
कुलशाला समुपविष्टा रमणीयताम् ॥
Buildings are ornamentally studied
with precious gems, & with such
multicolored city scapers she is
adorned & filled with them she
is like Amravati, the capital of
Tobes.

अयोध्या

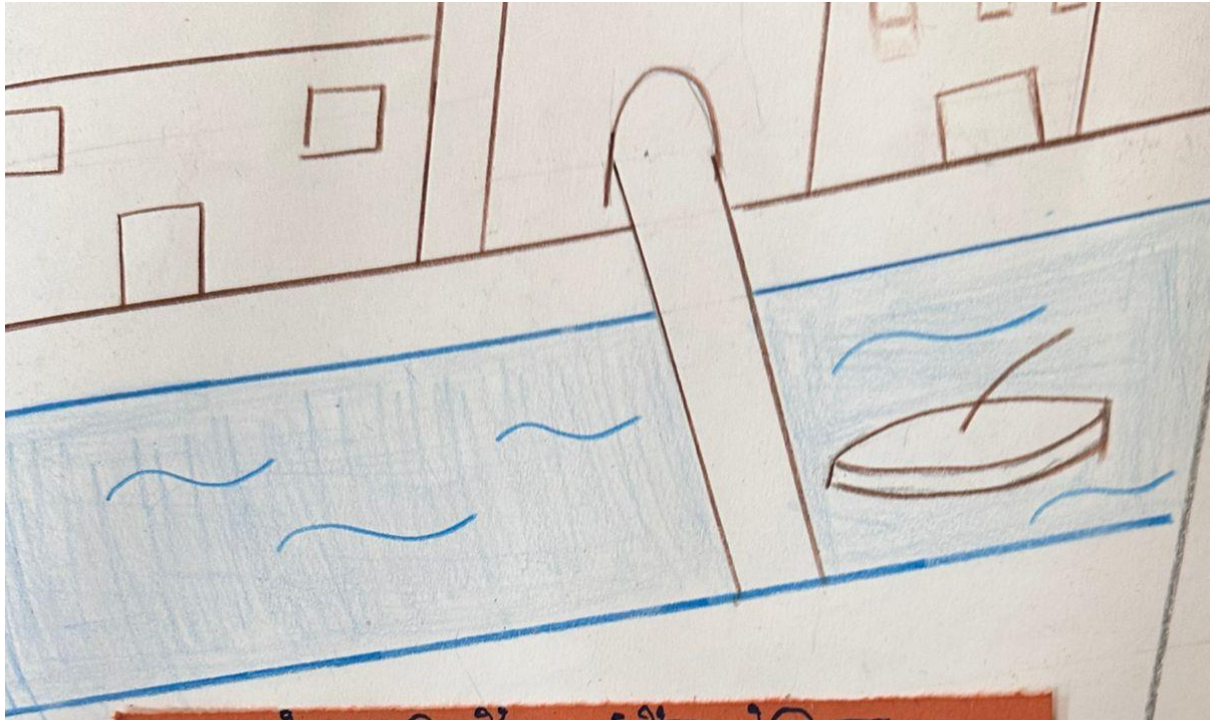
अयोध्या नाम नगरी

तत्रासील्लोकविश्रुता ।

मनुना मानदेव या पुरी निर्मिता

स्वायम् ॥ १-५-६६

A world-reowned city is there in that kingdom, which is personally built by Manu, the foremost ruler of mankind.



प्रासादे रत्नविकृते : पर्वतैरुमशोभितम् ।
क्वलागारैश्च सम्पुर्णमिन्द्रस्यैवाश्रयणीम् ।

Buildings are ornamentally studded
with precious gems. & with such
multi-storied sky scrappers she is
adorned & filled with them she
is like Amravati, the capital of
Indra.

तां तु राजा दशार्च मदारारष्ट्रनिवर्धनः।
पुरिमावासयामास दिवं देवपतिर्यथा ॥

As an improver of great kingdom
Dashatratra the king made her as his
abode, as Indra made heaven as his
abode.

that Ring down, which is personally built by Manu, the foremost ruler of mankind.

चित्रामाष्टापदकारं वरनारीगणैर्युताम्
सर्वरत्नसमाकीर्णं विमानगृहशोभिताम् ॥

Amazing is Ayodhya for its lay-out is like a game board called as Tapadi and with its flocks of beautiful women moving thereabout, where all kinds of precious gems are heaped up, and where its seven storied buildings are picturesque

आयात दश च द्वै च योजनानी
महापुरी।

श्रीमती श्रीणी विस्तीर्णं सुविभक्ता

Q1. What sciences are required to build such a city?

The city of Ayodhya, as described in the **Bala Kanda**, appears to be a marvel of ancient urban planning, advanced technology, and societal sophistication. Several sciences and fields of knowledge would have been required to build such a city. Based on the description, here are the key areas:

1. Urban Planning and Architecture

- **Town Planning:** The city's layout, with well-devised highways, wide roads, and division of spaces, requires knowledge of **urban planning**, **geometry**, and **engineering**.
- **Architecture:** The construction of multi-storied buildings, fortifications, palaces, and marketplaces implies expertise in **structural engineering**, **materials science**, and **architectural design**.
- **City Fortifications:** Impassable moats, gates, and walls indicate knowledge of **military engineering** and **defensive architecture**.
- **Landscape Architecture:** Gardens, mango brakes, and ornamental designs point to a developed knowledge of **horticulture**, **landscaping**, and **aesthetic design**.

2. Hydrology and Water Management

- **Water Supply and Distribution:** The mention of drinking water "like sugar cane juice" and the city's layout surrounded by water management systems indicates sophisticated knowledge in **hydrology** and **water management**.
- **Irrigation:** For the agricultural abundance described in the city, there would need to be expertise in **irrigation systems** to support the large-scale production of cereals and crops.

3. Agronomy and Horticulture

- The abundant food supply and flourishing of rice, cereals, and other crops suggests advanced knowledge of **agriculture**, **crop rotation**, **soil fertility**, and **horticulture**.

4. Civil Engineering and Infrastructure

- **Roads and Highways:** The construction of a vast network of roads and royal highways shows an understanding of **transportation engineering**, including road construction, material durability, and traffic flow.
- **Drainage Systems:** The city must have had sophisticated drainage systems to manage the watering of roads and gardens and the functioning of moats and water features.

5. Astronomy and Navigation

- Given the mention of "asceticism attained by sages" and the city's high spiritual and intellectual standing, it is likely that the city's positioning, timekeeping (with drumming and instruments), and calendar would have been influenced by **astronomy**.
- **Calendrical systems** would have been essential for agricultural cycles, festivals, and other significant events.

6. Military Science

- The extensive mention of archers, warriors, fortifications, and weaponry suggests knowledge in **military science**, including **archery**, **weapon crafting**, **battle strategy**, and **tactical defence**.

7. Metallurgy and Weaponry

- The presence of "sharp weapons," "battle equipment," and "canons" indicates the city was advanced in **metallurgy** and weapon-making technologies, possibly with knowledge of alloys and the crafting of tools.

8. Performing Arts and Culture

- The city supported a flourishing cultural scene with **theatrical groups**, **musicians**, and **dancers**, requiring knowledge in **performing arts**, music theory, and even **psychology** (to understand the impact of arts on society).
- **Art and craft**: The widespread use of craftspeople suggests the development of **handicrafts**, including **textiles**, **jewellery**, and **stonework**.

9. Economics and Trade

- The city was a hub of trade, with "residents of various countries" and "traders." This indicates a well-developed **economy**, with systems of **commerce**, **currency**, **banking**, and **trade** routes.
- **Marketplaces** would have required knowledge in logistics and **supply chain management**.

Q2. What do you infer about the society that had built the city?

Inferences About the Society That Built Ayodhya

1. **Technologically Advanced**: The description suggests that the society had mastered advanced technologies in various fields like construction, military defense, agriculture, and water management. The city's detailed planning and the presence of vast infrastructure imply that they had well-organized labor and resources.
2. **Culturally Rich**: With performing arts, music, dance, and craft traditions flourishing, the society valued cultural expression and aesthetics. There was likely a significant patronage of the arts by the ruling class, which indicates a high degree of social organization and leisure.

3. **Spiritual and Intellectual:** The presence of **Vedic scholars, sages, and rituals** suggests a highly spiritual society, where knowledge, both practical and metaphysical, was highly valued. There was a close relationship between religion, philosophy, and governance.
4. **Economically Flourishing:** The city was filled with traders and had a highly prosperous economy, which suggests that this society had access to abundant resources and participated in both local and international trade.
5. **Social Structure and Class Hierarchy:** The presence of both high-level intellectuals (Vedic scholars, sages) and skilled artisans or workers (craftspeople, traders) hints at a stratified society with different classes. Yet, it seems the social system allowed for a flourishing of various professions and trades, with a focus on mutual prosperity.
6. **Highly Militarized:** The city's defence system, with moats, battlements, and a powerful military presence, suggests that the society placed a significant emphasis on defence and the protection of its territory, implying potential threats or the desire to maintain peace and order.
7. **Inclusive of External Influences:** The description of a city teeming with people from different regions and cultures hints at an **open society** that welcomed diversity. This suggests that Ayodhya may have been a cosmopolitan city where people from various backgrounds coexisted.
8. **Ruler's Influence:** King Dasharatha's role in shaping the city also points to a centralized form of governance, where the king's decisions influenced the construction and organization of the city, as well as its military, cultural, and economic development.