

# Significance of Granite

-A study based on ancient Hindu scriptures and modern Science.

## Hindu Temple:

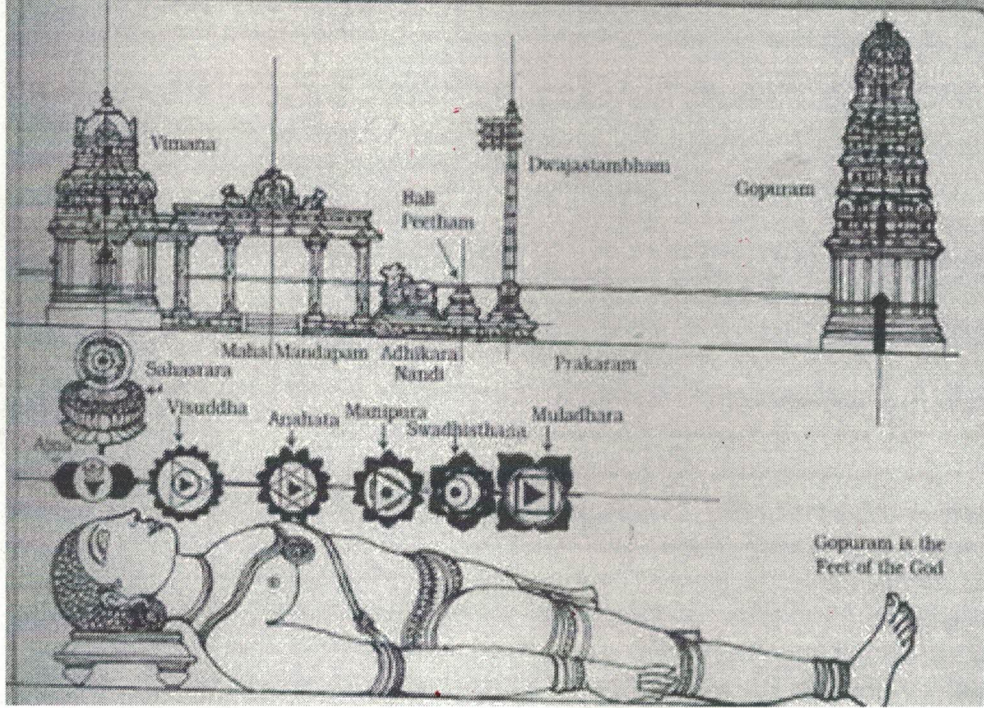
A Hindu temple is a structure designed to bring human beings and gods together, using symbolism to express the ideas and beliefs of Hinduism. A Hindu temple is a symbolic reconstruction of the universe and universal principles that make everything in it function. The temples reflect Hindu philosophy and its diverse views on cosmos and Truths.

The spiritual principles symbolically represented in Hindu temples are given in the ancient Sanskrit texts of India (agamas, Vedas and Upanishads), while their structural rules are described in various ancient Sanskrit treatises on architecture (Brhat Samhita, Vastu Sastras). The Hindu temple is often referred to in ancient Hindu texts on architecture (the Vastu Shastras) as the sacred mountain Meru or Kailasa, the dwelling of lord Shiva in the Himalayas. To represent such spiritual structure in other places granite a part of the mountain was used to build temple in the ancient period. Chola dynasty was on top of the history to build such great Hindu temples where they exist thousands of years.

## What ancient scriptures such as agama and epics of Hinduism say

1. It is believed that using granite will cause the vibrations of the **mantras to resonate at a higher level,**".
2. There are many aspects involved in constructing a temple. The procedure for building a temple is extensively discussed, and it could be expressed in short as "Karshanadi Pratisthantam", meaning beginning with "Karshana" and ending with "Pratistha". The details of steps involved vary from one Agama to another, but broadly these are the steps in temple construction:
3. The proportional harmonization of design, therefore, is of utmost importance in the construction of a temple. It is believed that the power and purity of the structure radiates from its exact proportions and measures as specified in the texts. It is also believed that a meticulously well constructed temple radiates peace and joy; and ensures the welfare of the world and its people. The **rules of Vastu-shastra render beauty, structural stability and quality of spaces by virtue of light, sound and volume management.** They also evoke in the devotee an attuning of his person to its structure and ambience.
4. Hindu Temples take their cue from the structure of Human body. The vast Hindu canonical literature on Agamic texts, Devalaya Vastu (Temple Vastu astrology) and sacred geography describe the temple as a cosmic man, the 'Purusha' (cosmic man).
5. Garba-graham (main sanctum) is equated with human head; antarala (vestibule) is equated with human neck; ardha – mandapam (half-hall) is compared with human chest; maha – mandapam (main hall) is equated with the stomach; flag-post is viewed along with human male organ; and gopuram or temple gateway tower is viewed along with human feet. since garba graham is equated with human refers to head how important to secure the head.
6. The Vastu Purusha is visualized as lying with his face and stomach touching the ground; to suggest as if he is carrying the weight of the structure. His head is at North East (ishanya) and his legs are at the South West corner (nairutya). The South West corner (nairutya) where the Vastu Purusha has his legs corresponds to the Muladhara chakra and denotes the earth

principle. Just as the legs support the weight of the body, the base (adhistana) for the muladhara should be stable and strong. Accordingly, the South West portion of the building is the load bearing area; (where garbagraham comes) and should be strong enough to support heavy weights. It denotes the garbagraham. Just as the feet are warm, the South West cell represents warmth and heat; even according to the atmospheric cycles the South West region receives comparatively more heat.



7. Granite stone is the only stone which has all 5 elements i.e. earth, water, heat/fire, air and space. These 5 elements are called; "Pancha boothas " and should be in the ratio as described by Sage Manivasagar in "Thiruvaasagam" .
8. Further, each element has one or more attributes such as rasa (taste), Gantham (smell), sparsha (touch/tangible), roopa (form/shape), spatha(sound) while mother earth has all these five attributes. Therefore, using a granite Stone for carving a deity and imbuing him with mantras will invoke the deity to come and give his blessings.
9. Sage Manivasagar says "God, (Iraivan) spreads his Holiness in the earth through the 5 elements, in the following ratios:

Five of earth, four of Water, three of fire, two of air, and one of space.

"பாரிடை ஐந்தாய்ப் பரந்தாய் போற்றி  
நீரிடை நான்காய் நிகழ்ந்தாய் போற்றி  
தீயிடை மூன்றாய்த் திகழ்ந்தாய் போற்றி  
வளியிடை இரண்டாய் மகிழ்ந்தாய் போற்றி  
வெளியிடை ஒன்றாய் விளைந்தாய் போற்றி  
அளிபவ ருள்ளத் தமுதே போற்றி!"

The Granite stone is the place where all these elements are found and hence is used to create deities throughout the Hindu culture.

In addition to the above spiritual explanation, it can be explained scientifically by using Blackbody Radiation law which refers to an object or system (Idol or shrine) which absorbs all radiation incident upon it and re-radiates energy which is characteristic of this radiating system only, not dependent upon the type of radiation which is incident upon it. You can simply experience it while having panchamrutham given in the temple. You do the same mixing at home, nothing specially you feel in terms of smell and taste (gantham and rasa).

**Further we look at the scientific features of granite**

1. Granite characteristics include strength and durability. This unique and elegant natural stone is one of the oldest, hardest, and strongest stones available.
2. Granite is a highly durable siliceous stone. Compared to others, it is more resistant to the acids found in lemons, vinegars, and cleaning products which means most granites do not etch.
3. Most granites are also 'scratch proof'. They will not scratch even when cut on. Things such as keys, coins, utensils, and appliances won't scratch it either. Granite can actually dull your knives.
4. Granite can withstand heat up to 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

Granite stones have more sharpness on edges than others where it easily collects more electrons (the form of cosmic energy in Hinduism). Since the sanctum (garbhagraham) is made of granite stone it happens automatically where devotees get more praise from Lord Ganesha.

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