

Title of Tour: *The Face of Spirituality*

Brief Tour Planning Worksheet for Group Tour

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INTRODUCTION:

Good afternoon and welcome to Mia! Our tour today is structured around a theme called **THE FACE OF SPIRITUALITY**. Our tour will include these 3 galleries which display objects from India & various countries in SE Asia. We will specifically be focusing on figurative objects that represent the face of spirituality in Asian cultures prior to the 17th century. Whatever the religious purpose of the object - a sculpture to be worshiped, a meditative tool, a teaching aid, a protector, or even an architectural component, the presenters will help us make connections from the figurative imagery we see to a broader understanding of how these faces played a meaningful spiritual role in their individual cultures.

The first face we'll see today is what a SE Asian might see walking up a path towards a religious temple in Cambodia. As you enter this small gallery try to visually examine the face that is awaiting us around this corner. Once everyone has looked closely at this sculpture we will continue our discussion.

ORGANIZATION: (Order your 6-8 objects into a logical tour route, both spatially and thematically. Keep in mind the overall theme and think about connections between objects that will facilitate transitions.)

1. Cambodia, *Guardian Lion*, Buddhist, Sandstone sculpture
 2. Vietnam, *Deified King*, Champa, Sandstone sculpture
 3. Indonesia, *Ganesha*, Hindu, Volcanic stone sculpture
 4. Thailand, *Walking Buddha*, Buddhist, Bronze sculpture
 5. Central Tibet, *Shakymuni Buddha*, Buddhist, Cotton w watercolor & gold
 6. Tibet, *Green Tara*, Buddhist, Copper sculpture
 7. India, *Yogini Holding a Jar*, Hindu, Igneous rock sculpture
 8. India, *Lintel Arch from a Vishnu Temple*, Hindu, Gray limestone relief sculpture
- Alternate #1 Bangladesh, *Vishnu with Lakshmi & Sarasvati*, Hindu, Grey schist relief sculpture
- Alternate #2 India, *Seated Jina*, Jain, Black stone sculpture

Transitions: (1-2 sentences that make a smooth transition between one object and the next, allowing your audience to make connections and follow the tour more easily.)

Transition between 1 and 2:

Protector of spirituality might be the best way to summarize the first face of SE Asia that greeted you on this tour, a guardian lion symbol prominent within the Buddhist tradition throughout Asia. Next we are going to Vietnam to see a figure that also demonstrates the spread of religious symbols from surrounding Asian countries.

Transition between 2 and 3:

We've now seen how the form of the Deified King reflects both Buddhist and Hindu influence. While our next piece will look similar to our deified king in size, shape, and material, we will all agree that the face of this spiritual figure is very different!

Transition between 3 and 4:

Now that we have learned about Ganesha, a popular Hindu face of spirituality in Indonesia in the 10th century, let's travel to Thailand where we'll meet a walking Buddha created almost 500 years later.

Transition between 4 and 5:

You've heard only some of the life story of Buddha, Thailand's face of spirituality. We are now going to look at a Tibetan painting that allows us to learn more about the Buddha's path toward enlightenment.

Transition between 5 and 6:

We have looked at this thangka with a myriad of Buddhist faces on it, delivering the message to the devoted that enlightenment can be achieved. Next we will see a face we have NOT yet experienced, that of a WOMAN. Get ready to meet Green Tara!

Transition between 6 and 7:

We are ready to leave the Green Tara, one of the most revered female bodhisattvas, regarded as a "Savior" in overcoming obstacles. "Fear not, I've got this." We travel from Tibetan Buddhism, back 500 years to 10th century India where Hinduism is practiced. Here we will look at yet another female face of spirituality.

Transition between 7 and 8:

Now we're leaving our Yogini who is the embodiment of female energy to explore another Hindu temple sculpture. We'll find this sculpture, though, is adorned with multiple figures to reflect the powers of a god who protects and preserves the cosmos.

CONCLUSION:

As we have seen in the 8 objects we discussed today, the face of spirituality in India and much of Southeast Asia represented a broad spectrum of beliefs and practices. These objects were worshipped to like the Walking Buddha, Yogini and the Green Tara,

worshipped at like the Lintel or Lion, or were sometimes merely a tool to inspire contemplation and reflection from worshippers like the thangka.

These “faces” of spirituality gave us a glimpse into the world of the Hindu and Buddhist religions and portrayed how intertwined they were with the culture and everyday lives of believers.

May we thank you for your time today and we personally want to invite you all back to Mia. We have touched on only a small portion of the faces and treasures here so we hope you feel free to take another free tour or come and browse on your own - it's always free! Have a great day and again, thank you for coming today. We will stay around after the tour for any further questions.