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Aditi Bansal

[@proudlymessedup](#)



#Thread Hero Stones

The proof of bravery of our ancestors etched on stones. A Hero Stone is essentially a memorial commemorating the fame of the warriors who had died in a battle, while defending a king/cattle/village/women /border.

1/n

Most of these stones erected between the 3rd CE BC -18th CE AD, can be found all over India, although the higher concentration is in Karnataka, which is thought to have over 2,500 examples.

2/n

An archetypal Hero Stone has sculptures in 3 panels -

Upper Panel – The upper panel depicts the subject worshipping a deity, most commonly a Shiva linga, with an attendant/priest.

3/n

Middle Panel – Here, the hero seated in a palanquin or shrine, often being lifted to the heavens by nymphs (apsaras).

4/n

Lower Panel – This panel usually depicts how the hero died, so battle scenes are often shown, but on occasions you do come across something a little different.

There are some with even 4,5,6 and 7 panels.

5/n

There are also hero stones depicting the bravery of women who sacrificed their lives immolating themselves in fire, called Sati stones. They depict a set of sun, moon, an upright open arm and hand bent at the elbow with bangles intact.

6/n

It has been noted that in the construction of later Hindu temples the process of the selection of a stone for carving the image of a god, the consecration and other rites are the same as those for the erection of these memorial stones.

7/n

A massive hero stone housed in a mandir in Agrahara Bachahalli, Karnataka