

The Repeated Violations of Ahlaya and the Perpetuation of Hegemonic Revisionism

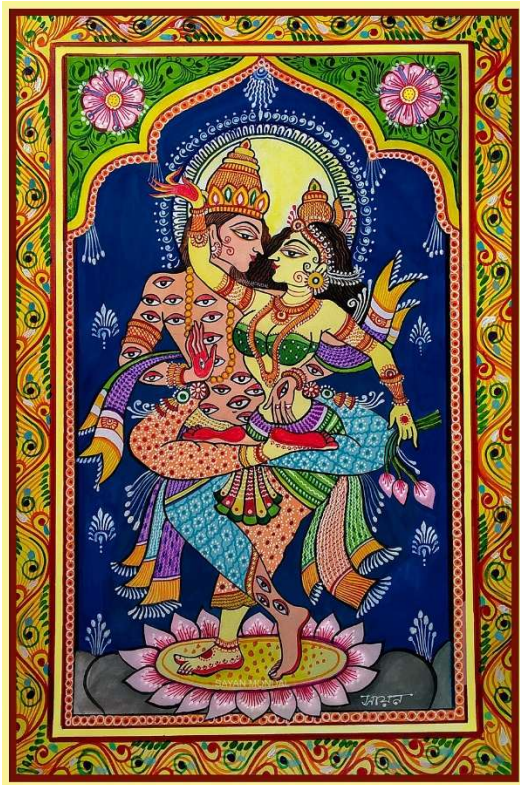
Cast of Characters

Ahlaya ('unploughed'): the most beautiful woman, created by the Gods, and given in marriage to the forest-dwelling and older ascetic Gautama

Gautama: the ascetic who is given the responsibility by the Gods of caring for Ahlaya until she reaches puberty. When that time arrives, the sage returns Ahlaya to the Gods, who, impressed by Gautama's sexual restraint and asceticism, bestow Ahlaya upon him

Indra: the king of the lesser gods and ruler of heaven, who is jealous of Gautama and seduces Ahlaya (see image below)

Rama: seventh avatars of Vishnu (the Creator), and a King who is the male protagonist of the Hindu epic Ramayana.



Indra seducing/raping Ahalya