

## Chapter 7 – Indian Bronze Sculpture

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### EXERCISE

#### Question 1:

Do you think that the technique of bronze casting has been a continuous process? How did it evolve over a period of time?

#### Answer 1:

Various metals have been recognized by human since ancient times, including gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, mercury, tin. Gradually, humans acquired the knowledge of mixing metals, like alloy. Bronze is the prominent alloy of ancient India, searched in Indus valley civilization and bronze casting technique was evolved then. The basic manner of melting of metal in furnace, solidification of metal, are still the same. Hence, it has been a continuous process.

#### Question 2:

In India sculpturing in stone and metal happened simultaneously. In your opinion what were the similarities and differences between both technically, stylistically and functionally?

#### Answer 2:

The carved and assembled stone achieves three-dimensional shape, certain rough stones are cleared by the removal of certain portion of stones.

In Metal sculpting is metals bronze, aluminum, copper, iron, gold, silver is modelled for making structures.

Differences between sculpting stone and metal:

- Stone sculpting removes the unwanted part from a stone. In case of metal sculpting, first the clay form is created, then cast and molded it in different metals.
- In case of sculpting stone additive-subtractive methods are applied but for sculpting metal molding is used.

#### Question 3:

Why are Chola bronze sculptures considered as the most refined?

#### Answer 3:

Reasons that make Chola bronze sculpture most refined are as follows:

- The chola bronze casting technique was fully developed.
- The Kalyansundara murti is regarded as highly intricate, which is near to perfection.
- The postures like tribhanga are perfectly modelled.
- The Nataraja sculpture of Chola period is believed to be epitome of bronze sculptures,
- The Chola queen Sembiyan Maha Devi patronized art in 10th century, and these arts flourished, collected by many.

**Question 4:**

Search for visuals of bronze sculptures of the Buddha belonging to periods other than the Chola Period from Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, etc.

**Answer 4:**

Do it yourself.