

भारत सरकार  
Government of India



अधीक्षण पुरातत्त्वविद्  
भारतीय पुरातत्त्व सर्वेक्षण  
औरंगाबाद मंडल  
'पद्मपाणी भवन', पहिला मजला,  
डॉ. बा.अ.म.वि. परिसर, नंदनवन कॉलनी,  
औरंगाबाद. ४३१००२, महाराष्ट्र

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अ.स.पत्र.सं. / Ltr. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

दिनांक / Date

F. No. 16/74/2017/MA 1584

31 MAR 2021  
Date:

To,  
Shri Hardik Somani  
Chief Operating Officer  
Sapio Analytica Pvt. Ltd.  
Mumbai

Sub.: Providing Information of Ajanta Caves, Ajanta, District Aurangabad –reg.

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, please find enclosed some quotes on Ajanta Caves by historical figures as well as eminent scholars who have worked on Ajanta Caves.

This is for your kind information please.

Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully,

  
Superintending Archaeologist

## Quotes on Ajanta Caves, Ajanta

In the east of this country (Mo-ha la-ch'a=Maharashtra) was a mountain range, ridges one above another in succession, tiers of peaks and sheer summits. Here was a monastery the base of which was in a dark defile, and its lofty halls and deep chambers were quarried in the cliff and rested on the peak, its tiers of halls and storeyed terraces had the cliff on their back and faced the ravine. This monastery had been built by A-che-lo of West India... Within the establishment was a large temple above 100 feet high in which was a stone image of the Buddha above seventy feet high; the image was surmounted by a tier of seven canopies unattached and unsupported, each canopy separated from the one above it by the space of three feet. The walls of this temple had depicted on them the incidents of Buddha's career as Bodhisattva, including the circumstances of his attaining bodhi and the omens attending his final passing away, all great and small were here delineated. Outside the gate of the monastery, on either side north and south was a stone elephant.'

Xuan Zhang, early 7<sup>th</sup> century CE

Adorned with windows, doors, rows of beautiful pictures, ledges, statues of celestial nymphs and the like, and supported by beautiful pillars and with a temple of Buddha inside.

### **Dying Princess, Cave No. 2:**

For pathos and sentiment and the unmistakable way of telling its story this picture cannot be surpassed in the history of art.

Griffiths (who spent 13 years painting reproductions of Ajanta murals)

One should set up monuments on mountains that will endure as long as the moon and the sun continue, for a man would exist to enjoy paradise as long as his memory is green on earth.  
(Cave 26)

G. Yazdani, Ajanta