

and a tenderness which is truly spiritual and non-human. These movements of the hands and 'finger plays' (Mudras) have been characteristically called by Sukracharya (a sage) as 'divya-kriya' or divine actions, being distinguished in their conventions from the movements and gestures of ordinary human beings."¹

The arts, having originated from the gods, were said to have been taught to human beings by rishis or great sages, who were the ancient custodians of sacred knowledge, of arts and sciences.

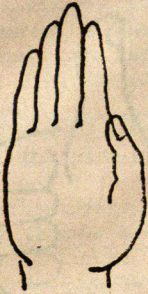
The attainment of high spiritual powers by the individual was associated with certain postures of the body, and gestures, which not only aided concentration, but were capable of evoking the inner spiritual consciousness.

Mudras or hand-poses set forth in the *Natya Shastra* of Bharata included the divine actions of celestial dancers and their application to the feelings and aspirations of human beings. The representation of the Rasas or emotions in gesture and posture were based on certain *archetypal forms* which idealized the plastic conceptions of emotion.

The description of hand poses or *Mudras* which is given in the next chapter will serve to illustrate the importance of gesture in Hindu dancing.

The *Mudras* (hand poses) are classified under two heads:—
(i) *Asamyutta Hastas* (single hands) and (ii) *Samyutta Hastas* (combined hands).

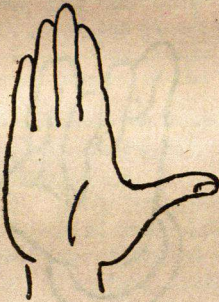
¹ O. C. Gangoly : *South Indian Bronzes, Calcutta, 1917.*



1. Pataka



2. Tripataka



3. Ardha-chandra



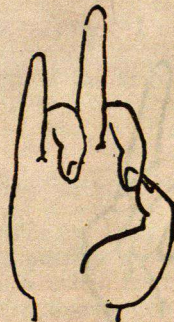
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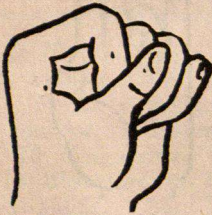
4. Kartari-mukha



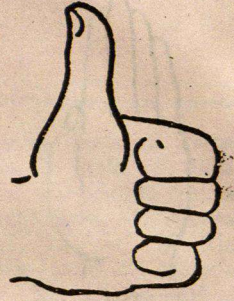
5. Arala



6. Shukatunda



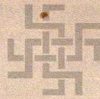
7. Musti



8. Sikhara



9. Kapittha



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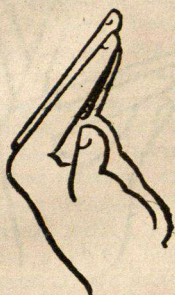
10. Kataka-mukha



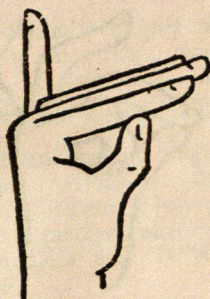
11. Suchi



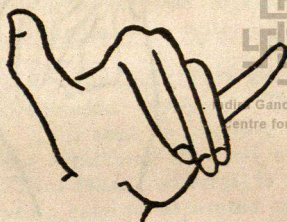
12. Padma-kosa



13. Sarpa-sirsa



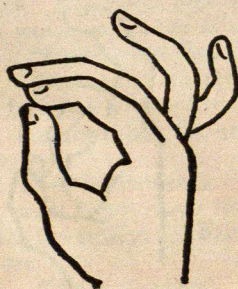
14. Hamsa-paksha



15. Mriga-sirsa



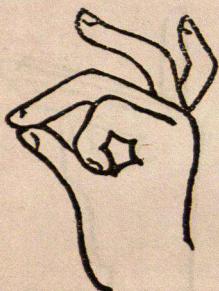
16. Chatura



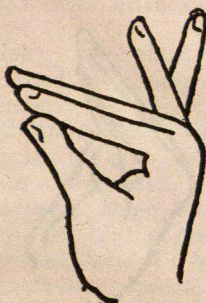
17. Langula



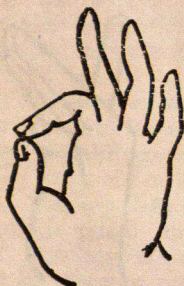
18. Ala-padma



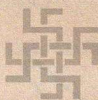
19. Bhramara



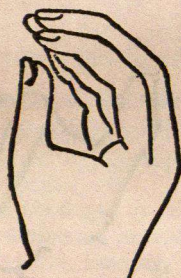
20. Hamsasya



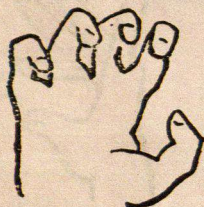
21. Samdamsa



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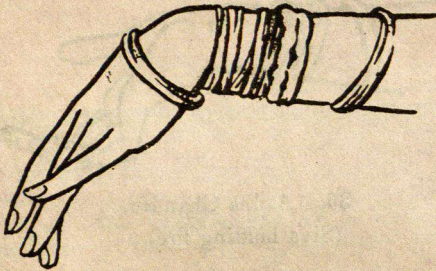
22. Mukula



23. Urna-nabha



24. Tamra-chuda



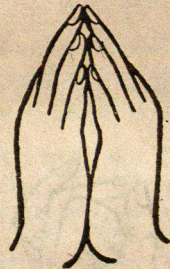
39. Gaja.



40. Hamsasya.



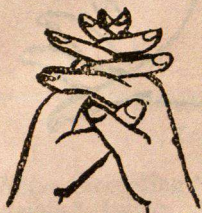
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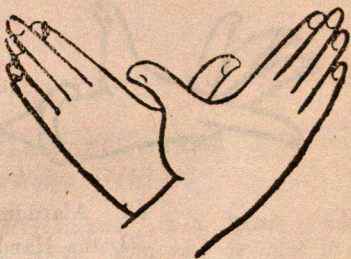
41. Anjali.



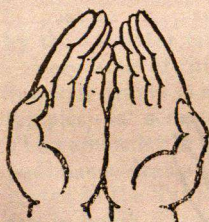
42. Kapota.



43. Karkata.



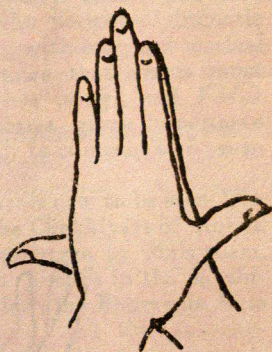
44. Gaduda.



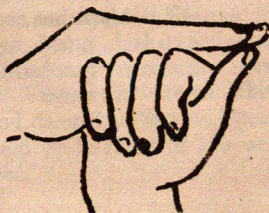
45. Puspaputa.



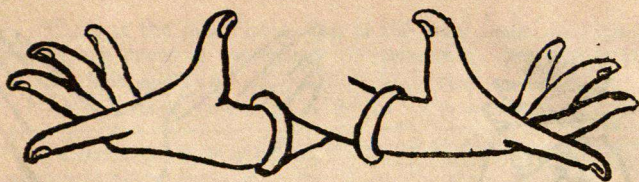
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46. Matsya.



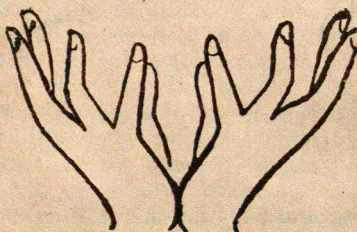
47. Sankha.



48. Alapadma Swastika.
(Lotus Hands Crossed)



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49. Alapadma.