



PAHARI ART

Pahari painting flourished between the 17th and 19th centuries in the hill kingdoms of **Jammu, Himachal** and **Garhwal**. It began in **Basohli** under Raja Kripal Pal around 1675, known for its bold lines, vibrant colours and expressive faces. As the Mughal Empire declined in the early 18th century, artists from the Mughal court moved to hill states like **Guler** and **Kangra**, bringing refined aesthetics, Persian motifs and realism to Pahari art.

Muslim artists trained in Persian styles contributed floral borders, architectural details and subtle brushwork. This fusion led to the rise of the **Kangra school** under Raja Sansar Chand (r. 1775–1823), known for its romantic **Krishna-Radha** scenes and lush landscapes.

Artists like **Pandit Seu, Nainsukh** and **Manaku** illustrated texts like **Bhagavata Purana, Gita Govinda**, and **Baramasa**. **Chamba, Mandi** and **Garhwal** schools added folk and spiritual narratives. Natural pigments, gold and squirrel-hair brushes were used on handmade paper.

These miniatures are more than art they're cultural stories, painted prayers and a reflection of the graceful blend of **Hindu devotion** and **Islamic artistry**.