

AMARAVATI STUPA

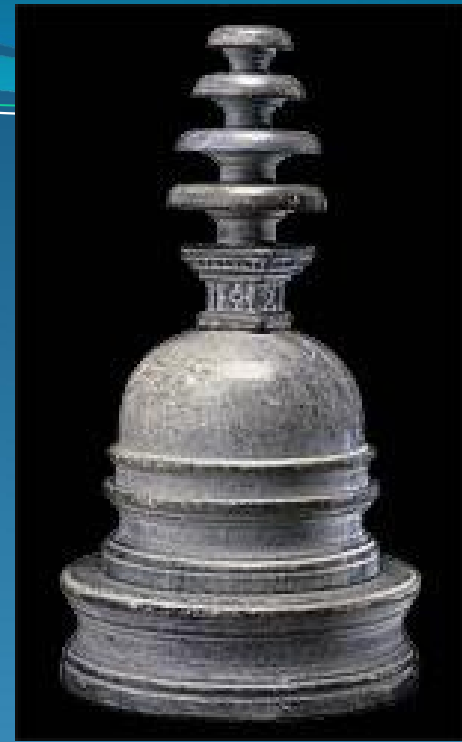
- **THE AMRAVATI STUPA ALSO KNOWN AS MAHACHAITYA STUPA**
- **RUINED BUDDHIST MONUMENT LOCATED AT AMARAVATHI VILLAGE, ANDHRA PRADESH**
- **IT IS THE LARGEST STUPA(95 FEET HIGH) IN INDIA.**
- **BUILT - 2ND CENTURY BCE TO 3RD CENTURY AD,**
- **THE STUPA WAS A SIMPLE STRUCTURE,BUT WHEN RENOVATED BY THE SATAVAHANA RULERS, BECAME A HIGHLY MARKED ARCHITECTURAL MONUMENT.**
- **AMRAVATI STUPA WAS FOUNDED BY AN EMISSARY OF EMPEROR ASHOKA.**

❧ THE MAIN PART WAS A SOLID GREAT DOME WHICH WHICH WAS 18M HIGH.

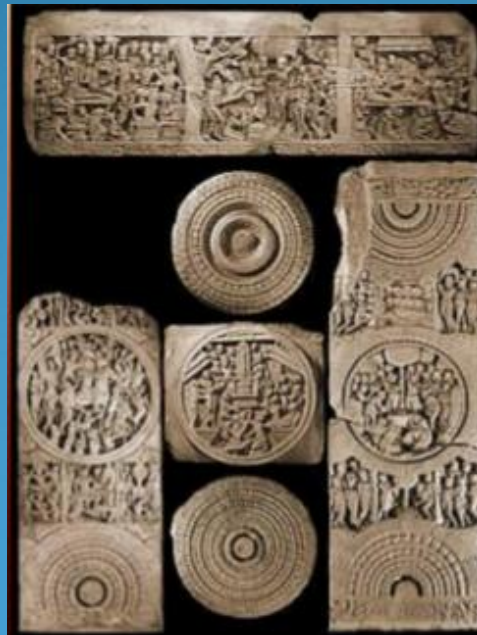
❧ THE DOME WAS MADE OF PALE GREEN LIMESTONE WHICH WAS MOST PROBABLY PAINTED WITH BRIGHT COLOURS.

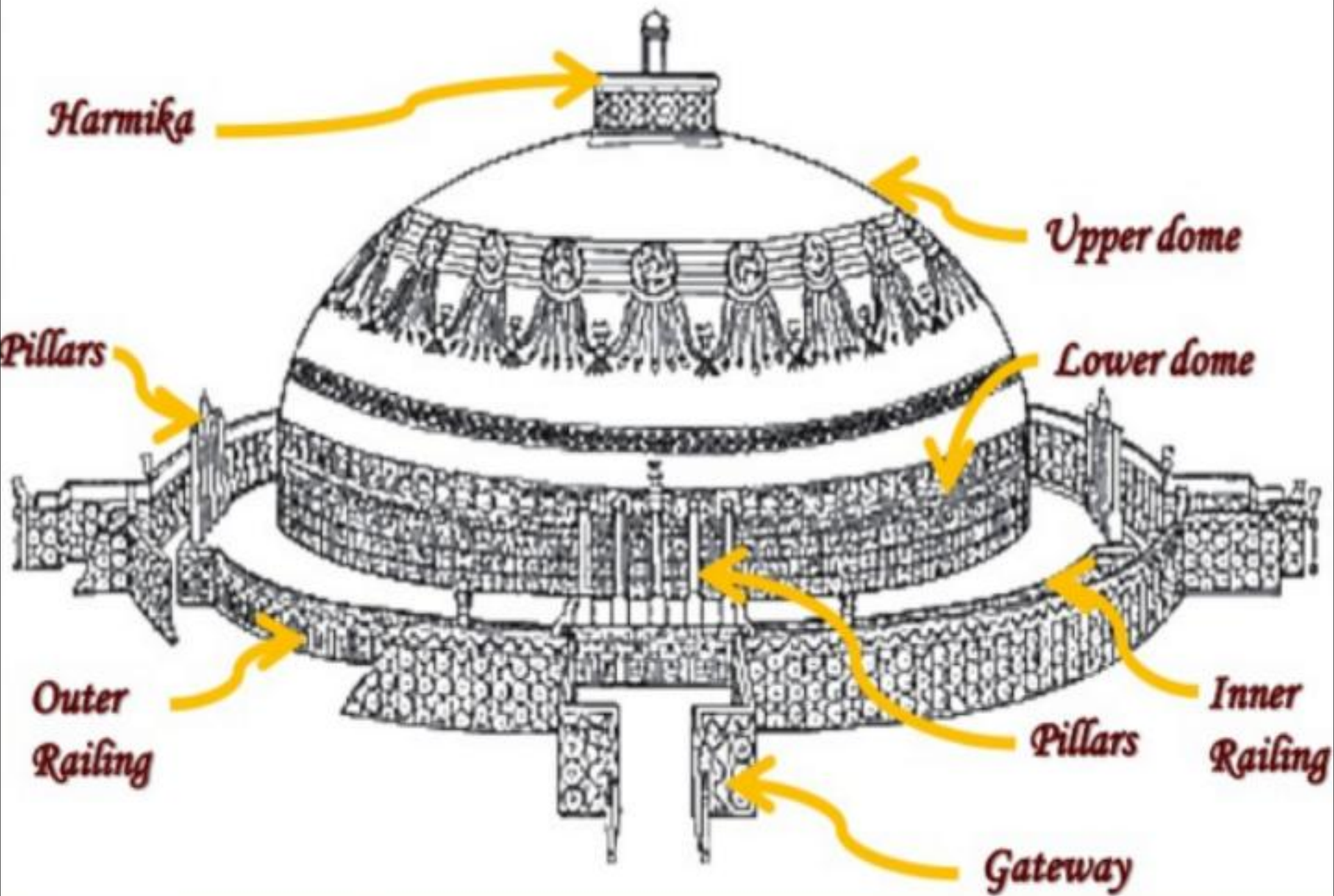
❧ THE LOWER PART OF DOME WAS COVERED WITH STONE RELIEFS.

❧ A SMALL BOX WAS USUALLY PLACED WITHIN THE DOME OF A STUPA. WHICH CONTAINS ASHES OF BUDDHA, CALLED HARMIKA.



- ❧ THERE WERE FOUR GATEWAYS IN THE RAILING AROUND THE STUPA. EACH ONE OF THE GATEWAYS MARKED ONE OF THE FOUR DIRECTIONS.
- ❧ EACH GATEWAY INTO THE AMARAVATI STUPA WAS A GROUP OF FIVE PILLARS. THE PILLARS WERE MOUNTED ON A SPECIAL PLATFORM.
- ❧ AROUND THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE STUPA WAS A TALL RAILING MADE OF LIMESTONE. THE RAILING MARKED BOUNDARIES OF STUPA.
- ❧ LION SCULPTURES WERE PLACED AT THE GATEWAYS. LIONS REPRESENTED POWER AND STRENGTH TO PROTECT THE STUPA.





AMARAVATI TODAY

- ❧ In the late nineteenth century most of the main sculptures of the stupa were taken from the site and sent to museum.
- ❧ Reconstruction of the stupa is done based on Douglas Barrett's (Sculptures from Amaravati in the British Museum, 1954)





The top of the slab shows a row of symbols called **TRIRATNAS** - A symbol representing the Three Jewels of Buddhism: **The Buddha, The Law set out by the Buddha, and the monastic brotherhood.**

Below the triratnas is a row of lions. Lions were important symbols of power and protection



Ruined Buddhist Stupa & Remains,
Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, India