

usually black, but in a few it seems to be white. A nimbus lies behind each head, generally dark red-brown edged with white.

In both upper zones the lotus seats (*padmāsana*) have shaded pink petals, mostly indented at their edges, outlined with white and red. Those of the outer zone are pale pink with pointed petals outlined with red. One of the figures in the lowest zone, second from the left, at the lower left corner of the plate, is four-armed and is seated on a goose-like bird, most probably the Sī-murgh. He may be Kārttikeya, a son of Śiva.

In design and execution this dome is probably unique among ancient Central Asian mural paintings; and the resemblance it bears, in several particulars, to medieval ecclesiastical art of the West and especially to certain Byzantine mosaics at Ravenna, gives it additional and significant interest. It is a matter for congratulation that it has been rescued from complete destruction by the skill and perseverance of those who, under Sir Aurel Stein's direction, performed the delicate task of detaching it from its vault in small sections and transporting it safely to New Delhi.