

# Black and Red Ware

## कृष्ण—लोहित मृद्भाण्ड



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- ▲ The Black-and-Red Ware was first designated as by Sir Mortimer Wheeler.
- ▲ However, for a long time, this ware was supposed to belong to Early Historical horizon and was termed as the Satavahana Ware.
- ▲ Pots of BRW contain two colours *i.e.* Black in whole interior and exterior top of it and Red on the exterior body only.
- ▲ The two colours may appear on the same surface (exterior) of the pot, or one surface may be black, the other red.
  
- ▲ **The technique of making** these pots based on two chemical process-oxidation and reduction.
- ▲ The portions which did not receive any air in the kiln, i.e. the top (exterior) and interior, turned black in the reducing condition of the kiln and the part exposed to air, i.e. exterior body, turned red in the oxidizing condition.
- ▲ Many of BRW pots are black inside and red outside. This could be a result of the inverted firing technique.
- ▲ In this technique the pots are positioned upside down in the kiln with some vegetal material placed inside them.
- ▲ When the pot is fired, its outer part is exposed to oxidizing conditions and turns red, while its inner parts subjected to reducing conditions and turned black.

- ▲ Some scholars believe in other technique in which the pots went through two round firing, i.e. they were first fired red and then re-fired, so that one of the surfaces became black.
- ☆ **Widespread ceramic style found at sites throughout India** during the 1st and 2nd millennia BC.
- ☆ Black-and-Red Ware vessels tend to be similar in terms of surface colour and treatment (with black interiors and red burnished exteriors with blackened upper portions), but they vary greatly in form, and cannot be attributed to a single cultural tradition.
- ☆ The Black-and-Red Ware is a component of Chalcolithic cultures.
- ☆ Some scholars believed that the bicolour was achieved by a single technique in all the Black-and-Red Wares.
- ☆ The ware was equated with races like Dravidian, Aryans, Yadavas, Bhils etc.
- ☆ Some archaeologists thought that it defined one unified culture, wherever it was found, while others held that it had no cultural personality its own.
- ✦ Black-and-Red Ware has been discovered from a variety of cultural contexts.
- ✦ Some Neolithic sites like Chirand (Bihar) and Piklihal (AP) and most of Harappan sites in Gujarat, eg. Lothal, Surakotada, Rojdi, Rangpur and Desalpur have yielded Black-and-Red Ware.
- ✦ Even post-Harappan Lustrous Red Ware in Gujarat is also associated with the Black-and-Red Ware.
- ✦ From many post-Harappan Chalcolithic sites it has been reported, eg. Malvan (Gujarat), Mahisada and Pandu Rajar Dhibi (Bengal).
- ✦ Most of Banas culture sites have produced this ware, eg. Ahar, Gilund etc.
- ✦ The Black-and-Red Ware is also associated with Malwa culture (Navdatoli, Inamgaon), Kayatha (Kayatha) and Jorwe culture (Chandoli).
- ✦ In Karnataka also the Black-and-Red Ware occurs in the Chalcolithic contexts as Tekkalkotta, Watgal, etc.
- ✦ It is claimed that there is distinct Black-and-Red Ware horizon, which precedes the Painted Grey Ware and follows the Ochre Coloured Pottery at Atranjikhhera (U P), and Noh (Rajasthan).
- ✦ Most of the Painted Grey Ware sites also have Black-and-Red Ware, viz., Atranjikhhera, Hastinapur, Khalaua, etc.

- ✦ Black-and-Red Ware is also occurred with Northern Black Polished Ware at Sohagaura, Prahladpur, Rajghat in Uttar Pradesh, Sonpur and Chirand in Bihar and Bairat in Rajasthan.
  - ✦ It continues into the early historical period in the north and also with the Russet-coated Painted Ware sites in Andhra Pradesh.
  - ✦ The south Indian Megaliths are characterised by a distinct variety of the Black-and-Red Ware.
  - ✦ Thus, the Black-and-Red Ware occurs in a variety of cultural contexts and has no distinctive typology of its own.
  - ✦ Its shapes are conditioned by the associated ceramic morphology.
  - ✦ It is not confined to any region- its spatial distribution covers whole of India.
- **Chronologically** too, it has a wide spread.
  - It occurs at Lothal and Piklihal in the mid-third millennium contexts, whereas several other sites it is found from the early centuries of Christian era.
- **Thus, the diversity of cultural associations, of chronological time spreads, of spatial distribution and even of technology among the Black-and-Red Ware of different sites prove beyond doubt that it is not a unified cultural tradition.**