

HUMPED-BULLS CARVINGS AT USGALIMAL, GOA - 5

Bull cult is a prehistoric religious practice that originated in the eastern Aegean Sea [Taurus Mountains] and extended from the Indus Valley ... to the Danube River in Eastern Europe. The bull god's symbol was the phallus, and in the east the bull often was depicted as the partner of the great goddess of fertility and thereby represented the virile principle of generation and invincible force.

(Encyclopedia Britannica)

Among the corpus of carved animals at Usgalimal, there are many bulls, goats, deer, dogs, anthropomorphs, and unidentifiable entoptic and human figures.

In contrast to the many humped zebu bulls (*Bos primigenius indicus*) – several with prominent phalluses - there is not a single easily distinguishable female species among the bovines. And, interestingly, many are located along the northern periphery (as in sky?).

It is possible that this sacred and liminal space was the earthly cosmos designed to model their world with the celestial order and laws of the sky gods. For the Sumerians, *Enkidu* was the Bull of Heaven; in Egypt, *Apis/Osiris*, was also symbol of the sun god *Ra*. The zebu bull also features in many of the Harappa and Mohenjo-daro seals.

The name “zebu”, from Tibetan “*ceba*,” meaning hump, is one of the oldest breeds indigenous to India, dating back to 3000 BC.



Two male bulls are at the extreme northwest corner of the rocky platform – sunset?





At eastern end, griffin-like hybrid humped bull (with phallus) and a bird.
(Note the hind legs that of a bird). As the rising sun (dawn), it travels
from east to west. Also possible, the bull may be carried by the giant bird.



Significantly, there are no discernable carvings of other animals like, a boar or pig, elephant, buffalo, horse, crocodile or any recognizable instruments of war, such as, a bow and arrow, horse-driven vehicle or a hunting scene.

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