



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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Film Series

Ajanta

The History and the Mystery

Produced by Motion Graphics PVT

Carving Monasteries at Ajanta in India

From the Teaching Company Series: *Exploring the Roots of Religion*

Friday, June 10, 2011 7:30 – 9:00 PM

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In 1819, some British officers were hunting a tiger in the Indian jungle. The tiger disappeared into a ravine, and when they followed it, they discovered an amazing complex of rock-cut caves. The Buddhist Caves of Ajanta, India were built between 200 B.C. and 600 A.D. The caves and their sculptures were developed over a period of 800 years, but then abandoned and forgotten. Isolation of these caves for several hundred years accounts for the excellent preservation of their paintings and sculpture. Originally homes for Buddhist monks, the caves were part of a highly sophisticated, graphically rich culture. Ajanta is a three-dimensional canvas, capturing the changing forms of art, culture, architecture, attires, jewelry, fashion and culinary rituals, all painted in vibrant colors. The Ajanta caves are listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. *Ajanta: The History and the Mystery* is being screened courtesy of KULTUR, www.kultur.com; 56 minutes. *Carving Monasteries at Ajanta in India* is being screened courtesy of The Teaching Company, www.teach12.com; 30 minutes.

Admission is free.

