

Stories with Art : **Jangarh Singh Shyam**



Let us start by reading a very very old Pardhan story.

The Creation of the Earth

Once upon a time, Bada Dev was sitting on a lotus leaf and thinking. The inspired idea of creating the world came to him, but he needed clay for this job. He fashioned a crow out of the dirt on his body and sent him in search of clay.

The crow looked everywhere but all he could see was water. Tired and exhausted, he decided to rest on a stump protruding out of the water. Just as he was settling down, he heard a voice go: “Who sits upon my claw?”

The voice belonged to Kakramal, the crab. The crow introduced himself and explained what he was doing. The crab, in turn, informed him that all the clay had gone to the underworld and was being eaten up by Gichwamal, the earthworm.

Learning of this, the crow requested Kakramal for his help: “Friend, please help me in bringing Gichwamal out because I need the clay for my master”, he said. The crab agreed and pulled the earthworm out from its depths, catching it by the neck and squeezing.

As Kakramal squeezed harder, Gichwamal spat out the clay he was eating. The crow quickly grabbed it, made balls of it and flew back to Bada Dev.

Bada Dev then asked Makda Dev, the spider, to spin a web across the sheet of water. Clay was plastered over this web to make a smooth and solid surface. Once he had created land, Bada Dev set about populating its surface with animals, birds and other living beings.

This is how the earth came into being.

Having read or heard this Gond-Pardhan Creation myth, can you illustrate an episode from the narrative here? Pick any moment from the story and try drawing the characters in action.



Share your drawing with us, and it might be featured on our website or social media. You can email us at education@map-india.org or DM us on Instagram [@mapbangalore](https://www.instagram.com/mapbangalore).

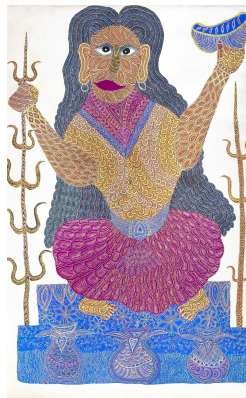
Here are some of the fantastic figures that populated Jangarh's world. Can you give them new roles and write your own story about them? You don't have to use all of them in your story, but try using at least two.

Character Gallery

Ajgarh (the python)



Phulwari (the goddess)



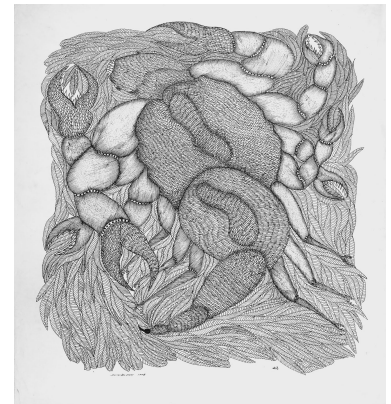
Dudha Rakshas (the demon)



Haril (the yellow footed green pigeon) & her chicks



Baagh (the tiger)



Vichi (the scorpion)