



BRIEF HISTORY OF KATHAK

The word Kathak is also mentioned in the Natyashastra. Kathak used to present the story of ancient historical character through acting for the benefit of others.

The idols found from the excavations of Mohenjodaro and Hararappa also give an impression of being Kathak.

According to Sangeet Ratnakar, in ancient times mythology used to be performed in temples by the narrators. Later, when the kirtan took place, the Nats danced. These Nats later came to be known as Kathakaar. After getting acquainted with the classical principles of dance, they danced the leelas of Lord Krishna.

At the time of Mughals, gradually this dance was mainly confined to the royal courts. Therefore, the effect of Shringar Rasa began to be read more in this dance. This dance was no longer a mere worship of God, but now became the object of entertainment of the courts. The place of worship was replaced by a decorative spirit. A separate scripture of Kathak dance was created. The definitions of dance were written in Urdu Kathak. There is also a Mughal courtier influence on the costume of the dance. Dance got a lot of encouragement during the time of Wajid Ali Shah, the last Nawab of the Mughal period. Kathak dance got special promotion since his time. His guru Thakur Prasad Ji named this dance as Kathak Natvari dance.

In the present era, efforts are on to take this dance to a new direction and to provide a new life.