

Asamyukta Hasta or Single Hand Gesture

Asamyukta hastas are done using a single hand. The Natyashastra mentions about 28 hasta. These Hand Gestures are a Part of Angika Abhinaya. Each of the *hastas* can be used to denote various thoughts, ideas and objects. There are various *slokas* (verses) from the ancient texts that enumerate the usage of the *hastas*. These are called *Viniyoga Slokas*. Apart from the suggested *viniyogas*, the dancer may innovate, if found necessary, to convey the appropriate message to the audience.

Sloka

“Pathakas Tripathako Ardhapathakas Kartharimukhaha

Mayoorakhyo Ardachandrascha Araala Shukathundakaha

Mushtischa Shikharakhyascha Kapitha Katakhamukhaha

Suchi Chandrakhala Padmakosha Sarparhirasthathaa

Mrigashirsha Simhamukhaha Kaangoolascha Alapadmakaha

Chaturo Bhramaraschaiva Hamsasyo Hamsapakshakaha

Samdamsho Mukulaschaiva Thaamrachoodas Trisoolakaha

Ithyaasamyukta Hastanam Ashtavimshati reerita”

