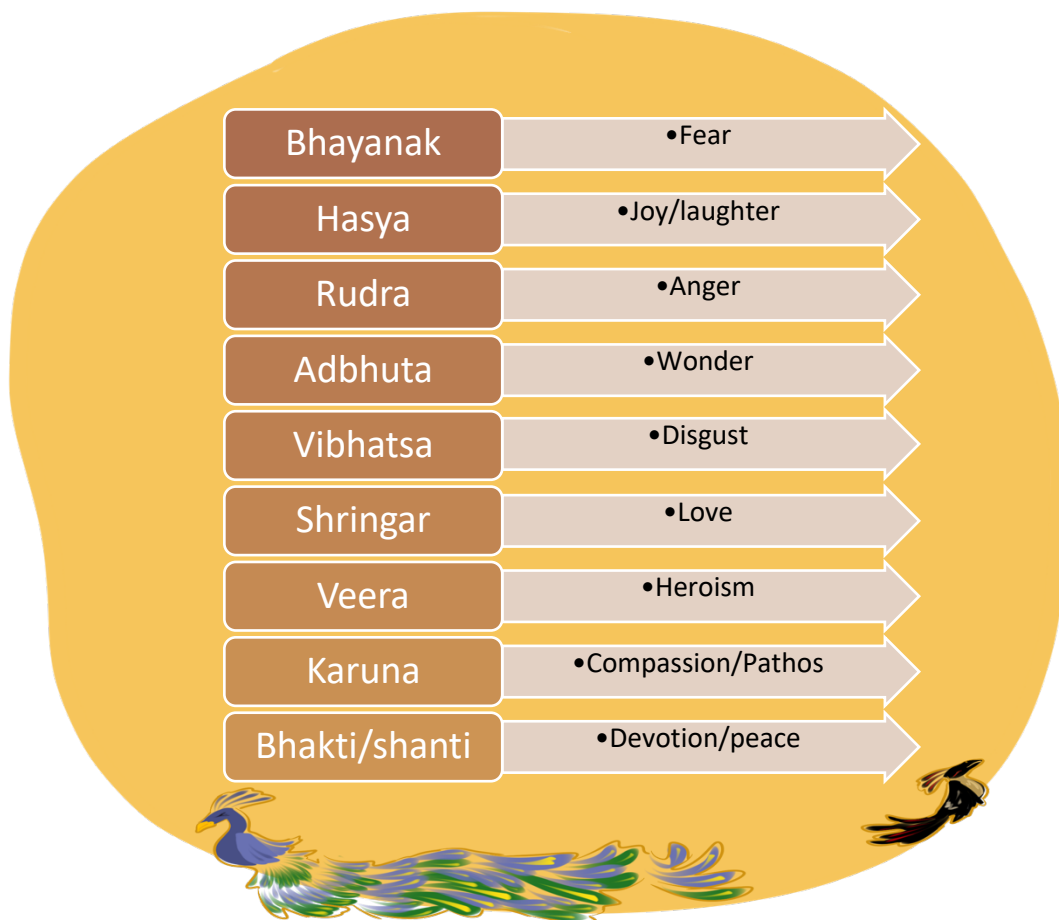




Arts Explorer

Rasa in Indian Music

Why is it that some music makes us feel full of joy? Other kinds of music make us cry? Music evokes all emotions. In the Natya Shastra, different emotions were described that arts can bring about. The Natya Shastra is a treatise on ancient Indian theatre of over 2000 years old. The theatre it describes, is more of a combination of music, dance, acting and even acrobatics. The theory of aesthetics described in the Natya Shastra is called the 'Rasa theory'. It was the role of an artist to evoke the Rasa and up to the audience to recognize these artistic emotions. Rasa literally means juice. There are 8 Rasa described in the Natya Shastra that each brings out different emotion.



Bhakti, the 9th Rasa, was not mentioned in the Natya Shastra but later added to the 8 Rasa described in the Natya Shastra.