

# Puppet theAtre and Japanese Bunraku

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රූකඩ කාව්‍ය සම්ප්‍රදායට ඇත්තේ දිගු ඉතිහාසයකි. විවිධ සම්ප්‍රදායන්ට අනුගත රූකඩ නාට්‍ය කලාවන් දැනට හැකි ය. මෙබඳු නාට්‍ය අතරින් ජපානයේ මුන්රකු නාට්‍ය කලාව විශේෂ නිර්මාණ ලක්ෂණ සහිත කලා සම්ප්‍රදායක් වේ. එම නාට්‍ය වර්ගයේ විශේෂත්වය විවිධා බැලීම මෙහි ලිපියේ අරමුණයි.

## Introduction

Puppetry has a long history. The origins of puppets are uncertain. In many cultures dolls or puppets have been used as substitute human beings for magic purposes. In East Asia puppet performances were often given in association with specific religious occasions, such as the anniversary of the dedication of a temple. Puppet shows were also used for such liminal occasions as births and funerals; the performance itself intended to bring good luck or ward off evil spirits.<sup>1</sup> Many such performances were given for the benefit of the gods, and in some cases the puppeteer was himself a priest (the Indonesian *dalang*, or the itinerant priests of medieval Japan). Even today a Japanese *bunraku* performance starts with a prayer to *Sanbaso*, an old puppet representing a god figure, which is kept backstage.<sup>2</sup> Traditional Indian shadow performances begin with a *puja*, often in the form of an adoration of Ganesh.<sup>3</sup>

Puppets were changed diversely at the development, with the intervention of different cultures. Even though there is no clear cut between the types of puppets, for the convenience of learning they have been divided in the following manner.

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මෙය මුල්ම පාඨමාලාවකට යම්මදිනක සිටි. ඉදිරි කාලයන් මෙසේමත් සිටියහ. ඉහළතර, මොහොතට මෙසේම.

මෙහිමානව මින මානවීය මෙහිමා. 13 කලාවක. 2010, මානවමානව, මින, මානවීය මිනවිද්‍යාලය.