

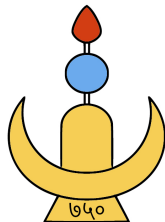
Proposal to Encode the ‘Parsapen’ Symbol in Unicode

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1 Introduction

This is a proposal to encode the ‘Parsapen’ symbol in Unicode. The character is proposed for inclusion in the block ‘Miscellaneous Symbols and Pictographs’ (U+1F300). Basic details of the character are as follows (the actual code point will be determined if the proposal is approved):

glyph	code point	character name
	U+1F9xx	PARSAPEN

2 Description

The PAR SAPEN symbol encapsulates the fundamental principles of the religious culture of the *ādivāsī* Gond community of India. The indigenous philosophical system of the Gonds is called *koya punem*. The symbol is wrought in statuary form, drawn on religious altars, and printed in books, used upon flags, and on emblems of Gond associations (see the accompanying figures).

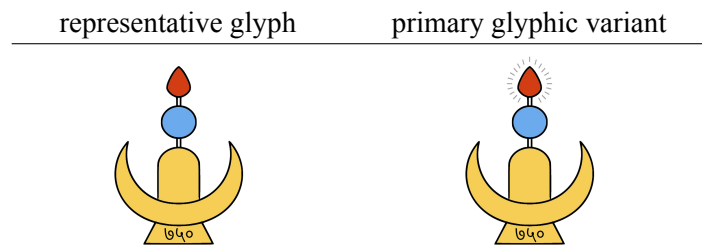
The symbol is comprised of three basic components positioned in vertical orientation. The first component is a *trisūla* ‘trident’ that consists of three elements: 1) a trapezoidal foundation; 2) an upward-facing crescent in profile, which rests upon the foundation; 3) a pillar with curved top, which rests within the crescent. The second and middle component is an orb. The third component is a pointed spheroid. The three are joined together with a vertical strut between the base and the orb, and between the orb and spheroid. The number ‘750’ is often written on the face of the base trapezoid.

The concept of *parsāpen* or represents primordial and universal divinity in *koya punem*. The components of the symbol have the following meaning: The middle pillar of the ‘trident’ represents intellect (*bauddhika aṅga*), the left arm signifies mentality (*mānasika aṅga*), the right arm signifies physicality (*śārīrika aṅga*). The array extending from the pillar through the orb to the spheroid represents the primeval masculine power known as Sallā. The orb represents the primeval feminine power known as Gāṅgarā. The spheroid at the top represents light. As a whole, the symbol depicts the primordial creative essence that infuses the universe, which results from interaction of Sallā and Gāṅgarā. The number ‘750’ refers to the traditional number of clans that comprise the Gond community.

The symbol is often decorated in color. The base is yellowish; the orb is bluish; and the spheroid is reddish. The number 750 is rendered in Devanagari or the Gondi script developed by Mangal Singh Masaram in 1918 (see Pandey 2015a regarding the latter). The accompanying figures show one instance of the number rendered using Latin digits. In some some drawings the base, crescent, and pillar of the ‘trident’ are merged into a single component. Some representations show ray emanating from the spheroid.

3 Glyphic Variants

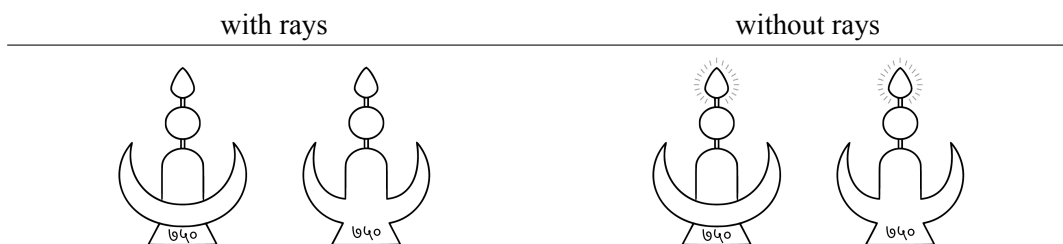
The primary glyphic variant of the PERSAPEN includes rays emanating from the top spheroid:



In some drawings the base, crescent, and pillar of the ‘trident’ are merged into a single component:



Outline forms of the symbol and its primary glyphic variant are:



4 Character Data

Character Properties Properties in the format of `UnicodeData.txt`:

```
1F9xx;PARSAPEN;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
```

Linebreaking Linebreaking properties in the format of `LineBreak.txt`:

```
1F9xx;ID # So PARSAPEN
```

Names List Names list information in the format of `NamesList.txt`:

```
@ Gond religious symbol
1F9xx PARSAPEN
* salla-gangara shakti
```

5 References

“Gondi Punem Flag Philosophy”. <http://jayseva.com/gondi-punem-flag-philosophy/>

Pandey, Anshuman. 2015a. “Proposal to Encode the Masaram Gondi Script in Unicode” (L2/15-090). <http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2015/15090-masaram-gondi.pdf>

———. 2015b. “Proposal to Encode ‘Shiva Linga’ Symbols in Unicode” (L2/15-093). <http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2015/15093-shiva-linga-symbols.pdf>

“Philosophy of Worldly Life”. <http://jayseva.com/philosophy-of-worldly-life/>

“फडापेन शक्ति उपासना”, *Gondwana Sandesh*, 17 January 2013. <http://gondwanasandeshraipur.blogspot.com/2013/01/blog-post.html>

6 Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Dr. Mukund Gokhale (Script Research Institute, Pune) for sharing information regarding the ‘Parsapen’ symbol.

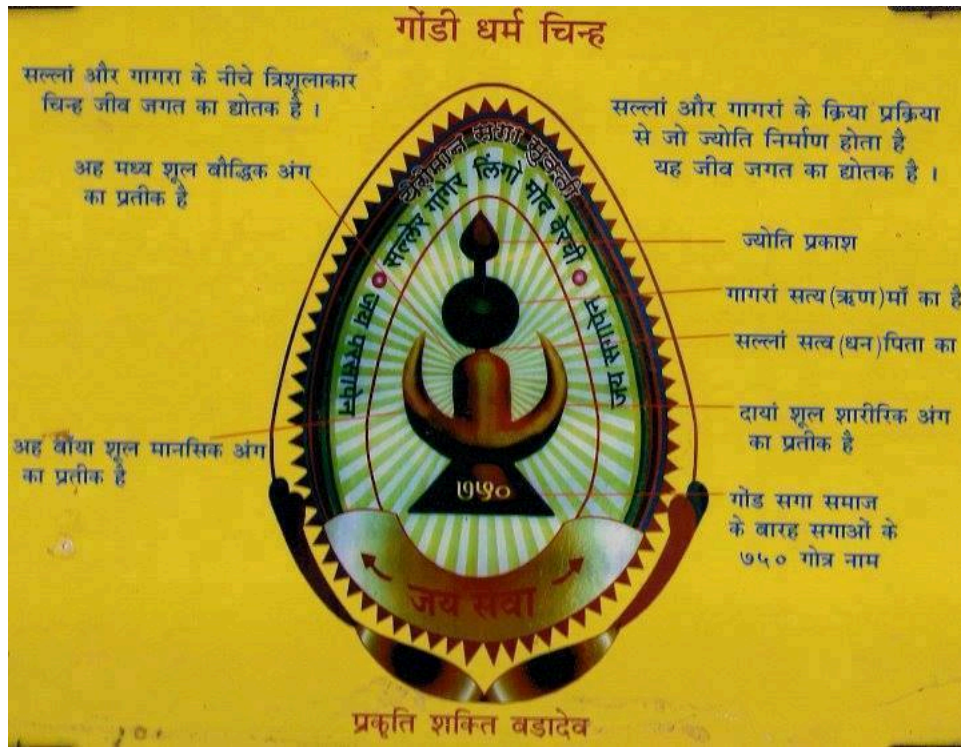


Figure 1: A description of the 'Parsapen' symbol in Hindi. The top caption of the image reads गोंडी धर्म चिन्ह "Gond religious symbol". The bottom caption reads प्रकृति शक्ति बड़ादेव. A translation is incorporated into the text of the introduction.

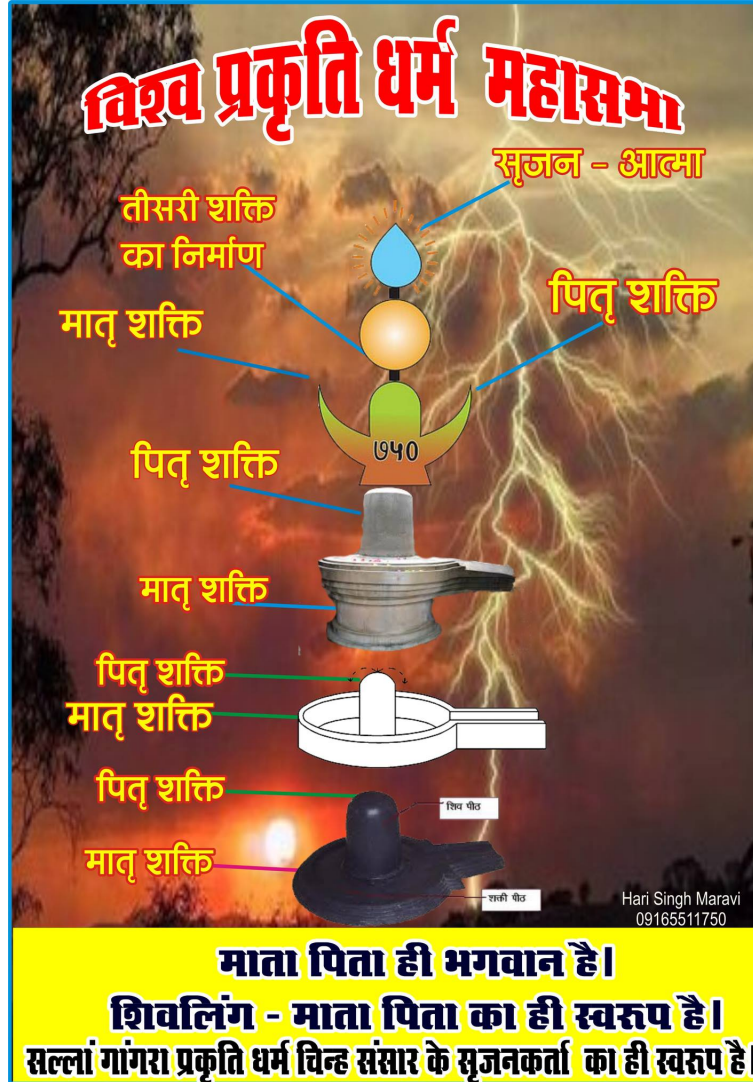


Figure 2: A comparison of the 'Parsapen' symbol and the 'Shiva linga with Shakti base' (three forms of the latter are shown in the bottom portion of the image). The components representing the universal procreative feminine power मातृ शक्ति and the universal procreative male power पितृ शक्ति on both symbols are labeled. The representation of the third power (तीसरी शक्ति) and creation/soul (सृजन-आत्म) in the PARSAPEN are also labelled.



Figure 3: A statue of the 'Parsapen' symbol with the three components decorated in typical colors. The base is orange, the orb is blue, and the spheroid is red.



Figure 4: A statue of the 'Parsapen' wrought in white plaster. The inscription of the number ७५० is rendered in red. Note the curious presence of the three connected lines on the face of the pillar. These lines and with a dot in the middle is a symbol associated with the Hindu deity Shiva. This motif suggestion syncretism between the 'Parsapen' symbol and the Shiva *linga*.



Figure 5: A statue of the PARSAPEN with a representation of the face of Lingo on its façade.



Figure 6: A statue of the 'Parsapen' symbol.



Figure 7: Drawing of 'Parsapen' on a tableu for the Gondi Bhumka Puja being performed at Akola Gondi Dharam Sammelan on February 23, 2014. The symbol is partially covered by an earthen vessel.



Figure 8: An earthen statue of the 'Parsapen' symbol at a religious ceremony being performed in Kachargad, 2014. The number '750' is embossed on the statue as 'JBO', which are digits of the Masaram Gondi script. White flags bearing the emblem surround the platform.



Figure 9: A rendering of the 'Parsapen' symbol in metal.

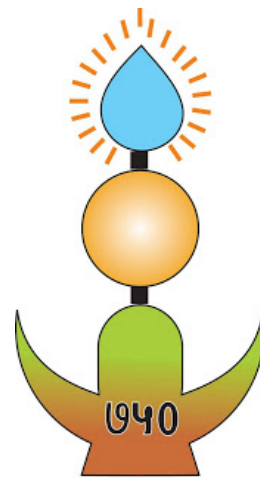


Figure 10: Graphical representations of the 'Parsapen' symbol.



Figure 11: Representations of the 'Parsapen' symbol on the insignia of Gond associations.

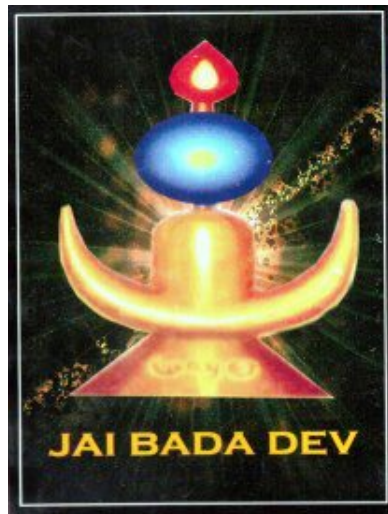
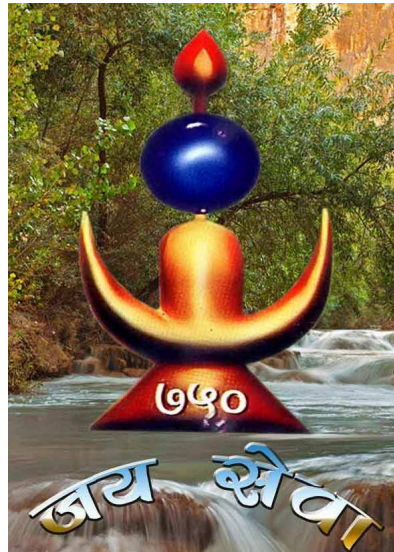


Figure 12: Additional artistic renderings of the 'Parsapen' symbol.



Figure 13: Graphical representations of the Gond flag. The 'Parsapen' symbol is shown in the left-hand field. The seven horizontal stripes represent the seven primary Gond phrateries. Each color is associated with a phrateriy. The arrow represents a deva. The number of arrows represents the number of DEVA-S associated with a phrateriy.

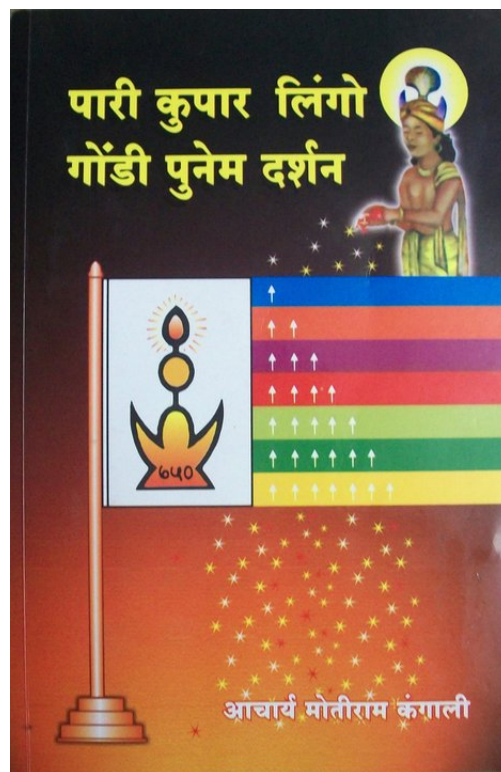


Figure 14: The Gond flag printed on the cover of the book *Pārī kupāra liṅgo goṅḍī punema darśana* by Motīrāma Kaṅgālī.



Figure 15: Gond flags at a Gond religious celebration in Amrakantak, Madhya Pradesh. The flags bear an outline form of the 'Parsapen' symbol.

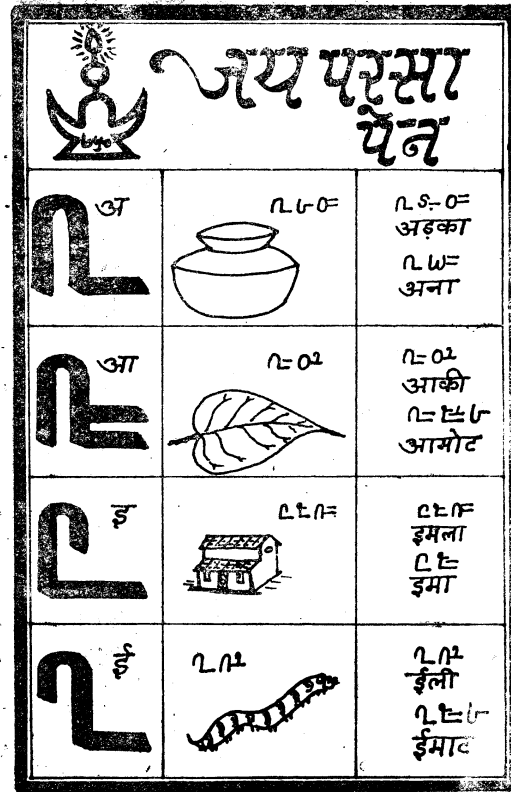


Figure 16: The 'Parsapen' symbol on a page of a Gondri script primer titled *Gomḍī lamka puṁḍāna* by Manīrāma Durgā Gurūjī. The phrase जय परसा पेन is written next to the symbol.

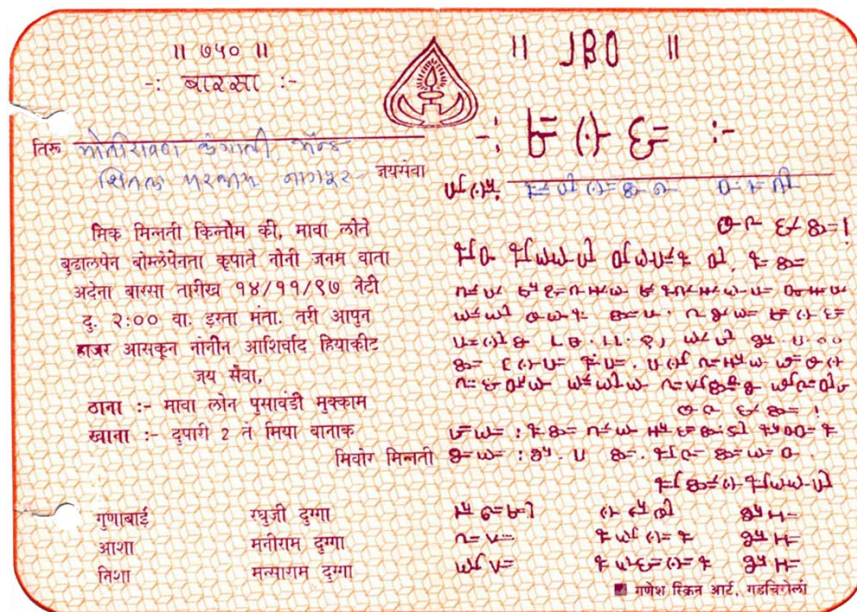


Figure 17: The 'Parsapen' symbol on an invitation card printed in Devanagari and the Gondri scripts.

Figure 18: The 'Parsapen' symbol on a newsletter.



Figure 19: The 'Parsapen' symbol on the cover of several books on Gond religion and philosophy.



Figure 20: Painting of Lingo bearing a 'Parsapen' motif in his hand.