

# CLASS V , EVS , CHAPTR 2

## HOTS-

- Q1. Name seven most poisonous snakes in the world ?
- Q2. What do you think of snake charming as a way to earn living ?
- Q3. What do snakes eat ?
- Q4. How much time does it take for a snake to digest its food ?
- Q5. Name some cultures in which animals are worshipped as gods ?

## CASE STUDY

The **serpent**, or **snake**, is one of the oldest and most widespread **mythological symbols**. The word is derived from Latin *serpens*, a crawling animal or snake. Snakes have been associated with some of the oldest rituals known to mankind<sup>[1][2]</sup> and represent **dual expression**<sup>[3]</sup> of **good and evil**.<sup>[4]</sup>

In some cultures, snakes were fertility symbols. For example, the **Hopi** people of **North America** performed an annual snake dance to celebrate the union of Snake Youth (a Sky spirit) and Snake Girl (an Underworld spirit) and to renew the **fertility** of **Nature**. During the dance, live snakes were handled, and at the end of the dance the snakes were released into the fields to guarantee good crops. "The snake dance is a prayer to the spirits of the clouds, the thunder and the lightning, that the rain may fall on the growing crops."<sup>[5]</sup> In other cultures,<sup>[which?]</sup> snakes symbolized the **umbilical cord**, joining all humans to **Mother Earth**. The **Great Goddess** often had snakes as her **familiars**—sometimes twining around her sacred staff, as in **ancient Crete**—and they were worshiped as guardians of her **mysteries** of **birth** and regeneration.<sup>[6]</sup>

Q1. Where do Hopi people live ?

Q2. Which is the oldest and most widespread mythological symbol ?

Q3. What is Snake Dance ?

Q4. Who are Snake youth and Snake girl ?

Q5. Describe the Latin origin of the word serpent or snake ?