

## Introduction

Kathak is one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance. The origin of Kathak is traditionally attributed to the traveling bards of ancient Northern India known as Kathakars or storytellers. The term Kathak is derived from the Vedic Sanskrit word Katha which means "story", and Kathakar which means "the one who tells a story", or "to do with stories".

Wandering Kathakars communicated stories from the great epics and ancient mythology through dance, songs and music.

Kathak is unique in having both Hindu and Muslim gharanas and cultural elements.