Most of this talk will be devoted to explain the ideas of a recent work in collaboration with Hélène Eynard-Bontemps (Inst. Fourier, Grenoble) about connectedness properties of the space of commuting diffeomorphisms of 1-manifolds.

Among (pan)magic squares, the one engraved in a temple in the sacred city of Khajuraho in India is one of the most striking ones. I will focus on this marvelous object from the point of view of symmetries. In concrete terms, I will explain why the group attached to it is isomorphic to that of 384 rigid movements of the hypercube. To do this, I will revisit Pandita’s theorem on counting the number of panmagic squares of order 4. Several mathematical questions on groups of symmetries of general magic structures will be presented.