AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF MADRAS GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

IN INDIA.

A. C. Blackwood & Co. (Late A. Constable & Co.), Madras.
R. Cambray & Co., Calcutta.
E. M. Godwin, Trichinopoly, Madura.
H. C. Brothman (Ld.), Madras.
G. C. Loganathan Brothers, Madras.
The Superintendent, Nizamunn Heever Press, Allahabad.
D. R. Telnostriana, Bombay.
Thacker & Co., Madras.
Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta.
S. Vas & Co., Madras.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Constable & Co., 11, High Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.
T. Fisher Unwin (T. L.), 1, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C.
C. H. & D. A., 1, Parliament Street, London, S.W.
P. S. King & Son, 1, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
L. & C. Co., 16, Great Russell Street, London, W.C.
B. Quaritch, 11, Grafton Street, New Bond Street, London, W.
W. Thacker & Co., 9, Creed Lane, London, E.C.
Oliver and Boyd, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh.
E. Purnell (Ld.), 136, Grafton Street, Dublin.

ON THE CONTINENT.

SOUTH-INDIAN IMAGES OF GODS AND GODDESSES

[Price, 5 rupees 8 annas.] [8 shillings 3 pence.]
SOUTH-INDIAN IMAGES

OF

GODS AND GODDESSES

BY

H. KRISHNA SASTRI, B.A., Rao Saheb,
Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy,
Southern Circle.

CENTRAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL
LIBRARY NEW DELHI.

Published under the authority of the Government of Madras.

MADRAS GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1916.
THIS little book owes its origin to a suggestion made by His Excellency Lord Carmichael, when he was Governor of Madras in the year 1912. He felt that, while there was a multitude of books dealing with Hindu religion and incidentally with Hindu iconography, there was no popular handbook which would give information about the images one commonly sees in temples or museums in Southern India, and that it would be a distinctly useful thing to supply that want. The Madras Government entrusted the task to me, presumably because my official duties bring me very often to visit the various temples in the Province and to study and classify the images found therein.

When I accepted the task, I was not fully aware of the difficulties that lay before me. In the first place, there were very few printed books, in Sanskrit or in translations, that gave the orthodox description and significance of the images set up in temples. And when I managed to collate notes from a few old manuscripts treating of this subject, it was almost impossible in several instances to reconcile the discrepancies which they showed or even to understand the technical terms which abounded in them. In some cases, the description of a particular image found in the local chronicles or Sthala-Purānas could not be traced in the Āgamas. I am not altogether sanguine that I have steered clear of these difficulties and succeeded in presenting a clear and readable account to the average reader.
My chief source of information in compiling this book has been an excellent work entitled "Tattvanidhi," published by the Sri-Venkatēśvara Steam Press at Bombay, and compiled by His Highness the Maharāja Mummadi Krishnarāja Vodeyar Bahadūr of Mysore. A short bibliography of other Sanskrit works consulted by me is given at page xv.

Among the many friends who have kindly helped me in this task, my special thanks are due to Sir J. H. Marshall, K.C., C.I.E., M.A., Litt.D., F.S.A., Director-General of Archaeology, Simla, and his assistant Mr. V. Natesa Aiyar, B.A., for extracts from ancient manuscripts on the subject of Indian iconography; to Mr. A. H. Longhurst, Archæological Superintendent, Southern Circle, for the numerous illustrations without which the book would be almost unintelligible; and to Mr. C. S. Anantarama Aiyar, the Under Secretary to the Government of Madras, for much valuable criticism which has been of great assistance to me. My thanks are also due to Mr. T. Fisher, Superintendent, Government Press, Madras, for his many kind suggestions about the get-up of the book and a practical arrangement of the numerous illustrations.

Ootacamund,  
1st April 1916.  
H. KRISHNA SASTRI.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I.
### INTRODUCTORY.

Temple and images, the subject of *Agamas* and *Silpa-Sastras*; origin of stone temples in the Pallava period (page 1f.)—Their development in the Chōla period (2)—Signs to distinguish a Saiva temple from a Vaishnava temple; ritual generally followed in temples; annual festivals (3f.)—Ritual in temples of village-deities (7) ... ... 1—9

## CHAPTER II.
### BRAHMA.

Not worshipped as the chief deity in a temple; his images and general description (10)—Various forms; illustrations (11) ... ... 10—16

## CHAPTER III.
### VISHNU.

His general description (17)—Incarnations (22)—Boar incarnation and the reverence paid to it by the early South-Indian kings (22f.)—Man-lion incarnation and its varieties (24f.)—Dwarf incarnation (30f.)—Rāma incarnation (35f.)—Krishna incarnation and varieties (37f.)—Buddha and Kalki incarnations (47)—Anantasayin, Padmanābha or Ranganātha (50f.)—Jalasayana, Vaikuntha-Nārāyana, Lakshmi-Nārāyana, Garuda-Nārāyana and Yogēśvara-Vishnu (52f.)—The 24 general forms of Vishnu; Pānduranga, Hayagriva and Venkatēśa (53f.)—Pradyumna or Manmatha, Vishvakarma and Garuda (62f.)—Hanumān (64f.)—Sudarsana (66f.)— *Śāligrāma* stones (70f.) ... ... 17—71

## CHAPTER IV.
### SIVA.

His temples and their non-sectarian nature; *Hula*, symbol of Siva; its significance, description and varieties (72f.)—Subsidiary images in a Siva temple; importance attached to his sportive forms (74f.)—The general form Kudālamūrti; its description and varieties; *Panchadehama* and Mahā-Sadāśiva (76f.)—Natarāja and his several dancing postures (77f.)—The Chidambaram temple; its history (88f.)—Dakshināmūrti and his various forms (89f.)—Lingodbhava (93f.)—Bhikṣhātana and Mōhīnt (97f.)—Kankālamūrti (103)—Kālyāna-sundaramūrti (105f.)—Sōmāskanda and allied forms (107f.)—
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vrisharūtha (113f.)—Chandraśekharamūrti (114f.)—Ardhanārī (120f.)—Haribhara (125)—Gajahāmūrti (125f.)—Gangādharā (126f.)—Kalāharamūrti (132f.)—Nilakanṭha (137f.)—Tripurāntakamūrti (140f.)—Kīrtārjunamūrti (141f.)—Chandēśanugrahamūrti (143f.)—Saratbhamūrti (147f.)—Pāśupatamūrti, Rakṣōghnhamūrti, Aghōrmūrti, Bhairava and his various forms, Mahākāla and Kālāgni-Rudra (148f.)—Vīrabhadra and his various forms (155f.)—Khētrāpāla (159f.)—Chandēśa, Nandīsa, Bhringīsa and Jvaradēva (161f.)—Ganapati and his various forms; his popularity (165f.)—Skanda and his different forms; the antiquity of his worship (177f.)...

CHAPTER V.

SAKTI-GODDESSES.

Their significance (184)—Their division into three classes and their worship on chakras, yantras and pithas (185)—Sarasvatī and her different forms (185f.)—Lakṣmi and her different forms (187f.).—The eight energies of Vishnu personified (189)—General description of Gaṇa or Pārvatī (190)—The Saptamātrikās (190f.).—Sakti goddesses holding Vaishnavite symbols: Chāmūndā, Durgā, Mahīshāsura-mardini and Mahā-Lakṣmi (190–211)—Kālaratātī, Tvarītī, Tripurā-Bhairavi, Vajrapraśātīrīni, Surā, Surapriyā, Śrīvidyādēvi, Prānasakti, Svasthāvēsīni, Satruvidhvasiṇī, Ugra-Tārā, Dhumāravatī, Sūlīni, Pratyangira, Srītādēvi, Trikāntakūtī, Bhūmatātī and Sīvapatī (211f.)—Yēṣthā-Lakṣmi (216f.)—Bālā-Tripurāsundarī, Sauhāg-yabhuvanavai, Annapūrṇā, Gāyatrī, Śāvitri and Sarasvatī, Tulājā-Bhavānī, Rājamātangi, Laghusyāmalā, Vārunī, Kurukullā and Vindhyāvāsīni (218f.)—Lalītā, Tripurasundarī and Rājarājēśvarī; their worship on Bālā-yantra and Śrī-chakra (220f.)...

CHAPTER VI.

VILLAGE DEITIES.

Their origin traceable to Tāntrik goddesses; names of a few of them (223f.)—Their worship and worshippers (226f.)—Ceremonies peculiar to temples of village deities; Draupadi temples and karagam (226f.)—Śati-worship and the fire-walking ceremony (229f.)—Village gods: Aiyaṇar and Karuppannasāmi (229f.)—Hero-worship; devil-dances (234)...

CHAPTER VII.

MISCELLANEOUS DEITIES.

The nine Planets (235)—The Sun; his description and the Sūrya-yantra (235f.)—The Moon and the other Planets (239f.)—The Dīkṣālakās: Indra, Agni, Yama, Nairītī, Varuna, Vāyu and Kubera (241f.)—The Nāgaś (248f.)—The demi-gods: Yaksahs, Vidyādhāras, etc., and Devāpālas (251f.)—Saints and sages (254f.)—The three religious reformers: Saiva and Vaishnavā saints (259f.)—Līma imagery (262f.)—Pedestals, postures, symbols, weapons and jewellery of images (265f.)...

235—273
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

FRONTISPICE. The Tanjore temple.

Fig. 1. Gopura, Narasimha temple; Mangalagiri 4

2. Back view of central shrine, Siva temple; Gangaikonda-
solapuram 5

3. Haridranadi tank; Mannargudi 6

4. Processional images (metal); Madura 8

5. Lamp patterns and pada-utensils; Uttattur 9

6. Brahma; Seven Pagodas 12

7. Do. Kumbakonam 13

8. Do. Tiruvadi 14

9. Brahma and Sarasvati; Kandiyur 15

10. Brahma on swan vehicle; Chidambaram 16

11. Vishnu (Ashtabhuja); Conjeeveram 18

12. Vishnu; Bellary 19

13. Do. Paramesvaramangalam 20

14. Vishnu and his consorts; Ariyambakkam 21

15. Boar incarnation of Vishnu; Seven Pagodas 23

16. Narasimha bursting forth from the pillar; Ahobalam 25

17. Ugra-Narasimha do. 27

18. Do. (metal); Madras Museum 28

19. Yog-Narasimha; Tirupati Hill 29

20. Trivikrama; Seven Pagodas 31

21. Do. Kumbakonam 33

22. Vamana; Nammakkal 34

23. Rama and group (metal); Ramasvaram 36

24. Krishna tied to a mortar; Penukonda 39

25. Butter-dance of Balakrishna (metal); Madras Museum 40

26. Serpent-dance of Kaliya-Krishna (metal) do. 42

27. Venu-Gopala do. 44

28. Madana-Gopala; Little Conjeeveram 45

29. Govardhana-Krishna; Seven Pagodas 46

30. Krishna on the punnai-tree (wood); Kumbakonam 48

31. Parthasarathi teaching Bhagavad-Gita to Arjuna; Pushpar-
giri 49

32. Anantasayan; Seven Pagodas 51

33. Vaikuntha-Narayana; Nammakkal 53
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fig.</th>
<th>Illustration Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>Lakshmi-Nārāyana; Nāmakkal</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>Garuda-Nārāyana; Chidambaram</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>Garuda-Nārāyana and Gajendramoksha; Kumbakonam</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>Yogēśvarā-Vishnu; Hūvinahadagalli</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Do. (?); Kumbakonam</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>Pânduranga; Tirupati</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Do.; Ahōbalam</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>Rati-Manmatha; Chidambaram</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>Garuda; Tanjore</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>Sudarsana; Tirupati</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>Do.; back view; do.</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>Do.; front and back view (metal); Dādikkōmbu</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>Sahasra-linga; Tiruvottiyūr</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>Panchamukha-linga; Tiruvānaikkāval</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>Natarāja (metal); Panchanadakkulam</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>Do.; Rāmēsvaram</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>Ürdhva-tândava; Tiruppanandā</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>Patanjali; Chidambaram</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>Vyāghrapāda do.</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>Kālikā-tândava (metal); Nallūr</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.</td>
<td>Dakshināmūrti; Āvūr</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.</td>
<td>Vinādhara-Dakshināmūrti; Chidambaram</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.</td>
<td>Yōga-Dakshināmūrti; Conjeeveram</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.</td>
<td>Dakshināmūrti; Tiruvengavāsal</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58.</td>
<td>Lingōdbhava; Tanjore</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.</td>
<td>Ėkapāda-Trimūrti; Tiruvottiyūr</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.</td>
<td>Do.; Tiruvānaikkāval</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.</td>
<td>Mōhini (metal); Valuvūr</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.</td>
<td>Bhikshātanamūrti (metal) do.</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.</td>
<td>Kankālamūrti (metal); Tenkāsi</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.</td>
<td>Kankālamūrti; Dhārāsuram</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65.</td>
<td>Kalyāna-Sundara; Madura</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.</td>
<td>Kalyāna-Sundara and Svayamvarā; Chidambaram</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.</td>
<td>Sōmāskanda (metal); Sivankūdal</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.</td>
<td>Sōmāskanda; Seven Pagodas</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.</td>
<td>Umāsahta do.</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>Vrishavāhana; Chidambaram</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.</td>
<td>Do. (metal); Vēdāranyam</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.</td>
<td>Chandrasēkha (metal); Tiruvottiyūr</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.</td>
<td>Chandrasēkha; Tanjore</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.</td>
<td>Chandrasēkha (Ālinganamūrti); Bāgali</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.</td>
<td>Ardhanaṇi; Madura</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.</td>
<td>Do.; Kumbakonam</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 77. Ardhanārī ; Tanjore .................................................. 123

78. Do. Tiruchchengōdu ................................................. 124

79. Do. Dhārāsuram ....................................................... 126

80. Do. Tiruvādi ........................................................ 127

81. Sankaranārāyana ; Nāmakkal .................................... 128

82. Gajahāmūrti ; Dhārāsuram ........................................ 130

83. Do. Tirutturāippūndi ................................................ 131

84. Gangādhara ; Gangaikondasōlapuram ......................... 133

85. Do. (metal); Vaidisvarankōyil .................................. 134

86. Gangādhara ; Tanjore ................................................. 135

87. Do. Trichinopoly ...................................................... 136

88. Kālaharamūrti ; Pattisvaram .................................... 138

89. Do. Chandragiri ........................................................ 139

90. Tripurāntakamūrti ; Chidambaram ............................. 142

91. Kirātārjunamūrti ; Pushpagiri .................................. 144

92. Do. Chidambaram ..................................................... 145

93. Chandēsānugrahamūrti ; Gangaikondasōlapuram ............ 146

94. Sarabhamūrti ; Dhārāsuram ....................................... 149

95. Pāsupatamūrti ; Chidambaram .................................. 150

96. Aghōrāmūrti ; Pattisvaram ..................................... 152

97. Bhairava do. ............................................................ 153

98. Kāla-Bhairava ; Durgi .............................................. 154

99. Kālāgni-Rudra (?) do. .............................................. 156

100. Virabhadra throwing the head of Daksha into the fire; Tanjore .......................................................... 157

101. Virabhadra ; Mudikondam ...................................... 158

102. Kshētrapāla ; Tiruvanangulam ................................. 160

103. Chandēśa ; Tiruvottiyūr .......................................... 163

104. Nandīsa and his consort (metal); Valuvūr .................. 164

105. Bhringi ; Srisailam .................................................. 166

106. Jvradēva ; Bhavāni .................................................. 167

107. Ganapati standing; Lēpākshi .................................. 169

108. Do. (metal); Pattisvaram ....................................... 170

109. Do. seated; Siyamangalam ...................................... 171

110. Do. dancing; Gangaikondasōlapuram ....................... 172

111. Mahā-Ganapati ; Madura ......................................... 174

112. Hēramba-Ganapati (metal); Negapatam ..................... 175

113. Skanda ; Tiruvottiyūr ............................................. 179

114. Do. (Shadānana); Madura ...................................... 180

115. Skanda and his consorts; Samayapuram .................... 181

116. Do. fighting with giants; Chidambaram ..................... 182

117. Sarasvati ; Bāgali ................................................... 186

118. Sāmānya-Lakshmi ; Seven Pagodas .......................... 188
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 119. Pārvatī; Bōulumāmpatti ................................................. 191
120. Do. Paramēṣvaramangalam .................................................. 192
121. Do. in penance; Pattisvaram ............................................... 193
122. The Seven Mothers; Tanjore .............................................. 195
123. Chāmundā (Mahākāli); Tiruchchengōdu .................................. 198
124. Durgā; Seven Pagodas ...................................................... 200
125. Do. do. ............................................................................. 201
126. Do. Srimushnam ............................................................... 203
127. Do. Dhārāsuram ............................................................... 204
128. Durgā-Lakshmi; Tirumalaisai .............................................. 205
129. Mahishāsuramardini; Gangaikondasōlapuram ......................... 207
130. Do. Dhārāsuram ............................................................... 208
131. Do. Durgī ........................................................................... 209
132. Durgā-Mahishāsuramardini; Seven-Pagodas ......................... 210
133. Pratyangirā; Tiruchchengōdu ............................................... 214
134. Do. (?) (metal); Tirruppalātturai ........................................ 215
135. Jyēshthā; Tiruvellavāyil ....................................................... 217
136. Saubhāgyabhuvaṃśvari; Dhārāsuram .................................... 219
137. Rājarājēśvari; Rāmēsvaram ................................................... 221
138. Mutyālama; Āvani .............................................................. 225
139. Group of images in the Draupadi-anman temple; Kumbakōnam ...................................................... 228
140. Aiyanār (metal); Tiruppalātturai ........................................ 231
141. Do. Valuvūr ...................................................................... 232
142. Do. Rāmēsvaram ............................................................... 233
143. Sūrya; Kumbakōnam .......................................................... 237
144. Do. Chidambaram .............................................................. 238
145. Rāhu and Kētu; Chidambaram ........................................ 240
146. Indra do. ............................................................................ 242
147. Agni do. ............................................................................ 244
148. Yama do. .......................................................................... 245
149. Nairrīta; Ahōbalam ........................................................... 246
150. Varuna; Lēpākshi ............................................................... 247
151. Vāyu do. ............................................................................ 249
152. Kubēra do. .................................................................... 250
153. Ādisēsha; Chidambaram ..................................................... 252
154. Kinnari; Rāmēsvaram ........................................................ 253
155. Dvārapāla; Tiruvottiyūr ..................................................... 255
156. Do. Dhārāsuram ............................................................... 256
157. Nārada; Chidambaram ...................................................... 257
158. Agastya do. ..................................................................... 258
159. Gaulisvāra (Gaudapāda ?) and Sankarāchārya; Tiruvottiyūr .................. 260
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIG. 160 (metal).—(a) Garuda ; (b) Vêdânta-Dêsika ; (c) Vishvaksêna ; (d) Ramanujachârya ; (e) Tirumangai-Âlvâr ; Nâmakkal</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>161. Mânikkavâsagar (metal); Tiruvarangulam</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>162. Kâraikkâl-Ammai ; Madura</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATE I. Pedestals, postures, etc.</td>
<td>PAGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Do. do.</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Do. do.</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Do. do.</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SANSKRIT BOOKS CONSULTED.

Mayamata.
Mānasāra.
Chaturvargachintāmani (Hēmadri).
Brihatsamhitā (Varāhamihira).
Kāsyapa-Silpa (from the Bhanumat or Amsumat-Tantra).
Brāhmiya-Silpa.
Silparatna.
Silpasangraha.
Silpasāra.
Tattvanidhi (with numerous quotations; printed at the Sri-
Venkatesvara Steam Press, Bombay).
Sabdakalpadruma (the Encyclopaedia of Sanskrit Literature by
Rājā Rādhākānta Deo; printed in Calcutta).
Bhāgavata-Purāṇa.
CHAPTER I.
INTRODUCTORY.

I

Almost every village of any importance in Southern India has its temple, round which centres in a very large measure the corporate civic life of the community which lives in it. The casual visitor is at once attracted by the temple and when he goes there he sees various images in all sorts of incongruous postures and is generally puzzled to know what they mean or what they represent, and how they serve to evoke the religious feelings of the people worshipping them. An attempt will be made in the succeeding pages to describe and classify them in various groups so as to make them more intelligible to the ordinary visitor.

Elaborate rules have been laid down in the ancient Agamas and Silpa-Sastras as to the place where temples are to be built, the kinds of images to be installed there, the materials with which such images are to be fashioned, and even the dimensions and proportions of various kinds of images, to vary which will result in untold calamity to the maker and the worshipper alike. The curious reader may, for example, refer to Sukranitisāra (Chapter IV, Section IV, verses 130 et seq.).¹

II

Temples must have existed in this part of the country from time immemorial. But the earliest inscriptive evidence of the existence of temples takes us back only to the age of the Pallava kings, which is supposed to be between the fourth

and the ninth centuries of the Christian era.\(^1\) The more ancient temples were probably made of wood and other such perishable material, as we find to this day in parts of Malabar. Perhaps the Pallavas were among the very first in Southern India to build temples of durable material. In fact one of the most famous of these Pallava kings, Mahēndravarman I, who reigned about the beginning of the seventh century A.D., was known by the title Chetthakāri, i.e., the maker of chaityās or temples.\(^2\)

The earliest Pallava monuments so far discovered are those of Mahābalipuram or the Seven Pagodas. They consist of solid rathas cut out of a single rock and of temples scooped out of the living boulder. The form of these rathas and temples served perhaps as models to the later temples in cut stone, such as those of the Shore Temple there, the Kailāsa-nātha and Vaikuntha-Perumāl temples at Conjeevaram, and other Pallava temples elsewhere.

III

The Pallavas were succeeded by the Chōla kings, who are justly entitled to be regarded as the greatest temple-builders of Southern India. About 90 per cent of the temples now found were erected in their time. They are generally dedicated either to Siva or Vishnu, and in their simplest form consist of a cell called the Garbha-griha,—the central shrine, surmounted by a spire or dome, with a hall in front, called Mukha-mandapa and a narrow passage or vestibule connecting the two, called the Ardha-mandapa, which is open on two sides to permit of the priestly worshippers circumambulating the central shrine. In the Mukha-mandapa or just outside it will be placed the image of the deity’s chief vehicle, the Nandi-bull in Siva temples and the Garuda-bird in Vishnu temples. This is generally the limit up to which the non-Brahman classes are allowed to come. Round and outside of these are the Mahā-mandapa, the big hall, and other pavilions in which on special occasions processional images of the deity are placed and worshipped. Next after the Mahā-mandapa there will be two raised platforms, one behind the other, on one

---

\(^1\) The Buddhist stūpas at Amarāvatī and other villages in the Guntūr district, the stūpa at Sankaram in the Vizagapatam district, and the caverns with rock-cut beds in the Madura and Tinnevelly districts are certainly much older but cannot in any sense be called temples. Some of these last may, however, have been used as temples in a much later period either by Buddhists or by Jainas.

\(^2\) Simultaneously with Mahēndravarman I, in the Pallava dominions, rock-cut temples appear to have come into existence in the Pândya and the Chēra (Kongu) countries under the patronage of their respective sovereigns.
of which is planted the flagstaff or dhvaja-stambha, made of stone, wood or metal, and on the other is offered what is called the Sribali, when sacrificial cooked food and flowers are offered to the minor divinities or powers who have to be appeased in order to ward off all evil and to prevent disturbance to the ordinary conduct of the daily worship. It is only up to this limit that foreigners are allowed to enter the temples by the orthodox Hindu.

In temples of any importance there will be a separate shrine for the goddess, but generally on a smaller scale than that of the chief deity. There are separate places for the kitchen where the offerings are prepared with scrupulous regard to ceremonial purity; there are storehouses where the articles required for a year's consumption in the temple are stored; and there is generally a fresh water well which is often the best source of drinking water in the village. The whole group of buildings is surrounded by high prakāra walls, whose gateways are surmounted by the characteristic towers (figs. 1 and 2) which lend distinction to a temple city. In some cases there will be outside the temple a big pleasure tank (fig. 3), generally square in size, built round with stone steps on all sides, and with a central mandapa, where once a year the god and goddess are taken in procession for the floating festival.

IV

The outer walls and the lofty flagstaff will easily show to the sight-seer whether the temple is dedicated to a Saiva divinity or to a Vaishnava god. In the former there will be seen images of the Nandi-bull in a recumbent posture, while the latter will show similar images of the Garuda-bird. Temples other than those of Siva and Vishnu are not uncommon and can easily be identified by similar marks of the characteristic vehicle of the god. Vishnu temples may also show the symbols of the conch and the discus and the caste mark (nāmam) of the Vaishnavas painted on the walls.

V

The ritual followed every day in the temples of Siva and Vishnu may be generally described as rājopacāra, or the paying of royal honours. Thus in rich temples there will be elephants and camels with their appropriate paraphernalia, the royal umbrellas and chauris mounted on gold or silver handles, palanquins and other vehicles, a troupe of dancers and musicians, a host of other temple servants to wash the god, anoint him with sandal or decorate him with flowers and
Fig. 1.—Gopura, Narasimha temple; Mangalagiri.
Fig. 2.—Back view of central shrine, Siva temple; Gangai-kondâsâlapuram.
FIG. 3.—Haridranadi tank; Mannargudi.
so on. Crowns and other rich and costly jewellery, set with gems and pearls (fig. 4), and often presented by Rajas and Chieftains or other rich devotees, are a special pride of the wealthier temples.

The Brāhmaṇa priest is to purify himself by bath and prayers early morning, and then open the doors of the sanctum and gently wake up the god, who is supposed to be sleeping, by chanting appropriate hymns in his praise. Then, after duly worshipping the guardian deities, he washes the feet of the chief deity, bathes the image, clothes it properly, decorates it with the usual jewellery, sandal and flowers, waving incense and lamps of diverse pattern (fig. 5) in front of the god and finally offering him the cooked food or nāiveṛdyaṁ and the final betel leaf and nut. At stated intervals the god comes out in procession and perhaps sees to the comfort of his attendant deities. Usually there is an important annual festival, representing in some cases the marriage of the god or some other special event in the doings of the god registered in local chronicles or Purāṇas. On such occasions the procession is carried on different vehicles, both common and special, the latter being such as the kalpa-vriksha, the wish-giving celestial tree or the kāmadhēnu, the wish-giving celestial cow, or the mythic animal gandabhērunda. The most important procession will generally be the car festival when the god goes round in the huge car through the main streets where his worshippers live and receives worship and offerings at their very homes.

VI

In the temples dedicated to the village deities the ceremonial is not much different. Brāhmaṇas however rarely officiate and animal sacrifices are generally offered, especially when the village is threatened with an epidemic or with serious scarcity or famine. Vedic incantations are not uttered in these temples.

With this brief general description of the temple, we can now proceed to study the various images which are found represented in them.
Fig. 4.—Processional images (metal); Madura.
CHAPTER II.

BRAHMĀ.

Brahmā, distinct from Brahman, the all-pervading Eternal Spirit, is the first member of the Hindu Triad. His principal function is creation. Independent shrines dedicated to him are rather rare. Still, figures of this god are commonly found decorating one of the niches in the north wall of the central shrine in a Siva temple. Images of Brahmā may sometimes also be seen on pillars, ceilings or other parts of a temple; but the one point that deserves to be noted is that though often pictured the god is not worshipped as the chief deity in a temple, like the two other members of the Triad, Vishnu and Siva.

According to Maṇasāra, one of the standard works on sculpture, Brahmā is represented with four heads. He has, however, only one body and four hands. The image may be standing or seated and made of metal or of stone. The palm of the left lower hand exhibits the posture of conferring boons (vārada) while the right lower indicates protection (abhaya). The corresponding upper hands hold the water-pot (kamandalu) and the rosary (akṣhamālā) or sometimes the sacrificial ladle (srik) and spoon (srsva). The following ornaments are seen in a finished picture of Brahmā:—(1) ear-rings or pendants fashioned like the face of a crocodile; (2) the sacred thread yajnasūtra hanging right across the body from above the left shoulder; (3) the scarf (uttariya) thrown round the neck so as to stretch down to the knees; (4) the udara-bandhana or literally, a girdle going round the belly; (5) necklace and torque; (6) armlets, arm-rings, wristlets, anklets, waist-zone, finger-rings set with gems, etc. His hair is made

1 According to the Brahmavaivarta-Parāṇa he was cursed by Mōhini not to receive any worship; see also below, p. 93. In the Telugu and Canarese districts we occasionally find temples dedicated to Traipurusa, i.e., the three gods Brahmā, Vishnu and Siva. Curiously enough the place of Brahmā is here occupied by Śārya, the Sun god; see Babu Nagendra Natha Vasu’s Mayūraudhanuja, p. xxiv. From the Nṛsiṃhakṛṣṇāda quoted in Tattvāvidhi we learn that one variety of Brahmā is of the form of Sun-god.

2 In the Tanjore inscriptions this ornament is mentioned as made of gold and set with gems; see, e.g., South-Indian Inscriptions, Vol. II, p. 189.
up in the fashion known as *jatā-makuta* and he is attended by the two goddesses\(^1\) Sarasvati (on the right) and Sāvitrī (on the left).

Another representation shows Brahmadeva riding on a chariot drawn by seven swans (*hamsa*\(^2\)). His right lower hand rests on the palm of the left lower, the two other hands holding the usual rosary and the water-pot. He is seated on a full blown lotus-flower, with his eyes closed in a meditative posture. The goddess Sāvitrī is seated on his left thigh.\(^3\) There are various other representations of Brahmadeva drawn purely from the imagination of the sculptor or painter and sometimes also based on Purānic legends. But the mainpoints which distinguish Brahmadeva from the other gods are the same in all. Hēnādri mentions some forms of Brahmadeva such as Prajāpati, Visvakarma,\(^4\) Lōkāpāla and Dharma. It may be noted that the swan vehicle and the goddesses are rarely, if at all, found in the figures of Brahmadeva generally set up in South-Indian temples.

An old picture of Brahmadeva from Seven Pagodas (fig. 6) and a later one from Kumbakonam (fig. 7) illustrate the standing posture described above. In the latter the left lower hand rests freely on the waist of the god and does not show the posture of conferring boons. The sitting attitude of Brahmadeva surmounted by a parasol and chauris—the symbols of supreme power—is beautifully illustrated by a picture from Tiruvadai near Tanjore (fig. 8). Another figure, which is unfortunately mutilated, shows the same position, but includes the standing figure of Sarasvati on the right side of Brahmadeva (fig. 9). It is noticeable that in this figure the right upper hand of Brahmadeva is made to hold a lotus instead of the usual rosary. An image from Chidambaram (fig. 10) shows Brahmadeva on his swan vehicle folding two of his hands in a worshipping posture and holding the rosary and water-pot in the other two.

---

\(^1\) For a description of these goddesses, see below, pp. 185 f. and 218, note 3.

\(^2\) The *Kālikā-Purāṇas* mentions also the two goddesses, the ghee-pot on the left and the Vēdas in front, together with a number of attendant sages engaged in meditation.

\(^3\) The conventional bird *hamsa* is represented in Hindu sculpture with a high neck, a crest (*stūpi*) on its head, white body, red feet and a beak of golden yellow.

\(^4\) Brahmadeva with Sāvitrī on his left side, is called Prajāpati-Brahmadeva. He has only one face and no swan vehicle.

\(^5\) Visvakarma has ten hands and holds the characteristic symbols of the three gods Brahma, Vishnu and Mahēśvara. One of his symbols mentioned in the *Silpa-Purāṇa* is the *uśna-danda*, 'measuring rod.' He rides on an elephant and has his body besmeared with ashes. Another such god, who partakes of the nature of all the three gods, is the Sun. Still another is Dattātreyā who granted the objects of his desire to sage Atri. He is represented as a wandering mendicant with ashes rubbed over his body and followed by the four Vēdas in the form of four dogs. Dattātreyā is considered to be a form of Vishnu.
Fig. 6.—Brahma; Seven Pagodas.
FIG. 7.—Brahma; Kumbakonam.
Fig. 9.—Brahma and Sarasvati; Kandiyar.
FIG. 10. — Brahma on swan vehicle; Chidambaram.
CHAPTER III.

VISHNU.

I

Vishnu is the second member of the Hindu Triad. His principal function is that of the protector of the universe. He is worshipped in South-Indian temples in various forms and under various names. The general description of Vishnu without reference to any of his particular incarnations is given in the Mānasāra as follows:—He has four arms and two eyes, wears a high crown and a yellow scarf; on his breast is the auspicious mark Śrīvatsa; he holds the discus and the conch in his upper arms and the club and the sword (or lotus) in the lower and wears the garland (vanamālā) of flowers, reaching down to the knees. In some cases the lower arms exhibit the protecting and the boon-conferring postures (fig. 11). A prominent nose, broad eyes and smiling countenance are other features of Vishnu. The goddesses Śrī or Lakshmi (wealth) and Mahī or Prithvi (Earth) are usually represented on his right and left sides respectively. The discus is generally held in the right hand and the conch in the left; but this arrangement is reversed in the case of an image found in the Bellary district (fig. 12). According to the Kāsyapa-Silpa the left lower hand of Vishnu may, without showing the varada or boon-conferring posture, rest on his waist freely (fig. 13) and the goddesses need not always be represented with him. Figures of Vishnu may be seen standing, seated or reclining. They receive different names in their different postures; but the Vaishnava symbols, viz., the discus and conch, the garland vanamālā and the auspicious mark Śrīvatsa always remain the distinguishing features of Vishnu. Fig. 14

1 This figure shows, however, four more hands holding a bow and arrow and a sword and shield.

2 For a description of these goddesses, see below, p. 187. The Pāncharatras game mentions also the goddess Nīlādevī and describes her as seated with four hands in two of which she holds lotus flowers.
Fig. 11.—Vishnu (Ashtabhuja); Conjeeveram,
Fig. 12.—Vishnu; Bellary.
Fig. 13.—Vishnu; Parameswaramangalam.
FIG. 14.—Vishnu and his consorts; Ariyambakkam.
from Āriyambākkam in the Chingleput district illustrates the sitting form of Vishnu with the goddesses Sṛṇa and Bhū and two kneeling devotees.

II

The more popular forms of Vishnu, worshipped in the temples, generally refer to his numerous *avatāras* or incarnations. There are ten such *avatāras* recognized as of primary importance; but of these only five are commonly represented for worship. They are (1) Varāha “the Boar incarnation”; (2) Narasimha “the Man-lion incarnation”; (3) Vāmana “the Dwarf incarnation,” developing eventually into Trivikrama; (4) Rāma, the hero of the Rāmāyana; and (5) Krishna, the pastoral god and the chief actor in the great war of the Mahābhārata. The other five incarnations of Vishnu, viz., the Fish, the Tortoise, Parasurāma, Buddha and Kalki though represented largely on walls, pillars and ceilings of temples being either carved or painted, are not generally worshipped as the chief deity in a temple.¹

III

Varāha, also known as Ādivarāha, Dharanīvarāha or Bhūvarāha, is beautifully illustrated by the image in the Varāha-Perumāl cave-temple at Mahābalipuram. Here the boar-faced Vishnu is seen standing with his right foot resting on the hood of the serpent-god Sēsha. On the right thigh is seated the goddeś Earth,² supported in position by the two lower arms of the god. He wears a high crown and has in his two upper hands the discus (held sideways) and the conch. As these images however have recently been covered with a thin coating of plaster and painted fantastically in variegated colours, it is not possible to say what sculptural peculiarities the original may have exhibited. Fortunately, a panel representing this same Varāha-*avatār* of Vishnu (fig. 15) with attendant deities, is found in another rock-cut mandapa at that village and is decidedly a true copy of the sculptures.

¹ Parasurāma, “the axe-bearer, Rāma” is supposed to be the founder of the west-coast country, having miraculously reclaimed it from the encroaching sea. He is, therefore, often worshipped in Malabar in special shrines dedicated to him. Siva temples with the name Parasurāmēśvara are common and these are believed to owe their existence to Parasurāma. In the Kachēkhapēśvara temple at Conjeeveram, on a stone set up under a tree, there is a representation of the Tortoise incarnation of Vishnu, worshipping Siva. This is reproduced by Mr. Rea in his Madras Archeological Survey Report for 1910-11, Plate V, fig. 1.

² The Brāhmaṇya-Sūṭpa states that Lakshmi (i.e. Sṛṇa) is also to be depicted on the side of Varāha.
Fig. 15.—Lion incarnation of Vishnu: Seven Pagodas.
found in the shrine of the Varāha-Perumāl cave-temple. The scene depicts the primeval Boar rescuing from the depths of the ocean the goddess Earth, who had been kidnapped thither by the demon Hiranyāksha, an enemy of the gods. Sēsha, on whose wide-spread hoods the earth is generally supposed to rest, is also represented as rising from the ocean along with the Boar-god. He is folding his hands in the attitude of worship. The dēvas worshipping the god from above, the sages on the right, and Brahmā and Sīva on the left indicate the joy felt by the entire universe on this occasion. This representation exactly follows the description given by Hēmādri in his Chaturvarga-Chintāmāni. The hand with the discus is sometimes also shown as raised in the act of killing Hiranyāksha. The god may be represented as smiling after having killed Hiranyāksha and revived him by divine grace. Figures of the Man-boar in meditation or of a full Boar digging the earth in the midst of many demons, are also sometimes represented. In the pictures of Lingōdbhava (Sīva) noted in the sequel, is seen the full Boar form of Vishnu digging the earth.

Temples dedicated to the Boar-incarnation of Vishnu are not many. This incarnation was a particular favourite of the Western Chalukya kings in the early centuries of the Christian era. A fine sculpture of Varāha carrying the goddess Earth is found in the Chalukyan rock-cut temple at Bādami (Ind. Ant., Vol. VI, p. 354). In later times, too, the Kākatiyās, the Reddis of Kondavīdu and the Hindu sove-

rigns of Vijayanagarā, paid particular reverence to Varāha, adopting the boar as their royal crest. At Sṛṇmushnam in the South Arcot district is a beautiful big temple dedicated to this god and so also is another at Tiruvadandai near Mahābalipuram in the Chingleput district.

IV

Narasimha or Nrisimha, the Man-lion is more popular than Varāha. A large number of families in the south, Brahman and non-Brahman, own him as their tutelary deity. In Tamil, the name is corrupted into Singa (Sanskrit Simha) or Singa-Perumāl, and in the other vernaculars into Narasa (a contraction of Narasimha). The story of this incarnation of Vishnu is briefly as follows:

Hiranyāksha and Hiranyakasipu were two demon brothers, naturally hostile to Vishnu. Hiranyāksha was killed

1 See also Viṣṇubhāma, Part VI, No. 99.
Fig. 16.—Narasimha bursting forth from the pillar: Ahobilam.
by Vishnu in his Varāha-avatār. Hiranyakasipu then became the king of the demons and vowed eternal war with Vishnu. His young son, Prahlāda, however, became a devoted adherent of Vishnu and was always praising him as the all-pervading lord of the universe. Exasperated with this, Hiranyakasipu asked the young boy whether his god Vishnu, if he was all-pervasive, could be found in the pillar in front of him; and then hacked at it with his sword. The pillar cleft in twain and out burst from it, to the astonishment of Hiranyakasipu, the angry god in the shape of a Man-lion, (fig. 16), who forthwith tore to pieces the impious demon king.

The angry god is called Ugra (the terrible)-Narasimha (figs. 17 and 18). When, however, his anger subsided at the earnest prayers of Prahlāda he became serene and in this form he is known as Lakṣmī-Narasimha. Yōga-Narasimha (fig. 19) is another form in which the god is seen squatting in a meditative mood. Simhāchalam in the Vizagapatam district, Ahōbalam in the Kurnool district and Nāmakkal1 in the Trichinopoly district may be mentioned among the places sacred to Narasimha. The usual Vaishnava symbols, sankha (conch) and chakra (discus), are seen in the two upper hands of the image of Narasimha in all his forms. The monolithic Ugra-Narasimha found in the ruins of Vijayanagara was there established by king Krishnarāya in A.D. 1528. It may be noted that here the god, though called Ugra-Narasimha, is not represented, as may be expected, in the posture of splitting open the bowels of the demon Hiranyakasipu.

Hēmādri states that Narasimha must be represented with muscular shoulders, a stout neck and a slender waist. Half man and half lion, his face must be fiery and so also the mane round it. Standing with his right foot bent forward (ālidhā) he splits with his sharp nails the breast of the tyrant Hiranyakasipu, who, as the wise men say, is an embodiment of ignorance. The Pūncharātrāgama thus describes the form of Narasimha suited for meditation:

"(Terrible) like flaming fire, he has a lion-face with a human body, furious fangs, a protruding tongue, an open mouth, a thick mane and muscular chest. He stands in the ālidhā posture in an angry mood and splits the breast of the giant, thrown flat upon his thigh, with the sharp nails of both his hands. In his two other hands he holds the symbols of the club and the discus." The Mayamata, while giving almost

---

1 A detailed description of the images in the rock-cut temples at Nāmakkal is given in the Madras Epigraphical Report for 1906, Part II, pp. 73 and 76.
Fig. 18.—Ugra-Narasimha (metal); Madras Museum.
Fig. 19.—Yoga-Narasimha; Tirupati Hill.
the same description of him, states that the cruel form of Narasimha is installed on mountain-tops, caves, forests or the enemy's territory when the enemy has to be destroyed; when installed, however, in villages and towns he has four hands, two of which wear the conch and the discus.

V

Vāmana or the Dwarf incarnation of Vishnu is worshipped in its ultimate manifestation, under the Sanskrit name Trivikrama or the Tamil Ulagalaṇḍa-Perumāl. The former means "the god who took three strides" and the latter "the lord who measured the universe (with three strides)."

The story is that a powerful demon king named Bali, the great-grandson of Hiranyakasipu mentioned above, conquered the three worlds and ruled them, in spite of his birth, in charity and with justice. Indra, the chief of gods, was thus superseded. Vishnu as the avowed destroyer of the demons (dānava) and the upholder of the gods had to restore Indra to his legitimate position. Vishnu could not go to war against Bali, as he was a virtuous king. So he went in the guise of a Dwarf Brāhmaṇa, a student of the Vedas (brahmachārin), and begged of Bali for three feet of land on which he could sit and meditate on Brahma undisturbed. The generous Bali granted the request. But what was his astonishment when he saw the cunning god grow to a height transcending the world, take in at one step the whole earth, covering the sky with the next, and demanding of Bali to show him room for the third. True to his promise, Bali offered his own head, on which the god placed his foot and sent him down to the lower regions. Greatly pleased with the king's nobility and firmness of character, Vishnu is still supposed to be guarding as his servant the palace of Bali in the world below.

There are not many temples dedicated to this god. At Tirukkoyilur in the South Arcot district is a celebrated shrine of Trivikrama. Another one is the Ulagalaṇḍa-Perumāl temple at Kānchī. In the Varāha-śānta at Mahābali-puram, on the panel opposite to the Varāha-āvatār described above, is a fine representation of Trivikrama 1 (fig. 20). Here the god has eight hands. The foremost arm on the right side is artistically made to support the lintel, while the remaining three hold the discus, club and the sword. Of the arms on the left side two hold the bow and the shield;

1 There is also a panel in the rock cut temple at Nāmakkāl, representing Trivikrama with more details.
the third has the conch and the fourth is pointed towards Brahmā seated on the lotus. This Brahmā has four hands and four faces (?). He reverently touches with one of his hands the toe of the uplifted leg of Trivikrama and with another touches the finger of the god pointed towards him. On the corresponding right side of Trivikrama is found apparently Siva, also on a lotus-seat. The Sun and Moon, with circles of light behind their heads, perhaps to distinguish their respective functions, are seen flying in the air half way down the high face of the god. Two other heavenly beings, one of which is on a level with the head of Trivikrama and has a horse-face, are also flying in the air. The seated figures at the foot of Trivikrama are apparently Bali and his retinue who are struck with amazement at the sudden transformation of the stunted Vāmana into the all-pervading Trivikrama. In the Rāmasvāmin temple at Kumbakonam is a sculptured pillar (fig. 21) on which the story of the Vāmana-avatār is well represented. The lower section shows Bali and his wife granting boons to Brāhmanas. In the upper section is the god Trivikrama under a floral arch. His right foot is placed in the two open palms of the Earth. On his right is the image of the Dwarf. His vehicle Garuda is behind him. On the left side are evidently Bali and his wife standing. This description of Trivikrama exactly coincides with what has been given above, except that the hand supporting the lintel in the Mahābalipuram panel is here shown as offering protection. Tutur is also seen above on the floral arch, flying in the air.

The exact form of Vāmana, prior to his manifestation as Trivikrama, is, according to Hēmādri, that of a fat young student of the Vēdas with crooked joints, holding a staff in his hand and wearing on his back the skin of a black buck (krishnājina) (fig. 22). Representations of Vāmana figures with water-pot in one hand and an umbrella in the other on demarcation stones of fields granted in charity, were quite common even down to the end of the nineteenth century. This auspicious figure evidently denoted fortune and was appropriately connected with boundary stones and the measurement of land. A festival in honour of Bali is still observed by the people of Mysore on the first day after the Dīpāvali-Amāvāsyā. In Malabar people connect Bali with

---

1 Evidently Tutur with drum in hand, leading the hosts of gods. Mr. Venkayya takes the same figure in the Nāmakkal rock-cut temples to be Jāmbavat; see Madras Epigraphical Report for 1906, p. 76.
2 This is the description of Vāmana as given in the Pānccharātrāgama.
FIG. 21.—Trivikrama: Kumbakonam.
their national harvest festival, the Ónam, in which they worship a clay figure of this high-minded emperor. It is supposed that the king is permitted by Vishnu to visit every year the fair earth over which he once ruled and to satisfy himself that the people are quite as happy and glad as in his time.

VI

We now come to the *avatār* of Rāma, Rāmachandra or Rāma incar nation, the hero of the beautiful epic *Rāmāyana*, which in its various aspects has permeated the life of the Indian people and moulded their character to a great extent. Rāma was the eldest son of Dasaratha, the king of Ayodhya (Oudh). As such, his images do not, like those of the *avatārs* so far described,—*avatārs* which were sudden outbursts of divine energy—exhibit either the four arms of the gods or the distinguishing Vaishnavite symbols of conch, discus, club and lotus. Human in form, but god in essence, Rāma is always represented as a royal personage of bewitching beauty, well developed in body, having broad eyes, long arms, curly tresses, ornaments and auspicious marks that indicate high birth and noble character. Paintings of Rāma's life are numerous and cover the whole period of his history from his birth to his passing away bodily from this world into the depths of the Sarayū river. In many South-Indian temples may be observed scenes from the *Rāmāyana*, either painted on the walls or cut into panels, forming continuous belts round the central shrine or the *prākāra* wall. When represented as the consecrated deity within a temple, Rāma is generally seen to be a standing figure with his queen Sītā on the left and his faithful brother Lakshmana on the right. He and his brother hold bows and arrows. The bow is called *kōdanda* and so Rāma with the bow is sometimes known as Kōdanda-Rāma.

In the accompanying illustration of metallic images from Rāmeśvaram (fig. 23) the positions of Sītā and Lakshmana are interchanged and the arrows and quivers are missing. The two images at either extreme represent their faithful servant Hanumān (see below p. 64). As stated in the *Silpasangraha*, the figures of Rāma are distinguished as independent and dependent. In the former case he stands alone and has four arms, two of which hold the bow and the arrow and the other two, the conch and the discus. In the latter he has two arms and may be accompanied by his three brothers, his queen

1 For example, in the Harāra-Rāmaśvāmin temple at Hampi; in the Rāmaśvāmin temple at Kumbakōnam; and in the Tennapura temple at Chandra-giri, Chittoor district.
Stta, the monkey hosts and the Rākshasa chiefs headed by Vibhishana. Rāma with Stta on his side is generally contemplated upon as seated in the aerial car Pushpaka in the virāsana posture within a golden pavilion and underneath the celestial tree (kalpa-vriksha). In his front stands Hanumān reading, while Rāma is explaining the mystery of philosophy to the crowds of sages who gather round him along with his royal brothers Bharata, Lakshmana and Satruighna.1

VII

Krishna is the next avatār of Vishnu2 which is highly venerated by the Hindus. The Bhāgavata-Purāṇa which describes in detail the early life of Krishna in Brindāvana (Brindāban) has provided more material for iconology than his subsequent career as the moving spirit of the Mahābhārata-war, the author of the “Divine Song” Bhagavad-Gitā or the benevolent chief of Dvārakā (Dwārka, Baroda).

Three stages in the life of Krishna have been marked out to be the most prominent. As a baby, not yet weaned from his mother’s breast, he is represented in the arms of Yasoda. This form of Krishna receives the name Santāna-Gopāla. Also as a baby divine, identified with Supreme Vishnu, he is sometimes pictured as lying on a banyan-leaf (Vatapatra-sāyin) sucking the toe of his leg held by the hand. These pictures of the baby-god are commonly seen in paintings.

Krishna is also represented as a winsome boy, full of fun and frolic and fond of thieving milk and butter from the neighbouring cottages of cowherds living at Brindāvana. It is said that on one occasion Yasoda punished him by tying him up to a mortar. The child then ran along, dragging the mortar behind him; but in trying to pass between two tall and stout trees standing close together, the heavy mortar was caught between and felled them down; when lo!

1 This conception of Rāma is perhaps to be traced to the fact that in the work called Vaisishtharāmāyana, Rāma is stated to have given lessons in philosophy to his family priest Vashishtha. The story of the Rāmāyana as described by the poet Vālmiki, is said to be referred to in the Mantra of the Rig-Veda, beginning with the words bhadrā bhadrāyā, etc. The explanatory comment (nirukta) is, however, not included in Vāsa’s Nirukta. The historical development of Rāma and Krishna cults have been fully dealt with by Dr. R. G. Bhandarkar in his Vaisnavism, Saivism, etc.

2 The verse which is usually quoted in connexion with the ten avatāras of Vishnu, mentions Balarāma or Haladāra “as the bearer of the plough” as the incarnation which came next after the epic hero Rāma. Krishna, the younger brother of Balarāma, being, however, considered to be Vishnu himself, receives divine honours in preference to Balarāma. The famous temple at Purī-Jagannāth contains figures of Balarāma and Krishna with their sister Subhadra standing between them.
the trees assumed the shape of the two sons of Kubēra, the god of riches, who being cursed by the sage Nārada to assume the shape of trees had been waiting long to be thus restored by the Lord Krishna to their original form. The first part of this incident is represented in fig. 24.

In South India pictures of Krishna with a pot of butter under his left arm and eating out of a ball of it placed in the palm of his right hand are not uncommon. On either side of him are represented shepherd girls of Brindāvana. This form of Krishna, though very often meditated upon and sung about even in nursery rhymes, is rarely worshipped as the chief figure in temples—a famous exception to this being Udipi in the South Canara district, where a big temple, richly endowed, is maintained for the worship of the god Bāla-Krishna. In the Madras Museum are two metallic images of dancing Krishna, one of which holds in its right hand a ball of butter (fig. 25). A peacock’s feather stuck into the tuft of hair knotted overhead is, along with the other golden jewellery peculiar to children, a special feature of Krishna as a boy. Gold and silver images of this form of Krishna in miniature are among the set of idols worshipped daily in an orthodox Brāhmaṇa’s house. Vaishnavism in its various forms prevailing throughout India praises the child form of Krishna in the sweetest of strains with an overflow of devotion peculiar to that creed alone.

Another story of the boy Krishna is represented in his dance on the head of a serpent named Kāliya (the black). Kāliya was hiding in a pond in the Yamunā river and making the whole neighbourhood poisonous to all living beings. One day the cattle tended by Krishna and his companions strayed into this region and were thereby poisoned. Krishna then plunged into the pond and holding the viper by the tail

---

3 The name given to this figure in the Silparatna is Santāna Gopāla, already referred to. Krishna under this designation is described as a young playful baby decorated with the jewels of children, holding fresh butter in his hand and surrounded by Gopi-women. He wears also a necklace with a pair of tiger’s claws decorating it. A variety of this same Krishna is sometimes represented to be riding on a chariot and to have four arms in two of which are seen the Vaishnava symbols sankha and chakra.

4 Krishnārāya, the well known Vijayanagara king of the sixteenth century A.D., is stated to have installed in the Krishnasvāmin temple near Hampi, an image of Bāla-Krishna which he had brought as a trophy from Udayagiri (Nellore district) and to have given many ornaments and villages to it.

5 The Brāhmiya Silpa refers to the dance of Krishna called Nārāsimitā-rūltta “the butter-dance” in which the god bends his legs and dances stretching out one of his arms.
Fig. 25.—Butter-dance of Bala-Krishna (metal); Madras Museum.
in one hand began to dance heavily on his raised hoods. The
demon writhed under the pressure of the god's tiny feet,
vomiting blood profusely from each of his several mouths,
and was completely exhausted and overcome. Then at last
the serpent Kāliya recognized the Lord and took himself
away to a remote island in the far-off sea. The esoteric sense
of this is clear. The serpent represents the embodiment of
all that is vile and wicked in this world; the dance of Krishna
represents the fight with evil and its final conquest by the
Divine Spirit. Kāliya-Krishna is found only as a decorative
figure in temples but not as the object of worship in the central
shrine. As in the case of Bāla-Krishna, miniature figures of
Kāliya-Krishna are often found among the images of worship
in a Brāhmaṇa's house. A copper idol representing this
sport of Krishna was discovered some years ago among the
treasure trove found at Kāṭṭu-Edāyārū in the South Arcot
district (fig. 26). The figure has two hands, a jewelled
crown and the usual ornaments. Being a copper image it
may be inferred that the idol was used only for processions
in the temple to which it originally belonged. According
to the Silpaśāra the right foot of Kālingamardana
(i.e., Kāliya-Krishna) is slightly bent and the left raised up.
Of the two arms the left is stretched out in the abhaya posture
and the right holds the tail of the serpent. The figure is fully
decorated with ornaments and is dark in colour. The illustration
from Kāṭṭu-Edāyārū shows the same features except that
the positions of the right and left legs are interchanged.

The third and the most divine sport of Krishna is his
moonlight dance on the sand-banks of the Jumna in the
company of the damsels of Brindāvana. The inspired poet
Lilāsuka, describing this dance, says that "there, in the circle
of dancers (filled with love for Krishna) was seen between
damsel and damsel a Mādhava (Krishna) and between
Mādhava and Mādhava a damsel; and in the centre of the
group again, was the son of Dēvaki playing upon his flute,"
thereby indicating in poetic language the mystic significance
of the dance. Of the many Gōpi (cow-herd) girls thus in
attendance on Krishna in his early life in Brindāvana the
most beloved was Rādhā, so much so that Rādhā-Krishna is
the name by which he is addressed by the most ecstatic of
the zealous Vaishnava cult.

Images of the flute-playing Krishna generally called Vēnu-
Gōpāla (Muralidhara) without, however, the circle of
dancers, are largely worshipped in temples. He stands on
his left leg with the right bent across and resting on the toe,
Fig. 26. — Serpent-dance of Kāliya-Krishna (metal) ; Madras Museum.
and plays upon the flute. When the figure is intended for worship in temples the two upper hands will hold the conch and the discus and there will usually also be the images of his two consorts Rukmini and Satyā on either side (fig. 27). In the hundred-pillared mandapa of the Varadarājāsvāmin temple at Little Conjeeveram is a figure of the flute-playing Krishna with ten arms (fig. 28). The Pāñcharatrāgama calls this form of Krishna by the name Madana-Gopāla. In paintings Vēnu-Gopāla is often represented as leaning against a cow, with one foot bent crosswise and resting on the toe. Cows and cow-herds are also often shown gathering round him. The dance with Gopīs, with which the flute-playing Krishna is intimately connected, is found only in drawings. The esoteric sense of this flute-play and the dance is the supreme joy which the devotees experience in moments of overflowing love in the presence of the object of their devotion.

Another well-known sport of Krishna during his boyhood was the lifting up of the hill called Gōvardhana. He is said to have held the hill aloft so as to give shelter to the cow-herds of Brindāvana from a continuous down-pour of rain sent down by Indra in anger in order to flood their small village. A beautiful old representation of this scene comes from the Seven Pagodas (fig. 29) where, in the so-called Krishna-mandapa, Krishna stands in the centre with his left hand raised straight up to support the hill, while his right hand is held in the posture of offering boons (varada). All round the god are seen cows and cow-herds, men and women, the latter carrying pots of milk, butter, curds or other cooked offerings to the god, and leading their young ones by the hand or accompanying their husbands. The ornaments of Krishna in this picture are very sparing. They are the usual large earrings peculiar to the sculpture of the Pallava period; bracelets, armlets and the waist-band. The high crown on the head is also a noticeable feature. This representation differs, however, from the description given in the Silpasāra where the god is described as having one hand with flute resting on his waist and the other supporting the hill.

1 At Turaiyur in the Trichinopoly district the god worshipped in the shrine has only two hands. Hēmarādī states that the image of Gopāla playing on the flute is made with the head ornament of peacock feathers, blue body and two arms. The Silpasāra adds that he is chiefly found in a standing attitude.

2 Dr. Vogel says that the central figure of the group is Balarāma (Baladeva), the brother of Krishna (Archaeological Survey Report for 1910-11, p. 51, note 1). He is seen throwing his left hand round the neck of a cow-herd boy who rests his hands crossed on the head of a long hatchet.
FIG. 27.—Vēnu-Gōpāla: Madras Museum.
Fig. 38. - Madana-Gopala; Little Conjeeveram.
Again Krishna on the tree is a familiar figure in paintings and decorative sculptures of temples. The story is related in the Bhāgavata-Purāṇa how one day Krishna saw the cow-herd girls bathing naked in the Jumna leaving their clothes on the sand banks of the river and how he took away their clothes and got up a tree standing near by. He did not restore the clothes to the girls till they confessed their error in bathing naked against the teaching of the Śāstras. One of the usual processional vehicles in Vishnu temples is the punnai-tree with the naked Gāpis standing round it and begging for the return of their clothes (fig. 30).

After leaving Brindāvana, Krishna became the clever and astute statesman and warrior of Dvārakā and took an active part in the war between Kauravas and Pāndavas described in the Mahābhārata. He was on the side of the Pāndavas; he was an intimate friend of Arjuna (or Pārtha) and even served him as his charioteer on the battle-field. Hence Krishna is also known by the name of Pārthasārathi, the name of the god in the famous temple at Triplicane. It was on this occasion in the battle-field, when Arjuna was dismayed at the prospect of a bloody war with his relatives, that the divine charioteer Krishna is said to have delivered to Arjuna the famous discourse known as the Bhagavad-Gītā. A fine illustration of the scene comes from the Kēsavasvāmin temple at Pushpagiri (fig. 31). The story runs that Arjuna and Krishna were bosom friends in far earlier ages, when under the names Nara and Nārāyana they are supposed to have performed penance in Badarikāśrama.

VIII

Two other avatārs of Vishnu, viz., Buddha and Kalki may be noticed. The latter is only a prospective incarnation in which the god is expected to appear as a powerful hero riding on horse-back, sword in hand, to suppress the growing wickedness of the Mlecchchhas. The Buddha incarnation of Vishnu is, no doubt, counted among the ten avatārs but is rarely found worshipped in Hindu temples. 1 Buddha is

---

1 The Brāhmaṇa-Śūla does not include Buddha in the avatārs of Vishnu. It mentions Krishna in the place of Buddha. The Mānasāra gives a complete description of the figures of Buddha which it says must be made of white stone, very much like the images of Jina (below, p. 562f.) seated or standing on a lion-pedestal under the pīṭhā or the wish-giving celestial tree, with two hands, mānītha (crown), a yellow cloth, broad forehead, long ear-lobes, big eyes, high nose, smiling countenance, long arms, broad chest, fleshy limbs and body. When standing, his arms must be made to hang down loosely.
Fig. 30.—Krishna on the paunai-tree (wood); Kumbakonam.
Fig. 31.—Parthasarathi teaching the Bhagavad-Gita to Arjuna: Pushpagiri.
regarded by some as an *avatār* designed to lead the *asuras* into ruin by giving them bad advice. Others like Jayadeva regard him rightly as an incarnation of mercy who came to teach the people the essential cruelty of animal sacrifices.

**IX**

Besides the *avatārs* mentioned above, there are other forms of Vishnu which are also often found in South-Indian temples. The most important of such is his reclining form, known by the names Anantasayin (or Sēshasayin), Padmanābha and Ranganātha.¹ The temples at Srīrangam and Trivandrum may be specially mentioned as the places where this form of Vishnu is worshipped. In Tamil he is known as Palligondan. A good illustration (fig. 32) comes from the old sculptures at Mahábalipuram. In the so-called Mahishásura-mandapa, on the proper right wall of the front verandah is depicted the scene under reference. Here on the coils of the serpent Ananta sleeps on his back a gigantic figure of Vishnu with two arms. The right hand is carelessly thrown on the body of the serpent while the left hand is raised up at the elbow. The god wears a cloth round the waist, which reaches down to the feet. The usual *udarabandhāna* is also tied round the lower part of the stomach in the form of a girdle, its ends gracefully hanging down and touching the right side of the serpent couch. The garland round the neck (i.e., the *vanamālā*) has slipped down the right arm of the god, thus emphasizing his sleeping posture. By the side of the serpent couch, near the feet of Vishnu, is the figure of Lakṣmī kneeling down and worshipping him with folded hands. In front of her are two other figures also seated by the side of the serpent couch. These may be the two colleagues of Vishnu, viz., Brahmā and Siva, or the attendants Jaya and Vijaya. Above the sleeping god in the air are two flying figures, one a female and the other a fat figure, probably a goblin. Beyond his feet and looking him straight in the face are two stalwart figures standing one in a defiant attitude with a club in his hand and the other dissuading him from what looks apparently like a murderous attack on the god. The *Padma-Purāṇa* gives a

¹ The *Mayamata* says that the serpent, the couch of Anantasayana, may be of five or seven hoods, its white colour indicating great bliss. *Padmanābha* means "he of the lotus navel"; and we see, in figures of Anantasayana, the navel of the god sending forth a stock at the end of which is a lotus flower and in it the four-faced Brahmā. Ranganātha is "the lord of the *rāga*, the assembly-hall." It might be noted that in the illustrations of Anantasayana, the central figure of Vishnu is surrounded by all the other gods as if in an assembly-hall.
description of Vishnu, which comes very near to what has been depicted above. It says: "The god of gods sleeps on the serpent. One of his legs lies on the thigh of Lakshmi, while the other is placed on the body of the serpent. He has two hands, one of which is stretched along the right thigh and the other is placed over his head. Brahmā is comfortably seated on the lotus which springs from the navel of Vishnu. Entangled in the stem of the lotus stand the demons Madhu and Kaitabha. The symbols of the god, viz., the conch, discus, club and lotus are all represented about him, each assuming a body."¹ A similar description is given by Hēmādri under the term Jalasayana.

God Vishnu seated comfortably on the serpent couch is named Vaikuntha-Nārāyana ² (fig. 33). The left leg is stretched down and the right is bent at the knee; the left hand rests on the knee-joint, while the right hand rests carelessly thrown back on the head of the serpent; the two back hands hold the weapons sankha and chakra. The image is decorated with jewels and by its side are his consorts Lakshmī and Prithvi.

Lakshmī-Nārāyana is another of Vishnu's seated forms where, to the left of the god, by his side or sometimes on his thigh, is found seated the image of Lakshmi throwing her right hand round the neck of the god while she holds in her left a lotus. The left hand of Vishnu similarly passes round the waist of Lakshmi. A female deity called Siddhi stands near, with a fly-whisk in her hand. The vehicle Garuda is on the right side at the foot of the god. The sankha and chakra not being held by the god are carried by two dwarf male figures standing in front of him; Brahmā and Siva also stand by, worshipping Vishnu with folded hands³ (fig. 34).

¹ Vāsudēva described by Hēmādri as a standing Vishnu figure of four arms, holds in the two upper hands the lotus and the conch and instead of having in the two lower, the weapons chakra (discus) and gada (club), he places the palms of these hands on the heads of two dwarf figures, one male and one female, holding chauris in their hands and looking at the face of the god. These dwarf figures are stated to be the personified weapons chakra and gada; (see Mayūrabhanja, fig. 16, on plate facing p. xi). The descriptions given by the same author of Sankarshana, Pradyumna and Aniruddha—other standing forms of Vishnu—refer also to personified weapons.

² See the Madras Epigraphical Report for 1906, p. 76. The Brāhmaṇa-Sīlpa calls this same figure Adimārī and describes him as being attended by gods and rūhīs in a worshipping attitude.

³ Hēmādri. According to the Silpaśaṅgāraha, Lakshmī-Nārāyana has four arms in which he displays the conch and the discus and the protecting and the boon-giving postures. Mr. Rea portrays a fine picture of Lakshmī-Nārāyana from Nilagunda (Bellary district) on Plate LIII of his Chalukyan Architecture.
Fig. 33.—Vaikuntha-Nārāyana; Nāmakkal.
FIG. 34.—Lakshmi-Nārāyana; Nāmakkal.
The *Silpasāra* mentions an image called Garuda-Nārāyana wherein Vishnu is seen riding on Garuda, holding a bow and arrow, conch and discus. An illustration from Chidambaram (fig. 35), which is mutilated, is apparently one of Garuda-Nārāyana. On a pillar in the Rāmasvāmin temple at Kumbakōnam is a fine representation of this form of Vishnu in the attitude of blessing the elephant (*gajendra*) after rescuing it from the attack of a crocodile. The scene is generally known as Gajendra-mōksha (fig. 36).

Figures of Vishnu, with four arms seated in a meditative posture, are probably those of Yōgesvara-Vishnu, described by Hēmādri as seated on a lotus, with eyes half-closed and directed towards the tip of the nose. An image (fig. 37) from the ruined Vishnu temple at Hūvinahadagalli (Bellary district) illustrates this form. Another image, probably of this same form of Vishnu but seated on the serpent couch, comes from Kumbakōnam (fig. 38). Here the god is bathed by two goddesses with pots in their hands.

The twenty-four well-known names of Vishnu repeated by the Brāhmānas in their daily prayer known as *sandhyāvandanā*, are represented each by a standing figure of the god with four hands holding the four symbols *sankha* (conch), *chakra* (discus), *gadā* (club) and *padma* (lotus), in different combinations. Consequently we may often find in Vishnu temples images named Trivikrama, Vāmana, Padmanābha, Narasimha or Krishna represented as plain standing figures of Vishnu, without reference to any of the *Purānic* scenes connected with these gods. Four of the above mentioned twenty-four forms, viz., Vāsudēva, Sankarshana, Pradyumna and Aniruddha are sometimes represented by different weapons.

The two illustrations in the accompanying plates (figs. 39 and 40) show another form of standing Vishnu, known as *Pānduranga* of Vithōra. The characteristic feature of the image is that it has two arms which, being bent at the elbow, are placed on its hips. A poem in praise of this form of Vishnu, entitled *Pāndurangāśhtaka*, is attributed to Sankara-chārya of about the eighth century A.D.

Hayagrīva is still another form of standing Vishnu, represented with the head of a horse. Hēmādri describes him as having a white complexion, and placing his feet on the hands of the goddess Earth. He has eight hands, in four of which are held the Vaishnavite symbols conch, discus, club and lotus. With the others he carries the four Vēdas personified. The *Pāncharātrāgama* mentions only four hands in which are seen the conch, rosary, book and the *jnāna-mudrā*.
Fig. 35.—Garuda-Nārāyana; Chidambaram.
Fig. 36.—Garuda-Nārāyana and Gajendra-mūkha; Kumbakonam.
Fig. 37.—Yogesvara-Vishnu; Huvinahadagall.
FIG. 38. - Yogesvara-Vishnu (?), Kumbakonam.
Fig. 39.—Pānduranga; Tirupati.
Fig. 40. - Pânduranga; Ahóbalam.
Venkatēsa or Venkataramana (also called Srīnivāsa) is a name of Vishnu applied to the god on the Tirupati Hill. He is in form like one of the twenty-four images of Vishnu described above.¹

Pradyumna, Kāmadēva or Manmatha.

Pradyumna, which is mentioned among the twenty-four general names of Vishnu, occurs in the Sanskrit lexicon Amarakōsa as a synonym of the god Kāmadēva or Manmatha, who is recognized as a son of Krishna-Vishnu. His consort is 'Love' (Rati). This god of Love was reduced to ashes by Siva. His form that was thus destroyed is still alive but is visible only to Rati. The metaphysical meaning of the story is more or less clear. Rati and Manmatha are often found among the sculptures in a temple. The latter is represented as a graceful youth of unparalleled elegance. He has eight hands in four of which he holds the conch, lotus, bow and arrow. The four other arms embrace his four beautiful wives called Rati (love), Pṛtti (pleasure), Sakti (power) and Bhēda-Sakti (jealousy). Kāma has five arrows, each arrow being a fragrant flower; the crocodile (makara) is his banner. More often he is represented with two hands, riding on a chariot (or a parrot) with his chief queen Rati by his side (fig. 41). Vasanta, the Spring, is his intimate friend and ally. His five arrows are the flowers of lotus, asōka, mango, jasmine, and blue-lily; and he shoots them with his graceful bow of sugarcane. Mayamata says that Manmatha's arrows are made of the cruel teeth of women and are called tāpāni, "the tormentor," dāthinī "the consumer," sartamōhinī "that which completely infatuates," visva-mardini "the all-destroyer" and mārani "the killer."

Vishvaksēna.

Vishvaksēna, a synonym for Vishnu also found in the lexicon Amarakōsa, is recognized as a Vaishnava god who, like Ganēsa of the Saivas (described below), is worshipped by the Srī-Vaishnavas, at the beginning of every ceremony in order to avoid obstacles. He has his face turned towards the south and is a guardian deity in Vishnu temples. In three of his hands he holds the usual Vaishnavite symbols, viz., the conch,

¹ It is believed, and perhaps on reasonable grounds, that the image on the Tirupati Hill is a combined form of Vishnu and Siva. The name Vṛṣa-saila, i.e., "Bull-hill", applied to the mountain on which the temple is situated, indicates also the Saiva nature of the god. In later times, the name Sēsha-saila "the hill of the serpent god Sēsha" came to be applied to it.
Fig. 41.—Rati-Manmatha: Chidambaram.
discus and the club and in the fourth exhibits the threatening finger-pose called tarjani. He is seated with his right leg hanging down from the pedestal and the left bent crosswise and placed on the same [fig. 160 (c), below].

Vishnu’s vehicle Garuda is installed in every Vaishnavite temple right opposite to the central shrine and is a standing human figure of stone or mortar, with a beak-shaped nose and with spreading wings proceeding from his back on either side. He has his two arms folded over the breast in a worshipping posture (fig. 42). When made into a processional image of metal, Garuda is represented as kneeling on the left knee, the right foot being firmly placed on the ground and a serpent decorating his head.

XII

Hanumān, the monkey-god, has been already referred to as a great devotee of Vishnu intimately connected with the incarnation Rāma-avatār. In Southern India he is very popular, even insignificant villages containing a shrine for Hanumān. He is represented in two postures. When included in the group of Rāma, Lakshmana and Sītā, he stands at a distance on one side, or opposite to them, in a humble and devotional attitude, with the two hands folded together, the tail hanging down close to his feet. In shrines exclusively

---

1 According to the Silpadhatu, Garuda figures may also be shown with the two hands pointing the abhayā and the varada postures. Occasionally, Garuda may be made to carry in his right hand a pot of nectar. This is evidently a reference to the story that Garuda while young carried away from Indra the pot of nectar, in order to fulfil his mother’s promise to Kadrū, the mother of serpents.

2 The Silpadarangaha describes a form of Garuda who has fierce protruding teeth and eight arms in six of which he has the conch, discus, club, lotus and the nectar-pot while the others are stretched out to receive the feet of the Lord (Vishnu). It is further stated that the eight lords of serpents are worn as jewels by him, thus showing that Garuda had completely subdued the Nāgas. Garuda when represented with four arms is called Vainatēya. It may be noted that the bird Garuda is of Vēdic fame, his body being supposed to be completely made up of the Vēdas. A Vēdic sacrifice called Garuda-chayana is performed by offering oblations to the gods on a platform built in the shape of Garuda. Vishnu is sometimes known as Vajna-purusha—the personified god of sacrifice.

3 The Silpadhatu mentions a third posture in which Hanumān is described as a yāgin, teaching philosophy to a number of pupils who surround him.

4 See above, fig. 23. Here, at the right end of the picture Hanumān is seen in a submissive attitude while another figure of his at the left end, carries in both hands two Siva-lingas which Rāma had ordered him to bring for establishing at Rāmesvaram, on his way back from Lankā. Pāvaharana, Part VI, Plate 100, also gives a metallic figure of Hanumān from Ceylon, with his hands stretched out, indicating evidently a mixed feeling of wonder and despair.
FIG. 42.—Garuda; Tanjore.
dedicated to him he is always the heroic Hanumān, who, on seeing his beloved masters Rāma and Lakshmana faint with fatigue on the battle field of Lanka, flew in an amazingly short time to the Himalayas and, uprooting a whole hill containing drugs that have power to raise a dead man to life, returned to revive Rāma and Lakshmana and with them also the millions of dead monkeys. His heroism, strength and devotion are always admired and the one aim of sculptors in cutting a figure of Hanumān is to give effect to these three special characteristics. No wonder that even the Muḥammadans (or, rather Muḥammadan converts of later ages) who set high value on physical strength and individual heroism came to appreciate the story of Hanumān and to erect shrines for him. There is inscriptional evidence to prove that in the Cedel districts, where the Muḥammadan influence has been very strong, certain classes of Mussalmans are still devoted to this heroic servant of Rāma. This must also have been the object of Chiefs in erecting shrines for Hanumān at the gates of their forts, viz., to infuse into the hearts of their fighting men the spirit of loyal attachment to their masters and indomitable heroism. Sometimes Hanumān may also be represented with hands showing the abhaya and the varada postures.

XIII

SUDARSA NA

Of the Vaishnava symbols and weapons referred to in the previous paragraphs as being sometimes personified, the discus (chakrap) under the name Sudarsana deserves special mention, it being separately worshipped in the Śrī-Vaishnava temples under the name Chakra-Perumāl (figs. 43 and 44). The Silpasāra describes Sudarsana to be brilliant as fire, with sixteen arms holding the weapons conch, discus, bow, axe, sword, arrow, trident, noose, goad, lotus, thunderbolt, shield, plough, pestle, club and spear. The figure has protruding teeth, fiery hair and three eyes. It is fully decorated and stands in front of a šatkōṇa or hexagon. Dancing thus amidst the flames of the discus, the Sudarsana is supposed to kill all enemies. Sometimes the image may be represented with eight or four arms holding the discus in all of them.

Mr. Longhurst has supplied two other photographs (fig. 45) in the first of which Sudarsana appears to be similar in all details to the Tirupati figure No. 43, but has at the back of it an equilateral triangle within which is the seated figure of Nrisimha in the yogāsana attitude (see above, fig. 19) with flames of fire proceeding from his crown. This form of Nrisimha is
Fig. 43.—Sudarsana; Tirupati.
Fig. 44.—Sudarsana, back view; Tirupati.
Fig. 45—Sukravara, front and back view (metal), Dadiyakommu.
evidently what is popularly known as Jvālā-Nrisimha “the fiery Nrisimha.” It may be noted that the famous Chakrapāṇi temple at Kumbakonam is dedicated to the discus Sudarsana of Vishnu.

XIV

Apart from the various forms of Vishnu detailed above, every Hindu worships certain formless stones, called Sāligrama, as these more satisfactorily answer to the idea of the formless Brahman. The Sāligrama stones are generally picked up from the bed of the river Gandakī (in North Bihar) or are made of a particular kind of stone procurable at Dvārakā. The former are perfectly smooth and rounded pebbles and are heavier than ordinary stones. The belief is that within them is found gold or other heavy metal. The Sāligrama stones are believed to possess certain mystic and sacred virtues. In the country of Avanti, at the foot of the sacred hill known as Hariparvata, is stated to be a big pond called Chakratirtha, from which flows the river Gandakī. On rare and auspicious occasions, within this pond, are produced the Sāligrama stones which, after remaining for 1,000 years in water, become the abode of Vishnu, who then assuming the form of a brilliant little insect called vajrakīta enters into them and bores a hole with his mouth, forming therein a discus (chakra) of numerous varieties. The stones are of many colours and sizes and are distinguished by these chakras to represent either Vāsudēva (white colour), Hiranya-garbha (blue), Pradyumna (red), Vishnu (black), Śrī-Nārāyana (dark-green), Narasimha (tawny), or Vāmana (deep-blue). Eighty-nine varieties are recognized, each bearing a different name of Vishnu. One well-known test of their suitability for worship consists in placing them in milk or in rice, when, a genuine Sāligrama is supposed to increase in size and in weight. A strange feature about these stones is that, while they mostly represent the forms of Vishnu, some are stated to be also forms of Śiva, Sakti, Śūrya (Sun), Ganapati and the Planets. The Sāligramas are never fixed on pedestals as the lingas of Śiva (see below, p. 72) or as the images of other gods. In many of the South-Indian temples of Vishnu, garlands of Sāligrama stones are hung round the necks of images. Sāligrama forms the most important object of daily worship in every orthodox Brāhmaṇa’s house in Southern India. The water poured over it is most holy and like the Ganges water which Brāhmaṇas generally preserve in their homes in sealed vessels, is offered to the dying man in order that
his soul may become pure and depart in peace. The gift of Sāligrāma stones to Brāhmaṇas is considered one of the most meritorious acts and is as highly prized as the presentation of gold itself. Strictly religious people never sell or purchase Sāligrāmas but only acquire them by gift or by transfer. Of the sectarian Vaishnavas of the South, viz., the Śrī-Vaishnavas and the Mādhvas, the latter show greater respect to the Sāligrāma stones than even for sculptured images of Vishnu.
CHAPTER IV.
SIVA.

I

Siva temples. Siva is the third member of the Hindu Triad and in Southern India is more widely worshipped than Vishnu. Hundreds of Siva temples of historic fame are found in Southern India, round which are centred traditions of Saiva saints whose period may be assigned roughly to the seventh century A.D. One noticeable peculiarity of these ancient Siva temples is that they enshrine within them images of Vishnu as also of various other gods of the Hindu Pantheon, whereas Vishnu temples are exclusive in this respect. Exception must, however, be made in the case of some very old Vishnu temples\(^1\) sung in the hymns of the Nālāyiraprābandham which are as ancient as the corresponding Saiva scriptures collectively called Dēvāram. Here we find Siva and Vishnu often mentioned together as located in the same temple and, in a higher philosophical sense, as forming different aspects of one and the same Divine Energy.

II

Siva-linga. Siva is generally worshipped in the form of the phallus (linga) fixed on a pedestal. The phallic cult has been traced to very ancient times, its origin, however, being still involved in mystery. The worship of the creative energy of God, interpreted by the sense-perception of man and represented by the symbols yoni and linga in union, has apparently been as old as man himself. Whatever may be the origin of linga-worship, there is no doubt that it has come to be recognized like the Vaishnavite Sāligrāma described above, a perfect symbol of the formless, all-pervading Divine Being, unlimited by time and space. The Skanda-Purana says:—"The sky is the shaft and the earth its pedestal; all gods dwell in the linga;
since the whole creation finds its origin and rest there, it receives the name *linga*". In the introduction to his translation of the Vishnu-Purāṇa (p. lxix) Professor H. H. Wilson makes the following remarks on the *linga*-worship in India:

"The *linga* is twofold, external and internal. The ignorant who need a visible sign, worship Siva through a ‘mark’ or ‘type’ which is the proper meaning of the word *linga*—of wood or stone; but the wise look upon this outward emblem as nothing and contemplate in their minds the invisible inscrutable type which is Siva himself. Whatever may have been the origin of this form of worship in India, the notions upon which it was founded according to the impure fancies of European writers are not to be traced even in the Saiva Purānas." Mr. Havell thinks that it "was in all probability originally derived from the votive *stūpa* of Buddhism." If Saivism is, however, granted to be older in its origin than Buddhism—the Sākyas themselves among whom Buddha was born being mentioned as having Siva for their tutelar deity—this theory cannot be upheld. Various forms of the *linga* are worshipped, from the crude uncut conical gneiss usually believed to be *svayambhū* or self-born to the highly polished and hand-made shaft of 8, 16, 32 or more facets of the Pallava period.

*Lingas*, whether self-born or artificial are equally venerated, the latter being associated as regards their origin with the Sun, Moon, the Lords of the quarters or ancient sages of bygone millennia. The *linga* is generally fixed in a circular or quadrangular receptacle on a high monolithic pedestal known as *yoni*, *pāṇivattam* or *āvadaiyār*.

It is a common adage that Siva is as fond of bathing as Vishnu is fond of decoration and the surface of the pedestal which receives the *linga* is so fashioned as to drain off the large quantity of water poured over the god every day from a copper vessel with a hole at its bottom, hung directly

---

1. In *Sivarāhānīya*, a chapter of *Sauro-sāṃhītā*, it is stated that the *linga* has a fivefold significance and denotes the primeval energy of the Creator. At the end of the creation all gods find their resting place in the *linga*—Brahma being absorbed into the right, Janaśana (Vishnu) into the left and Gāyatri into the heart.

2. *Ideals of Indian Art*, p. 87.


4. The *Silpurāṇa* describes this to be a long or short shaft of shattered appearance, flat like a board and many cornered with crooked horns. Bana is another kind of *linga* which is shaped by nature and not by the chisel.

5. According to the *Mayamata* all kinds of pedestals, whatever may be their pattern, must have a duct on their left side to carry off the surface water. These ducts are to be well decorated.
over the shaft. In a linga considered as a symbol of Brahman, the quadrangular bottom of the shaft is believed to represent Brahmā, the octagonal middle Vishnu and the circular upper portion Siva. Sometimes a single linga is known by the name Sahasra ("the thousand")-linga (fig. 46). It is divided into twenty-five facets, each of these latter having miniature representations of forty lingas and making up thus the number one thousand.

III

Round the sanctum of a Siva temple, on its outer wall, are usually enshrined in specially formed niches the images of Ganapati and Dakshināmurti on the south, Lingodbhava (or sometimes, Vishnu) on the west, and Brahmā and Durgā on the north. In the enclosing verandah round the central shrine may be installed the images of the sixty-three Saiva Saints, lingas which devout adherents might choose to establish for the merit of themselves or of their ancestors, the nine Planets (Navagrahas), which, since the time astrology was established in India, have been receiving divine homage, and a host of other gods and goddesses such as Kumāra (Skanda), Vīrabhadra, Bhairava, etc. Natarāja or Sahāpati "the lord of the divine congregation" is placed in a separate shrine, generally the Sabhā-mandapa or "the assembly hall." The goddess Pārvati, the consort of Siva, who receives all kinds of fanciful names and surnames according to local traditions, is also enshrined separately. Sometimes it is found that every important subordinate deity has a separate shrine for itself, smaller, of course, in size than the sanctum.

It may be noted that, while worship is offered in the central shrine of a Siva temple only to the formless stone linga, for processional purposes images made of metal are used; and these are of various forms and go by various names, such as Sōmakanda, Vrishārūdhha, Gangādhara, Kalyānasundara, Ardhanāri, Bhikṣhātana, Natarāja, etc. Instances are not uncommon where images of Siva in one of his processional forms receives more attention from the worshippers than the linga itself. In Chidambaram, for example, the image of Natarāja receives more attention and

---

2 The śīrṣāvartana or the shaping of the top of the linga which, according to the Silparatna, may be cucumber-like, umbrella-like, crescent-like, egg-like or bubble-like, distinguishes the four different lingas worshipped by the four castes. The same work sets down that images may also be carved on the linga. Superior lingas are stated to vary from 7 to 9 cubits in height. Fixed lingas are worshipped in temples and movable lingas in houses.
FIG. 46.—Sahasra-linga: Tiruvottiyur.
is more famous than the movable linga of pebble which is
known as Ratnasabhāpati, or the stone linga of Mūlasthāna.
At Bhikshāndārkōyil in the Trichinopoly district the mendicant
form of Siva is worshipped. Ardhanāri is the god worshipped at Tiruchchengōdu (Salem) and so is the bronze
image of Somāskanda (under the name Tyāgarāja) worshipped at Tiruvārūr.

IV

Before describing some of the popular Siva-images it
may be useful to give a general description of Siva when he
is represented in the form of an image. The common name
then applied to him is Rudramūrti. He has four hands, of
which the two upper ones hold the dhakkā (kettle-drum)
and the deer, the two lower hands showing the abhaya and
the varada postures. His matted hair is made up in the form
of a crown (jatāmakuta) on whose left shines the crescent of
the moon and whose right is decorated with the jewel known
as arka-pushpa. The face of a woman (i.e., of the goddess
Gangā representing the river Ganges) appears over the matted
hair, on the right side. He has three eyes, which represent
the Sun, Moon and Fire, the last being on the forehead.
He is clothed with a tiger skin above his knees and wears an
undergarment and a scarf and the usual ornaments, necklace
and torque, girdle round the waist, wristlets, waist-zone,
armlets, arm-rings, finger-rings set with gems, anklets, and
the sacred thread. The left ear of the god wears a woman's
ornament called lamba-patra, while the right wears a man's
ornament called makura-kundala. The left side of the neck
is marked with the blue scar (caused by his having swallowed
the poison kālikūta). This general form of Siva may be
represented either standing or seated on the lotus-pedestal
with an aureola, and with or without his consort Pārvatī
on the left side. The pedestal may also sometimes be the
mahā-pitha, when, instead of the aureola behind the image,
there may be the celestial tree (kalpa-vrīksha).

1 Sixteen of these are mentioned in the Sūlasāra. They are: - Sukhāsana,
Valāvāhika, Umāsahita (according to the Mayavatī Umāskanda), Vīshārūdha,
Triparāntaka or Purārī, Natarāja, Chandrasākara, Ardhanāri, Hariham,
Chandēśvara (Mayavatī gives Chandēśaṇugrhaṇa), Kāmāri, Kālanāśa, Dakshīnāmūrti,
Bhikṣātana, Sadāsīva (Mayavatī gives Mukhalinga) and Lingōdhavāha.
The A śārānāgama mentions twenty-five.

2 Hemādri describes Rudra as riding on a bull and having five faces all of
which are mild-looking, except the one on the right side of the central face. He
has ten arms and wears garlands of skulls.

3 See below, p. 137 f., under Sṛṅgāṇtha.
Standing images of Siva generally belong to the class known as Ashtamūrtis or Ėkādasa-Rudras. The former have generally four hands and three eyes and wear the jatamakuta. The fore-arms exhibit the protecting and the boon-giving postures; while the hind arms hold the tanka and the antelope. The Ėkādasa-Rudras are almost similar to Rudramūrti in form, with the black scar on the neck, the crescent on the head and the scarf of tiger-skin. In place of the dhakkā in the right upper hand is seen the axe (parasu). A form of Siva combining five bodies in one is known as Panchadēhamūrti. Though not found in any of the temples examined so far, it is often mentioned in the Tanjore inscriptions as having been installed in the Rājarājēsvara (i.e., the modern Brihadisvara) temple by the Chōla king Rājarāja or his subordinates, in the first quarter of the eleventh century A.D. The Panchadēhamūrti consisted of five images, four of which stood in the four directions and the fifth was placed in the middle, its head being higher in level than the others. One of these was called Aghōra. The linga with five faces called Panchamukha-linga is only the five-bodied Panchadēhamūrti translated in terms of the symbolical phallus. It has the heads of four Siva-images figured on its four sides. The illustration from Tiruvānaikkāval (fig. 47) does not show any face at the top. The Skānda-Purāna mentions a seated form of Siva called Mahākailāsa or Mahā-Sadāsiva which is represented with twenty-five faces and fifty hands, wears a garland of skulls and is clothed in tiger's skin.

V

Images answering to the two names Natarāja and Sabhāpati, in the Hindu Pantheon, are identical in design. Natarāja (the prince of dancers) is the well-known dancing form of god Siva. It has four arms and a body besmeared with ashes. The back arm on the right side holds the kettle-drum (udukkai, as it is called in Tamil) while the other presents the raised palm of protection (abhaya). Of the pair on the left, the upper holds a fire-pot and the lower is bent round

1 According to Hēmādri these may be substituted by the club and the trident.
2 Jaina images called Chaturmukha or Chauṇḍākhi are often made of a single stone. The four identical images on the four sides are surmounted by a series of umbrellas common to all, which appear like the spire of a temple (see Epigraphia Indica, Vol. X, p. 115). The Buddhists also seem to have possessed such figures; see Nagendra Natha Vasu's Mayūrabhāni, p. 41.
3 A linga placed at the entrance into an old Siva temple at Raichūr (Hyderabad State) shows a combination of five lingas, four on the sides and one at the top.
Fig. 47. — Panchamukha-linga; Tiruvanaikkaval.
across the breast to the right side, its fingers gracefully pointing below, towards the left leg which is raised in a dancing posture. The position of this hand is known as gaja-hasta, "the elephant-trunk." The ecstatic and violent nature of the dance, described as Ānanda-tāndava in the sequel, whirling quickly round on one leg, placed on the back of the demon Musalagan or Apasmāra¹, is indicated by the matted hair (jata) stretching out on both sides of the head in wavy lines one above the other and by the cloth, partly tied round the waist and partly thrown over the left shoulder, also flying in the air (fig. 48). The right hand which shows the abhaya has on its wrist a serpent, which is the usual ornament of Siva and may have 1, 3, 5 or 7 hoods. Another serpent, in the hand of the demon below, is explained by Mr. Havell (Ideas of Indian Art, p. 79) to be the corresponding wrist ornament on the left arm which had dropped down in the dance. We are told in the Kāśyapa-Silpa of the Amsumat-Tantra that a serpent with raised hood is to be shown playing near Apasmāra on his left side, the right hand of the demon pointing towards it (cāla-mudrā?). The head of Siva wears peacock's feathers, or an ornament fashioned like them, which is a special characteristic of the image. The aureola (prabhā), which every metallic image necessarily has, is, in this case, somewhat peculiar and significant, being surmounted all round with flames of fire similar to the one which is held in the pot or cup in one of the two left arms of the image.² The pedestal on which the figure rests is a double lotus flower placed back to back. Sometimes the jata are not spread out but are tied and made up in the form of jatāmakuta (fig. 49).

Siva is said to dance in the evening in the presence of the goddess Pārvatī in order to relieve the sufferings of the dēvas. The dance of Natarāja is believed to symbolize the action of cosmic energy in creating, preserving and destroying the visible universe. The Purāṇas say that during these dances the whole congregation of gods, demigods and saints present themselves to render their obeisance to Siva. Hence the name Sabhāpati, "the lord of the

¹ Rai Bahadur V. Venkayya describes him as a hideous malignant dwarf, who sprang from the sacrificial fire of the rishi of the Dārukāvāna forest and was subdued by Siva by being pressed under the tip of his foot (S. I. J. Vol. II, Introduction, p. 33, footnote). Perhaps he is the personification of the disease epilepsy wherein the victim is enveloped in complete mental darkness.

² The Silparatna remarks that the aureola of Natarāja represents the ravi-mandala or "the sun's disc." This perhaps accounts for the flaming rays proceeding from the aureola.
Fig. 49. - Nataraja (metal) ; Râmesvaram.
assembly" of gods. The asterism Ārdrā occurring in the bright half of the solar month Mārgali (December-January) is sacred to Natarāja. All Siva temples celebrate a festival on that occasion by taking out in procession miniature representations of Natarāja or, where such do not exist, the chief processional image of Siva. In Chidambaram, of course, where the worship of Natarāja is the most prominent and where the Sabhā-mandapa (assembly hall) is covered with gold plate, the festival is the grandest held in the year.

Two main forms of dancing Siva may be distinguished: one with the raised leg as shown in the illustrations given above and the other with the same lifted up higher, to the level of the head. The latter is called Ěrāνva-tāṇḍava—a dance which is locally believed to have been first performed by Siva at Tiruvalangadu near Arkonam. The origin of this form of dance is as follows. There was once a dispute between Siva and his consort Kālī as to who was better in the art of dancing. Siva danced many a dance and Kālī successfully followed him; till at last, in order to suppress her pride, Siva lifted up one of his legs to the level of his crown and danced on. Kālī was too modest to imitate Siva in this performance and she accepted the superiority of Siva (fig. 50). Images of Natarāja are sometimes also seen with a small antelope prancing on his left side near the foot, the Gangā (Ganges) and the crescent decorating the head, the sages Patanjali

1 The Kāranāga has the following about Sabhāpati:—

"On the top of the Kailāsa mountain, in front of the goddess Gauri (Pārvati) who is seated on a jewelled throne, Siva with the crescent on his head dances in the evenings. All the devas attend the dance; Brahmana plays on cymbals; Hari (Vishnu), on a pataha; Bhārati (Sarasvatī), on the lute; the Sun and Moon, on flutes; Tumburu and Nārada supply vocal music; and Nandi and Kumāra (Skanda) beat drums." The Mayamaṭa also mentions other gods and goddesses in the congregation, such as Vīghnēśa (Viṣṇyaka), Kālī and the Seven Mothers. It adds that Siva then performs the dance called Bhujangatārāśita with the serpent Karkotaka on him; see Burgess's Elura Cave Temples, Plate XLIII, fig. 5.

2 The description of the image of Adavallān (i.e., "the expert dancer," Natarāja) given in the Tanjore Inscriptions, mentions "four arms, nine braids of hair (jata), the goddess Gāndhā-hattānaki on the braided hair and seven flower garlands. The goddess Umāparamesvari who formed a part of the group was standing on a separate pedestal." Another image of a similar description in the same temple was Tanjai-Alagar with whom was connected also the figure of a Gopāpati. Of the sages Patanjali and Vyāghrapāda who usually accompany the dancing image of Natarāja, the Tanjore Inscriptions describe the former as a solid image which measured "three-quarters and one-eighth (of a mūlam) in height from the tail to the hoods (phāna). It had five hoods; one face in the midst of these hoods, one crown (makuta), two divine arms, above the navel, a human body, and below the navel three coils"; (S.I.J., Vol. II, Introduction,
Pin. 50.—Urdhva-tāndava; Tiruppanandal.
(with the serpent-body, fig. 51) and Vyāghrapāda (with tiger's feet, fig. 52) worshipping on either side and the goddess Pārvatī standing on the left.

The Agamas speak of seven dancing postures of Siva. The first, called Ānanda-tāndaṇa or the joyous dance, has been described above.

The second is his evening dance Sandhyā-tāndaṇa. In this form the demon Apasmāra is absent and the symbols in the two left arms are the peacock-feathers and the pose of wonder called vismaya.

The third is the Umā-tāndaṇa, i.e., dance with his consort Umā. In this Siva has two more arms, the additional right hand holding the trident (trisūla) and the three left hands exhibiting the skull, vismaya, and the gaja-hasta. The left leg is placed on Apasmāra and the right leg is stretched towards the left, and the goddess Umā stands on the left side.

The fourth, Gaurī-tāndaṇa, is almost similar to the first, but in one of the left hands of the god is held a serpent. Nandi stands on the right side and Gaurī (Pārvatī) is on the left.

In the fifth form, called Kālikā-tāndaṇa, the god has only two eyes, but eight arms. Three of the right arms hold the trident, noose and kettle-drum and the corresponding left hold the skull, fire-pot and the bell; the two remaining arms exhibit the ābhaya on the right and gaja-hasta on the left (fig. 53).

The dance of Siva, with sixteen arms and as many symbols, having Gaurī and Skanda on the left and right sides respectively, receives the name Tripura-tāndaṇa.

The last dance called Samhāra-tāndaṇa "the death-dance" shows the god with three eyes and eight arms. The left leg is placed on Apasmāra and the right leg is raised. In the right

p. 33). This description closely agrees with the figure of Patañjali on the eastern gopura of the Natarāja temple at Chidambaram. On the same gopura is the image of Vyāghrapāda in which the sage is represented as having tiger's claws on both his hands and feet. The sage is carrying on his right shoulder a hook and a flower basket.

1 According to the Silpaśāstra and the Mayamata, the dance is performed under the vata or the banyan tree.

2 This same dance is described in the Mayamata as Bhujangalilā in which by quick changes in the position of the legs, the fire in the hand is blown into a blaze, and the braided locks are spread out into five, seven or nine. On the left side stands Vishnu in place of Gaurī, and on the right Nandi.

3 In the illustrations the weapons and symbols are shown just as they are mentioned in the Agamas. The position of the legs in the one, and the ābhaya and the gaja-hasta poses in the other, are, however, reversed.

4 The Silpaśāstra says that Skanda stands on the same side as Gaurī holding her by the hand, and shows fear, love and wonder in his face.
Fig. 51. - Patanjali; Chidambaram.
FIG. 52.—Vyaghrapada ; Chidambaram.
Fig. 53. — Kālīkā-tāṇḍava (metal) ; Nallūr.
hands are seen the *abhaya*, trident, noose and the kettle-drum; the left hands exhibit the skull and the fire-pot and the postures *vismaya* and *gaja-hasta*. On the right and left sides respectively are Nandi and Gauri.

Other *Agamas* again, refer to 108 dancing forms of Siva nine of which are said to be celebrated. Of these latter the only one that deserves to be noted is that in which the god has his right leg raised straight up so as to reach the top of the crown (*ushnisha*). Perhaps, this is the *Urdhva-tandava*, described already. He may have four, eight or sixteen arms.

No account of *Nataraja* could be complete without a short history of Chidambaram and its temple. Tradition has it that years ago a king from the north, called Simhavarman, came south on a pilgrimage. All this part of the country was then one huge forest. The king happened to bathe in a well, and immediately found himself transformed into a bright golden figure. He assumed the name Hiranyakvarman “the gold-armoured” on that account and covered with gold the Siva temple which he discovered near that well. It is stated that before him the sages *Patanjali* and *Vyaghrapada* had worshipped there. Simhavarman and Hiranyakvarman are Pallava names and denote that the origin of the temple may be roughly traced to that period. Historically, it was the *Chola* king *Parantaka* I, surnamed *Vira-Chola* and *Vira-Narayana* (A.D. 907 to about 951) who covered the Chidambaram temple with gold, perhaps for the first time. Successive *Chola* kings, after him, are known to have added to the grandeur of it. A later Pallava chief of the thirteenth century A.D. called *Perunjingadeva* boasts of having conquered the four quarters and utilized the booty secured, in decorating the eastern *gopura* of the Chidambaram temple which he had himself constructed. The great *Vijayanagara* king *Krishnadavaraya* of the sixteenth century A.D. built the north *gopura* of the same temple after his victorious return from

---

1 The devotion of Rājarāja I to the god at Chidambaram and the rich presents which he must have made to the temple there, evidently earned for him the titles *Sri-Rājarāja* and *Sivapādasēkhara*; *Rai Bahadur Venkayya* thinks that Rājarāja built at Tanjore the big temple of Rājarājēśvara (i.e., *Brihadisvara*) in order to commemorate the conferring of these titles. He consecrated therein the god Siva and called him *Adavallān*, i.e., the expert dancer, after the famous *Nataraja* of Chidambaram.

2 It is from this *gopura* that the best illustrations are secured. The *gopura* is very rich in sculptures and has various forms of *Siva* and his attendant gods. In this *gopura* are also found illustrations of the 108 postures in dancing, mentioned in the *Bhairaviya-Nātayāstīra* (vide Madras Epigraphical Report for 1913-14, Plates I to IV). They are appropriately meant to be connected with *Nataraja*, the king of dancers.
a campaign in the north. It is well known that as a sacred place of pilgrimage Chidambaram is intimately connected with the Saiva saint Mānīkyavāchaka (Mānīkkavāsagar), the Pariah saint Nandanār—both of whom attained their salvation there—and with the Saiva philosopher and scholar Appaya-Dīkshita who was much devoted to that temple. The place is mentioned in the Saiva hymns of the Devāram, in which it is called Tillai. The 3,000 Brāhmaṇa families of Tillai (which may have once lived there but have at present dwindled down to a few hundreds) claim Siva to be one of them and worship Natarāja as their family deity.

VI

The Agamas mention, as already stated,² twenty-five sportive forms (līlā-mūrtis) of Siva, most of which are usually met with in South-Indian temples. One of the more important of these is Dakшинāmūrti. In Chōla temples this image generally occupies a niche in the south wall of the central shrine. Dakшинāmūrti or Dharma-Vyākhyaṇamūrti is the form of Siva engaged in yōga or philosophic contemplation. Once upon a time Daksha, the father-in-law of Siva, insulted him and his consort Umā, by not inviting them to a sacrifice which he was performing. Umā nevertheless went uninvited to her father's house, but being grossly neglected jumped into the sacrificial fire-pit and destroyed herself. Siva was furious; he created out of a lock of his hair the terrible Vīrabhadra (see below, p. 155) who destroyed Daksha. Siva then retired to a forest with the resolve not to marry again and sat underneath a banyan tree deeply engaged in meditation. The gods were much concerned; for it meant that the world would lose the benefit of Siva's direct intervention in its affairs. They accordingly induced Kāma,³ the god of love, to stir up once again in the mind of Siva the dormant embers of love. The fool-hardy Kāma incautiously approached the god engaged in meditation and shot his flowery arrows at him and hit him. Siva then opened his eye of fire and looked straight at Kāma, when lo! he was at once reduced to a heap of ashes.⁴ Still Kāma had succeeded. For, soon afterwards Siva gave up his

¹ Above, p. 76, footnote 1.
² Described above, p. 62.
³ This incident has given rise to the recognition of another sportive form of Siva called Kāmārī or Kāmadhanamūrti. The scene is depicted on one of the pillars of an unfinished mandapa near the tank in the Ekāmṛēsvara temple at Conjeevaram. According to the Kātanāgama, Kāmadhanamūrti has four arms in which are seen the abhya, varada, a deer and the tārā. He is seated on a lotus pedestal and is fierce in appearance.
penance and married once again Uma, who had now incarnated as Parvati, the beautiful daughter of Himavat (the Himalayas). This is the story of Dakshinamurti. He is always conceived to be a youthful teacher, seated beneath a banyan tree, teaching aged pupils and removing their doubts by his very silence.

The general posture of the images of Dakshinamurti show him with his right leg bent vertically at the knee and placed on the body of the dark demon Apasmara and the left leg bent across so as to rest upon the right thigh. He has a calm countenance, indicative of perfect peace within. His matted locks are either dishevelled or are formed into a jatamakuta tied together by a serpent (fig. 54). The body is besmeared with ashes and all the usual ornaments of Siva decorate him. The sages Narada, Jamadagni, Vasishtha and Bhrigu sit at his feet on the right side, receiving instruction, while Bharadvaja, Saunaka, Agasty and Bhargava sit on the left. The bull-vehicle of the god, the denizens of the forest, Kinnaras and other demi-gods are also seen on the Kailasa mountain on which the god is seated. His right fore-arm points the jnana-mudra (the pose conveying philosophical knowledge) and the back arm holds the rosary (or, the serpent); the left fore-arm shows the boon-conferring (varada) attitude or is sometimes freely stretched, the back of the palm resting in either case on the left knee. Some illustrations show a book in the place of the varada posture. The remaining hand on the left side holds the fire-pot, the deer, the kettle-drum or the rosary. When Dakshinamurti holds in his fore-arms the lute (vinā) and changes the posture of his left leg—apparently for keeping the vinā in position—he is called Vīṇādhara-Dakshinamurti (fig. 55). Jnana-murti is another form of the same god in which the symbol jnana-mudra of the right fore-arm is raised close to the heart with the palm of the hand turned inwards. The name Yogamurti (or Yoga-Dakshinamurti) is applied when the legs crossing each other from the root of the thigh are held in position by the belt yōgapatta, passing round the waist and the

1 Havell, *Ideals of Indian Art*, p. 83f.
2 The *Silpasangraha* mentions a serpent playing by the side of Apasmara.
3 The description of Dakshinamurti given in the Tanjore inscriptions is very interesting and instructive. They say that the mountain on which the god is seated had two peaks on which there were two Kinnaras and two Kinnarīs. Under the foot of the god was Musalagan. On the mountain were four rishis, a snake, two Karnaprabhitas (i.e., devotees of Siva?) mentioned in the Kānīyana, who had ear-lobes with holes big enough to allow their hands to be passed through in the act of worshipping), and a tiger. A banyan tree was also on the mountain and had nine main branches and forty-two minor ones. A wallet was suspended from the tree and a bunch of peacock's feathers was one of the accompaniments of the god’; *S.I.L.*, Vol. II, Introduction, p. 33.
Fig. 54.—Dakshinamurti; Avur.
Fig. 55.—Vinādhara-Dakshināmūrti; Chidambaram.
fore-legs, a little below the knee. The front arms are in this case, stretched out and rest freely on the knees, while the back arms hold the rosary and the water pot. The illustration (fig. 56) differs, however, in the symbols. In this, the upper hands hold the water-pot and the antelope and the lower hands the rosary (with jnāna-mudrā) and the book. A fine old picture (fig. 57) coming from Tiruvengavāsal (Pudukkottai State) shows Dakshināmūrti in a different position and with different symbols.

VII

Lingōdbhava "the linga-manifestation," is a familiar figure of Siva seen on the west wall of the central shrine of Siva temples built in Chōla times. As his name implies, he is represented within a huge linga, the portion of the feet below the ankles being hidden in the linga. Brahmā in the form of a swan is seen soaring up on the left side of Siva; while, on the right side, Vishnu is delving below into the depths of the earth in the form of a boar. Also these gods (i.e., Brahmā and Vishnu) in their true glory stand on either side of Siva with folded hands. The figure emanating from the middle of the linga (fig. 58) has four hands like Chandrakēkhara (described below) and holds in its back arms the axe and the antelope and in the front hands, the abhaya and the varada postures. In the illustration given, the left hand is, however, seen resting freely on the waist. In the Tanjore inscriptions, Lingōdbhava is mentioned by the name Lingapurāṇādeva, i.e., the god of the Linga-Purāṇa which describes the greatness of the linga. The story runs that a dispute arose between Brahmā and Vishnu as to who is the greater of the two. Siva told them that whoever first saw the top or the bottom of his own fiery linga-form and came back to report, he would be considered the greater. Brahmā soared on his swan to see the top of the Siva-linga, while Vishnu as a boar dug down and down to see its bottom. Ages passed away and neither came to his goal. At last Brahmā saw one kētaki flower coming down. It had fallen from Siva’s head ages ago. Brahmā suborned it to give false evidence and then came back and uttered a lie, saying that he had seen the top of the linga, citing the kētaki flower as his witness. Siva knew the lie and cursed Brahmā that he should thenceforward go without any worship in temples. Brahmā had five heads at this time.

1 The swan and the boar are in some pictures found to be half-man and half-animal.
2 On the east main āṭṭura of the Chidambaram temple is an image of Lingōdbhava surrounded by flames of fire.
Fig. 56.—Vōga-Dakshināmūrti; Conjeeveram.
FIG. 57.—Dakshināmūrti; Tiruvengavāsal.
FIG. 58.—LINGODHAVA; TANJORE.
Siva also cut off the head which uttered the lie.\(^1\) The flower ketaki too, which abetted the crime, was excluded from the flowers dear to Siva. On an apology being offered, the latter was however accepted, as a special case, during the worship on the night of the Sivaratri festival which falls on the fourteenth day of the dark half of Māgha (January-February) in each year and is held sacred in honour of the linga-manifestation of Siva.

Perhaps, images called Ėkapādamūrti or Ėkapāda-mūrti, in which the gods Brahmā and Vishnu, with folded hands and characteristic symbols, are represented as proceeding out of the body of Siva at his waist as in the Tiruvottiyūr image (fig. 59) or from behind his knee as in the image from Tiruvānaikkāval (fig. 60) are either developments of Lingodbhava wherein the superiority of Siva over the two other members of the Hindu Triad was established, or an invention of the Indian sculptor in which is symbolized the underlying unity of the three gods.\(^2\) The Kāranāgama mentions Ėkapāda-mūrti as one of the sportive forms of Siva and describes him as having one foot, three eyes and four arms in which are seen the tanka and deer and the varada and the abhaya postures. On the right and left sides of Siva, almost touching his shoulders, are Brahmā and Vishnu holding their symbolical weapons in two hands and worshipping Siva with the other two.

The single foot which is the characteristic feature of these figures, is, in the case of the Tiruvānaikkāval image, placed on the back of the bull. In it are also seen the vehicle of Brahmā, viz., the swan, at the right bottom and, at the corresponding left bottom, the standing Garuda vehicle of Vishnu and a sage—perhaps Nārada. Apparently Ėkapādamūrti has to be connected with Ajaikapād, a name given in the Rig-Veda to one of the Ėkādasa-Rudras.\(^3\)

VIII

The story of Lingodbhava introduces us to another form of Siva, known as Bhikshātana, very often seen in South-Indian temples. When Siva cut off one of the heads of

---

1 The Kāranāgama mentions a sportive form of Siva cutting off one of the heads of Brahmā. The image is stated to have four arms holding the thunderbolt and the axe in the right hand and the trident and Brahmā's skull in the left.

2 Accordingly, we sometimes find Vishnu occupying the central place. On p. 73 above, footnote 1, it was noted that the goddess Gayatri was absorbed into the centre of the linga while Brahmā and Vishnu entered the sides of it.

Fig. 59.—Ekapäda-Trimūrti; Tiruvottiyur.
Fig. 65.—Ekapāda-Trimūrti; Tiruvānaikkāval.
Brahmā, he incurred the sin of killing a Brāhmaṇa; and the skull of Brahmā, it is stated, stuck to Siva’s palm and would not drop down. In order to get rid of the sin and this incriminating skull, Siva had to wander about as a naked beggar (bhikshātana) until he reached the place still known as Brahma-kapālam, on the slopes of the Himalayas, where he was released from the sin and the skull fell down of its own accord.1 Local chronicles connect Bhikshātana with the Valuvūr and Tirutturaippūndi temples in the Tanjore district, and mention that the god Siva assumed a beautiful naked form and came out as a wandering beggar to test the fidelity of the wives of certain sages of the Dārukāvana forest, who were proud of their chastity. At the same time Vishnu is stated to have taken up the form of Mōhinī in order to tempt the sages. In accordance with this story, we occasionally see naked figures of women and of Mōhinī (fig. 61) depicted in close proximity to Bhikshātana. The tip of the lower right hand of the image touches the mouth of an antelope. The upper right hand holds the kettle-drum. A trident with peacock-feathers (not seen in the illustration fig. 62) or a big bunch of them placed across the shoulder, decorates the upper left arm, while the lower left, shows the boon-conferring posture. In it is also seen the kapāla (skull). A serpent encircles his waist and he stands on sandals. The right leg is slightly bent (kunchita) and the left is firmly placed in the attitude of one inclined to walk on. Above the right ankle is tied a bell (bhringipāda) which gives notice of the approach of the divine mendicant. A demon called Kūndōdara, with protruding teeth, stands on the left side of the god, carrying on his head a begging bowl. The Bhikshātana-mūrti at Pērūr has eight arms and holds different weapons in each of them.2 A fine figure of Bhikshātana (in Tamil, Pichchāndār) is found in a niche on the south wall of the central shrine of the big temple at Tanjore. A copper image of this god, with a goblin carrying the begging bowl and an antelope following, is said to have been presented to that temple by Lōkamahādevī, the chief queen of Rājarāja I. This god was to witness every day the Sribali ceremony conducted in the temple.

1 The Mahābhārata refers to a similar story and states that a rishī called Mahōdara got himself relieved of the skull of a giant that had stuck to his knee, by bathing in the sacred tank called Kapālamōchanā-tīrtha.

2 This image is published in the Archaeological Survey Report, Madras, for 1911-12, Plate I, fig. 2, but without the two accompanying figures of the deer and the demon.

3 The Mayamata says that this form of Siva may have four, six or eight arms.
Fig. 61.—Mōhini (metal); Valuvūr.
Fig. 62.—Bhikshatanaamūrti (metal); Valuvūr.
Kankālamūrti is a form closely allied to Bhikshātana and almost similar in appearance. According to the Mayamata, Kankālamūrti is draped in a fine cloth and is surrounded by lovely women. In his upper right hand he holds the peacock’s feathers and skeleton (kankāla) and in the upper left the tanka. A serpent is coiled round his loins; and he has a knife stuck into the girdle on the right side of his waist (figs. 63 and 64). He is generally attended by demons. Birds and beasts follow him in expectation of getting something to eat from his hands. The description given of Kankālamūrti in the Kāsyapa-Silpa of the Amśumat-Tantra is different. He has a jatāmukuta decorated with serpents, the crescent-moon and flowers; he is holding the kettle-drum in his left fore-arm and a stick (to beat it with) in the corresponding right; the other right hand is in the pose simha-karna and touches the mouth of the antelope, while the left carries a bunch of peacock’s feathers on a staff. He also wears a necklace of skeletons (kankāla) which according to the Āditya-Purāṇa are supposed to be those of Vishnu in his various incarnations. Sometimes he may be represented also as carrying on his shoulder a kankāla (skeleton) tied by a rope to the staff.

The form of Siva, decorated as a bridegroom, is called Kalyānasundaramūrti or Vāivāhikamūrti. Siva in this form is represented as a fair youth, with three eyes and four arms. He is clothed in the best of garments and wears a garland of blue lilies. On his right side stands Pārvati, his bride, whose right hand he holds with his own. In his back hands are seen the symbols, tanka (or sometimes the axe) and the black buck. The left lower hand shows the boon-giving posture. His matted locks are made up in the fashion of a jatāmukuta on which is stuck the crescent of the moon. The general posture of the god is what is called samabhanga, or the medium bend, wherein the figure stands with the right leg slightly bent and the left leg placed firmly on the ground. The goddess on the right side is represented as a fully developed maiden. She has only two hands, one of which holds a lily. Brahma, having in his four hands the rosary, water-pot,

---

1 The braided hair (jatā) of Bhikshātana, on the other hand, is generally found in illustrations, arranged in a circle. Jatāmukuta is the arrangement of the jatas in the form of a makuta or crown. The former is, perhaps, what is known in the Silpa-works as jatāmandala.
Fig. 63.—Kankālamūrti (metal) ; Tenkāsā.
Fig. 64.—Kankalamārti; Dhārāsūram.
Fig. 65.—Kalyanasundara; Madura.
the sacrificial ladle (*srik*) and the spoon (*sruva*) (or, the book), is seated on a lotus flower in front of a square fire-pit facing northwards, and offering oblations to the sacrificial fire, which is burning in front with five flames. Mēnakā and Himavat, the parents of the goddess, are standing to her right, carrying a golden pot, from which they pour water into the hands of Siva and Pārvatī in token of giving away their daughter in marriage to him. The sages Sanaka and Sanandana stand to the left of the god with folded hands. Vishnu is present with the whole congregation of gods and goddesses. This description of Kāḷyānasundara is found in all its details in a figure from Elephanta. The Kāśyapa-Silpa of the Aṃsumat-Tantra and the Silpasangraha say that Vishnu in the tribhanga attitude faces south and stands on the north side of the sacrificial fire-pit with conch and discus in his back arms. He pours with his two other hands water from a gold pot into the hands of Siva and Pārvatī (fig. 65). The Mayamata describes Pārvatī as standing by the side of Lakhsmī. It looks as if Mēnakā and Himavat are sometimes substituted by Lakhsmī and Vishnu. A fine image of Kāḷyānasundara comes from the Chidambaram temple (fig. 66). Svayamvarā is the name given in the Silparatna to the figure of Pārvatī as a bride. She holds a garland of flowers and walks towards Sambhu (Siva) to choose him as her husband.

XI

Sōmāskanda is the most common of all the sportive forms Sōmāskanda of Siva. Its design is as old as the Pallava period and it may be found on the back wall of the sanctum immediately behind the linga in almost every temple which pretends to belong to that age. The group, e.g., is found engraved on the back wall of a niche in the second storey of the Dharmarāja-ratha at Mahābalipuram which, according to an inscription cut on the lintel, was apparently intended to be a shrine for the Siva-linga called Atyantakāma-Pallavēsvara. It is also seen on the back wall of the Siva shrine facing the sea, in the "Shore Temple." The Sāluvankuppam cave, called Atirancanda-Pallavēsvara, also has the same image. A similar panel is also found in the Kailāsanātha temple at Kānchī. Later Chōla temples, however, do not show any such panel on the wall behind the linga. On one and the same pedestal are seen Siva and Uma with the child Skanda standing (or seated) between them. Both the god and the goddess are seated comfortably (*sukhāsana*), with one leg (right in the case of Siva and left in the case of Pārvatī) hanging down
Fig. 66.—Kalyānasundara and Svayamvarā; Chidambarānātha.
Fig. 67. - Sōmāskanda (metal); Sivakōdam
and the other bent crosswise so as to lie flat on the pedestal. The god holds in his upper hands the tanka (or, the axe) and the deer and in the lower exhibits the varada and the abhaya postures. The goddess holds a lily in her right hand and shows the varada or the kataka pose $^1$ in her left (fig. 67). She may sometimes also be represented as resting the palm of her left hand on the pedestal by the side of her left thigh while the right hand, as before, holds the lily. Skanda has the crown karandamakuta and holds in one of his hands a flower, a wood-apple or a mango. According to the Kāranāgama the group must be flanked by two standing or seated figures called Bhōga-Sakti and Vīra-Sakti on the left and right sides respectively.$^2$ It is also stated that the right side of the pedestal on which the god sits is to be slightly higher than the left.

A photograph from Mahābalipuram (fig. 68) is worth noting in this connexion. It shows Siva in the comfortably seated posture. In his upper hands, however, the symbols, evidently of tanka and the deer, are missing. The right lower is in the posture of abhaya and the left lower in that of kataka. It is also possible that the latter is resting freely on the thigh. Pārvati is seated on Siva's left side, turning her face towards him and holding the child Skanda on her knee. In the upper corners are seen flying dwarfs, apparently holding flywhisks in their hands. The whole group is flanked by two four-armed gods raising respectively the upper left and right arms and pointing them towards Siva.

Among the Mahābalipuram sculptures we find still another scene of Saiva pictures apparently allied to Sōmāskanda just described, viz., Sukhāsana or Umāsahita mentioned in footnote I on p. 76. Here, on a pedestal supported by two lion-pillars and the recumbant bull between them, is a seated figure of Siva with a robe of ornamental fringes, hanging loosely from above his right shoulder. In his right upper hand he holds a furious serpent. What the position of his left upper hand indicates, is not clear. Of the two other hands, the left lower rests freely on his right leg and the left thigh, while the right lower exhibits a position of the fingers which suggests that the god must have held some weapon. The high jatāmakuta, the divine halo (circle of light) round the face, the necklaces, pendants, ear-rings, waist-band, rings on hands and a thick

---

$^1$ The actual position of the hand as described in the Āgamas, however, is simha-karna or "lion's ear" with the fingers slightly closing on the palm-side.

$^2$ Siva is supposed to have three Saktis attached to him, viz., Yōga-Sakti, Bhōga-Sakti and Vīra-Sakti; see below, p. 185, footnote i.
Fig. 69.—Umájñáta; Seven Pagodas.
chord across the breast representing the Brahmanical thread *yajnopavita*, are the other jewels seen on the figure of Siva. To the right of Siva’s shoulder is Brahmā with the water-pot in one hand and the erect rosary in the other. The sacred thread of Brahmā has four strings. Between the heads of Brahmā and Siva is a circular disc which perhaps represents the Sun. Near the left shoulder of Siva is Vishnu holding the discus and the conch in his two upper hands. Here again, the position of the two lower hands is not clear. The sacred thread of Vishnu has three strings. His crown though high like that of the two other gods is shaped somewhat differently. Pārvatī (Siva’s consort) with the child Skanda on her right lap is seated on the left side of Siva. Her left foot is placed on the back of the couchant bull. She as well as her child have only two arms each. Close to her left foot, behind the bull, is a female attendant of Pārvatī, who raises her right hand resting it on the back of the bull. Between the head of the goddess and that of Vishnu is seen what is perhaps to be interpreted as the crescent of the Moon, corresponding to the Sun on the other side. But the short handle attached to it at the bottom seems to show that it may be an umbrela of honour held over the head of the goddess (fig. 69). A similar group, called Umā-Mahēśvara according to Hēmādri, consists of Siva and Pārvatī, the former having eight faces and two hands. The left hand of the god is stretched over the shoulder of the goddess and the right hand of the goddess over that of the god. The Kārañāgama describing this group states that the goddess Pārvatī should be seated on the left side of Siva with the bull in front of them, Indra and other gods behind, Vishnu and Brahmā on the sides and the devotees Bhringi, Nārada, Bāna, Bhairava, Ganapati, Skanda and Vṛēṣvāras in the eight cardinal points. Rai Bahadur Venkayya considered this description to be that of Rishabhavāhana (Vrishavāhana)¹ mentioned in the next paragraph.

XII

Vrishārūḍha is a figure of Siva seated on the bull with the Vrishavāhana right leg hanging down and the left bent so as to rest on the bull. He has Ganapati on his right side and Gaurī on his left.² He holds in his two upper hands the *tunka* and the antelope. When, however, Siva is made to stand leaning

² The *Silpatra* and the *Kāsyapa-Silpo* state that more often Gaurī is seen on the right side of the god.
against the bull and is not mounted on it, the Kāsyapa-Silpa calls him Vrishavāhana. In this case the elbow (kūrpara) of the right hand of Siva rests on the head of the bull as in the illustrations (figs. 70 and 71). The Mayamata also gives the same description, but adds that the bull stands behind the seat on which the god and goddess sit. The right lower hand of Siva holds the trident while the two upper hands hold the axe and the deer.

XIII

Chandrasekharamūrti (the crescent-crested lord) may, according to the Kāsyapa-Silpa of the Amsumat-Tantra, be represented in two different forms, either alone or in company of the goddess Gaurī. When alone, he stands on the pedestal with level feet (samaṇpāda), holding the antelope and the kettle-drum (or, axe) in his back arms and presenting the abhaya and the varūḍa postures in the fore-arms. The crescent decorates the jatāmukuta of the god, either on its right side or on the left. In other respects the image is a pleasing representation (fig. 72) of the general form of Rudra described above. When accompanied by the goddess he may also be seated (fig. 73). The right lower hand shows the abhaya posture and the left lower passes round the back of the yielding goddess and touches her breasts. Some Agamas do not permit the hand to be stretched so far, but only up to the left arm of the goddess. The illustration from Bāgali (fig. 74) answers to this description but holds the trident and the kettle-drum in the upper hands instead of the axe and the deer. The goddess also with her right hand touches the right side of the waist-band of the god from the back and holds a flower in her left. She may also be seen passing her hand over his shoulder. Such figures of Chandrasekha are called Ālinganamūrti or the embracing form. They are also known as Pradōshamūrti, since in all well-maintained Siva temples,

---

1 The illustrations given show two and four hands respectively for Siva, who standing with his legs crossed and leaning against the back of the bull, has the kūṛpara of his right hand placed on the head of the bull. A fine image from Ceylon figured as No. 29 in Part II of Visvakarma is evidently one of Vrishārūḍhā as described in the Mayamata. The trident in the right lower hand, the bull and the goddess are missing.

2 The great Chōla king Rājarājē I is represented in the Tanjore inscriptions to have been devoted particularly to this form of Siva. The figures of the king and of Chandrasekha receiving worship from him, were set up by the manager of the temple before the close of the 29th year of that king, i.e., before A.D. 1013-14.
FIG. 70.—Vrishavâhana; Chidambaram.
Fig. 71.—Vrishavāhana (metal); Vēdāranyam.
Fig. 72.—Chandrasekhara (metal); Tiruvottiyur.
FIG. 73.—Chandrashekara; Tanjore.
Fig. 74.—Chandrasekhar (Ailinganamurti); Bagali
the image is carried about in procession in the evenings (pradôsha).

XIV

Ardhanâri

The hermaphrodite or the Ardhanâri form of Siva is perhaps to be traced to the conception of the Sâkta doctrine that only when combined with Sakti is Siva capable of discharging his divine functions.¹ The idea of representing a male ornament in the right lobe of Siva and a female ornament in his left lobe must, already, have been due to the belief in the inseparable union of the masculine and feminine elements in the Creator. The artistic conception of a purely philosophical idea has thus resulted in an image of which the left half represents the woman (Pârvati) and the right half, the male (Siva). The jewellery on the image is similarly distinguished in every detail; those on the left side being purely feminine ornaments and those on the right, ornaments appropriate to males. The drapery on the right side is the tiger's skin of Siva reaching only to the knee, while on the left side it is the finely embroidered muslin (dukûla) suitable for the goddess Pârvati, and stretching down to her ankle. Of the four hands, the two right show a hatchet and the posture of protection; the two left are richly decorated with wristlets, the upper one holding a flower and the lower one being stretched down to the waist (fig. 75). The Kâsyapa-Sîlpa, however, says that the right lower hand may be placed on the head of the bull. Some images show only three hands, two on the right and one on the left. In that case the right upper hand holds the axe while the lower right rests on the head of the bull. The figure stands leaning gracefully against the back of the bull, bending its body above the waist. Of the two other illustrations given, one is from the Nâgâsvara temple at Kumbakônâm (fig. 76) and the other is from a niche on the north wall of the Tanjore temple (fig. 77). Sometimes images of Ardhanâri may have only two arms. Thus in the temple at Tiruchchengôdu (Salem district), dedicated to Ardhanâri, the image (fig. 78) has only two hands, the right one holding a staff with the lower end resting on the waist, and the left placed on the left hip. It may be noted that the hair on the head of this image is done up in the fashion peculiar to images of Krishna. An illustration coming from Dhârâsuram shows eight arms, three visible faces (with perhaps two others

¹ The popular story connected with the origin of this form is given below (p. 165), under Bhringîsa.
Fig. 76. — Ardhanārī; Kumbakōnam.
Fig. 77.—Ardhanārī; Tanjore.
Fig. 78.—Ardhanāri; Tiruchchengōdu.
behind) and a circle of light in the back ground. This is apparently an unusual form (fig. 79). Still another unusual form comes from Tiruvādi near Tanjore, in which the right half is woman and the left half male (fig. 80).

XV

A similar composite image of Siva is the one called Harihara or Sankaranārāyana. In this image the left half is Vishnu and the right half Siva. Accordingly we see on the left side of the figures of Harihara, the conch, the pearl-necklace, the mark Sṛivatsa and the brilliant ear-ring characteristic of Vishnu and on the right side the skull, the garland of bones, the river Ganges, the serpent coil of the ear-ring and the trident or axe, characteristic of Siva. So too the colour of the body is blue on the left and white on the right. Similarly, Garuda, the vehicle of Vishnu, may be seen standing on the left and the bull of Siva on the right. Sankaranāyinārkoyil in the Tinnevelly district has a famous temple dedicated to this combined form of Sankara (Siva) and Nārāyana (Vishnu). The illustration given (fig. 81) comes from Nāmakkal. A similar but more finished figure of Sankaranārāyana is found at Chidambaram in which attendant sages and demi-gods are also depicted.

XVI

Fine images of Siva represented as the slayer of the elephant-demon are not uncommon in South-Indian temples. In this form he receives the name Gajahāmūrti. The image has eight hands generally, but may have occasionally only four. The two uppermost hands are stretched out and hold the hide of the elephant with its tail bent upwards in the form of an aureola, while on the sides of this aureola are seen the legs of the elephant hanging. In the three right hands are held the trident, the kettle-drum (or the sword) and the nose (or the tusk of the elephant). Two of the three left hands hold the tusk (or shield) and the skull (kapāla), while the third exhibits the posture indicating astonishment (vismaya) or sometimes holds a bell. The left leg is placed on the elephant-head of the giant and the right is raised up so as to reach the left thigh. A good figure answering to this description comes from Pērur near Coimbatore. The Valuvūr image (Madras Archaeological Survey Report for 1911-12, Plate IX, fig. 2) and the Tirutturaippūndi and the Dhārāsuram images (here illustrated) show the contrary position of the legs. The god has a terrible face with protruding teeth; and by his side is seen standing the
Fig. 79.—Arilhanārī; Dhārāsaram.
Fig. 81. — Sankaranārayana; Nāmakkal.
frightened goddess Umā with the young Skanda beside her (fig. 82). The Kāranāgama mentions the weapons tanka and deer and the pointing-finger-pose (svāti). This last posture of the hand is noticed both in the Tirutturaippūndi and the Dhārāsuram stone images. The former has perhaps five heads (of which three alone are visible on the picture). It has ten hands and more attendant figures (fig. 83).

XVII

Gangādhara, "the bearer of Gangā (the Ganges)," is a form of Siva which illustrates a well-known Purānic story. The story of the descent of the heavenly Ganges into the earth to purify the ashes of the sinful sons of Sagara, a king of the Solar race, is related in the Rāmāyana. At the prayer of Bhagratha, a later member of the same family, "the river of the gods" consented to direct her course to the earth, but her force was such that the earth was unable to bear the shock. So Bhagratha prayed to Siva and the latter consented to receive the Ganges on his matted locks. The river, proud of her might, came down with all her force as if to crush Siva, but found herself lost altogether in the tangled maze of Siva's locks. Gangā then became humble and Siva let her flow forth again from his locks in a tiny trickle. The river-goddess, the heavenly Ganges, is believed since then to abide in Siva's matted hair as one of his consorts. This latter subject of letting the Ganges flow out of his matted hair as a tiny rivulet is represented in figures generally known as Gangāvisarjanamūrti. No distinction, however, has been made in the Āgamas between Gangādhara and Gangāvisarjana. He stands on a lotus pedestal with the right leg straight and the left slightly bent. The image is represented as embracing the goddess Gaurī, consoling and assuring her that his affections would not be transferred to the river-goddess. One right arm holds up a lock of his hair, on which is seen the goddess Gangā. A left arm holds the antelope. The goddess Gaurī with a dejected face (virahitānāna) is represented in the samabhanga posture with her left leg placed straight on the pedestal and the right leg slightly bent. Her right hand stretches down or is sometimes held

1 The Silpperama defines this as a pose of hand in which the second finger (torānti) is kept straight while the others are bent inwards. It is also adopted when images are made to hold the goad or other similar weapons.
2 The Silppisangraha says that the right lower arm of Siva may be in the posture of giving boons. The illustrations, however, show it holding the face of the goddess Gaurī.
FIG. 82. — Gajahāmūrti; Dhārāsuram.
Fig. 83.—Gajahāmūri; Tirutturaiṇḍū.
akimbo while the left holds a flower. The god and the
goddess are highly decorated (figs. 84 and 85). In the first
illustration from Gangikondasolapuram, Gauri appears as
if she is desirous of being let alone but her anxious husband
is holding her fast. Figures of Gangadhara are sometimes
seen without Gauri on the side. In such cases he has
four hands, of which the right upper supports Gangâ on the
lock and the left upper holds the deer. Of the two others
the right fore-arm rests on the face of the bull against which
the god leans and the left rests freely on the waist (fig. 86).
The bull, not seen in the illustration, is distinct in a similar
figure from the Siva temple at Kodumbalur. Bhagiratha, who
was the cause of the descent of Gangâ, may also be shown
standing together with other rishis to the right of Siva. This
is found only in an illustration from Burgess’s Elura Cave
Temples.¹

One other figure (or rather group of figures) representing
Gangadhara (fig. 87) comes from the rock-cut cave at Trichir-
nopole and deserves notice. The central image is Siva with
four hands. The upper right hand holds a lock of hair in
order to receive evidently the goddess Gangâ descending
from the clouds. The upper left seems to hold a rosary. The
left lower hand rests on the waist and the corresponding right
holds by the tail a serpent with the raised hood. The left
leg of Siva is placed straight on the ground and the right
which is bent at the knee is placed on the head of a demon
(perhaps Musalagan) who also supports the leg with his left
hand which is raised up. The god is fully decorated. Round
him are four attendant sages, two of whom are kneeling at
the feet, the other two worshipping from behind. Above the
group are two devas flying in the air on either side of the
god’s head. Although the details given above do not agree
with any particular description given in the Āgamas, it
appears to me that it represents Siva standing ready pre-
pared to receive in his locks the rushing torrent of the river
of the gods. One of the attendant sages may, in this case,
be Bhagiratha at whose request Gangâ descended from
the heavens.

XVIII

Kâla-hara-
mûrti.

Another Purânîc story is illustrated in the form Kâlahâ,
or Kâlaharamûrti, “the destroyer of the god of Death.”
Mârkaṇḍeya was a young boy, greatly devoted to the worship
of Siva. The fates had decreed that he should not live

¹ Plate XLIII, fig. 1, and Plate XXVI, fig. 1.
Fig. 84.—Gangādharā; Gangākondasōlapuram.
Fig. 85.—Gangādhara (metal); Vaidśvarankōyil.
Fig. 86.—Gangādhara: Tanjore.
Fig. 87.—Gangādhara; Trichinopoly.
beyond his sixteenth year. His father was very disconsolate as the boy approached the end of his appointed time on earth. But Mārkandēya was not afraid and spent all his time worshipping Siva. While thus engaged, the god of Death (Kāla), whose duty it is to take the breath of life away from the mortal body at the appointed time, came up to the boy, with his weapons, the club and the noose, riding on his fierce buffalo. He was not daunted by the fact that the boy was engaged in holy duty but at once threw his relentless noose on the boy and began to pull his life out. The boy was frightened at the sight of the terrible god of Death and caught hold of the Siva-linga with both his hands. Siva then burst out from within the linga and, with one foot still placed on the linga, he kicked with the other the transgressing god of Death, pierced him with his trident and vanquished him. This is the Purānic story of Kālaharamūrti. According to the Āgamas he is represented as placing his right leg on the linga in the same attitude as that of the dancing Natarāja. His left leg, which is bent and raised, is placed on the breast of Kāla. The god wears a jatāmakuta and has an angry look, protruding teeth, three eyes and four (or sometimes eight) hands. The fore-arm on the right side holds the trident pointed downwards and raised to the level of the ear. The other right hand holds the axe while the two left hands exhibit the varada (with skull in palm) and the vismaya postures (fig. 88). The Kāranāgama adds that he must also be accompanied by the goddess. The god of Death has two arms and protruding teeth. He holds the noose and is lying flat on the ground with legs stretched out wide apart. In the sketch from Chandragirī (fig. 89) is seen Mārkandēya with the noose round his neck and embracing the linga. Siva also is seen holding the trident in two hands while Yama is attacking the young sage with a trident.

XIX

Nilakantha, Śrīkantha and Vishakantha are three synonymous names of Siva, given to him on account of his having swallowed the deadly poison (kālakūta) produced at the churning of the ocean by the dēvas and dānavas under instructions from the Creator, in order to obtain divine nectar. The

---

1 See Burgess's Elura Cave Temples, Plate XXIV.
2 In place of the varada some figures show the sūchik and in place of the vismaya, the hand holding the deer. According to the Silpasangraha the symbols may be the trident and the kettle-drum in the right hands and the boon-giving posture and the axe in the left.
Fig. 88. — Kālaharamūrti; Pattisvaram.
mountain Mandara was their churn-stick, the primeval Tortoise (who was Vishnu himself) the pivot on which the stick rested and turned, and the serpent Vāsuki the churning rope. By a clever device of Vishnu, the dānavas held the head and the dēvas the tail of the serpent. They churned and churned. Many great and splendid things came foaming up and every one was eager to seize what pleased him most. But all at once something black began to rise. It grew and grew and darkened the whole universe. All the gods and demons were mortally afraid. For it was the deadliest of poisons, death to them and death to all the universe. In this moment of horror they called on Siva to help them. The mighty god came and took the poison in the hollow of his hand and swallowed it. That which was enough to kill the universe served only to stain his neck with a bluish tint. Thus he came to be called “the poison-necked” or “the blue-necked” god. 1 The Kāraṇāgama describing a form of Siva called Vīṣṇapaharamūrti, “the destroyer of poison” says that he has one face, three eyes, braided hair and four arms holding in the two upper the antelope and the axe. He is in the posture of drinking the poison which is held in the right lower hand. The left lower shows the boon-giving posture. On the left hand side of the god is the goddess with two arms. She shows an anxious countenance and holds the neck of Siva as if to prevent the poison from going down.

XX

Two other forms of Siva connected with Purānic stories may be mentioned. These are Tripurāntakamūrti and Kirāṭārjunamūrti. The first was assumed by Siva when he killed the three demons called Tripura and reduced their three magic cities to ashes. During this campaign the Earth is said to have served Siva as a chariot, and the Sun and the Moon as its wheels. The four Vēdas were the four horses and the Upanishads were the guiding reins; the mythic golden mountain Mēru was the bow, the ocean was the quiver and god Vishnu was the arrow. Images of Tripurāntaka are made with the right leg firmly placed on the pedestal and the left leg bent. The right foremost in the simha-karna posture holds the arrow and the left fore-arm, the bow. The other hands hold the tanka (or the

1 The Kāraṇāgama speaking of Srikantha says that he holds the trident and the kettle-drum.
2 An image of Tripurāntaka in the thousand-pillared hall of the Madura temple shows an actual figure of Vishnu engraved on the arrow held by Siva.
axe) and the deer respectively. The locks are arranged in the form of a *jatīmakuta* and the goddess Gaurī stands on the left side. The accompanying illustration from Chidambaram (fig. 90) answers to this description of Tripurāntaka. The alternating positions of the leg, the existence or non-existence of the demon Apasmāra underneath one of them and the fashion of holding the bow and the arrow, yield five other forms of Tripurāntaka, who may also be represented with eight or ten arms. Sometimes (when with ten arms), the god is seated in a chariot with his right knee touching the *sudhā*, the left leg which is bent at the knee being placed firmly in front of the right. In the chariot, at its front, is seated the four-faced Brahmā and below him is a white bull drawing the car. A sandal-wood carving published in the *Journal of Indian Art and Industry*, Vol. XV, No. 119, fig. 12, shows the actual fight between Siva and the demon called Tripura.

*Kirāṭārjunamūrti* is that form of Siva in which he is supposed to have appeared before Arjuna, one of the heroes of the epic *Mahābhārata*, when the latter was doing penance to obtain from Siva a powerful weapon with which he could destroy his enemies. God Siva wished to try personally if his devotee Arjuna really deserved to wield the matchless weapon *Pāsūpata*, whose presiding deity was himself. To this end Siva and Pārvatī assumed the forms of a hunter and a huntress and with their retinue of demons and hobgoblins attired for the chase, drove before them a wild boar, which rushed to attack Arjuna who was then performing his penance. Arjuna, the practised warrior, seized his bow and instantly shot the animal. Simultaneously also came another arrow from the pseudo-hunter Siva. Pierced by both the arrows, the animal died. The hunter cried out that the quarry was his and asked Arjuna how he dared to shoot at it. The royal hero of the Lunar race could not brook the insult from this wild hunter of the woods. A fierce fight between the two was the result. Arjuna was amazed to see that the hunter was more than his match. Arjuna's never failing arrows failed him now and he challenged the hunter to a hand-to-hand contest. Sore and beaten, Arjuna worshipped the clay *linga* of the god Siva that he had before him, when, lo! the flowers he threw on the *linga* fell on the person of the hunter. Arjuna struck the hunter at the head with his powerful bow called *Gāndiva* and drew blood. But the bow was mysteriously snatched away from him. In the end Arjuna was overcome by a gentle touch of the mighty god. Arjuna then knew him and begged pardon and the god gave him the desired weapon *Pāsūpata*. 
Fig. 90.—Tripurántakamārti; Chidambaram,
This story is the subject matter of the exquisite poem *Kirātārjunīya* of the Sanskrit poet Bhāravi. The Tanjore inscriptions refer to an image *Kirātārjunadēva*;¹ and from the description given of it in a mutilated passage, it appears as if there was a reference there, to a *linga* or to some object connected with it. Images of *Kirātārjunamūrti* answering to the story described above are not very frequent. An illustration (fig. 91) which comes from Pushpagiri in the Cuddapah district represents evidently the last part of the drama, when Siva and Parvati appeared before Arjuna and gave him the weapon. Siva holds in his back hands the axe and the trident. In his right fore-arm is the arrow *Pāṣupata*, the left fore-arm resting freely on the waist. To the left of Siva stands the goddess Parvati with two hands, holding a lotus flower in her right. In front of both, is Arjuna in the modest posture of receiving with both hands the divine gift offered him. A pigmy figure standing between Siva and Arjuna in the illustration may be one of the attendants of Siva. The *Kāranāgama* gives the same description but makes Siva wear both the arrow and the bow and hold the antelope instead of the trident. An illustration coming from Chidambara (fig. 92) answers to this description. In it may also be seen the figure of Arjuna in a worshipping posture as described in the *Kāranāgama*. It may be noted that the historic "Arjuna's Penance" at Mahābalipuram is supposed to represent the *Mahābhārata* story related above.²

XXI

Chandėśānugrahamūrti is a form of Siva which was assumed by him in order to confer blessings on his fervent devotee Chandėśa described in the sequel.³ His figures are occasionally found depicted in some of the South-Indian temples. From Gangaikondasālapuram in the Trichinopoly district comes a beautiful illustration (fig. 93) of the story.

¹ Dr. Ananda K. Coomaraswami publishes an image of Siva from Tanjore in his Art Journal *VīvakaRma* (Part II, No. 28). In this the positions of the four hands indicate the nature of the weapons that must have been held by them. Although the image is called Gangādhara by Dr. Coomaraswami, the poses of the fingers suggest that the image must be one of Kirātārjuna, possibly the very idol mentioned in the Tanjore inscriptions, since its two fore-arms are so adjusted as to receive into them the bow and the arrow. The upper arms in this case must have held the axe and the deer. Mr. R. D. Banerji describes in the Director-General's *Archaeological Survey Report* for 1911-12, pp. 161 ff., certain sculptures from Chandimau which relate to this story of Arjuna's fight with Siva. These are attributed by Mr. Banerji to the Gupta period.

² Havell's *Ideals of Indian Art*, pp. 147 to 151. ³ See p. 161, below.
Fig. 91.—Kriṣṭarjunamūrti; Pushpagiri.
Fig. 92—Kirātārjunaṁūrti; Chidambaram.
Fig. 93.—Chandāsānugrahamūrti; GangaiKondasolapuram.
Here Siva is seated in the sukhasana or the comfortable posture on a raised pedestal, as in the case of Somaskanda figures, his left leg hanging down and resting on a footstool. The goddess Parvati too is seated to the left of Siva on the same pedestal, her right leg being bent at the knee and placed on the pedestal while the left is hanging down to rest on another footstool. Siva has four arms. In his two back hands he holds the axe and the deer and with the two front arms he is seen decorating with a flower garland the locks of his servant, the devoted Chandesa. The latter sits on the ground at the foot of Siva, with bending knees and folded arms, and receives the divine favour with gratitude. The images are well ornamented. Above the group are seen flying gods and demi-gods who have evidently gathered round to see the kindness of Siva shown towards his devotee. According to the Mayamata Chandesa has behind his folded arms the weapon parsu (axe). On the east gopura of the Chidambaram temple is a figure of Chandesanaugrahamurti in which Chandesa is represented with the axe between his folded arms.

The size of the image of Chandesa must, it is stated, be small so as to reach the arms of Siva and is to be bedecked with the ornaments of children. The Kasyapa-Silpa states that between the god and the goddess may be placed the figure of Skanda, at the sculptor’s option. “Next to Dakshinamurti,” it says, “the figure of Chandesanaugraha is the most famous.” A group of images under the name Chandesvaraprasadadeva was set up in the Tanjore temple by king Rajaraja I, and consisted of (1) the god Chandesvaraprasadadeva with four arms, (2) the demon Musalagan with two arms, (3) the goddess Umparamesvari, (4) Mahadeva (the linga worshipped evidently by the boy Chandesa), (5) the devotee with two arms, (6) his father also with two arms represented as having fallen down and lying on the ground and (7) Chandesa receiving with his two arms the boon of a flower-garland from Siva. ¹ This description agrees with the story related in the Periyapuranan, a compilation of the thirteenth century A.D. The Karanagama, whose date is not known, was also apparently familiar with the story.

XXII


IO-A
Sarabha which is supposed to have been assumed by Siva in order to suppress the pride of Narasimha, the Man-lion incarnation of Vishnu. The Kāramāgamu describes Sarabha as having eight legs, three eyes, long nails, two hands and a body glowing like fire. The image has a lion’s face and two wings one of which is said to represent the fierce goddess Durgā and the other, Death. The illustration here reproduced (fig. 94) shows Sarabha trampling on the Man-lion.

Pāsupatamūrti is another fierce form of Siva. This is evidently the form in which he is worshipped by the sect of Pāsupata Saivas, who, according to Dr. Bhandarkar, came into prominence about the second century B.C. The Śilpasāra describes Pāsupatamūrti as having ten arms and five faces. According to other Agamas the figure may have only four arms. It has a fierce face, knitted brows over its three eyes, and hair red like flames of fire, bristling erect on the head. The god holds in his right hand a trident pointing downwards and in the boon-giving palm of the left he also holds a skull (kapāla). Sometimes the handle of the trident is lightly held by both the lower arms, which do not then show the varada and the abhaya postures. In the back arms are seen the tanka and the sword. The protruding teeth and the sacred thread formed of a venomous serpent add to the fierceness of his appearance. For purposes of meditation, however, a milder form is adopted, in which, like Chandrasēkhara, the god is represented standing or seated with a smiling countenance, showing the trident and the abhaya in his two right arms and the rosary and the varada in the two left arms (fig. 95).

Two other terrible forms of Siva are Aghoramūrti and Rakshōghnāmūrti. The latter has braided hair and a body besmeared with ashes. In one hand he holds a trident with which he is piercing the god Yama, who calls away unto him the victims of all cruel diseases. In another hand is a skull from which issues a blazing fire. The axe and the kettle-drum are other weapons held by him. With his formidable projecting teeth, knitted eyebrows and frowning face he is represented as feasting on corpses in the company of bhūtas, prētas and pisāchas in the burning ground, which is his usual dwelling place. I have not, however, seen any actual representation of this image in South-Indian temples. Aghora-mūrti has four faces and eight hands. In these he holds the kuthāra (axe), Vedas, noose, goad, kettle-drum, rosary, trident

---

1 Madras Archeological Survey Report for 1911-12, Plate IX, Fig. 1.  
2 Vaishnavism, Sivism, etc., p. 116 f.
FIG. 94.—Sarabhamūrti; Dhārāsuraṃ.
FIG. 95.—Pāsupatantāri; Chidambaram.
and the skull. He has terrible protruding teeth and a dark shining body (fig. 96). The Śivatattvaratnadākara mentions a form of Aghoramūrti with thirty-two arms and the Pāncharātrāgama, another with twelve arms. The image wears a garland of skulls and treads on the head of Kālamunda, the vile god of Death.

Bhairava, born of the blood of Śiva, is another god of Bhairava, this class. The Tantrasāra mentions eight forms of Bhairava which are fit for worship. His general form shows dishevelled matted hair, three eyes and a red-coloured body. His symbols are the trident, sword, noose and the kettle-drum. He is naked and is represented as being followed by all kinds of demons and spirits and riding on a dog (fig. 97). Hemādri describes Bhairava as a pot-bellied god with round red eyes, terrible face, protruding teeth and wide nostrils. He wears a garland of skulls and ornaments of snakes,\(^1\) thus frightening even his consort who stands by his side. The upper half of his body which is dark in colour is covered with the elephant's hide. He has many arms and holds all destructive weapons. The Silpasāra makes him seated on a jewelled throne under the celestial tree mandāra, closely embraced by the goddess. The same work mentions three other forms of Bhairava, viz., Panchavaktra-Bhairava, Gōvinda-Bhairava and Samhāra-Bhairava. The second of these has four arms and holds the conch, discus, drinking cup and the mace. He has three eyes and is young, serene and naked. On his side is the goddess Vaishnavi-Sakti and his vehicle is the bird Garuda. The third has five faces and ten arms and among his weapons are also the Vaishnavite conch and discus.

According to the Silpasāra Kāla-Bhairava wears a girdle of tiny bells on his waist and holds the sword, trident, drum and the drinking cup in his hands. He has a fearsome face with protruding teeth, a garland of skulls and dishevelled hair. In the illustration from Durgī (fig. 98) the dog which is his vehicle is seen biting a human head held by the left lower hand of the image. The goddess with her companion is standing to the right, evidently frightened at the serpent ornaments and the terrible form of Bhairava.

Mahākāla, still another fierce form of Śiva, is quite like Mahākāla Bhairava, but holds a serpent in the place of the noose. In the work entitled Lalitopākhyāna he is described as accompanied by Kāli, embracing her and drinking with her "from

\(^1\) Figures of Bhairava with the dog vehicle and the five-hooded serpent overhead, are reported to exist in some of the ancient temples of the Bellary district.
Fig. 96. Agöthamärti at Pattisvaram.
Fig. 97.-Bhairava; Pattisvaram.
the cup which is the mundane egg, the wine which is the essence of creation.” His faces (evidently five) are terrible to look at, like those of death, and threaten to swallow the universe.

Kālāgni-Rudra “the terrible or fiery Rudra” described in the Kāsyapa-Silpa, closely resembles Bhairava and is perhaps only another form of him.¹ He holds the weapons sword and shield, the arrow and the bow and wears a red cloth. The illustration from Durgi (fig. 99) is very likely one of Kālāgni-Rudra.

XXIII

Virabhadra is one of the many Saiva demi-gods (ganas).² He is said to have sprung from a lock of Siva’s hair when, as already stated, Siva heard of the suicide of his wife Satt in her father’s sacrificial fire and flew into a rage. From the fire of his anger came into existence this terrible form, as of Death manifest, who destroyed the sacrificial ceremonies of Daksha and slew Daksha himself. The Pāncharātrāgama describes Virabhadra as black in colour, having three eyes and holding in his four arms a sword, arrow, bow and club. He wears a garland of skulls and has sandals on his feet. A yellow garment is tied round his loins.³ The Śilparatna describes him as having eight hands and riding on vēḍa (a demon) surrounded by his gana (followers). From the Bṛhadisvarara temple at Tanjore comes a sculptured panel (fig. 100) in which a woman, perhaps the wife of Daksha, is seen flying in alarm with upraised hands at seeing her husband decapitated by Virabhadra before her very eyes and the severed head thrown into the sacrificial fire-pit. One of the attendant priests with a ladle in his hand is also represented in the act of running away from the scene. A fine figure of Virabhadra with the bow and arrow, sword and shield, comes from Mudigondam in the Coimbatore district (fig. 101). The god is represented standing on a padma-pitha in front of a prabhā-mandala, “an arch of light”. At the edge of the pedestal on the right side is shown Daksha who was, however, revived by Siva with the head of a sheep substituted for the one that was burnt in the sacrificial fire.

¹ The Rudrayāmala-Tantra includes the name Kālāgni-Rudra among the 64 varieties of Bhairava.
² Kāśikā. In the lexicon Amarakūha Siva himself is called the destroyer of the sacrifice (Kratudhvasmīn).
³ The Kārṇāyāgama adds that he has Bhadrakāli by his side and is fierce. Daksha with the sheep’s head, two eyes and two arms, stands on the right side of Virabhadra.
Fig. 99.—Kalāgni-Varana (?) ; Durgi.
Fig. 100.—Virabhadra throwing the head of Daksha into the fire; Tanjore.
FIG. 101.—Virabhadra; Mudigondam.
The figure of Daksha is of comparatively small stature, meant evidently to indicate by contrast, the huge form of Vīrābhadrā.

The *Silpaśanagraha* mentions three varieties of Vīrābhadrā (viz. *sāttvic, tāmasic and rājasic*) with two, four or eight arms. All are dark in colour and fierce looking. Seated figures of Vīrābhadrā are called *Yoga-Vīra*, his standing figures, Bhōga-Vīra and those in a walking posture, Vīra-Vīra. In the first, Vīrābhadrā holds a sword and shield and is seated with one leg folded on the pedestal and the other hanging down. In the second posture he exhibits the bow and arrow, sword and *kataka*. On the leg is worn the anklet of heroes. The head is adorned with a crown, in the middle of which is represented a *linga*. A garland of skulls decorates the neck. On the right side is the image of Daksha with folded arms. In the Vīra-Vīra figures, Vīrābhadrā holds the trident, sword, arrow and the deer on the right side and the skull, shield, bow and the goad on the left. It may be noted that, while images of Vīrābhadrā and independent temples erected for him are very common in the Telugu and Canarese districts, temples in the Tamil districts rarely contain his image, and shrines dedicated to him are still rarer. There is a Vīrābhadrā temple at Madura.

**XXIV**

Images of Kshētrapāla often met with in the temples of Southern India are divided into three classes, according to the predominating qualities *sattva, rajas* and *tamas*. Those belonging to the first class have two or four hands; the second six and the third eight. All the figures, irrespective of the class to which they belong, are made to stand with level feet (*samapāda*). The general description of them is that they have three eyes which are round and protruding, red hair pointing upwards, serpent jewels, a girdle of bells round the waist and a necklace of skulls. They are naked and inspire awe with their fierce fangs (fig. 102). Kshētrapāla occupies an important place among the subsidiary deities in Siva temples. He is the chief guardian of the temple just as Chandēsa (described below) is its superintendent and

---

1 Dr. Burgess's *Elura Cave Temples*, Plate XXII, Fig. 2, is a representation of Vīrābhadrā with eight hands. The plate wrongly calls the figure Bhairava.

2 One image of Kshētrapāla with eight arms and another of Bhairava, were set up in the Tanjore temple at the beginning of the eleventh century A.D. in connexion with the group of figures illustrating the story of the Siva saint Sinutonda-Nāyanār; see below, p. 259, footnote 2. In the Panchanadesvara temple at Tiruvādi near Tanjore is an image of Kshētrapāla, called Ālkonḍār, with eight hands, to which people attach much importance.
Fig. 102.—Kabētrapāla; Tiruvarangulam.
manager. Kshētrapāla is worshipped first in every Siva temple, before commencing the regular service for the day. The Prayōgasāra says:—"Whoever performs any ceremony without first worshipping Kshētrapāla, the fruit of that ceremony is without doubt destroyed by Kshētrapāla." His naked form and the name Mahā-Bhairava by which he is addressed during the Sribali ceremony suggests that Kshētrapāla in his essence must be allied to Bhairava.¹

All these awe-inspiring forms of the Saiva cult, including others which are mentioned in the Āgamas, but not often met with in South-Indian temples, received special worship from the adherents of the early Saiva sub-sects known as Pāsupat, Kālamukha and Kāpālik, as well as from the Lingāyatas of later origin.²

XXV

Among the attendant ganas of Siva who, like the gods just described, are identified with one or another aspect of Siva himself, may be mentioned Chandēsa, Bhringīsa and Nandīsa. The first is counted as the foremost of the servants of Siva and is hence called in Tamil inscriptions and the Periyapurāṇam, Ādīdāsa-Chandēsa.³ The Kāsya-Silpa tells us that he is made up of the sternest side of Siva's nature and appears in each millennium (yuga) with different names and symbols. In the Krita-yuga he receives the name Prachanda, is of angry appearance, rides on an elephant and has the jatāmakuta and sixteen arms. In Trētā-yuga he is seen smiling, has eight arms and dishevelled braids of hair, and goes by the name Chanda. In the third or Dvāpara-yuga he has four hands, the lion vehicle, jatāmandala, protruding teeth and a fearful face. His weapons then are the tanka, trident, noose and the hook. In the Kali-yuga he has a peaceful appearance and the bull vehicle, has his locks made up in the

¹ Mayūrabhānja, (p. xxxiv, fig. 13), gives a description of Kshētrapāla calling him Mahākāla and Bhairava. The Silpa in describing Vatukabhairava, calls him also Kshētrapāla.

² In the famous temple on the Srisailam Hill (Kurnool district) where the influence of the Lingāyata sect was once very great, is a pavilion adjoining the Nandi-mandapa. An inscription of the fourteenth century A.D. describes it as the place where the votaries, evidently of the Vrāhads form of Siva, offered up their heads in order to propitiate the furious god; Madras Epigraphical Report for 1914-15, p. 92, paragraph 15.

³ In Epigraphic records the documentary transactions of a Siva temple are stated to be conducted in the name of Chandēsa, the supposed manager of the temple. Even now, visitors to a Siva shrine have to report themselves before Chandēsa prior to leaving the temple premises and clap their hands as if to show that they are not carrying with them any portion of the temple property.
form of either a jatāmakuta, jatāmandala or kēsabandha and stands with level feet in the ābhanga or the sama-bhanga posture. He may also be found seated with the right leg hanging down from the seat and the left leg bent crosswise so as to rest upon the seat. He holds the tanka (or, axe) in the right hand and shows the boon-giving posture in his left (fig. 103). Sometimes both the hands are seen folded over the breast in a worshipping posture with the weapon tanka (or, sometimes, a flower garland) held between them. In this case he receives the name Ādi-Chandēsa. A story related in the Tamil Periyapurāṇam about Chandēsa makes him a fervent devotee of Siva, who in his height of devotion, cut off the legs of his own father, because he wantonly spilt the milk-pots which Chandēsa had secured as loving offerings to Siva. Sankarāchārya, who lived perhaps in the early part of the eighth century A.D., refers to this Saiva devotee Chandēsa as pitridrohīn, "the sinner against (his) father," evidently with reference to the story related in the Periyapurāṇam. The form of Siva known as Chandēsānugrahamūrti, described above, is entirely based on this anecdote.

Nandī, Nandīsa or Nandikēsvara, now represented by the recumbent bull placed in front of the chief shrine in a Siva temple, is described by Hēmādri to be one of the attendant demi-gods of Siva. He is stated to have three eyes and four arms and to wear a tiger's skin. In two of his hands he holds the trident and the bhindivāla "a short javelin." The third hand is raised up over the head and the last shows a stretched finger (tarjani), his eyes being watchful and fixed towards people coming from a distance into the Śiva temple. The Varāha-Purāṇa says that, though originally an ascetic, Nandi by his austerities and devotion to Siva was blessed with a form similar to that of Siva himself and was placed at the head of the attendant ganas of Siva. A metallic image (fig. 104) from Valuvūr (Tanjore district) represents him in this metamorphosed form. He has four arms of which the two back ones hold the tanka and the deer and the two front are joined together palm to palm in a worshipping posture. By the side of Nandīsa stands also his wife with two arms.  

1 This last is the form of Chandēsa usually found in Siva temples. In the illustration, however, the left hand rests on the thigh and the position of the legs is reversed.

2 A verse in praise of Nandi describes him as the husband of Suyāṣā. He stands at the entrance into Siva temples with a knife or golden cane held in his hands so as to touch the kūrpara of his right arm. In one of the mantrapas of the Īkāmūrvana temple at Conjeeveram, Nandi is represented in the same posture as Garuda, carrying in his out-stretched fore-arms the feet of Siva and Pārvatī.
Fig. 103.—Chandesa; Tiruvottiyur.
Fig. 104.—Nandtsa and his consort (metal); Valuvir.
It must be noted that Nandīsa is a favourite deity of the Saiva puritans, the so-called Lingāyat or Vīra-Saivas. Bhringi, Bhringiriti or Bhringīṣa is similarly a fervent devotee of Siva. So exclusive was he in his devotion that he is said to have ignored the goddess who was part and parcel of Siva. His sole business in life, to which he had pledged himself, was ever to circumambulate the linga of Siva and no one else. To test his faith the god assumed the hermaphrodite form of Ardhanārī in which the goddess, as already described, is not separated from the god. Bhringi was not baffled; but assuming the form of a bee (bhringa) he bored into the united body and continued still to go round and round the Siva half of the hermaphrodite. The goddess Pārvatī was enraged and cursed him to become emaciated day after day. Bhringi, accordingly, grew very thin and was unable to support himself. With the grace of Siva he secured a third leg which supported him. Thus Bhringi is represented in pictures with three legs (fig. 105).  

An image of Bhringīṣa with three arms and three legs is stated to have been set up in the temple at Tanjore by a subordinate of Rājarāja I in the eleventh century A.D.

Jvaradēva of Saiva mythology, who is supposed to have been the destroyer of the demon Bhashmāsura, is described in the Āgamas as having three legs, three heads, six arms, nine eyes, and a dejected appearance. An image from Bhavāni in the Coimbatore district (fig. 106) answers to this description of Jvaradēva.

XXVI

Ganapati, Ganēsa or Vināyaka, the popular “belly god,” is, as his name indicates, the chief of the Saiva ganas. He is said to be the eldest son of Siva and Pārvati, to have three eyes, an elephant’s head and ears and four arms. In the

---

1 The Vāmana-Purāṇa states that Bhringi was the name conferred by Siva on the demon Andhaka after the latter had proved himself to be a staunch devotee of Siva. Bhringi is represented with an emaciated body holding the staff in one hand and the rosary in the other. His eyes are ever directed towards Siva.

2 One of the popular stories explaining how Ganapati came to have the elephant’s head is as follows: Once upon a time when Pārvatī went to bathe, she made a figure of the turmeric which had been smeared over her body, gave it life and limbs and appointed it to keep watch at the door. Siva came to see Pārvatī but was stopped at the door by the newly created guard. Siva in anger cut off the head of the figure. The goddess entreated him to revive her child. He agreed and said that the head of any living body sleeping with the head placed northward might be severed at once and placed on the trunk of the turmeric figure. An elephant was found sleeping in the way described. Its head was accordingly cut
Fig. 105.—Bhringi; Srirangam.
Fig. 106.—Jvaradéva; Bhaváni.
two back hands he holds the hook and the noose and in the front arms an elephant’s tusk and the wood-apple. Instead of the two last we may sometimes find the boon-conferring posture and the water-pot. According to the Kāsyapa-Silpa the noose may alternate with the rosary or a serpent. The illustration from Lēpakshi (fig. 107) shows the left lower hand of Gānēśa resting on his thigh. His elephant trunk is curved out in the act of picking up the wood-apple or, sometimes, the pudding. His pot-belly is girded round by a serpent and the sacred thread, which is also a serpent, hangs across the body from over his left shoulder. In the seated posture Gānēśa is represented with one leg hanging from the pedestal and placed on a foot-stool and the other resting on the pedestal. The right tusk of the god is broken and must in no case be shown complete. He rides on a rat or bandicoot. His image may be made standing (fig. 108), seated (fig. 109) or dancing (fig. 110). In the first position the general bend of the body known as ābhanga or samabhanga may optionally be adopted. While seated, the body is to be slightly bent to the left. Over his head Gānēśa wears the jewelled crown (kiritamakuta) and his hands and legs are fully ornamented.

Ganapatī is a very important deity in the Hindu Pantheon. Supposed to be the lord of obstacles (Viśhnēsvara) he is worshipped by all classes of Hindus, other than Śrī-Vaishnavas, at the commencement of every religious ceremony, whether auspicious or inauspicious. A sect of Brahmans called Gānāpatyas, found mostly on the West Coast, worship him as the highest of the gods. As in the case of Viṣṇu and Śiva he is

off and placed on the trunk. The figure came back to life and Śiva accepting that as his first-born child, blessed him and made him the leader (pati) of the Saiva host (ganas). People still believe that it is not right to sleep with one’s head placed northward. The Brahmavaikarta-Parāṇa gives a different account and makes Viṣṇu responsible for the change in Ganapatī’s head.

---

1 In the Śākanāṭīśārī it is stated that his left (ēōna) tusk is broken, that his vehicle may be any animal which he chooses and that his trunk holds a lotus.

2 The dancing figure of Gānēśa from Gangakondalapuṇaram has its upper left hand lifted up instead of showing the noose or the rosary.

3 Babu Nagendra Natha Vasu in his Mayūrabhanja states that Viṇāyaka is worshipped even by the Buddhists, the Japanese calling him Bīnayak. He refers to a temple of Gānēśa in Nepal which is supposed to have been built by a daughter of the Maurya king Asāka in the third century B.C. Dr. Bhandarkar (Vaishnavism, Saivism, etc., p. 147 f.) gives the sixth century to be the earliest date when Ganapati as the elephant-headed god, came to be generally worshipped by the Hindus.
Fig. 107.—Ganapati standing; Lépâshî.
Fig. 108.—Ganapati standing (metal); Pattisvaram.
Fig. 109.—Ganapati seated; Siyamangalam.
FIG. 110.—Ganapati dancing; Gangulkondašôlapuram.
also called by a thousand names. Mr. Havell explains Ganapati to be the manas, or worldly wisdom, personified. Ganapati in Hindu mythology is recognized as an unmarried god—a brahmachārin. But from the sequel it will appear that some forms of Ganapati have their accompanying goddesses, sometimes, recognized as Ashta-Siddhis (the eight presiding deities of success or achievement).

Thirty-two forms of Ganapati\(^1\) are mentioned in the Mudgala-Purāṇa. The Silpasāra also refers to some of these forms. Mahā-Ganapati is stated in the Mudgala-Purāṇa to be an elephant-faced god, three-eyed, wearing the crescent of the moon as his head-ornament, and red in colour. He is lovingly embraced by his wife who, seated on his lap, holds a lotus in her hand. The following weapons and symbols are mentioned: the bijāpūra, club, sugarcane-bow, a brilliant discus, conch, noose, lotus, ear of paddy, the broken tusk and the ruby-pot. This list indicates that the god must have ten hands.\(^2\) The illustration (fig. 111) from Madura shows Mahā-Ganapati riding on a rat and having on his lap the seated figure of a goddess. He has ten arms but the weapons held in them are not quite distinct. In the uppermost hand on the right side, however, is seen the discus. In the Visvanātha temple at Tenkāsi (Tinnevelly district) we have a similar image seated on a pedestal without the usual rat vehicle, the elephant trunk being turned towards the left side. Here again only the discus and the lotus held in two of the ten arms are clear. Mahā-Ganapati with different weapons and two goddesses receives the name Lakshmi-Ganapati. A fine bronze image of Hēramba-Ganapati, also described in the Mudgala-Purāṇa comes from Negapatam (fig. 112). This figure has five elephant faces, the fifth of which, in the illustration, is represented at the top.\(^3\) Of his ten arms the two lowest show the protecting and the boon-giving postures. The others hold the noose, the tusk, the rosary, hook, axe, pestle, pudding and the fruit. He rides on a lion, but no goddess is found, as in the two varieties just mentioned. From Tiruvānaikkāval (i.e., Jambukēsvaram)

---
\(^1\) The Sāradātilaka speaks of fifty-one forms of Ganapati.
\(^2\) The Silparatna says that he is seated on a lotus-pedestal under a halpa-tree; that he has ten arms holding the weapons mentioned in the Mudgala-Purāṇa and that he is surrounded by gods and gana. No. 84 of the Tanjore inscriptions (S.I.J., Vol. II, p. 407) refers to a comfortably seated Ganapati and mentions a tree as one of his accompaniments. The reference may be to Mahā-Ganapati; but the inscription states that he had only four divine arms.
\(^3\) A stone image of this form of Ganapati is found at Tiruvottiyūr near Madras. It is of recent make and has the five heads all arranged in a circle.
Fig. 111. — Mahā-Ganapati; Madura.
Fig. 112.—Hemba-Ganapati (metal); Negapatam.
in the Trichinopoly district, comes a stone figure of Panchamukha-Vinayaka which answers to the description of Hēramba-Ganapatī without the lion vehicle. There are other forms known as Ürdhva-Ganapatī, Ucchhishtha-Ganapatī and Vara-Ganapatī, which are perhaps the inventions of the followers of that mysterious and often indecent cult of Sāktas, in which the female energy of creation always plays a very prominent part. Sakti-Ganapatī and Uddanda-Ganapatī are represented as embracing a goddess. Bīja-Ganapatī mentioned in the Silparatna has four arms, is fond of the citron and is adorned with shining ornaments. Perhaps he is the same as Vijaya-Ganapatī of the Mudgala-Purāṇa. It may be noted that in the Brihadīśvara temple at Tanjore, established by the Chōla king Rājarāja I about the beginning of the eleventh century A.D., different forms of dancing and seated Ganapatīs were installed. These bore the names Ālayattu-Pillaiyar and Parivārālayattu-Pillaiyar.

Ganapatī, the Tamil Pillaiyar, is a very popular god. He is the god of wealth, the remover of all obstacles, the bestower of success, the fulfiller of desire. He is gentle, calm and friendly and withal possessed of a certain wise craft. A famous story relates how Vyāsa found no one capable of writing down his voluminous Mahābhārata to his dictation and was referred to Ganapatī. Ganapatī agreed, but on the understanding that Vyāsa never stopped for a moment in the midst. Vyāsa on his part stipulated that Ganapatī should take down naught of which he did not understand the meaning. So whenever Vyāsa felt that he had to pause in the middle of his composition he gave out a more than ordinarily tough verse; and while the crafty god was worrying over its meaning managed to be ahead of the god’s writing. Temples of Ganapatī are quite common in Southern India, though there are none which may be considered particularly famous, except the one of Ucchi-Pillaiyar on the rock at Trichinopoly. In virtue of his being the lord of spirits (ganas) which cause obstacles to men, Ganapatī is also considered to be the guardian deity of a village and is, as such, installed in one of the four quarters of almost every village.

1 The Gānāpatyas recognize six forms of Ganapatī to be the most important, viz., Mahā-Ganapatī, Haridrā-Ganapatī, Ucchhishtha-Ganapatī, Navandita-Ganapatī, Svāma-Ganapatī and Santāna-Ganapatī.
2 I.e., Ganapatī within the main temple and Ganapatī in the surrounding shrines. Evidently the former was worshipped as a chief god and the latter as one of the subsidiary guardian deities of the temple.
Skanda or Kumāra is another of Siva’s sons known to Hindu mythology. He is represented with six faces (Shadānana) and as riding on a peacock. Being supposed to have been brought up by the six mothers, the Krittikas (Pleiades), he is known as Shānmātura and Kārttikeya. The Purāṇas state that he was born of the fiery energy of Siva in a forest of grass (sara-vana), became the commander of the army of the gods in their battle against the giant Tāraka, and that he rent asunder by his arrows the mountain Krauncha. The birth of Skanda-Kumāra is described at great length by the famous poet Kālidāsa in his well-known work Kumārasambhava. Skanda is also known by the name Subrahmanya in the Tantras. In some unexplained way there exists an intimate connexion between the worship of Subrahmanya and of the serpent. The common name Subba or Subbarāya found among the Telugu, Canarese and Tamil people is explained to be both a contraction of Subrahmanya and a synonym for serpent. The sixth day of a lunar month (shashthi) is held as peculiarly sacred to Subrahmanya, as to the serpent god. His riding on a peacock, his marriage with the forest maid Valliyamman, and the fact that his most famous temples are on hill tops, show that he is connected with the ancient tree-and-serpent-worship and the sylvan deities. The Silpasāra describes him under name Subbarāya as having six faces, three eyes, the peacock vehicle and the weapons sakti, thunderbolt, sword, etc. The Silpasangraha describes him as having two arms, the sacred thread, a tuft, girdle, kaupina and staff like the unmarried students of the Vēdas (brahmachārin). It may be noted that the day shashthi, sacred to serpent worship in Southern India, is celebrated by feeding brahmachārins and presenting cloths to them.

The Kāsyapa-Silpa sets down that the image of Skanda may be made of two, four, six or twelve hands and may have either six faces or only one. The symbols generally are the sakti, arrow, sword, discus, noose, a bunch of peacock’s feathers, shield, bow, plough, rosary and the postures abhaya and varada. When the image has two hands, the left hand holds a cock (kukkuta) and the right hand a sakti (the Tamil veṭ). Hēmādri speaks of him as wearing a red cloth and riding on a

---

1 The famous image of Subrahmanya on the Palni Hills, called Palani-Andavar, has only two arms in one of which he holds the sakti, the other resting freely on the waist.
peacock. The illustration from Tiruvottiyur (fig. 113) shows only four hands.

The most common variety however is the six-faced Shadānana-Subrahmanya, showing in his twelve hands the symbols and weapons, sakti; arrow, sword, discus, noose and abhaya on the right and a kukktuta (cock), bow, shield, conch, plough and varada on the left. He rides on the peacock vehicle and may have on either side of him the attendants Jaya and Vijaya (fig. 114), or perhaps the goddesses Valli and Dēvayānā or Dēvasēnā, "the army of gods." A fine stone figure (fig. 115) of Kumārā on the peacock vehicle, with a single face and four arms and attended by the goddesses Vallī and Dēvayānā, comes from Samayapuram in the Trichinopoly district. A sketch from Chidambaram (fig. 116) shows Skanda with three visible faces, ten arms and the peacock vehicle fighting with giants—evidently Tāraka and his retinue. In four of his right hands he holds the weapons, sword, axe, arrow and club while the fifth is in the posture of pulling the bow string (missing in the illustration). The uppermost of his left arms shows the vismaya posture, and the four others hold the shield, bow, noose and bell. Subrahmanya may also be shown with one face and ten hands and riding on the peacock vehicle.

The worship of Skanda in India has been very ancient. Dr. Bhandarkar in his work Vaishnavism, Saivism, etc., has put forth literary and inscriptive evidence to prove that Skanda was worshipped in the time of Patanjali and in the early centuries of the Christian era. Sudraka, the author of the drama Mrichchhakatika, introducing a thief as one of the characters in his drama, makes him, before starting on his profession, invoke the blessings of Skanda. The artisans of the present day also resort to Skanda as one of the chief deities who preside over their craft. In the south the worship of Skanda-Kumārā under the name Vēlāyudha, Muruga, etc., is most popular. All classes are equally devoted to him, the non-Brahmans being particularly so. It may be noted that the shrines sacred to Skanda are always situated on hills, as at Tiruttani, Palnis, Tirupparangunram, Kunnakudi or on the seashore as at Tiruchchendūr, etc. An ancient Tamil poem called Tīrumurugārruppadai probably written in the early eighth century A.D. is devoted exclusively to describing the shrines of Subrahmanya in Southern India. The god has been included in Aryan theogony from very early ages. Like most Saiva gods he may be the outcome of the fusion of the ancient Aryan and Dravidian cults and this may
Fig. 113.—Skanda; Tiruvottiyur.
Fig. 115.—Skanda and his consorts; Samayapuram.
Fig. 116.—Skanda fighting with giants; Chidambaram.
account for the large number of devotees he claims among the non-Brahman classes of Southern India. Like the other Saiva attendants described above, who partake of the nature of Siva and are made of his substance, Skanda is also one of the leaders of the Saivite hosts (*ganas*). He is a guardian deity and is enshrined in almost every Siva temple of importance in Southern India. He is *par excellence* the god of youth, of energy and virility.
CHAPTER V.
SAKTI-GODDESSES.

I

With each of the chief and minor gods described above are intimately connected one or more goddesses who, so far as the usual routine of worship in temples is concerned, play the subordinate part of consorts, but considered in the higher philosophical sense represent the peculiar energy or virtue of the god without which he could not be in active communion with the world. A cursory analysis of the Hindu cosmogony resolves itself into groups of gods and goddesses, the former being considered the agents or "the lords of karma" and the latter their inseparable power or source of energy. Thus Brahma, the lord of creation, has the goddess Sarasvati (the goddess of Learning or Speech) dwelling in his mouth. She presides over learning and is the *vich, logos,* (word) which essentially is the first cause of creation; so is Sri or Lakshmi, the consort of Vishnu, the presiding goddess of Wealth and Happiness and hence, also, the energy that sustains or keeps the world going. Siva's consort Parvati or Uma likewise, especially in her manifestation as Kali, is the energy that destroys, that makes the world involve or draw itself into the quiescent state from which it started or evolved. In fact a sect of worshippers called Saktas, "the adherents of Sakti or Energy," affirm that this Sakti, the feminine element in god, is the sole, if not the preponderating, cause of all visible phenomena. It may be noted that the word *sakti* is of the feminine gender in the Sanskrit language. Almost every human or divine activity has been personified as a goddess; even the letters of the alphabet being supposed to have their presiding deities. This theory of goddesses has pervaded even Jainism and Buddhism, the latter especially in its Mahayana development. Strict Sakti-worshippers do not make any distinction of caste and creed. Perhaps it was thus that Sakti-faith became one of the compromises providing a common meeting ground for the different forms of religion prevailing in India.\(^1\)

\(^1\) *Mayurabhanja,* Introduction, p. 131.
Germs of the energy-creed may indeed be traced even in the Upanishads—the early sacred books of the Hindus—though its extreme development took place at a much later period.

II

Saktis may be found depicted in temples in any one of the three aspects, the calm, the terrible or the ugly, as distinguished by the particular positions in which they are placed or the circumstances under which they are worshipped. When merely represented as the consorts of the gods they are mild and pleasing in appearance and have only two hands, in one of which is held the lotus bud. More often, however, the goddesses have independent existence. The majority of these latter are Saivite in their nature, i.e., wild, fearful and destructive and are often propitiated only by bloody sacrifices. Before entering upon a description of these numerous Saivite Saktis, a word may be said of each of the milder ones associated with Brahmā, Vishnu and Siva. It must be noted that the characteristic feature in the worship of Saktis, whether Saivite, Vaishnavite or otherwise, is the association with them of mystic charms, or geometrical figures called chakras, yantras or pithas, with conventional and often mystic incantations and solemn ceremonies which make no appeal to the gentler feelings of human nature.

III

Sarasvati or Vāgīsvari, the consort of Brahmā, may be represented with two or more hands. In the former case she holds the book and the rosary, and in the latter the noose and the hook in addition (fig. 117). Vāgīsvari, who is referred to in Mayūrabhanja (Introduction, p. lxxvi) as a goddess worshipped both by the Buddhist and Hindu Tāntrikas, is described in the Pāncharatrāgama as having three eyes and four hands holding in these latter the staff, book, rosary and the water-pot, which as we have seen above, are the symbols of the creator Brahmā. Two other allied forms of Vāgīsvari are Dhēnu-Vāgīsvari and Saubhāgya-Vāgīsvari, both of which are mild in appearance and beautiful, but as Saktis in essence, they display the Saivaitc attributes of three eyes, the jatāmakuta

1 A recognized classification of the Saktis under the heads Vōga, Bhōga and Vīra has been already referred to (above, p. 110, note 2). The first is defined to be the goddess who is identical with the pedestal of Siva; the second is the goddess that stands to the left of Siva or the Siva-linga as his consort and the third is the independent goddess generally installed in the third outer prākāra of Siva temples.

2 In certain cases where she is represented with four hands, she holds the vānā and the water-pot.
Fig. 117.—Sarasvati; Bāgali.
and the crescent. The former, who is *logos* (Sabda-Brahmā) incarnate, is identical with the illustration from Bāgali given above. Sarasvati, when represented as the goddess Sāradā (the form in which she is worshipped at Sringeri-matha, in Mysore) presiding over the sixty-four sciences (*chatushkah-ashtikāla*), has five faces and ten arms. The worship of Sarasvati generally held on the ninth day of the Dasara is conducted by invoking her presence in a library of books and offering fruits, flowers, sandal and incense.

IV

The two consorts of Vishnu are Lakshmi (Wealth) and Prithvi (Earth). The former is seated or standing on a red lotus pedestal, has four hands, holds two lotus flowers in her upper arms, the other two hands being either in the boon-giving and protecting postures or holding a vessel and a fruit. She is said to have sprung from the ocean at the time of its being churned for nectar. The latter, Prithvi,¹ has only two hands of which the right is raised in the *abhaya* posture and the left holds the fruit of the pomegranate. Her left leg is represented also as stepping upon a pot of treasures. When Lakshmi accompanies Vishnu she has only two hands. Eight forms of Lakshmi, known as Ashta-Mahālakshmi, are recognized. Of these, Gaja-Lakshmi is the most popular. She is generally found figured on the lintels of door-frames, has four arms and is seated in the same posture as Vināyaka, on a full-blown lotus of eight petals. In her right hand she holds a lotus flower with a long stem which reaches her shoulder ring and in her left a pot of nectar. The two other hands of the goddess hold the *bītava*-fruit and the conch. Behind her are represented two elephants pouring water from two pots held by their trunks over the head of the goddess. The *Mānasāra* describes the same goddess with two hands as Sāmānya-Lakshmi and says that she is figured on door-ways. In the *Silpāsāra* this goddess is called the two-handed Indra-Lakshmi. A fine representation of Sāmānya-Lakshmi comes from Mahābalipuram (fig. 118).² The central figure of the group is seated on a pedestal of lotus flower, whose open petals are seen hanging down and decorating with their edges the rim of another lotus pedestal at the

¹ *Mānasāra* describing her under the name Mahi says, that she is figured standing or seated to the left of Vishnu with a blue lotus in her right hand, the left hand hanging down or showing the *varada* posture.

² *Mayūrakhamya*, Introduction, p. lxvi.
base. Below this again is a floral design, also perhaps of lotuses, a bud in the middle and full blown flowers on either side. The goddess has two hands and holds in each of them a closed lotus flower. Two female attendants on the immediate right and left sides are seen lifting up pots of water which are received by two majestic elephants in their trunks (not fully represented) and poured over the head of the goddess alternately. The second female attendant to the left of the goddess carries a lotus bud in one of her hands, and the corresponding one to the right, a cup-like vessel, which in all probability is meant to hold the sandal paste, turmeric powder or some toilet requisite intended for the goddess. The head dress of the attendant women and the simple ornaments which they wear are worth noting and point to the modest taste of the Pallava times. The Śrī-śūktā praises Lakṣmī as "the goddess of Prosperity standing on the lotus flower, slightly bent on account of the weight of her breasts, having high hips, broad lotus-like eyes and deep navel pit, dressed in white cloth and bathed by heavenly elephants from golden pots which are bedecked with a variety of jewels, and holding lotuses in her hands." Havell calls the picture from Mahābalipuram "Lakṣmī arising from the sea" and describes it in Chapter XXI of his *Ideals of Indian Art.* Another of the eight Lakṣmīs, is Mahā-Lakṣmī who has four hands in which she holds a vessel, the club Kaumōdaki, the shield and the bēl-fruit (*sriphala*). A special feature of this Mahā-Lakṣmī is that she wears a *linga* on her head. When standing or seated on a lotus, with lotus flowers in her two upper hands and the *varada* and *abhaya* postures in the lower, Lakṣmī receives the name Vīra-Lakṣmī. In another representation she holds the noose, rosary, lotus and the hook. Kollāpura-Mahā-Lakṣmī is stated in the *Silpasāra* to have six arms, in three of which are held the club, shield and wine-cup. Another called Ashtabhujā-Vīralakṣmī has eight arms, in which are seen the noose, hook, rosary, the boon-conferring hand, the hand of protection, the club, lotus and the vessel.

The Padma-Parāṇa mentions eight Saktis (or Energies) of the protecting god Vishnu, viz., Śrī, Bhū, Sarasvatī, Pṛtti, Kirti, Sānti, Tushita and Pushīti. As the names clearly indicate, these goddesses of Wealth, Earth, Learning, Love, Fame, Peace, Pleasure and Strength are the eight channels through which the protective energies of Vishnu are brought into play. All these goddesses have four hands, hold lotuses in the two upper ones and exhibit the *varada* and *abhaya* postures in the two lower.
The general form of the goddess Gauri, Parvati or Uma, the consort of Siva, as given in the Kasyapa-Silpa and the Manasaara, is that she has two hands when accompanying the god Siva and four when represented independently. In the former case she is fully decorated, is standing or seated on a lotus pedestal, holds a blue lily in the right hand, while her left hangs down loose "like the tail of a cow." She wears a band on the forehead called phalapatta, has one of her legs slightly bent (kunchita) and the other placed straight (lambita or sovastika) on the pedestal; she stands to the left of the image of Siva or the Siva-linga and wears the head-dress karandamakuta, kiritamakuta or kesabandha (fig. 119). In the latter case also she is fully decorated, has a jatamakuta like a male deity, and presents with her lower hands the varada and abhaya postures, while in the upper two she holds the red and the blue lotuses. Earlier authorities state that she may also exhibit in these hands the lily and the rosary. The illustration from Paramesvaramangalam (fig. 120) shows in the upper hands the noose and the hook. Gauri is usually represented with the ornaments of an unmarried girl (kanyakâ), sometimes doing penance with the object of securing Siva for her husband (fig. 121), and in this form she is worshipped by the Mahesvaras.

The Saivite goddesses, who are either the independent manifestations of Parvati or the dependent groups of her following, are too many to mention. Most of the village goddesses mentioned in Chapter VI, below, will be counted by the orthodox Brâhmaṇa among these classes.

We may begin the description of the Saivite Sakti deities with the group of goddesses known as Saptamatrikas, or the "Seven Mothers." They are:—Brâhmi, Mahesvari, Kaumari Vaishnavi, Vârâhi, Mâhêndri and Châmundâ. These with Mahâ-Lakshmi, described below, are sometimes counted as "Eight Mothers." They have generally two hands, are red in

1 Hêmâdri, for instance, has included names such as Vâmâ, Jyêshtha, Raudri, Källi, Kalavikarani, Balavikarani, Balapramathani, Sarvabhûtadâmani and Manûnmani which are merely different synonyms of Siva, with the feminine terminations added on to them.
2 See Burgess's Elura Cave Temples, Plate XXXIV.
3 Narasimhi with the face of the man-lion god Narasimha is sometimes mentioned in place of Châmundâ. It is also sometimes stated that the Seven Mothers are but different forms of Chandi (i.e. Châmundâ).
Fig. 119.—Parvati; Bōlamāppatti.
Fig. 120. — Pārvatī; Paramēśvarīmangalām.
Fig. 121.—Pārvattī in penance; Pattabhiram.
colour and hold a skull and a lotus. Some authorities like the Silpasangraha state that as representing the active energy of Brahmā, Mahēśvara, Kumāra, Vishnu, etc., they have the same vehicles as their lords and hold the same weapons. Brahmā (also called Brahmāni) consequently has four faces, six arms and the swan vehicle, and she is of yellow hue. Mahēśvarī (Bhairavi) rides on a bull, has five faces, three eyes and ten arms, and is decorated with the crescent. Kaumārī has six faces and twelve arms and rides on a peacock. Vaishnavī is of blue colour and rides on Garuda, has six arms and the garland of flowers called vanamālī (peculiar to Vishnu). Vāraṇi has the face of a sow, is black in colour, has a big protruding belly and rides on a buffalo. Māhendrī (Indrī) has a thousand eyes, like her consort Indra, is of pleasing appearance and of golden hue, and rides on an elephant. She has apparently also six arms and displays the symbols varada, noose and thunderbolt in her right arms and the abhaya, vessel and lotus in her left. Chāmundā is black and fearful with protruding teeth, long tongue, erect hair, emaciated body, sunken red eyes and a withered belly. It is stated that she can change her appearance at will. She rides on a corpse, wears a garland of skulls and has jewels of serpents. In her ten arms she holds the shield, noose, bow, staff and spear on the left side, and the pestle, disc, fly-whisk, goad and sword on the right. The Mayamata adds that she wears a tiger’s skin, has red hair glowing like fire, and the banner of a kite. She may have four, eight or ten hands. According to the same authority these Seven Mothers are to be flanked by Vīrabhadra and Vīṇāyaka on either side (fig. 122). In front of the Saptamātrikās the god Siva may be seated on a lotus flower under the banyan tree. Some of these goddesses are

---

1. The illustration in the Elura Cave Temples shows only four hands.
2. In the panel of Saptamātrikās (ibid. Plate XXXIV, No. 4). Vāraṇi is represented with a fine human face and the usual ornaments but has the sow-vehicle. In No. 3 on the same plate, however, the goddess has the face of a sow.
3. The Silpasangraha says that Vāraṇi was born of Vāma, the God of Death. According to Āhujā the goddess Vāma, evidently identical with Vāraṇi, rides on the buffalo, holds a staff and drinks blood from a skull. Three other goddesses with sow-face are mentioned in the Lalitaśākhyā and the Vāraṇkālpa. Dandanātha-Vāraṇi is one, seated on the golden lotus. She has eight arms and a staff by her side. Svapna-Vāraṇi has the gleaming tusks of a sow and four arms. She rides on a horse. Sudhā-Vāraṇi has also tusks and four arms. It may be noted that Bārtātī (Battātī) is a Buddhist goddess of similar description, sometimes also referred to in the Hindu Tantras (Mayārabhāṣa, Introduction, p. xcv).
4. This image has perhaps to be distinguished from Mahishāsuramardini-Chāmundā described below.
said to have each a tree specially sacred to them, e.g., Kaumārī has the fig-tree (udumbara), Vaishnavī, the pipal, Vārāhi, the karanja, Indrāni, the celestial tree kalpadruma, and Chāmundā, the banyan.

The Saptamātrikās thus described are generally found figured together in a group on the same panel and are quite a common sight in South-Indian villages and Siva temples. When installed within the enclosure of a temple, they are seen often without a shrine built over them, and may receive such attention as the other minor deities of that temple. In villages and in Pidāri temples built exclusively for goddesses, they are worshipped regularly. The Selliyaemma temple at Ālambākkam in the Tanjore district possesses an important shrine for the Saptamātrikās. The order in which the Saptamātrikā images are cut on the stone differs according to circumstances. For the destruction of enemies and safety to villages Brāhmī or Brahmāṇī must be made to occupy the centre. If Chāmundā be placed there instead, the village will grow in population.

At the entrances to the shrines of Saptamātrikās are placed two guardian deities. Evil spirits, demons and demi-gods, holding tridents in their hands, may also be installed in the same place. It is enjoined that the daily worship and festivities in the Saptamātrikā shrines are to be performed according to rules prescribed by the Yāmala-mantrasāstra.

VII

The following three goddesses, viz., Durgā, Chāmundā and Mahishāsuramardinī, though they partake mainly of the nature of Pārvatī,¹ are however seen holding the Vaishnavite symbols of the discus and the conch. The Purāṇas say that Durgā was born of Yasōdā, in order to save the life of Krishna who was just then born to Dēvaktī. The children were exchanged under divine intervention. Kamsa, the cruel brother of Dēvaktī, who had vowed to kill all the children of his sister, thought this female child was Dēvaktī's and dashed it against a stone; but, then, the child flew into the air and assuming the form of Durgā mocked him and went away. On account of this incident she is known as the sister of Vāsudēva-Krishna. The Silpasāra mentions a Chandikā (Chāmundā) of eighteen arms to whom the god Siva presented the trident, Krishna (Vishnu), the conch and Agni,

¹ It is stated that the active energy of Siva, which is Vishnu himself, receives the name Kālt while it assumes an angry mood, that in battles it is recognized as Durgā and that in peace and pleasure it takes the form Bhavāni (i.e. Pārvatī).
the weapon called sakti. According to the Mārkandeya-
Purāṇa the goddess that killed the buffalo-demon (Mahishā-
suramardini) was made up of the fierce radiance of Siva,
Vishnu and Brahmā while all the other gods contributed the
powers peculiarly characteristic of them for the formation of
her limbs and ornaments.

Chāmunda¹ may be represented with eight, ten (fig. 123), Chāmunda,
twelve or sixteen arms and made either of wood or of mortar.
When in the dancing posture she must have eight, six or four
hands. Chāmunda is known by the name Karāli or Bhadrakālī
when she has eight arms, Kālabhadra when she has six
arms, and Kālī, when she has four. Bhadrakālī has a terri-
ble face, fat breasts, protruding teeth and a long tongue and
wears a garland of skulls. She rides on a lion and stamps
under her foot the head of the buffalo-demon. Hēmādri
quoting the Vishnudharmottara says that Bhadrakālī has
eighteen arms and is seated in the ṣūlidha posture in a car
drawn by four lions. When worshipped by Brāhmaṇas she
has ten arms, the jatāmakuta and all ornaments. The second,
Kālabhadra, has a beautiful white form but is fierce, being
worshipped in burial-grounds under the name of Karāla-
bhadra, seated in the virāṣana posture with the foot placed over
the head of the buffalo-demon. The same goddess, when wor-
shipped by the Kshatriyas, is called Kālī or Mahākālī.² In Kālī or
this form she ordinarily holds a trident or sword in one hand
and a skull or a cup of wine (fire?) in the other, rides on
a corpse and has a lean stomach. The owl is her vehicle.
She wears the tiger’s skin, a scarf of elephant’s hide and a
garland of heads; has three eyes and ear-ornaments shaped
like conches; and is fond of flesh, blood and life. She is
followed by evil spirits who fill the four quarters with their roar
and she roams about the earth riding, on their shoulders.
Hēmādri, calling her also by the name Śivarātri, describes
her as having four hands, being black like collyrium, terrible
with protruding teeth and tongue (but at the same time
beautiful with broad eyes and slender waist), wearing a
garland of trunks (of human bodies) and a wreath of serpents.

¹ Chāmunda is supposed to be the form of Pārvatī when she killed the giant
called Chandra-Mūndā.
² Mahākālī is described in the Chaudākalpa as having ten faces, ten legs and
ten arms in which are held all weapons of war. In this form she is stated to have
been invoked by Brahmā to kill the demons Madhu and Kaitabha who were
attempting to smash Vishnu in his sleep (see above, p. 52). The Aśvamedhaga
mentions an eight-armed Kālī or Mahākālī among the Durgās. Kālikā is a goddess
supposed to be the wife of Nairṛta (below, p. 243).
Fig. 123.—Chāmunda (Mahākāli); Tiruchchendōn.
Kālī represented sometimes also with twelve or sixteen arms is worshipped by the Vaisyas and Śūdras under the names Chārcharā and Bhairavī respectively.

Durgā is a very popular deity. The name is indifferently applied to all goddesses with a terrible appearance and in a fighting attitude. The general description of Durgā given in the Kāṣyapa-Silpa represents her as having four arms, two eyes, high hips, high breasts, and all ornaments. She holds the conch and the discus in her upper hands, while her right lower hand presents the abhaya posture and the left lower rests on the waist. She stands on a lotus-pedestal and has a breast-band of serpents and a red petticoat. According to the Silparatna, Mūla-Durgā holds in her lower hands the bow and the arrow. From Mahābālipuram comes the figure of a Mūla-Durgā (fig. 124) who stands on the buffalo’s head. She has eight arms, in the uppermost of which are found the discus and the conch. The other weapons held are the sword and the bow on the right side and the bow and shield on the left. The lowest of the right hands holds evidently a srīphala or the bēl-fruit and the corresponding left has a parrot perching on it and rests freely on the waist of the goddess. The necklace, breast-band and the garment hanging in folds down to her feet deserve to be noticed. The absence of finger rings on the eight hands of the goddess is peculiar. The illustration shows also other figures surrounding the goddess, viz., two male devotees with peculiar head dress kneeling at her feet, two female attendants on either side holding the sword and the bow, two demi-gods one of whom is carrying a chaurī, and a lion and a deer. In another mandapa at Mahābālipuram is a sculpture evidently of the same goddess with the lion and the deer, pairs of demi-gods on the sides and devotees at the feet, one of whom is in the act of either cutting off his hair or his neck. The goddess has only four arms and stands on an ordinary pedestal but not on the buffalo’s head (fig. 125). At Srimushnam in the South Arcot district is an image of Durgā with eight arms showing almost the same symbols as those of the figure at Mahābālipuram described above, the only exception being that instead of the bell in one of the right

1 Kai Bahadur Venkayya says in South-Ind. Inscri., Vol. II. Introd., p. 41, note 1: “Durgā is represented with a sheep’s head standing on the giant Sinhamakāhura whom she killed. Her head is fiery and adorned with different jewels. On her forehead she wears a crescent made with sacred ashes of burnt cow-dung. In five of her six hands she holds, respectively, a ring, a sword, a trident, a goad, and a skull.”
Fig. 124. — Durgā; Seven Pagodas.
hands she is holding, perhaps more correctly, the arrow. The figure stands on the head of a buffalo without any other accompanying attendants and has an umbrella overhead (fig. 126). Images of Durgā with four or more arms standing on the head of a buffalo are generally found placed in a niche on the north wall of the central shrine of Siva temples in Southern India (fig. 127). Occasionally, however, they may stand on ordinary pedestals without the buffalo’s head, as at Tiruvottiyūr near Madras. In the Vishnu temple at Tirumalisai, Chingleput district, is a similar image (fig. 128) placed in a niche on the north wall of the central shrine. It is said to be Lakṣmī but perhaps represents Durgā without the buffalo’s head. The Mayamata, describing the figure of Kātyāyanī with four arms, says that she holds the conch and the discus in the upper hands and exhibits the abhaya and the varada postures with the lower. With eight arms and a parrot, this same figure is stated to receive the name of Durgā. The description of the sculptures from Mahābalipuram and Srīmushnam agrees with what has been said of Kātyāyanī in the Mayamata.

The Saivagama specifically describes nine varieties of Durgā, all of which have two arms but different weapons and vehicles. The first, known as Sailaputrī, rides on a bull, wears the crescent on her head and holds a trident in her hand; the second Brahmachārini holds the rosary and the water-pot; the third Chandakhandā rides on the kite and has an angry look; the fourth Skandamātā rides on a lion and holds lotus buds in her hands; the fifth Kūshmānda-Durgā is distinguished by a pot full of wine (or blood) which she holds in both of her hands; the sixth Kātyāyanī riding on a tiger, holds a drawn sword in her hands and is killing a giant; the seventh Kālarātrī is of fearful appearance and has a grim smile on her face; the eighth Mahā-Gaurī rides on a white elephant; and the ninth Siddhidāyinī is attended by demigods. The Kārandāgama quoting the Skanda-Yāmala describes these nine Durgās under different names and says that one of them has eighteen arms while the rest have sixteen each. They are generally shown standing naked with one leg placed on the head of the buffalo-demon and hold in their fist a tuft of the giant’s hair. One of the Durgās with sixteen arms called Shōdasabhujā-Durgā has three eyes and serpent-jewellery and holds tridents in all her sixteen arms.

Mahīshāsura-mardini (also called Chāmunda, Chandī) is represented in the Nrisimhaprāsāda as the youthful but angry form of Pārvati with three broad eyes, a slender waist, heaving breasts, one face and twenty hands. Below her is the
Fig. 126.—Durgā; Srimushnam.
FIG. 127.—Durgā; Dhārāsuraṃ.
Fig. 128.—Durgā-Lakṣmi, Tirumalissi.
buffalo-demon with his head cut off and rolling on the ground. A man emerging from the buffalo’s neck is seen holding a weapon in his hand, abject with fear. Pierced by the trident of the goddess, he is vomiting blood. The lion too on which Chandikā is riding attacks the giant with its mouth while the noose held by the goddess is tightly fastened round his neck. The goddess’s right leg is placed on the lion while the other steps on the body of the demon.¹ This form of Chandī is propitiated by those who wish to destroy their enemies. The ruling family of Mysore has Chāmundā-Chandī for its tutelary deity.

A goddess with sixteen arms killing the buffalo-demon and as such to be classed among the Saivite Saktis, is also called Mahā-Lakshmi. The Mahā-Lakshmi, described in the Chandikālpa, has twenty arms, holds all the destructive weapons and is seen in the act of killing the buffalo-demon.² It will be observed that this Mahā-Lakshmi is only another form of Durgā.

Various postures of Mahishāsuramardini in the act of killing the buffalo-demon are depicted in South-Indian Saiva temples, some of them being of excellent workmanship. It is not always easy to distinguish the images which are thus engaged in the act of killing the buffalo-demon, and to say whether they be representations of Chāmundā, Durgā, Mahishāsuramardini or Mahā-Lakshmi. It may, however, be suggested that figures with a breast-band standing upright on the severed head of the buffalo are generally those of Durgā-Lakshmi, while those in the actual fighting attitude are either Chāmundā, Mahishāsuramardini or Mahā-Lakshmi. They generally have eight arms and hold weapons, the conch, discus, bow, shield, sword, bell, noose and trident. The demon may be shown with a human body, or a human body with a buffalo’s head,³ or a buffalo from whose severed trunk proceeds a human figure. The illustrations given show some of the fighting postures of Mahishāsuramardini (figs. 129, 130, 131). In the Mahishāsura-mandapa at Mahābalipuram is seen a relief on the proper left wall, which represents the fight between Durgā-Mahishāsuramardini and the

---

¹ Hēmādri speaking of Kātyāyani with ten arms, gives almost the same description.
² Mahā-Saravati mentioned in the same work, is said to be an emanation of Gaurī. She has eight arms and is engaged in destroying the demon Sumbha and his retinue.
³ Burgess’s Elura Cave Temples, Plate IV, fig. 7, shows the giant as a man with buffalo’s horns.
Fig. 129.—Mahishasuramardini; Gangaikondasolapuram.
Fig. 130.—Mahishasuramardini; Dhārāsram.
Fig. 131. — Mahishāsura-mardini or Durgī.
buffalo-demon (fig. 132). Dr. Vogel gives the following description of the relief:—"The goddess astride on her vehicle, the lion, is eight-armed. With two hands she shoots arrows at the demon king. The emblems held in her remaining six arms are a disc (chakra), a bell (ghanta) and a sword (khadga) to the right and a conch (sankha), a noose (pāsa) and an indistinct object, to the left. A quiver is visible over her left shoulder.

"She is surrounded by a host of dwarfs, evidently the ganas of Siva, her spouse. One, behind her, holds a parasol over her head; another at her side waves a fly-whisk (chāmara). The remainder carry weapons, usually a round buckler and a curved sword, in shape like the kukri of the Gurkhas. One in the foreground is in the act of shooting an arrow from a bow.

"Distinct from these ganas is a female figure fallen on her knees in front of the lion and raising a sword with her right hand. Possibly this figure represents Kālī, an emanation of Durgā, though she does not present the terrific appearance peculiar to the black goddess.

"Right opposite Durgā stands the colossal figure of the buffalo-headed demon-king. His royal rank also is indicated by a parasol held over his head. He carries a heavy mace in his two hands and has, moreover, a sword fastened to his left hip. His attitude is that of yielding to the onslaught of the warlike goddess.

"His army is represented by seven demons. Two of these are prostrated in the foreground—one slain and another wounded. The latter raises his right hand with two fingers raised. What is the meaning of this gesture? Is it that of a vanquished warrior imploring his victorious enemy to spare his life? Of the remaining asuras one is retreating, whereas the others seem to offer a feeble resistance. It is worthy of notice that with the exception of Mahishāsura himself, the demons are shown in a purely human shape."

VIII

Many other Saivite goddesses of fearful appearance, worshipped by people who wish to destroy their enemies or to receive some desired object of life, are described in the Tāntrik works. Some of these which are mentioned below may possibly be, as some suggest, the Aryanized forms of aboriginal deities still worshipped in the Pidāri temples of the South.

Kālarātri already referred to as one of the nine Durgās, Kālarātri, has a single braid of hair and japa-flowers for her ear-ornaments; she is naked, rides on an ass, has hanging lips
and is bathed in oil. In her left hand she holds a human head severed from the body and on the left leg is worn an anklet of metallic wire.

Tvaṭīṭā. Tvaṭīṭā is stated to be a goddess of the Kirāṭas or a ‘hunters.’ She has two hands, is decorated with peacock’s feathers on the head, and wears a cloth of leaves (as some of the wild tribes of to-day), a garland of gunjā-seeds and a (head) jewel of eight serpents. Nagendra Natha Vasu finds in this goddess a close resemblance to Nāgamātā “the mother of serpents,” Skandashashthi or Manasā, and to the goddess Tavīṭā of the Scythians.¹

Tripura-Bhairavī. Tripura-Bhairavī has four arms, wears a garland of heads and has her breasts bathed in blood.

Vajraprastārīṇī² is stated to be seated on a lotus, in a boat of blood floating in an ocean of blood. The limbs of her body as well as her head are also bathed in blood.

Surā. Surā, wine personified, is represented as a terrible unmarried goddess of eighteen arms and of three eyes. She is tall of form and is as dangerous as destructive fire. She is a terror to the demons and a blessing to angels. In plain language Umā herself is described to be the goddess of wine and Siva (her consort) to be the power of intoxication thereof.

Surapriyā. Surapriyā is a goddess seated in a meditative posture cross-legged and attended by a group of Saktis called Āshā-tāngayoginīs. On either side of her are the deities Pārnāsā and Pushkalā. Madhukara, a fat man with hanging belly, two hands and a smiling face, stands on the left side of the goddess. A pot of wine and a staff are also placed near her. The goddess is installed in the houses of prostitutes and small villages or towns, under different names such as Dēvabhāvī, Jñānabhāvī and Gitabhāvī.³

Srīvidyā-devi. Srīvidyādevī has fierce fangs protruding from her mouth, sits on a serpent couch and wears necklaces of human bones. Prānasakti, like Vajraprastārīṇī, is seated on a lotus springing from a boat of blood, in an ocean of blood, and holds among other weapons a human skull filled with blood.

¹ Mayūrabhaṇja, Introduction, p. xxxix f. The Sīlparaṁśa aids that Tvaṭīṭā rides on a crow and is considered to be a widow.
² According to the Sīlparaṁśa this goddess is a form of Pārvati, has six hands, is seated on a red lotus, exhibits in her hands a sugarcane-bow, a flower-arrow, the parada and abhaya postures, a noose and a skull, and is engaged in vanquishing Māra—the god of Love.
³ In the names Pārnāsā, Pushkalā and Madhukara we may see an apparent analogy to Pāranāi, Pudgalai and Madurai-Vīran mentioned under village deities (below p. 230).
This is, as it should be, in the case of a goddess who presides over the centres of physical life (prāna).¹

Svasthāvesinī is of scarlet colour, inspires dread in those who see her, dwells amidst corpses, has three faces and two arms holding the kettle-drum and the trident, dark eyes, lean body and three braids of thick black hair. She is of the nature of forest fire.

Satrudvihamsini, “the destroyer of enemies,” has likewise three faces, is as cruel as the flames of fire, has red eyes, fearful fangs, red hair, and a capacious belly. She is naked.

Ugra-Tāra, the goddess presiding over various diseases, stands in the ālidha posture, carries a corpse over her head and roars terribly. Short of stature, she has braids of black colour mixed with yellow and is surrounded by dreadful serpents. In a skull she holds the diseases of the three worlds together, with the object of killing them.

Dhūmravatī or Dhūmra-Kāli has a red body and wears a red cloth. Her ear-rings are like the trunks of an elephant and her fangs, terrible. She wears a necklace of skulls, is surrounded by devils, and holds in her hands a drawn sword and a skull.

Sūlinī with her eight arms, is likewise a goddess who inspires fear. She holds a trident, rides on a lion and is accompanied by four unmarried girls with swords and shields in their hands.

Pratyangirā has four arms and a face as terrible as that of a lion. Her hair stands erect on her head. In her hands she holds a skull, trident, kettle-drum and the noose (nāgapāśa). She is seated on a lion and by her power destroys all enemies (figs. 133 and 134).²

Stitādevī (or Māriyamma), the goddess of small-pox, is represented as riding naked on an ass with a winnow on her head and a broom and water-pot in her hands.³

Trikantakīdevi has a body which is black below the navel, red between the navel and the neck and white above it. The terrible fangs protruding from her four faces are so long and crooked that they pierce out through her belly. In her hands she holds two lamps, a conch and a discus.

¹ The goddess Prānasakti is invoked by Brāhmans, in ceremonies where the prānaprāśākṣākā, “infusing (an image) with life,” has to be observed.
² The lion vehicle is missing in the Tirumālappattuī brāti. The Tiruchchen-gōdu figure has the sword and shield in place of skull and noose and a breast-band like Durgā. Both are called Bhadrakālī by the people.
³ The illustration of this image given by Nagendranath Vasa (Mayūrabhanja, Plate, facing p. xcvi, fig. 51) and classed by him as one of the Buddhist and Tantrik goddesses, is not naked. Neither does she carry a winnow on her head.
Fig. 133.—Pratyangira; Tiruchchendōdu
Fig. 134.—Pratyangirā (?) (metal); Tiruppalūlurai.
BHŪTAMĀTĀ. Bhūtamātā, "the mother of goblins" has her seat under a pipal-tree and is followed by numerous demons, goblins and demi-gods. She has two hands in which are held a linga (or, sometimes a sword) and the shield. She rides on the lion and has dishevelled hair.

SIWADŪTI. Sivadūti has a dejected appearance, emaciated body and the face of a jackal. She wears a garland of skulls, is fearful and is surrounded by serpents. She may have four or more arms, holding in the former case, a vessel of blood, the sword, the trident and a flesh-pot.

IX

VĒŚHTHĀ or VĒŚHTHĀ-LAKSHMĪ. Jyēṣthā or Jyēṣthā-Lakshmī, so called on account of her being supposed to be the elder sister of Lakshmi, is a black goddess with hanging lips, stunted nose, pendant breasts and a big belly. She revels in blood. In one hand she holds a lotus made of iron while the other hand rests on her seat. But sometimes she is seen holding lotuses in both her hands. The legs of the goddess are stretched and hang down from the seat, in the so-called European fashion. Her parting curly hair is made up in the form vāsikābandha. A pair of crows represents her banner. On her right side is seated a bull-faced figure said to be her son, holding a staff in the right hand and exhibiting a pointing finger (sūchi) in the left. On the corresponding left side of Jyēṣthā, is seated her daughter, said to be a fair lady (fig. 135). Sometimes the goddess is represented as red in colour and then receives the name Rakta-Jyēṣthā. The goddess Jyēṣthā with the hanging belly, attended by women on either side and wearing a red cloth, is generally installed outside villages. Her following consists of goblins, demons and spirits. She is the goddess of ill-luck.

The worship of Jyēṣthā appears to have been once quite familiar in the Tamil country. Like the shrines of Pidāri, her shrines were also exempted from taxation, as stated in early Chōla records. From an inscription on a pillar in the rock-cut temple of Subrahmanyasvāmin at Tirupparangunram near Madura, we learn that about the eighth century A.D. a shrine

1 A Sivadūti of eight arms is mentioned among the Niyakkinnadevatās of the Lalitāpāḥyaṃ.
2 Nirīti is the name by which this goddess of ill-luck, Alakshmi, the elder sister of Lakshmi, is mentioned in the Padmāvatarāhakaṇḍa. She is said to reside in the pipal-tree. Consequently also this tree is not to be touched except on Saturdays when, Lakshmi coming to see her sister, makes the tree auspicious.
for the goddess Durgā and one for Jyēṣṭhā were caused to be made in that temple.¹ At Kukkanūr in the Nizam's Dominions, there is a celebrated Brahmanical temple dedicated to Jyēṣṭhā. In Southern India her worship nowadays is much neglected, if not altogether avoided, she being supposed to be the goddess of misfortune and poverty.

X

In contrast to the ugly and fearsome goddesses mentioned above, there exist in the Hindu Pantheon other Saivite goddesses who are described as mild and extremely beautiful. Among these may be mentioned Bāla-Tripurasundarī of dazzling brilliance, "like a thousand suns bursting forth at the same time"; Saubhāgyabhuvanēsvari, of red hue, a jewelled crown, a smiling face and heaving breasts, who holds a pot of gems in one hand and a red lotus in the other (fig. 136) and who places her right foot on a treasure of gems; Annapūrnā² of two or four arms who, in the former case, holds gracefully in one hand a jewelled vessel containing food and in the other a spoon to distribute the same (among her devotees), or in the latter, holds the noose and the hook in two hands and shows the protecting and the boon-giving postures in the others; the goddesses Gāyatrī,³ Sāvitrī and Sarasvatī.

¹ *Ind. Ant.*, Vol. XXII, p. 68. It may be noted that Mr. T. A. Gopinatha Rao in his *Elements of Hindu Iconography* (p. 391 f) considers the figures of Subrahmanya and his consorts worshipped in one of the chief rock-cut shrines of the temple to be Jyēṣṭhā with her bull-faced son on one side and her fair daughter on the other. The figures are, indeed, much worn out and their features are indistinct; nor are the crow-banners characteristic of Jyēṣṭhā, clearly visible. Two cocks, however, the banner of Subrahmanya, engraved on the rocky side walls of the same shrine and contemporaneous with the images, prove beyond doubt that the group is one of Subrahmanya and his two consorts and not of Jyēṣṭhā. The shrine of the latter goddess, referred to in the inscription, is in a different compartment, in the lower storey of the same rock-cut temple. At Anamalai, not far from Madura, is a similar rock-cut shrine of Subrahmanya but with only one goddess. The cock-baner of the god is, again, very clearly shown on the side walls, as in the Tirupparangunram shrine. People call it Sramanankōyil "the temple of Sramana (i.e., a Buddhist or a Jaina)" though the actual name must have been Saravanakōyil, "the temple of Saravana" which latter name is connected with Saravanodibhava, a synonym of Skanda-Subrahmanya.

² Literally, *one who is full of food* (to give to her devotees). *This is the name of the famous goddess in Benares, who is also sometimes called Visālākshi, "the broad-eyed."

³ Gāyatrī is of the nature of fire (or Brahmā), has four or ten arms and four faces and rides on a swan; Sāvitrī is of the substance of Rudra, has four arms, four faces, twelve eyes and the bull vehicle; Sarasvatī partakes of the nature of Vishnu, rides on Garuda, has four arms and one face and holds in her hands the Vaishnavite symbols, the discus, conch and the club as also the palm of protection,
Fig. 136.—Saubhāgyabhuvanēśvara; Dhārāsuraṁ.
Sarasvati who preside over the morning, mid-day and evening prayers of the twice-born classes and represent the Vedas, Rik, Yajus, and Saman or the three sacred fires, Garhapatya, Dakshinagni and the Ahavaniya, respectively; Tulajja-Bhavani, who like Annapurna holds in one hand a vessel of delicious food and in another a spoon for distributing the same; Rajamataangi who is absorbed in listening to the talk of a parrot and stands with one of her feet placed on a lotus, while her hands are fondly playing upon the vinā; Laghusyamala, a damsel who has just attained her youth and who plays upon the vinā, with a vessel of wine near her and with eyes betraying signs of intoxication; Varuni, Sudhamalini or Amritesvari, "the goddess of boats," who is seated on a boat bedecked with gems and surrounded by an army of Saktis, bright as the growing sun, maddens the three worlds by her glance, decorates her tresses with the flowers of the pārijatatre and holds a vessel of wine, a lotus and a cooked piece of flesh in her hands; and Kurukulla, a goddess of boats, fully drunk with wine, riding on a boat of gems and holding in her hands a paddle of gems. Vindhyavasini, classed as one of the Durgas, is called Mukambika in the Silpasra. She is said to be seated on a golden lotus, to have four arms and to be dazzling as lightning. By her side stands the lion, her vehicle.

The most famous of these milder deities, however, are Lalita, Tripura-Sundari and Rajarajesvari (fig. 137). All are highly beautiful and of dazzling brilliance. They have four hands each and hold the symbols: noose (or, fruit), goad (or, conch), sugarcane-bow (or, mirror) and five arrows (or, a lotus or a cup of collyrium). Their worship is directly connected with the mystic geometrical drawings known as chakras and pithas. Images of these goddesses are not honoured so much as the chakras or pithas over which they are supposed to preside. The worship offered consists in throwing over the chakras a profusion of red turmeric powder called kunkumam, which is generally worn on the forehead by all Hindu ladies whose husbands are alive. The throwing of kunkumam is accompanied by the repetition of long strings of the names of Lalita consisting of synonyms—a thousand, three hundred, or one hundred and eight in number. Each name is prefaced with the sacred syllable Om. The goddesses

1 This is a goddess common to both the Hindu and the Buddhist Tantras; Mayurabhajana, p. lxxix.
2 In the Ankalamma temple at Kámpidi (Guntur district) is an inscription of A.D. 1164, which refers to that village goddess, as Vindhyavasini.
Fig. 137.—Rajarajesvari; Ramesvaram.
are always presumed to be standing on a chakra imbedded in the earth and hence the worship is offered at the feet of the goddesses. In exceptional cases, however, as in the Kāmakshi-amman temple at Conjeeveram, the chakra is placed in front of the goddess. Bālā-Sakti, holding a book, rosary, goad and noose, is the presiding goddess of the six chakras as stated in the Sīlpaśāra. The particular yantra sacred to her is known as Bālā-yantra which is described as a geometrical drawing having in its centre a dot (bindu) closed in by a triangle, a hexagon, a circle, a lotus of eight petals, a square and another square with openings at the cardinal points, consecutively. The Śrī-chakra consisting of a larger number of intersecting triangles surrounded by circles and squares is another such mystic figure considered to be highly sacred to the goddess Lalitā. The latter is stated to have under her control innumerable fairy goddesses, some of whom are so delicate that they can enter, by the order of their mistress, into every atom of creation. Some with braided hair and beautiful tilakas of kunkumam on their foreheads are as sharp as fire and hold bows, arrows, swords and shields of flames. They are the personifications of almost every beneficent activity in the universe and are engaged in putting down the Evil Principle. Lalitā is said to have fought and killed, with the aid of these deities, several demons named Bhandāsura, Sumbha, Nisumbha, Chanda-Munda and Mahishāsura. All these, apparently, represent the powerfully persistent evil desires of men.
CHAPTER VI.
VILLAGE DEITIES.

Most of the Saivite goddesses described above have been found to be of fearsome appearance, fond of flesh, blood and wine, and intimately connected with goblins, spirits, demons and diseases. One of them Tvarita, it was seen, was the goddess of the Kiratas, and Vindhyavasini was evidently another living on the Vindhya Mountain. Ápyā (Durgā) is described in the Harivamsa as the goddess of the Sabaras, Pulindas, Barbaras and other wild tribes and as fond of wine and flesh. It will not now be difficult to trace a connexion between these and the village goddesses whose shrines are generally the haunts of malevolent demons and who are often appealed only by the slaughter of fowls, sheep, goats and buffaloes. Almost every village in South India, however insignificant it may be, has a shrine for one or more goddesses of this nature. Generally they are situated outside the village in groves of trees much dreaded by the people and are considered to be the grāma-dēvatās, the guardian deities of the village. Often there are no temples properly so called, and where there are structures, they are crude and simple enshrining within them rough unhewn stones representing the amma or "mother" sacred to that village. Sometimes there is only a spear or a trident fixed up straight in the ground in place of the goddess-stones. The goddesses bear different names. Some are called after the villages where their primary shrines exist, such as Kollāpuri-amma, Huskūr-amma, Pung- (i.e., Punganūr)-amma, Hōsūr-amma, Uchhangi-amma, etc. Other popular names among village deities are the "Seven Kanniya-māri," Bhadrakāli, Kāliyamma, Māriyamma, Mutyālamma, Ponnamma, Ellamma,3 Ankālamma, Kolummamma,

1 In the Silpaśāra, where the Chaushashti-Vāgīnis are described, some are stated to feed on dead bodies, some to wander at nights like devils and some to be quarrelsome demons with ugly eyes and erect hair on head. Eighteen well-known shrines of these goddesses in India and Ceylon (Lankā) are enumerated.

2 Nagendra Natha Vasi in his Mayūrabhanja speaks of a Greek goddess called Ellā and connects her with Ajaikapāl, one of the forms of Rudra, already mentioned.
Selliymma, Pattālamma, Vandī-Kaliyamma, Alagiyanāchchiyamma, Ulagāttāl, Pidiāri, Pēchī, Katterī, Polēramma, Gangamma,1 Chaudamma, Durgamma, Nūkalamma, Paidamma, Āsiramma, Pādālamma, Gontyālamma, Paradēsamma, Nēralamma, Mallamma, Peddintamma, Sōmalamma, Mātangirālā, Talupulamma, Sellāndiyamma, etc. Some of these names like Bhadrakālī, Kollāpurī-amma (Kollāpura-Mahālaksmti), Kaliyamma or Kālā-Pidiāri (Kālti), Gangamma (Gangā), Chaudamma (Chandī?), Durgamma (Durgā) and Mātangirālā (Mātangi, a recognized synonym of Parvati) are clearly mentioned in the Tāntrik works; and others can easily be traced to the same source. Mariyamma, for instance, under the name Mārikā occurs in the Purāṇas as the goddess presiding over small-pox and other infectious diseases. Kolumamma or Kulumāyamma, Selliymma (Tsallamma of the Telugus) and Sellāndiyamma are evidently synonymous with Sitalā. Pōleramma, the village goddess commonly worshipped in the Telugu country, is also supposed to correspond to Sitalā.2 Peddintamma is perhaps Jyēshthā.

It is, however, difficult to explain similarly the origin of names like Ankālamma, Pattālamma, etc. Of these again, a few are of a flattering nature such as Mutyālamma, “the pearl-like mother” (fig. 138), Ponnamma or Bangāramma, “the golden mother,” Alagiyanāchchiyamma, “the beautiful queen mother,” etc. Ellamma probably means the goddess of boundaries (Telugu, ella).

Kālā-Pidiāri and Durgā-Paramēsvarī of four arms are names of village goddesses which occur in early Chōla inscriptions. The shrines of these are generally termed tirumurram.3 But sometimes, when they are structures, well endowed and

---

1 In parts of the Guntūr district Gangamma is seen with the crocodile vehicle, e.g., at Pullagunta in the Palnad taluk. Evidently she represents the presiding deity of the river Ganges. In the epic poem Rāmāyana, where the heroine Sītā is made to worship the goddess Gangā (Ganges), she promises to offer, on her safe return from exile, fowls, buffaloes and wine to that goddess.

2 Sitalā or Sitalā-devī is recognized as the goddess presiding over small-pox both in the Canarese and the Telugu districts.

3 Rai Bahadur Venkayya describes Pidiāri as a seated goddess with a fire issuing from her whole body to indicate her great wrath. On her head she wears a crown, various ornaments in her locks, on her forehead the mark of Sīva, bulky jewels in the large holes of her ears and two flowers behind them. She has four hands holding in them, respectively, a kettle-drum with a snake, a trident, the skull of Brahmā and a goad. Her throne is an altar. Pidiāri temples contain also an image of Vighnēśvara and the entrance is guarded by two horrible door-keepers called Mannadīyār. She has eighteen generals. Pidiāri is said to be the chastizer of all evil spirits because those who hang or poison themselves, or die any violent death, are turned into malignant demons who would destroy the whole human race if not kept in check by Pidiāri; 4 S.II., Vol. II. Introduction, p. 41, note 1.
Fig. 138.—Mutyālamma; Ávani.
patronized like the other orthodox Hindu temples, they are called srikōyil. Four varieties of the goddess Pidārī are known from the records of Rājarāja I of the first quarter of the eleventh century A.D., viz., Punnaitturainangai, “the goddess (living on a river bank), in a grove of punnai trees,” Poduvagai-ūr-udaiyāl, “the village deity common to all (classes),” Kuduraiyattam-udaiyāl “the deity surrounded by (clay) horses,” and Tiruvāl-udaiyāl, “the deity of the sacred banyan tree.”

II

The worship in the shrines of village goddesses is generally performed by non-Brahmans. In the Chingleput and North Arcot districts are a class of priests known as Ōchchans who are exclusively devoted to service in Pidārī temples. They say that they are Brāhmanas of the Šākta creed and perform the worship according to the Tāntrik ritual. Sometimes, but very rarely, Brāhmanas also worship these fearful goddesses installed even within the sacred precincts of orthodox temples. For example, Vattapirai-amman, “the mother who wears the circular crescent (on her head)” at Tiruvottiyūr near Madras, is a goddess of this kind to whom animal sacrifices are offered on fixed days in the year. On such occasions it is stated that the Sudra priest takes the place of the usual Brāhmana and an entrance opening directly into the outer courtyard of the temple—kept closed on other days of the year—is now thrown open for the goddess to receive animal sacrifices and worship from her Sudra or other devotees. After the annual festival is over, the goddess is purified. The buffalo sacrifices, which these village deities are generally fond of, indicate their connexion with Mahishāsuramardini, the slayer of the buffalo-demon and with other similar Tāntrik goddesses mentioned above.

Some of the ceremonies peculiar to the temples of the village goddesses, besides animal sacrifices, are (1) fire-walking, (2) swinging on the sidi with a hook passed through the skin during what is otherwise known as the chakra-?pūjā, (3) lashing oneself with a whip, (4) piercing a metallic wire right through the tongue or through the sides of the mouth, (5) slashing at the breast and forehead with swords until the blood

---

1 Thurston’s “Castes and Tribes,” Vol. V, p. 419f.
2 In many important Śiva temples of the South, I have observed processional images of village goddesses kept in a separate room and worshipped. It is gathered from the priests of the temples that before commencing any important festivals in the Śiva temple, these images are carried in procession and the village deities are first appeased, the expense being met from the Śiva temple.
spurts out, (6) thrusting a spear through the abdomen\(^1\) and (7) carrying on head the *karagam*, lamps of ghee, or earthen pots with blazing fire in them. Annual festivals called *jātras* are generally held in honour of the village deities. But when infectious diseases among men and cattle prevail, special worship is arranged for, to appease the deities by sacrificing animals, offering heaps of cooked rice mixed with blood, or by carrying the *karagam*. This last is celebrated by dressing the selected person who has taken a vow to perform the ceremony, in the yellow cloths of a woman, putting on him the ornaments of women and making him carry on his head a pot or pots profusely decorated with flowers and *margosa* leaves and supposed to contain in them the spirit of the particular goddess for whose propitiation the ceremony is gone through. A class of Tamil-speaking gardeners, called Tigalas in Mysore and allied to the Pallis or Vanniyans of other districts, are particularly devoted to the five Pândavas of the *Mahábhrārata* story, and to their common wife, Draupadi. The illustration from the courtyard of the Draupadī temple at Kumbakonam (fig. 139) shows a group, in which the figure of Bhadrakālī with eight arms and a flaming crown, crushing the head of a giant under her left foot, is distinctly seen. The original goddess of the temple is, however, Draupadī whose metallic figure with that of Arjuna, one of her five husbands, is preserved in the central shrine. The two huge heads seen in the illustration, next to Bhadra-

\(^{1}\) Some of these inhuman practices seem to be but remnants of the older human sacrifices which were once quite a common feature of Sakti worship. Epigraphical evidence has been adduced to show that voluntary human sacrifices were offered even to the male deity Virabhadra (above, p. 151, footnote 2).
followed by four unmarried girls with swords and shields in their hands or of a form of the goddess Durgā surrounded by maids with drawn swords. The Saptamātrikās of the Tāntras are also counted among village deities and are, perhaps, the same as “the Seven Kanniyamār (unmarried girls)” or the “Seven Sisters.” They are frequently appeased by special worship when any unforeseen and sudden illness takes hold of a man. The local fortune-teller, often a woman of the Korava caste, being consulted, says that the patient is possessed by the “sisters” while walking alone in untimely hours of the day near tanks, gardens or groves. At once the goddesses are propitiated. A temporary shrine is constructed. Seven small stones are planted in a row, near a tank, almost touching the edge of the waters, and a small shed erected over them with leaves and flowers. Coconuts, plantains, fried rice and pulse are then offered to the stones and not unfrequently also a fowl. Even Brāhmanas worship the “Seven Sisters” in this way, but when a fowl is to be sacrificed they get a Sūdra to do it. The worship is enjoined to be performed in wet cloth after bathing.

The practice of honouring and even worshipping women who committed sati appears to have been very old in Southern India. Kannagi, the heroine of the Tamil poem Silappadīgāram, died on hearing of the unjust death inflicted upon her husband by the Pāṇḍya king of Madura. She was thenceforth worshipped in shrines built for her throughout Southern India and Ceylon. In the latter island she is known as Pattini and is very popular. The mother of Rājarāja I is stated to have committed sati and in consequence of this act, evidently, an image of her was set up in the temple at Tanjore. Pēranāḷamma, a woman who committed sati, is equally reputed in the Telugu districts. Kanyakā-Paramēśvari who is the tutelar deity of the Vaisya (Kōmati) caste is also connected with the story of a woman entering the sacred fire. The fire-walking ceremony peculiar to the temples of village goddesses may have some connexion with sati.

III

The village gods are not so many in number as the goddesses. Aiyanār, Hariharaputra or Mahā-Sāstā is supposed to be, as his name implies, a son of Siva and Vishnu.¹ When the celestial nectar was obtained by the dēvas and asuras after churning the ocean (see p. 139f, above) they quarrelled about

¹ For a fuller description of Aiyanār and his position among village deities, see S.I.Z., Vol. II. Introduction, p. 40, note.
the distribution of it. Vishnu assumed the form of a beautiful young woman, called Mōhinī, and by her attractions enticed the asuras and made them agree to depute her to distribute the precious liquid equally to all. She of course deceived them and gave the nectar to the gods alone. Siva saw Mōhinī at the time and was enamoured of her. He wedded her, and the result of their union was Hariharaputra. This deity is largely worshipped in Malabar and parts of Tinnevelly and Tanjore. In these districts he is not assigned the subordinate position of a village deity as in others. In the latter, however, he is one of the guardian deities of the village and, as such, is attended by bhūtas and pisāchas. He has long curly hair, a crown and ear-rings of gold-leaves. In his two arms he holds the bow and the arrow. He is dark of colour and is seated on a throne below a banyan tree. In the illustration given (fig. 140) the position of the hands of what is believed to be a figure of Aiyānar does not appear to suit the weapons, bow and arrow, which he is stated to hold. In the figure from Valuvūr he is seen riding on an elephant in the very same posture, holding in his right hand what looks like a whip or an elephant goad (fig. 141). In front of his temple are placed figures of horses, elephants and other animals, made of wood or of painted brick and chunam, which are supposed to serve him as vehicles in his nightly perambulations. A third figure from Rāmēsvaram(fig. 142) represents him as riding on a horse. Pūranai and Pudgalai are stated to be his two wives, and Madurai-Vīran and Pāvadairāyan, his generals. Madurai-Vīran is a historical person whose adventures are noticed in the South Arcot District Gazetteer. Kuttisattan, Sattan, Karuppan, Mundan and Guliyan are the names of some of the malignant demons that attend upon Aiyānar.

Karuppannasāmi is a similar god worshipped by the Kallars of Madura. Chains, clubs, spears and bill-hooks are his symbols; and these are presented by devotees at his shrines as votive offerings. They are generally found either hung on the trees or stuck into the ground. A similar god much dreaded by the people is Munīsvara whose name is quite popular. He is represented by a block of stone, a bush or sometimes a tree. Men and women called Muniyappa, Munisami, Muniyamma, etc., are so named because they were evidently born as the result of propitiating Munīsvara. It

1 We have a similar figure of stone within the Natarāja temple at Chidambaram, which people call Ardhajāma-Alagar.
Fig. 140.—Aiyanar (metal); Tiruppalatturai.
Fig. 141.—Aiyanár (metal) ; Valuvūr.
Fig. 142.—Aiyanar (metal): Râmâsvaram.
might be noted that Buddha is called Muni in the lexicon
Amarakōśa and that the forms of Siva known as Dakshināmūrti,
Bhikshātana, Vīrabhadra, etc., are often those of wandering
mendicants.

Heroes (virulu) who have given up their lives under
romantic circumstances, in the cause of their native village or
province, are also honoured as village deities and festivals
are celebrated to propitiate them. Madurai-Vīran mentioned
above was one of this kind. In the Palnād taluk of the
Guntūr district, temples for heroes are quite a common
feature.

Devil-dances in connexion with the annual festivals of
village deities are common in Malabar and South Canara.
The figures of the devils as represented by the Tuluva devil-
dancers are described in detail with illustrative plates by
Dr. Burnell in his article entitled "Devil Worship of the
Tuluvas," in Indian Antiquary, Volumes XXIII and XXIV.
CHAPTER VII.

MISCELLANEOUS DEITIES.

I

Of the miscellaneous gods found in South-Indian temples, mention may be made of the Navagrahas or "the nine Planets" headed by the Sun. They are installed within the enclosed verandah round the central shrine of a temple with or without a special structure erected over them. The Sun stands in the centre and the others are fixed round him, each in a specified direction. The Planets are highly respected and scrupulously worshipped by the people, as they are believed to influence the destinies of human beings.

II

The worship of the Sun in India has been as old as the Vedas. Dr. Bhandarkar refers to a special class of sun-worshippers in the North called Magas whom he identifies with the Magi of ancient Persia. In the South, there does not appear to be any such class exclusively devoted to the Sun. The worship is common to all. Āditya-grihas (Sun-shrines) are mentioned in inscriptions of the eighth and ninth centuries of the Christian era, in the northern districts of the Presidency; in later times temples of Traipurushadēva are found dedicated to Sun, Siva and Vishnu, with much prominence given to the first as indicated by the sculptures. Evidence of the building of separate Sun-temples in Southern India, earlier than the twelfth century A.D., has not yet been found. The only temple thus far known to be dedicated to the Sun and his attendant Planets exclusively, is the one at Sūriyanārkōyil in the Tanjore district.

The image of the Sun-god, according to the Āgamas, is always to be placed in the centre of the Planets, looking eastward. Round, red, and decorated with red flowers, he must be clothed in garments of variegated colours with flags on his car. The car must have one wheel, drawn by seven

1 *Vaishnavism, Saivism, etc.*, pp. 151 to 155.
2 Madras Epigraphical Report for 1908, Part II, paragraph 60.
horses and be driven by the charioteer Aruna who is represented without legs. The Sun is supposed to be a Kshatriya (sometimes, a Brâhmana) born of the sage Kasyapa. He is the lord of the Kalinga country; he wears a mail armour (kavacha) and robes in the northern fashion. According to the Matsya-Purâna, he is represented seated (or standing) on a lotus seat, holding lotus flowers in his hands and is ever engaged in going round and round the mountain Mêru (fig. 143). His banner is the lion. This is the description of the Sun as the chief of Planets. But within the flaming Orb is recognized the god Narâyana (Vishnu) whose body is golden, who assumes the forms of Brahmâ in the morning, Mahêsvara (Siva) in the midday and Vishnu in the evening. In this composite form he is seated on a lotus pedestal with crocodile ear-rings (makura-kundala) and a crown and exhibits in his hands the conch and discus and all the characteristic weapons of the Trimûrti. An illustration from Chidambaram (fig. 144) evidently represents Sûrya as composed of Brahmâ, Mahêsvara and Vishnu, though the symbols held in the hands do not clearly indicate the same. On the pedestal are shown seven horses driven by Aruna, who, though believed to be without legs, is here represented with them.

Sûrya is also supposed to be the manifest form of the three Vêdas, the sole supporter of universal space, resplendent in his car, surrounded by his consorts, Planets and the celestial damsels. Twelve different forms of the Sun (and sometimes thirty-two) are described, one having red light, another white light and so on. Hêmâdri says that on the right and left sides of the Sun respectively, are represented the attendant gods Danda-Pingala and Ati-Pingala worshipping him, with pen and paper in their hands. His sons Rêvanta, Yama and the two Manus and his four wives Rajî, Svârî, Chhâya and Suvarchasâ also stand on either side of him. It may be noted

1 It may be noted that a famous temple of the Sun is at Konâr in the Kalinga country.

2 Varâhamihira's description of the images of the Sun is given by Dr. Bhanderkar on page 14 of his treatise on Vaisnavism, Saivism, etc. It is inferred from this that the dress worn by him must be non-Indian in its origin. The Aryan which is also stated to encircle the Sun round his waist is identified with the Aisyaarghen of the Avesta language and is taken to signify the kusti worn by the Parsees of the present day.

3 In the Prayâgeratâs the Sun is invoked along with the gods Agni and Rudra. The former is described as the presiding deity of the Sun-god while the latter is the chief source of his energy.

4 The seven horses of the Sun are accordingly interpreted to be the seven metres (chhândas) of the Vêdas.

5 In inscriptions Rêvanta is quoted as the model of a superior horseman.
Fig. 143.—Sūrya; Kumbakonam.
Fig. 144.—Sūrya; Chidambaram.
that a mystic diagram called the Sūrya-yantra is intimately
connected with his worship as in the case of the Sakti
goddesses. It is stated to be a circle bounded one after
another, by a triangle, a circle, a square and two circles of
eight and sixteen radii respectively.

III

The Moon is regarded as one of the Planets surrounding
the Sun and going round and round the mountain Mēru. He
is born of the Sea and of sage Atri and is supposed to be of
the Vaisya caste. He is said to have only face and hands
but no body. He turns towards the Sun, holds white lotuses
in his two hands (or sometimes a club and the boon-conferr-
ing hand) and rides on a two-wheeled1 chariot drawn by ten
horses. Kuja (Mars) is a Kshatriya of Avanti, the son of the
Earth and of sage Bharadvāja, wears red garments and a
crown and has four arms in which are seen the weapons,
club and sakti and the postures varada and abhaya. He faces
the Sun and rides on a ram. Budha (Mercury), the son of the
Moon, is a Vaisya of the Magadha country born in the lineage
of Atri. He has four arms, a yellow body, and the lion vehicle.
He shows in his hands the shield, club, varada and the sword
and faces the Sun. Brihaspati (Jupiter) is a Brāhmaṇa, born
of Angiras. He comes from the Sindhu country and has either
four or two arms, holding, in the latter case, the book and the
rosary. He also faces the Sun. Sukra (Venus), likewise, is a
Brāhmaṇa born of Bhrigu and a native of Bhōjakata. Accord-
ing to Hēmādri he is seated in a golden chariot drawn by
eight horses or in a silver chariot yoked to ten horses. He
has two hands in one of which he holds a nidhi “treasure” and,
in the other, a book. According to other authorities he has
four arms in which are seen the staff, rosary, water-pot and
the varada. Sani or Sanaischara (Saturn) is a Sudra of the
Saurashtra country, and a descendant of Kasyapa, also facing
the Sun. He is supposed to be born of the Sun, to have blue
garments and to ride on a vulture or in an iron chariot drawn
by eight horses. He is represented with two or four hands
and stands on a lotus pedestal, but is more often found seated
with four hands, his weapons being the arrow, trident and
the bow. Rahu and Kētu, the ascending and the descending
nodes, are also represented as images (fig. 145). The former
is described as a Sudra of Paithan with a fearful face, black
clothes and four arms, holding the sword, trident and the
shield. He rides on a black lion and faces the Sun. Kētu is

1 Some authorities say that the chariot is to be three-wheeled.
Fig. 145.—Rahu and Ketu; Chidambaram.
also a Súdra, comes from Kusadvípa and is born in the lineage of Jaimini. He has an ugly face, rides on a vulture and exhibits in his two arms the club and the varada posture.

IV

The next group of gods, frequently depicted though not as Dikpálakas, frequently worshipped as the Planets, are the Dikpálakas, “the eight lords of the quarters.” These are mostly found represented on the central panel of the ceiling in the Mahá-mandapa of a temple.

Indra, the lord of the east, is the chief of them. He is a Vedic god; the lord of all the minor gods. But he has long ago lost the high position assigned to him in Vedic times. The story runs that he seduced Ahalyā,1 the wife of sage Gautama, who cursed him for his lewdness to wear about his body marks of his lascivious conduct, but subsequently changed those marks into a thousand eyes dotted all over his body. Accordingly he is still known as “the thousand-eyed” (Sahasra-äksha). Indra is represented with four arms riding on the celestial elephant Airavata of four tusks (fig. 146). According to the Silpasāra the symbols which he presents are the bow, the protecting hand, the conch and the discus.2 Hémādri adds that his wife Sachí with two arms must be seated on his left thigh. In three of his hands he holds a lotus, goad and a thunderbolt, while the fourth passes round the back of Sachí. One of the arms of Sachí, likewise, is passed round the back of Indra, the other holding a bunch of flowers of the wish-giving tree (kalpa-vriksha).

Agni, the lord of the south-east quarter, is also one of the Vedic gods and perhaps the most prominent of them. As the carrier of offerings to the various other gods in heaven, he plays an important part in the Śrauta sacrifices and in the Smártta ceremonials, where fire oblations are essential. Every Bráhmana house-holder, strictly so called, is required to maintain the sacred fire in his house without quenching it and to offer oblations regularly three times a day, along with his usual prayers to Gáyatrí. Agni, as an image, is represented to be an old man; he is the oldest of the gods and a counterpart of the Sun on earth. He has a red body, two heads, six eyes, seven arms, seven tongues, four horns and three legs.

1 See also the Journal of Indian Art and Industry, No. 106, Plate 143, fig. 1930.

2 The Bhättabhāskariya mentions akhaya, varada, sword and the elephant goad.
Fig. 146.—India; Chidambaram.
He is surrounded by a circle of light, is seated on a lotus pedestal and is supposed to reside in a quadrangle—evidently the quadrangular sacrificial fire-pit. In his seven arms he holds the vessels prākshani (sprinkler), srik (ladle), srava (spoon), pūrṇa-pātra (vessel full of water), tōmara (pestle), fan and the ghee-pot, required in performing a sacrifice. He has braided hair, red garments and a big belly and wears the sacred thread yajnopavita. His vehicle is the ram and his banner, the smoke issuing from the sacrificial fire-pit (fig. 146). He is attended on either side by his two wives Svāhā and Svadhā. Hēmādri describes him as having a single face, three eyes, moustaches and four arms. He rides in a chariot drawn by four parrots and driven by the god of winds, Vāyu. His wife Sāvitri is seated on his left thigh, with a vessel of gems in her hand. In three of his arms Agni holds two flaming tridents and a rosary.

Yama, the lord of the south and the god of Death, has been called Kālahā or Kālaharamūrtti. He is dark of colour, exhibits the club, noose, abhaya and varada in his four arms and rides on a buffalo. The illustration from Chidambaram (fig. 148) shows only two hands in which are held the club and the noose. Hēmādri mentions as his symbols the staff, sword, a flaming trident and the rosary. His wife called Dhumrornā is seated on his left thigh and holds a lime fruit in her left hand. To the right of Yama stand Chitragupta, Udīchya and others who keep a record of the actions of men. To his left stands the fierce Kāla with the death-noose in his hand. Two women called Dharmā “virtue” and Adharmā “vice” are seen on either side of Yama with chauris in their hands.

Nairrīta, the lord of the south-west region, is supposed to be the chief of the Rākshasas. He rides on a mān, wields the mace and the javelin and has Kālikā for his wife. In the Kālikā-Purāṇa he is described as having two hands, holding a sword and shield and riding on an ass. He causes terror to demons, devils and spirits (fig. 149).

Varuna the regent of the west is also the lord of the ocean and of all aquatic animals. He has the crocodile vehicle and four arms. In the two upper hands he holds the serpent and the noose (fig. 150). According to Hēmādri he is seated in a chariot drawn by seven swans. In his four hands he holds the lotus, noose, conch and a vessel of gems and has

---

1 Or the half-moon seat (aśṭadhaṃdrāśana) according to the Mayamata.
Fig. 147.—Agni; Chidambaram.
Fig. 148.—Yama; Chidambaram.
Fig. 149.—Nairita Ahobilam.
FIG. 150.—Varuna: Lépakshi.
an umbrella held over his head. The goddesses Gangā and Yamunā, holding chaurs in their hands, stand on either side of him, the former riding on the crocodile and the latter on the tortoise.

Vāyu, the lord of the north-west, is blue in colour. In his hands are seen a fan, flag, varada and abhaya. He rides on a deer (fig. 151). An image of Vāyu at Chidambaram shows him only with two hands of which the right holds the flag and the left rests on the waist.

Kubēra, the lord of the north and the god of treasures, is a fat, ugly person as his name implies, but serene or self-satisfied and rides on a horse (fig. 152). Hēmādri describes him as riding on a man with his wife Riddhi¹ seated on his left thigh. He is the chief of the demi-gods called Yakshas and Kinnaras. Two treasures personified, viz., Sankhanidhi and Padmanidhi, are supposed to attend upon him on either side. He is the friend of Siva the lord of the adjoining north-east quarter.

V

Nāgas.  2

The worship of the "serpents" (Nāgas)² is prevalent all over India and particularly so in the west coast of the Madras Presidency, where a corner of a house or of a field is exclusively dedicated to the living cobra so that it may dwell there with its family group. In other parts of the Presidency on a particular day of the year sacred to the Nāgas, milk, fruit and coconut are placed near a snake-hole with the object of feeding the cobra. Nāga-images cut on stones as plain serpents with one, three, five, seven or nine hoods, are also worshipped. Sometimes these have a human body above the navel and a serpent's coils below. Female snakes are said to have one hood only.

Snake-stones are installed in temples and other places, on specially prepared platforms under the shade of the pipal and the margosa trees. A ceremony called "the marriage of the pipal-tree" is performed both by Brahmins and non-Brahmans, when Nāga stones are also fixed under these trees amidst great rejoicing. The connexion of the Nāgas with the pipal and the margosa trees is evidently a relic of the ancient tree and serpent worship. Serpents have been worshipped in India from very early times, earlier even, perhaps, than the

¹ The Bhattachārjya calls her Chitrini.
² It is mentioned in the Buddhist Nikāyas among the various systems of belief and superstition that prevailed in the fourth century B.C. (Dr. R. G. Bhandarkar's Vaishnavism, Saivism, etc., p. 3).
Fig. 151. - Vāyu; Lepakshi.
Fig. 152. - Kubera; Lepakshi.
Vedic Sun, Moon and Brahmā. It is believed that a propitiation of the Nāgas conduces towards the production of children. This belief may be traced in other countries also, where there are signs of the once widely prevalent serpent worship. Eight lords of Nāgas are mentioned in the Agamas. The chief of these is Ananta, Sēsha or Ādisēsha, on whose folds Vishnu is supposed to sleep. Fig. 153 represents him in a semi-human form. In an inscription of the twelfth century A.D. the eight Nāgas, Sēsha, Vāsuki, Takshaka, Karkōtaka, Abja (Padma), Mahāmbuja (Mahā-Padma), Sankhadhara and Kulika are invoked to decide about the auspicious or inauspicious nature of the grant.¹

Besides the Nāgas mentioned in the previous paragraph, there are other groups of demi-gods and demons largely depicted in Hindu temples, such as the Yakshas, Vidyādharas, Gandharvas, Apsarasas, Kinnaras and Rākshasas.² These are made to serve, generally, as chauri-bearers to the gods and are represented with a light body flying in the air. They have generally two hands, two eyes and the karandamakuta crown. The Mānasāra describes the Kinnaras as having the legs of a cock the middle part of their body being human and the face beaked like Garuda with spreading wings. They wear a crown on their heads and hold a vinā in their arms. A sketch from Rāmēsvaram illustrates a female Kinnart (fig. 154). The origin and description of these groups of demi-gods are given by W. J. Wilkins in Chapter XI of his Hindu Mythology. Also, the figures of these in their various postures are beautifully illustrated in the rock sculptures known as "Arjuna’s Penance" at Mahābalipuram.

The Dvārapālas seen at the entrance into almost every Hindu shrine are also demi-gods and bear different names being sometimes called Chanda and Prachanda, sometimes Jaya and Viṣaya, or Harabhadrā and Subhadra according as they occupy the second, third or fifth door-way opening into the shrine. In the standing figures of Dvārapālas the right leg is placed straight on the pedestal (svastika) and the left is slightly bent (kunchita). The posture of their body may be: (1) with legs and back partly turned to front; (2) hands resting on the thigh which then is bent in the shape of a plough; or (3) with both hands supporting the gopura. The Silpasangraha states that in form the Dvārapālas are like bhūtas with two big hands in one of which they hold a club. They

¹ Madras Epigraphical Report for 1910, p. 117, para. 60.
² See Pāṇinikarma, Part V, plate 66.
Fig. 153. — Adisesha; Chidambaram.
Fig. 154. — Kinnari; Rāmēśvaram.
have protruding canine teeth, when Saiva, and narrow waists; are beautiful in form, but disfigured in the face (fig. 155). Figures of Dvārapālas are sometimes also found to have four arms and to hold the Saiva or the Vaishnava symbols according as they are placed in Siva or Vishnu temples. The fine image (fig. 156) of a Dvārapāla from Dhārasuram, Tanjore district, which has four arms and is probably Saiva, is stated to have been brought as a trophy from Kalyānapura (i.e., Kalyāna in the Nizam’s Dominions), by the Chōla king Rajadhiraja I, in the middle of the eleventh century A.D.

Entrances into the shrines of goddesses are attended by Dvārapālikās just as those of the gods are guarded by Dvārapālas.

VI

Saints and Sages are also not infrequently figured in temples. The latter include the Vedic rishis and the authors of the early sacred literature of the Hindus, represented as old men, serene and unmindful of mundane affairs. The sacred thread, braided hair, flowing beards and moustaches form the special features of rishi images. They are seated in a meditative posture with the rosary or book and the water-pot or staff in their hands. The seven famous sages Gautama, Bharadvāja, Visvāmitra, Kasyapa, Jamadagni, Vasishtha and Atri are occasionally also represented with their wives, while Nārada, Agastya, Bhrigu, Angiras, etc., are surrounded by their disciples. Nārada (fig. 157) is distinguished from other sages by the vīṇā which he holds in his hands, being always engaged in singing the praises of Vishnu. In Purānas he is described as fond of setting up one against the other and creating quarrels. Hence in common parlance Nārada represents a tale-bearer. Agastya (fig. 158) is dwarfish in stature and pot-bellied. He is supposed to have migrated from north to south and to have dwelt there permanently and developed the Tamil language of which he is said to be the first grammarian. Kapila, the founder of the Sāṅkhya system of Hindu philosophy, holds a water-pot on his lap and has in his two hands the conch and the discus.

1 In the Śilpaśāstra the Dvārapālas of Siva temples are stated to be Nandi and Mahākāla at the eastern entrance; Bhringi and Vināyaka at the southern entrance; the sacred Bull and Skanda at the western entrance and Chandi at the northern.

2 A bronze illustration from Nallūr is given in the Madras Archeological Survey Report for 1921-12, Plate A, fig. 2.

3 In Viśvakarma, Part I, Plate 52, a totally different form of Kapila, from Ceylon, is given. Perhaps he is not identical with the sage described here.
Fig. 155.—Dvārapāla; Tiruvottiyur.
Fig. 156.—Dvārapāla; Dhārāsuraṇa.
Fig. 158.—Agastya; Chidambaram.
the presiding sage of the Indian Medical Science, is supposed to be a form of Vishnu and is found generally figured in company of the Asvins, who are the physicians of the gods. He holds a pot of nectar in his hands.

Among the human beings who have attained sainthood may be included the great religious reformers such as Sankarāchārya, Rāmānujāchārya, Madhvāchārya and others. The first is represented as a sannyāsin (mendicant) with a bald head and a body besmeared with ashes. He holds a book in his left hand and shows the chinmudrā, the teaching pose of fingers, in the other. The staff and the water-pot (kundikā) which are the symbols of the sannyāsin, are found placed by his side. Seated on the tiger's skin in the padmāsana posture he is surrounded by attendant pupils. Sankarāchārya may also be found decorated with a necklace of rudrāksha-beads which are sacred to Siva. The illustration from Tiruvottiyūr (fig. 159) shows Gaultsvara (Gaudapāda?), the teacher's teacher of Sankarāchārya, with four arms, occupying the highest seat. Below him to the right is Sankarāchārya and below him on the pedestal are depicted the latter's four pupils. Rāmānujāchārya has the sānjali-mudrā, i.e., hands folded together over the breast in a worshipping posture, the triple staff (tridanda) and a head-dress. He wears the Vaishnava caste marks ěrdhvapundra (or nāmam) made of white clay and red pigment (fig. 160 (d)). Vedānta-Dēsika (fig. 160 (b)) is also a Srī-Vaishnava teacher of great fame. Madhvāchārya, like Sankara, is a bald-headed sannyāsin with the chinmudrā, the book, the staff and the kundikā. He wears the caste mark ěrdhvapundra and the Vaishnava symbols of conch, discus, etc., made on his body either of sandal-paste or of the yellow clay called gōpichandana.

Saiva and Vaishnava saints (called Nāyanārs and Alvarś) are sixty-three in number and the latter twelve are also occasionally installed in temples, their images being made either of metal or of stone. The most famous of the former are Appar, Sundarar and Tirumānasambandar, 2

---

1 These are the two gods Nāsatya and Dasra mentioned in the Vēdas. They are of the form of a horse except in their faces and are found together, seated on the same lion-pedestal. In two of their arms they exhibit the abhaya and the book. On their right are represented the medical herbs Mritasanjivani and Visālyakaranī and on their left, the sages Dhanvantari and Atriya (7).

2 In the Madras Archeological Survey Report for 1911-12, Plate 11, figs. 1-4, are given illustrations of four bronze images which represent Appar, Mānikkavāsagar, Jñānasambandar and Sundarar (7). Firmakarma, Part IV, Plates 62 and 63, illustrate figures of Mānikkavāsagar and Sundaramūrti (Sundarar) from Ceylon. Havell gives a picture of Appar (Ideals of Indian Art, Plate XIV). In the

—17—A
FIG. 159. — Gauñisvara (Gaudapāda?) and Sankarāchārya; Tiruvottiyūr.
whose devotional hymns in praise of the many Saiva shrines of the South are collected together under the name Devāram and are regarded as scriptures by the devout section of the Saivas. Stories relating to the pious lives of the sixty-three Saiva devotees are recorded in the book called Periyapurāṇam, which was written about the end of the thirteenth century of the Christian era. Māṇikkavāsagar, the author of the Tiruvāsagar, is also a saint of great reputation. A beautiful image of his (fig. 161) comes from Tiruvarangulam in the Pudukkottai State. An illustration from Madura (fig. 162) of Kāraikkal-Ammai, one of the female Saiva saints counted among the sixty-three, gives a true picture of how devotion and severe penance are expected to reduce the physical body to a skeleton. Like the Saiva scriptures, the hymns of the Vaishnava saints (Ālvārs) (see Tirumangai-Ālvār, fig. 160 (c) above), are also collected under the name Nālāyirapprabandham and form the accredited scriptures of the Tengalai section of Srī-Vaishnavas. The lives of the Ālvārs are given in the book entitled Guruparamparāprabhāva.

Numerous other images are mentioned in the Āgamas, Purāṇas and similar other works. These are rarely, if at all, depicted in temples. The nine Prajāpatis, the eight Vasus, the seven (or sometimes forty-nine) Maruts, the ten Visvedēvas, the fourteen Manus, the nine Chiranjīvins, are all personified and described with their weapons and vehicles. Even the sixty-four sciences, the sixty years of the cycle, the months, fortnights, days, constellations, signs of the zodiac, seasons, solstices, oceans, quarters, mountains, rivers, etc., are similarly personified and described. It is not necessary to consider them in any detail.

VII

A brief description may now be given of the Digambara Jaina images, of which we have a good number in the districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, South Canara and other parts of the Madras Presidency. It is not possible to enter here into a detailed enquiry of Jaina ritual, symbolism, ideology, etc. We
Fig. 161.—Mānilkavāsagar (metal); Tiruvatangalam.
Fig. 162.—Kāruikkāl-Ammai; Madura.
may simply note what the Hindu Silpa-Sästras say about them. The general description of Jaina images, as supplied by these works, is that they must have long arms so as to reach the knees, the mark of Srivatsa on the breast (which was found to be peculiar to Vishnu), a calm countenance, broad forehead, head covered with starry rings of hair, hanging earlobes, high nose, delicate limbs and a naked body which looks young and beautiful. Figures of Arhatadéva (i.e., a Jaina Saint) may be made movable or immovable, standing or seated. The material used must be the white, red, yellow, or black stone, crystal or metal. Whether standing or seated the images must have a straight back and in the latter case, the padmásana or the siddhásana posture with the hands crossed over the lap palm in palm, the right being below and the left above. The pedestal of Jaina Saints is always a simhásana, "lion-seat," surmounted by a "crocodile-aureola" (makara-törana) fixed at the back of the image. Over the aureola are depicted the kalpa-tree, the Indras and Dëvas, the demi-gods of Jaina mythology. Sometimes there may also be sages (like Narada) attending upon the Jina and Yakshas, Yakshis, Vidyadhāras, Chakravartins, Nāgendras and Dikpālakas holding chauris, on either side of him. Images used by the Jainas in daily worship at home or in Mathas include the Panchaparaméshṭhins who wear neither clothes nor jewels. At the entrance into the shrines of Jina are placed the gatekeepers Chanda and Mahā-Chanda, as in Hindu temples. Jainas are divided into two main divisions, the Svēttāmbaras and the Digambaras. The former are not found in the south while they have their important seats at Sravana-Belgola in the Mysore State, Müdbidri, Kārkali and Yēnūr in South Canara, Tīrūmalai near Pōlūr in North Arcot, Sīttāmūr in South Arcot and various other places. A descriptive account of the images of Digambara Jainas with illustrative plates has been given by Dr. Burgess in his article entitled "Digambara Jaina Iconography" in Indian Antiquary, Vol. XXXII, pp. 45 ff. It shows that the gods and goddesses of the Jainas are as numerous and as richly conceived as those of the Hindu Pantheon, and have their prescribed weapons, jewellery, vehicles and symbols.

VIII

In concluding this small treatise on South Indian gods and goddesses, it will not be out of place to dwell briefly upon the pedestals, postures, symbols, weapons and jewellery of images, although most of these have been noticed where they occur incidentally, in the above pages.
Pedestals.

The **Mayamata**, speaking of pedestals in general, says that they are triangular, half-moon-shaped, square or circular (?).¹ Nine pedestals (pitahas) are mentioned by name, viz., bhadrapitha, vajrapitha, padmapitha, mahāmbuja (the big lotus), srikara, pithapadma, mahāvajra, saumyaka, and srikāmya. Of these, the first and the third are pictured on the accompanying Plate I, as Nos. 13 and 12. No. 16 on the same Plate, perhaps, represents mahāmbuja.

Postures.

The postures, symbols and weapons of images differ according as the image is conceived to be either in a fighting attitude or as bestowing bliss and knowledge on its worshippers. Sometimes, even though the weapons of war are exhibited in the hands of an image, it may yet be considered peaceful if it only shows the positions of the hands known as abhaya and varada. The posture, sukhāsana, in a seated image (Plate I, No. 14) and the posture samapādāsthānakā in a standing image (Plate II, No. 4) are generally adopted in conferring bliss, just as the position of the hands abhaya (Plate IV, No. 7) and varada (Plate III, No. 23) indicate the same. The ālidhā² (Plate II, Nos. 5 and 6) and the utkātika³ postures (Plate I, No. 15) denote respectively the heroic attitude in actual fighting and the angry mood that immediately follows it. The padmāsana (Plate I, No. 16) and the yogsāsana (Plate II, No. 1) postures show either the meditative or the teaching attitude. The position of the legs (Plate II, Nos. 2 and 3) adopted in the case of the standing images of Gopāla and Natarāja show not only a graceful and artistic attitude but, evidently, also indicate the ecstasy of joy. It may be noted that in all figures of gods and goddesses standing in any position, the ideal beauty is recognized to consist in the three bhāngas (bends) which according to the Silpasangraha are abhanga (slight bend), samabhanga (medium bend) and atībhanga (great bend). Each of these three bends may be found separately or together in one and the same image.⁴

---

¹ According to the Prayāgaratna the nine Planets are to be seated on circular, quadrilateral, triangular, arrow-shaped, rectangular, pentagonal, bow-shaped, winnow-shaped and flag-shaped pedestals.

² The ālidhā posture is assumed generally in drawing the bow and discharging the arrow.

³ There is reason to suppose that the posture known as virāsana wherein one leg has to be placed on the other so as to rest on that thigh, is sometimes substituted for utkātika. Perhaps they are synonymous.

⁴ See South Indian Bronzes by O. C. Gangoly, p. 401f. The Silpasangraha describing a particular form of Rāma states that it consists of three bhāngas or bends, the face slightly leaning to the right, the middle of the body to the left and the portion below the waist, again, to the right.
The symbols of the gods and goddesses apart from the weapons which they wield, such as the goad (Plate IV, No. 8), noose (No. 9), disc (Nos. 10 and 10a), shield (No. 12), sword (No. 13), pestle (No. 14), axe (No. 15), trident (Nos. 16 and 16a), thunderbolt (Nos. 20 and 20a), club (Plate III, No. 1), sakti or vī (No. 2), tanka (No. 3), arrow (No. 4), bow (No. 5), fire (No. 6) and khatvānga (No. 11), are very few. Goddesses, perhaps as a sign of beauty, hold in their hands a lotus-bud (Plate IV, No. 18 and Plate I, No. 3), a mirror (Plate III, No. 8) or a parrot perching on the back of the palm (Plate IV, No. 19). The rosary (Plate IV, Nos. 1 and 2), the water-pot (Nos. 3 and 4), the book (No. 5), the position of the fingers known as chinnamudrā (Plate III, No. 16) and jñānamudrā (No. 14) denote meditation, purity and knowledge. The conch of Vishnu (Plate IV, No. 11 and Plate I, No. 4a), the kettle-drum dhakkā of Siva (Plate III, No. 12 and Plate IV, No. 24) and the bell in the hands of some gods and goddesses (Plate III, No. 7) may be taken as equipments for fight, though not as actual weapons, offensive or defensive. The deer held by Siva as a trophy on the occasion when he destroyed the sacrifice of his father-in-law Daksha (Plate IV, No. 17), the serpent (Plate I, No. 46) and the kapāla (Plate III, No. 21 and Plate IV, No. 23a) may be considered only as symbols specially distinguishing him from the other gods. The same has to be said of the kukkuta "cock" (Plate III, No. 3a) of Skanda, of the broken tusk¹ (Plate IV, No. 21) of Vināyaka and of the flag (No. 22) of Vāyu, "the god of winds."

Some of the purely artistic positions of the hand are: the simhakarna (Plate I, No. 1), the kataka (Plate IV, No. 4a), the katiga "hand resting on the waist" (Plate IV, No. 6), the position in which the hand hangs down freely "like the tail of a cow" (Plate I, No. 2), the placing of the kūrvara by Siva on the head of the bull (Plate III, No. 9), the gajahasta of Natarāja (No. 19) and the position in which Siva as Bhikshatana touches the mouth of the antelope (Plate III, No. 17).² Some other significant positions of the hand are those known as sūchi "the pointing finger" (Plate III, No. 13 and Plate IV, No. 23), tarjani "the threatening finger" (Plate III, Nos. 18 and 26) and the vismaya "wonder" (Plate III, Nos. 15 and 22 and Plate I, No. 4). The three latter are generally found in the figures of Siva and of guardian deities.

¹ For the story of the broken tusk with which Vināyaka (Ganapati) is stated to have written the Mahābhārata, see above, p. 176.
² This last position is called simhakarna. In images of Tripurāntakamūrti, the arrow is held by one of the right hands which is, again, stated to be in the simhakarna pose.
Jewellery, crowns, etc.

The jewellery of images corresponds in most cases to the jewels of the present day worn by men as well as by women. Most of these have been mentioned in the above pages in the general descriptions of gods and goddesses. It has only to be noted that a very large number of them, such as necklaces, breast-plates, girdles, armlets, bracelets, wristlets, anklets, arm-rings, finger-rings, and toe-rings, made of gold and set with various gems,¹ are mentioned in the Tanjore inscriptions as having been presented to the images in the Brihadisvara temple, by the great Chōla king Rājarāja I, in the first quarter of the eleventh century A.D. The different fashions of making up the hair seem to have also occupied the attention of Indian artists. The jatās (matted hair) of Siva, arranged generally in the form known as jatāmakuta (Plate I, No. 8), show other varieties such as jatāmandala (Plate II, No. 6), jatābhāra (No. 9) and jatābandha (No. 7). The terrible form of Siva, known as Pāsupatamūrti, has the jatāmakuta with flames of fire surrounding it (Plate I, No. 11). Natarāja’s jatās, whether flying in the air or tied up in a knot have a bunch of peacock’s feathers decorating them (Plate I, No. 5). Vishnu has generally a kiritamakuta, i.e., a crown (Plate I, No. 7). The goddesses either wear the crown called karandamakuta (Plate II, No. 8)² or have their hair parted in the middle like the Indian women of to-day. In figures of Jyeṣṭhā, is seen a peculiar fashion of dressing the hair known as vāsikābandha (Plate I, No. 10). Other peculiar head-dresses, whose names are not known, also occur occasionally (see, e.g., Plate I, No. 9).

¹ See above p. 8, fig. 4. One of the peculiar jewels worn by images of Siva such as Nataraja, Dakshināmūrti, Bhikṣhūtana, Kankāla, etc., is the bhringiçāda (Plate II, Nos. 3 and 4). It may be noted that the priestly class among Lingāyatas, called Jangams, wear such a jewel when they go out for receiving doles.

² When represented independently and in a fighting or otherwise terrible attitude, they may wear the jatāmakuta like male deities.
PLATE II.—Pedestals, postures, etc.
PLATE III.—Pedestals, postures, etc.
INDEX

(Note: Figures after articles refer to pages; the following abbreviations are used: n. = footnote; s.a. = same as; de. = ditto; q.v. (quod vide) = which see.)

A
abhanga, slight bend of body in images, 162, 168, 266.
abhaya, protecting pose of hand in images (q.v.), 10, 41, 43, 64n, 66, 76, 77, 79, 84, 88, 89n, 93, 97, 110, 114, 148, 177, 178, 189, 190, 194, 199, 202, 212n, 239, 243, 248, 259n, 266.
Abja, serpent-chief, 251.
Adavallan, Tamil name for Nataraja, 82n, 88n.
Adharnaa (vice), chant-bearer of Vana, 243.
Adi-Chamala, er Adidasa-Chandessa, epiph. of Chamala, 161, 162.
Adimpititta, s.a. Valkuntha-Narayana, 520.
Adisesha, s.a. Sessha, 251.
Aditya-ghrtha, a Sun-shrine, 235.
Aditya-Purana, 103.
Aditharavata, s.a. Varaha, 22.
Agastya, sage, 90, 254.
Aghora, one of the five images constituting Panchadehasamurti, 77.
Aghora-murti, form of Siva, 148, 151.
Agni, fire, regent of the south-east quarter, 196, 236n, 241, 243.
Ahalya, wife of Gautama, 241.
Ahowvanja, one of the three sacrificial fires, represented by the goddess Saraswati, 220.
Ahobalam, village in the Kurnool district, 26.
Airavata, the elephant of Indra, 241.
Aivyaonghen, identified with Aivanga, 236n.
Aiyarnar, village god, 229, 230.
Alakapad, one of the Eleven Rudras, 97, 223n.
Alagyanachchiyam, village deity, 224.
Alakshmi, s.a. Jyeshthaa, 216n.
Alambakkam, village in the Tanjore district, 196.
Alavattu-Pillaiyaa, Ganapati image mentioned in the Tanjore inscription, 176.
Alithaa, posture in sitting, 26, 213, 266; in sitting, 197.
Alingasamurti, form of Chandrashekara, 114.

Alkkondar, epiph. of Kshetrapala at Tiruvadi, 159n.
Alvaar, epiph. of Vaishnavas saints, 250, 262.
Amarakosa, Sanskrit lexicon, 62, 155n, 234.
Amaravati, village in the Guntur district, 25.
Aniritesvar, s.a. Varnun, 220.
Anusmat-Tantra, 79, 103, 107, 114.
Anamalai, village in the Madura district, 218n.
Ananda-tandava, variety of Nataraja's dance, 79, 84.
Ananta, s.a. Sessa, 50, 251.
Ananta-sayin or Anantasayan, form of reclining Vishnu, 50.
Andhaka, demon, devotee of Siva, 165n.
Angira, sage, father of Brihaspati (Jupiter), 239, 254.
Aniruddha, form of standing Vishnu, 52n, 55.
Ankalamma, village deity, 220n, 223, 224.
Annapurna, goddess, 218, 220.
Appasmara, demon, 79, 84, 90, 141.
Appar, Saiva saint, 259.
Appaya-Dilshita, Saiva philosopher, 89.
Appsarasas, class of celestial nymphs, 251.
Appy, goddess, 223.
Aravan, son of Arjuna, 227.
Archaeological Survey Report—of India, quoted, 43s, 143n; of Madras, quoted, 22n, 100n, 125, 148n, 254n, 259n.
ardhachandravana, pedestal of Agni, 243n.
Ardhajanya-Alagar, s.a. Aiyarnar, 230n.
Ardha-mandapa, vestibule in front of the central shrine of a temple, 2.
Ardhanari, form of Siva, 74, 76n, 120, 165.
Ardaa, asterism sacred to Nataraja, 82.
Arbhamodeva, a Jain saint, 265.
Arivambakkam, village in the Chingleput district, 22.
Arjuna, one of the five Pandavas, 47, 141, 143, 227.
Arjuna's Penance, bas-relief of rock-cut sculptures at Mahabalipuram, 143, 251.
Arka-pushpa, jewel decorating the jatamakuta of Siva, 76.
arro, weapon, in the hand of Aiyarnar, 229n; of Durjya, 109, 202; of Kalligna Raudra, 155; of Kuma, 62; of Kiratajiuna, 143n; of Lallita, Triparasundari and Rajarajeshvari, 22; of Rama
INDEX

and Lakshmana, 33: — of Sani, 239; — of Skanda, 177, 178; — of Sudarshan, 66; — of Tripurântaka, 140, 207; — of Viṣṇu, 155, 159; — of Viṣṇu, 178, 55.
Aruma, characteur of Śūrya, 335, 436.
Avadhâna-Virakshâ, form of Lakshmi, 134.
Aśhta-Mahâlakshmi, the eight (forms of) Lakshmi, 187.
Aśtamūrtis, class of Śiva-images, 77.
Aṣṭâṅga-Vijñāna, group of goddesses attending on Suraprijā, 212.
Aṣṭa-Siddhi, group of goddesses recognised as consorts of Gana, 173.
Āśramma, village deity, 224.
Aśoka, Maurya emperor, 165n.
aśoka-flower, one of the five arrows of Kāma, 62.
Aṣutras, i.e. dānavas, 59, 211, 229, 230.
Avinis, the twin physicians of the gods, 259.
Aśvaghosa, great bend of body in images, 266.
Āṭṭi-Pingala, attendant of Śūrya, 236.
Āṭṭānačanda-Pallavēsvara, rock-cut temple at Śālavankappam, 107.
Āṭṭeya, sage (?), 259n.
Aṭṭi, sage, 116, 239, 254.
Avantakāma-Pālavēsvara, surname of Dharmanāraja-raiha, 107.
Āvudaiyār, Tamil name for the pedestal of a Śiva-linga, 73.
Avantī, country, 70, 239.
avatār, an incarnation (especially of Viṣṇu), 32, 36, 39, 32, 35, 37, 47, 59, 64.
Avesta, scripture of the Parsees, 236n.
Avvanga, name of the thread seen round the waist of Śiva-images, 236n.
Ayōdhya (Oudh), city, 35.
axe or hatchet (parān, parām), weapon, in the hand of Saiva images, 77, 93, 97n, 103, 110, 114, 120, 125, 137, 140, 141, 143, 147, 148, 162, 173, 178: — of Sudarshan, 66.

B
Bādami, Chalukyan rock-cut temple at, 24.
Bādānabārama, the modern Braṭi-Nārāyana, 47.
Bāgali, village in the Bellary district, 114, 187.
Bāla-Krishna, form of Krishna, 38, 41.
Bala-pramaṇhāni, the Sakti (goddess) of Bala-pramaṇhāna (Śiva), 190n.
Balarāma (Baladeva), brother of Krishna, considered as an incarnation of Viṣṇu, 378, 436.
Bāla-Sakti, goddess presiding over the six ēka-trīra, 222
Bāla-Tripura-sundari, goddess, 218.
Bālavikarani, the Sakti (goddess) of Bālavikarani (Śiva), 190n.
Bāḷā-yantra, mystic charm connected with the worship of Bāḷā-Sakti, 222.
Bali, demon, 30, 32.
Bāna, demon, devotee of Śiva, 113: — variety of Śiva-linga, 73n.
Bangalore district, 217.
Bangārama, i.e. Pomamma, 224.
Barbaras, an aboriginal tribe, 223.
Bārattā, Buddhist goddess, 194n.
Benares, 218n.
bhadrapātha, form of pedestal, 266.
bhadrābhadrā, etc, Mantra of the Rig-Veda, 37n.
Bhagavali-Gītā, ' the Divine Song', 37, 47.
Bhāgavata-Purāṇa, 37, 47.
Bhagiratha, mythical king of the Solar race, 129, 132.
Bhairova, fierce emanation of Śiva, 74, 113, 151, 155, 159n, 161, 282n.
Bhairov, epithet of Māhēśvarī, 194: — form of Kālī, 199.
Bhandānura, demon, 222.
bhanga, the (three) artistic flexions of body in images, 266.
Bharadvāja, sage, 90, 239, 254.
Bharata, brother of Rāma, 37.
Bhāratī, i.e. Sarasvatī, 82n.
Bhāratīya-Nāṭyasāstra, name of a Sanskrit work, 88n.
Bhāravi, Sanskrit poet, 143.
Bhārgava, sage, 90.
Bhāmasūra, demon, 165.
Bhatta-Bhāskarīya, work quoted in the Tattvānādi, 241n, 248n.
Bhāvāni, village in the Coimbatore district, 165.
Bhavānī, r.s, Pārvati, 190n.
Bhāḍa-Sakti (jealousy), consort of Kāma, 62.
Bhikṣāhindākārya, village in the Trichinopoly district, 76.
Bhikṣāhāna or Bhikṣāhānamūrti, form of Śiva, 74, 76n, 97, 109, 103, 334, 267, 268n.
bhindrāva, weapon, in the hand of Nandi, 162.
Bhūga-Sakti, goddess, connected with Sūmāskanda, 110: — Pārvati standing on the left side of Śiva or the Śiva-linga, 185n.
Bhōga-Vitra, the standing form of Vṛatbhadra, 159.
Bhōjakata, country, 239.
Bhūmigar, 90, 239, 254.
Bhringi, Bhringirī or Bhringīsa, devotee and attendant of Sīva, 113, 120n, 161, 165: name of the Drārāpala at the southern entrance into Sīva temples, 254n.
bhringipāda, ornament seen on the right leg of Sīva images, 160, 268n.
Bhū (Earth), consort of Vишnu, 22, 189.
Bhūjangalalīa, variety of Natarāja's dance, 83n.
Bhūjangarāśā, do., 82n.
Bhūtī, a demon, 148, 230, 251.
Bhūtāmatā, goddess, 216.
Bhūvarāhī, i.e., Varāha, 22.
Bijā-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 176.
bijapūra, fruit, symbol in the hand of Mahā-Ganapati, 173.
bill-hook, symbol in the hand of Karuppannāsāmi, 230.
bilva, fruit, symbol in the hand of Gajalakṣmi, 187.
Binayakia, Japanese name for Vināyaka, 168.
bindu (dot), connected with mystic charms called yantras and chakras, 232.
boar, crest of the Western Chakrīkya, Kākātīya, Reddi and Vijayanagara kings, 24.
Boar or Man-Boar (Varāha), incarnation of Vishnu, 22, 24, 93.
bones, garland of, found on Saiva images, 125, 212.
book, symbol, in the hand of the Asinas, 259n: of Bālag-Sakti, 222; of Brahmas, 107; of Brīhaspati, 239; of Dakshināmūrti, 90, 93; of Hayagriva, 55; of Madhavācharyā, 259; of rishi-images, 254; of Sankarāchārya, 259; of Sarasvatī, 185; of Sūkra, 239.
boon-giving pose of hand in images, 52n, 77, 100, 139w, 162, 168, 173, 187, 218. See varada.
bow, weapon, in the hand of Aiyānār, 239: of Chāmundi, 194, 206; of Durgā, Mahishāsuramardini and Mahā-Lakṣmi, 169, 206; of Indra, 241; of Kālagni-Rudra, 155; of Kāma, 62; of Kirātrījuna, 143; of Rāma and Lakshmana, 35; of Sani, 239; of Skanda, 177, 178; of Sudarṣana, 66; of Tripūrāntaka, 140; of Vīrabhadra, 155, 159; of Vishnu, 17w, 39, 55.
Brahmā, god, the Creator, 10, 11, 24, 32, 50, 52, 73w, 74, 82n, 93, 97, 100, 103, 113, 141, 184, 185, 194, 197, 213n, 224n, 236, 251.
brāhmacārīn, an unmarried student of the Vedas, 70, 173, 177.
Brahmacārīni, form of Durgā, 202.
Brahma-kapālām, place of pilgrimage on the Himalayas, 100.

Brahman, the all-pervading Eternal Spirit, 10, 30, 70, 74.
Brāhmaṇa, caste, 7, 38, 41, 55, 70, 71, 100, 168, 197, 213n, 226, 229, 236, 239, 241.
Brāhmaṇavarta-Purāṇa, 10n, 168n.
Brāhmaṇī or Brahmani, one of the Saptamātrikās, 190, 194, 196.
Brāhmaṇī-Silpa, work on Arts, 22n, 38n, 47n, 52n.
brāst-chand, made on images of Durgā, 199, 206; of Pratyangīti, 213n.
Bṛhatīśvāra, temple, at Tanjore, 77, 88n, 155, 176, 268.
Bṛhaspati (Jupiter), planet, 239.
Brīdāvāna (Brīdābān), village, 37, 38, 41, 43, 47.
brook, symbol of Sītalā, 213.
Buddha, saint, 73: —incarnation of Vishnu, 22, 47; —called Muni, 234.
Buddhism, 73, 184.
Buddhist, 2n, 77w, 168n, 185, 194n, 213n, 226n, 238n.
Buddha (Mercury), planet, 239.

C

cane, symbol in the hand of Nandi, 162n.
Castes and Tribes (Thurston), quoted, 226n.
caverns and rock-cut beds, 2n.
Ceylon, island, 64n, 114w, 125n, 229, 254n, 259n.
chain, symbol of Karuppannāsāmi, 230.
chaiti, a temple, 2.
chakra (circle, r.), symbol of Vishnu, 26, 38n, 52, 55, 70.
Chakrapāni, temple, at Kumbakonam, 70.
Chakra-Purāṇa, i.e., Sudarṣana, 66.
chakra-pāja, ceremony observed in temples of village deities, 226.
chakras, mystic diagrams connected with Sakti worship, 185, 220, 222.
Chakra-tīrtha, tank, source of the river Ganakāl, 70.
Chakravartini, group of demi-gods of Jaina mythology, 295.
Chalukya, Western, dynasty, 24.
Chalukyan Architecture (Rea), quoted, 52n.
Chāmundi (Chandī), one of the Saptamātrikās, 190, 194, 196: —epithet of Mahishāsuramardini, 194w, 195, 197, 202, 206.
Chanda, name of Chandesa in the Trīṣa-yuga, 161: —of a Drārāpala image, 251;
INDEX

— of the guardian deity in shrines of Jina, 265.
Chandrasimhâ, form of Durgâ, 202.
Chanda-Munda, demon, 197n., 222.
Chandesa, devotee and attendant of Siva, 143, 147, 159, 161, 162.
Chandesâmmugra or Chandasesamugra-murti, form of Siva, 76n., 143, 147, 162.
Chandesava, s.a. Chandasesamugra, 76n.
Chandesvaraprasadadeva, de., 147.
Chandi, s.a. Chandesa, 254m.
Chanith or Chandika, s.a. Mahishasura-mardini, 190n., 196, 202, 206, 224.
Chandrahalpa, work quoted in the Tattva-nidhi, 197n., 206.
Chandimana, village, 143n.
Chandragiri, village in the Chittoor district, 35n., 137.
Chandrasekhara or Chandrasekharamurti, form of Siva, 76n., 93, 114, 148.
Charhara, form of Kâlî, 193.
Chatumukha or Chaumukhi, form of Jaina images, 77n.
Chaturanga-Chintamani, name of a Sanskrit work, 24.
Chatuvalahahikâla, the sixty-four sciences, 187.
Chhatamana, village deity, 224.
Chaur (châmar), a fly-whisk, 3, 11, 52n., 194, 199, 211, 248, 251, 265.
Chauhanshiti-Yogini, goddess of goddesses, 223n.
Chêra, country, 2n.
Cheththakarî, title of Mahendhravarman I., 2.
Chihâya, consort of Sûrya, 236.
Chilambaran, village in the South Arcot district, 11, 55, 74, 83, 84n., 93n., 107, 125, 141, 143, 147, 175, 236, 243, 248;—its history, 88;—the Nataraja temple at, 230n.
Chingleput district, Jaina temples in, 262.
Chinnmâdra, pose ofingers, 259, 267.
Chiranjivins, the nine, 262.
Chitragupta, attendant of Yama, 243.
Chitrîni, consort of Kubera, 248n.
Chôla, dynasty, 2, 77, 88, 89, 93, 107, 114n., 176, 210, 224, 254, 265.
Club, symbol, 35;—in the hand of Buddho, 239;—of Dvarapala images, 251;—of Garuda, 64n.;—of Kâla (Yama), 137, 243;—of Karuppansasakam, 230;—of Ketu, 241;—of Kollapura-Mahalakhmi and Ashvarajja-Virakalakhmi, 189;—of Kuja (Mars), 239;—of Mahâ-Ganapati, 173;—of Moon, 239;—of Sarasvatî, 218n.;—of Siva, 77r.;—of Skanda, 178;—of Sudarsana, 66;—of Vira-bhadra, 155;—of Vishnu, 17, 26, 30;—of Vishvaksena, 64. See gada.
Cock banner of Skanda, 218n. See lakhu.
Conch, symbol, 3, 35;—in the hand of Durgâ (Kâtyâyani), Châmûndâ, Mahishasuramardini and Mahâ-Lakshmî, 195, 199, 202, 206, 211;—of Gaja-Lakshmi, 187;—of Garuda, 64n.;—of Gûvinda-Bhairava and of Samhâra-Bhairava, 151;—of Indra, 241;—of Kâma, 62;—of Kapila, 254;—of Lalitâ, Triprarasundari and Râjarâjesvari, 220;—of Mahâ-Ganapati, 173;—of Sarasvatî, 218n.;—of Skanda, 178;—of Sudarsana, 66;—of Sûrya, 33, 236;—of Trikantakidvî, 213;—of Varuna, 243;—of Vishnu, 17, 22, 26, 30, 43, 107, 113, 125, 267;—of Vishvaksena, 62;—made of sandal or gopichandana, 259.
See samhâra.
Conjeeveram, village in the Chingleput district, 2, 22n., 89n., 162n., 222.
Corpse, vehicle of Châmûnda, 194;—of Mahâkâli, 197;—carried by Ugra-Târâ on her head, 213.
Crown, ornament on the head of Siva, 76, 77, 82, 103, 114;—of Ganapati, 173;—of Sakti goddesses, 185, 194, 202.
Crock, vehicle of Ganga-Ganga, 224n., 248;—of Varuna, 243.
Crocodile, vehicle of Iyersthâ, 216, 218n.;—vehicle of Tvaritâ, 212n.
Cup, symbol, in the hand of Gûvinda-Bhairava and Kâla-Bhairava, 151;—of Kollapura-Mahalakhmi, 189;—of Mahâkâla, 155;—of Mahâkâli, 197;—of Lalitâ, Triprarasundari and Râjarâjesvari, 220. See pot and vessel.
Dâhinî, attribute of Kâma's arrow, 62.
Daksha, sage, 89, 155, 159, 267.
Dakshinâmurti, form of Siva, 74, 76w., 89, 90, 93, 147, 234, 265n.
Dânavas, demons, 30, 140.
Dandanantha-Vârâhi, form of Vârâhi, 194n.
Danda-Pingala, attendant of Sûrya, 236.
Dârâkâvana, forest, scene of Siva's sport as Bhikshâdâna, 79n., 100.
Dasara, festival, 187.
Dasaratha, king of Ayâlhyâ and father of Râma, 35.
Dasra, one of the Asvins, 259n.
Dâttâtreyâ, god, 116.
Death, the god of, s.a. Kâla, 132, 137, 148, 151.
Deer (antelope, black-buck), symbol, in the hand of Saiva images, 77, 89n., 90, 93, 97, 103, 110, 114, 129, 132, 137n., 140, 141, 143, 147, 159, 162, 267;—vehicle of Vâyu, 248;—accompaniment of Bhikshâdana, 100;—of Kânkâla, 103;—of Natarâja, 82.
Dévabhâvî, epithet of Sunarpiyâ, 212.
Dévaki, mother of Krishna, 41, 196.
Dêvâram, collection of Saiva Tamil hymns, 72, 89, 262.
deva, demi-gods, 24, 79, 82n, 134, 140, 224; — of Jain mythology, 265.
Dëvayana (Dëvasena), consort of Skanda, 178.
devil-dances, 234.
dhakka (kettle-drum q.v.), symbol in the hand of Siva, 76, 77, 267.
Dhanvantari, sage, the presiding deity of Indian Medical Science, 254, 259n.
Dharmavara, i.e. Varaha, 22.
Dharmasaram, village in the Tanjore district, 120, 125, 129, 254, 267.
Dharma, form of Brahma, 11 Dharma, chauri-bearer of Yama, 243.
Dharmaraja-ratha, monolithic monument at Mahabalipuram, 107.
Dharmaraja, one of the five Pandavas, 227.
Dharmavakyamamurti, epithet of Dakshinamurti, 89.
Dhenu-Vagsvari, form of Vagsvari, 185.
Dhruva or Dhruvaka-Kali, goddess, 213. 
Dhurumrtma, consort of Yama, 243.
dhvanivastambha, the flag-staff of a temple, 3.
Digambara, sect of Jainas, 262, 265.
Dikpalaakas, the eight lords of the quarters, 241; — demi-gods of Jain mythology, 265.
Dipavali—Amavasya, festival, 32.
disc or discus, symbol, 3, 35; — in the hand of Durga (Katyayani), Chamburi, Mahishasuranardini and Mahds-Lakshmi, 194, 195, 199, 202, 206, 211; — of Saraswati, 64n; — of Goidinda-Bhairava and of Sambara-Bhairava, 151; — of Indra, 241; — of Kapila, 254; — of Mahds-Ganapati, 173; — of Sarasvati, 218n; — of Skanda, 177, 178; — of Sudarsana, 66; — of Surya, 236; — of Trichkantakdevi, 213; — of Vishnu, 17, 22, 24, 26, 30, 43, 64, 107, 113; — of Vishvakarma, 65; — mark made of sandal or phichihadan, 259. See chakra.
dog, vehicle of Bhairava, 151.
Draupadi, queen of the Pandavas, 227; — temple at Kumbhakonam, 227.
dukiya, muslin, 180.
Durga or Durgalakshmi, goddess, 74, 148, 196, 197, 199, 202, 206, 211, 213n, 218, 220, 223, 224, 229; — energy of Siva in his fighting mood, 196n; — her images represented naked, 202, 211.
Durgamma, village deity, i.e. Durgi, 224.
Durga-Paramesvari, da, 224.
Durgi, village in the Gunthir district, 151, 155.
Dvapara-yuga, name of the third Hindu aeon, 161.
Dvarka (Dvarakâ), legendary capital of Krishna, 37, 47, 70.
Dvarapala, the guardian deity of a temple, 251, 254.
Dvarapalika, female guardian deity in temples of goddesses, 254.
Dwar (Vamana), incarnation of Vishnu, 30, 32.

INDEX
ear of paddy, symbol in the hand of Mahds-Ganapati, 173.
Earth, goddess, i.e. Bhû, 22, 24, 32, 55, 157; — used by Tripurasundari as her chariot, 140; — mother of Mars, 239.
Ekadasi-Rudra, class of Siva images, 77, 97.
Ekamravara, temple, at Conjeevaram, 89n, 162n.
Ekapadamurti or Ekapada-Trirmitri, form of Siva, 97.
Elements of Hindu Iconography (Gopi-natha Rao), quoted, 218n.
elephant, demon, 125; — vehicle of Aiyanar, 230; — of Mahds-Gauri, 202; — of Mhsendri, 194; — of Prachanda, 161; — of Visvakarma, 111; — its hide, worn by Siva images, 151, 107; — its tank, symbol in the hand of Gajaramurti, 125; — of Ganesa 168 (Mahds-Ganapati), 173.
Elephanta, caves at, 107.
Ellia, Greek goddess, 223n.
Ellamma, village deity, 223, 224.
Elura Cave Temples (Burgess), quoted, 82n, 134, 137n, 159n, 190m, 194n, 206n.
Epigraphical Report (Madras), quoted, 26n, 326, 328, 86n, 161n, 259n, 251n.
Epigraphia Indica, quoted, 73n, 77n.
epilepsy, personified as Apsamara, 79n.

F
fan, symbol, in the hand of Agni, 243; — of Vayu, 248.
Fire (Agni q.v.), one of the three eyes of Siva, 76.
sire-walking, ceremony observed in temples of village deities, 226, 229.
Fish, incarnation of Vishnu, 22.
flag, symbol, in the hand of Vayu, 248, 267.
fl weakness, symbol, in the hand of Vrsnul, 220.
flower, garland, connected with the story of Chandesanasahamurti and with Svayamvarâ, 107, 147; — symbol, in the hand of Chandesa, 162; — arrow held by Vajrapastarin, 212n.
fruit (of pomegranate), symbol, in the hand of Sri and Prajñiva, 187; — of Lalita, Tripurasundari and Râjarâjasvini, 220; — (of wood-apple), symbol, in the hand of Skanda, 110; — of Ganesa, 168.

G
gadâ (club q.v.), symbol, in the hand of Vishnu, 52n, 55.
Gajahamurti, form of Siva, 123.
gajahasta, pose of hand, 79, 84, 88, 267.
INDEX

Gajendramoksha, (story of Vishnu) rescuing the elephant, 55.
Ganapati or Ganësa, god of Siva, 62, 70, 74, 82n, 113, 165, 169, 173, 176, 267n.
Ganapayya, sect of Brindavanas, 165, 1706.
Ganas, group of demi-gods attending on Siva, 155, 161, 164, 165, 166n, 173n, 175, 183, 211.
Gandhabhërma, (fabulous) bird vehicle used in processions of images, 7.
Gandaki, river, 70.
Gandharvas, class of demi-gods, 251.
Gândiva, the bow of Arjuna, 141.
Gangâ or Gangâ-Bhattarkâl, goddess, i.a. Ganges, 76, 82, 125, 129, 132, 224n;—the charui-bearer of Varuna, 248.
Gangadhara, form of Siva, 74, 169, 134, 143n.
Gangâkondachalapuram, village in the Trichinopoly district, 143, 168n.
Gangamana, village deity, i.a. Gangâ, 224.
Gangâvasirjjana or Gangâvasirjanamûrti, form of Siva, 129.
Ganges, river, 70, 76, 82, 129, 224n.
Garbha-grha, the central shrine of a temple, 2.
Gârâpyati, one of the (three) sacrificial fires, represented by the goddess Gâyatri, 220.
Garuda, bird vehicle of Vishnu, 2, 3, 32, 55, 64, 97, 125, 152n, 251;—of Ghûnda-Bhairava, 151;—of Vaishnavi, 194;—of Sarasvatî, 218n.
Garuda-Nârâyana, form of Vishnu, 55.
Gaonpâda, the teacher's teacher of Sankaracharya, 259.
Gaourisvâra, shrine in the Tiruvottiyâr temple, 259.
Gaour, i.a. Pârvatî, 82n, 84, 88, 113, 114, 139, 132, 141, 199, 206n.
Gaourâûdâva, variety of Natarâja's dance, 84.
Gaustama, sage, 141, 254.
Gâyatri, goddess, 73n, 97n, 241;—presiding deity of morning prayers, 218.
Gîthabhâvî, epithet of Sarapriyâ, 212.
goad or hook (âhâmâ), symbol in the hand of Aghóramûrti, 148;—of Annapûra, 218;—of Isãla-Sakti, 222;—of Chûmûndâ, 194;—of Chandesa in Dvapara-yuga, 161;—of Durga, 193;—of Ganapati, 168, 173; (Heramba-Ganapati);—of Indra, 241;—of Lakshmi, 180;—of Lâllî, Tripûramûndâ and Râjarâjakûvâ, 220;—of Pîdâri, 224n;—of Sarasvatî, 185;—of Sûlamarat, 66;—of Virabhadrâ, 159.
Gîontâlâmâm, village deity, 224.
Gîpâla, i.a. Krishna, 40, 256.
gîpychandana, a kind of yellow earth used in making caste marks, 259.
Gîps, the cowherd women of Brindâvana, 39n, 41, 43, 47.
Gîpvrastrajâhâraka, form of Krishna, 47.
gûpara, the entrance gate of a temple with a tower, 84n, 88, 93n, 147, 251.
Gîvârâha, hill (near Brândâvana), 43.
Gîvînda-Bhairava, form of Bhairava, 151.
grâmâ-devâtâ, a village deity, 223.
Gullikâ, demon, attendant of Aiyânăr, 230; gunja-seeds, garland of, worn by Tarsiâ, 212.
Gupta, dynasty, 143n.
Guruparampara-prabhâva, name of a Sân skrit work, 262.

H

Halâdhâra, epipheth of Balarâma, 37n.
Hampi, village in the Bellary district, 35n, 38n.
Hanumân, devotee and servant of Rama, 35, 37, 64, 65.
Harabhadra, name of A Devarâpa, 251.
Hari, i.a. Vishnu, 82n.
Haridrâ-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 176n.
Harîharâ, form of Siva, 76n, 125.
Harîharapûtra, epithet of Aiyânăr, 229, 230.
Harî-parâvâ, hill, 70.
Harîvârama, supplement to the Mahâ-bhûrata, 223.
Hayagriva, form of Vishnu, 55.
Hazâra-Râmasvâmin, temple, at Hampi, 35n.
head (human), garland of, worn by Mahâ-Kâll, 107;—by Tripûra-Bhairavi, 212; — symbol in the hand of Kâlarâtri, 212; — offered to propitiâte Virabhadrâ, 161n.
Hemâdri, author, 11, 24, 40, 52, 43n, 53, 55, 76n, 77n, 113, 151, 162, 177n, 196n, 194, 197, 200n, 236, 239, 241, 243, 248.
Heramba-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 173, 176.
heroes (vîrûla), worshipped as village deities, 230;—their temples in the Pâññâ taluk, 234.
Himâlaya, mountain, 66, 90, 100.
Himavat, i.a. Himâlaya, 90, 167.
Hindu Mythology (Wilkins), quoted, 251.
Hiranyagarbha, variety of Sâlîgrâma, 70.
Hiranyakîsupa, demon, 24, 26, 30.
Hiranyâksha, 4r, 24.
Hiranyakarman, surname of Simhasvarman, 88.
horse, vehicle, of Aiyânăr, 230;—of Kubêra, 248;—of Srapa-Vârâhi, 104n;—(seven), yoked to the chariot of Sûrya, 236;—(ten), to the chariot of the Moon, 239;—forming the body of the Asûns, 259n.
Hosfûr-amma, village deity, 223.
human sacrifice, 227n.
hundred-pillared hall, in the Varadârâja-Śvâmin temple at Conjeevâram, 43.
Huskâr-amma, village deity, 223.
Hûvinahadagallî, village in the Bellary district, 55.
INDEX

I
Ideals of Indian Art (Haveli), quoted, 73n, 79, 90n, 143n, 189, 39n.
Indian Antiquity, quoted, 24, 218n, 234, 265.
Indra, chief of gods and regent of the east, 30, 43, 64n, 113, 194, 241.
Indra-Lakshmi, r. a. Śāmānya-Lakshmi, 187.
Indrani, r. a. Maḥēndri, 194, 190.
Indras, group of demi-gods of Jaina mythology, 265.

J
Jaimini, sage, 241.
Jaina, 2n, 77n, 218n, 265 — images (represented naked), 262.
Jaimism, 184.
Jalāsayaṇa, form of reclining Vishnu, 52.
Jamadagni, sage, 99, 254.
Jāmbavat, demi-god, 52n.
Janakaśvaranam, suburb of Sringamam, 173.
Janārdana, r. a. Vishnu, 73n.
Jangkan, priestly class of the Lingāyata sect, 268n.
Japā-flowers, used as car-ornaments by the goddess Kālarātī, 211.
Japanese, 168n.
Jasmine-flowers, one of the five arrows of Kāma, 62.
Jata, locks of matted hair, 79, 82n, 103n, 268.
Jataḥandha, arrangement of matted hair, 268.
Jata-bhāra, do., 268.
Jata-makuta, matted hair arranged in the fashion of a crown, 11, 76, 77, 79, 99, 103, 110, 114, 137, 141, 161, 162, 185, 190, 197, 268.
Jata-mandala, arrangement of matted hair, 103n, 161, 162, 268.
Jatra, annual festivals held in honour of local deities, 227.
Javelin, weapon, in the hand of Nairrita, 243.
Jaya, attendant of Skanda, 178 — of Vishnu, 50 — name of a Drāvīḍa, 251.
Jayadeva, Sanskrit poet, 50.
Jina, god, 47n, 265.
Jñānabhāvi, epithet of Surapriyā, 312.
Jñānamūtra, pose of sinners, 55, 99, 93.
Jñānamūtrī, form of Daksināmūtrī, 90.
Journal of Indian Art and Industry, quoted, 141, 241n.
Jumna, river, 47, 47.
Jvala-Nrisimha, form of Narasimha, 70.
Jvaradeva, form of Siva, 165.
Jyēshtā, the Sakti (goddess) of Jyēshtā (Siva), 190n.
Jyēshtā or Jyēshtā-Lakṣmi, goddess, 216, 218, 224, 268 — her temple at Kakkana, 218.

K
Kachchhapēsvara, temple at Conjeevaram, 238.
Kadalmalā, r. a. Mahālālīpura, 72n.
Kadru, mother of serpents, 64n.
Kalāśa, mountain, 82n, 99.
Kalāśanātha, temple at Conjeevaram, 2.
Kalāśya, demon, 52, 197n.
Kākatiya, dynasty, 24.
Kāla, r. a. Yama, 137 — servant of Yama, 243.
Kālabhadra, form of Chāmunda, 197.
Kāla-Bhairava, form of Bhairava, 151.
Kālagni-Rudra, form of Siva, 155.
Kālāśa, r. a. Kālaśa, 132, 243.
Kālahara or Kālaharamūtrī, form of Siva, 133, 137, 243.
Kālakūta, poison, produced at the churning of the ocean, 76, 137.
Kālāmukha, sect of Saivas, 161.
Kālamunda, r. a. Kāla, 151.
Kālanāya, r. a. Kālahara, 78n.
Kālā-Pidāri, r. a. Kālā, 224.
Kālarātī, form of Durgā, 202, 211.
Kalavikarana, the Sakti (goddess) of Kalavikaraṇa (Siva), 190n.
Kālī, goddess, consort of Mahākāla, 151 — energy of Siva in his angry mood, 196 — form of Chāmunda, 107, 199 — of Durgā, 197n, 211 — of Pārvati, 82, 184, 224 — the Sakti (goddess) of Kālā (Siva), 190n.
Kāḷīkāśa, Sanskrit poet, 177.
Kālīkā, consort of Nairrita, 197n, 243.
Kālīkā-Purāṇa, 118, 243.
Kālīkā-tāndava, variety of Natarāja's dance, 84.
Kalinga, country, 236.
Kālīngnarāthu, r. a. Kālīya-Krishna, 41.
Kālīya, serpent, 38, 41.
Kālīya-Krishna, form of Kṛṣṇā, 38, 41.
Kālīyamunna, r. a. Kālī, 223, 224.
Kāli-yuga, name of the fourth Hindu icon, 161.
Kāli, incarnation of Vishnu, 22, 47.
Kellar, class of people in the Madura district, 279.
kalpa-vrīhata (or -druma), the wish-giving celestial tree, 37 — used as vehicle in processions, 7 — found on pedestals of images as aureola, 76, 173n, 265 — sacred to the goddess Indrānī, 196 — bunch of its flowers, symbol of Sachi, 241.
Kālīyā or Kalyānapura, village in the Nizam's Dominions, 254.
Kālīyānasundara, form of Siva, 74, 103, 107.
Kāma or Kāmadēva, god of Love, 62, 89.
Kāmadēnā, the wish-giving celestial cow, used as vehicle in processions, 7.
Kāmakshi-amar, temple at Conjeevaram, 222.
INDEX

Kāṃṣāri or Kāmadahamsanūryī, form of Siva, 790, 890.

Kamsa, uncle of Krishna, 196.

Kamarūṣa, districts, 100, 159, 177, 224n.

Kānchī, s.a. Conjeeveram, 30, 107.

kankāla, a skeleton, symbol of Kankalāmūrti, 103.

Kankāla or Kankālamūrti, form of Siva, 103, 265.

kannagī, heroine of the Tamīr poem Silappadhigāram, 229.

Kanniyamūr (virgin), the seven, i.e.

Saptamātrikās, 223, 229.

kanyakā (unmarried girl) form of Gaurī, 190.

Kanyakā-Paramesvarī, tutelary deity of the Vaisāya caste, 229.

kapāla (skull v.), symbol, in the hand of Siva images, 100, 267.

Kapālāmocanātīrtha, tank, 100n.

Kāpālikā, seat of Saiva, 161.

Kāpila, nag, 254.

kārṇam-carrying, ceremony observed in temples of village deities, 227.

Kārākākāammalī, female Saiva saint, 262.

Kārālhahadārī, i.e. Kālahadārī, 197.

Kārti, s.a. Bhadrakālī, 107.

Kārnpātra or Saiva-Kārnpātāmaka, work quoted in the Tattvānīḍhā, 790, 82n, 89n, 97, 110, 113, 139, 137, 140, 143, 147, 148, 155n, 177, 202.

kārṇamamakuta, form of crown, 119, 190, 251, 265.

karanja, tree, sacred to the goddess Vārāhī, 196.

Kārtempūlī, village in the Guntūr district, 220n.

Kārkal, village in the South Canara district, 265.

Kārktakā, serpent-chief, 82n, 251.

karma, lords of, 184.

Karnapravītā, class of Saiva (7?) devotees, 90n.

Kāṭṭikēya, epithet of Skanda, 177, 178.

Kārunyan, demon, attendant of Aiyanār, 230.

Kāruppannasāmī, village deity, 230.

Kāśikhanda, quoted, 155n.

Kāṇṣapa, sage, 236, 239, 254.

Kāṇṣapa-Silpa, work on Arts (chapter of Amśum-Tantra), 17, 79, 103, 107, 113n, 114, 120, 140n, 147, 153, 161, 168, 177, 190, 199.

katakā, pose of fingers, 110, 159, 267.

katiga, position of hand, 267.

kāṭṭerī, village deity, 224.

Kāṭṭu-Ediyānūru, village in the South Arcot district, 41.

Kāṭṭyāyant, form of Durgā, 202;— of Mahāshākumandirint, 206n.

Kānūrī, one of the Saptamātrikās, 190, 194, 196.

Kaunūdākī, the club of Vishnu, symbol in the hand of Mahā-Lakṣminī, 180.

kaupīna, piece of cloth, worn by Skanda, 177.

Kauravas, one of the contesting parties in the war of the Mahābhārata, 47.

kavacha, mail armour, 236.

kesāhmītha, arrangement of hair, 162, 190.

Kēsāvavāmī, temple, at Pushpāgiri, 47.

kētakī, flower, 93, 97.

kettal-drumsymbols, in the hand of Siva images, 84, 88, 99, 100, 103, 114, 125, 137n, 149, 149, 151;— of Pratiyāngā and Svaśāhvāvint, 213;— with snake, in the hand of Piḍārī, 224n. See dhākāḥ.

Kēru (the descending node), planet, 239.

khātvāṅga, weapon, 267.

Kinnarā, class of demi-gods, 90n, 248, 253.

Kinnarī, a Kinnara female, 90n, 251.

Kirāṭārjuna or Kirāṭārjunamūrti, form of Siva, 140, 141, 143.

Kirāṭārjunadeva, i.e. Kirāṭārjunamūrti, 143.

Kirāṭārjunāsya, Sanskrit poem, 143.

Kirāṇa (hunters), an aboriginal tribe, 213, 223.

kīrtinamakuta, crown on the head, 168, 190, 268.

Kīrtī (fame), one of the Sakti goddesses of Vishnu, 180.

kite, banner of Chāmuddā, 194;— vehicle of Chandahandā, 202.

knife, stuck in the girdle of Kankāla, 103;— symbol, in the hand of Nandi, 162n.

kōndala, a bow, 35.

Kōndanda-Rāma, epitth of Rāma, 35.

Kōndumbāḷī, village in the Pudukkōttai State, 132.

Kōlar, district, 227.

Kollāpura-Mahā-Lakāshmī, form of Lakshmi, 189, 224.

Kollāpuram, i.e. Kollāpura-Mahā-Lakshmi, 223, 224.

Kollumam, village deity, 223, 224.

Kōnati, caste, i.e. a Vaisya, 229.

Kōnak, village in the Kalinga country, 236n.

Kondaḍvlū, village and hill fortress in the Guntūr district, 24.

Kongu, country, 20n.

Koraya, caste, 229.

Kratudhavanśin, epithet of Siva, 155n.

Kraunteha, mountain, 177.

Krīṣhna, incarnation of Vishnu, 22, 37, 38, 41, 43, 47, 62, 120, 196;— epithet of Vishnu, 85.

krishnājīna, skin of a black-hawk, symbol of Vāmana, 32.

Krīṣhna-mandapa, rock-cut pavilion at Mahābālīpuram, 43.

Krīṣhṇārāva or Krīṣhṇādevarāva, Vījaya-nagara king, 26, 38a, 38.

Krīṣhṇavāmī, temple near Hampi, 38n.

Krītāyga, name of the first Hindu zon, 161.

Krūtīkāaa (Pleiades), the six, 177.

Kshatryiya, caste, 197, 235, 239.
INDEX

Māgas, class of Sun-worshippers, 235.
Māgha, lunar month (January-February), 97.
Magi, Sun-worshippers of Persia, 235.
Mahābaliparam (Mahāvallavan), village in the Chingleput district, 22, 22, 24, 30, 32, 59, 107, 110, 143, 187, 189, 199, 202, 206, 251.
Mahā-Bhārata, epic, 22, 37, 47, 100n, 141, 143, 176, 227, 267n.
Mahā-Chanda, name of the guardian deity in shrines of Jina, 265.
Mahādēvā, j.a. Siva, 147.
Mahā-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 173, 170n.
Mahā-Gauri, form of Durgā, 202.
Mahākālā, form of Siva, 77.
Mahākāla, form of Siva, 77: — epithet of Kālpatrāpa, 161: — Dvārapāla at the eastern entrance of Siva temples, 254n.
Mahākāll, j.a. Kālī, 197.
Mahā-Lakṣmi, form of Durgā, 190, 206: — of Lakṣmi, 189.
Mahāmānusa, form of pedestal, 266.
Mahāmānusa, serpent chief, 251.
Mahā-Padmā, j.a. Mahāmānusa, 251.
Mahā-pitha, form of pedestal, 76.
Mahā-Sadāsvī, j.a. Mahākālā, 77.
Mahā-Sarasvatī, an emanation of Gaurī, 206n.
Mahā-Sātā, j.a. Aiyānar, 229.
Mahāvajra, form of pedestal, 266.
Mahāvyāna, form of Buddhism, 184.
Mahendravarman I, Pallava king, 2.
Māhenḍrit, one of the Saptamātrikās, 196, 194.
Mahēsvara, j.a. Siva, 11n, 13a, 236.
Mahēsvaras, sect of Siva devotees, 190.
Mahēsvarī, one of the Saptamātrikās, 190, 194.
Mahē, j.a. Frithvi, 17, 187.
Mahīśāsura, the buffalo-demon, 211, 222.
Mahīśāsura-mandapa, rock-cut pavilion at Mahābalipuram, 50, 206.
Mahīśāsura-mardini, goddess, 194n, 195, 197, 202, 206, 226.
Mahōdara, j.a. 100n.
Maakara (crocodile), banner of Kāma, 62.
Maakara-kudala, ornament, on the right ear of Siva, 76: — on the ears of Sīrya, 236.
Makara-tōtana, a crocodile-sarsula, 265.
Mālabar, country, 2, 22n, 32, 230, 234.
Mālamama, village deity, 224.
Māna-danda, measuring rod, symbol of Vīśvakarma, 111.
Mānas (worldly wisdom), personified as Ganapati, 173.
Mānasī, goddess, 212.
Mānasā, work on Ariśa, 10, 17, 47n, 187, 190, 251.
INDEX

Mubhammadan converts (of the Ceded districts), devoted to Hanumān, 66.
Mlámbiká, epithet of Vindhyavásáni, 220.
Mukhalinga, form of Siva, 76n.
Mukha-mandapa, pavilion in a temple, 2.
Mála-Durgá, form of Durgá, 199.
mulam, linear measure, 82n.
Málaštáká, shrine, in the Natarája temple at Chidambaram, 76.
Mundan, demon, attendant of Aiyánár, 230.
Munisivara, 230.
Moráliéghara, i.e., Venú-Gópála, 41.
Muruga, Tamil name of Subrahmanya, 178.
Murasalaga, Tamil name of Aysamára, 79, 90n, 132, 147.
Mutúlamum, village deity, 223, 224.
Mysore, country, 32, 187, 206, 227.

N
Nágamáthi (mother of serpents), goddess, 212.
Nágas (serpents), class of demi-gods, 64n, 227, 248, 251.
Nágendras, group of demi-gods of Jaina mythology, 265.
Nágavára, temple, at Kumbhakonam, 120.
Nairritá, god, regent of the south-west, 197n, 213.
naivedya, food offered to a god, 7.
Náylírápabhadhanam, collection of Vaishnavá Namí hymns, 72, 262.
Nallár, village in the Tanjore district, 254n.
Nánsákall, rock-cut temples at, 26n, 30n, 32n, 125.
námam, vernacular term for śrídnapurna (g.v.), 3, 259.
Namí-Árvánná, i.e., Sundaramurti, 262n.
Nandanár, Pariáh saint, 59.
Nandi, Nandis or Nandikésvara bull, 2, 3; — devotee and attendant of Siva, 82n, 84, 88, 161, 163, 165; — Dwarpála at the eastern entrance of Siva temples, 254n.
Nandi-mandápa, pavilion, in the Sríśálam temple, 1610.
Namgá-Parávaliyár, wife of Sundaramurti, 262n.
Namí, epithet of Arjuna, 47.
Náradá, sage, 38, 82n, 90, 97, 117, 254, 263.
Nárra, contracted form of Narasimha, 24.
Nárayána, the Man-Lion incarnation of Vishnu, 22, 24, 26, 30, 148, 190n; — epithet of Vishnu, 55; —variety of Sáligrámá, 70.
Nárasimhá, one of the Saptamátrikás, 190n.
Nárasimha, i.e., Vishnu, 47, 125; — recognized in the orb of Sárya, 236.
Nástáya, one of the Asvins, 259n.
Natarája, the dancing form of Siva, 74, 76n, 77, 79, 82, 84n, 88, 89, 137, 230n, 266, 267, 268.
Navagrahá, the nine Planets, 74, 235.
Navami-Nírítta, the butter-dance of Krishna, 35n.
Nánya, epithet of Saiva saints, 259.
Nágapáram, village in the Tanjore district, 173.
Népal, Gánaša temple in, 168n.
Nerálamam, village deity, 224.
Nisédha, Buddhist work, 248n.
nidhi (treasure), symbol in the hand of Sukra, 239.
Niádévi, goddess, consort of Vishnu, 17n.
Nilagandha, village in Bellary district, 52n.
Nilakantha, form of Siva, 157.
Nirriti, epithet of Jyésthá, 216n.
Nirukta, commentary on the Mantra portion of the Rig-Veda, 37n.
Nisámbha, demon, 222.
Niyaklimádevatás, group of goddesses attending on Lalátha, 210n.
nocce (játra or nágapán), weapon, in the hand of Agháramúri, 148; — of Ama-párñá, 218; — of Hágá-Sakti, 221; — of Bhairava, 151; — of Chámmándá, Durgá, Mahásháramardini and Mahá-Lakshmi, 104, 206, 211; — of Chandesa in the Dvárapalíyura, 161; — of Gájéahámrí, 125; — of Gánapáti, 168; — of Kála (Yama), 137, 243; — of Kála (sacred of Yama), 243; — of Lakshmi, 189; — of Lalátha, Triparasundari and Kárarájërvari, 220; — of Mahá-Gánapáti, 173; — of Maháshála, 151; — of Mánendri, 194; — of Natarája, in Káli-Káñdava, 54; (in Saunára-tádvá), 88; — of Párraí, 192; — of Prátyangára, 213; — of Sarasváti, 185; — of Skanda, 177, 178; — of Sudaršana, 66; — of Sílláí, 213; — of Vágapáparáriti, 212n; — of Varuna, 243.
Nisámbha, i.e., Narasimha, 24, 66, 70.
Nisámbha-práváda, work quoted in the Tattvamáši, 10, 262.
Nésalámmá, village deity, 224.

O
Óchchaná, class of Sákta priests, 226.
Om, the sacred mystic syllable of the Hindus, 220.
Ónam, harvest festival in Malabar, 35; — owl, vehicle of Mahákálí, 197.

P
Pádálamum, village deity, 224.
paddle of gems, symbol in the hand of Kurukullá, 220.
padma (lotus g.v.), symbol of Vishnu, 55.
padma, i.e., Abja, serpent-chief, 251.
Padmanábhá, form of receling Siva, 30; — epithet of Vishnu, 55.
Padmáníthi (treasure), attendant of Kubéra, 248.
padma-úthá, the lotus pedestal, 155, 266.
Padma-Púruśa, 37, 189.
padumásana, posture in sitting, 259, 265, 266. 
Pāvādairāyan, general of Aiyanār, 236.
Peacock, vehicle of Kamārī, 194.
— of Skanda, 177, 178.
— its feathers, ornament on the head of Krishna, 35, 143.
— of Natarāja, 79, 263.
— of Tvarita, 212.
— symbol, in the hand of Bhikshatana and Kankalī, 100, 103.
— of Natarāja, 84.
— of Skanda, 177.
— accompaniment of Dakshināmūrti, 90.
Pēchi, village deity, 224.
Pedilittamanta, deo, 224.
Perantālam, deo, 229.
Perrya-Perumāl, epithet of Kārārāja I, 262.
Periyapurānām, Tamil work, 147, 161, 162.
Persia, 235.
Perunjingadeva, Pallava king, 88.
Pērūr, village in the Coimbatore district, 100, 125.
Pestle (mutala), weapon, in the hand of Chānananda, 194.
— of Hērāmala-Ganapati, 173.
— of Sudarṣana, 66.
Phalapatti, ornament on the forehead of Pārvati, 190.
Phallic cult, 72.
Pichchandār, Tamil name for Bhikshatana, 100.
Pīdār, Tamil name for a village goddess, 196, 215, 216, 224, 226.
Piercing (with metallic wire), ceremony observed in temples of village deities, 226.
Pillaiyār, Tamil name for Ganapati, 176.
Pīpāl, tree, 274.
— abode of Bhūtāmāta, 216.
— of Jyesthrā, 216.
— sacred to the goddess Varsanvī, 166.
— Nāga stones set up under it, 248.
— its marriage with vīrāga, 248.
Pisāchās (devils), class of goblins, 148, 230.
—— pitahapada, form of pedestal, 266.
—— pithas, pedestals, 266.
—— mystic geometrical figures connected with Sakti worship, 185, 220.
Pitrīdhāni, epithet of Chandēśa, 162.
Plancs, the nine, 70, 235, 236, 239, 241, 266.
Plough, symbol, in the hand of Balarāma, 37.
—— of Skanda, 177, 178.
—— of Sudarṣana, 66.
Pokkavaiyai, village deity, mentioned in Chōla inscriptions, 226.
Pōtāmama, village deity, s.a., Stalā, 224.
Ponnammal, village deity, 223, 224.
Pōt, — of fire, symbol, in the hand of Natarāja, 77, 84, 88.
—— of Dakshināmūrti, 90.
—— of flesh, in the hand of Sivadīti, 216.
—— of ganes, in the hand of Saṃbhavvahavanāsvar, 211.
—— of ghee, in the hand of Agni, 243.
—— of Brahman, 114.
—— of nectar, in the hand of Dhanvantari, 259.
—— of Gajasākuntalā, 187.
—— of Garuda, 64.
—— of rubies, in the hand of Mahā-Ganapati, 173.
the feet of Prithvē, 187: — of wine, in the hand of Kūshmanda-Durgā, 202: — of Susarpiyā, 212. See sap and vesel.
prabhā or prabhā-mandala, arch of light, 79, 155.
Prachanda, name of Chandēśa in Kṛṣṇayoga, 161: — of a Dīvārāpāka image, 251.
Pradeshamūrti, s.a. Chambhasekhara, 114.
Padyākāma, epithet of Kāmādēva, 62: — form of standing Vishnu, 52m, 55, 64: — variety of Sāṅgīrama, 70.
Prahlāda, demon, devotee of Vishnu, 26.
Prājāpati or Prājāpati-Brahma, form of Brahma, 11.
Prājāpati, the nine, 262.
pārakāra, the wall surrounding a temple, 3.
35. 185a.
prāna, vital breath, 213.
prāṇavatīsthadā, ceremony of infusing prāna into an image, 213a.
prāṇa, a sakti, goddess, 213, 213a.
Pratayangiri, dē. 213.
Prayāgarastra, work quoted in the Tattvanāthi, 230m, 230m.
Prayāgasāra, name of a work, 201.
pṛśa, a ghost, 148.
Prithvē, s.a. Bhū, 17, 52, 187.
Prithī (pleasure), consort of Kāma, 62: — one of the Sakti goddesses of Vishnu, 189.
prōkhaṇil (sprinkler), symbol, in the hand of Agni, 243.
protecting pose of hand in images, 17, 52m, 120, 173, 187, 218, 241. See abhāyu.
Pudding, symbol, in the hand of Gaṇapati, 168, 173.
Pundāgai, wife of Ayamanā, 212a, 330.
purā, worship, 226, 229.
Puțindas, an aboriginal tribe, 225.
Pullagunta, village in the Guntūr district, 232u.
Pung (i.e., Punganūr)-amma, village deity, 223.
punnai-tree, procession vehicle used in Vishnu temples, 47: — grove of, 226.
Punnalurinangai, village deity, mentioned in Chōsins inscriptions, 226.
Pūrānai, wife of Ayamanā, 212, 230m.
Prānas, the eighteen, 7, 79, 177, 190, 224, 254, 262.
Prānāc, 11, 55, 120, 132, 137, 140.
Prarā, s.a. Tripūranātha, 76a.
Pūrī-Jagannātha, temple at 37m.
pūrṇapātra (vessel full of water), symbol of Agni, 243.
Pūrṇāsvā, female deity attending on Sarasvati, 212.
Pūshkālā, dē. 212.
Pūshpāgiri, village in the Cudelpah district, 47, 143.
Pūshpaka, the aerial car of Kubera, 37.
Pūṣṭi (strength), one of the Sakti goddesses of Vishnu, 189.

Q
quadrangle (i.e., quadrangular fire-pit), the residence of Agni, 243.

R
Rādhā, cowherd girl of Brindāvana, a favourite of Kṛṣṇa, 41.
Rādhā-Kṛṣṇa, form of Kṛṣṇa, 41.
Rāhu (the ascending node), planet, 239.
Raichūr, Sīva temple at, 77n.
Rājāthirāja I., Chōśa king, 254.
Rājamātangi, goddess, 229.
Rājāthirāja II., Chōśa king, 77, 88n, 100, 114m, 147, 165, 176, 226, 229, 262m, 268.
Rājarājēśvaram, s.a. Brhadīśvaram, 77, 88n.
Rājarājēśvari, goddess, 220.
rajā or rājācī form, of Viraphadra, 139: — of Kalētra-pāla, 159.
Rajni, consort of Śūrya, 236.
rājōpachāra, form of ritual, 3.
Rākṣhasas, class of demi-gods, 243, 251: — subdued by Kāna, 37.
Rakṣōghnāmūrti, form of Sīva, 148.
Rakta-Jyeṣṭhā, form of Jyeṣṭhā, 216.
Rāma, vehicle, of Mars, 239: — of Agni, 243.
Rāma, incarnation of Vishnu, 22, 35, 37m, 64, 266m: — king of Ayōdhya, 35, 37, 66: — the axe-bearer (Parasurāma), 22n.
Rāmāchandra or Rāmabhadra, s.a. Kāna, 35.
Rāmānujaḥātya, teacher of the Viśiṣṭadīva school of philosophy, 259.
Rāmāvānīn temple, at Kumbakōnam, 2ll, 35m, 55.
Rāmāyana, epic, 22, 35, 37m, 90m, 129, 224m.
Rāmavaram, island, 35, 94m, 230, 251.
rang, an assembly-hall, 50m.
Ranganāthā, form of reclining Vishnu, 50.
rat, vehicle of Gaṇapati, 168, 173.
rathas, monolithic monuments at Mahā-balipuram, 2.
Rati (love), consort of Kāma, 62.
Ratnasabhaṅgāti, the pebble Sīva-jinga worshipped in the temple of Natarāja at Chishlambaram, 76.
Raudri, the Sakti (goddess) of Rudra (Sīva), 190m.
ravi-mandala, aureola behind the images of Natarāja, 79m.
Reddi, dynasty, 24.
Rēvanta, son of Śūrya, 236.
Riddhi, consort of Kubēra, 248.
Rik or Rīg-Veda, 37m, 97, 220.
Rishabhavāhana, s.a. Vīṣṇu-vēnana, 113.
rishi, a sage, 52m, 79m, 90m, 100m, 132, 254.
rock-cut temples, 2m, 30m.
Sahana, an aboriginal tribe, 223.
Sahana-Brahma, the lager, 187.
Sahhisa-mandapa, pavilion in Siva temple, 74, 92.
Sahshupati, epithet of Nataraja, 74, 77, 79, 826.
Sacht, consort of Indra, 241.
sacrifices of animals, connected with temples of village deities, 226, 227.
Sadasiva, form of Siva, 76n.
Sagara, mythical king of the Solar race, 129.
Sahasraksha (the thousand-eyed), epithet of Indra, 241.
Sahasra-linga, form of Siva-linga, 71.
Dvarapalas, 254.
Saivagama, work quoted in the Tatvarudhadi, 302.
Saivism, 73.
Saivite, 183, 185, 190, 206, 211, 218, 223.
Sakra, creed, 120, 176, 183, 226.
Sakti (power), consort of Kama, 62.
Sakti, primeval energy deified, 70, 1109, 120, 184, 185, 189, 190, 206, 212, 220, 2376, 239.
Sakti-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 176.
Sakya, race, 73.
Sāligrāma stones, 70, 71, 72.
Sālvavakupam, village in the Chingleput district, 107.
sama-bhanga, medium bend of body in images, 103, 129, 162, 168, 266.
Sāman or Sama-Veda, 230.
Sāmānya-Lakshmi, form of Lakshmi, 187.
samsapāda or samsapādasāhāna, standing posture in images, 114, 159, 266.
Samayapuram, village in the Trichinopoly district, 178.
Samhita, i.e., Siva, 107.
Samhāra-Bhairava, form of Bhairava, 151.
Samhāra-tandava, variety of Nataraja’s dance, 84.
Sanaischara, i.e., Sani, 239.
Sanka, sage, 107.
Sanandana, av., 107.
Sandhyā-tāndava, variety of Nataraja’s dance, 84.
Sandhyāvandana, the daily prayer of the Brahmanas, 55.
Sani (Saturn), planet, son of Sūrya, 239.
sanjali-madhra, the worshiping posture of hands, 259.
Sankara, i.e., Siva, 125.
Sankara or Sankaranātha, teacher of the Advaita school of philosophy, 155, 162, 259.
Sankarānam, village in the Vizagapatam district, 28.
Sankaranārayana, i.e., Harihara, 125.
Sankaranāyānakōyil, village in the Tinnevelly district, 125.
Sankaranātha, form of standing Vishnu, 52n, 55.
sankha (conch q.v.), symbol of Vishnu, 26, 58n, 55, 211.
Sankhaśistra, serpent-chief, 251.
Sankhandihī (treasure), attendant of Kubera 248.
Sāṃkhyayā, system of philosophy, 254.
sanyāsin, an ascetic, 259.
Santāna-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 176n.
Santāna-Gēpāla, form of Krishnā, 37, 38n.
Sānti (peace), one of the Sakti goddesses of Vishnu, 189.
Saptāmātrikās, group of goddesses, 190, 194, 196, 229.
Sarabhi or Sarabhamūrti, form of Siva, 147, 148.
Sārādā, form of Sarasvati, the presiding deity of the 64 sciences, 187.
Sārādātiśka, work quoted in the Tatvarudhadi, 173n.
Sarasvati, goddess of Learning or Speech, consort of Brahmat, 11, 826, 184, 185, 187: — one of the Sakti goddesses of Vishnu, 189: — presiding deity of evening prayers, 220.
sara-vana, forest of sara-grass, 177.
Saravana, Tamil name for Saravāndhava, 218n.
Saravānda-kōyil, the correct form of Saravanān-kōyil at Anamalai, 218n.
Saravāndhava, epigraph of Skanda, 81n.
Sarayū, river, 35.
Sarvabhūtadamanī, the Sakti (goddess) of Sarvabhūtadaḍama (Siva), 190n.
sarvamāhāni, attribute of Kama’s arrow, 62.
Sati, i.e., Umā, 155.
sati (suttee), worship of, 229, 250.
Satrughna, brother of Kama, 37.
Satruddhavānī, goddess (represented naked), 213.
Sattān, demon, attendant of Aiyānār, 230.
sattva or sāttviko form, of Virabhadra, 159: — of Kesātrapāla, 159.
Saturday, auspicious for touching the pipal-tree, 216n.
Svarna-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 176n.
Svastabhāsini, goddess, 213.
svastika, s.a. lambita, 190, 251.
svayambahā, variety of Siva-linga, 73.
Svayamvarā, name of Pārvatī as bride, 107.
Svētāmbara, sect of Jainas, 265.
swan (hamsa), bird, form assumed by Brahmā, 93 ; — vehicle of Brahmā, 194 ; — of Gṛgartya, 218a ; — (seven) yoked to the chariot of Brahmā, 11, 97 ; — of Varuna, 243.
sword (kānḍa), weapon, in the hand of Bhairava, 151 ; — of Bhūtāmākā, 216 ; — of Budha, 239 ; — of Chāṇamūtha, Mahishāsura-mardini and Mahā-Lakṣmi, 104, 206, 214 ; — of Dūhāravatī, 213 ; — of Durgā (Kātyāyani), 199, 202 ; — of Gajahāmūrti, 125 ; — of Indra, 241n ; — of Kāla-Bhairava, 151 ; — of Kātagni-Kudra, 155 ; — of Mahākāli, 197 ; — of Nārāyaṇa, 243 ; — of Pārāśurāmākā, 143 ; — of Pratyangiri, 213n ; — of Rāhu, 251 ; — of Śrīkāla, 216 ; — of Śrīkāla, 155, 159 ; — of Vishnu, 17, 30 ; — of Vama, 243.

T
Takshaka, serpent-chief, 251.
Talapulam, village deity, 224.
tamas or tamasic form, of Kṣetrapāla, 159 ; — of Virabhadra, 159.
Tamil, — districts, 159, 177, 216 ; — literature, developed by Agastya, 254.
Tanjai-Alagar, image in the Brihadishvara temple at Tanjore, 82n.
Tanjore, district, 230 ; — inscriptions of, 108, 77, 82n, 90n, 93, 114n, 143, 173n, 208 ; — temple at, 88n, 100, 120, 147, 155, 159n, 165, 229, 262n ; — town, 143n.
tanka, weapon, in the hand of Saiva images, 77, 80n, 97, 103, 110, 113, 129, 140, 148, 161, 162, 267.
Tantras, class of literature, 177, 194n, 220n, 229.
Tandrasa, work quoted in the Tattva-
 nidhi, 151.
Tāntrik, pertaining to Tāntra literature, 211, 213n, 223, 224, 226, 227.
Tāntrikas, followers of Tāntrik rituals, 185.
tāpani, attribute of Kāma’s arrow, 62.
Tāraka, demon, 177, 178.
tarjant, pose of fingers, 64, 162, 267 ; — the second finger of hand, 120m.
Tātavani-dī, name of a Sanskrit work, 108.
Tātīya, Scythian goddess, 212.
Telugu, districts, 108, 159, 177, 224, 229.
Tengalai, sect of Śrī-Śaiva-Nāyakas, 262.
Tennakai, village in the Tinnevelly district, 173.
Tennurum, temple, at Chandragiri, 356.
Tennurum, thousand-pillared hall, of the Sundaresvara temple at Madura, 140n.
thunder-bolt (vaṭaṭra), weapon, in the hand of Indra, 241 ; — of Māhendrī, 194 ; — of Skanda, 177 ; — of Siva who cut off the head of Brahmā, 97n ; — of Sudar-
sana, 66.
Tigalas, class of Tamil-speaking gardeners in Mysore, 227.
tiger, vehicle of Kātyāyani, 202 ; — its skin, worn by Saiva images, 77, 120, 162, 194, 197 ; — used as seat by Saiva images, 259 ; — its claws, used as an ornament, 286.
tilaka of kuṇkumam, mark of beauty on the forehead of women, 222.
Tilai, Tamil name for Chidambaram, 59.
Tinnevelly, district, 230.
Tiruchennīnāī, village in the Tinnevelly district, 178.
Tiruchchendu, village in the Salem dis-
trict, 76, 120, 213n.
Tiruneénasambandar or Jñānasambandar, Saiva saint, 259, 262n.
Tirukkojiler, village in the South Arcot dis-
trict, 30.
Tirumala, i.e. Tirupati Hill, 72n.
Tirumalai (near Pōlitī), village in the North Arcot district, 265.
Tirumalai, village in the Chingleput dis-
trict, 202.
Tirumangai-Alvār, Vaishnava saint, 262.
tirumurram, Tamil name (in Chōla inscriptions) for the shrines of village deities, 224.
Tirumuruganappadai, Tamil poem, 178.
Tirumūravakkaraiyar, Saiva saint, 262n.
Tirupati, hill and village in the Chittoor district, 62, 66.
Tiruppalatturai, village in the Trichino-
poly district, 213n.
Tirupparangunram, village in the Madura district, 178, 216, 218n.
Tiruttani, hill and village in the Chittoor district, 178.
Tirutturanpāṇi, village in the Tanjore dis-
trict, 100, 125, 129.
Tiruvadandai, village in the Chingleput district, 24.
Tiruvādī, village in the Tanjore district, 11, 125, 159n.
Tiruvāḷangādu, village in the Chittoor district, 82.
Tiruvālukiyāl, village deity, mentioned in Chōla inscriptions, 226.
Tiruvānakkāvai, i.e. Jambukāvaram, 77, 97, 173.
Tiruvanangalam, village in the Pudukkōttai State, 262.
Tiruvārūr, village in the Tanjore district, 76.
Tiruvavasam, collection of the hymns of Māṇikkavāsag, 262.
Tiruvengavāsai, village in the Pudukkōttai State, 93.
Tiruvengai - Nangai, wife of Siruttonga-
Nāyankār, 262n.
Tiruvottiyūr, village in the Chingleput dis-
trict, 97, 173n, 178, 202, 226, 259.
INDEX

śūrā, symbol of Agni, 243.
Tortoise, incarnation of Vishnu, 22, 140 ; - vehicle of Vamanā, 248.
Trīpurāśra or Trīpurāśrīdevī, temples of, 108, 235.
tree-and-serpent worship, 177, 248.
Trīrāgā, name of the second Hindu āsura, 108.
triangula, equilateral, connected with images of Sudarṣana, 66.
trīkhaṇḍa, the three-fold bend of body in images, 107.
Trichinopoly, rock-cut cave at, 132 ; - the Uchchi-Pillāyar temple on the rock at, 176.
trīkandā (trīkandī), symbol, in the hand of Sri-Vaishnava rāmārya, 254.
trīkuṭa (trīkuta), weapon, in the hand of the Saiva images, 77n, 80, 85, 97a, 100, 114, 125, 137, 140n, 143, 145, 151, 159, 161, 165, 196, 197, 199a, 203, 226 ; - of Pīdārī, 224n ; - of Rāma, 230 ; - of Sānti, 233 ; - of Sīvārūti, 216 ; - of Sudarṣana, 66 ; - of Pratyangīrī and Śaṅkarī, 217 ; - fixed in the ground to represent a village deity, 233 ; - (flying), symbol, in the hand of Agni and Yama, 243.
Trīkautakoḍ, goddess, 213.
Trīmūrti, the three gods of the Hindu Triad, 276.
Triplākāra, suburb of Madras, 47.
Triṇa, demon of the three magic cities, 140, 141.
Trīpura-Bhairavi, goddess, 212.
Trīpura-Rākṣaka or Trīpura-Rākṣakamūrti, form of Siva, 70, 140, 141, 267n.
Trīpura-Sundari, goddess, 222.
Trīpura-tīrūdava, variety of Nārāyaṇa's dance, 84.
Trīṉ śūlī, capital of Travancore, 50.
Trīṉkrama, form of Vāmana, 22, 30, 32 ; - epithet of Vishnu, 55.
Trīṉkṛa (human), garland of, worn by Siva-rātri, 197.
Trīḷālam, s.a. Seḷćīlam, 224.
Trīḷa-Jā-Bhairavi, goddess, 220.
Trūḷas, class of people, 254.
Tumbaru, demi-god (with horse-face), 32, 38n.
Trūḷi, village in the Trichinopoly district, 439.
Trūḷi (pleasure), one of the Sakti goddesses of Vishnu, 189.
Trvari, goddess, 212, 223 ; - considered to be a widow, 212n.
Tṛyaṅgā, name of Sōmaśkanda at Tiruvaṭūr, 76.

U

Uchchauṣṇa-amma, village deity, 223.
Uchchauṣṭha-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 27.

Uchchauṣṭha-Ganapati, temple (of Ganapati) on the rock at Trichinopoly, 176.
Udarabandhana, girdle round the belly, 10, 59.
Udodyagiri, village and hill fortress in the Nellore district, 38n.
Uddāna-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 176.
Udichya, attendant of Yama, 243.
Udip, village in the South Canara district, 38.
Uddukkai, Tamil form of ḍhabakkā, 77.
Udumbara, fig-tree, sacred to the goddess, Kaumārī, 196.
Ugra-Narasimha, form of Narasimha, 26.
Ugra-Tārā, goddess, 213.
Ulagalandha-Pennāl, Tamil name for Trivikrama, 30 ; - temple at Kāṇchi (Conjeevaram), 30.
Ulagatārā, village deity, 224.
Uma or Uma-puramāsvinī, i.e. Pārvati, 82n, 84, 89, 107, 129, 147, 184, 190, 212.
Uma-Mahesvari, form of Siva, 113.
Umaśāhita, de, 76n, 110.
Umamahākāla, i.e. Sōmaśkanda, 76n.
Umā-tāndava, variety of Nārāyaṇa's dance, 84.
Umbrella, symbol, in the hand of Vāmana, 32 ; - on the top of Jāna figures, 77n.
Upanisahās, the philosophic expositions of the Vēdas, 184 ; - used as reins to his horses, by Trīpurāstaka, 140.
Urdhva-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 176.
Urdhva-tāndava, variety of Nārāyaṇa's dance, 82, 88.
Uruvha-pundra, caste mark of the Vaishnavas, 259.
Vāṃśa, crown, 47n, 88.
Vatika, posture in sitting, 266.

V

vāch (vaices), word, 184.
Vāgyārati, s.a. Sarasvatī, 185.
Vaiśnūtha-Nārāyaṇa, form of Vishnu, 57.
Vaiṣṇavītha-Perumāl, temple, at Conjeevaram, 3.
Vaiṣṇavīy, form of Garuda, 64n.
Vaiṣṇavī, one of the Sāmāntārikas, 190, 194, 196.
Vaiṣṇavī-Saktī, consort of Gōvinda-Bhaīrava, 151.
Vaiṣṇavīṣvāmī, 38.
Vaiṣṇavīṣvāmī, Sālvism, etc. (Bhadarkar), quoted, 128n, 168n, 178, 235n, 236n, 248n.
Vaiṣṇavīte, 35, 55, 62, 64, 72, 151, 185, 196, 218n.
Vaiṣṇava, caste, 190, 229, 239.
Vaiṣṇavī, s.a. Kālayaṇasundara, 76n, 103.
Vaiṣṇavīṇa, insect, form assumed by Vishnu for boring holes in the Sālīgrāma stones, 70.
INDEX

vajrapitha, form of pedestal, 266.
Vajraprastārini, goddess, 223.
Vallī or Vallīyamman, consort of Skanda, 177, 178.
Vāmā, sage and author, 37n.
Vaiṣṇava, village in the Tanjore district, 100, 125, 162, 230.
Vāma, the Saktī (goddess) of Vāma or Vāma-deva (Siva), 190n.
Vāmāna, the Dwarf-incarnation of Vishnu, 22, 30, 32 : epithet of Vishnu, 55 : variety of Sāligrāma, 70.
Vāmāna-Purāṇa, 165n.
vanamāla, garland of flowers, worn by Vishnu, 17, 50 ; by Vaishnavi, 194.
Vāndi-Kāliyammana, village deity, 224.
Vānūyak, s. a. Pall, 227.
vara, boon-giving pose of hand in images (y. v.), 10, 17, 54n, 66, 76, 89n, 90, 93, 97, 110, 114, 137, 148, 177, 178, 189, 190, 194, 202, 212n, 239, 241n, 243, 245, 266.
Vārahadraśavāmī, temple, at Little Coujeeveram, 43.
Vāra-Ganapati, form of Ganapati, 176.
Vārahana, the Boar-incarnation of Vishnu, 22, 26, 30.
Vārahānia-undapra, rock-cut pavilion at Mahākalipura, 30.
Vārāha-mahābhirava, astronomer, 236n.
Vārāha-Perumal, rock-cut temple at Mahākalipura, 22.
Vārāha-Purāṇa, 162.
Vaṁrī, one of the Saptamatrīkās, 190, 194, 196.
Vārāhi-kalpa, work quoted in the Tattva-mulī, 194n.
Varunā, regent of the east and lord of the ocean, 243.
Vārvṇi, goddess, 220.
Vasanta (Spṛnga), friend of Kāma, 62.
Vārāhāmatara, fashion of making up the hair, 216, 268.
Vāsishtha, sage, 37n, 99, 254.
Vāsishtharāmāyan, name of a Sanskrit work, 37n.
Vāsudeva, form of standing Vishnu, 52n, 55 : variety of Sāligrāma 70 : s. a. Krishna, 195.
Vāsuki, serpent-chief, 140, 251.
Vas, the eye, 62, 268.
Vatsapratrasaśīn, form of Krishna (Vishnu), 37.
Vatsarpīna-aman, goddess, in the temple at Tiruvottiyūr, 226.
Vatuka-Bhaṣaṇa, form of Bhairava, 161n.
Vāyu, wind, 1st of the north-west quarter, 248, 267 ; charioteer of Agni, 243.
Vēdānta-Deśika, s. r. Vaishnavā teacher, 259.
Vēdas, the four, 30, 32, 177, 235, 258n : symbol, in front of Brahmā images, 110 ; in the hand of Aghorāsminī, 145 : following Dattārēya in the form of dogs, 114 : carried (as personified images) by Hayagriva, 55 : forming the body of Garuda, 64n : used as horses, to his chariot, by Tripurāntaka, 140 : represented, by the goddesses Gāyatrī, Sāvitrī and Sarasvatī, 220 ; by the Sun, 236 : their seven metres (chhāndas), represented as seven horses of the Sun, 23n.
Vēdīc, 7, 64n, 241, 251, 254.
Veṭtai, Tamil name for saktī, 177.
Veṭtīyulai, Tamil name for Subrahmanya, 178.
Venkatēsa or Venkatarāmana, form of standing Vishnu on the Tirupati Hill, 62.
Vēm-Gāpāla, form of Krishna, 43.
See evam and pāt.
Vēṭhā, demon, vehicle of Vīrabhadra, 155.
Vibhūthana, Rākhana chief, 37.
Vidyāharasa, class of demi-god, 251 : of Jain mythology, 265.
Vighnēśa or Vighneśvara, s. a. Ganapati, 82n, 168, 234n.
Vijaya, attendant of Vishnu, 59 ; of Skanda, 178 : name of a Dāracpāla image, 251.
Vijaya Ganasāti, form of Ganapati, 176.
Vijayanagara (Hampi), village in the Bellary district, 24, 26, 36n, 88.
Vīnā, the Lotian lute, 90, 220, 251 : symbol in the hand of Nārada, 254 : of Sarasvatī, 241.
Vinkilhāsā, Dakshināmūrti, form of Dakshināmūrti, 90.
Vinkalaka, s. a. Ganapati, 82n, 165, 165n, 187, 194, 267 : name of the Dāracpāla at the southern entrance of Siva temples, 254n.
Vindhyā, mountain, 225.
Vindhyāvāsīn, form of Durgā, 220, 223.
Vīrabhadra, fierce emanation of Siva, 74, 89, 155, 159, 161n, 194, 227n, 234.
Vīra-Cōla, surname of Parāntaka I., 88.
Vīra-Lakshmi, form of Lakshmi, 189.
Vīra-Nārāyana, surname of Parāntaka I., 88.
Vīra-Saiva, s. a. Lingkāanta, 165.
Vīra-Saktī, goddess, connected with Sūnākanda, 110 : Pārvati in her independent form, 185n.
Vīraśānti, posture in sitting, 37, 197, 266n.
Vīra-Vīra, walking form of Vīrabhadra, 159.
Vīrēśvara, s. a. Vīrabhadra, 113.
Vijjukṣī, name of the goddess Pārāvata at Benares, 218n.
INDEX

Visalyakarana, medical herb, 259.

Vishakantha, epithet of Nilaakantha, 137.

Vishpaharamātīrī, form of Siva, 140.

Vishnun, god, the Protector, 2, 3, 10n, 11, 17, 22, 24, 26, 30, 33, 37, 47, 50, 52, 55, 62, 64, 70, 72, 73, 74, 82n, 84n, 93, 97, 100, 103, 107, 113, 125, 140, 148, 168, 184, 185, 187, 189, 194, 195, 197, 202, 218n, 229, 230, 235, 236, 251, 254, 259, 265, 267, 268;— variety of Sāligrāma, 70; — used as arrow by Tripurāntaka, 140.

Vishnudharmottara, work, quoted by Ilāmātīrī, 107.

Vishnu-Purāna, 73.

Vishvaksena, epithet of Vishnu, 62; — Vishvanavite god, 62.

vismaya, pose of fingers, 84, 88, 125, 137, 178, 267.

Vissakarṇa, Art Journal (Coomaraswamy) quoted, 24n, 64n, 114n, 143n, 251n, 254n, 259n.

Vissakarṇa, form of Brahmā, 11.

visvarāmādinī, attribute of Kāma’s arrow, 62.

Visvāmitra, sage, 254.

Visvanātha, temple, at Tenkasi, 173.

Visvedeva, the ten, 262.

Vithbāha, s.a., Pāṇḍuranga, 55.

Vrishārādhi, form of Siva, 74, 76n, 113, 114n.

Vrishabhāhāna, 60, 113, 114.

Vṛiṣa salla, surname of Tirupati Hill, 62n.

vultures, vehicle of Sani (Saturn) 239; — of Kāthu, 241.

Vyāghrapāda, sage (with tiger’s feet), 82n, 84, 88.

vyālā-mudrā, pose of fingers, 79.

Vyāsa, sage, 176.

W

water-pot, symbol, in the hand of Brahmā, 10, 11, 103, 113; — of Brahmacārī, 202; — of Dakshināmūrti, 93; — of Gana-

pati, 168; — of rishi images, 254; — of Sankarachārya, 259; — of Śitarā, 213; — of Sukra, 239; — of Vāgīsvarta, 185; — of Vāmana, 32; — held on the lap by Kapila 254; — See kṣṇākā.

Weapons, personified, 52n, 62, 66.

whip-lashing, ceremony observed in temples of village deities, 226.

winnó, symbol of Śitarā, 213.

Y

Vajna-purusha, epithet of Vishnu, 64n.

vajnasātra or vajrābāvī, the Brahmanical sacred thread, 10, 113, 243.

Vajra or Vajur-Veda, 220.

Yaksha, class of demi-gods, 248, 251; — of Jaina mythology, 265.

Yakshī, a Yaksha female, 265.

Yama, the god of Death and lord of the south, 137, 148, 194n, 243; — son of Śiva, 236.

Yāmala-maṇḍāsātra, 196.

Yamunā, s.a., Jumna, 38; — the chaupī bearer of Varuna, 248.

Yamāyā, s.a., Vārāhī, 194n.

yantras, mystic charms connected with Śakti-worship, 185, 222.

Yāska, author of the Nirukta, 37n.

Yaśodā, mother of Durgā and foster-mother of Krishna, 37, 196.

Yenār, village in the South Canara district, 265.

yōga, philosophic contemplation, 89.

Yogamārti or Yōga-Dakshināmūrti, form of Dakshināmūrti, 90.

Yōga-Narasimha, form of Narasimha, 26.

yōgapatā, belt used in meditation, 90.

Yōga-Sakti, goddess, identified with the pedestal of Siva-līnga, 110n, 185n.

yōgāsana, posture in sitting, 63, 265.

Yōga-Vīra, the seated form of Virabhadra, 159.

Yōgavāsa-Vishnu, form of Vishnu, 55.

yōgin, an ascetic, 64n.

yōni, the pedestal of a Siva-līnga, 72, 73.

yuga, a Hindu æon, 161.