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THE ENIGMA OF THE SCULPTURES AT KHAJURAHO

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Candella Dynasty: c. 830-1308 CE

Harsha ca. 905-925

Yasovarman 925-950

Dhanga 950-999

Ganda 999-1003

Vidyadhara ca. 1004-1035

1019 and 1022: attacks by Mahmud of Ghazni

Terms: *alamkara*: adornment, ornament, figure of speech

apsara: heavenly female dancers

mithuna: loving couples

slesha: puns and double-entendres

sura-sundaras, heavenly females

vedibhanda: basement, foundation

yantra: an abstract symbol for a field of energy

Laksmana (Visnu) Temple, 954 CE inscription of Dhanga

(double transepts, Varaha Shrine, *panchayatana* design, 4 subsidiary shrines)

Inscription dated 953-954 in the reign of Dhanga tells us that the temple was constructed by the Chandella King Yasovarman who died before 954, therefore, it was constructed between 930-950 and dedicated for worship in 953/4.

Dedicated to the Vaikuntha form of Visnu, distinguished by 3 heads: lion, man and boar

Vishvanath (Siva) Temple, late 10th C.

Inscription by King Dhanga, 999 CE, refers to two *lingas*, an emerald and a stone one *panchayatana* design (main temple and 4 shrines)

Kandariya Mahadeva (Siva) Temple, 1025-50 CE erected by Vidyadhara?

Inscription refers to King Virimda, perhaps a name of King Vidhyadara

Prabodhachandrodaya (Moonrise of Pure Knowledge) an allegorical play by

Krishna Misra

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