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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

Visvanath (Siva) Temple, 10th C.

Inscription by King Dhanga, 900 CE, refers to two *lingas*, an emerald and a stone one  
*panchayatana* design (main temple and 4 shrines)

Laksmna (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

*Prabodhachandrodaya (Moonrise of Pure Knowledge)* an allegorical play by  
Krishna Misra

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

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

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