

# INTERDEPARTMENTAL

February 7, 1977

To: Paul Hibert

From: Allen Thrasher

Re: Your list deities for whom there are yātrās

1.A. Śiva

2. Adinarayan--Nārāyan, of course is Viṣṇu; Ādinārāyana should mean "the original N., " N. the source." I believe, without being able to give any reasons, that the title "Adi-N." is relatively modern. In any case, it should come under Viṣṇu unless this particularly cult is clearly meant as syncretistic or as, so to speak, Śaiva imperialism. (f. #130)

9. Asvini--I presume this would be Āsvini, the wife (later mother) of the Āsvins, the twin Vedic patrons of horsemanship and medicine (corresponding perfectly to the Greco-Roman Diocuroi, Castor and Pollux). Āsvini is more important as the first of the 28 lunar nakṣatras (equals the head of Aries). I know no reason she should be associated with Śiva, nor <sup>that</sup> the Āsvins <sup>should</sup>. The Skt. for the Āsvins would be the nom-dual Asvinā (archaic) or Asvinau, so I suppose it is their mother-wife that is in question, and not they themselves.

10. Balabhadra--This is Kṛṣṇa's elder brother, and an incarnation of the serpent Anarita. *Short a in Bala.*

11. Balabrahmesvara--This is a bit odd. Brahmeśvara could mean either "Lord of Brahmā," in which case it could appropriately be applied to either Viṣṇu or Śiva, or "Lord Brahmā," i.e. Brahmā himself. Bala I assume would here have a <sup>short</sup> a, meaning "child," "boy," as in Bala-Kṛṣṇa, Bala-Sarasvatī and various other child forms of the gods. I have never seen any reference to "The Child Brahmā." The only thing Monier-Williams's Sanskrit-English Dictionary has under Brahmeśvara is "Name of an author" and "name of a Tirtha on the Revā or Narmadā River." He has nothing under Bālabrahma or Bālabrahmeśvara, whether the a of the first element of the compound be short (in which case it means "strength") or long (in which case, as said, it means "child").

58. Kukkūṭeśvara--Lord of Cocks--Monier-Williams s.v. has "Name of a mantra, name of a līṅga, SkandaPurāṇa. I might add that Kukkūṭa is in several of its meanings confused with Kukkura, by an easy phonetic jump. The latter means "Dog," and "Lord of Dogs" would be an appropriate title for S., who is often shown accompanied by them. However, I do not find <sup>the title</sup> it in MW.

61. Lanka Ramanna--Does the double n in the second word prevent this from being Laṅkā Ramaṇa, "The Lover of Laṅkā," who I presume would be Ravana? R. is of course a Śaiva.

62. Lanka Malagiresvara--I can't get anything out of the second word here.

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## B. Possibly Śiva

1. Basavesvara--Isn't this Basava, the founder of Vira-Śaivism?
3. Chikkāṅṅesvara or Chikkana--An odd name. "Cikkana" in Skt. means "smooth" or "unctuous" or "Betel-nut." I do not find it or any compound as a divine name.
8. Kanchikamakshi--Kamāksī is a form of Durgā, especially common in Tantrism. Mightn't this be a temple of hers in Kāncī? Cf. 6, with a Dravidian ending?
13. Narmadesvara--This is given by Monier-Williams as "(probably) a form of Śiva," and narmadesvaratīrtha as "name of a Tīrtha, Śiva Purāna." So it would seem pretty sure it is Śiva.
14. Pandulingesvara--Nothing in MW under this title, but he does have pāṇḍutīrtha as the name of a Tīrtha in the Śivapurāna.
15. Pandurangavithalesvara--Viṭṭhala is the deity of Pandharpur in Maharashtra, an incarnation of Viṣṇu insofar as he is thought of as an incarnation of anyone. I believe Pāṇḍuraṅga is the Skt. name of Pandharpur. Cf. IV, 58. & 75
16. Raghavesvara--MW gives Rāghaveśvara as the "name of one of Śiva's Liṅgas," referring to the Kṣitīśvaravamsāvalīcarita. According to his vocabulary entry under the latter word, this is an 18th-c. work on the genealogy and deeds of a king of Kanyakubja (Kanauj) called Kṣitīśa. Otherwise I know nothing of the book.
18. Sathesvara--Skt. Śaṭheśvara, "Lord of Crooks," a not unlikely title for Śiva.
11. Menakesvara--Menakā is the wife of Himavat and mother of Umā, thus Śiva's mother-in-law. One would think this title would apply to Himavat. To my knowledge Umā is not herself called Menakā
22. Yagantesvara--Yāgānta means "end of a sacrifice." I find nothing ~~some~~ under this title, but under the synonymous yajñānta I find yajñāntakṛt, "one who causes the end of a sacrifice, i.e. one who spoils a sacrifice, a Name of Kṛṣṇa, Pañcarātra." I wouldn't think the resemblance is close enough to warrant any conclusions.

## II. Viṣṇu and forms associated with Viṣṇu

### A. Viṣṇu

1. Anāṭha--I presume this is Ananta, "Endless," the serpent which Viṣṇu rests upon and which supports the world.

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2. Janardhana--Janārdana, Kṛṣṇa or Viṣṇu, no other god.

3. Kharesvara--Nothing in MW s.v., but khara can mean, among many other things, "rough," "hard," "donkey," "name of a demon killed by Rama, a brother of Ravana," "a name of Śiva."

4. Ramabhadra--MW has Rāmbhadra as a name of Rāma son of Daśaratha.

5. Ramachedra--misprint for Rāmacandra, another name of Rāma?

7. Tripurasundari--this can only be a title of Durgā, Tripurasundarī, "the beauty of the three cities," somehow connected with Śiva's burning of the three cities of the Asuras. Unless this is some very unusual cult.

## C. Associates of Vishnu

2. Manmatha--Equals Kāma the god of love. He is not usually associated with Viṣṇu, except that very occasionally he is called Viṣṇu's son. Cf. #IV.34.

## IV. Miscellaneous Male Deities

### Ahobalāswamī

1. N.B.! If you find out anything about this please tell me! This is a very odd name. The only Sanskrit sense one can make out of it is "Oh, the strength," of which the only half-satisfactory explanation of its use as a name would be as a mocking nickname for a man proud of his strength. Cf. Āhopuruṣika, vainglory, lit. "Oh, (what a) manliness." I wrote Emeneau a note about this and he could not come up with any better explanation, and said he could think of no Dravidian etymology. MW has, s.v., "name of a commentator (actually, of several, all S. Indians, I think); name of a place." The latter possibility seems worth investigating.

34. Kamdev--Kāma-deva, the god of love. Cf. II.C.2.

37. Kasinath--Kāśi-nātha, "Lord of Benares," name of Śiva, unless it is a deified human being of that name.

35. Kanderao--This sounds vaguely Maharashtrian to me. Ask Frank Conlon?

45. Mahadev, Kanoba Mahadev--Mahādeva is usually Śiva. Kanoba again sounds Maharashtrian to me.

58. Panduranga--For Pāṇḍurāṅga, cf. I.B.15. Cf IV.75 below

62. Raghavendra--Rāghavendra is a favorite name among Śrī-Vaiṣṇavas (and other Vaiṣṇavas?). A deified human being or saint? I do not believe the word is applied to Rāma or Lakṣmaṇa. Rāghava, "descendant of Raghu," is of course a name of Rāma, also applied to his father and to Lakṣmaṇa. Raghavendra means "he whose lord is Raghava" or else "Lord of the Raghava"

63. Sridhara--Śrīdhara, "support of Śrī," is a name of Viṣṇu and of various men.

69. Srungaravallabhaswamy--Sṛṅgāravallabhasvāmi, "the lord who is the beloved in love," a title of Kṛṣṇa? I can't find it as such, but it sounds definitely Kṛṣṇaite.

74. Vithoba--Vīthobā ~~(sp?)~~ equals Viṭṭhala; see I.B.15 and IV.58 above.

75. Yatirajaswami--Yatirāja, "king of ascetics," is given by MW as a name of Rāmanuja.