

The Female Figure in the Art of Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta Caves

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P R E F A C E

Woman has always been a favourite decorative motif for Indian artists. No religious monument generally is devoid of this motif. It was believed that without depiction of the female figures the monument becomes barren and bears no fruit. Hence the multiplicity of female figures. The cave temples of Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta are not exceptions. The representation here ranges from goddesses to terrestrial woman.

Studies devoted exclusively to female figures of these sites are very rare and in the form of small monographs. Among these G.Solomon's article 'The women of Ajanta' and G.Yezdani's article 'Woman in the sculptures of the Deccan: An artistic study' are important. The present work is an attempt to understand in the canonical perspective the depiction of the female figure in various forms in sculpture as well as painting.

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