A neglected Aspect of the Iconography of Viṣṇu and other Gods and Goddesses
Claudine Bautze-Picron

Abstract: This paper considers aspects of the jewellery worn by the god Viṣṇu, more particularly his tiara, necklace, armlets and girdle, ornaments which are integrate images of real and fantastic animals. Although this is part of the development of the god's iconography from the 4th c. onward, previous examples are known from Mathura in the 2nd and 3rd c. in a Buddhist context. The paper shows how such 'secondary' elements, not considered up to now in the study of the image of the god, contribute to underline his link to kingship.

Keywords: iconography, Viṣṇu, royal symbolism

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Hindu deities are the gods and goddesses in Hinduism. The terms and epithets for deity within the diverse traditions of Hinduism vary, and include Deva, Devi, Ishvara, Ishvari, Bhagavān and Bhagavati. The deities of Hinduism have evolved from the Vedic era (2nd millennium BC) through the medieval era (1st millennium AD), regionally within Nepal, India and in southeast Asia, and across Hinduism's diverse traditions. The Hindu deity concept varies from a personal god as in Yoga school of Hindu