

Kubera, Gaṇeśa et la Déesse

A fairly large number of Indian sculptures, between the beginning of the common era and the thirteenth century, represent the god Kubera in the company of different female deities (one or more amongst Mātṛkā, Ṛddhi, Bhadrā, Ambikā, Śrī-Lakṣmī) or the god Gaṇeśa. Kubera may also be represented, along with Gaṇeśa, in two types of trios: either in a peaceful form, also associated with prosperity, showing Lakṣmī bathed by two elephants, or in a more combative form associated with sovereignty and the royal function including Durgā Mahiṣāsūramardīnī. The study of these reliefs, less well-known than the isolated images of Kubera, enables the functions of this god to be specified and the knowledge of his personality enriched, a personality which is more complex than it is often thought to be. Thus, in addition to his traditional duties as a god of wealth, Kubera appears as a guardian of thresholds and shrines, a protector of motherhood, an assistant of power and of the spread of *dharma*. He is also present in the three main religions of ancient India (Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism).

Keywords: Kubera; Gaṇeśa; Gajalakṣmī; Durgā Mahiṣāsūramardīnī; trio of prosperity; sovereignty.