

Les temples *deval* de la Karnali (Népal occidental) : réflexions sur leur datation et leur vocation

The medieval architecture of western Nepal has so far received little attention in scholarly literature. In particular, the region is known as the centre of the Khaśa Malla empire, which lasted from the 12th to the 14th century. Previous work on the subject has interpreted the *śikhara* temples (locally called *deval*) as manifestations of the economic and political success of the Khaśa Malla emperors. This paper questions the dating and purpose of *deval* temples in the Karnali basin by mobilizing field data. The study reveals that *deval* temples were not the sole preserve of the imperial era but also of the later one. Regional architectural preferences are identified and historically contextualized. Similarly, it is proposed that the temples were mainly erected for memorial purposes, to honour individuals or lineages.

Keywords: architecture; Nepal; Karnali; Khaśa Malla.