

21. *Tenderly merge the bodies into each other: Devi Jagadamba Temple (photo by Raymond Burnier)*
22. *The Union of Cosmic principles: Devi Jagadamba Temple (photo by D. H. Sahiar)*
23. *Obviously a ritualistic ceremony in which the conjugating couple are lay figures in the embrace recommended by the priest with the symbolic staff on his shoulder. The lady on the side, also uninitiated, bashfully hides her nudity: Devi Jagadamba Temple (photo by Moti Ram Jain)*
24. *Tenderness in love: Devi Jagadamba Temple (photo by Raymond Burnier).*



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## Devi Jagadamba Temple

A large temple to the north of the last, 77 feet in length by 49½ feet in breadth, is now known by the name of *Devi Jagadamba*, or "the goddess-mother of the world". It was originally dedicated to Vishnu, as his figure occupies the centre of the entrance to the sanctum, with the figures of Siva and Brahma to the right and left. Inside the sanctum there is a very elaborate standing statue, 5 feet 8 inches in height, of a four-armed female who, as she is represented holding lotus flowers, must be intended for Lakshmi, the consort of Vishnu. It is very probable, therefore, that this figure may have been the original goddess of the shrine, and consequently that the name of *Devi Jagadamba* may be the correct one. The temple consists of only four chambers, the *ardha-mandapa* or small entrance hall, being omitted, or perhaps lost, and the open passage round the sanctum which is found in the *Kandariya* temple. Its plan, however, is more beautiful than that of the larger temple, while its ornamentation is equally rich and elaborate. It has the same three rows of sculptures on the outside immediately above the plinth. There is no inscription of any kind, but a few mason's marks of single letters show that this temple must have been built in the tenth or eleventh century, during the most flourishing period of the Chandela rule.