



Parswanatha Jain Temple

During the century of development from the earlier groups of Hindu temples to the Jain group, there has been an advance towards compactness and order. The onrush of romantic feeling, leading to exuberance, has been somewhat cooled by experience. And although the Jain religion seems to have absorbed, in these periods, almost all the gods of the Hindu pantheon, there is in the carving a certain restraint which is classic rather than emotional.

A small ancient temple, which has been restored in modern times, as a shrine of *Parswanatha*, the 22nd of the Jain pontiffs, stands south of the Khajuraho village. The portion now remaining, which appears to be only the sanctum of the original temple, has a naked male figure on the left side of the door, and a naked female figure on the right side, with three seated female figures over the centre. Inside there is a small seated figure of *Parswanatha*, which gives its name to the temple. Outside, the building is ornamented with three rows of small statues, of which those of the two lower rows are standing, and those of the uppermost row either sitting or flying. On the jambs of the door there are three short records of pilgrims in characters of the tenth or eleventh century, which is the most probable date of the original temple.

44. *The smear of black surma on the eye lashes: Parswanatha Temple (photo by D. H. Sahiar)*

45. *Parswanatha Temple (photo by S. Tata)*