

There is also a god of learning, *Genesa*. It is reported that one day he lost his head while playing a strange thing for so wise a god to do, and his mother thinking the people would laugh at him when they came to worship, hunted up an elephant's head, which does him very well.

Vishnu, the preserver, is described as having four heads, of which one is free while the others hold a shell, a discus and a club. His wife is the goddess of love, grace, marriage and wealth. The cow is her holy representative upon earth.

Siva, the destroyer, holds a trident as a symbol of his power, a lasso or sling, an antelope, and sometimes a flame of fire in his hand. He has a third eye in the middle of his forehead, and sometimes a necklace of human skulls.

Kali's wife has four hands all painted red, to imitate blood, and the body is dark blue. The long chain around her neck is made of 40 skulls, and her girdle of the hands of giants. The tongue is protruding, and it gives her a terrible appearance. She is the goddess of cholera and other epidemics.

Darjah is such a dreadful goddess that all the people are afraid of her. She has three eyes and ten arms. Every year they hold a feast in her honor, three days long. An image is made of her, and the third night at 12 o'clock a gun is fired and the goddess comes into the idol. Then they throw the image into a pond or river and make a new one next year.

Another god worshipped in the south is *Juggernaut* (the king of the world). There are many large temples built for his worship, and you can always tell them by the large car in front of them. A festival to him is held every month, at which time the idol is brought from his temple and placed on an enormous car sixty feet high and drawn by long cables through the streets by thousands of worshippers. Great numbers use it to throw themselves under the car to be crushed to death, but that is forbidden now by the British Government; but they still bring out the car.

Krishna is another form of *Vishnu*. He killed a giant that used to interrupt the gods and goddesses at their prayers. Whom did they pray to? So they have a feast to commemorate it, and the more wicked they can act the better.

Each of the gods have a distinct care. When small-pox prevails they call upon *Polaramma*, and when they fear snakes they offer gifts to *Nagaramina*.

There is one god in the form of a stone pebble in a silver box fastened on a chain which the people wear around their neck.

You may have heard the story of the family who were afraid that their god would repeat all the naughty things which they had said and done. So they promised him beautiful presents to keep still, and still not sure of him keeping silent, gave him sticky food to fasten his lips so that he could not speak if he wished to do so.

There are a great many more interesting facts about these idols which represent the heathen gods, but I must not make the story too long.—Ps. cxxxv., 16, 16, 17, describe these idols, and the 18th verse. "They that make them are like unto them, so is every one that trusteth in them," contains a sad truth. Will you not pray and give, that these poor people may hear about the true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

MRS. GRAHAM, Montreal.

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