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A Study of Sculptural Art of The Temples of Kaktiyas in 12th Centuries

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ABSTRACT

The sculptural art of the Kakatiya temples, flourishing in the 12th century in the Deccan region, particularly in present-day Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, represents a remarkable synthesis of artistic excellence and spiritual symbolism. Under the patronage of the Kakatiya rulers, notably King Rudradeva and Queen Rudramadevi, temple architecture reached new heights of refinement. The temples, such as the Thousand Pillar Temple in Hanamkonda and the Ramappa Temple in Palampet, stand as monumental testimonies to the dynasty's dedication to Shaivism and architectural innovation. The sculptural motifs found in these temples include intricate carvings of gods and goddesses, celestial beings, animals, floral patterns, and scenes from Hindu epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata, all reflecting deep religious fervor and exceptional craftsmanship. Artisans used black basalt and sandstone to create these masterpieces, displaying precision, rhythm, and fluidity in design. Noteworthy features include lathe-turned pillars, richly carved ceilings, and miniature friezes with profound narrative depth. These sculptures not only served religious purposes but also illustrated aspects of social life, warfare, and cultural values of the time. The Kakatiya sculptural tradition stands as a unique artistic legacy of medieval South India, contributing significantly to the evolution of Indian temple art and architecture.