

Ominous Signs and Salvation: The House-Lizard in South-Indian Temples and in its Textual Sources in Religious Sanskrit Literature

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Summary:

The connotations of the house-lizard as ominous sign are rooted in the Jyotiḥśāstra and its representation within astrological works, as well as it being a part of Indian cultural practice underwent a development, which this project wishes to delineate. Furthermore this project will give an account on the narratives which connect the house-lizard to local ritual practices, with special reference to the Varadarāja-temple in Kāñcīpuram. Stories which describe the mythical origin of a lizard-icon are found in the various Sthala-Purāṇas of Kāñcīpuram.