

description here given is the result of careful inspection of the original painting.

The attenuated conical column is yellow, ornamented with encircling bands of linear scroll pattern, and rests on a grey ball which is supported on a spreading, yellow base. The small hemispherical knob at the top seems to balance a shallow, pale pink, bowl-shape capital, ornamented with acanthus decoration in red outline. The horizontal band or architrave, resting on the bowl capital, and its continuation, first sloping upward and then horizontal again, is enriched with linear scrolls in red. Above the upper horizontal members of the architrave, on each side, rests another horizontal band, the inner ends sloping upwards towards each other, decorated with red lines. A light grey background, its lower edge level with the rim of the bowl, runs right across the picture. The lower part of the background is dark red, with a group of three white blossoms on black stems to the left.

The kneeling figure on the left is one of the very few examples, in all these paintings, of a strictly profile view of the head. The face seems to be of a southern Indian or perhaps Burmese type with long, oblique, and downcast eye. The ear is normal and has a large, plain ring through the lobe. Above the simple band of the tiara is a high, yellow ornament contoured with red. The armlet, with the design of an enclosed palmette, is also contoured red. On the wrists are plain bangles. In front of the yellow necklet is a rosette. The shoulders of the figure are turned slightly, so that both are visible and with hands raised as in prayer; the narrow-waisted body, nude to the hips, leans slightly forward. The crimson skirt, or *dhotī*, is figured in white with horizontal undulating bands, studded with small dots and punctuated with larger, pearl-like spots. Between the bands are pairs of confronting beasts: one with wings, leaping forward, and the other, wingless, statant, but with one paw raised. This seems to be a Sasanian modification of an early Chinese motive, found on silks of the Han dynasty.<sup>1</sup> The appearance of grotesque animals in textiles occurs also in Toy. VI. 02 and 073, plate VIII; and perhaps on Har. B, on the title-page. The rug on which the figure kneels has a grey centre with oblique lines of dots and is bordered by an inner band of crimson with oblique lines of grey dots, and an outer band of dark red-brown outlined with black. Behind the figure is a grey vesica, surrounded by plain bands of dark red and grey; and the nimbus has a grey field with white border.

The figure to the right sits with the crossed legs 'full-face' and the narrow-waisted, 'leonine' body turned three-quarters to the right. With his plump face

<sup>1</sup> See *Innermost Asia*, vol. III, plates XXXVIII, XXXIX.