

no explanation has, so far, been found. Fish—*matsya*—is one of the five elements or *ms* involved in the *Śakti* ritual, preliminary to attainment of freedom from passion; and in Bengal, the *Mahānirvāṇa Tantra* recommends for sacrificial purposes three kinds of fish said to be characteristic of that region (Eliot, *Hinduism and Buddhism*, vol. ii, p. 278 n.).

The general colour scheme is similar to that in plate xx, but a few details of the costumes on this plate may be noted. The gorgets are quilted green within the yellow (gold) scrolled borders. The loin-cloth of the centre and right-hand figures is chequered with double lines and dots, red on buff. On the flowing ends of their lower stoles are flat, silver tags. The close-fitting tunic of the *ḍākinī* on the left is red-brown, that of the centre grey, and that of the third brick-red.

Bez. v. I

This fragment of a *ḍākinī* figure from the north wall of the shrine is similar to the others on the plate, but not so well proportioned, and, like those, is progressing towards the cult figure at the west end of the cella. Of emblems the *vajra* alone is visible, the lower end resting on the fish.

She is dressed in green, with a jewelled girdle partly covered by a white kamar-band tied in a butterfly bow from which a long pleat hangs down to the level of the ankles. Her *dbotī* is yellow shaded with red and bordered with green, resembling that of the *ḍākinī*-like figure in Bez. iii. W–Y on plate xvi. The bright red skirt is contoured with white, as is also the grey sash round the hips. From the green elbow frill the arm is covered with a dull pink sleeve. The boots are yellow, figured with red. The upper side of the fish is green and the under side yellow.

Bez. x. G–H

The whole of the vaulted roof was covered with a diaper of these seated Buddha figures. The work is rough and perfunctory; the drawing, especially of the drapery, very stylized and crude. The flesh is pale with black outlines; the hair grey against pink nimbi bordered with green and buff. The robes are pinkish-red outlined with dark red, and the under robes are grey bordered with pink. The vesicas are alternately white with grey rays and pale green with green rays, surrounded by shaded pink and buff. *Padmāsanās* are alternately shaded grey and shaded purple-pink, with green centres. The background is light brick-red, with flowers coloured like the *padmāsanās*.