**Shiva Nataraja 73.77**

**Artist:** Unknown Indian  
**Date:** 13th Century  
**Dynasty:** Chola Dynasty  
**Place:** Southern Region, India  
**Medium:** Bronze  
**Dimensions:** 74.3 x 53.3 x 22.9 cm

Shiva, the god of dance and cosmic movement, is the most dramatic and popular Hindu deity. Shiva dances a cosmic dance (Anandatandava) in which the universe is the light reflected by his limbs as he moves in the orb of the sun. In most sculptures of Shiva this sun is evident, here it’s missing. Multiple arms suggest his protection of the worshipper. Shiva holds the fire and drum in his hands which symbolize his dual nature of destruction and creation. Pressed under Shiva’s foot is a demon, which represents ignorance.

**Online Resources:**  
[Hirsch Library Online Catalog](#)  
[MET Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

**Articles:** (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or HPL Systems)


**Print Resources:**

- [The Book of Hindu Imagery](#)  
- [The Art and Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent](#)  
- [Indian Art: A Concise History](#)  
- [Chola: Sacred Bronzes of Southern India](#)  
- [Handbook of Hindu Mythology](#)
Bibliography

Object Specific Information

General Surveys of Indian Art

Hinduism

Shiva

India

Chola Dynasty Art and Bronze Sculpture

Symbolism

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as “Hindu,” “India,” and “sculpture” in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

- Hindu mythology
- Hindu art
- India Civilization
- Sculpture, Chola
- Siva (Hindu deity)

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet’s A Short Guide to Writing about Art, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7323 or Hirsch@mfah.org