



**Plate 1:** A copper alloy statue of the Goddess Parvathi from the Chola period circa 11th. Century AD (Ramachandran collection). What is unique about this sculpture is that it is not only sensuous and alluring but is also the very epitome of feminine grace, poise, and dignity — combining the seemingly antithetical elements of sexuality and spirituality in a single exquisite masterpiece.



**Plate 2:** Epitome of childhood. Copper alloy statue of the infant Lord Krishna, circa 16th. Century, Chola-Vijayanagar transition (from the Ramachandran Collection).



**Plate 3:** Amorous couple. (Kajaraho, circa 800 A.D.) Sketch by Ramachandran.



**Plate 4:**  
A celestial nymph —  
the rasa of feminine  
perfection. (Mathura,  
800 A.D.). Notice the  
clever use of  
abdominal creases and  
dimples produced by  
subcutaneous fat — a  
feminine secondary  
sexual characteristic.  
(Replica in  
Ramachandran  
Collection.)



**Plate 5:**  
Celestial  
nymphs.



**Plate 6:** An apsara or  
nymph twisted into an  
anatomically impossible  
but aesthetically pleasing  
posture. Redrawn by  
Ramachandran from  
Fig. 44, *Arts of South and  
South-East Asia*,  
Metropolitan Museum of  
Art, New York.)



**Plate 7:**  
Amorous couple. Notice the poses are highly 'improbable', yet very evocative. The woman elevates her chin to expose her throat — an ethological gesture of complete vulnerability that belies the intense passion on the woman's face. (Redrawn from *Sensuous Immortals* by P. Pal, Los Angeles County Museum of Art.)



**Plate 8:** (a) A drawing of a horse by Nadia, the autistic savant, when she was five years old. (b) A horse drawn by Leonardo da Vinci. (a) reprinted from *Nadia*, by Lorna Selfe, with permission from Academic Press (New York).



**Plate 9:** The exaggerated, unnatural languorous pose of a celestial nymph, her various curves creating effects such as 'grouping' and 'closure'. A visual metaphor is set up, between her youthful fertility and the fertility symbolized by the curved bough above her. The effect is mesmerizing. (Redrawn from *Gods, Guardians and Angels*, Asia Society Museum of San Francisco.)