

# Yakshi

## Yakshini

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Yakshinis or Yakshis (Sanskrit: यक्षिणी, IAST: Yakṣiṇī or Yakṣī, Prakrit: Yakkhiṇī or Yakkhī) are a class of female nature spirits in Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain religious mythologies that are different from Devas and Asuras and Gandharvas or Apsaras. Yakshinis and their male counterparts, the Yakshas, are one of the many paranormal beings associated with the centuries-old sacred groves of India. Yakshis are also found in the traditional legends of Northeastern Indian tribes, ancient legends of Kerala, and in the folktales of Kashmiri Muslims. Sikhism also mentions yakshas in its sacred texts.

The well behaved and benign ones are worshipped as tutelaries, they are the attendees of Kubera, the treasurer of the gods, and also the Hindu god of wealth who ruled Himalayan kingdom of Alaka. There are also malign and mischievous yakshinis with poltergeist-like behaviours, that can haunt and curse humans according to Indian folklore.

The ashoka tree is closely associated with yakshinis. The young girl at the foot of the tree is an ancient motif indicating fertility on the Indian subcontinent. One of the recurring elements in Indian art, often found as gatekeepers in ancient Buddhist and Hindu temples, is a yakshini with her foot on the trunk and her hands holding the branch of a stylized flowering ashoka or, less frequently, other tree with flowers or fruits.

## Didarganj Yakshi

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The Didarganj Yakshi (or Didarganj Chauri Bearer; Hindi: ददरगंज यक्षि) is one of the finest examples of very early Indian stone statues. It used to be dated to the 3rd century BCE, as it has the fine Mauryan polish associated with Mauryan art, but another Yakshi is also found but without polish so it is also dated to approximately the 2nd century CE, based on the similarity of analysis of shape and ornamentation, or the 1st century CE. The treatment of the forelock in particular is said to be characteristically Kushan.

The sculpture is now in the Bihar Museum in Patna, Bihar, India, close to where it was found in 1917. Patna, as Pataliputra, was also the Mauryan capital.

The statue is 5 feet 2 inches (1.57 m) tall on a pedestal of 1 foot 7.5 inches (49.5 cm) made of Chunar sandstone highly finished to a mirror-like polish. The life-size standing image is a tall, well-proportioned, free-standing sculpture made of sandstone with the well-polished surface associated with Mauryan polish, although this persisted for some time after the empire fell. The fly-whisk (chauri) is held in the right hand whereas the left hand is broken. The lower garment creates a somewhat transparent effect. Like many of the earliest large sculptures in Indian art, it represents a minor spiritual figure or deity, a yakshi, rather than one of the major deities.

## Yakshi (sculpture)

*Yakshi is a sculpture in Malampuzha park, Palakkad adjacent to the Malampuzha Dam in the Indian state of Kerala. Sculptored by Kanayi Kunhiraman, its construction*

Yakshi is a sculpture in Malampuzha park, Palakkad adjacent to the Malampuzha Dam in the Indian state of Kerala. Sculptored by Kanayi Kunhiraman, its construction was completed in 1969. It is a 30 ft (9.1 m) tall sculpture inspired by a nude female yakshi (Hinduist female spirit), with her legs spread out, breasts lifted, eyes raised to the sky in a semi-drowsy state and fingers running through her hair. The sculpture is constructed in a single piece. Kunhiraman was honoured by Kerala Government in 2019 during the 50th anniversary of the sculpture.

Yakshi (film)

*Yakshi is a 1968 Malayalam-language psychological thriller film, directed by K. S. Sethumadhavan and written by Thoppil Bhasi, based on Malayattoor Ramakrishnan's*

Yakshi is a 1968 Malayalam-language psychological thriller film, directed by K. S. Sethumadhavan and written by Thoppil Bhasi, based on Malayattoor Ramakrishnan's novel of the same name. The film stars Sathyan, Sharada, Adoor Bhasi, N. Govindan Kutty, Bahadoor, Ushakumari, Sukumari, Rajakokila and Radhika. It is considered by historians to be the first psychological thriller in Malayalam cinema.

Kanjirottu Yakshi

*Kanjirottu Yakshi is a folkloric deity of South India. According to the myth, she was born into a Padamangalam family by name Mangalathu at Kanjiracode*

Kanjirottu Yakshi is a folkloric deity of South India. According to the myth, she was born into a Padamangalam family by name Mangalathu at Kanjiracode in Southern Travancore (now in Tamil Nadu). Also known as Chiruthevi, she was a beautiful courtesan who had an intimate relationship with Raman Thampi, son of King Rama Varma and rival of Anizhom Thirunal Marthanda Varma. She turned into a Yakshi after being murdered by her palanquin-bearer, waylaying men with her beauty and drinking their blood.

Bhutesvara Yakshis

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The Bhutesvara Yakshis, also spelled Bhutesar Yakshis, are a series of yakshi reliefs on a railing, dating to the 2nd century CE during the time of the Kushan Empire. The reliefs were found in the Bhuteshwar mound, around the remains of a Buddhist stupa, outside Mathura, and are now located in the Indian Museum in Kolkata, with three pillars, and three more pillars and one fragment (half of a pillar) in the Mathura Museum. They are an important example of Mathura art, of which these and other yakshi figures are "perhaps the best known examples".

The backs of the pillars contain reliefs with scenes from the life of the Buddha, and from Jataka tales about his previous lives.

The Bhutesar mound is one of a row of large mounds originally just outside the city of Mathura, but now well within the modern city. The important, mostly Jain, site of Kankali Tila was two mounds down.

Yakshi – Faithfully Yours

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Yakshi – Faithfully Yours is a 2012 Malayalam romantic fantasy film written and directed by debutant Abhiram Suresh Unnithan, son of veteran Malayalam director Suresh Unnithan. The film features new faces

in the lead roles. The main characters of the film are inspired from the Malayalam mythology work Aithiyamala. The film was released on 14 December 2012.

### Sanchi Yakshi Figure

*The Sanchi Yakshi Figure is a sandstone statue of the Shalabhanjika Yakshi from the ancient Buddhist site of Sanchi in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India*

The Sanchi Yakshi Figure is a sandstone statue of the Shalabhanjika Yakshi from the ancient Buddhist site of Sanchi in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India. One of the earliest Buddhist sculptures from the Indian subcontinent, it has been part of the British Museum's collection since 1842.

### Avanthika Mohan

*Mohan is an Indian actress and model. She made her feature film debut with Yakshi – Faithfully Yours and later earned popularity through the TV series Athmasakhi*

Priyanka Mohan kainth, better known by her stage name Avantika Mohan is an Indian actress and model. She made her feature film debut with Yakshi – Faithfully Yours and later earned popularity through the TV series Athmasakhi.

### Yakshi (novel)

*Yakshi is a Malayalam novel written by Malayattoor Ramakrishnan in 1967. The novel follows a college lecturer, Srinivasan, who is disfigured in an accident*

Yakshi is a Malayalam novel written by Malayattoor Ramakrishnan in 1967. The novel follows a college lecturer, Srinivasan, who is disfigured in an accident in his college lab. He meets a beautiful woman who is willing to accept him despite his disfigurement. But after a while, Srinivasan begins to doubt that the woman is not all she appears - or even human. In 1968, the novel was adapted into a film with same name starring Sathyan. In 1993, Yakshi was shown in BBC's Off the Shelf program as 12 episodes. In 1995, Hema Malini directed a telefilm in Hindi for Zee TV titled Mohini with Sudesh Berry and Madhoo. In 2013, a contemporary retelling of the novel titled Akam was released.

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