

9. Mỹ Sơn E1 pedestal

Mỹ Sơn, Quảng Nam
8th century
Sandstone: H. 65 cm;
W. 271 cm; D. 333 cm
BTC 6-22. 4



Fig. 1 The façade of the Mỹ Sơn E1 pedestal.



Fig. 2 Aspects of ascetic life.

Philippe Stern based his definition of the earliest Cham 'style ancien' or 'Mỹ Sơn E1 style' on the architectural features and costumes, jewelry and hairstyles features found on the Mỹ Sơn E1 pedestal. (Stern 1942: 8-14). The Mỹ Sơn E1 temple pedestal is unique in containing many architectural elements of a Śaiva temple such as moonstone, flight of steps, stairway, columns, arches/arcatures. The pedestal

is constructed from fifteen sandstone blocks joined together (two of which are now lost). It is probably the stone *vedi* (altar) built in 731/2 CE by king Vikrantavarman whose inscription was found in the sanctuary (Maxwell 2001: 442; Dhar 2016: 33, note 15). On top of the pedestal there are Sanskrit syllables beginning with *ka*, *kā*, *ki*, and ending in *kha*, *khā*... engraved on each stone block (Griffiths *et al.* 2012: 277-9). This