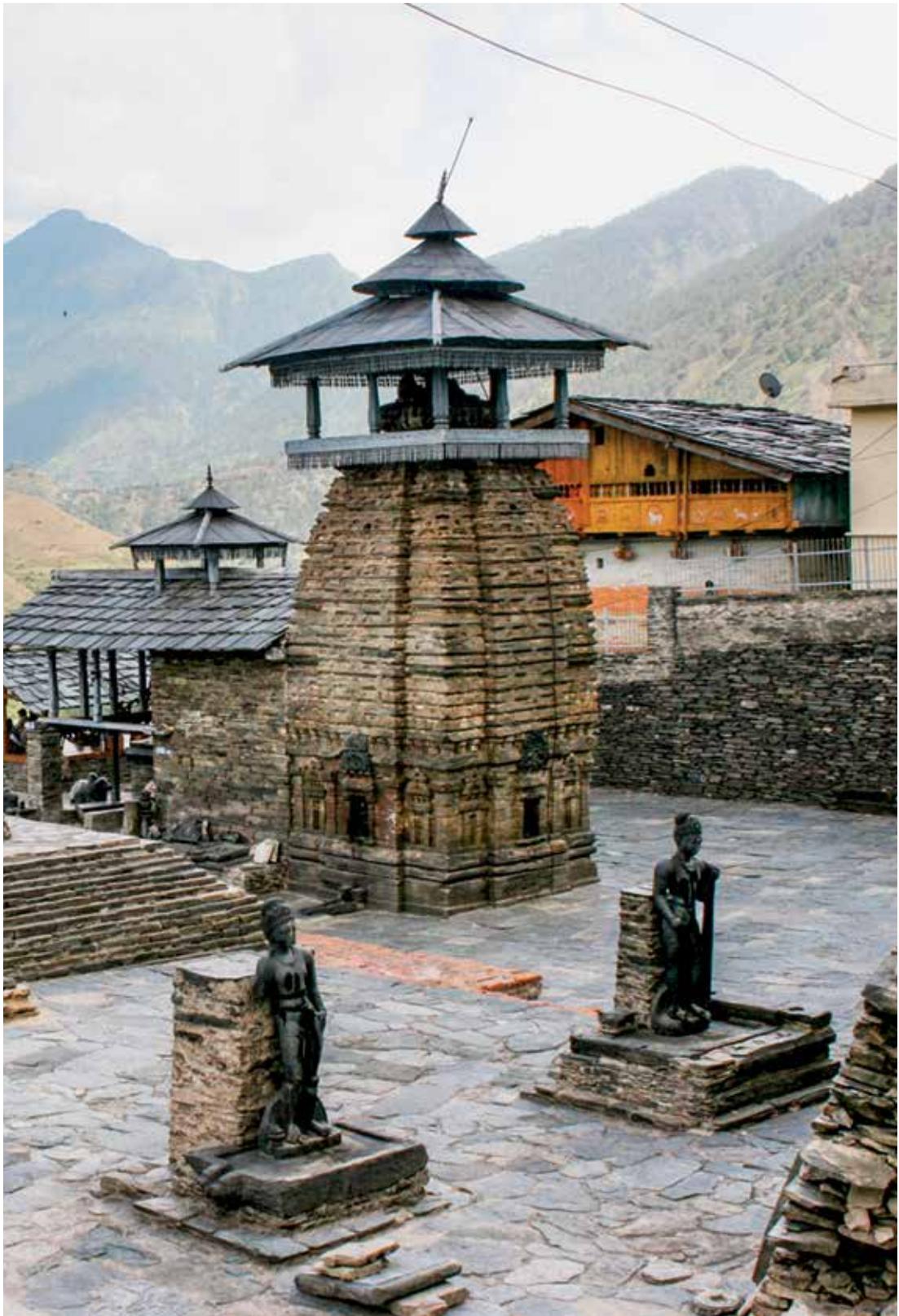


MOUNTAIN
TEMPLES
& TEMPLE
MOUNTAINS



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ARCHITECTURE, RELIGION, AND NATURE
IN THE CENTRAL HIMALAYAS

NACHIKET CHANCHANI

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS,
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JACKET ILLUSTRATION: Detail of *Shiva Carrying the Corpse of Sati on His Trident*. India, Himachal Pradesh, Kangra, ca. 1800. Opaque watercolor and gold on paper. 11½ × 16 in. Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

All interior photographs, figures, and maps are by the author unless otherwise noted. The frontispiece pictures a *latina* temple, ca. 750, at Lakhamandal, Uttarakhand.

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For my parents
Swati and Rajiv Chanchani

Rightly do they call
your immovable form Viṣṇu,
for your middle
is the support of all beings,
moving and unmoving.

Kumārasaṃbhava 6.67

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NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION

In this monograph, Sanskrit terms and ancient proper nouns—including names of historical characters, temples, mountain peaks, and cultural regions—have been transliterated using diacritical marks established by the IAST (International Alphabet of Sanskrit Transliteration) scheme. However, to facilitate readability, the names of modern personages, rivers, and toponyms have not been rendered with diacritical marks (e.g., “Sharma,” Jatanganga, and “Rishikesh” rather than “Śarmā,” Jaṭāgaṅgā, and “Hṛṣīkeśa”) or Sanskritized (e.g., “Joshimath” rather than “Jyotirmaṭha”). Following custom, I do not Sanskritize the names of Sikh spiritual masters (e.g., Gobind Singh, rather than Guru Govinda Siṃha). Technical Sanskrit terms are translated briefly following their first usage (e.g., *mukhacatuṣkī*, four-pillared entry porch). A glossary of key architectural terms also appears at the end of the book. Although the northern mountain range is regarded as a singular entity in classical Sanskrit literature, I follow modern academic convention and popular usage and generally use the plural spelling (Himalayas). I use the singular “Himālaya” only when referring to it as an anthropomorphic character, as Kālidāsa, the great fifth-century poet, self-consciously did in his courtly poems. Today, Hardwar city is also called “Haridwar” (The City of Hari, i.e., of the Hindu god Viṣṇu). I use the latter spelling only when referring to the city in relation to the efforts of Viṣṇu’s devotees to make it their own.

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