

Uma Nair's Critique on "Rudra"

Rudra

As leader of the ganas (nature deities), we are reminded that Ganesha emphasizes his playful and rambunctious nature—in contrast to his father Shiva's cosmic dance of creation and destruction. As remover of obstacles, Ganesha clears a path to access Shiva while also bestowing wealth and prosperity. This work Rudra extols Shaivite principles and beliefs.

In its form and its chromatic brilliance Laila reminds us of the beauty of nature and the reality of many landscapes in India where nearly every pond and banyan tree in has a sacred Ganesha/Shiva shrine nearby.

They need no elaborate temples, they need no roofs. Just being there, both Rudra and Ganesha convert the empty space into a sacred shrine. The deep love and connection with Shiva and Ganesha is closely reflected in the untold sacred literary and devotional narrative traditions.

There is a fine line connecting high, sacred literary tradition and popular culture. One cannot even say where one ends and the other begins.
