ABSTRACT

Temple is an artistic expression of Hinduism where divinity or spiritual realisation is the ultimate focus.

Sense of Sacredness is communicated not only through icons, symbology, allegories but also through the manifestations of the spirit as form. Here art becomes the mediator, it becomes the meeting ground of form and aspects of sacredness. Before understanding how formal dimensions are employed to communicate a sense of sacredness (nuances of spiritual experiences), an awareness to the basic aspects of sacredness and form is necessary. The theoretical terminologies are briefly defined:

-sacredness.

while many of the aspects of sacredness have been already dealt with, the scope and interest is to express sacredness in terms of order, cosmos (myth) and sanctuary (sanctify).

-form

to surface particular notions of forms that allow it to be transformed (without losing its inherent material qualities) to serve as a vehicle to express certain conceptions of the sacredness.

-In the presentation of an art object, ‘the mind is not led to understand an abstract concept lying beyond its material form, but is concentrated wholly within it.’ The whole of the system of Indian temple architecture can be read as embodying a duality. A duality which encompasses the spiritual and the material. Where iconography and symbolism form adequate and suitable communication with the spiritual realm, material aspect gives rise to structure, expression, etc. The main part of this essay tries to see this duality with reference to order (as the static aspect) and movement (as the dynamic aspect) and their fusion which surfaces the nature of matter.