CONTENTS

List of Illustrations xi
Acknowledgements xiii
List of Abbreviations xiii

INTRODUCTION

1 THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND POLITICS OF TIME

at Udayagiri

1.1 Central Ridge and Passage 12
1.2 Synopsis of Astronomical Phenomena 19
1.3 Application to Udayagiri 19
1.4 Viṣṇu’s Four Months of Sleep 30
1.5 Narasimha 37
1.6 Varāha 41
1.7 Varāha in Historiographic Perspective 46
1.8 Nārāyaṇa, Narasimha, Varāha, and Kṣitdbhuj 55
1.9 Candragupta or Avantivarman? 60
1.10 Varāha and Kāmandaki 61
1.11 Paramabhāgavata, Yajamāna, and Rājasūya 65
1.12 Viṣṇupada and Varṣāgama 73

2 THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GODS

2.1 Tāmraśāsana 81
2.2 Mahābhārata and Vyāsa 84
2.3 Piṣṭapurikā Devī 88
2.4 Śvetavarāhasvāmin 92
CONTENTS

2.5 Nārāyaṇa 94
2.6 Pūjā and Pañcamahāyajña 96
2.7 From Private Sacrifice to Public Spectacle 113
2.8 Person and Property 122
2.9 Endowment of the Gods 125
2.10 Devānāṃ Sthāpanāṃ: The Establishment of the Gods 128
2.11 Bhitrī: King, God, and Temple 144
2.12 Rājyaantra: Permanence, Authority, Motivation, and Means 150
2.13 Udayagiri: The God, Earth, and Year 163

3 RITUAL ACTION AND RITUAL ACTORS 167
3.1 The Priesthood 168
3.2 Purohita 169
3.3 Rtvij 182
3.4 Maitrāyaṇīya, Mānava, and Brāhmaṇas in Gupta Polity 198
3.5 Pūrvamīmāṃsā and Śābara 207
3.6 Ācārya 219
3.7 Questions and Answers 233

Appendix I. Astronomy and Udayagiri 247
Serena Fredrick
Appendix II. Mean Annual Run-off into the Udayagiri Tank 251
John Sutcliffe
Notes 253
Bibliography of Key Works Cited 339
Index 359