CHAPTER VIII

Visve Devas in other literature.

a) data from other literature

As the preceding chapters have amply shown, the VD were considered as a group of gods with a definite character together with other groups of gods such as Vasus, Rudras, Adityas, Maruts, Sadhyas and even Pitrs. The references to the VD in other types of literature also confirm this.

In the Vedangajyotisa, have been mentioned the presiding deities of the twenty seven constellations. The VD preside over the Uttarashadha constellation (Verse 33(1) also Tantrarajatantra 21.74(2)). According to BrhatasamhitA (43.47(3)) gods who were pleased, presented ornaments to the banner.

The VD gave udvamsa resembling a lotus. Isanivasivagura-devapadhati (2.15.3)(4) a Tantric text, has prescribed a rite in which Balis are prescribed to be offered to the VD, other deities and several spirits in different directions. In VasisthasamhitA (33.23)(5) an astrological work, the VD are implored to sprinkle water over the king at his coronation towards the north. In the AhirbudhnyasamhitA (3.47), a Tantric text belonging to the Vaishnava sect, Narada enquires about the supports of the earth. The fifth support is Sakti-mahacakrA having five spokes. The VD worship that cakra for strength, brilliance and prosperity. Saradatilaka (21.7)(7) a Tantric text, has mentioned the deities which preside over the various metres. Among these, the VD preside over the Jagati metre. This is in full conformity with the notion so often expressed in the BrhmaPa literature. In PauskarasamhitA
an old Tantra of the Vaishnava sect, certain Avarañas have been mentioned in connection with the accomplishment of the directions. The third Avaraña is presided over by twenty-four deities. Then there are sixteen deities among which the VD are included along with the Vasus, Maruts etc. In the same text (19.135) worship of idols which are newly established has been prescribed. In that worship gratification (tarpana) of various groups of gods is prescribed. The VD are included among these. In the Samaññagāṣṭītraçādhāra (17.3), an important text on sculpture, Brahman is said to have presented a celestial and invulnerable banner to Indra. The VD, Adityas, Vasus, Rudras and ASvins furnished it with decorations.

b) Conclusion:

These references occurring in astronomical, astrological, Tantric and sculptural texts, support the character of the VD as a separate and definite group of gods ascertained by various other literary sources. The data collected here is by no means exhaustive. However, there is hardly any possibility that one may come across any other source which may contradict the above-mentioned conviction.
1) विशेषदेववस्त्रिणि । नक्षत्रदेववता देखना एताभिधिषिकमि।

सज्जनभूतः काश्मीरिनाम नक्षत्राणि स्मृतम्।

(cmn. विशेषदेवि: उन्नराणाटा देवता) वेदवंगुजयोतिषा 33

2) विशेषदेवि हरिनाथस् । प्रस्तूता नक्षत्रदेववता: तान्त्रराजतांत्रा 21.74

3) एकादशस्मुक्ताः विषय देवा: सरोजसंकाश्यामः।

...अवयेन विनिमित्तमविहिरण विशेषण ध्वजमयार्थः

तत्तदेववते विज्ञानविप्रतिभिः: भक्तसंमिति: 43.47

4) तत्र प्रागाधिचतुर्द्युषु सद्रभावरूपस्यस्मौद्यृश्या शास्त्रसङ्गीतारणमयेषु प्रदातूरः

राशिसनागेयोगासानमयेषु ... श्रीदानन्दनावरूपस्यारोपकोणोत्परस्य राशिमयो विषयदेव गणोभ्यः: कृषिपालयः स्वारण्णैवालिः दला सर्वतो विषयमात्रां च

वायुसाधिः: सहस्रा दशनार, इसासिद्वगुरुदेवपाद्धातिः 815.3

5) विशेषदेववस्त्रिणनां नाथाधिशर्कचंत्रतु खुश्ये

...दिपिकाश्वासात्मापिश्चतु मात्र सुदा विज्ञानम् व वासिष्ठसंमिति: 33.23

परिक्षणीतम्।

6) शारीरलाभः पालवर्मै शारिरिनम्: सम्भुवत्व सन्ध्यां विषय देवा उपासने

- अहिरभुद्यादसंमिति: 8.47

7) शायमाणीहिंगशानु दुःखशंसीपुरोऽ: चन:।

बिषुवंजयो उद्दोषी कायितानि मनोरिणीः।।

सन्तारचन्ति: सुरीं वाक्प्रयोज्यों भूषः।।

विषयदेवि: कृमादान्त: देवता: नरिकृमिति: सरदातिलका 21.7

8) विषय देवधायस्सी मनवो भक्षयन्तया

वसवो महताणीस्या नागासाध्या मिं...।

... जन्मविरोधे न्यौसेन् पूशकरसंमिति: 3.89

9) आदित्या महता रूपा महारिस्तु - व तथापितेऽन्।
विशेष देवारसपर्षयः पितरो भुनयतयः
...

...अभ्यं तस्मादिककं स्वनाम्ना परर्षिणम् पाँचकारसाहित्य 19.135

10) आदित्या वस्त्रो रुप्ला विबादवारस्तय्योऽः

अत्यक्षकुमारो (धवले)लक्ष्य भृकुट्य विख्यात

- समारांगणा सत्रद्हारासात्त 17.8