



REPRESENTATION OF QUEEN VICTORIA OVER THE ENTRANCE TO  
THE VIṢṆU DĒVĀLĒ SHRINE AT VĀLIHIŅDA SUDARŚANĀRĀMAYA  
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

This painting of Queen Victoria is located over the entrance to the Viṣṇu Dēvālē shrine at Vālihiṅda Sudarśanārāmaya Buddhist temple in the city of Matara, Sri Lanka (wide shot, above). It is situated inside a curvilinear medallion accompanied by two standing lions and topped by a relatively large crown—all representative of the British royal crest (see close-up, below). Large-scale images of the protective deities Vatuka and Agore—manifestations of Śiva—are found below the representation of the queen, on each side of the doorway. The setting thus characterizes Queen Victoria as a powerful being. Second or third quarter of the nineteenth century, tempera.

*Courtesy of Professor J. A. Vajira Nalinda Jayathilaka*