

4-11-5-44 (see page 175) at margharitta near Ledo, Assam  
 11-5-44. Group of three posed ivory statuettes acquired AFO 689 includ-  
 Goddess Lakshmi, Brahma and Shiva. Lakshmi (Pronounced Lookē) Goddess  
 of prosperity and wealth and wife of Vishnu. Stands on a padma or lotus  
 (m in padma silent) Also holds padma in hands. This god is in my opinion  
 the most beautiful of the Hindu idols and no doubt the most delicate of  
 workmanship of the entire group. The most significant thing about this  
 Goddess is the association with the lotus. This mythical flower represents  
 the perfect symbol of creation, divine purity and beauty. The many petals  
 open with the early morning rays at daybreak and close again at sundown.  
 The colors come in red white and blue, good old American combination. The  
 red for Brahma the creator, the white for Shiva and the blue for Vishnu  
 the preserver and upholder of the Universe. Brahma the Creator. One  
 of the three gods of the Trinity or One god of Hinduism. There may be a  
 question about the identity of the God but am assured by many of the natives  
 as being the God Brahma. As in the Christian doctrine of the Trinity of  
 Gods the Hindu has three gods. It is not a conception of three different  
 Gods, though it is frequently presented as being separate, but different  
 aspects of the One God. Strangely enough Brahma worship is but little  
 practised. Shiva (or Siva) God of Destruction. When angry often referred  
 to as Samhara Rudra. He carries the trisul or three pronged spear as  
 representing a weapon of destruction. The cobra is his constant protector  
 and more frequently wears a tiger skin. He is worshipped even more than either  
 Brahma or Vishnu. When the English Mt Everest expedition tried their as-  
 sult upon the Mt they were warned to be agreeable with Shiva as he controlled  
 the mt and its environs.