



Left: Gorak Nath Painting at Khajuraho Temple Complex from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Paul King on

# THE CONCH PIERCING

—Part 2

Dear Readers,

As luck would have it, I came across some great additions to the Conch Piercing article from POINT 26 and I wanted to share them with you. First, the women of the Lashi and Maru practice conch piercing. These women belong to sub-groups of the Kachin tribe located in the N'Mai Hka valley in Burma, near the Chinese border.

It seems that for them, the conch piercing is mostly utilitarian rather than for ornamental or spiritual reasons. The women like to suspend heavy silver earrings from their lobes. Most peoples of the world who wear heavy earrings that need a little lift will support them with string wrapped behind their ears or to the other earring via a string behind the head. Some will even support heavy earrings by clipping additional connectors to the hair. However the Lashi and the Maru run cotton ropes through their conchae to help carry the load.

The second point of interest I would like to share is a very provocative painting from the temple complex at Khajuraho, in India. These Gorak Nath folks look like they know how to have a good time.

I'm heading to India tomorrow, if I don't come back don't bother searching for me!

For more information on the Conch Piercing or the Gorak Nath, please see the previous issue.