

Contents

List of Figures.....	ix
A Note by the Editors.....	xiii
Acknowledgements.....	xv
Notes on Language and Transliteration.....	xvii
Abbreviations.....	xvii

Introduction.....	1
The Nine Nights of the Goddess.....	2
Approach and Methodology.....	4
Exploring the Play of the Feminine.....	6
Navarātri and the Feminine.....	7
Agency.....	8
<i>Līlā</i> – Divine Play.....	9
Defining Festival and <i>Utsava</i>	10
Festivals, Rituals, Play and Playfulness.....	12
About the Book.....	17

Part I. Navarātri in Myth and Temples

Chapter 1. Kanchipuram, the Goddesses, and Their Temples.....	23
Kanchipuram: A Brief History.....	23
The Kāmākṣī Ammaṇ Temple.....	25
Kāmākṣī and Śrividya.....	27
The Paṭavēṭṭammaṇ Temple.....	34
Paṭavēṭṭammaṇ.....	35
Chapter 2. The Myth: the Goddess and the Demon.....	41
The <i>Lalitāsahasranāma</i> , <i>Lalitopākhyāna</i> and the Demon Killing Pattern from <i>Devīmāhātmya</i>	42
Local Myths of the Goddess and the Demon: <i>Sthalapurāṇas</i> and <i>Māhātmyas</i>	44
Kāmākṣī and Bandhakāsura/Bhaṇḍāsura/Paṇṭācuraṇ.....	45
The Priest’s Version.....	52
Paṭavēṭṭammaṇ and Makiṣāsuraṇ.....	55
Concluding Remarks.....	60
Chapter 3. Navarātri in the Kāmākṣī Temple.....	63
Four Navarātris.....	63
The Ritual Manual <i>Saubhāgyacintāmaṇi</i> and Contemporary Performance.....	64
Ritual Procedures during Navarātri.....	67

Inaugural Rites	68
Daily Observances	71
Additional Ceremonies	89
Rites of Closure	90
Subsequent Rites.....	95
Concluding Remarks.....	95
Chapter 4. Navarātri in the Paṭavēṭṭammaṅ Temple	99
The Festival Area and the Crowd	99
Navarātri and Āṭi.....	100
Ritual Procedures during Navarātri.....	101
Inaugural Rites	101
Daily Observances	106
Additional Ceremonies	119
Subsequent Rites.....	122
Concluding Remarks.....	130
Part II. Navarātri at Home	
Chapter 5. The <i>Kolu</i> as a Feminine Space	135
An Introduction: Mrs. Gowri's <i>Kolu</i>	135
<i>Kolu</i> Rituals.....	140
<i>Kolu</i> , the Feminine and the Auspicious.....	146
Men and <i>Kolu</i>	150
Who is the Goddess on the <i>Kolu</i> ?.....	151
The Symbolism of "Hot" and "Cool" and Women's Religious Agency.....	152
Concluding Remarks.....	154
Chapter 6. Creativity and Playfulness in <i>Kolu</i>	157
Displaying the Play of the Deities.....	157
The Dolls and Their Makers.....	163
Fashioning the Goddess	167
Competition, Didactics, Sentiments, and Social Commentary	169
Mr. Gopinath's Handcrafted <i>Kolu</i>	176
Playfulness, Entertainment, and Contemporary Trends.....	179
Concluding Remarks.....	185
Chapter 7. Newly Started <i>Kolus</i> , Brahminization and Adaptions.....	187
An Example: The <i>Kolus</i> of Kavitha and Ponnamal	188
Votive Dolls and the Increasing Popularity of <i>Kolu</i>	194
<i>Kolus</i> , Brahminization and Class Mobility	196
Appropriating the <i>Kolu</i>	202
Adaptions and Appropriations.....	208
Concluding Remarks.....	210

Chapter 8. Sarasvatī Pūjā: A Festival within the Festival	213
Concluding Remarks: The Play of the Feminine.....	217
The Nature of the Divine Feminine	217
The Religious Agency of Women and Feminine Power	220
The Festive Play.....	223
Glossary of Recurring Terms	225
Bibliography	227