



### 10-33 • HARIHARA

From Angkor Barei, Cambodia. Pre-Angkorian Khmer, 7th century CE. Sandstone, 68" (76 cm). Musée Guimet, Paris, France.

**HARIHARA, CAMBODIA** Local preferences are exhibited clearly in a late seventh-century CE sculpture from Phnom Da, Cambodia. This pre-Angkorian Khmer work depicts a merged form of the Hindu gods Shiva and Vishnu, known as **HARIHARA** (FIG. 10-33). Such images are only rarely encountered in South Asia but in Southeast Asia, in the absence of a long history of sectarian differences between devotees of the two gods, this unified expression of Hindu divinity became extremely popular. Iconographically, the right side of the image depicts Shiva with his trident, matted hair, third eye and animal skins. The left half, correspondingly, represents Vishnu whose cylindrical crown, *chakra* (throwing disk), and fine garments indicate his identity. The artist has rendered this complex subject with great skill but in this early period the Khmer still did not fully trust the strength of the stone, so the sculptor cautiously linked the hands to the head with a supporting arch of stone.