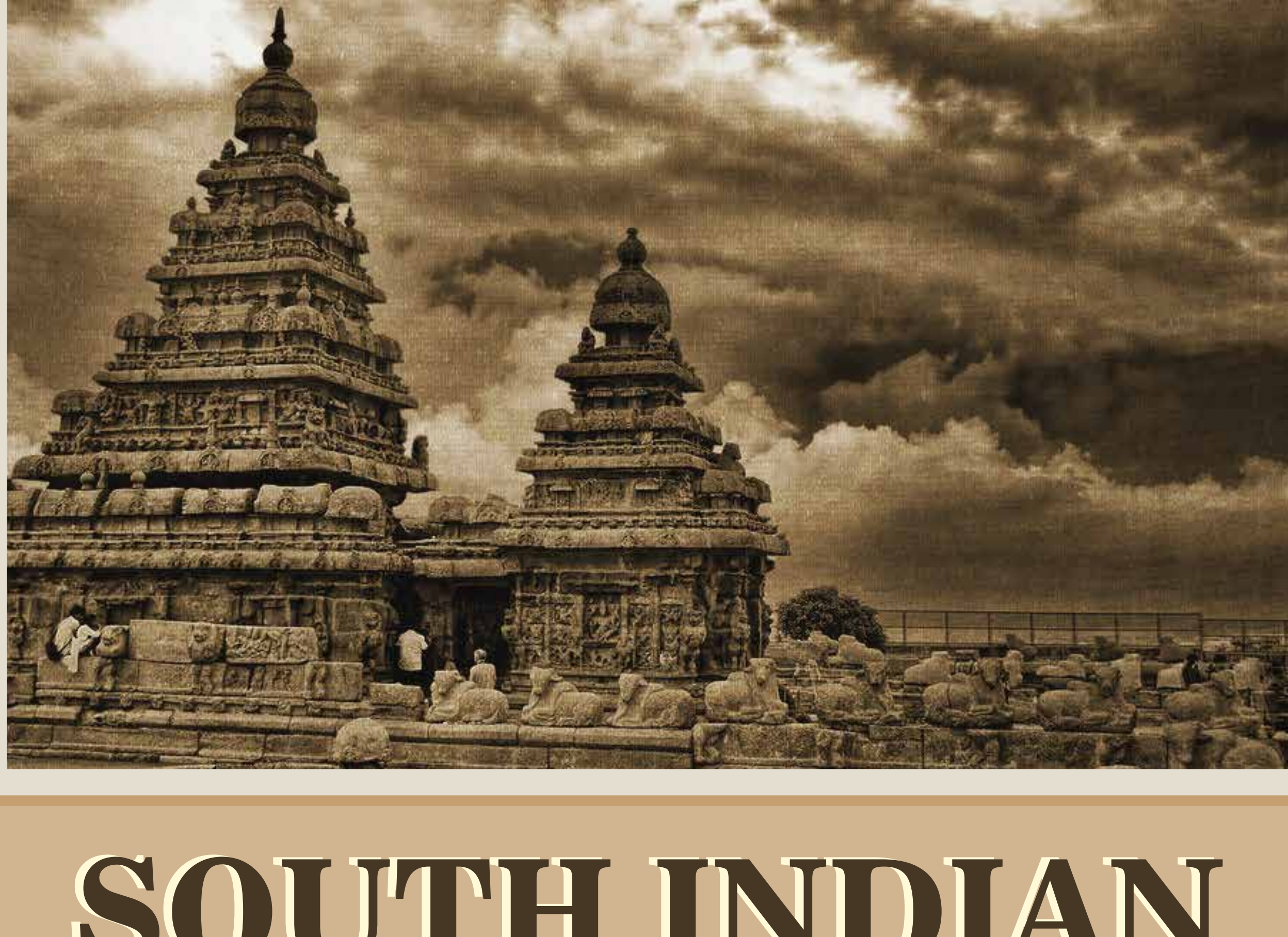
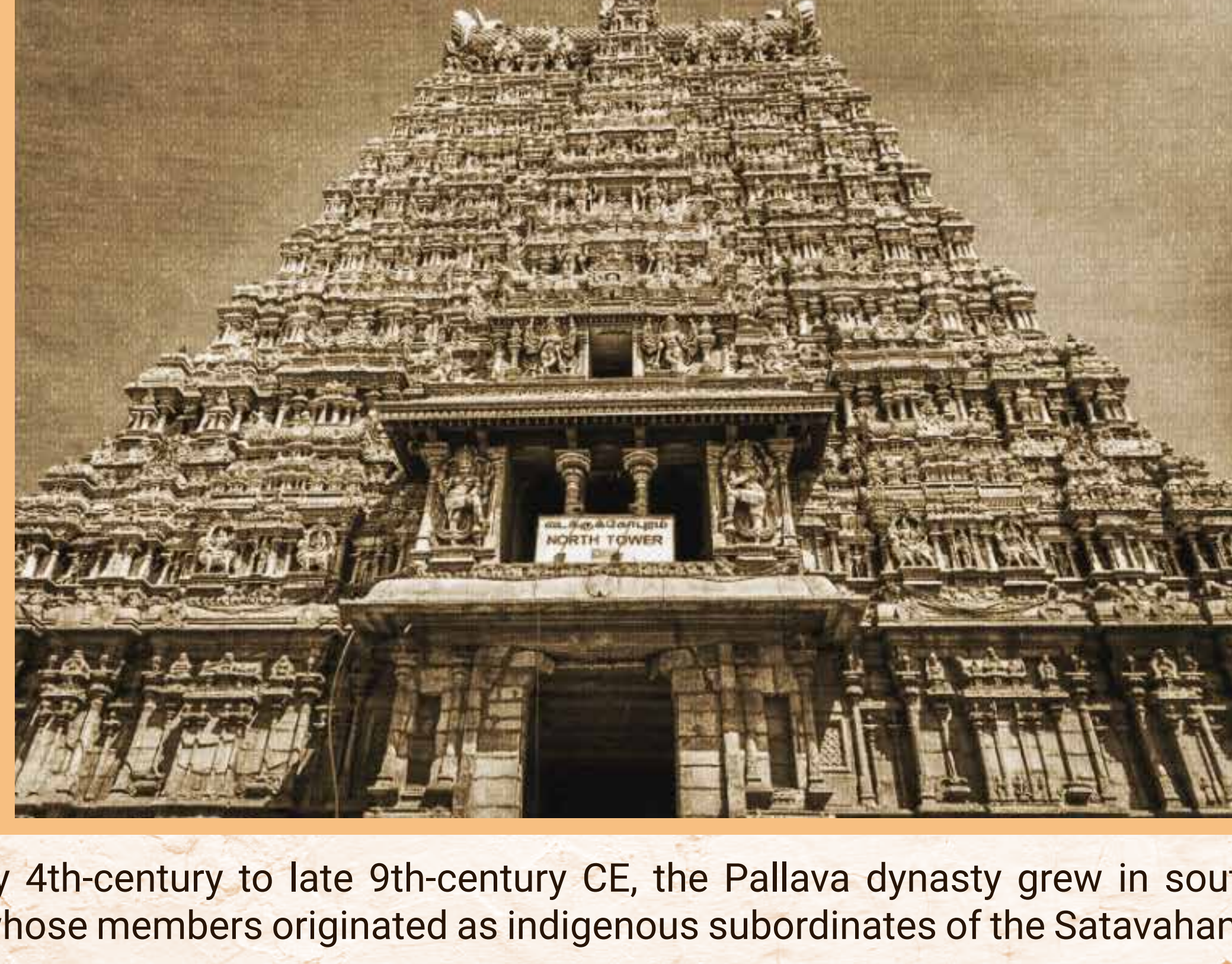


ANCIENT INDIAN ARCHITECTURE



SOUTH INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

Pallava Dynasty



In early 4th-century to late 9th-century CE, the Pallava dynasty grew in southern India whose members originated as indigenous subordinates of the Satavahanas in the Deccan.

Four stages of temple architecture were observed chronologically under them.

Each stage reflects the architectural taste of individual rulers.

Mahendra Group

It marked the beginning of Rock cut cave architecture.

The word 'Mandapa' was used for the whole temple.



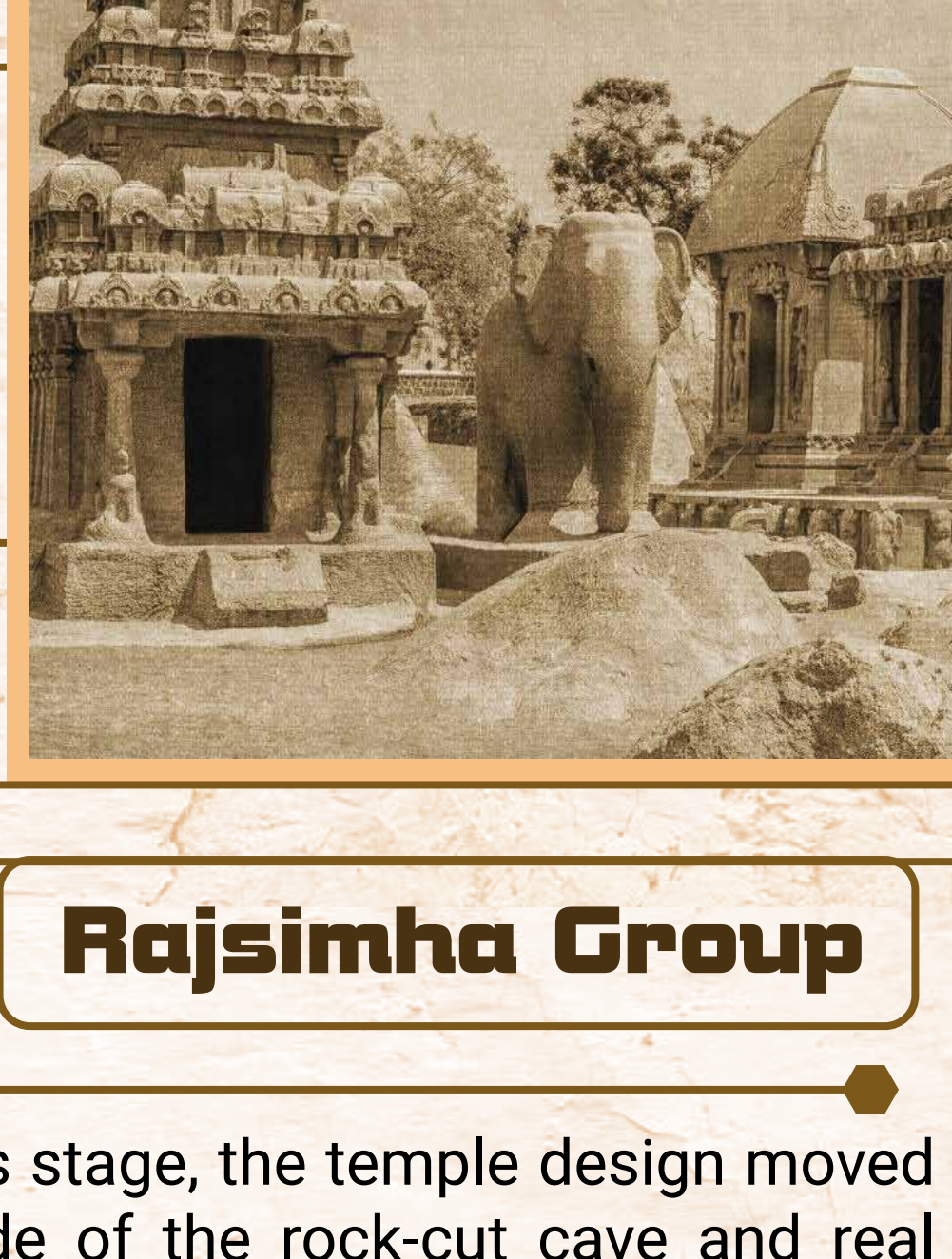
Narsimha Group

In this stage, decoration of the rock-cut temples was initiated.

The temple was divided into 'Rathas'.

The biggest Ratha was named Dharamraja Rath and smallest one was named Draupadi Rath.

Dharamraja Rath is considered as precursor of Dravidian style of temple architecture.



Rajsimha Group

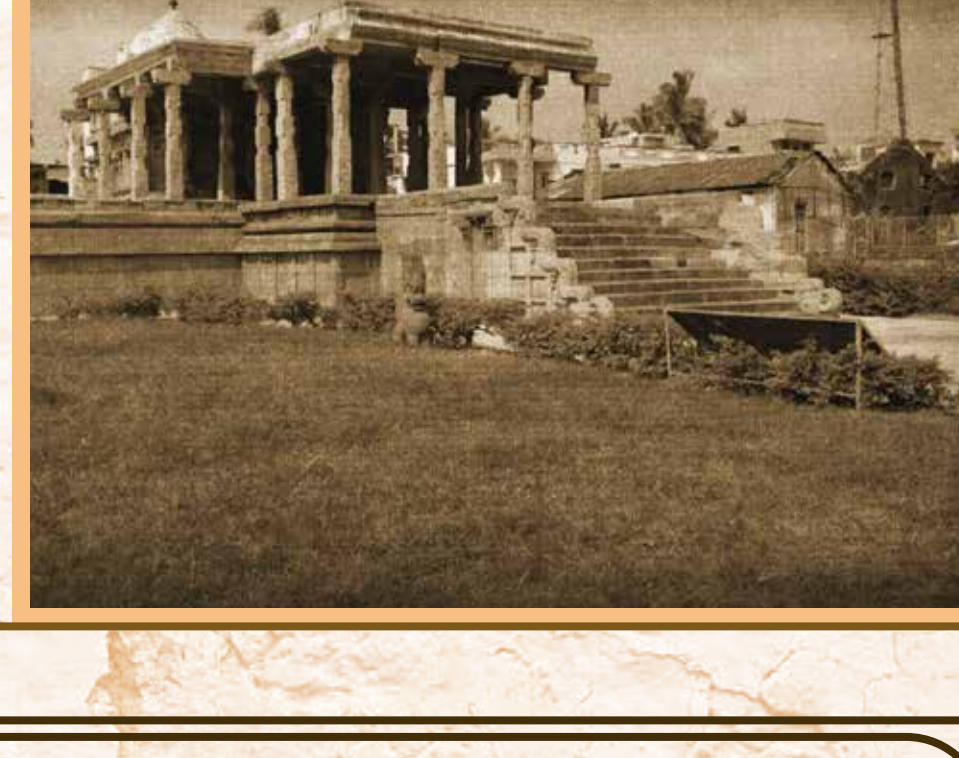
In this stage, the temple design moved outside of the rock-cut cave and real structural development of temples was initiated.



Nandivarman Group

It is said to be the declining stage of South Indian temple architecture.

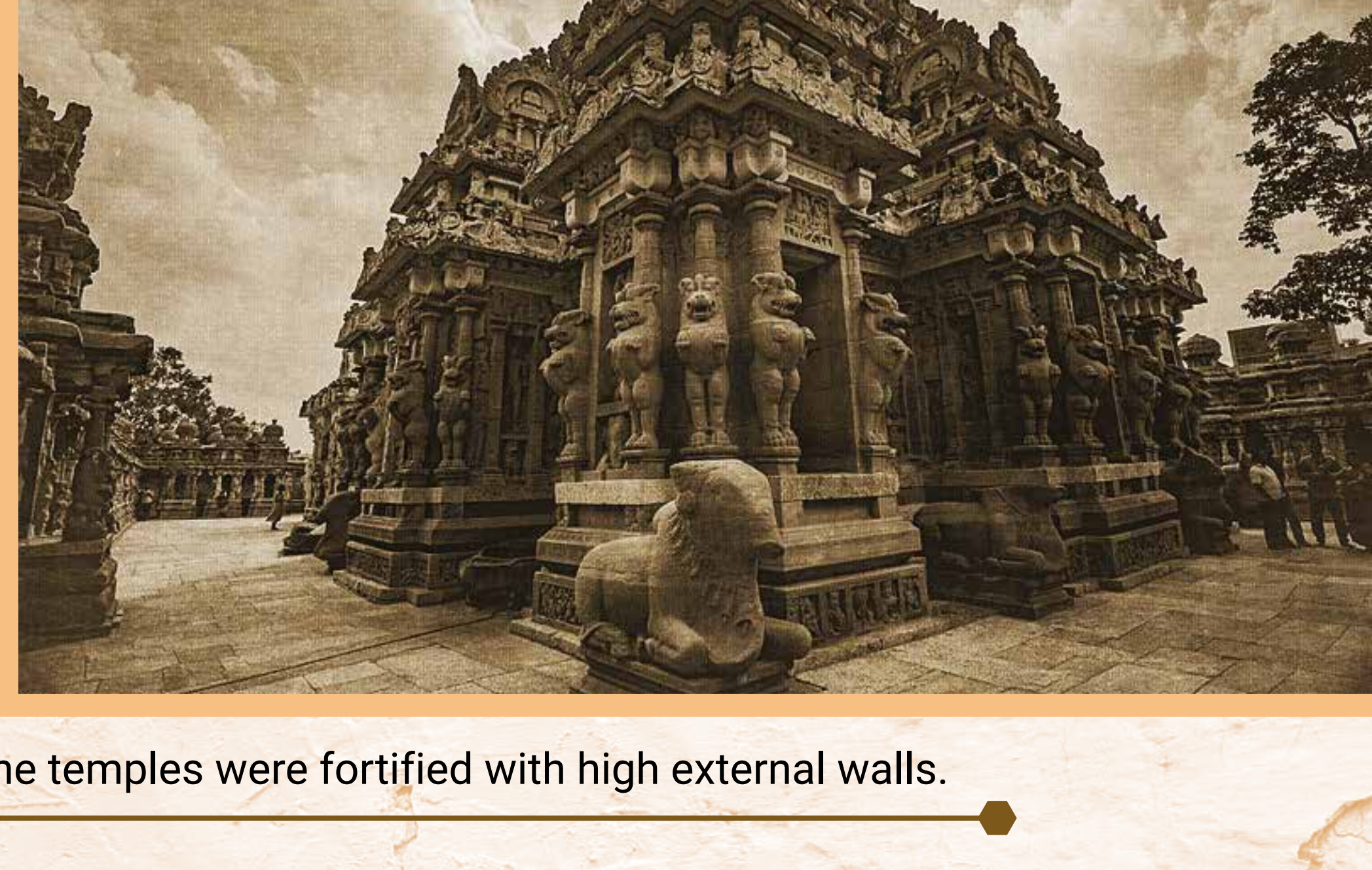
Only small temples were constructed in this period.



Chola Dynasty

They developed the existing style of architecture which came to be known as the Dravidian style of architecture.

Dravidian Architecture



The temples were fortified with high external walls.

A 'gopuram' or an entrance gateway was constructed on the facing wall.

The superstructure called the Vimana consisted of an arrangement of gradually receding storeys in a pyramidal shape.

The tower is topped by a dome-shaped cupola and a crowning pot and finial known as the Shikhara.

These temples had a water tank inside their premises.

The Sub Styles of Dravidian style are as follows:

Nayaka Style

This style developed under the Nayaka rulers.

Huge corridors with roofed ambulatory passageways called Parakarns are a prominent feature of this school.

The large tank set slightly off the axis to the main temple is another impressive feature of the temple.

This school has some of the tallest gopurams in the Dravidian temples.



Vijaynagar style

This style developed under the patronage of Vijaynagar rulers.

They introduced the concept of enlarged and highly decorated enclosure walls.

Sculpture or motif of supernatural horses was used very frequently.

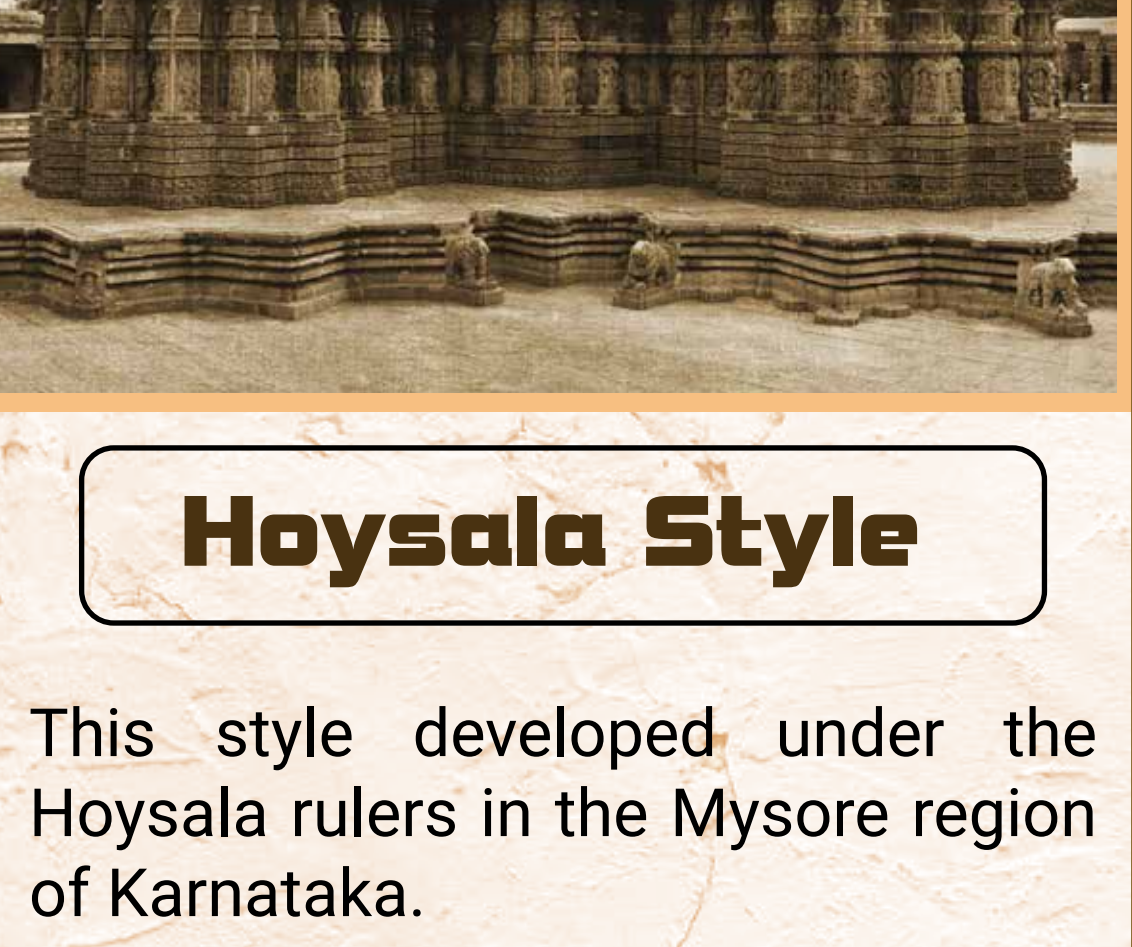
They also introduced the concept of secular buildings.



Hoysala Style

This style developed under the Hoysala rulers in the Mysore region of Karnataka.

The shrines in this style were in a star-shaped ground plan different from the crucified ground plan of Panchyatan style.



Vesara Style/ Chalukya Style/ Karnataka Style

This style has features of both Nagara and Dravidian style.

It consists of two principle components of Dravidian style i.e. Vimana and Mandapa and departs from Dravidian style as it does not have covered ambulatory around sanctum.

