

# The Goddess Kali



**The first *thugs* were worshipers of the Hindu goddess Kali, who waylaid innocent passers-by, stole their valuables and, more often than not, killed them on the spot. “Anything goes” seems to have been the motto of members of her sect—and that’s all the more remarkable since she sounds like one of the most revolting goddesses in history. Called “the black one,” she is described as “a grotesque creature, wearing a garland of skulls and dancing on the inert body of Shiva, her husband.”**