

by three comparatively low stone walls at ninety degrees to each other, measuring about 80 cm. in height, the front being unclosed. Altogether eight wooden pillars are, at regular distances, planted inside along the walls of the structure. Five additional wooden pillars which are topped by movable capitals, stand in its centre (two; but there is evidence for a third one which is missing today) and along the line marking its "entrance" (three) (see Fig. 7a). This makes fourteen pillars in all if we add the missing one. Moreover, I noticed three wooden beams the ends of one of which resting on two pillars which stood along the back wall, the other two lying on the stone walls.

All the pillars and beams which are rather weather-worn, bear embellished sun and moon carvings as well as various other ornamental engravings. It may be noted that sun and moon symbols were found on nearly all sculptured

dolmens of the Nilgiri Hills (cf. Brecks 1873: 101, 104; Noble 1976: 99, 102, figure 4).

From the present condition of this house-like structure, we may conclude that it must once have been covered by a thatched roof which was supported by the eight wooden



Fig. 7: *gove-mane* of Andi-are



Fig. 7a: Examples of wooden pillars with movable capitals (on the top of the precipitous rock in the background,



there is said to stand a memorial statue; cf. 7.2)