



# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



## SHRI SHANKARA JAYANTHI SPECIAL



One of the greatest philosophers of India, Shri Adi Shankaracharya propounded the Vedanta philosophy of Advaita, as existing in the Upanishads. At a time when Hindu culture was on the decline in the 8th century, Shri Shankaracharya revived it and propagated Advaita. Shri Adi Shankaracharya was a Vedantin of supreme intellect. Yet he also functioned as a reformer by pointing out that the performance of rituals and religious practices essentially serve to purify the mind of the performer. He explained that ritualistic religion alone cannot lead one to the ultimate and channelized the path of action and worship towards the ultimate objective of Self-knowledge (Atma-Jnana). He established the Shanmata convention of Worship conveying that the same Supreme is worshiped in various names and forms. On a closer self-examination of the life of Shri Shankaracharya, we find that he also started the monastic order known as Dashanami Sampradaya, regulated by the four Amnaya (Vedic) Peethams he established.

Given hereunder is Shri Adi Shankaracharya's biography, which will give you valuable insight into the life of this great poet and philosopher. Shri Adi Shankaracharya's Jayanti is observed on Panchami Tithi during Shukla Paksha of Vaishakha month and currently between April and May.

We submit our pranams in the Lotus feet of **Mahasannidhanam Jagadguru Sri Sri Bharathi Tirtha Mahaswamiji** and **Sannidhanam Jagadguru Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharathi Mahaswamiji**



# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



## ANUGRAHA BHASHANAM

### SWEET WORDS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ANGER

In life, man sometimes gets uncontrollably angry. For example, if a child is disobedient, his parents are gripped by rage. Worse still, even the slightest misbehaving sometimes provokes them into unmanageable wrath and even beating, which is undesirable. A little later, when anger subsides, they repent and ponder over why they admonished the child vehemently.

Wise it is, indeed, to use sweet words and get things done. Under such circumstances, the mind remains calm and unaffected, and the task is accomplished more easily. Whatever be the

circumstances, one should not conclude that goals can be met through anger. Sometimes one may pretend to be angry for the greater good, but there should be no tinge of anger in the mind.

Flowing water meeting resistance from the mountain carves out its path around the rocks, which cannot be done even by a sword. Likewise, sweet words can achieve what is not in the reach of harsh words. Rather, harsh words are counter-productive.

भङ्क्तुं शक्तो यादृग्भवति मृदुस्स्यान्न  
तादृशस्तीक्ष्णः ।

अतिमृदु जलमपि निपतद्भिनत्ति शैलं क्षुरं  
न यत्नेन ॥

bhañaktuṃ śakto yādṛgbhavati  
mṛdusyānna tādr̥śastīkṣṇaḥ ।

atimṛdu jalamapi nipatadbhinatti  
śailaṃ kṣuraṃ na yatnena ॥



Let all understand this well, give no room for anger and use the circumstances in life towards securing the wholesome good.

--- Jagadguru Śankarācārya His Holiness Mahāsannidhānam Śrī Śrī Bhāratī Tirtha Mahāswāmiji

Kind Courtesy: M/s Tattvaloka Publications ([www.tattvaloka.com](http://www.tattvaloka.com))

Additional Note: All the articles that have appeared in this section for the past three years have been sourced from Tattvaloka



# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



## PHILOSOPHERS' DAY.

An initiative and proposal had been made by the Sringeri Sharada Peetham for observing the Shankara Jayanti day as a mark of respect for Shri Adi Shankaracharya, the epitome of all philosophers that India has produced. Accordingly the State Governments of Karnataka and Kerala have instituted the Shankara Jayanti day as Philosophers' day and celebrations are held in Government institutions on an official basis. Today, the Central Government is also considering the proposal to celebrate and honor Shri Adi Shankaracharya's birth anniversary as Philosopher's Day. The Government is said to be in favor of promoting Shankaracharya's commentary on the Upanishads and his role in generating awareness about Indian philosophy. It is fitting that the birth anniversary of Shri Adi Shankara who reunited Hinduism by traveling all over India, and was the first to think and speak of India as one entity, be celebrated as Philosophers' day.

## PHILOSOPHERS' DAY CELEBRATION.

Sringeri Mutt has suggested readings of the Shankaracharya's commentary on Upanishads, Brahma Sutra and Bhagavad Gita, chanting of his stotras and studying his exposition of Advaita (Vedanta) as part of his birthday celebrations. On the occasion, various branches of the Mutt also organize speeches by eminent persons and also propagate the life of Shri Adi Shankaracharya as beautifully described in his traditional biography, the Madhaviya Shankara Digvijaya (authored by Jagadguru Sri Vidyaranya, 12th Acharya of the Sringeri Mutt).

## PARENTS OF SHRI ADI SHANKARACHARYA



Divine Shankara was born to the Namboodiri Brahmin couple, Sivaguru and Aryamba, in a little village named Kaladi in Kerala. The couple had been childless for a long time and had performed a number of prayers and austerities to be blessed with a child. Years passed on and they were getting old. Sivaguru felt dejected that they had still not been blessed with a child. Aryamba at that time said to Sivaguru that it would be good to intensify their prayers. Consequently, they prayed to Lord Vrishachaleshwara (currently Shri Vadakkunnathan temple in Thrissur near Kalady) with total surrender.



## SIVAGURU'S DREAM

Soon after, one night, Lord Shiva appeared as an elderly Brahmin and said that their prayers had pleased Him. He asked Sivaguru to choose between begetting a child with profound knowledge but with a short span of life or having many children with little knowledge. Sivaguru, in his dream, opted for a brilliant son even if only with a short span of life. Lord Shiva blessed him and informed him that he and Aryamba would soon be blessed with an exemplary son.



# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



## BIRTH OF SHRI SHANKARA.



Sivaguru informed Aryamba of his dream, and the blessed and happy divine couple returned to Kalady. As per the blessings of Lord Shiva, they were soon blessed with a son. The overjoyed Sivaguru gave away many precious and valuable articles to purohits and engaged in a lot of charity as advocated in the Sastras. The tejas on the face of the child enlightened the entire surroundings and brought great joy to the blessed parents.

## NAMING CEREMONY.



The couple then decided to perform the naming ceremony and they invited all the legends who lived around. The child was born to rule the whole world with divine knowledge. They named the child , 'Shankara' - One who brings about welfare (sham karoti iti shankaraH - 'sham' meaning welfare).

## UPANAYANAM CEREMONY



At the age of two, the little child Shankara exhibited signs of inherent wisdom. Unfortunately he lost his father when he was only three. Aryamba was very much affected due to this irreplaceable loss. With time, she managed to recover. She decided to do Upanayanam for her loving son Shankara at the age of five with the help of their relatives. To learn Vedas one has to undergo the Upanayana ceremony. Aryamba thus opened the gates for Shankara to learn Vedas in accordance with tradition.

## AT THE GURUKULAM



Shankara now entered the stage of Brahmacharya. He mastered all the Vedas in no time. Despite being so young, he began tutoring his own classmates. He was performing the duties that were said in the Shastras of how a Brahmachari should lead his life. One of the main duties of a Brahmachari is to get 'bhiksha' (for food). In his Gurukula days, Shankara followed the custom of getting 'bhiksha' from others and submitted whatever he got to his Guru every day. The Guru would then distribute it to all students.



# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



## KANAKADHARA STOTRAM



One fine day, Shankara went to the house of a poor Brahmin for alms. The poor family did not even have a handful of rice. The woman in the house did not know what to do. She felt very sad that she had nothing worthwhile to offer to the young and bright Brahmachari. Finally she found a single gooseberry (Amla fruit) and with tears, offered the same devotedly to the young Shankara. The woman's charitable mind even in such extreme poverty deeply moved Shankara. He immediately composed and sang a hymn to Goddess Mahalakshmi, the Divine Mother. Pleased the Goddess appeared before Shankara. When

Shankara prayed to the Goddess to remove the poverty of the family, the Goddess explained that the members of the family were living in such condition only because they had not acquired enough Punya in their past births. Shankara then said requested the Goddess to consider the charitable act of offering the gooseberry as Bhiksha even in such poverty. Goddess Mahalakshmi was immediately pleased and blessed the family with a shower of golden gooseberries. The descendents of this family are seen to this day near Kalady and they continue to lead a very comfortable life and their house is called the "Swarnattu Mana" or golden house. Such has been the blessing that the compassion-personified Shankara brought about even at such a young age.

## RIVER POORNA'S COURSE CHANGED FOR MOTHER

At the age of seven, Shankara returned to his house after mastering all subjects in the Gurukulam in a very short period. He was very helpful to his mother and took care of her in her old age. It was the daily routine of Aryamba to go for a bath to river Poorna (now river Periyar), which was far away from her house. It was also her practice to visit the Lord Krishna temple on her way back. On a hot summer day, she was returning after taking a bath. She had been doing many Vratas and fasts and her aged body was already weak. Consequently, she fainted on her way back. Shankara



who awaited his mother's return for sometime, soon started searching for her. He then found her unconscious on the path leading from the river Poorna. Shankara was ardently devoted to his mother, and no words can express his feelings on seeing the condition of his mother. He set forth a prayer to the river deity "O Mother Poorna, I cannot bear to see the suffering of my mother. Please be gracious and flow closer to home so my aged mother does not need to walk a long distance to take a bath." The river deity was pleased by the prayers of Shankara. To the astonishment of one and all, the river Poorna had indeed

changed course by the next morning and began to close to the house of Shankara. Even today, one can see that the river has taken an uncharacteristic turn towards the Sringeri Math built on the birthplace of Shankara in Kalady.



# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



## KING RAJASHEKHARA MEETS SHANKARA

This miraculous incident of the river Poorna changing its course spread to every nook and corner of the region. People came in groups to behold this “wonder boy”. Rajashekhara, the ruler of



Kerala was himself a very well-read man. On hearing of the abundance of divine power in a Brahmin boy of seven, the ruler desired to meet him. He sent his minister to go meet the boy, offer him gifts and bring him to his royal court. Shankara humbly refused to accept the costly gifts sent by the King and sent the minister back saying that he was a simple Brahmachari and preferred to live like one. King Rajashekhara, realizing that the boy was truly a divine soul, himself arrived at Kalady accompanied by his ministers. He witnessed Shankara surrounded by scholars

and engaged in scriptural studies. Upon the arrival of the king, Shankara who was wise beyond his age, gave a fitting welcome to the King. The monarch's object in coming to Kalady was to test and measure Shankara's wisdom. After a discussion with Shankara on the scriptures, the ruler realized that the boy was a prodigy, distinguished by intellectual sharpness and extraordinary skill. The king had no doubt that Shankara was endowed with divine powers. The king then narrated to Shankara three plays in Sanskrit that he had penned and felt himself blessed to be able to do so.

(It may be noted here that King Rajashekhara met Adi Shankaracharya after more than a decade and conveyed that he had lost the manuscripts of the three plays and did not remember them himself despite being their author. At this, Shri Adi Shankaracharya, who as a young boy had only once heard the king recite it to him at this juncture, narrated all the three plays from memory to the wonderstruck king. Such was the memory of the great Acharya).

King Rajashekhara then paid obeisance and laid gold coins at the feet of Shankara, He requested Shankara to accept the gift. But Shankara said: "Noble King, I am a Brahmachari. These gold coins are of no use to me. The income from our property is quite sufficient to meet my and my mother's expenses. Kindly distribute all these costly presents to the poor and needy in the kingdom." Upon the king's request, Shankara also blessed that the childless King Rajashekhara be blessed with progeny. Need it be said that the words of Shankara came to be true to the joy of the people of the entire kingdom.

Thus did Shankara, even at the tender age of seven, display such amazing wisdom even when approached devotedly by King Rajashekhara.

## THE REMARKABLE CROCODILE INCIDENT LEADING TO SANNYASA

Though his mother Aryamba and their relatives wished Shankara to enter Grihastha Ashrama (the state of being a householder), the young Shankara's mind was turned towards embracing Sannyasa. He was unable to convince his mother, whose permission was needed for him to take such a step. So Shankara bided his time in anticipation, all the while engaged in his duties as a Brahmachari and a dutiful son.



# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



One day, while Shankara was taking a bath in the river Poorna. All of a sudden, a loud scream rent the air: "Aah!!! Help!!!". It was Shankara who had screamed. Aryamba rushed to the river,



and called out to her son, "What happened, Shankara?". Shankara replied back, "A fierce crocodile is pulling my leg Aahh!! Help me!!". Even as Aryamba wondered what she could do, Shankara cried out, "Mother! Please give me permission so that I can die and be born again." The shocked Aryamba could not understand this peculiar request of Shankara, who was in the clutches of the crocodile. She wondered, "When in such a state, why does my son need my permission to die and be born again?". Aryamba said in deep anguish, "Son, I don't understand what you are saying. I will do anything to save you". Shankara then said, "Mother! If you grant me permission to become a Sannyasin, this crocodile will leave me. Sannyasa is a re-birth and I will be

able to survive. Please grant me permission."

Aryamba noticed that even as Shankara said these words, the crocodile had pulled him into the water further. Was there any option for Aryamba? "I gave birth to this child after a lot of prayers. Is this the way to lose my child? Is there any hope of saving my child?", she went through these thoughts. And finally, she made up her mind, and wishing to see her son live, she said: "My son, so be it. I grant you permission to become a Sannyasi. As long as you would be safe and living somewhere in this world, I would be happy." Aryamba said the above words with great difficulty. Tears rolled down her eyes. Overcome by emotion, she fainted. Shankara, having received his mother's permission, chanted the mantras to become a Sannyasin. He performed the Sarva-bhoota-abhaya-pradhaana (granting of refuge or freedom from fear for all beings). The very next instant, the crocodile released him and disappeared. It was as if the entire incident took place in order that Shankara set forth on His divine mission.

## MEETING SRI GOVINDA BHAGAVATPADA AND FORMAL INITIATION



Entrusting the care of his elderly mother to his relatives, Sri Shankara set forth from Kalady. Before leaving, Sri Shankara acceding to his mother's request, promised that he would be by her side on her deathbed. Sri Shankara then began walking in search of a Guru so he could be formally initiated as a Sannyasi. Shankara reached the banks of river Narmada and came to know that the great sage, Sri Govinda Bhagavatpada was meditating inside a cave. He went to the mouth of the cave and bowed. Sri Govinda Bhagavatpada asked, 'Who are you?'. In response,

Shankara replied that he was neither the body nor the senses nor the intellect nor a combination of these and was indeed the Divine Self of the nature of Consciousness (Chit) and Bliss (Ananda).



# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam

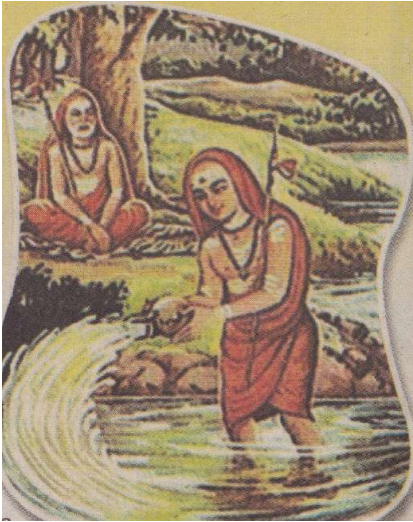


an e-magazine on advaita



Extremely pleased with the Vedantic wisdom of the young Shankara, Sri Govinda Bhagavatpada accepted Shankara as his disciple and initiated him formally into Sannyasa. He taught Shri Shankara the Mahaa-vaakyas signifying the truth of Advaita (non-duality - that everyone and everything in this world is a manifestation of God and that God and Atman are one and the same). Though omniscient, Shri Adi Shankaracharya in accordance with tradition studied the Upanishads under Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada.

## CONTROLLING NARMADA RIVER FLOODS



Once Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada was engaged in deep meditation unaware of the surroundings. He was in a state of Samadhi where he was non distinct from the Divine i.e. Brahman. Meanwhile, heavy rains lashed the region and flash floods on the river Narmada occurred. People and cattle were in great danger of losing lives. No one was able to convey the situation to the Guru. At this juncture, Shri Adi Shankaracharya felt he had to do something to save everyone. He quickly went near the river Narmada in spate, prayed to river Narmada and then touched the waters of the river with his Kamandalu (a small vessel carried by a Sannyasi to hold holy water). And lo! The waters of the Narmada gushed into his Kamandalu. The Kamandalu kept on receiving the waters until the floods in the river abated and the river flowed calmly. People who were

wonderstruck at this achievement began to praise the young Sannyasin. Hearing this miraculous incident, Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada realized that it was Shri Shankaracharya who would fulfill the expectations of writing commentaries on the Brahma Sutras of Bhagavan Veda Vyasa. Accordingly, he called Shri Shankaracharya, conveyed his blessings, asked him to proceed to Varanasi, have Darshan of Lord Vishweshwara and then pen commentaries on Vedantic texts. Shri Shankaracharya, though wishing to remain near the Guru and serve him, obeyed the directions of the Guru and proceeded to the sacred town of Varanasi.

## SHRI SHANKARACHARYA AT VARANASI



Shri Shankaracharya arrived at Varanasi and had Darshan of Lord Vishweshwara. Hearing of Shri Shankaracharya's scholarship and powers at such a young age, many became his disciples. Prominent was the initiation of a disciple from the Chola land, who was named Sanandana.

One afternoon Shri Shankaracharya accompanied by his disciples, was going to the Ganga river for his afternoon bath and Anushtanam. As they walked, a Chandala (outcast) accompanied by four dogs came across them. Acharya and his disciples immediately asked Chandala to move away and give way. The Chandala smiled and said, "If what is asked to



# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



move away is the body, then all human bodies are made of flesh, blood, muscles etc. If what is asked to move away is the Atman, how can the non-dual Atman move away. Doesn't the principle of Advaita teach that there is no essential difference between the Jivatman and the Paramatman; just as there is no difference between space contained inside a golden pot and space contained inside a mud pot? How can I go away from my own Self?"

Shri Shankaracharya understood that it was Lord Kasi Vishwanatha Himself who had come in the form of the

Chandala, who had come along the four Vedas. Shri Shankara bowed to the Chandala in the presence of all and composed the famous Maneesha Panchaka Stotram, explaining the Atma Tattva (Self-Knowledge) and hailing anyone, be he a Chandala or a Brahmin, with this Self-Knowledge as the Guru.

## SANANDANA A DISCIPLE BECOMES PADMAPADA

One day Shri Shankara's disciple Sanandana was on the opposite banks of the river washing the clothes of his Guru, Shri Shankaracharya. He had crossed the river by means of a bridge close by. Shri Shankaracharya knew that some of his disciples were jealous of Sanandana, who had steadfast devotion to the Guru and was also reputed for his scholarship. Acharya decided to show the extent of Sanandana's Guru Bhakti. From the other bank, Acharya called out, "O Sanandana, come to me at once!" This call of his Guru made Sanandana stop his work. He wanted to quickly heed to his Guru's call. However, he saw that getting to the opposite bank of the river by walking over the bridge would mean wastage of time. The call of his Guru had to be responded to immediately. Without further thought, Sanandana simply started to cross the river by attempting to directly walk on it! The water was cold and the current was strong enough to sweep away even an elephant. But in Sanandana's mind, there was no river to be crossed, no cold to be borne, no



danger to be faced. Only the call of the Guru sounded in his ears and only the need to be near his Guru, as quickly as possible. To the amazement of one and all, a lotus (padma) sprouted at every spot he placed his feet on the river. As he neared his Guru, all the other disciples that the path that Sanandana had taken were visible as a row of lotuses on the river. All realized his pure Guru Bhakti towards Shri Shankaracharya. From that moment Sanandana came to be called as Padmapada - the lotus-footed.

## SAGE VYASA BLESSES SHRI SHANKARACHARYA

When Shri Shankaracharya was sixteen, an elderly Brahmin approached him and began a debate on the Brahmasutra Bhashyam (commentary on the Brahmasutras) Shri Shankaracharya had written. The questions, arguments, and responses went on for many days. The more the Acharya

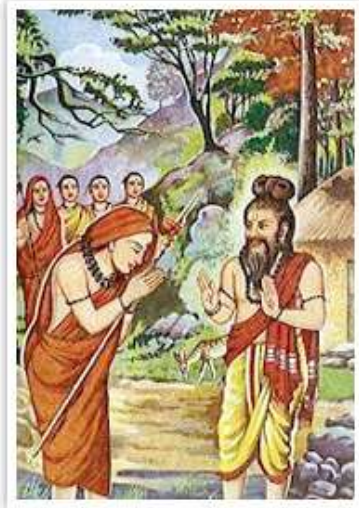
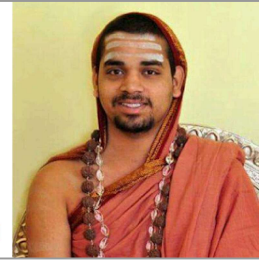


# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



explained, the more crystallized was the exposition of the Vedanta Tattva. Finally, Padmapada understood that it was Bhagavan Veda Vyasa, the author of the Brahma Sutras, who himself had come to test Shri Shankaracharya. Padmapada addressed His Guru and Vyasa Bhagavan saying "If Hari (Vyasa) and Hara (Shiva) enter into a debate, how can it ever end?". Shri Shankaracharya immediately stood up and offered his salutations to the elderly Brahmin extolling him as Bhagavan Veda Vyasa. Bhagavan Vyasa blessedly said, "I fully agree with your Bhashyam. What you have commented is indeed what I meant when I wrote the Brahma Sutras. Your Bhashyam will remain unparalleled for all time and will be honored as the most appropriate interpretation." When Shri Adi Shankaracharya sought permission to end his stay on earth now that he had completed the commentaries, Bhagavan Vyasa blessed him thus, "Travel around the country and spread the philosophy of Advaita,

the correct import of the Upanishads. I bless you to continue your life span to another 16 years for fulfilling this task."

## MEETING KUMARILA BHATTA

Soon after, Shri Adi Shankaracharya started on a Dharma Digvijaya Yatra - A Spiritual Conquest across the nation. He first decided to go to Prayag with a view to win over Kumarila, the staunch upholder of the ritualistic interpretation of the Vedas. Having reached Prayag, he came to know that Kumarila was about to enter into a fire, as an act of expiation for betraying his teacher from whom he had learnt the tenets of Buddhism. Shri Shankaracharya rushed to the place where



Kumarila was, only to see him already in a state ready to give up his body. Kumarila recognised Shri Shankaracharya, narrated to him his work against the Buddhists, his awareness of Shri Shankaracharya's Bhashyas (commentaries) and his desire to write a Vartika (explanatory treatise) on the Bhashyam. Kumarila however explained that he was not in a position to break his vow of expiation and therefore could not undertake the Vartika work. He further expressed his conviction about Shri Shankaracharya being born to protect the Upanishadic philosophy of

Advaita and how he had become sinless on seeing Shri Shankaracharya. Acharya replied, 'I recognise you as an incarnation of Skanda, the son of Shiva. Sin can never affect you. I can save you by extinguishing the fire and you may write the Vartika.' Shri Kumarila who was a firm adherent of right conduct very politely declined the offer of saving him and instead requested for initiation into Brahma Vidya. He added that if Shankaracharya could defeat his famous student, Mandana Mishra, whose actual name was Vishwaroopa, it would clear all obstacles in the mission

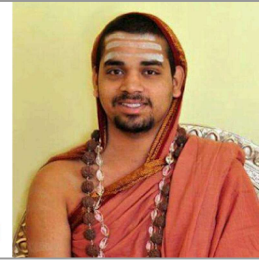


# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



that Shri Shankaracharya had undertaken. Shri Shankaracharya could then make Mandana his own disciple and get the Vartika written. Accepting Kumarila Bhatta's request, Shri Adi Shankaracharya then imparted to Kumarila the knowledge of Brahman. Kumarila hearing the Upadesha realized his oneness with Brahman, and fulfilled the purpose of his stay on earth. Shri Shankaracharya then proceeded to Mandana's residence Mahishmati, in present-day Bihar.

## SHRI SHANKARACHARYA DEFEATS MANDANA MISHRA



Shri Shankaracharya arrived at Mahishmati, sought out Mandana Mishra's house and realized that the reputed scholar was carrying out rituals for his ancestors. The Acharya also noticed that even the parrots kept in cages at the entrance of Mishra's house were mouthing philosophical questions! Without further ado and desiring of meeting Mandana Mishra immediately, Shri Shankaracharya entered the house by using his yogic powers. Mandana Mishra became very angry on noticing a Sannyasi enter during the course of the rituals. When Shri Shankaracharya asked for Vaada-Bhiksha - a debate as alms, he was surprised. He admired the intelligence of

the young Sannyasi and then agreed to debate.

The Acharya said that there should be a judge to decide the winner and suggested Ubhaya Bharati, the wife of Mandana Mishra. Ubhaya Bharati, who was extremely intelligent and learned. Ubhaya Bharati suggested the debaters wear a garland of flowers with the loser being he, whose garland fades first. The profound debate between young Sannyasi, Sri Adi Shankaracharya and



the elderly reputed scholar, Mandana Mishra went on for many days. Eventually, the garland on Mandana Mishra faded. Shri Shankaracharya won. As per the original condition, Mandana Mishra had to become an ascetic. Ubhaya Bharati then said that as per the Shastras,, the husband and wife, even though in two different bodies, are spiritually one, and hence the Acharya would also have to defeat her in debate to claim complete victory. Acharya accepted. The debate began. All of Ubhaya Bharati's questions were quickly and correctly responded to by Acharya. It was then

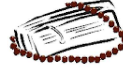
that Ubhaya Bharati, finding no other means, decided to question Sri Adi Shankaracharya on the science of love - Kama Shastra. The Acharya was in a fix. Being omniscient, he knew every Shastra. However if he answered immediately, people would wonder how he knew this Shastra despite being a Sannyasi from a young age. If he refrained from answering, he would stand to lose the debate! Keeping in mind both of these factors, Shri Shankaracharya asked for a time period of one month. In this



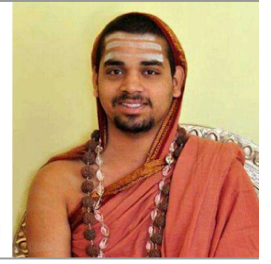


# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



month, Sri Shankaracharya abandoned his body, enlivened the body of a dead king, sported as the king for a month, and returned to Ubhaya Bharati having played out the lila of studying the science of love. When Acharya returned, Ubhaya Bharati already knew that she had been defeated.

Knowing the fact that Goddess Saraswati Herself was Ubhaya Bharati, Shri Shankaracharya prayed to her to grace the place where he would consecrate Her. She too accepted. Shri Shankaracharya then gave Sannyasa to Mandana Mishra and gave him the Yogapatta of 'Sri Sureshwaracharya'..

## SHRI SHANKARACHARYA AND THE UGRA BHAIRAVA

Once Ugra Bhairava, a Kapalika approached Shri Shankaracharya with a strange and audacious request. He said, "My Lord! I know who you are and you are a true Sannyasi. I am doing a ritual to please Lord Shiva. To get what I want I have to sacrifice either a king or a Sannyasi. Where can I go get a king to sacrifice? You are a Sannyasi of great Tejas. Please help me to attain what I seek." Unperturbed by this outrageous request, Shri Adi Shankaracharya replied, "O Bhairava! I agree with your request. However, come at the time when my disciples would not be around. You may gladly perform your sacrifice." On the appointed day and time, even as the disciples went for their afternoon Snanam towards the river, the Acharya sat in Samadhi. The Ugra Bhairava arrived and pleased to find the Acharya in such a state, got ready to sacrifice the Acharya. As he took his sword and prepared to sacrifice the Acharya, the entire plot flashed in the mind of Padmapada.



Immediately he rushed from the river towards the spot. He saw Ugra Bhairava raising the sword over his Guru. At that very moment, Padmapada, who was a Narasimha Upasaka, snatched the sword in a flash. The power of Narasimha was manifest in him. He roared like a lion and tore open the heart of Ugra Bhairava with his sharp nails and killed him, as Lord Narasimha had killed Hiranyakashipu. Thunderous roars reverberated. Shri Shankaracharya opened his eyes and realized that Lord Narasimha had manifested in Padmapada. He also saw the body of Ugra Bhairava lying nearby. Sri Shankara sang hymns and pacified Lord Narasimha. Sri Shankara also mentioned that the Kapalika had in fact been graced with freedom from rebirths by dying at the hands of the Lord. Padmapada was also brought back to being his own self. Thus Shri Shankaracharya had once again brought out Padmapada's austere devotion and had also indirectly paved

way for the welfare of even the Ugra Bhairava, who had sought to sacrifice him.

## HASTAMALAKACHARYA

When in Sribali in present day Karnataka, the Acharya was approached by a father who said that his boy though in his late teens never spoke and lived as if he was a dullard. When the young lad came before the Acharya and prostrated, Shri Shankaracharya asked, "Who are you?". The lad,

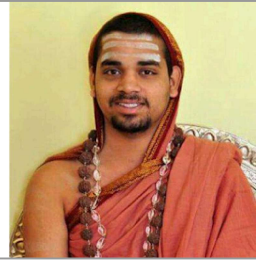


# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



who would seem aloof and silent always, immediately opened his mouth and gave a reply that was filled with the Vedantic wisdom of the true Self. Shri Shankaracharya was pleased with his answer. He immediately instructed his father that the son was fit for a life as a Sannyasi and was already filled with the wisdom of Upanishadic knowledge. The Acharya gave the lad the name of Hastamalaka - to signify that he had such easy access to the Vedantic wisdom as if he was holding an Amalaka (gooseberry) fruit in his hand. Hastamalaka became one of the principal disciples of Shri Shankara. His answer to the Guru was named as Hastamalakeeyam. Later Shri Shankaracharya himself wrote a commentary on this 12-verse Vedantic treatise.

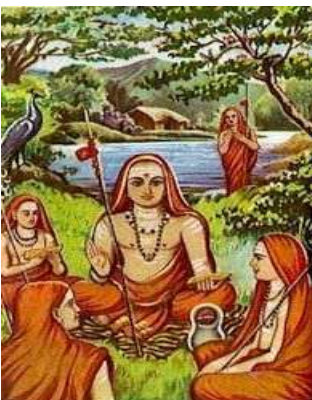
## SHRI SHANKARACHARYA AT SRINGAGIRI (SRINGERI)



Sri Adi Shankaracharya accompanied by his disciples was walking along the Tungabhadra River on a hot summer day in the region of the Western ghats in Karnataka. He watched a marvelous sight of a frog struggling in the blazing sun and about to lay its offspring. Just then, a cobra, a natural enemy of frogs, raised its hood to provide shelter from the hot sun. This sight attracted the Acharya. The Acharya also nearby found a number of people leading pious lives in accordance with the Vedic tradition. Long ago, great sages like Vibhandaka, Rishyashringa and such others had carried on

their penance at this place known as Sringeri (Shrungagiri or Rishyashringa-giri). Enchanted with the tranquility of that place, Shri Shankaracharya established his first Vedanta Jnana Peetham at Sringeri. He invoked Goddess Saraswati (Ubhaya Bharati as prayed to earlier), installed there the idol of Shri Sharada, the Goddess of Learning, and placed Sureshwara as the Head of the Sharada Peetham.

## GIRI BECOMES TOTAKACHARYA



At Sringeri, Shri Shankaracharya took many disciples. One amongst them was a disciple named Giri. He came to be known for his staunch Guru Bhakti. He found happiness in doing service to his Guru. He personally attended to the needs of the Guru. Giri used to do everything without fail and felt happier doing such services than even studying. One day Shri Shankaracharya was about to begin his discourses in Vedanta. He awaited the arrival of Giri who was yet to return from his duties. The other disciples urged the Acharya to start the discourse, for teaching. Shri Shankaracharya knew that Giri was a fitting recipient for Jnana and mentally blessed his dear disciple. By the Grace of the Guru, Giri immediately attained enlightenment. He

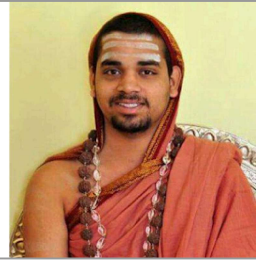


# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



became wise and was instantaneously turned into a scholar. He soon came chanting the praise of the Guru, Sri Adi Shankaracharya in beautiful Sanskrit verses composed with the Totaka meter. These verses became famous as Totakashtakam and continue to be the most famous hymn on Sri Adi Shankaracharya.

## SHRI SHANKARA'S BOON TO ARYAMBA

Shri Adi Shankaracharya heard that his mother Aryamba was ailing and was on her deathbed. He rushed to her bedside, as per his previous promise to her. He touched her feet and took her blessings. He prayed for her peace and ensured that Aryamba as she breathed her last,

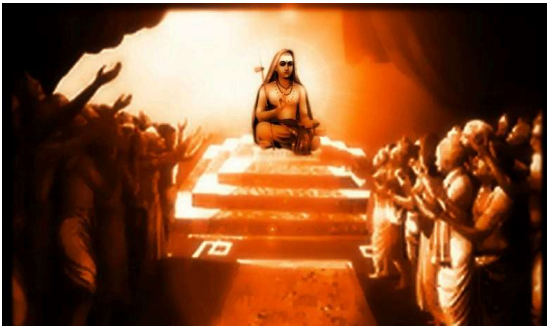


remembered the Lord and that she be led to Vaikuntha loka, the abode of Lord Vishnu. It is customary that Sannyasis were not allowed to perform rituals that were usually performed by a Grihastha. So he had no cooperation from the family and neighbors to cremate his mother. Since he couldn't get proper cooperation from anyone, Acharya himself took efforts to fulfill the promise he had given his mother.. He cut the plantain stems and placed his mother's body over them. He lit the funeral pyre in the backyard of the house to the surprise of all. Even today Namboodiris light up the funeral pyre of their

relatives in their own courtyards.

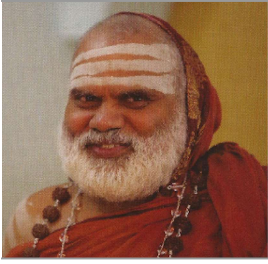
## SARVAJNA PEETHAM IN KASHMIR.

Shri Adi Shankaracharya went to many places throughout the country and debated with the scholars there. Finally he arrived at the Sarvajna Peetham - throne of omniscience or all-knowingness - at Kashmir. There, followers of the Vaisheshika system, the Sankhya followers of Kapila, the logicians of the Gautama school, the Mimamsakas, Buddhists and Jain scholars as well



as other learned intellectuals engaged in debates with the Acharya on various subjects. At the end of the debate, all the scholars admitted that Shri Shankaracharya had a limitless ocean of knowledge. They all felt that it was a great honor to be defeated by Shri Shankaracharya. When Shri

Acharya invoked Goddess Sharada, a voice from heaven was heard: "Dear son Shankara, I am pleased with you. I bestow on you today the title, Sarvajna (all-knowing). You alone are worthy of

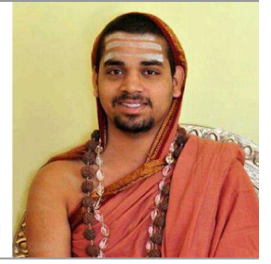


# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



sitting upon this Peetham". It was the divine voice of Sharada, the mother of the universe, reverberating through the temple. Hearing the divine voice, Acharya bowed down to Devi. Taking his seat upon Sarvajna Peetham, Acharya shone like the brightest jewel amongst all Jnanis.

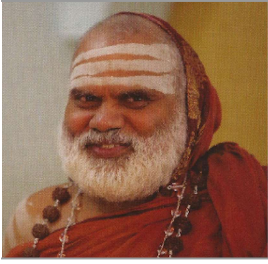
## THE FOUR PEETHAS WERE ESTABLISHED BY SHRI DI SHANKARACHARYA.



Shri Adi Shankaracharya within his 32 years of life, had effected so many works that cannot be imagined by any ordinary person. He gave commentaries (Bhashyams) for Prasthanya Traya, which means the three sources of authority. (Prasthanya-traya is the collective name given to the Upanishads, Brahma Sutra and Srimad Bhagavad Gita). Sri Shankaracharya also penned many independent Vedantic treatises such as Vivekachudamani, Upadesha Sahasri, Atma Bodha, Aparokshanubhuti, Dasha-shloki, Shata-shloki, Vakya-Vritti, Panchikarana, Prabodha Sudhakara and so on. Sri Shankaracharya also wrote commentaries on Vishnu sahasranama, Lalita Trishati, etc. Shri Shankara Bhagavatpada systematized the rituals of worship of Shiva, Devi, Vishnu, Surya, Ganapati and Kumara and composed devotional hymns on each of

these divine forms to help the devotees of the respective forms strengthen their devotion. Sri Adi Shankaracharya also composed numerous Stotras such as Soundarya lahari, Shivananda lahari. Sri Adi Shankaracharya went around the whole Bharatha Varsha three times in his life and finally mingled with Brahman in Kedarnath. He established four Amnaya peethas in the four directions and made four of his main disciples head each peetham. He also assigned four Maha Vakya for each Peetham, in accordance with tradition.

The four Amnaya Peethas		
Name of Peethas & its First Acharya after Sri Shankara	Maha Vakya , Vedas and Sampradaya	Theertha(River) and Titles for Acharya.
South - Sringeri Sri Sharada Peetham - Sri Sureshwaracharya.	Aham Brahmasmi - Yajur Veda - Bhurivala	Tungabhadra River Saraswati, Puri, Bharati, Aranya, Tirtha, Giri, Ashrama
West - Dwaraka Kalika Peetham - Sri Padmapada.	Tat Tvam Asi - Sama Veda - Kitavala.	Gomati River Tirtha, Ashrama
North - Badarikashrama - Jyothish Peetham - Sri Totakacharya.	Ayam Atma Brahma - Atharvana - Nandavala	Alakananda River Giri, Parvata, Sagara

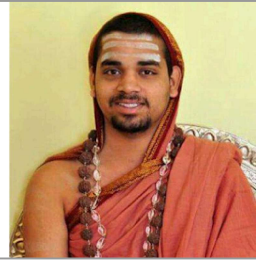


# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



East - Jagannatha Puri - Govardhana  
Peetham - Sri Hastamalaka.

Prajnanam Brahma- Rig - Bhogavala.

Bay of Bengal  
Aranya, Vana

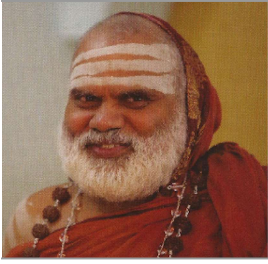
## AVICCHINNA GURU PARAMPARA (UNBROKEN LINEAGE OF GURUS) OF SRI SRINGERI SHARADA PEETHAM



NOVEMBER 5, 2021

On November 5, 2021, the day marking the dedication of the statue of Jagadguru Sri Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath Dham, where the Jagadguru completed the sacred mission of His Avataara, events took place in Sringeri Math.

At Guru Nivas, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Bharati Tirtha Mahasannidhanam and Jagadguru Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Sannidhanam offered Pushpanjali and Mangalarati to the silver Vighraha of Sri Adi Shankaracharya.

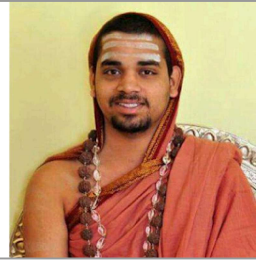


# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



सदाशिवसमारम्भां शङ्कराचार्यमध्यमाम् ।

अस्मदाचार्य पर्यन्तां वन्दे गुरुपरम्पराम् ॥

Obeisance unto the hoary Guru Parampara, beginning from Lord Sri Sadashiva upto the present Acharya with Shri Shankaracharya in middle.

## Divine Group

Lord Sadashiva

Lord Narayana

Lord Brahma

## Semi-Divine Group

Vasishta Maharishi

Shakti Maharishi

Parashara Maharishi

Veda Vyasa

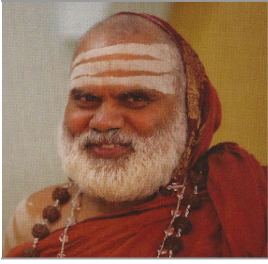
Sri Shuka Acharya

Sri Gaudapada Acharya

Sri Govinda Bhagavatpada

Sri Shankara Bhagavatpada

#	Jagadgurus of the Sringeri Sharada Peetham	Period of Reign (CE)
1.	Sri Shankara Bhagavatpada	820 (videha-mukti)
2.	Sri Sureshwaracharya	820 – 834
3.	Sri Nityabodhaghana	834-848
4.	Sri Jnanaghana	848 – 910
5.	Sri Jnanottama	910 – 954
6.	Sri Jnanagiri	954 – 1038
7.	Sri Simhagiri	1038 – 1098
8.	Sri Ishwara Tirtha	1098 – 1146

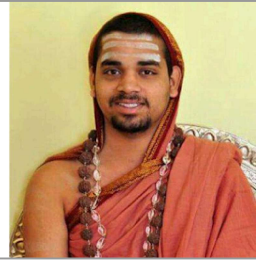


# Voice of Jagadguru

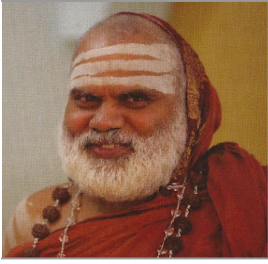
advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



9.	Sri Nrisimha Tirtha	1146 – 1229
10.	Sri Vidya Tirtha	1229 – 1333
11.	Sri Bharati Tirtha	1333 – 1380
12.	Sri Vidyaranya	1380 – 1386
13.	Sri Chandrasekhara Bharati I	1386 – 1389
14.	Sri Nrisimha Bharati I	1389 – 1408
15.	Sri Puroshottama Bharati I	1408 – 1448
16.	Sri Shankara Bharati	1448 – 1455
17.	Sri Chandrasekhara Bharati II	1455 – 1464
18.	Sri Nrisimha Bharati II	1464 – 1479
19.	Sri Puroshottama Bharati II	1479 – 1517
20.	Sri Ramachandra Bharati	1517 – 1560
21.	Sri Nrisimha Bharati III	1560 – 1573
22.	Sri Nrisimha Bharati IV	1573 – 1576
23.	Sri Nrisimha Bharati V	1576 – 1600
24.	Sri Abhinava Nrisimha Bharati	1600 – 1623
25.	Sri Sacchidananda Bharati I	1623 – 1663
26.	Sri Nrisimha Bharati VI	1663 – 1706
27.	Sri Sacchidananda Bharati II	1706 – 1741
28.	Sri Abhinava Sacchidananda Bharati I	1741 – 1767
29.	Sri Nrisimha Bharati VII	1767 – 1770
30.	Sri Sacchidananda Bharati III	1770 – 1814
31.	Sri Abhinava Sacchidananda Bharati II	1814 – 1817
32.	Sri Nrisimha Bharati VIII	1817 – 1879
33.	Sri Sacchidananda Shivabhinava Nrisimha Bharati	1879 – 1912
34.	Sri Chandrasekhara Bharati III	1912 – 1954
35.	Sri Abhinava Vidyatirtha	1954 – 1989
36.	<b>Sri Bharati Tirtha</b>	<b>1989 – Present</b>
37.	Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati	Successor-Designate

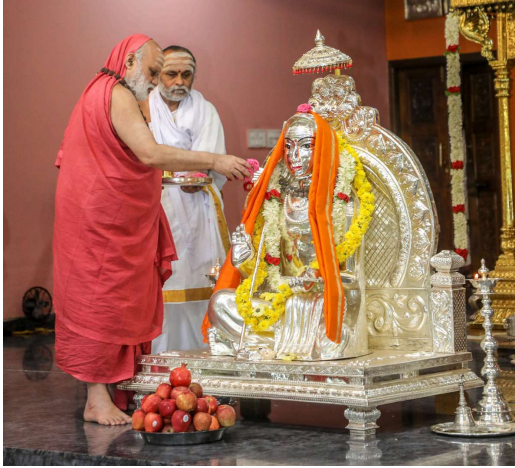
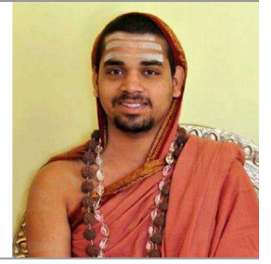


# Voice of Jagadguru

advaitam paramanandam



an e-magazine on advaita



NOVEMBER 5, 2021

On November 5, 2021, the day marking the dedication of the statue of Jagadguru Sri Adi Shankaracharya at Kedarnath Dham, where the Jagadguru completed the sacred mission of His Avatars, events took place in Sringeri Math. At Guru Nivas, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Bharati Tirtha Mahasannidhanam and Jagadguru Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Sannidhanam offered Pushpanjali and Mangalarati to the silver Vighra of Sri Adi Shankaracharya.

The telecast of the dedication of the statue at Kedarnath by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Sri Narendra Modi was shown live at the Jagadguru Sri Chandrashekhara Bharati Sabha Bhavanam near the Sharadamba temple. Hon' Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ms. Shobha Karandlaje, National General Secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party Sri CT Ravi, Deputy chairman of the Karnataka Legislative Council Sri MK Pranesh and former Sringeri MLA Sri Jeevaraj attended the event in the Bhavanam. Sringeri Math CEO Sri VR Gowrishankar received the dignitaries, lit a traditional lamp along with the dignitaries and felicitated the dignitaries at the end of the event. Upon invitation from the Chardham Board of Uttarakhand, the Sringeri Math sent a representative to Kedarnath to be present on this important occasion to convey the Srimukham (benedictory message) of the Sringeri Jagadguru to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and to offer Seva at the Jyotirlinga Kshetram of Kedarnath.

## Editorial Board

Sri Dr V R Gowri Shankar	Hon' Advisor	Administrator & CEO, Sri Sringeri Mutt & It's Properties, Sringeri
Sri S N Krishnamurthy	Hon' Editor	Sri Sringeri Mutt, Sringeri
Sri Tangirala Shiva Kumara Sharma	Hon' Editor	Sri Sringeri Mutt, Sringeri
B Srimathi Veeramani	Chief Editor	Tirunelveli
K M Kasiviswanathan	Hon' Editor	Tirunelveli