

Lecture 7*

History of Hindu Dharma

Title: Resurgence of Hindu Religion
Shankaracharya

- *All 12 lectures are listed in Appendix*

Shankaracharya

Presentations:

1. Life Story

– Kishin Kripalani

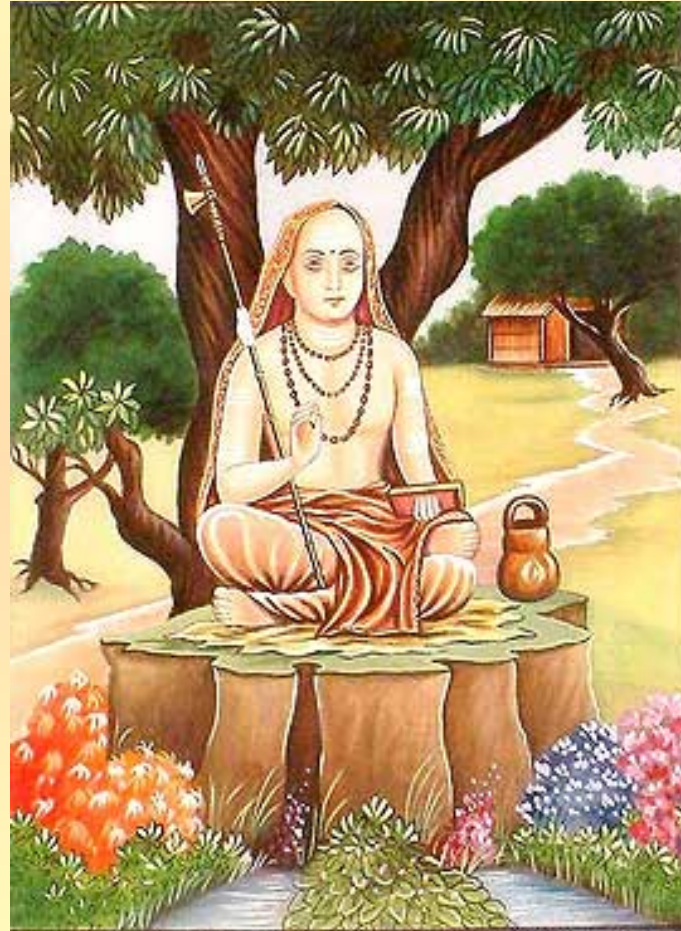
2. Accomplishments

– Satish Talekar

3. Teachings

– Jim Parmiter

Shankar Acharya



Shankara's Early Life

- Born: 788
- Kaladi, Kerala, India
- Died: 820
- Born to a pious Nambudri Brahmin couple:
Shivaguru and Vishishta Devi
 - After their prayers to Lord Shiva

Shankara's Early Life

- A child prodigy
- Father died when Shnakara was 3-yr old
- Sent to Gurukula at age five
- Masters the Vedas by age eight
- Takes sanyasa at age eight
 - Crocodile legend
- Searches for a Guru

Meeting the guru

- After a long search finds Govindapada in an ashram on the banks of river Narmada
- Govindapada: "Who are you?"
- Shankara there and then composed a composition of ten verses:

Meeting the Guru

- "I am neither the earth, nor water, fire, air or sky (the five subtle elements), nor composed of their properties. I am not the sense organs nor the mind. I am but the Supreme Consciousness underlying all, known as Shiva."

Significant Episodes and Legends

- Goes to Varanasi, the seat of learning
- Gets many disciples
- Engages in discourses and debates

Significant Episodes and Legends

- Encounter with a chandala
 - S: “Move out of my way!”
 - C: “Who do you want to move:
this body or this consciousness (atma)?”

Significant Episodes and Legends

- Shankara recognizes his folly
 - Composes Manisha Panchakam

Message: once a person has attained Self-knowledge, considerations such as his caste, etc., are totally irrelevant

Significant Episodes and Legends

- Encounter with Kumarila Bhatta
- Debate with Mandana Mishra and his wife Bharati
- Debates with scholars of many sects at Sharda temple in Kashmir

Seated on the throne of Temple

Sringeri Sharada Peetham



Merging into the Infinite

- At age 32 travels to Kedarnath
- Attains maha-samadhi and merges with the supreme consciousness

Appendix

List of Lectures

List of 12 Lectures-Segment 1

History of Hindu Religion

1. Ancient Civilization
2. Origin of Aryans
3. Vedic Period (Rishis and revelations)
4. Vedas (Content)

List of 12 Lectures-Segment 1

History of Hindu Religion

5. Period of Epics and Puranas
6. Buddhism and Jainism
7. Shankara and his Vedantic teachings
8. Ramanuja, Madhva, and their teachings

List of 12 Lectures-Segment 1

History of Hindu Religion

9. Bhakti Movement
10. Saints of India
15-16th Century
11. Influential religious leaders
17-18th Century
12. Contemporary religious leaders
19th C to present