

Accomplishments of Sri Shankaracharya

श्रुति स्मृति पुराणानामालयं करुणालयं |
नमामि भगवत्पादशंकरं लोकशंकरं ||

Shankar Vijaya

- Important biographies of Srimadacharya
 - Shankara Digvijaya of Madhavacharya
 - Shankara Vijaya of Anandagiri
 - Shankara Vijaya of Chidvilasa Yati
 - Shankara Vijaya of Vyasachala
 - Shankara Vijayasara by Sadananda Vyasa
 - Acharya Charita by Govindananda Yati
 - Shankarabhyudaya by Rajachudamani Dikshitar
 - Brihat Shankara Vijaya by Brahmananda
 - Keraliya Shankara Vijaya by Govindanatha
 - Bhagavatpadabhyudaya by Lakshmana Suri

Other Major Commentators

- Maharshi Vyas
 - Compilation of Vedas
 - Brahmasutras
 - Puranas
 - Mahabharat – JAY (8,800 verses)
- Vaishampayan & Ugrasrava Sauti
 - Mahabharat (24,000 -> 90,000 verses)
- Yaskacharya (around 600 BCE)
 - Nirukta - etymological commentary on *Nighantu*
- Sayanacharya (1387 CE)
 - *Vedartha Prakasha*

Confusion over Period

- **788–820 CE**
 - Based on records at Sringeri Matha
 - Records state that Sankara was born in 14th year of the reign of "VikramAditya"
 - Chandragupta II (4th. c. AD)
 - From Chalukya dynasty - Vikramaditya II (733–746 CE)
 - Place date in middle of the 8th century

- **509–477 BCE**
 - Dwaraka matha; Puri matha; Fifth Kanchi Peetham
 - not consistent with Shankara quoting Buddhist logician Dharmakirti, who finds mention in Huen Tsang (7th c.)
 - Near-contemporary Kumarila Bhatta is dated 8th c. AD

Shankara's Time

- 72 Sects & Religions prevailed
 - Charvakas, Lokayathikas, Kapalikas, Shaktas, Sankhyas, Buddhas, Jainas, Madhyamikas, Shaiva, Vaishnav, Ganapatya and many more
- Forces opposed to Vedic religion
 - Numerous and Powerful
 - Mental than Physical obstacles
- Shankara's weapon - pure knowledge & spirituality
 - To restore Vedic Dharma & Advaita Vedanta to its pristine purity
- Established Shanmata
- Dashnami Sanyasi Orders

Shankara's Time

- Quoting Swami Sivananda ...
 - “ It can be affirmed, without any fear of contradiction, that Bharata Varsha would have ceased to be Bharata Varsha several centuries ago and would never have survived the murderous sword, the devastating fire and the religious intolerance of the successive invaders, if Sankara had not lived the life he lived and taught the lessons he taught”

Dig-Vijaya

- Met leaders of different schools of thought
- Challenged learned men discussion
 - argued and converted them to his opinions and views
- Convinced them by arguments and established the supremacy & truth of the religion he expounded
 - Defeated Bhatta Bhaskara & condemned his Bhashya on Vedanta Sutras
 - Met Dandi and Mayura and taught them his philosophy
 - Defeated in argument Harsha, Abhinavagupta, Murari Misra, Udayanacharya, Dharmagupta, Prabhakara and Kumarila
- Ascended to the seat of Omniscience - Jagadguru

Dig-Vijaya

- Refuted Shaktas at Kancheepuram
- Won over to his side - Chola & Pandya kingdom rulers
- Went to Ujjain to put down atrocities of Bhairavas
- Proceeded to Dwaraka to established a Math
- Travelled along course of Ganges refuting scholars
- In Kamarup (Guwahati) refuted Abhinava Gupta, a Shakta commentator
- In Himalayas, built a Math at Joshi and temple at Badri

Major Works

- Commentaries on *Prasthanas Trayis*
 - Brahma Sutras
 - Ten major Upanishads
 - Bhagvad Gita
- Commentaries on
 - *Sanat Sujatiya*
 - *Sahasranama Adhyaya*
- Verse Compositions
 - *Anandlahari: describing female deity Bhagavati*
 - *Dakshinamurti Stotra*
 - *Charpatpanjari: Melodious 17 verses*
 - *Shatpadi*
 - *Harimidestotra: praise of Lord Vishnu*
 - *Shivabhujangaprayat: fourteen verses bhujangaprayat meter*
 - *Saundaryalahari*

Major Works

- For learning logic and metaphysics
 - Sankara's commentaries
- For gaining practical knowledge, that unfolds and strengthens devotion - **Prakaran** Granthas
 - *Viveka Chudamani*
 - *Atma Bodha*
 - *Aparoksha Anubhuti*
 - *Atma-Anatma Viveka*
 - *Drik-Drishya Viveka*
 - *Upadesa Sahasri*

Establishment of Hermitages (Mathas)

- **Sharada Math** (Dvarka - West)
- Founder Teacher: Hastamalak / Vishvarupacharya
- Designation of Mahant : Svarup
- The Veda : Samaveda
- Mahavakya : You are that - Tattvamasī [Chandogya]
- Titles : Tirtha, Ashram

Establishment of Hermitages (Mathas)

- **Govardhan Math** (Puri - East)
- Founder teacher : Padmapad
- Designation of Mahant : Prakash
- The Veda :Rugveda
- Mahavakya : Spiritual Knowledge is Brahman - Pradnyanam Brahman [Aitareya]
- Titles : Van, Aranya

Establishment of Hermitages (Mathas)

- **Jyotir Math** (Badarikashram - North)
- Founder teacher: Trotak/ Totak
- Designation of Mahant: Anand
- The Veda: Atharvaveda
- Mahavakya : The soul is Brahman
- Ayamatra Brahman [Mandukya]
- Title : Giri, Parvat, Sagar

Establishment of Hermitages (Mathas)

- **Shringeri Math** (Rameshvar-South)
- Founder teacher : Sureshvar/Pruthvidhar
- Designation of Mahant : Chaitanya
- The Veda : Yajurveda
- Mahavakya: I am Brahman - *Aham Brahmasmi*
[Bruhad-aranyak]
- The title : Sarasvati, Bharati, Puri

Adi - Shankaracharya

- Quoting Swami Sivananda ...

“ Shankara is the foremost among the master-minds and the giant souls which Mother India has produced.

He was the expounder of the Advaita philosophy.

Sankara was a giant metaphysician, a practical philosopher, an infallible logician, a dynamic personality and a stupendous moral and spiritual force.

His grasping and elucidating powers knew no bounds.

He was a fully developed Yogi, Jnani and Bhakta.

He was a Karma Yogin of no mean order.

He was a powerful magnet. ”

Adi - Shankaracharya

- Quoting Swami Sivananda ...

“Sankara was an intellectual genius, a profound philosopher, an able propagandist, a matchless preacher, a gifted poet and a great religious reformer.

Thanks