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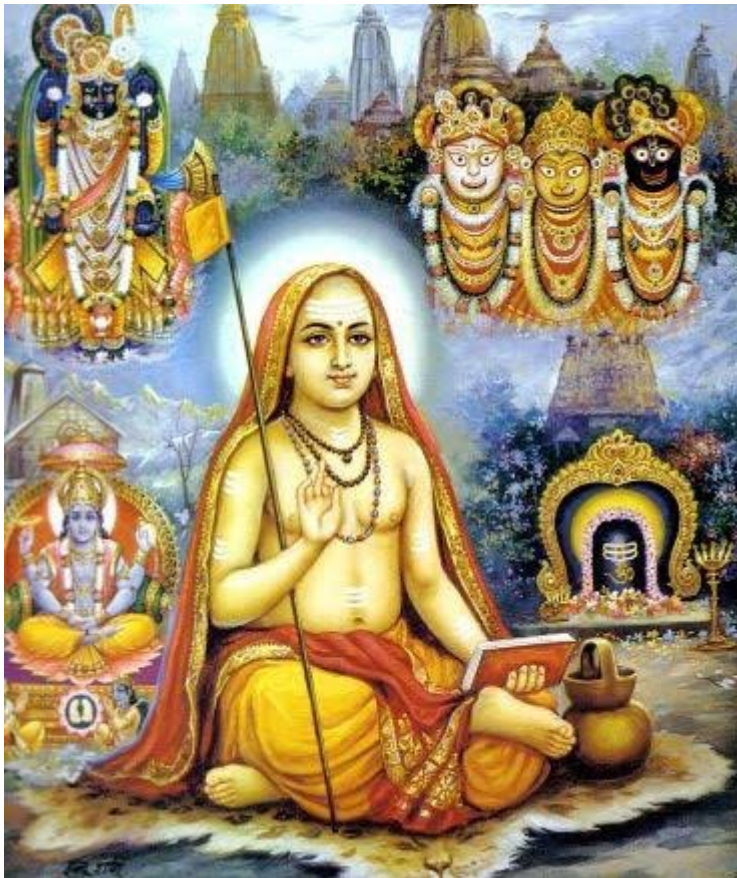


ADI SHANKARACHARYA AND MAHADEV

Once, Adi Shankaracharya was going to Kashi Vishwanath Mandir along with his disciples.

Suddenly, an untouchable/ chandala came in his way along with his wife and four dogs.

Adi Shankaracharya's disciples shouted at him to make way.



The untouchable smiled and said, "According to your principle of Advaita, which you practice, all the Jivatma are same as Prabhu. How am I different from your Paramacharya? How should I go? My body or my Atman, the form or the formless, the limited or the limitless?"



Adi Shankaracharya understood that it was Shiva himself who had come along with Ma Parvati and the 4 Vedas. He prostrated before Mahadev and sang five slokas called "Manisha Panchakam". Shiva then presented himself along with Visalakshi and blessed Adi Shankaracharya.



Manisha means firm conviction and Panchak means five. The word manisha appears in the last line in all the five Verses. Manisha Panchakam conveys the message that the Paramatman is same within all beings regardless of bodily distinctions of caste.

