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ADI SHANKRACHARYA IN KASHMIR

Adi Shankaracharya, a great philosopher - a saint of high order, who re-established true faith in upanishads and gave Vedanta philosophy a right footing. He visited Kashmir & by his name the famous Shankaracharya Temple is situated in Shrinagar.

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He visited Kashmir when Buddhism was dominating in India, the great Shankaracharya launched a Vigorous Campaign in the South and popularized the cult of Bhakti, to reduce the influence of Buddhist domination.

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He had a sweeping tour of the country and defeated Buddhist Scholars with his powerful logic.

"He checked the tidal wave of nihilism (denial of all reality) .

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At the same time Kashmir was also under strong influence of Buddhism, when Vasugupta appeared on the scene and changed the whole current of religious thoughts. He propagated the 'Siva Sutra', revealed to him by 'Shiva' himself, as engraved on a big stone at

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the foot of Mahadeva mountain.

Shankaracharya visited Kashmir after giving a final blow to Buddhism in the rest of India. Shankaracharya visited Kashmir with the intention of advancing Vedantic knowledge.

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That time Kashmiris were culturally and spiritually much advanced and believed strongly in the greatness of both Shiva and Shakti.

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Adi Shankaracharya – gained further depth in spiritualism and mysticism in Kashmir. Kashmiri Pandits highly appreciative of knowledge, awarded a degree of the Sharda Peetha, the highest honour conferred on any dignitary of knowledge when Shankaracharya visited Sharda,

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a famous temple, Shrine of Goddess Saraswati and a famous university of learning.

It is believed that when Adi Shankaracharya entered the Sharda temple from its Southern gate and had a debate with the Scholars of that Area/Temple.

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He emerged as a winner and was conferred to sit on Sarvanjanapeetham or Sarvajna peetha (Throne of Wisdom). In his Honor, the southern gate of Sharda temple was closed for ever.

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