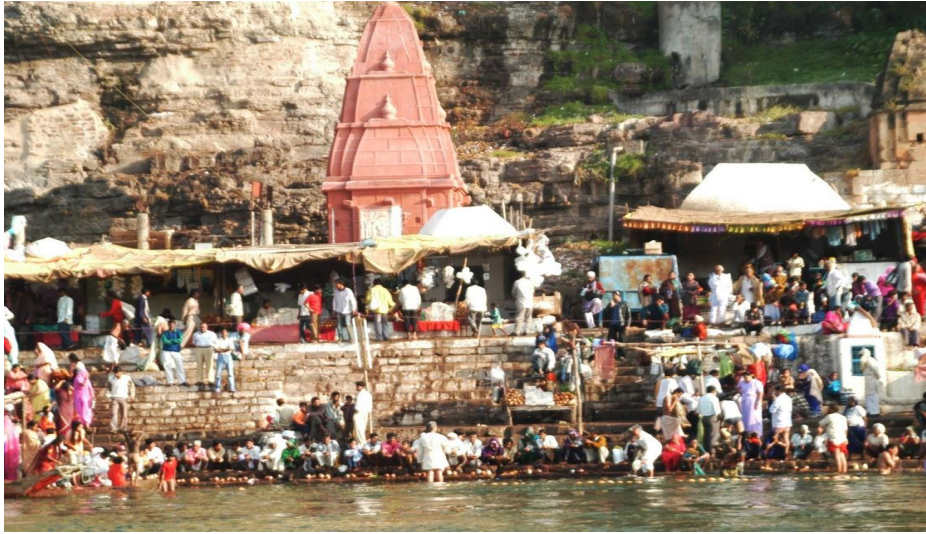


Adi Shankara at Māndhātā and Māhishmatī

Om Holy Book #8



Govindeshvara Mandira

**Research Operation
By
Linda M. Canestraight
“Om Loves Me”**

**In Association With
Murarilal Nagar**

**OM Shanti Mandiram
Columbia, MO
2012**

INTRODUCTION

Ādi Shankara at Māndhātā and Māhishmatī.

It is a collection of select email messages exchanged among some OM devotees on the subject for more than a decade. These have been presented here in their natural order and sequence as they occurred just to show the natural development of thought. No attempt has been made to bring any order or system.

A child may take even a moving rope as a snake. Even an adult has sometime a dilemma whether it is a man or just a stump.

India's great poet Shri Bāṇa Bhaṭṭa said: Even the great divinities are made subject of wrong identification and degradation if not understood well. The identification of a highly significant mūrti done earlier by us was wrong – dead wrong! Absurd!! Disgusting!!!

Later on it turned out to be simply ridiculous. But we left the matter as it had developed. It was a case of Tamaso mā jyotir gamaya = O God, lead me from darkness to light.

The subject and object treated in this publication is the first attempt ever made in the history of Vedic Civilization as far as the divine life of Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagvatpāda is concerned. We thought of giving the title to this publication as *Adi Shankara Goes to School*, but the subject covered here is much more intensive as well as extensive.

Shankaracharya acquired his basic knowledge at the feet of his Gurudeva Shri Govinda-Bhagavatpāda. Govindeshvara Gupha served as Shankara's Gurukulam at Mount Mandhata.

And Māhishmatī (today's Maheshvara) emerged as his Advaita-Vedanta-Vijaya-Vaijayantī. The full history of this revolutionary occurrence is yet to be written.

Ours here is the first attempt of its kind. It is hoped that someone in the coming generation would continue and develop further what we have just begun by the Grace of OM: One God Universal.

Om Shanti. OMLN March 20, 2012.

Here is a Collection of **OMGod Devotees** Yahoo Group Emails, discussing and discovering Shankaracharya's state of disciple at the Govindeshvara Guphā, Omkareshvara, India.

(Revised once again March 3, 2012)

From: Dr Nagar

Nov 30th 2006

No 2459

Advaita Vedanta Vijaya Vijayanti

Advaita Vedanta Wins.

Tradition tells us that Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya subdued Mandana Mishra and established supremacy of his Advaita Vedanta Doctrine over Karma Mimamsa of his great opponent. It was Advaita Vedanta Vijaya Vijayanti—a superb success.

If this phenomenon is accepted as a fact and not a fiction, we will have to admit that this super siddhi (achievement) must have taken place at some place on this earth.

Well, we searched it and found it. It is at an ancient sacred place called today as Maheshvara-Mandaleshvara near Omkara Mandhata.

We deputed some of our great devotees of OM to this sacred region and got photographs of the grandeur and glory of ancient Mahishmati—today's Mandhata. The sacred spot in reference too was photographed. We have it! It will be featured soon in our OMGOD Yahoo Group—a Divine Spiritual Fellowship—a Divya Satsanga.

We have acquired not less than 200 photographs of this sacred land and its holy temples, sites and surroundings through the kind courtesy of Father Geo George and Shri Komal Goswami of Indore.

It has been a great blessing of OM: One God Universal.

This message will be posted and kept finally into MandhataAndMahishmati (another Yahoo Group created by us).

OMLN.

From: Dr Nagar

Date: Sep 7th 2004

No 609

OMGOD: An Idea Becomes a Reality

Omkaara Mandhata, a great center of learning

It is quite significant to note that one Māndhātā inscription records the grant of certain villages to the Brahmanas residing at Brahmapurī located on this Māndhātā Parvata Dvīpa itself. There must have lived here a considerable learned population in ancient times. This sacred place must have had a long tradition of being a **dharma- kshetra**, **a puṇyabhūmi**. Shankaracharya would not have come here to acquire learning but for this fact and that he would not have found his guru here. Tradition tells us that the **paramaguru** of Shankaracharya, Shri Gauḍapāda too had sanctified this holy place by his stay and tapas.

Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha had announced a very ambitious plan of five crores of rupees to develop this holy land as a great center for study and research on Shankara Bhagavatpāda. Our endless letters of inquiry and requests for cooperation have brought no response from them at all, none whatsoever.

In any case, their interest is quite limited indeed, i.e. to Shankaracharya alone. Nothing wrong in that. But we believe there should be a general organization to take care of the whole complex—all the temples of all the gods and goddesses, belonging to all the religions, sects and beliefs, and all the other organizations, existing or operating at present there on Omkaara Mandhata island. We visualize a kind of Umbrella organization, a model of **sarva-dharma-samanvaya (samaṣṭi)**. We would call it Omkāra Māndhātā: Group of Devotees –short form OMGOD.

The idea originated about 4 years ago! [2000]

Dear Devotees of Om:

Tradition tells us that Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya subjugated Mandana Mishra in that memorable debate.

But where? Om Shanti Mandiram of Columbia Missouri commissioned a professional photographer to visit the holy spot at a very high cost.

Photographs nos.14 and 15 of Mandaleshvara - Maheshvara Darshana (collection) display the sacred spot. They may also be seen in our new home page, section 06, Pictures Alive.

Om Shanti. Murari.



Shastravāda took place here
between Shankaracharya & Mandan Mishra



Foot Imprint of Shankaracharya

From: Dr Nagar
Para-kāya-pravesha by Shankaracharya
No 1142

Mar 16th 2005

Dear Devotees of Om:

You may know that Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya defeated Mandana Mishra and converted him to his philosophy of Advaita Vedanta. The latter became later Shri Sureshvaracharya. The ardhangini of Mandana Mishra famous as Bharati or Sarasvati was the umpire. She declared Shankara as the winner. However, she did not accept defeat. She challenged Shankara on the ground that he had defeated only one half of her husband. She put certain questions related to Kamashastra. Shankara being an aabalabrahmachaar in could not answer. He asked time for six months. Through his yogabala, Shankara entered the body of a king who had just died.

Tradition also tells us that the lifeless body of Shankara was kept under the guard of his disciples. But the question is where? We have located the place but have no photograph. Today this sacred memorable place is remembered as Gupteshvara Mahadeva.

There has been a great deal of controversy over the question whether the ancient Mahishmati is today's Maheshvara or Omkara Mandhata. We have presented in our latest book on Omkara Mandhata how even the great scholars of today are led astray by their own pride and prejudice. Whether King Muchukunda founded both of them may be a controversial point. Yet there is enough evidence even today, as gathered by us, that there is a great deal of symbiosis (bimba-pratibimba-bhaava) between the two sacred places.

We don't have a picture of Gupteshvara Mahadeva at Maheshvara as yet, but we do have a picture of Gupteshvara Mahadeva at Omkara Mandhata Parvata Dvipa.

Om Shanti. Murari.

From: Dr Nagar
No 1214
FW: Appeal, Last 2.doc

Apr 11th 2005

From: Dr Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2005 5:34 AM
To: 'omshantisvasti@...'
Subject: Appeal, Last 2.doc

Dated Monday, April 11, 2005

Dear Friend:

It is a great pleasure for us to inform you that Om: One God Universal has enabled us to bring our study on "Omkāra Māndhātā Mukti Dhāma: A Paradise for Pilgrims" to a stage where we could share it with other devotees of Om. Earlier we did not even know the name of "Omkara Mandhata," but by now our study on it extends to more than three hundred pages with lots of illustrations! We have placed all this and much more on the Internet. The address is <http://omshantimandiram.org>. Access through Google is recommended.

Om Shanti Mandiram has published some substantial holy literature on OM. It has brought out several issues of *OM Shanti* (journal) and a series of anthologies titled

Om: One God Universal-- A Garland of Offerings.

We have also prepared a "Collection of Moving Pictures of OM" with sound and sight that might move the viewers toward spiritual goals.

A U M is the traditional analytical form of OM. It has been interpreted in various ways. In our current enterprise

A = Art,
U = Ukti (Literature) and
M = Music.

OM Chitra Darshana (CD) of Om Shanti Mandiram may serve not only as a screen saver for computer displays, but also play the part of a Soul Saver for Salvation.

We request you kindly to visit our Omshanti home page at <http://omshantimandiram.org>. This may give you an idea of what is being presented in our CD's.

Om Shanti Mandiram is a non-profit, charitable institution with many noble and holy ideas but very little money. Yet we are determined to carry on and on since Almighty OM: One God Universal wants us to enlighten the world through His mighty effulgence.

With blessings from OM, and in the service of OM Shanti,

Murarilal Nagar

Om Shanti Mandiram of Columbia, Missouri is pleased to announce the completion of a holy study of Omkareshvara Mandhata, one of the twelve jyotirlingas at the confluence of Narmada and Kaveri, Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh. It is unique; it is unparalleled; it is the only one of its kind in the whole world.

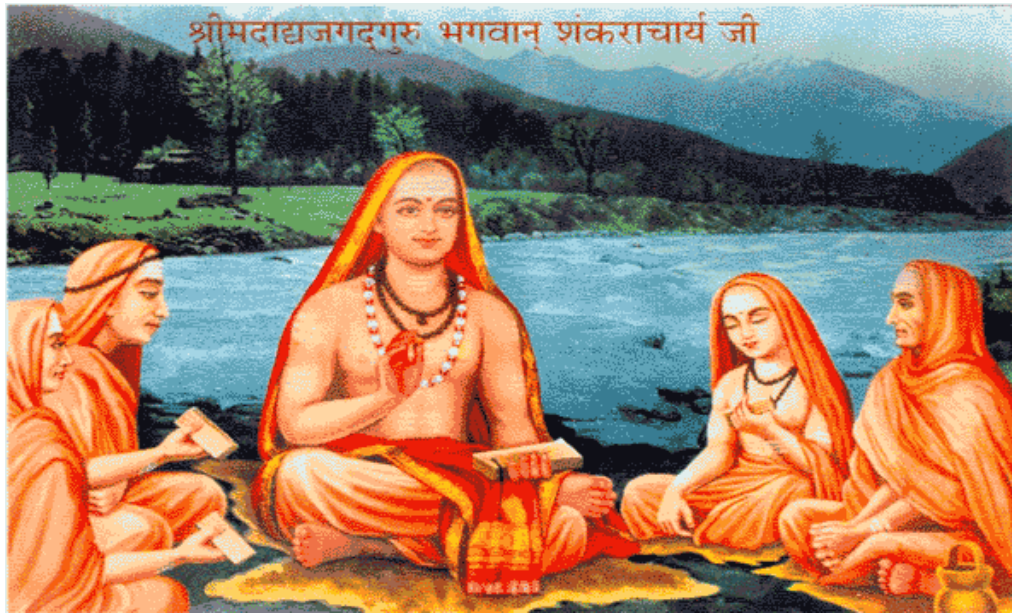
There has been a great deal of publicity and propaganda on the part of the tourist

trade and travel agents telling the world that the Island itself is shaped like the Sacred Syllable OM, i.e. the Nature itself has made it Omkāra-ākāra.

Internet has many pictures of this wonderful world of natural phenomenon. All show all kinds of pictures for excitement, but none gives the real topographical natural formation—how it is carved by nature as OM. We tried our best to know if someone had such a picture. We were willing to pay any reasonable price, negotiated and predetermined. Yet no one has come forward with a real picture.

This Omkara Mandhata Island had not only served as the gurukulam of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya but also as the tapobhūmi of his guru and paramaguru. The region is associated also with Maṇḍana Mishra of great repute. It is rich in archaeology, architecture, art, epigraphy, history, legends, mythology, numismatics, sculpture and tradition—everything. However, it is great pity that there is not even a single publication (a monograph) exclusively devoted to it. There are certain scattered articles here and there, but they are all popular, written for the common folk. Most of them are merely rehash, a kind of trash.

We request your great institution to come forward and play a leading role in this holy enterprise. Some work has been done, but much still remains to be done. We have many ideas for development and are willing to share them with you provided you feel interested. This is a national cause for India, nay, a universal cause for the entire world of culture and civilization.



Adi Shankaracharya teaching on the bank of the Narmada

From: Dr Nagar

Jun 14th 2005

Shiva Shankara Mahadeva



From: Dr Nagar

Jun 18th 2005

No 1377

FW: An image on the wall in Govindeshvara Gupha (Cave)

The Image



From: Dr Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2005 4:24 PM

To: 'Canestraight, Linda M.'

Subject: An image on the wall in Govindeshvara Gupha (Cave)

Our new home page contains your account of the Pilgrimage—21st century—Walking path journey. There are 98 pictures. No. 64 has on the wall some god with serpent hood, probably. Next to that there is a lady half female and half serpent.

Below that wall image, there is a newly installed image of Govinda Bhagavadpada, guru of Shankaracharya, wearing big marigold garland. We don't know what the original ancient image is.

I have some idea. An ancient Sanskrit text studied by me and incorporated in our Holy Book No. 5 gives an account that Mandhata married five serpent queens and had five sons from them. One of them founded Omkara Mandhata as well as ancient Maheshvara. His name was Muchukunda, by whose name a gate still exists there on the mountain. They call it Muchukunda Dvāra (=Gate). You have a picture of that too.

Presently it is a wild guess, but the statue is highly significant to have occupied such an exalted position. I think it is made secure by a steel pole.

More when we meet.

From: Dr Nagar

Aug 1st 2005

No 1471

True understanding

RE: Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama: A Paradise for Pilgrims

Omkara Mandhata, the holy hilly island, the subject of our primary study nowadays, is the gurukulam of Adi Shankaracharya Bhagavatpada.

From: omgod@yahoogroups.com [mailto:omgod@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of keithjohnson@...

Sent: Monday, August 01, 2005 11:40 AM

To: omgod@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [omgod] true understanding

I think the blessed sage, rishi, saint, and master Adi Shankaracharya said it best: “I have no mother, father, relative, friend, companion, teacher, savior, relation, instructor, possessions, or otherwise. I am the atman” (soul)

“This great sage was able to see through the play of maya and illusion.

May all living beings awaken to the truth of Spirit, and see that maya, illusion, is just the projection of the finite onto the infinite. The Material Universe is just the dance of the Infinite Divine Spirit. That is all it is”. Namaste, KJ

Adi Shankaracharya



From: Dr Nagar

Aug 24th 2005

No 1510

Re: Emailing: blMTVMVAGallery_18.htm

Madonna offers prayers to her Guru in the words of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya—Vande GuruuNaam caraNaaravinde—Om Shanti. 1998 MTV Music Awards. She is honored as the “Pop Queen.” We have a display (autoshow) of 98 professional pictures of Omkara Mandhata Muktidhama. The background music is this very prayer. This is only a sample of what lies ahead for us before the year ends. Let us get together, all of us, put in and out the best we can offer to the world. Om Shanti.

From: Dr Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]

Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2005 7:29 AM

To: 'omshanti@...'

Subject: Emailing: blMTVMVAGallery_18.htm

From: Dr Nagar

Sept 12th 2005

No 1552

Fw: The Self alone is and knows itself by itself

RE: [omgod] Fw: The Self alone is and knows itself by itself

The sages say: “Māṇḍūkyaṃ ekam evālam mumukshūṇām vimuktaye”. Only one Mandukya Upanishad alone is enough for the emancipation of those who aspire for it.

Mandukya Karika is an immortal work of Shri Gaudapada, who was the Paramaguru of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, and who commented upon it.

OMLN

From: omgod@yahoogroups.com [mailto:omgod@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Dr Vikram M Pattarkine

Sent: Monday, September 12, 2005 5:04 AM

To: omgod

Subject: [omgod] Fw: The Self alone is and knows itself by itself

----- Original Message -----

From: virag deshpande

To: oneness_nonduality_advaita@yahoogroups.com

Sent: Monday, September 12, 2005 1:40 AM

Subject: [Oneness_nonduality_Advaita] The Self alone is and knows itself by itself.

The Self is the eternal, timeless Truth. The source of everything.

- Its nature is non-dual, one without a second.
- Advaita Vedanta (the teaching of non-duality) reveals this Truth, as there is complete absence of the delusion of duality, which manifests as the notions of an ego, a mind, a body and an objective world.
- Sankalpas (notions assumed to be valid due to lack of inquiry into them) alone constitute all those illusions. On freeing oneself from illusion, what remains is (Sat-chit-Ananda) Being-Consciousness-Bliss, the Self.
- Being abides in itself: Consciousness knows itself; Bliss reposes in itself. The Self alone is and knows itself by itself.
- The final statement of Advaita is "There is no cessation, no coming-to-be, none in bondage, no seeker after liberation and no-one liberated". This is the absolute truth.

(From Mandukya karika)

From: Dr Nagar
No 1636
FW: Primary objective of OMGOD

Oct 16th 2005

From: Dr Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2005 5:40 PM
To: 'Canestraight, Linda M.'
Subject: RE: Primary objective of OMGOD

OMGOD expands to Omkara Mandhata Group of Devotees. Its primary objective is the recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage still enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama.

We can draw the attention of OMGOD members—those who are ready and anxious to work toward our primary goal-- to some rare objects not yet identified. For example, a king or a representation of some god, is shown sitting in squatted form in the cave named Govindeshvara Gupha. A lady serpent is standing next to the image. What is the relationship? We see another lady with a whisker. That is the sign of royalty or divinity.

An image of Shankara Bhagavadpada, the guru of Shankaracharya, is installed in 1988 right under the image described above. Have they identified it?

Such ideas should be circulated. I want to make this medium a scholarly publication. For example, the three issues of Om Shanti journal have published very rich thought contents. They are classics.

We are planning to publish such rare photos in OMGOD for information and action.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2005 8:11 AM
To: Canestraight, Linda M.
Subject: Primary objective of OMGOD

The primary objective and focus of OMGOD is the recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage still enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Muktidhama. However there is a bombardment of dry discourses on all sorts of things by some drum beaters. The main objective is lost. This is terribly frustrating.

In any case we should try our best to send messages directed to the public and the government how we can all fulfill our goal. In a subtle manner we should tell our members that our primary objective is creating an awakening of all concerned.

Here is an example:

Please send a copy of Bhimeshvara Shiva—12th century—no. 83 in your journey account. It is a beautiful object still in full form and shape--intact. But it is in a terrible danger of falling down and getting broken to pieces. There is a wooden ladder on the right. Are they doing some work of preservation there?

The bottom says: Arjuna Mahraja ki jaya = Hail great king Arjuna! Nonsense and rubbish. It is Shiva in His terrible form ready for the destruction of evil forces.

I see there is a black faced big monkey there with a long tail. It is not guarding the delicate art treasure. It won't protect the sculpture from being fallen down.

This is the kind of message we have to give to the world at large. This is our ultimate objective. All our efforts should be directed in future—Save India's cultural treasure!

Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 1651
Madonna

Oct 20 2005

Madonna sings a prayer composed by Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, worded as *Vande gurūṇām caraṇāravinde...*

Source: *Yoga tārāvalī*. Title as given by the artist —*Shanti—Aṣṭāṅgī* Check

Madonnā (priceless) may be presented as singing the same song.

Written to Vedanta Society of Southern California, but no response ever received.

वन्दे गुरुणां चरणारविन्दे सन्दर्शितस्वात्मसुखावबोधे ।
निःश्रेयसे जाङ्गलिकायमाने संसारहालाहलमोहशान्त्यै ॥

Vande gurūṇām caraṇāravinde

sandarshitasvātmasukhāvabodhe.

Niḥshreyase jāṅgalikāyamāne

samsārahālāhalamohashāntyai.

Composition of Jagadguru Ādya Shaṅkarācārya.

Sung by Madonna

Search Google under **Om Namah Shivaya**

And you will find many references, especially various murtis of Shiva Shankar Mahadeva.

Madonna's song "Om shantyai Om" could very well go with it. The end portion of the song is very significant. The sound merges in infinity, as it should do.

Dear friend:

OMGOD stands for Omkara Mandhata Group of Devotees, its pious mission being the recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama, a holy hilly island in Madhya Pradesh, India (22° 14' N 76° 17' E).

You may know that this Mandhata mount/island is garlanded by two pious rivers—Narmada and Kaveri. It is unparalleled--one of its kind in the world. This holy home had served not only as the gurukulam of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, but also had been the tapobhumi of his Guru Govinda Bhagavadpada and a muktidhama of his paramaguru Shri Gaudapada. The region is also sanctified as the Karmabhumi of Shri Mandana Mishra (Sureshvaracarya). Honored by great poets such as Bhartrihari and Murarikavi, it is rich in archaeology, architecture, art, epigraphy, history, legends, mythology, numismatics, sculpture and tradition--everything.

Omkara Mandhata Group of Devotees has as its organ an electronic free forum named OMGOD operating as a Yahoo Group. It is a divine spiritual fellowship, a divya satsanga. Membership is free. There is no fee. There is no obligation of any kind whatsoever. There is no compulsion. By now OMGOD has fifty plus members around the globe. Approximately 1800 divine messages in words and pictures have been circulated. You are free to read what other members write. You may share your ideas on OM with other members if you like.

We request you most earnestly to join OMGOD. Membership may be discontinued any moment just by a click. Archival files are open to all, no membership being necessary to view this rich collection of good thoughts on OM.

The URL for this spiritual treasure is—<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/omgod>

For more, please visit our NEW Omshanti home page:

<http://omshantimandiram.org/>

Om Shanti.

Murarilal Nagar, OMLN

Fn. OMGOD appeal to join.

From: Dr Nagar

Jan 2nd 2006

No 1901

OMGOD appeal to join

Re: [omgod] OMGOD appeal to join

Dear Nagarji,

May OM the all Powerful and Eternal, dwell in our hearts unceasingly in the New Year.

Fraternally yours

Fr. Geo George.

From: Dr Nagar

Jan 2nd 2006

No 1902

RE: [omgod] OMGOD appeal to join

Dear OMGOD Group Members:

The year 2005 has been very significant. Through the Grace of OM: One God Universal we have been able to do some substantial service to the world by bringing His effulgence out and enlightening the world. Let us hope we are able to do more and better work in the year 2006.

For the first time in the history of our Vedic Civilization, for example, the holy hilly Mount Mandhata has been photographed so extensively from the air! This is not a small accomplishment.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 1904
OMGOD appeal to join
RE: [omgod] OMGOD appeal to join

Jan 3rd 2006

Please disseminate this appeal to all. OMLN

From Dr Nagar
No 1945
From: Dr Nagar
No 2041
Maheshvara

Jan 21st 2006

April 7th 2006

Dear devotees of OM:

Today's Maheshvara on the holy river Narmada, close to Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama, is ancient Mahishmati that flourished at least 3000 years ago.

Omkara Mandhata is reputed to have been a holy sacred place associated with the diksha and education of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. This was his gurukula.

Maheshvara-Mandaleshvara is reputed to have been a siddhikshetra for Shri Shankaracharya, where he won victory over Mandana Mishra and established the superiority of his philosophy of non-dualism over Mimamsa. Here he unfurled his Advaita Vedanta Vijaya Vijayanti.

Through the Grace of OM: One God Universal we have secured a gigantic collection of superior photographs of this sacred place, very many thanks for the generosity of a great devotee of Om, Father Geo George of Indore. We had already

secured 100 photos of Maheshvara through Shri Komal Goswami of Indore. Indore has rendered a great service to our holy work. Shri Komal Goswami served OM as a kind and benevolent host to Linda Canestraight (OM Loves Me) when she visited the holy land of Omkareshvara for a fruitful field work and photodocumentation.

It is our plan to share this immense wealth of photographs of Maheshvara with the members of OMGOD: A Divine Spiritual Fellowship—A Divya Satsanga—An electronic free forum.

Om Shanti. OMLN always in the service of OM: One God Universal.

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]

Sent: Monday, May 01, 2006 2:39 PM

To: Dr Nagar Media Com

Subject: RE: OMGOD

Now is the time to announce to OMGOD the positive letter you have received from the university. If those in the OMGOD group could email the VP or send letter of support towards the cause it would be wonder for the VP to get a positive reaction to the quest we want them to pursue. OMGOD members are just a small following of people who think and believe in the preservation of India's heritage and culture. With the university cooperation the next person or people that should go to Omkara Mandhata should be the university, it is in their country, they should not allow an American university to outdo them, (but then they do not have Dr. Nagar at their institution). We must be careful and not insult their pride but feed their pride by saying we in America want more, more and more. They must know that we are hungry for this knowledge and we ask for them to help. Pride for the work, pride for the recognition will hopefully get cooperation. I do not want to see this stall at the VP office with just words.

I am so glad you have received at least from one university; perhaps they can also pursue other universities to join the cause. There is some archeological work going on there now, to coordinate the history, religious and archaeological finds and bring it all together under the VP institution could work for him politically as well and spiritually by doing the work on Omkara Mandhata and bring the light of OM to this significant and most sacred site.

This was just my thoughts about the response you received, it is the best news we've gotten all year.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From: Dr Nagar Media Com [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 5:22 PM
To: Canestraight, Linda M.
Subject: RE: OMGOD

You have very good ideas. I heartily support them. Let us work toward achieving the real objective of OMGOD. One of the things we could do is to ask them how we can achieve our fundamental goal. OMLN

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 3:03 PM
To: Dr Nagar Media Com
Subject: RE: OMGOD

Perhaps it is time to turn their heads in the direction of recovery and dissemination by getting them involved more with what options are available in order to achieve the goal. If the Vice Chancellor at Indore University will get involved we can connect OMGOD with actual work being done and post it under OMGOD site. How many of the members have ever been to Omkara Mandhata, we should promote each member to take the journey and come back with their findings. Who is next to travel there? What can they obtain for the group to put on the internet, etc.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From: Dr Nagar Media Com [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 12:08 PM
To: Canestraight, Linda M.
Subject: OMGOD

What appears below was written by me long ago. This is the origin of OMGOD. It stands for Omkara Mandhata Group of Devotees. Its objective is the recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama. No one is taking it seriously. It is not a forum for free bombardment of dry theoretical thoughts to be poured incessantly as some members do. They have no idea of what we want to achieve. It is very bad. It is very sad. We don't want theory. We want action. OMLN

Omkara Mandhata, a great center of learning

It is quite significant to note that one Māndhātā inscription records the grant of certain villages to the Brahmanas residing at Brahmapurī located on this Mandhata Parvata Dvīpa itself. There must have lived here a considerable learned population in ancient times. This sacred place must have had a long tradition of being a

dharma-kshetra, a punyabhumi. Shankaracharya would not have come here to acquire learning but for this fact and that he would not have found his guru here. Tradition tells us that the **paramaguru** of Shankaracharya, Shri Gaudapada too had sanctified this holy place by his stay and tapas.

Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha had announced a very ambitious plan of five crores of rupees to develop this holy land as a great center for study and research on Shankara Bhagavatpāda. It was a big drum making a loud noise, but was hollow inside. Our endless letters of inquiry and requests for cooperation have brought no response from them at all, none whatsoever.

In any case, their interest is quite limited indeed, i.e. to Shankaracharya alone. Nothing wrong in that. But we believe there should be a general organization to take care of the whole complex—all the temples of all the gods and goddesses, belonging to all the religions, sects and beliefs, and all the other organizations, existing or operating at present there on Omkara Mandhata island. We visualize a kind of Umbrella organization, a model of **sarva-dharma-samanvaya (samaṣṭi)**. We would call it Omkāra Māndhātā: Group of Devotees –short form OMGOD.

From: Dr Nagar

May 2nd 2006

No 2077

Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama

Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama is the gurukula of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. It is rich in archaeology, architecture, art, epigraphy, history, legends, mythology, numismatics, sculpture, and tradition—everything!

Om Shanti Mandiram of Columbia Missouri has photographed at a very high cost the murti (image) of Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada, venerable guru of Shri Shankaracharya in Govindeshavara tapasya guha on holy mountain Omkara Mandhata and the murti of Shri Shankaracharya himself in Govindeshvara Temple on the bank of Narmada below the Omkareshvara Jyotirlinga Temple. On this very sacred spot, it is believed, Shri Shankaracharya received his sannyasa diksha. This is a first in the history of Vedic civilization.

These photos are presented, along with many others, in our photographic collection of OMGOD—a divine spiritual fellowship—a divya satsanga.

Our total collection of pictures relative to OM, Omkara and Omkara Mandhata and related graphics exceeds by now the number 9000! The total cost in this extensive search and research on Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama has come to around \$60,000.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 2078

May 3rd 2006

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]
Sent: Monday, May 01, 2006 1:30 PM
To: Dr Nagar Media Com
Subject: RE: OMGOD

I believe in the words you stated below about Omkara Mandhata “There must have lived here a considerable learned population in ancient times. This sacred place must have had a long tradition of being a **dharmakshetra**, a **puṇyabhūmi**. Shankaracharya would not have come here to acquire learning but for this fact and that he would not have found his guru here. Tradition tells us that the **paramaguru** of Shankaracharya, Shri Gauṇapada too had sanctified this holy place by his stay and tapas.

Perhaps these are excellent words to define to the University in India why Omkara Mandhata is so important. It must have had a considerable learned population in ancient times, the evidence is lying around inside and out amongst so many statues and other carvings. The archeologist still have a lot to uncover and reveal to the world the ancient times and history of Omkara Mandhata. As an academic institution it is our responsibility to pursue the truth and bring it to the world for not only scholars but everyone.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From: Dr Nagar
No 2098
Holy OM Sound
RE: [omgod] Re: Holy OM Sound

May 23rd 2006

Thanks Ajay. You know, man needs hope. I have seen so many fallen and broken spiritual systems out there. Also, there are many contradictions, until one understands Vedanta philosophy, and the teachings of the great Adi Shankaracharya. I am just an extension cord. I hope God's light and Holy OM Vibration can reach everyone, and dispel all darkness and ignorance. It is time for the planet to have peace and wellness. OM TAT SAT. Best Wishes, Keith

--- AJAY SHARMA <a.sharma@...> wrote:

> Dear Keith
>
> Fabulous work. Well done.
>
> Tulsidas in the making!!! I still have to read the 191 page book. I shall check if you have dedicated it your RATNAVALI.
>> OM shall make you happier.
>

From: Dr Nagar
No 2117
FW: OMGOD originates 2

May 16th 2006

From: Nagar, Murari l. (Emeritus) [mailto:NagarM@...]
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:01 PM
To: Nagar, Murari l. (Emeritus)
Subject: OMGOD originates 2

OMGOD

OMGOD is an acronym for Omkara Mandhata Group of Devotees. This was conceptualized as early as the very beginning of this century. Here is what I wrote in my draft of the *Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama*—Om Holy Book No. 5.

Omkara Mandhata, a great center of learning

It is quite significant to note that one Māndhata inscription records the grant of certain villages to the Brahmanas residing at Brahmapurī located on this Māndhātā Parvata Dvīpa itself. There must have lived here a considerable learned population in ancient times. This sacred place must have had a long tradition of being a **dharmakshetra, a punyabhumi**. Shankaracharya would not have come here to acquire learning but for this fact and that he would not have found his guru here. Tradition tells us that the **paramaguru** of Shankaracharya, Shri Gaudapada too had sanctified this holy place by his stay and tapas.

Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha had announced a very ambitious plan of five crores of rupees to develop this holy land as a great center for study and research on Shankara Bhagavatpāda. It was a big drum making a loud noise, but was hollow inside. Our endless letters of inquiry and requests for cooperation have brought no response from them at all, none whatsoever.

In any case, their interest is quite limited indeed, i.e. to Shankaracharya alone. Nothing wrong in that. But we believe there should be a general organization to take care of the whole complex—all the temples of all the gods and goddesses, belonging to all the religions, sects and beliefs, and all the other organizations, existing or operating at present there on Omkara Mandhata island. We visualize a kind of Umbrella organization, a model of **sarva-dharma-samanvaya (samaṣṭi)**. We would call it Omkāra Māndhātā: Group of Devotees –short form OMGOD.

The idea of starting a divine spiritual fellowship under the name of OMGOD as a Yahoo Group came to us only in November 2003.

We have been repeatedly declaring that our objective is the recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 2124
Dear OM Loves Me:

Jun 26th 2006

There are two female figurines caved on the pillars inside the Govindeshvara Tapasya Guha. Please post them along with the image of Govinda Bhagavatpada, guru of Shankaracharya. Tradition tells and we are asked to believe that the former practiced severe penance here. The figurines don't fit the environment. These carvings must have been done at a later time, I guess. They cannot be anterior. They say that the ceiling has beautiful carvings. These have not yet been photographed.

Leaving all these questions aside, we can at least draw the attention of our readers to the large carving that stands above the newly installed image of Govinda Bhagavatpada. We see a dignitary a king or some god. We cannot say who that figure is. But there is a serpent queen there. We are told (and I have quoted the source in our OM Book 5) that the father (king) of Muchukunda had married five serpent queens who bore for him five sons, one of them being Muchukunda.

This subject is totally untouched by any other scholar so far. We have done enough and enough is enough. We can only leave these questions for the posterity.

I am posting this message to OMGOD.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 2132
New photos added: Govindeshvara Tapasya Gupha

Jun 30th 2006

I have added a new photo album Govindeshvara Tapasya Gupha with images of Govinda Bhagavatpada, the guru of Shankaracharya.

Dr. Nagar is identifying the large carving that stands above the newly installed image of Govinda Bhagavatpada. He believes it is the Father of King Muchukunda.

From: Dr Nagar
No 2134
FW: Images in Govindeshvara gupha

Jun 30th 2006

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2006 4:53 PM
To: 'Canestraight, Linda M.'
Cc: 'omgod@yahooogroups.com'
Subject: Images in Govindeshvara gupha

Dear OM Loves Me:

There are two female figurines caved on the pillars inside the Govindeshvara Tapasya Guha. Please post them along with the image of Govinda Bhagavatpada, guru of Shankaracharya. Tradition tells and we are asked to believe that the former practiced severe penance here. The figurines don't fit the environment. These carvings must have been done at a later time, I guess. They cannot be anterior. They say that the ceiling has beautiful carvings. These have not yet been photographed.

Leaving all these questions aside, we can at least draw the attention of our readers to the large carving that stands above the newly installed image of Govinda Bhagavatpada. We see a dignitary a king or some god. We cannot say who that figure is. But there is a serpent queen there. We are told (and I have quoted the source in our OM Book 5) that the father king of Muchukunda had married five serpent queens who bore for him five sons, one of them being Muchukunda.

This subject is totally untouched by any other scholar so far. We have done enough and enough is enough. We can only leave these questions for the posterity.

I am posting this message to OMGOD. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 2135
FW: Images in Govindeshvara gupha

Jul 1st 2006

Dear Nagarji,
Greetings from Fr. Geo.
I pray that you are fine.

Photographing of the rest of the mission is on.

A bad news for us is that the jyotirlinga at Omkareshvara has formed cracks, probably because of the blasts that are from the dam site which shatters the whole region.

Hope everything will be alright.

Wishing all the blessings of OM.

Fraternally yours

Fr. Geo

From: Dr Nagar

Jul 1st 2006

No 2137

FW: Images in Govindeshvara gupha

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

I share your thoughts.

Let all be happy here, there and everywhere.

Let all be healthy, here there and everywhere.

Let all see decent things here, there and everywhere.

Let nobody suffer any pain of any kind anywhere.

We can only pray for the welfare of all.

TIME will take its toll any way. That is natural and is bound to happen over a long period of time. All the destruction wrought all over Mount Mandhata visible today was not caused by the man-made blasts during dam construction. I have a mixed feeling. Dams will certainly bring some good to the land and the people there. It is like birth pangs.

Photographing of the remaining rare objects today will save at least the images for some more time to come. It is indeed a noble deed.

Please take special care and give attention to the sculpture still standing above the image of Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada, venerable guru of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, in the Penance Cave—Tapasya Guha. I believe an attempt is made--some

protective device is applied (steel bars) -- to keep it intact and over and above. This sculpture is rare. We don't know as yet what it depicts.

OMLN

From: omgod@yahoogroups.com [mailto:omgod@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of AJAY SHARMA

Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 11:24 PM

To: omgod@yahoogroups.com

Subject: RE: [omgod] FW: Images in Govindeshvara gupha

Unfortunate ... possibility of further loss of historical buildings and emotional icons.

At the same time, what the poor must be facing ... possibility of loss of dwellings

Ajay Sharma

From: Dr Nagar

Jul 4th 2006

No 2151

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]

Sent: Friday, March 03, 2006 3:03 PM

To: Dr Nagar Media Com

Subject: RE: OMGOD

Perhaps it is time to turn their heads in the direction of recovery and dissemination by getting them involved more with what options are available in order to achieve the goal. If the Vice Chancellor at Indore University will get involved we can connect OMGOD with actual work being done and post it under OMGOD site. How many of the members have ever been to Omkara Mandhata, we should promote each member to take the journey and come back with their findings. Who is next to travel there? What can they obtain for the group to put on the internet, etc.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From: Dr Nagar
No 2155

Jul4th 2006

FW: Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th Century

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2006 10:59 AM
To: Dr Nagar Media Com
Subject: RE: Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th Century

Do you know who these archaeologists working on the mount are or how to make email contact? It was be to our best interest to work directly with someone who know only is there physically but also has some knowledge and can identify or verify identity of various items on our list.

I do not want to waste time asking Komal to go to site and try to find out whatever lies people speak, it would be best to go directly to the experts.

It is so sad that Dr. Yadav does not have email as he was a good source I would have like to have started with. But perhaps Prof. Ali knows who we can email and communicate our needs for verification. Then we could send Srinivas to photograph more either with a professional like Fr Geo or Mr. Sharma from Indore. Not only would Srinivas be allowed to enter the temples, etc. he would be not have any communication problems or religious issues. We could get an introduction with Svami Tej Anand and permission for him to enter the cave back rooms to record the ceiling carvings, etc.

We know so much more now, with knowledge comes more research and the rewards will be even more knowledge. I think sending Srinivas is a very good idea, if he has the desire to go and seek knowledge.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From: Dr Nagar Media Com [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2006 3:18 PM
To: Canestraight, Linda M.
Subject: RE: Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th Century

A fruit takes time to get ripened. While working here you are gathering good background knowledge which will help you if and when you go back to the holy hilly island.

It is beyond the power of Father George to secure identification of all the pictures taken so far and yet to be taken.

It was a divine miracle that you met Dr. Yadav and he accompanied you to the holy land. We have to secure help from a person who knows.

I am told that five archaeologists are working on the mount. Contact should be established with them. It is a long and very arduous task.

You still have good relations with Komal. Try to get his self. He can get all this work done through a noble person like Father George. I am willing to pay.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2006 12:03 PM
To: Dr Nagar Media Com; Fr George
Subject: Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th Century

Dr. Nagar,

I have attached both images, one of Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th century statue and the other Bhairava statue, at the Bhima Arjuna Gate. Both statues on the wall are in need of preservation and more photos are indeed needed.

We still need to identify the statues in the small shrines along the stairway to the main temple. Close pictures of the ruins at Veerkhala Rock, I have no pictures of the ceiling inside the Govindeshvara Gupha, I wasn't allowed into the depths of the cave to view any of this. Outside view of the Kendareswar shrine, only have one

picture inside. I need to verify the bright orange statue lying on the floor. I think it is Vikata Hanuman at the small shrine at the Gauri Somnath. We need an image of the inside of the Ashapuri Mandira shrine on top of the mount Mandhata. I have two statues images from that site, Goddess Narmada and Jaya Shri Dadaji, I think the latter was inside the main temple but I need verification. We have no images of inside the Shankaracharya red stone temple on the waterfront. The images I took of the Amareshvara temple inscriptions of the Mahimnas Stotra turned out terrible (I'm not a professional photographer) I only managed to get one photo but it is poor and the script is hardly visible. I did not go see Virat Svarupa statue and have no close up pictures of that campus. There is a sangam at the western confluence which we do not have pictures of either. The more we study the more we find we do not have images of these items. Again one could spend a life time researching and recording everything at this sacred island of Omkara Mandhata.

I hope that Father Geo in his many trips to the island will be able to photograph more and verify identity of some statues, etc. Some day I would love to return and spend all my time at Omkara Mandhata but at present I have family commitments that keep me close to home for now. In time I hope to return again.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From: Dr Nagar

Jul 4th 2006

No 2159

FW: Omkara Mandhata Photography

From: Dr Nagar Media Com [mailto:nagarm@...]

Sent: Friday, February 03, 2006 8:11 AM

To: 'om svasti'

Cc: omshanti@...

Subject: Omkara Mandhata Photography

Very important

From: Dr Nagar

Jul 6th 2006

No 2164

Govindeshvara Gupha at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama

Govindeshvara Guphā and Temple:

It is a well-known historical fact^[1] that Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya took his Diksha and education of the Shastras from his Guru Shri Govinda Bhagavadpada at Omkareshvara. The place on the bank of Narmada where he took his Dīkshā is consecrated by the erection of a temple aptly called the Govindeshvara Temple. The guphā or cave where Govinda Bhagavatpada performed his penances is also touching [?] the Narmada bank.

It has excellent carvings of different designs on its stone roof^[2] and of human figures in various moods on its pillars inside [imp. to note]. Both the Guphā and the temple are very old and are partially or fully submerged in high floods of the Narmada and had been much damaged. So Shri Jayendra Sarasvati Svamigal, the [present] Shankaracharya of Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha has, in order to perpetuate the glory of the two great Acharyas, acquired both the Guphā and the temple and made extensive repairs. A big Sabha Mandapa is also being constructed in front of the Govindeshvara Temple. Ten acres of land of the Mandhata (Island) hill has already been acquired and about two acres is being acquired in the southern part of the town for the whole Shankaracharya complex....at a cost of about Rs. five crores...[A big drum is being beaten, generating a loud noise, but which is hollow inside. Correspondence with them has been a one-way street. It was terribly disappointing and disgusting. They are VIP's. They converse only with the VIP's. We are merely **kshudra jantus**. This has been a very sad experience. Some of their associates are only money-mongers. They don't know what is **tyāga** and **tapasyā**, **service and benevolence**.]

Ādi Śaṅkara at Omkāreśvara

Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust Omkareshwar^[3]

M. G. K. Menon

Omkareshwar, a tiny [an understatement] island created by the River Kaveri, a tributary of Narmada, which joins the main river from the left bank, crosses her

and rejoins from the right—a rare geographical phenomenon in the world—is the most important among the twelve jyotirlingas, where Lord Shiva is worshipped in the Bhāratavarsha. It is most important, because the very “Prajāva” (OM) is the physical feature [?] of this blessed land of King Mandhata, over the Hill of which the Mountain Vindhya himself had undertaken a long penance to bring Shiva down to earth in the form of Siddhinātha. It was here that Shankaracharya, born to Āryāmbā and Shivaguru of Kaladi in the Deep South Kerala, at the tender age of eight found his Guru Shri Govinda Bhagavadpāda and was initiated to Sannyāsa. [All these traditional tales are beyond the power of our understanding.]

According to a legend, Adi Shankara in search of a guru for himself came all the way from Kerala and found Shri Govinda Bhagavadpāda under mysterious circumstances. The young lad who had walked hundreds of miles, crossing wild forests, mountains, hills, valleys, rivers and rivulets reached Omkareshvara and found Shrimad Govinda Bhagavatpada in a state of Nir-vikalpa Nishtha [samādhi] in a cave under a Banyan tree on the bank of River Narmada at Omkareshvara. It was widely believed that this was the same Banyan tree from which Sage Gauḍapāda, the disciple of Shuka, the son of Veda Vyāsa, suffering from a curse was hanging upside down in the form of a Brahma Rākshasa and eating those walking under, unable to give appropriate answers to his questions on Advaita [?]. Govinda Bhagavatpāda, giving correct answers, it is said, escaped sudden death and devouvrement at the hands of Gauḍapāda and took down the intricacies of Vedanta and redeemed Gauḍapāda of the curse. The tree is, however, not there now. ^[4]

River Narmada was in floods when Shaṅkara reached Omkareshvara^[5]. Sage Govindapāda was in deep meditation and the swollen Narmada had flooded the whole area there. Distressed folks gathered around the sage, trying to seek his intercession to mitigate the fury of Narmada, but they were afraid to disturb him. It was at this stage that the eight-year old lad from Kaladi appeared on the spot. When young Shankara saw the plight of the flood-stricken people, he took out his ghaṭa [jar] and held its mouth against the surging flood waves, and lo, and behold, the flow was caught up and contained in the ghaṭa. The joyful ones of the people woke Govindapāda. Shankara made his humble obeisance and prostrated before

him. Govindapāda told him: Sages perform tapas for centuries to have the darshan of Lord Parameshvara, which thou hast voluntarily afforded unto me. Even so conforming to the ways of the world, I shall accept you as my disciple and make myself worthy to be blessed. [Comparison may be made with the question –as to “Who are you”—asked by the guru and the answer given by the disciple as “I am neither earth....”**Na bhūmir na toyam.**^[6]

He then embraced Shankara and took him into his fold. He imparted Brahma Vidyā, all the yogas and other intricate secrets of Vedas, Purāṇas, and Upanishads. Shankara was then initiated into Sanyāsa [?].

Both the Cave in which Adi Shankara found Shrimad Govinda Bhagavad- pāda, his guru and the spot at which Shankara was initiated to Sannyāsa by his master (on the bed of River Narmada identified as Govindeshvara Temple in the Koti Tirtha)^[7] still exist at Omkareshvara, but ravages of time and neglect for centuries have left them in total ruins.

It was a dream that occurred to the nonagenarian Paramācārya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham some years ago that invoked sustained efforts of some experts who could identify and confirm the cave in which Sankara found his Guru Govinda pāda and the spot at which Sankara was given the Deeksha of Sannyāsa. These experts inspected the Cave in January 1979 and found that it conformed to the descriptions of the Book, *The Age of Sankara*. [No bibliographical details. I saw one book with this title. It was a cheap, shallow, modern work-- almost a trash. There must be some authentic older publication. Let us find out.]

His Holiness Sri Jayendra Sarasvati Svamigal, the reigning Śankaracharya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, visited Omkareshvar in 1980 and was distressed to find the miserable conditions in which both the hallowed spots were allowed to remain. They were in a state of utter abuse and filthy surroundings. He decided to take them over for renovation and preservation in furtherance of the dream the Paramācārya, His Holiness Chandra Shekharendra Svamigal, his own guru had envisioned.

In March 1987 when His Holiness Shri Jayendra Sarasvati Svamigal visited Bhopal, he met some of the devotees and discussed his plans with them to acquire both the Cave and Govindeshvara Temple at Omkareshvara, renovate them, and preserve them with proper maintenance and also to have a befitting memorial to Adi Shankara Bhagavadpāda and his Guru, Srimad Govinda Bhagavadpāda on the Mandhata Hill, overlooking both the rivers, Narmada and Kaveri.

Accordingly under his direction, Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust Omkareshvara was founded. [The writer then describes the nature and the constitution, etc. of the Trust.]

The Trust has already acquired the Cave Temple...the State Government has allotted Sri Govindeshvara Temple at Koti Tirtha (the spot at which Adi Shankara was given the Deekshā of Sannyāsa by his Guru) and ten acres of land over the Mandhata Hill at a nominal price.

Both the Cave Temple and Sri Govindeshvara Temple have been renovated and on the last Shankara Jayanti day (April 21, 1988) H. H. Sri Jayendra Sarasvati installed the deities of Srimad Govinda Bhagavadpāda in the Cave Temple and of Adi Shankara Bhagavadpāda in Sri Govindeshvar Temple.

The Trust has now plans to develop the ten acre land over Mandhata Hill into a Shankara Jñāna Kendra, consisting of a Veda Pathashala, Sanskrit Academy, a Research Centre and Library of the life and works of Adi Shankara Bhagavadpāda, an Institute of Vedic Mathematics and a Yoga Centre.^[8]

To begin with, it is proposed to have a Sanskrit Pathashala, perhaps this year itself.

The task is heavy, even for Herculean to accomplish. But then, with the blessings of Blessed Acharyas of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, who have inculcated the spirit and heritage of ancient India, there is nothing impossible, and with this belief firm in our mind, the Trustees have determined to make Omkareshvara **the most sought after place for the faithfuls and students of India's near ancient past.** [Emphasis added.] MAY WE BE BLESSED THUS.

^[1] Is it traditional or historical? Is there any documentary evidence? Could it be verified? To this class of writers the “history” stands for any story.

^[2] Is it roof or ceiling?

^[3] This Trust is different from the Omkareshvara Jyotirlinga Temple Trust. They now have their own home page. Most of what follows is only a hearsay.

^[4] Was it ever there? According to another legendary tale, the tree was on a highway. The Brahmarākṣasa used to ask every passerby.

^[5] Exact spot of reaching?

^[6] This is another traditional tale.

^[7] What is this?

^[8] They don’t want to help others. Correspondence with them is a one-way street. Their recycling bin must be as gigantic as their plans. They are big. They talk with only big ones. We are too small to receive any attention from them.

From: Dr Nagar

Jul 18th 2006

No 2210

12 Jyotirlinga stotra ascribed to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya

OM Loves Me has posted a picture of Raja Mandhata Temple—Main Assembly, no. 9 of 61.

It features in the center a plaque. It displays “12 Jyotirlinga stotra of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva.” Our Omkara Mandhata Holy Book on p. shows this. It can be read there. We read on the large board on the wall that it is erected by Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha Seva Trust. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Jul 18th 2006

No 2211

12 Jyotirlinga stotra ascribed to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya

Re: [omgod] 12 Jyotirlinga stotra ascribed to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya

Thank you for the email...I will look into it when I get time.

On 7/17/06, Murari Nagar <nagarm@missouri.edu> wrote:

OM Loves Me has posted a picture of Raja Mandhata Temple—Main Assembly, no. 9 of 61

It features in the center a plaque. It displays "12 Jyotirlinga stotra of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva." Our Omkara Mandhata Holy Book on p. shows this. It can be read there. We read on the large board on the wall that it is erected by Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha Seva Trust. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Jul 19th 2006

No 2214

12 Jyotirlinga stotra ascribed to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya

Re: [omgod] 12 Jyotirlinga stotra ascribed to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya

On 7/17/06, Murari Nagar <nagarm@missouri.edu> wrote:

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From: Dr Nagar

Oct 15th 2006

No 2362

Mandhata Mandira at Omkara Mandhata

The photograph numbered 52 displays on the back wall a tablet featuring the 12 Jyotirlinga stotra ascribed to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. At the bottom we read in Sanskrit: "Installed through the blessings of Kanchi Kamakoti Pithadhipati Shankaracharya." There are certain additional writings on the columns that cannot be read.

This hymn has been featured by us on p. 8 of our OM Holy Book 5.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Nov 30th 2006

No 2459

Advaita Vedanta Vijaya Vijayanti

Advaita Vedanta Wins.

Tradition tells us that Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya subdued Mandana Mishra and established supremacy of his Advaita Vedanta Doctrine over Karma Mimamsa of his great opponent. It was Advaita Vedanta Vijaya Vijayanti—a superb success.

If this phenomenon is accepted as a fact and not a fiction, we will have to admit that this super siddhi (achievement) must have taken place at some place on this earth.

Well, we searched it and found it. It is at an ancient sacred place called today as Maheshvara-Mandaleshvara near Omkara Mandhata.

We deputed some of our great devotees of OM to this sacred region and get photographs of the grandeur and glory of ancient Mahishmati—today's Mandhata. The sacred spot in reference too was photographed. We have it! It will be featured soon in our OMGOD Yahoo Group—a Divine Spiritual Fellowship—a Divya Satsanga.

We have acquired not less than 200 photographs of this sacred land and its holy temples, sites and surroundings through the kind courtesy of Father Geo George and Shri Komal Goswami of Indore.

It has been a great blessing of OM: One God Universal.

This message will be posted and kept finally into MandhataAndMahishmati (another Yahoo Group created by us).

OMLN.

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 17th 2007

No 2583

Re: Here is the translation for fig 35 image from Gupha

I am a little bit disillusioned and disappointed. The writing of Emilie Cremin does not seem to be a deep study discovering new facts. It reproduces quite a lot from other previous writers. That is exactly what I have done. However, in order to be fair and frank, and as demanded by honest and true scholarship, I have named our work as merely a “source book.” Both the reviews received so far reiterate this fact.

This low relief is not cut in the wall. It is fixed to the wall. It might have been brought from some other place. There is no connection whatsoever between the story reproduced by this scholar and the image.

OMLN

Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2007 5:48 PM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Subject: Here are the translations for fig 35 image from Gupha

Au cours d'une mousson exceptionnellement forte, l'eau commença à inonder l'ashram et à pénétrer dans la grotte de Govindapada, immergé dans la béatitude du *samâdhi**. Immédiatement Shankaracharya plaça une cruche de grès à l'entrée et, miraculeusement, le fleuve incontrôlé changea de direction (Fig. 35). Lorsque le maître apprit ce qu'il s'était passé, il bénit son disciple en ces termes : « *Mon fils, ta renommée sera impérissable. De la même façon que tu as pu contenir l'eau tumultueuse dans une cruche, tu seras capable d'écrire un livre de commentaires contenant l'essence de tous les védas* ». Puis il initia son disciple, lui donna le nom de Shankaracharya, et lui conseilla, lorsqu'il le jugerait bon, de répandre la sagesse qu'il avait acquise à Kashî, la moderne Bénarès. Il y parvint à l'âge de douze ans (Coquet, 2002).

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate in the cave of Govindapada, immersed in the bliss of the *samâdhi* *.

Immediately Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculeusement, the uncontrolled river changed direction (fig. 35). When the Master learned what it had occurred, it blesses its disciple in these terms: "My son, your fame will be imperishable. In the same way that you could contain tumultuous water in a jug, you will be able to write a book of comments containing the gasoline of all the Vedas ". Then it initiated its disciple, the name of Shankaracharya gave him, and advised to him, when it would judge it good, to spread the wisdom which it had acquired in Kashî, modern Bénarès. It arrived there at the twelve years age (Vain, 2002).

Fig. 35 : Bas relief taillé dans le mur de la "Govindeshwar Gufa", illustrant la scène mythique où Shankaracharya sauva son gourou de la montée subite des eaux de la Narmada. Source : Université de Missouri-Columbia, février 2005.

Fig. 35: Low relief cut in the wall of "Govindeshvara Gupha", illustrating the mythical scene where Shankaracharya saved its guru of assembled sudden of water of Narmada. Source: University of Missouri-Columbia, February 2005.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From: Dr Nagar
No 2584

February 17th 2007

FW: Here is the translation for fig 35 image from Gupha

Dear friend:

You don't have full facilities right now to enter into due correspondence with me. You may be busy in some other field work in Assam relative to your field and interest. However, since I am studying your work right now to the extent it is possible for me, I am faced with certain questions and I come across certain observations which I would like to share with you. I will continue to send them to you. You may work on them when you have time and opportunity.

You have reproduced one of our illustrations found in Govindeshvara Gupha (fig 35). There is no intrinsic or internal connection between the mythological story of Shankaracharya and his Guru Govinda Bhagavatpada on one hand the theme

depicted on the related carving on the other. There is a Naaga Kanyaa there—a serpent queen—in attendance to a king or saint or god!

This slab does not seem to have been cut IN the wall of the cave but attached to it! This picture was taken by one of our friend-photographers. It needs a systematic and deep study by a scholar who has specialized in this field of knowledge.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 18th 2007

No 2585

FW: Here is the translation for fig 35 image from Gupha

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2007 5:48 PM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Subject: Here are the translations for fig 35 image from Gupha

Au cours d'une mousson exceptionnellement forte, l'eau commença à inonder l'ashram et à pénétrer dans la grotte de Govindapada, immergé dans la béatitude du *samâdhi**. Immédiatement Shankaracharya plaça une cruche de grès à l'entrée et, miraculeusement, le fleuve incontrôlé changea de direction (Fig. 35). Lorsque le maître apprit ce qu'il s'était passé, il bénit son disciple en ces termes : « *Mon fils, ta renommée sera impérissable. De la même façon que tu as pu contenir l'eau tumultueuse dans une cruche, tu seras capable d'écrire un livre de commentaires contenant l'essence de tous les védas* ». Puis il initia son disciple, lui donna le nom de Shankaracharya, et lui conseilla, lorsqu'il le jugerait bon, de répandre la sagesse qu'il avait acquise à Kashî, la moderne Bénarès. Il y parvint à l'âge de douze ans (Coquet, 2002).

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate in the cave of Govindapada, immersed in the bliss of the *samâdhi* *. Immediately Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculeusement, the uncontrolled river changed direction (fig. 35). When the Master learned what it had occurred, it blesses its disciple in these terms: "My son, your fame will be imperishable. In the same way that you could contain tumultuous water in a jug, you will be able to write a book of comments containing

the gasoline of all the Vedas ". Then it initiated its disciple, the name of Shankaracharya gave him, and advised to him, when it would judge it good, to spread the wisdom which it had acquired in Kashî, modern Bénarès. It arrived there at the twelve years age (Vain, 2002).

Fig. 35 : Bas relief taillé dans le mur de la "Govindeshwar Gufa", illustrant la scène mythique où Shankaracharya sauva son gourou de la montée subite des eaux de la Narmada. Source : Université de Missouri-Columbia, février 2005.

Fig. 35: Low relief cut in the wall of "Govindeshvara Gupha", illustrating the mythical scene where Shankaracharya saved its guru of assembled sudden of water of Narmada. Source: University of Missouri-Columbia, February 2005.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

Poème de Shankaracharya à la Narmada.

*Les sages ont dit :
Puisse celui qui chante tes louanges
A l'aurore, au crépuscule, à la nuit,
Sous sa forme humaine
Acquise dans la souffrance de
Tant de naissances,
Approcher dans l'honneur
Les pieds de Shiva lui-même.
Entend donc mes louanges ;
O Narmada sacrée.
Ta présence est
Une grâce pour la Terre.
Les fidèles te nomment Kripa,
La grâce même.
Tu purifies la Terre
De ses impuretés.
Les fidèles te nomment Surasa,
L'âme sacrée.
Tu traverses la terre en bondissant
Comme un cerf qui danse.
Les fidèles te nommes Reva,
La bondissante.
Mais Shiva t'a nommée Délicieuse
Et, dans son rire,
Il t'a donné le nom de Narmada.^{[1][1]} ...
Shankaracharya.*

Poem of Shankaracharya to Narmada.

The wise ones said: That can which sings your praises With the dawn, the twilight, at the night, In its human form Acquired in the suffering of So many births, To approach in the honor Feet of Shiva itself. Thus hears my praises; O Crowned Narmada. Your presence is a grace for the Earth. The faithful ones name you Kripa, Thanks even. You purify the Earth Of its impurities. The faithful ones name you Surasa, The crowned heart. You cross-pieces ground while leaping like a stag which dances. The faithful ones name you Reva, Leaping. But Shiva named you

Delicious and, in its laughter, It gave you the name of Narmada. [1]...
Shankaracharya.

From: Dr Nagar
No 2601

Feb 20th 2007

FW: Here is the translation for fig 35 image from Gupha

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2007 11:20 AM
To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)
Subject: RE: Here are the translations for fig 35 image from Gupha

People rely too much on the internet for information; real research requires a lot of time and effort as your source book proved. But even research is limited to what resources you have at hand. I believe the goal of Emilie's book is from a geographer's viewpoint, how the construction of the dam has affected the land, economy and local people. It is not a text about religion revealing new facts; the topic is touched lightly because it is part of the local people and culture on the river.

I think we should also think about the fact the low relief being a new creation and not an old artifact newly installed at the gupha. New creation, no history, just telling a story but what story does it telling.....we see what we believe is a serpent queen and draw those stories but we still do not have true facts. Perhaps the temple office can shine some light on this topic.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From: Dr Nagar
No 2730

Jul 3rd 2007

Omkara Mandhata Group of Devotees—OMGOD

Recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama, a holy hilly island garlanded by two pious rivers--Narmada and Kaveri in Madhya Pradesh India.

Omkara Mandhata Group of Devotees—OMGOD
A divine spiritual fellowship—A divya satsanga.
A free electronic forum under the Yahoo Groups
Here is the origin---How did it come into being.

It is quite significant to note that one Māndhātā inscription records the grant of certain villages to the Brahmanas residing at Brahmapurī located on this Māndhātā Parvata Dvīpa itself. There must have lived here a considerable learned population in ancient times. This sacred place must have had a long tradition of being a **dharmakshetra**, a **puṇyabhūmi**. Shankaracharya would not have come here to acquire learning but for this fact and that he would not have found his guru here. Tradition tells us that the **paramaguru** of Shankaracharya, Shri Gauḍapāda too had sanctified this holy place by his stay and tapas.

Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha had announced a very ambitious plan of five crores of rupees to develop this holy land as a great center for study and research on Shankara Bhagavatpāda. It was a big drum making a loud noise, but was hollow inside. Our endless letters of inquiry and requests for cooperation have brought no response from them at all, none whatsoever.

In any case, their interest is quite limited indeed, i.e. to Shankaracharya alone. Nothing wrong in that. But we believe, there should be a general organization to take care of the whole complex—all the temples of all the gods and goddesses, belonging to all the religions, sects and beliefs, and all the other organizations, existing or operating at present there on Omkara Mandhata island. We visualize a kind of Umbrella organization, a model of **sarva-dharma-samanvaya (samaṣṭi)**. We would call it Omkāra Māndhātā: Group of Devotees –short form OMGOD.

From: Dr Nagar
No 2753

July 15th 2007

Raja Mandhata Mandira

This temple is unique in many respects. There must be some highly valuable object inside to be guarded! This is the only temple where we see a sentry guard in attendance with a gun. It remains unexplored. Probably there is a throne of Raja

Mandhata as mentioned by Darshanika in a passing manner. We see the box for donation.

It displays on the back wall a hymn (12 Jyotirlingas) attributed to Adi Shankaracharya. This plaque seems to have been installed by Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha. We have reproduced it in our Om Holy Book 5 on p. 12.

There is one more tablet on a wall. It cannot be read.

This temple needs more detailed and extensive photographing. It is highly significant.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Aug 5th 2007

No 2791

FW: Father George photos 2nd series

From: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus) [mailto:NagarM@...]

Sent: Monday, July 09, 2007 9:32 AM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Subject: Father George photos 2nd series

November 4, 2006

My dear devotee of OM:

I am giving below some comments on the pictures your associates have kindly taken.

Kindly excuse if there is any repetition.

#1-2. They call it Panchamukhi Ganesha. We don't five faces.

#8. More details of the top picture above the gate of Annapurna Ashrama are needed. Is this the marriage of Shiva and Parvati?

#17. Naming is wrong. This is not Shankaracharya but his guru Govinda Bhagavatpada.

#20. We would like to have a picture of the building—exterior.

#22. This is not Koṭitīrtha.

#26. Khedapati Hanuman? More details are needed. What is the meaning of the name? Someone is being crushed under the foot? What is the legend behind it?

#38. Gayatri. Location? Temple? Building?

#41. Kuntimata. More detailed pictures of the sculptures are needed. They are many and are very beautiful.

#45. Naming is wrong. It is known to all of us as Siddheshvara—Siddhanatha. It is a Shiva Temple.

#48. Temple? Location?

#50-54. Raja Mandhata Mandira. Comments have already been communicated.

#52. Better pictures are needed.

#55. Shankaracharya figure not well photographed. Probably the temple was locked. The photographer could not get in.

#61 plus Amareshvara – All inscriptions have to be fully photographed.

#66. Brahmaji—Better picture of the murti is needed.

#77-80. Gayashila. Never heard of. Lot of correspondence with the State initiated. No result.

From: Dr Nagar

No 2806

Omkara Mandhata Photography

Aug 13th 2007

Omkara Mandhata Objects to be photographed

Notes and Comments

01. Amareshvara (Mamaleshvara) all inscriptions on the north and south walls Not yet done.

(Mamaleshvara is wrong naming)

The picture taken shows the worship by a family.

02. Annapūrṇā Āshrama

03. Avimukteshvara, p. 47^[1] Not yet done.

04. Āshāpurī Devī

05. Bhīma Bhairava, p. 47. Possibly Shri Garga has discussed this—connected with one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva.

06. Bhīma Arjuna Gate

07. Brahmā image in Brahmā Temple. More detailed and clearer photo needed.

08. Chakratīrtha, p. 47

09. Chandramaulīshvara, p. 48

10. Chānda-Sūraja Gate

11. Chyavanāshrama, p. 48 Not yet.

12. Gaṇapati, p. 47 More details needed to begin with.

13. Gayāshilā, p. 48 Terribly ruined temple. More details needed.

14. Gāyatrī in natural form, not draped in opaque covering.

Location? Different from what we had obtained earlier.

We need clear photos, not draped and decorated to such an extent that the original sculptural beauty is hidden.

15. Govindeshvara Guphā and its ceilings

Not yet done. Very extensive project.

16. Govindeshvara Temple. Beautifully done.

17. Kālikā, p. 47?

18. Kapilā sangama. Not yet done.

19. Kapiladhārā, p. 47 Not yet.

20. Kapileshvara, p. 48 ? Not yet.

21. Karateshvara, p. 48 ?

22. Kāshīvishvanātha

23. Kāshīvishveshvara, p. 48 Nos. 22 and 23 are identical.

24. Kāverī Narmadā Saṅgama

25. Kedāreshvara

26. Khedāpati Hanūmān, p.47 More background information needed.

27. Koṭitīrtha, p. 47

28. Kuntī Mātā (Kātyāyanī), p. 47.

29. Mahākaleshvara. Krishna movie by Ramanand Sagar has a scene of actual (?) worship of Mahakaleshvara in Ujjayini.

30. Mahākālī (Chāmuṇḍā) at Rāvaṇanālā Not yet.

31. Mārkaṇḍeshvara, p. 48 ? ?

32. Mārkaṇḍeya Samnyāsa Āshrama

33. Mārkaṇḍeya Shilā, p. 48

34. Panchamukhī Gaṇesha. A murti next to Shri Ganesha may be Ambika. Not very clear, but it is a female deity. Overdressed. Not many details of the body could be seen.

35. Pāṇḍava Mandira, p. 47 We have known this as Siddheshvara. How do the Pandavas come in the picture all of a sudden!

36. Pashupatīshvara, p. 48

37. Pingaladeva, p. 47

38. Rājā Māndhātā Temple. There are many pictures. Work well done.

38a. Shankaracharya mūrti in Govindeshvara Temple.

The photo does not give a full good view of Shankaracharya. It seems it is kept in a corner to begin with. It seems the photo could not be taken in a proper manner. There is no decoration, no flowers! Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha merely installed the murti for publicity and propaganda!

39. Siddhavarakuta, Siddhakhsetra, of Digambara Jaina sect, p. 48.

The series of photos were taken on 3/26/06 by co-workers of Father George. There is a banner hanging on the top reading: Shrī Digambara Jaina Siddha- kshetra Siddhavarakūṭa tridivāsīya vārshika Melā Mahotsava.

Some extensive renovation/reconstruction charitable work must have been done by Shrīmān Seṭha Natthū Sā. Mādhō Sā. Attara Mu. Khndwa.

40. Sikh Gurdwara

41. Shri Krishna Virāṭ Svarūpa

42. Temple dedicated to Rājā Māndhātā Same as no. 38.

43. Tilabhāṇḍeshvara, p. 47 Not yet

44. Vishnu Bhagvan, p. 48

45. Vriddheshvara. Has charming carvings on the doors.

More photos needed

Many objects are not fully photographed because the building was locked.

Identification of pictures 17, 18, and 19 is not correct. These are pictures of Govindabhadgatpada, the guru of Shankaracharya in Govindeshvara Gupha. Naming wrong.

Details and nos. of the photos received from Father George with comments if any.

1 and 2 Pañchamukhī Gaṇesha. We don't see five faces in a proper manner.

3-5 Mahakaleshvara

6 Shri Krishna Virat Svarūpa

7 Does not exist. Many nos. are omitted.

8 Annapūrṇā Āshrama Main Gate

10 Nagar Ghat

11-12 Mārkaṇḍeya Shilā very good pictures.

13 Nagar Ghat

14 Annapūrṇā Āshrama Images of Sarasvatī, Durgā and Kālī

15 Mārkaṇḍeya Sannyāsa Āshrama Abhayeshvara Mahādeva Mandira

New photo

16 Same. A View from above, a kind of Bird's eye view

17-19 Govinda Bhagavatpāda. Naming wrong. It is not Shankaracharya but Govinda Bhagavatpada.

20-21 Sikh Gurdwara only interior, not the exterior.

- 22-23 Koṭi Tīrtha, not a smooth place. There are rocks. Natural state.
- 24 Cakratīrtha is a grand bathing ghat—very extensive, quite new, imposing.
- 25 Tapasyā Guhā
- 26 Kheḍāpati Hanūmān. More details needed. What does this mean?
- 27 Kedāreshvara
- 28 Same, Linga and Durga
- 29-30, 32-33 Kāverī Narmadā Saṅgama
- 34-37 Chānda Sūraja Dvāra
- 38 Gāyatrī Location? Very good picture. Has sasvara mantra on top. Never seen anywhere else.
- 39 Same with sasvara mantra on top unique. Not seen anywhere else.
- 40-41 Kuntī Mātā. Beautiful. In ruin.
- 42 Omkareshvara Dam
- 43 Bhīma Arjuna Gate ?
- 44 Bhīma Bhairava
- 45-47 Pāṇḍava Mandira, known to us as Siddheshvara
- 48 Āshāpurī Devī. Beautiful.
- 49 Same. Exterior
- 50-54 Rājā Māndhātā Mandira
- No. 52 shows Dvādashā Jyotirlinga Stotra of Shankaracharya on the wall.

Installed by Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha.

55 Shankaracharya mūrti in Govindeshvara Mandira, has an ancient

Shivalinga. Not prominently displayed.

56 Govindeshvara Mandira exterior

57-59 Vriddheshvara deity? Shiva? Name unfamiliar. Very good artistically. More and better pictures are needed. Door jams are truly artistic.

60-63 Amareshvara (63 Parivāra Pūjana)

64 Chandramaulīshvara

65-66 Brahmā Mandira, has mūrti too.

67, 70-71 Kāshī Vishvanātha

72-76 Siddhavarakūṭa

77-80 Gayāshilā (?) in terrible ruins, yet marvelous

81-82 Vishnu Bhagavan Dvārakādhīsha

Next two are our enlargements of Mārkaṇḍeya and Jainism.

Gayāshilā has a signboard that reads: Isa parisara meṃ 13-14vīm shatābdī kā laghu mandira evam Dakshiṇa Bhāratīya shailī meṃ nirmita 14vīm shatī kā mandira hai.

Purātattva evam Sangrahālaya

Ma. Pra. Shāsana ke liye surakshita.

Not very clear. Never heard of. Write to the proper authority and don't expect any response.

Temples are in a very ruinous condition as if struck by a horrible earthquake or lightning. Very good from the point of art.

We have not read anything about this in literature. Even the name does not make any sense.

Brahma temple and His image—murti.

Tradition tells us that originally Brahma had five heads. One was cut off by Bhairava. Generally he is shown with four heads and seated on lotus. Here we see him standing. Has only one head (face). Quite different. We see water, lotus, probably. Murti is partially covered by the hanging pot for Jaladha/-ra/-. Not a good full view. Pitiable. He holds a kaman/.d/a.lu distinctively.

An attempt should be made to persuade the priest to cooperate in all such cases. May be some kind of a dakṣiṇā is given for extra help. This holds true in all such cases. If a temple building is locked, for example, some previous arrangement should be made. Also in many cases, it is desirable to take a picture immediately after the bath. When the murti was made it was not draped in a heavy opaque dress. If this is not possible, a transparent dress (sari) can be used a palliative.

[\[1\]](#) Page numbers relate to OM Holy Book #5

From: Dr Nagar

Sep 1st 2007

No 2826

Dissemination of useful knowledge

My dear devotee of OM Shri Vikram Bhai:

To carry knowledge to the doors of those who lack it.

And to show the path of Dharma to those who know it not.

Even giving away the entire earth in charity,

Shall not equal the virtue generated by either of the above two.

I am writing to you because you appreciate our work. You are a deep devotee of OM.

Guna naa hiraano guna gaahaka hiraano hai.

It is said that Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada Shankaracharya got enlightenment at the age of 16. He wanted to leave the material body. Probably Maharshi Veda Vyasa appeared and asked him not to do so right away but to enlighten the world. He did that for another 16 years and left that body thereafter.

Svamiji Shri Vivekananda Maharaja has said: The Jainism and Buddhism are wayward children of the Hinduism.

It is said that Siddhartha Gautama became the Buddha at a very young age. He wanted to leave the world. Probably Brahma appeared and advised him not to do so, but enlighten the world through the knowledge that he had acquired. He did it accordingly.

The same phenomenon is reported probably with regard to Santa Ekanatha Maharaja. I saw this in a movie entitled “Bhagavan samaaye samsara mem.” Lord Vishnu Himself gave His holy darshana to this devotee. Shri Santa Ekanatha wanted to retire totally. Bhagavan asked him not to do it right away but to serve the mankind.

You may know that I have been working on Emilie’s monumental literary production for the last seven months or even more. I have done nothing but this during this long period. It is good that the light comes also from the West rather than from the East alone.

Why am I writing all this to you right now? I have been trying to get a good translator who could improve upon the mechanical translation. So far success has eluded me. Someone suggested an agency here in town. They expect \$28 per hour! A representative came to see me. I tried to test her knowledge. It was zero!

I believe you are still connected with some University. Please continue your efforts, if you like, to find someone. I have no money to pay any more. I hired a student. He was somewhat tolerable. I paid him as much as \$2200. Yet he left.

I would like to end this lamentation with a note that will please you, especially dear Lina.

The entire book of Emilie, as translated through the machine, has been uploaded to a Google group. You should try to read what she says with regard to the noble work of Shri Santa Gajanana Maharaja. You will be pleased to see how much

information this young lady scholar ---a budding genius---has collected and presented in her masterpiece. This account appears on pages 220 ff.

With all the blessings from OM: One God Universal.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 2832
Appeal All

Sep 10th 2007

**ॐ Recovery and Dissemination of India's Cultural Heritage, Treasured at
Om̐kāra Māndhātā, Maṇḍaleshvara and Maheshvara: A Paradise for Pilgrims**

It is a pleasure for us to announce that our study on the above holy sites has reached a stage where it could be shared with other scholars. It has taken three years and a very hard work, struggle and strife. It was like scaling a rugged mountain in rags. Before we began, we did not even know the name of Omkara Mandhata, but by now our study extends to about 300 pages of pious reading and a workable bibliography. We have also gathered together a real pretty good collection of plentiful pictures by an extensive and expensive fieldwork and photo-documentation, all made available now on the Internet at <http://omshantimandiram.org>. A brief content analysis follows.

You may know that this Mandhata mount/island is garlanded by two pious rivers--Narmadā and Kāverī. . It is unparalleled--one of its kind in the world. This holy home had served not only as the gurukulam of Jagadguru Ādi Shankarāchārya, but also had been the tapobhūmi of his Guru Govinda Bhagavadpāda and a mukti dhāma of his paramaguru Shri Gauḍapāda. The region is also sanctified as the Karmabhūmi of Shri Maṇḍana Mishra (Sureshvarācārya). Honored by great poets such as Bhartrihari and Murārikavi, it is rich in archaeology, architecture, art, epigraphy, history, legends, mythology, numismatics, sculpture and tradition--everything.

There has been a great deal of publicity and propaganda on the part of the tourist trade and travel agents asking us to believe that the Island itself is physically shaped like the Sacred Syllable OM, i.e. the Nature itself has carved it in Omkāra-ākāra. We tried our best to find out if someone had such a picture. It was a Search for Truth. We were willing to pay any reasonable price, negotiated and predetermined. Yet no one has come forward so far with a real picture. It is not yet verifiable whether this is a truth or myth only, a fact or mere fiction.

We have attempted to transform some sublime Upanishadic truths and beliefs still in still forms into a warm, lovely, loving, lovable state of animated delighting lighting pictures. Also to correlate ancient Indian scriptures with India's mediaeval cultural heritage sculptures through modern moving electronic pictures.

Om Shanti Mandiram of Columbia, Missouri, is a non-profit, charitable institution with unlimited ideas but limited resources. Yet we are determined to carry on since the Mighty Majestic Mysterious OM inspires us to enlighten the world through Its glorious effulgence. We have been publishing some wholesome, helpful, holy literature on OM, including a journal named *OM Shanti Sandesha* and a series of books under the generic title of *Om: One God Universal*. We have many more ambitious plans to serve the world. We solicit your kind cooperation. Om Shanti.

For more information please write or call

Murarilal Nagar, Serving Om
Email omshanti@...
(573) 449-5871

From: Dr Nagar

Sep 30th 2007

No 2859

Govindeshvara Gupha

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate Govindabhagavadpada cave, immersed in the bliss of the *samādhi**. Immediately, Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculously, the uncontrolled river changed its direction (Fig. 35). When the master learned what had occurred, he blessed his disciple in these terms: “*My son, your fame will be imperishable. Just as you could contain tumultuous water in a*

jug, you will be able to write a book of commentaries containing the essence of all the Védas.” Then he initiated his disciple; the name Shankaracharya was given to him. He advised him, when he would judge it proper, to spread the wisdom which he had acquired in Kashî, which is now Bénarès. He had arrived there at the age of twelve (Coquet, 2002). His source? The book is now in Ellis.



Fig. 35: Low relief cut in the wall of “Govindeshvara Gupha,” illustrating the mythical scene where Shankaracharya saved his guru from sudden mounting waters of the Narmada. Source: University of Missouri-Columbia, February 2005.

From: Dr Nagar

Dec 23rd 2007

No 2918

FW: Contents of OM CD

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]

Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2007 4:35 AM

To: 'Canestraight, Linda M.'

Subject: RE: Contents of OM CD

Dear OM Loves Me:

Only the lucky ones realize the plentiful power of OM: One God Universal.

In many a case, when you took a photograph you could not realize how valuable it was. In many instances you did not know what it was. An example is Koti lingarcana—worshipping a crore [10,000,000] of Shivalingas. It was at Amareshvara Temple yard. Some Brahmanas were preparing something. You just snapped it without knowing what it was and how rich. It is a unique historical treasure.

Now you know what it is. Darshanika describes it in full. We have quoted it.

We have to leave behind for the succeeding generations not only the photographs but their intrinsic meaning as well as their stupendous value.

This picture is only an example of the saying: One picture equals 1000 words.

Another tell tale example is Ashvattha=Peepal. I don't think you would have realized its full value and significance at the time it was pictured. OM wanted it and He got it done.

You have to visit the Omkara Mandhata: Holy Hilly Island once again and for a longer period. Emilie was there for about four months.

OMLN

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]

Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 5:43 PM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Subject: RE: Contents of OM CD

Sometimes an accidental photo becomes the most valuable one, Pal and Joshi could not have planned it. OM works in wondrous ways. If you remember without knowing I photographed a statue at the Indore Museum that you found exciting.....little did I know at the time the value of what I was recording, but Om moved me to snap a picture.

LC

From: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 5:21 PM
To: Canestraight, Linda M.
Subject: RE: Contents of OM CD

We could not have achieved all that we have achieved so far unless there was an identity of ideas between you and me.

There is no alternative but for this.

With regard to the couple at Omkareshvara, I like this photo very much. It tells quite a lot. If Pal and Joshi had given only this, I would have regarded my \$800 well spent. I don't think they have given any other photo as valuable as this.

OMLN

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 5:08 PM
To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)
Subject: RE: Contents of OM CD

I agree with your comments about the file work. Amith serves OM is a good title for all of his animated files, we can still claim copyright of Om Shanti Mandiram.

LC

From: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 12:16 PM
To: Canestraight, Linda M.
Subject: RE: Contents of OM CD

Dear Linda:

Kindly excuse me if you find my statements repetitive or sometimes contradictory to each other.

Every coin has two sides. Every issue has pros and cons. There is a day and there is a night as well.

If Meghan does the real work of DVD, i.e. if she is capable, she stays. Otherwise she is out.

There are certain files that can go as one unit.

All the scattered items may be grouped together under a common label.

For example:

Amith serves OM.

OM inspires William Spires.

Kovalenko presents his offerings to OM: One God Universal.

Alaka contributes toward OM services. Etc.

It may sound as not coming from Murari, but good, bad or indifferent has to be put on a real DVD or just CD—animated or unanimated.

Some cars are put on the lot bearing the clear label as “As Is.” No guarantee. The buyer buys at his own risk. We just tell the viewer in the very beginning and in the clearest possible terms that we had two choices: Present these as they are or let them get recycled.

Nothing should remain exclusively confined to the PC and EHD's, or even CD's at 1405. Externalization is the word—our goal under the present circumstances. Let us share our work with others.

OMLN

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]

Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 9:46 AM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Subject: RE: Contents of OM CD

Wow....when you list it there is a lot for Meghan to do. I think you have found her work schedule. So far I haven't noticed anything missing until I start looking at all the files on the computer, but I think you have gotten the most important ones

listed. We do have a good collection of Gods & Goddesses pictures that need also to be added as well as the OM Collection, although these later items are autorun dvds they do need to be burnt to dvd for distribution and sharing purposes.

I also want Meghan to show me how she burns DVD at 1405 for future purposes. I need to do it on same software/hardware as she does.

LC

From: Dr Nagar
No 2974

Feb 15th 2008

I think there is an expression worded something like this:

You have come along a long way baby!

I am going to send you a copy of my appeal for help addressed to the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust at Omkara Mandhata as early as 2000! I did not receive even an acknowledgment from them. Yet they have rendered a great service to our common cause there. They had many plans. I don't know how far they have advanced. The Govindeshvara Gupha is now their property. They say they have restored it and have renovated it. You know that the image of the Gurudeva of Shri Shankaracharya, Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada, is installed there by this Trust and also the image of Shri Shankaracharya in Govindeshvara Temple on the holy bank of the Narmada.

We have photographs of all of them.

OMLN

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 7:00 AM
To: 'Emilie CREMIN'
Cc: 'Kathy Strickland'; 'Canestraight, Linda M.'
Subject: RE: Here is the translation for fig 35 image from Gupha

I am extremely sorry to see that you are looking at only one side of the coin. I have had a great regard and respect for your monumental work and have expressed it to

my friends and co-workers times without number. I have also forwarded the same to you as well.

It is possible to “agree to differ.” Real scholarship demands this.

We may continue the work wherein we don’t have any conflict of opinion.

If you had any love, regard and respect for Omkara Mandhata you would have continued your work thereon.

OMLN

From: Emilie CREMIN [mailto:milimoonn@...]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 11:26 PM
To: Murari Nagar
Subject: RE: Here is the translation for fig 35 image from Gupha

Namaskar, Hari Om,

As Linda said, the goal of my work is to understand "how the construction of the dam has affected the land, economy and local people. It is not a text about religion revealing new facts; the topic is touched lightly because it is part of the local people and culture on the river.

Don't expect too much from my work and please don't insult me as you have done it in many mails! Om teaches us to be patient and tolerant! I wish you will find the answers you are looking for. Thanks to be a devotee of Om.

Hari Om

From: nagarm@...
To: Ashish_Dabral@...; milimoonn@...
Subject: FW: Here is the translations for fig 35 image from Gupha
Date: Sun, 24 Feb 2008 07:18:22 -0600

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2007 11:20 AM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Subject: RE: Here are the translations for fig 35 image from Gupha

People rely too much on the internet for information; real research requires a lot of time and effort as your source book proved. But even research is limited to what resources you have at hand. I believe the goal of Emilie's book is from a geographer's viewpoint, how the construction of the dam has affected the land, economy and local people. It is not a text about religion revealing new facts; the topic is touched lightly because it is part of the local people and culture on the river.

I think we should also think about the fact the low relief being a new creation and not an old artifact newly installed at the gupha. New creation, no history, just telling a story but what story does it tell....we see what we believe is a serpent queen and draw those stories but we still do not have true facts. Perhaps the temple office can shine some light on this topic.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From: Dr Nagar

March 11th 2008

No 3013

Re: Visit of Omkareshvara

Dear Ashish:

I find no words to express my joy and satisfaction at your wonderful service with regard to photographing and identification of ancient murtis at Omkareshvara.

Of course, to visit the holy land and have the holier darshana of Omkareshvara jyotirlinga after taking bath in the holy river Narmada was indeed a virtuous deed. It was a fruit of your earlier good deeds and will bring many good things in your future life.

Keeping that intangible thing aside, if you had done nothing except taking the photographs of the specific murti in the Govindeshvara Gupha, I would have regarded your visit to Omkara Mandhata as of the greatest value

to me and to the scholarly world around.

I had been groping in the dark all along. I did not know what it was. I thought of several meanings which now appear as silly and absurd. I am ashamed even to think of them.

The main murti represents Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada himself and the other murti on the right is no one else but Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya as a young disciple.

May OM bless you with all the good things you desire in your life. You have a great future.

OMLN

-----Original Message-----

From: [Ashish Dabral@...](mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...) [mailto:[Ashish Dabral@...](mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...)]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 8:02 AM

To: Murari Nagar

Subject: RE: Visit of Omkareshvara

Dear Guruji,

That document is just a draft only (there are many spelling mistakes etc.). There is a lot more to tell about Omkareshvara and a huge opportunity is there to do something better for human kind.

Guruji, I am thinking to start a similar organization like ICLD in India and we can name it "Dr. Nagar Foundation" and under that we can run its sister concern "OMGOD" we can try to register it as an NGO and under its flag we will expand our work.

I am looking for your kind suggestion in this regard as in India if we go somewhere and tell someone that we are connected to "America" to some organization then people always think about the money factor. They don't want to know about the intention behind the holy work.

I am thinking to build a structured organization and then we can start in a structured way and on a large scale. Well beginning is always small.....
I was in Omkareshvara for only around 7 hours so was unable to visit the whole island but next time I will give more time to stay on the island. I went by train but came by flight.

Now the time is to become more focused towards the goal and I will visit Arbindo Ashram in the next couple of weeks to find out someone who can translate French to English. Also I am searching a publisher who can print that 300 pages book in color. Please let me know how many copies are required this time. As I am still planning for a PC or a Laptop and after that I will review the valuable material you sent to me in the form of HDD and DVDs.

I wish if you can visit to India once and we can make a tour to Omkareshvara in the near future....

With all the best regards,

Ashish
International Council for Library Development

From "Murari Nagar"
To Ashish Dabral/d122/DEPTS/IN/FWUK/GB@FWUK
cc
Subject RE: Visit of Omkareshvara

Dear Ashish:

Through the Great Grace of OM: One God Universal you have achieved much more than I expected. You have a great and a very bright future.

Om had provided enough money to you. Why you did not go by air? Money has been to me only a means and not the end.

I am glad that you met two pillars of the great edifice. Much can be achieved through their support and cooperation.

Your visit to the Gupha and its description is highly valuable and enlightening.

You are truly my vidyottaraadhikaarin.

With plenty of blessings from OM, OMLN

-----Original Message-----

From: [Ashish Dabral@...](mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...) [mailto:[Ashish Dabral@...](mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...)]

Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 12:07 PM

To: nagarm@...

Subject: Visit of Omkareshvara

Dear Guruji,

Here is a brief document about the visit. There is a lot more to describe and discover as the visit was very short (around 7 hours). I took images and a few of them are in the file attached and other images (more clear) I will send next day.

There is much more to discuss but right now I am going to home as it is already 10:30 PM.

(See attached file: OM.pdf)

With All the best Regards,

Ashish

From: Dr Nagar
No 3014

march 11th 2008

Shankaracharya subduing raging waters of Narmada
Emilie fig. 35

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate Govindabhagavadpada cave, immersed in the bliss of the *samâdhi**. Immediately, Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculously, the uncontrolled river changed its direction (Fig. 35). When the master learned what had occurred, he blessed his disciple in these terms: “*My son, your fame will be imperishable. Just as you could contain tumultuous water in a jug, you will be able to write a book of commentaries containing the essence of all the Védas.*” Then he initiated his disciple; the name Shankaracharya was given to him. He advised him, when he would judge it proper, to spread the wisdom which he had acquired in Kashî, which is now Bénarès. He had arrived there at the age of twelve (Coquet, 2002).

From: Dr Nagar
No 3015
Re: Greetings for the day...

Mar 12th 2008

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal!

In the area of photographing, if Shri Ashish Dabral had done nothing but capturing only the specific image we had been trying to identify for a long time, I would have regarded his holy journey fully successful and truly fruitful.

Now the archaeological evidence has proved that this specific Gupha is truly the Govindeshvara Gupha!

Shankaracharya is not offering holy water of Narmada to his guru! He is containing—controlling—subduing--the surging fierce furious flooding water of Narmada and saving everything all around! The image is validating the traditional tale.

The value of this photograph defies description. It is the fruit of the good deeds done by the photographer.

I feel fully fulfilled.

Om wants us all to do some good work for the benefit of human kind for a long time to come.

OMLN

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]

Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 5:52 PM

To: Ashish_Dabral@...; Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Subject: RE: Greetings for the day...

Ashish,

I had the pleasure of looking at your journal and wonderful new photos of Omkara Mandhata. I am sure Dr. Nagar has spoken praise for your capturing certain photos and solving some questions about identities. Shankaracharya offering water of Mother Narmada to his holy guru Shri Govindacharya. This image was hard to indentify from previous pictures, but you captured a very close image that showed the details needed to understand the image we were viewing. Then the images of Pataleshvar Mahadev which I was never escorted to by the guide provided by Svami Tej Anand.

I believe you now understand our service to this holy island, this holy temple. I was moved by its beauty and by its neglect and understood the grandeur of the undertaking yet to be done for preservation work. The archaeologists have a lifetime of work at this one holy site and the need for a local museum is a must as well.

I am so glad you experienced the holy journey and let Om embrace you even more than before.

May Om bless you and your family,

Linda

From: Ashish_Dabral@... [mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...]

Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2008 9:52 AM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Cc: Canestraight, Linda M.

Subject: Greetings for the day...

May OM guide us towards the path of truth.

May OM give us the strength to give up our ego, may OM make our heart pure, may we attain a mental state of tranquility, and May our Guru bless us so that we can recognize our true self..

OM...

May we use this day as a step towards our GOAL...

With All the Best Regards,

Ashish

Repeated?

From: Dr Nagar

Mar 16th 2008

No 302

Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust Omkareshvara^[1]

M. G. K. Menon

Omkareshvara, a tiny [an understatement] island created by the River Kaveri, a tributary of Narmada, which joins the main river from the left bank, crosses her and rejoins from the right—a rare geographical phenomenon in the world—is the most important among the twelve jyotirlingas, where Lord Shiva is worshipped in the Bhāratavarsha. It is most important, because the very “Prajāva” (OM) is the physical feature [?] of this blessed land of King Mandhata, over the Hill of which the Mountain Vindhya himself had undertaken a long penance to bring Shiva down to earth in the form of Siddhinātha. It was here that Shankaracharya, born to Āryāmbā and Shivaguru of Kaladi in the Deep South Kerala, at the tender age of

eight found his Guru Shri Govinda Bhagavadpāda and was initiated to Sannyāsa. [All these traditional tales are beyond the power of our understanding.]

According to a legend, Adi Shankara in search of a guru for himself came all the way from Kerala and found Shri Govinda Bhagavadpāda under mysterious circumstances. The young lad who had walked hundreds of miles, crossing wild forests, mountains, hills, valleys, rivers and rivulets reached Omkareshvara and found Shrimad Govinda Bhagavatpada in a state of Nirvikalpa Nishtha [samādhi] in a cave under a Banyan tree on the bank of River Narmada at Omkareshvara. It was widely believed that this was the same Banyan tree from which Sage Gauḍapāda, the disciple of Shuka, the son of Veda Vyāsa, suffering from a curse was hanging upside down in the form of a Brahma Rākshasa and eating those walking under, unable to give appropriate answers to his questions on Advaita [?]. Govinda Bhagavatpāda, giving correct answers, it is said, escaped sudden death and devouvrement at the hands of Gauḍapāda and took down the intricacies of Vedanta and redeemed Gauḍapāda of the curse. The tree is, however, not there now. ^[2]

River Narmada was in floods when Shaṅkara reached Omkareshvara^[3]. Sage Govindapāda was in deep meditation and the swollen Narmada had flooded the whole area there. Distressed folks gathered around the sage, trying to seek his intercession to mitigate the fury of Narmada, but they were afraid to disturb him. It was at this stage that the eight-year old lad from Kaladi appeared on the spot. When young Shankara saw the plight of the flood-stricken people, he took out his ghaṭa [jar] and held its mouth against the surging flood waves, and lo, and behold, the flow was caught up and contained in the ghaṭa. The joyful ones of the people woke Govindapāda. Shankara made his humble obeisance and prostrated before him. Govindapāda told him: Sages perform tapas for centuries to have the darshan of Lord Parameshvara, which thou hast voluntarily afforded unto me. Even so conforming to the ways of the world, I shall accept you as my disciple and make myself worthy to be blessed. [Comparison may be made with the question –as to “Who are you”—asked by the guru and the answer given by the disciple as “I am neither earth....”**Na bhūmir na toyam.**^[4]

He then embraced Shankara and took him into his fold. He imparted Brahma Vidya, all the yogas and other intricate secrets of Vedas, Purāṇas, and Upanishads. Shankara was then initiated into Sanyāsa [?].

Both the Cave in which Adi Shankara found Shrimad Govinda Bhagavad- pāda, his guru and the spot at which Shankara was initiated to Sannyāsa by his master (on the bed of River Narmada identified as Govindeshvara Temple in the Koti Tirtha)^[5] still exist at Omkareshvara, but ravages of time and neglect for centuries have left them in total ruins.

It was a dream that occurred to the nonagenarian Paramācārya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham some years ago that invoked sustained efforts of some experts who could identify and confirm the cave in which Sankara found his Guru Govindapāda and the spot at which Sankara was given the Deeksha of Sannyāsa. These experts inspected the Cave in January 1979 and found that it conformed to the descriptions of the Book, *The Age of Sankara*. [No bibliographical details. I saw one book with this title. It was a cheap, shallow, modern work-- almost a trash. There must be some authentic older publication. Let us find out.]

His Holiness Sri Jayendra Sarasvati Svamigal, the reigning Śankaracharya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, visited Omkareshvara in 1980 and was distressed to find the miserable conditions in which both the hallowed spots were allowed to remain. They were in a state of utter abuse and filthy surroundings. He decided to take them over for renovation and preservation in furtherance of the dream the Paramācārya, His Holiness Chandra Shekharendra Svamigal, his own guru had envisioned.

In March 1987 when His Holiness Shri Jayendra Sarasvati Svamigal visited Bhopal, he met some of the devotees and discussed his plans with them to acquire both the Cave and Govindeshvara Temple at Omkareshavar, renovate them, and preserve them with proper maintenance and also to have a befitting memorial to Adi Shankara Bhagavadpāda and his Guru, Srimad Govinda Bhagavadpāda on the Mandhata Hill, overlooking both the rivers, Narmada and Kaveri.

Accordingly under his direction, Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust Omkareshvar was founded. [The writer then describes the nature and the constitution, etc. of the Trust.]

The Trust has already acquired the Cave Temple...the State Government has allotted Sri Govindeshvara Temple at Koti Tirtha (the spot at which Adi Shankara was given the Deekshā of Sannyāsa by his Guru) and ten acres of land over the Mandhata Hill at a nominal price.

Both the Cave Temple and Sri Govindeshvar Temple have been renovated and on the last Shankara Jayanti day (April 21, 1988) H. H. Sri Jayendra Sarasvati installed the deities of Srimad Govinda Bhagavadpāda in the Cave Temple and of Adi Shankara Bhagavadpāda in Sri Govindeshvar Temple.

The Trust has now plans to develop the ten acre land over Mandhata Hill into a Shankara Jñāna Kendra, consisting of a Veda Pathashala, Sanskrit Academy, a Research Centre and Library of the life and works of Adi Shankara Bhagavadpāda, an Institute of Vedic Mathematics and a Yoga Centre.^[6]

To begin with, it is proposed to have a Sanskrit Pathashala, perhaps this year itself.

The task is heavy, even for Herculean to accomplish. But then, with the blessings of Blessed Acharyas of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, who have inculcated the spirit and heritage of ancient India, there is nothing impossible, and with this belief firm in our mind, the Trustees have determined to make Omkareshvara **the most sought afar place for the faithfuls and students of India's near ancient past.** [Emphasis added.] MAY WE BE BLESSED THUS.

^[1] This Trust is different from the Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga Temple Trust. They now have their own home page. Most of what follows is only a hearsay.

^[2] Was it ever there? According to another legendary tale, the tree was on a highway. The Brahmarākṣasa used to ask every passerby.

^[3] Exact spot of reaching?

[4] This is another traditional tale.

[5] What is this?

Omkāra Māndhātā Mukti Dhāma

A Paradise for Pilgrims

From: Dr Nagar

April 13th 2008

No 3073

The glory and grandeur of Shankaracharya at Omkareshvara and Maheshvara

Dear Ashish:

This work can be done only through the cooperation of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust at Omkareshvara.

We have to raise substantial funds and for that we have to try various means and methods.

I have received many fresh ideas from OM: One God Universal. I will transmit them to you.

We have to create powerful public opinion—a kind of deep awareness-- in favor of the great goal. There are various ways, means and methods.

I see that every temple has a donation box. It should be possible to have a locked donation box right at the entrance of the Gupha. There should be a kind of booklet telling the value and importance of the Gupha and an appeal for donation.

This appeal may be circulated throughout the world.

The idea is to find all kinds of means and methods to raise funds.

You may know that we have secured hundreds of pictures of Maheshvara. One rare picture is that of the spot where Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya had the famous debate with Mandana Mishra and where he established the superiority of his

doctrine of Advaita Vedanta over Mimamsa Shastra—the principal system of Mandan Mishra.

We also have some information of the Gupha where the body of Shankaracharya was kept under guard while he had managed para-kaaya-pravesha —entering into the body of some one else (here a king).

We should prepare good reproductions of the photos of such significant events and places and sell them through the booksellers throughout the world. South Mandhata itself has many stalls where such things are sold.

Shri Ramesh Mittal of D. K. Agencies may show us the way.

With bundles of blessings from OM: One God Universal.

OMLN

From: om_one_god_universal@googlegroups.com
[mailto:om_one_god_universal@googlegroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Murari Nagar
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2008 7:20 PM
To: 'ashish dabral'
Cc: om_one_god_universal@googlegroups.com
Subject: Priority of various components of the work that lies ahead.

Dear Ashish:

Keeping aside the holy darshana of Omkareshvara—one of a dozen dazzling Jyotirlingas of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva—if you done nothing but what you did for Govindeshvara Gupha, I would have regarded your visit to Omkara Mandhata a worthy achievement.

That is the most valuable find. It has a very rich story and history.

You have got so many things to do. All are good. But I would strongly recommend that you give top priority to the holy Gupha. It is really a great treasure of our cultural heritage.

I have written quite a lot to you regarding this.

Keep everything aside. First things first. That is the first.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 3074

April 13th 2008

There is a very good book entitled Maahismatii smaarikaa, published from Indore. It contains a lot of information concerned directly with Maheshvara (ancient Māhishmatī) and indirectly with Omkareshvara. There is a great deal of symbiosis between these two holy places. Many temples etc. are totally identical in both.

The temple wherein the body of Shankaracharya was safely kept during his para-kaaya-pravesha is probably named as Gupteshvara Shivalaya.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 3075

April 18th 2008

Madonna (Madonaa=Prideless)

World famous Rock-Queen Madonna pays tribute to the lotus feet of her Gurudeva in the words of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya:

I bow down to the lotus feet of my Gurudeva that have guided me to derive eternal pleasure through my own self in order to attain salvation --release from the bondage of the cycle of birth and death—the summum bonum. They have acted like a toxicologist, adept in the art of curing the deadly poison of samsaara—the delusion caused by the destructive phenomena of the delusive world. OMLN

From : Dr Nagar
No 3086
FW: Statement of Purpose

May 5th 2008

-----Original Message-----

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Saturday, May 03, 2008 6:10 PM
To: 'ashish dabral'
Subject: FW: Statement of Purpose

Dear Ashish:

There will be three parts:

1. What?
2. Why?
3. How?

Recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama--A holy hilly island--Garlanded by two pious rivers Narmada and Kaveri--A Paradise for Pilgrims in Madhya Pradesh, India, with special reference to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya.

The above may be the basic statement of purpose. You have to elaborate it. You will have to tell what you would do if you get a research fellowship.

You may take help from a selfless dedicated devoted scholar in your town or your university if you find one.

We will work it out.

OM is merciful.
OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

May 6th 2008

No 3092

OMSHAM

OMSHAM is an acronym of OM Shanti Mandiram. Sham means KalyaaNa, Mangala, Shubha. That is the first part of the name of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. Sham+Kara is Shiva Shankara Mahadeva. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 3100
FW: FW: Statement of Purpose

May 7th 2008

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Sunday, May 04, 2008 6:55 AM
To: 'ashish dabral'
Subject: RE: FW: Statement of Purpose

A seed contains the whole tree with its fruits and leaves and flowers and cool shade. Also the seeds to continue the line. OMLN

From: ashish dabral [mailto:garhwaltigers@...]
Sent: Sunday, May 04, 2008 2:49 AM
To: Murari Nagar
Subject: Re: FW: Statement of Purpose

My Dear Guruji,

I am a child in this area and you are the only experienced person who can guide me. Wthout your kind "ashish" I am simply nothing.

With all the best regards,

Ashish

From: Dr Nagar

Jun 7th 2008

No 3160
Re: Post to OM Meditation blog
Dear devotee of OM: One God Universal:

Very good attempt. Om Shanti.

Please make a note:

Gauḍapāda was the parama-guru (that is guru's guru) of Adi Shankaracharya.

Govindabhagavatpaada was the guru of Shankaracharya.

For more please see our publication number five published in the series named OM: One God Universal; A garland of offerings.

This specific volume bears the title as: Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama: A Paradise for Pilgrims.

Most of the publications of OM Shanti Mandiram of Columbia, Missouri may be purchased through Amazon.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

July 1st 2008

No 3190

The light removes the darkness!

My dear deserving disciple:

You have a very bright and promising future!

You may want to know why this illusion—bhrānti, mithyā mati, bhrama was caused.

When it is dark all around even a rope is taken to be a snake creating chaos.

When the mind falls into a certain groove it is very difficult to retrace it and take another course. Another mind has to come in!

The work of Emilie Cremin is wonderful. I have a great admiration, regard and respect for her writing. She has reproduced our related photograph in her book and has appended an explanation current in the tradition. In many a case, she has made certain statements which are wrong—dead wrong. The reason is this: Her source itself had been wrong! She is a young lady in her early twenties. She has had no background of Indology. She did not have any deep knowledge of India. In many a case, she reproduced what she had heard in the bazaar.

So I did not take her explanation, attribution and assignment very seriously.

A great deal of photographing done by Linda and a professional photographer was amateur! The original picture is not clear at all.

On the other hand the picture taken by you is very clear and shows the *daṇḍa* (staff) of both Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada and Shankaracharya quite vividly.

The problem is this. A botanist looks at a flower through a certain frame of mind. This is different from what a poet sees.

The murtis are generally regarded by the worshipers as replicas of the god worshipped. They drape them in the apparels. They decorate them with flowers, etc. Even the shastras teach us: *Yathaa dehe tathaa deve*. What you do for your own body do the same for your own worshipped god. The art is subordinated to the deep devotion.

For example, even today a standing murti in the cave—next to the one we are discussing--is not identified, because it is totally draped in a covering of the cloth. No attributes are visible. The murtis, as a rule, are identified by their emblems or vehicles. If we see a trident, it is Shiva. If we see a *chakra*, it is Vishnu.

In the specific earlier picture we are discussing, the *daṇḍa* or staff, an emblem of the *sanyaasin*, is covered by large leaves or flowers, while in the photograph you have taken they are clearly visible. And so is the *loTaa* (pot) or *kamaṇḍalu*.

The clarity of the picture you have taken has been truly illuminating. It removed all the cobwebs.

That is why your contribution is so great. It is all a fact and not a flattery.

OM: One God Universal wants certain good work to be done through you. That is why He has sent you to this world.

I am very happy and satisfied. Our work shall be continued.

OM Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

July 11th 2008

No 3196

George photos 2nd series

Re: [omgod] George photos 2nd series

Dr. Nagar,

Is this message referring to the photos that Ashish took in Omkareshvara?

Om Shanti,

Kamalee

From: Dr Nagar

July 11th 2008

No 3199

George photos 2nd series

RE: [omgod] George photos 2nd series

These photos were taken by the associates of Father Geo George of Indore.

OMLN

From; Dr Nagar

Aug 30th 2008

No 3286

FW: Your visit to Omkareshvara

Govindeshvara Gupha—Glory and Grandeur of Shri Shankaracharya

From: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus) [mailto:NagarM@...]

Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2008 6:25 AM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Subject: Your visit to Omkareshvara

My dear Ashish:

I have written to you already, but would like to repeat it once again with full force that you visited the holy hilly island at my request. You were there only for seven hours. You have had a holy darshana of Omkareshvara Jyotirlinga of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva and an equally holy bath in the Mātā Narmada. It was a [plentiful](#) pious performance. However, if we keep this unseen virtue aside, if you had done nothing but the [virtuous](#) visit [to](#) and brief exploration of the Govindeshvara Gupha, I would regard it as one of the greatest contributions one has ever made with regard to this holy land.

I did not know even the name of Omkara Mandhata until this century started and we began its study. Yes, I knew the name of Omkareshvara Mahadeva through the Dvadasha Jyotirlinga Stotra (Saurashtre Somanatham ca), as one of a dozen jyotirlingas of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva, but it was a name only. I did not know even the location—where it was situated! Mandhata? Never heard of as the holy hilly island!

Now the whole wide world knows this holy temple through our publications. We have collected the largest number of its photographs. We have spread its mighty effulgence through our publications all around the globe.

Now coming back to the Govindeshvara Gupha. Until the year 1988 this was not known to the world at all. Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha deserves great credit for its recovery, [restoration](#) and glorification.

However, it still remains [un](#)-explored. I did not know [at all](#) what a specific architectural wonder it constituted. I had some wild ideas. Today I myself laugh at them. You enabled me so very kindly to identify it —Idam ittham—This is it.

You were there only for seven hours. [However](#), seven is the most significant number. Some say it is God. If you want to know its full significance, read our writing entitled ISHTA—India's Seven Holistic Temples in America.

You established personal contacts with Raja Devendra Singh as well as Shri Mahajan. They are two great pillars of that edifice. It is good for our future work in this field.

There are many stories about Shri Shankaracharya that sound like fables. But one thing is certain. Now we have found a physical concrete evidence that Mount Mandhata was the gurukula of Shri Shankaracharya.

This Govindeshvara Gupha needs scientific systematic extensive as well as intensive exploration and study. How deep is it? [I mean its interior?](#) We are told that there is always water on the floor. Where does it come from? How deep? Why not more? Legend tells us that it was flooded furiously when young Shankara arrived there. Is it possible that Narmada herself had flooded it to wash the holy feet of the Gurudeva of Shankaracharya?

We are told that the walls of the gupha are decorated with exquisite carvings. So is the ceiling. We have some photos of the puttalikas—damsels. [But not all.](#)

All this exploration and study needs time, money, energy and perseverance.

May OM enable all of us to render this service to the pious world.

With blessings from OM: One God Universal. OMLN

From; Dr Nagar

Aug 31st 2008

No 3287

FW: Your promising work at Omkara Mandhata

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]

Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2008 2:23 PM

To: 'AshishDABRAL@...'

Subject: Your promising work at Omkara Mandhata

My dear Ashish:

What I am writing about your valuable work at Omkara Mandhata done in just a few hours is highly valuable. It gives a promising hope.

Bhagavan Shri Krishna Himself says: Sarvasya caaham hridi sannivishTah=I reside in the heart of all. He does every thing. We are only instruments.

Also He Himself tells us: Nimittamaatram bhava savyasaacin, O Arjuna, be only an incidental cause.

The picture of Shri Guru Govinda Bhagavatpaada and His greatest and worthiest disciple Shri Shankaracharya is highly valuable. Its value defies description.

I have discussed somewhere else that a devotee looks at a murti from a specific point of view. For him the murti is an object of worship. He decorates it with fine clothing, ornaments and flowers, etc.

On the other hand, an art critic has a different view.

The objects (murits) in reference were photographed earlier too by OM Loves Me and her associate professional photographer. However, some thing very significant was missing there! There was no way to identify it as “this is it.”

Murtis are identified by attributes. If we see a building with a cross, we recognize it as a Christian Church. If there is a trident, it is Shiva Mandira. Shankha cakra gadaa padma enable us to identify the murti as Vishnu. If there is a bow He is Ramachandra. If there is a flute He is Shri Krishna.

The most significant item, the identifying icon, in earlier picture was hidden by the offering of flowers. The devotee did not care what he was covering. So there was a wild guess by us as to the identification.

Emilie Cremin has reproduced our earlier picture with due credit. She also brings in the legend behind the show. But...I would not say more for reasons obvious.

Now what does your picture show that enables us to identify the sculpture in a fully and totally decisive manner? It is the daNDa (sacred staff, the sign of a sanyaasin) held by both the guru and shishya!

NashTo mohah smritir labdhaa tvat prasaadan mayaacyuta. Sthito'smi gatasandehah.

OM Shnati. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Sep 1st 2008

No 3288

FW: Your visit to Omkareshvara

Re: [omgod] FW: Your visit to Omkareshvara

Dear Nagarji, Thanks many for the mails you sent me without interruption.

I read them with great devotion.

It is only that I am often out of the town on my schedule. That is why I am not able to reply to you often. Hope you do not mind.

Wish you all the success in your endeavors.

Fraternally

Fr. Geo

From: Dr Nagar

Sep 1st 2008

No 3289

FW: Your visit to Omkareshvara

RE: [omgod] FW: Your visit to Omkareshvara

It is not a flattery but an undeniable fact that you have rendered an immortal service to the human kind in many ways. Om Shanti Mandiram now has the largest and best collection of pious plentiful photographs of Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama: A Paradise for Pilgrims. They are being displayed and viewed by the devotees of Om all over the world. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Spe 15th 2008

No 3304

Guru-shishya-paramparaa

RE: [omgod] Guru-shishya-paramparaa

I don't know what to say. You are still in the second stage of the four. You are only a householder now.

The best you can do at present is to find some good books and make them as your guru.

Read the Bhagavadgita—the Book of Books with the translated commentary of Shankaracharya.

OMLN

On 9/12/08, **Murari Nagar** <nagarM@missouri.edu> wrote:

If a Guru can find even one worthy shishya in his whole life he is fully fulfilled.

Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa found only one shishya—Svami Shri Vivekananda.

He was one—advitiya.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Oct 2nd 2008

No 3317

Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya--make this as your immediate field of work.

Dear Ashish:

Coming and going—this is the world.

I am at the last stage of my life. I am fully satisfied with what OM has enabled us to accomplish.

You are just beginning. Great work lies ahead of you.

I have invested a great deal of my earnings in this holy operation. However, there is only one way to continue this pious work. And that is to raise funds by all possible legitimate means and methods.

We have to approach rich sources of resources. Sarvārambhāh tanḍulaprastha-mūlāh; all undertakings are rooted in a bushel of rice.

We have been doing some work relative to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. Now there are many mat/.has (monasteries) run after his name. There is even a

university named after him in his birth place. Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha leads. That is so close to you.

A great deal of my work got financial support in the form of grants. But for that you have to have a specific goal and a project.

I would like you to concentrate on one area—one field, i.e. Shankaracharya, specifically the Govindeshvara gupha to begin with.

Float a journal in cooperation with Kamalee. Collect and publish all the information that you could find.

If nothing else, you will be earning a great virtue.

This is my upadesha—teaching coming directly from OM: One God Universal.

This will bring you all that you desire.

Make this as the eye of the bird of Arjuna.

PS. We have some highly significant photographs and data on Shri Shankaracharya still preserved at Maheshvara—ancient Mahishmati.

Combined with these the work on gupha gets tremendously enriched.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 3318

Oct3rd 2008

FW: Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya--make this as your immediate field

Dear Ashish:

This is a follow up the earlier message on the subject.

Our total literary output in all the subjects by now exceeds 10,000 pages in 40 volumes embellished by at least 10,000 photographs!

What to do and what not to do was a big question. OM has given me the insight and direction.

I have written to you more than once that you visited Omkareshvara only for seven hours. Seven is the most valuable and significant number. Kamalee and I have done some work on it. However, let us keep it aside.

Keeping the Omkaradarshana aside, if you had done nothing but the visit to the Govindeshvara gupha, I would regard your visit tremendously successful and fruitful.

We have been studying Omkara Mandhata for many years. There are many subjects and objects worthy there to be studied. However, we can do only one thing at a time. We have to begin our deeper study with some specific subject and object.

Om wants us to concentrate on the life and works of Shri Shankaracharya, his Guru Govinda Bhagavatpada and his Guru Gaudapada as our next major objective. This is a very important subject and shall be appreciated by all throughout the world.

One thing at a time. I will write to you more and more about it—what, how and why.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 3319

Oct 3rd 2008

Adi Shankaracharya

Shruti-smriti-purāṇām ālayam karuṇālayam.

Namāmi Bhagavat-pādam Shankaram loka-shankaram.

The treasure-house of the Vedas, Smritis and the Purāṇas.

The vast and deep ocean of compassion.

Bestowing welfare and blessings to all.

Such is my venerable Bhagavatpāda Shankara.

I offer my humble obeisance to him.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Nov 23rd 2008

No 3380

Information on Shankaracharya

A great deal of information relative to Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada—his work and works-- is featured in our first publication in the series named “OM: One God Universal: A Garland of Offerings. OMLN

From; Dr Nagar

Nov 24th 2008

FW: Work to be done in India

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]

Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2008 5:12 PM

To: 'AshishDABRAL@...'

Subject: Work to be done in India

Please note -- This is dated November 1, 2003

Future Work to be done in India on

Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama.

Dated 11/1/03

1. Questions to be asked.
2. Questions to be answered.
3. Information to be obtained.
4. Problems to be solved / resolved.

Jhumakeshvara Mahādeva—Location, Information on. Any connection with Jambūkeshvara? Any sign of any tank there?

Haladhara (Balarāma or Baladeva) mūrti. Jaisalmer. More information on it is needed.

I have written to the Temple Trust, Postmaster at Jaisalmer, and a Principal of a college—anonymous

Kaveri merges into Narmada about a mile above, to the east of the mountain, i.e. the easternmost point of the mountain. Any physical sign or evidence that its water does not get merged into the water of Narmada?

What was the original name of Kaveri? It runs for about 22 miles before it gets merged into Narmada. Who named it Kaveri, where and when and why?

Is Kaveri the original name or was changed at a point by someone?

More details of Kaveri needed.

Amareshvara Temple—Inscriptions on stone—Date 1120 or 1220. Good pictures to be taken for microscopic analysis.

Any evidence of who built the temple and when?

Personal contact to be established with Rao Devendra Singh, the present Raja of Mandhata. He is the Managing Trustee of the Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga Temple Trust. I have written many letters to him. It has all been a one-way street.

Would he be willing to give some space in his own spacious palace for a Museum of Art and Archaeology and a Modern Multimedia Center?

We may try to develop this institution under the auspices of the Om Shanti Mandiram of Columbia Missouri. It can provide on matching grant basis as much as one hundred thousand dollars.

An attempt should be made to get in touch with ALL the institutions, organizations and temples, etc. existing or operating there today. I visualize a kind of All-in-One organization, an umbrella organization, a United Trust to work for all. We would name this as “Omkaara Mandhata: Group of Devotees –OMGOD.”

There are many organizations there today.

For example,

Ramakrishna Sadhana Kutira of Ramakrishna Mission—a world-wide organization.

Omkara Maṭha.

Ahilya Devi Charities Trust.

An organization that built a Krishna Temple.

Jaina Oraganization—Siddhavarakūṭṭa.

Gurudwara.

Indore has some leading organizations that built the temples there or renovated them at Omkara Mandhata Island Hill.

Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust, dedicated and devoted to Shri Shankaracharya is one example. They have purchased the cave and temple, etc. and have gigantic plans of many crores of rupees. But there interest is centered around one goal—Shankaracharya.

All this has been very well depicted in our publication here, there and everywhere.

An effort should be made to get full and correct name of each and every object that is photographed. The direction too should be noted—from which direction to which direction—looking toward east, for example. History too should be noted if available.

Access to Mount Mandhata before the railway came into being in the year of 1870.

There was no Omkareshwar Road Railway Station.

Yet people might have used some kind of a country road to reach the temple from the south.

Baḍawāhā was the nearest settlement, but it is in the north-east, beyond Kaveri.

Once upon a time, the area around the Amareshvara temple was “swallowed” by jungle, they say.

Help to be sought from Khasgi (Devi Ahilya Charity) Trust. The former Indore state, under the rulership of Ahilyabai had done a great service to Omkāra Māndhātā among many other holy places. The Ghat (series of steps) to Namada bank was her contribution. She was one of the greatest donors India has ever seen. This Trust is still active.

The Trust may have some good pictures of Omkareshvara as well as Maheshvara. Or they may procure. It is their glorification as well.

How Kuntimātā and Bhīma, important characters of the Mahābhārata happened to get associated with Omkara Mandhata. There is a gate, I believe under the name of Bhīmārjuna gate.

An area there is called Muchukunda.

Siddhanātha temple has many sculptures lying scattered around in pieces. They are really art objects and valuable material for a museum. They are means and objects of study and research.

Some highly placed official has recommended and has implemented his proposal that the broken parts may be laid down in such a way that the art work is visible.

If the pieces are still there they may be assembled. It may be a kind of solving the zig saw puzzle. That is why we need a museum to house them for future study and assembly.

Get the quotations of officials and other writers who have suggested care and preservation of art objects now reduced to pieces, but still may have some aesthetic value.

Some are stored in the main temple, its stairs and parapets.

All this is terribly tiresome work. One copy of the sourcebook may be provided with marginal notes, highlighted words. I am quite tired of such writing. This may be only Ākāśamuṣṭihanana. 1/11/03

I had prepared many such notes. I destroyed them.

From : Dr Nagar
No 3456

Dec 28th 2008

Bhagavadgītā--**Akṣarāṇāmakaō'smi.**

Alif is the first letter of the Arabic alphabet (script), also used for Persian and Urdu.

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet (note Alpha being the first part of the name itself).

Similar is the case in Hebrew and Russian, for example.

OM Shanti Home Page. Our home page itself has some pictorial and graphic images (moving pictures) of OM and its components. That could be made as a starting point—a specimen. It is truly startling. According to Dr. Khanna our home page is the best of all he has seen.

The 12 Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva

<http://www.templenet.com/jyotir.html>

Contains a great deal of useful information.

Om Shanti (journal) no. 2 has Shivamahimnastotra.

The following verse and picture as well as music can be incorporated:

Trayīm tisro vttīs tribhuvanam atho trīn api surān

Akārādyair varṇais tribhir abhidat tīrṇavikriti.

Turīyam te dhāma dhvanibhir avarundhānam aṇubhir

Samastam vyastam tvām śaraṇada griṇātyom iti padam.

Give the translation here from OM Shanti journal no. 2.

See Brown's book if there is a good picture of the above.

“On Common Ground” CD to be examined and explored.

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Kathy Strickland" <kamalee7@...>

> To: "Murari Nagar" <nagarm@...>

> Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 11:47 PM

> Subject: Re: FW: Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya--make this as your immediate
> field of work

>

>

>> Dr. Nagar,

>>

>> Have you heard back from Ashish on this subject?

>>

>> I have great respect for Shri Shankaracharya from the little I know of
>> him. He was in an early prakasha of Om Shanti journal, and would be an
>> excellent subject for an article of greater scope in our next journal.

>>

>> This is a great personality] worthy of further study. Shri Vivekananda is
another.

>>

>> Om Shanti,

>> Kamalee

>> On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 15:46:11 -0500, "Murari Nagar" <nagarm@...>

>> said:

>>> Dear Ashish:

>>>

>>> This is a follow up the earlier message on the subject.
>>> Our total literary output in all the subjects by now exceeds 10,000
>>> pages in 40 volumes embellished by at least 10,000 photographs!

>>> What to do and what not to do was a big question. OM has given me the
>>> insight and direction.

>> I have written to you more than once that you visited Omkareshvara only
>>> for seven hours. Seven is the most valuable and significant number. Kamalee
>>> and I have done some work on it. However, let us keep it aside.
>>>

>>> Keeping the Omkaradarshana aside, if you had done nothing but the visit
>>> to the Govindeshvara gupha, I would regard your visit tremendously
>>> successful and fruitful.
>>>

>> We have been studying Omkara Mandhata for many years. There are many
>>> subjects and objects worthy there to be studied. However, we can do only
>>> one thing at a time. We have to begin our deeper study with some specific
>>> subject and object.
>>>

>>> Om wants us to concentrate on the life and works of Shri Shankaracharya,
>>> his Guru Govinda Bhagavatpada and his Guru Gaudapada as our next major
>>> objective. This is a very important subject and shall be appreciated by all
>>> throughout the world.

>>> One thing at a time. I will write to you more and more about it-what, how
>>> and why.

>

>>> OMLN

>>> From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
>>> Sent: Thursday, October 02, 2008 8:25 AM
>>> To: 'AshishDABRAL@...'
>>> Cc: 'Kathy Strickland'; 'omkara-mandhata@googlegroups.com';
>>> 'omgod@yahoogroups.com'; 'om_one_god_universal@googlegroups.com'
>>> Subject: Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya--make this as your immediate field
>>> of work

>>>
>>>
>>> Dear Ashish: >>>
>>>
>>> Coming and going-this is the world. >>>
>>>
>>> I am at the last stage of my life. I am fully satisfied with what OM has
>>> enabled us to accomplish.>>>
>>>
>>> You are just beginning. Great work lies ahead of you.
>>>
>>> I have invested a great deal of my earnings in this holy operation.
>>> However, there is only one way to continue this pious work. And that is to
raise funds by all possible legitimate means and methods.>>>
>>>
>>> We have to approach rich sources of resources. Sarvaarambhaah
>>> taṇḍulaprasthamūlāh; all undertakings are rooted in a bushel of
>>> rice.

>>> We have been doing some work relative to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya.
>>> Now there are many maṭhas (monasteries) run after his name. There is even
>>> a university named after him in his birth place. Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha
>>> leads. That is so close to you.
>>>
>>> A great deal of my work got financial support in the form of grants. But
>>> for that you have to have a specific goal and a project.
>>>
>>> I would like you to concentrate on one area-one field, i.e.
>>> Shankaracharya, specifically the Govindeshvara gupha to begin with.

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>>> information that you could find.
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>>> If nothing else, you will be earning a great virtue.

>>> This is my upadesha--teaching coming directly from OM: One God Universal.

>>> This will bring you all that you desire.

>>> Make this as the eye of the bird of Arjuna.

>>> PS. We have some highly significant photographs and data on Shri
>>> Shankaracharya still preserved at Maheshvara-ancient Mahishmati.

>>> Combined with these the work on gupha gets tremendously enriched.

>>>

>> Kathy Strickland

>>

[kamalee7@...](#)

From : Dr Nagar

Jan 17th 2009

No 3481

Fw: Om is Al; All is OM

----- Original Message -----

From: [nagarm](#)

To: [nagarm](#)

Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 3:50 PM

Subject: Re: Om is Al; All is OM

Lata Mangeshkar has given us plentiful OM melody as the background music.

OMLN

----- Original Message -----

From: [nagarm](#)

To: [AshishDABRAL@...](#)

Sent: Friday, January 16, 2009 3:45 PM

Subject: Om is Al; All is OM

Dear Ashish:

I was very happy to see your creativity in our home page. There are no words to express my pleasure. You have done a superb job.

Please concentrate on OM to the extent it is possible.

World famous star rock queen Mandonna has sung Vande guruNaam
caranNaaravinde of Shankaracharya.

John Lennon has bequeathed to the world Jaya Gurudeva Om.

George Harrison has offered many songs devoted to Om.

Try to explore this world and enrich our home page.

When you have offered your prayer to Om you have offered to each and every God
and Goddess.

OM Shanti. OMLN

From : Dr Nagar

jan 17th 2009

No 3482

Fw: Om is Al; All is OM

Re: [omgod] Fw: Om is All; All is OM

Dear Dr. Nagar: Indeed, "All this is OM", just like the Mandukya Upanishad
teaches.

Check out the last two posts to my OM Meditation blog, hope you enjoy :)

<http://ommeditation.info/a-simple-meditation-formula/>

<http://ommeditation.info/who-is-your-guru/>

Regards and OM Shanti,

Keith

From: Dr Nagar

Jan 18th 2009

No 3484

Fw: Om is All; All is OM

Re: [omgod] Fw: Om is All; All is OM

Very good work. Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 3487
Fw: OMGOD forum originates
----- Original Message -----

Jan 27th 2009

From: [Murari Nagar](#)

To: [nagarm](#)

Sent: Monday, January 26, 2009 11:54 AM

Subject: OMGOD forum originates

OMGOD originates

OMGOD is a divine spiritual fellowship, a divya satsanga. It originated as early as November 2003. As many as 3500 messages as well as animations and photographs have been circulated so far. It has by now 56 members around the globe. It is interesting to recall how it originated. [Source: Om Holy Book #5, p. 203.]

Omkara Mandhata, a great center of learning

It is quite significant to note that one Māndhātā inscription records the grant of certain villages to the Brahmanas residing at Brahmapurī located on this Māndhātā Parvata Dvīpa itself. There must have lived here a considerable learned population in ancient times. This sacred place must have had a long tradition of being a **dharmakshetra**, a **puṇyabhūmi**. Shankaracharya would not have come here to acquire learning but for this fact and that he would not have found his guru here. Tradition tells us that the **paramaguru** of Shankaracharya, Shri Gauḍapāda too had sanctified this holy place by his stay and tapas.

Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha had announced a very ambitious plan of five crores of rupees to develop this holy land as a great center for study and research on Shankara Bhagavatpāda. We don't know what progress, if any, has been made. Our endless letters of inquiry and requests for cooperation have brought no response from them at all, none whatsoever.

In any case, their interest is quite limited indeed, i.e. to Shankaracharya alone. Nothing wrong in that. But we believe there should be a general organization to take care of the whole complex—all the temples of all the gods and goddesses, belonging to all the religions, sects and beliefs, and all the other organizations, existing or operating at present there on Omkara Mandhata island. We visualize a

kind of Umbrella organization, a model of **sarva-dharma-samanvaya** (samaṣṭi).
We would call it Omkāra Māndhātā: Group of Devotees –short form OMGOD.

From: Dr Nagar
No 3489
New photographs

Jan 28th 2009

Dear Nagarji Namaste

Hope you are well.

As per your request I have made one more schedule of photographing the
Mamaleshwar Mandir Stone inscriptions and Govindeshwara Sankaracharya Gufa.
Kindly send me your mailing address as I have misplaced the same somewhere.

Fraternally OM Shanti

Fr, Geo

From: Dr Nagar
No 3490
Re: [omgod] new photographs

jan 28th 2009

Dear helpful friend:

Thank you very much.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

The address is 1405 St. Christopher Street, Columbia MO 65203 USA

OM Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 2nd 2009

No 3500

Fw: [omgod] new photographs

One more blessing from OM: One God Universal. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Feb th 2009

No 3503

The cave was flooded! How? This may be the answer!!

Emilie Cremin writes:

[Her French thesis tr. by machine!]

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate Govindabhagavatpada cave, immersed in the bliss of the *samâdhi**. Immediately, Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculously, the uncontrolled river changed its direction (Fig. 35). When the master learned what had occurred, he blessed his disciple in these terms: “*My son, your fame will be imperishable. Just as you could contain tumultuous water in a jug, you will be able to write a book of commentaries containing the essence of all the Védas.*” Then he initiated his disciple; the name Shankaracharya was given to him. He advised him, when he would judge it proper, to spread the wisdom which he had acquired in Kashî, which is now Bénarès. He had arrived there at the age of twelve (Coquet, 2002).

There are two types of people in this world: aastika and naastika. Those who believe in the existence of God are in the first category. Those who do not are in the second category.

There is a popular saying in Hindi which means: If you believe It is God. If not, it is stone.

Myths and Legends and traditions are built around some facts—actual occurring. Earlier we were wondering how an ashram situated on the top of a mountain could get flooded? The answer is here: The TUNNEL!

Om Namah Shivaya.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 8th 2009

No 3504

My dear devotee of OM: One God Universal:

I hope you are a member of OMGOD and receiving all the holy messages circulated through it.

You have rendered a great service to our common holy cause. This is not just a flattery but a verified fact.

The note made by you under the photograph of the tunnel in Govindeshvara gupha has solved a serious long-standing problem. It is really remarkable to realize its value and importance.

May OM fulfill all your good desires.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 8th 2009

No 3505

OMGOD has a great regard and respect for the work and works--Glory and Grandeur of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya Bhagavatpada.

Recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama is an objective of OMGOD.

OM: One God Universal commands all of us to work toward this noble goal right now and here.

Please do your best as much as it is possible for you toward the fulfillment of this holy mission by giving body, mind and money (tan man dhan).

We have already written enough about the significant contribution already made by Kanchi Kamakote Peeth Seva Trust toward the above goal. They need funds. You can provide it. This is one of the best ways to make a good use of the money granted to you by OM: One God Universal.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 8th 2009

No 3506

Re: [omgod] A cave located on the top of a mountain gets flooded!

The words aastika and naastika sound a lot like gnostic and agnostic. There are so many similarities across languages.

This illustration shows that, on the part of the river and of Shankaracharya, anything is possible.

Om Shanti,
Kamalee

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 8th 2009

No 3507

Re: [omgod] A cave located on the top of a mountain gets flooded!

A cave located on the top of a mountain gets flooded!

There is no doubt--it is absolutely and positively true-- that you are a blessed being. A great noble work lies ahead of you. OM Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

March 5th 2009

No 3546

Quite a good deal has been written, published and circulated with regard to the life, work and works of Shankaracharya.

Adi Sankara at Omkareshwar: Sankara Jayanti, 1988 published by Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust, Omkareshwar contains a good deal of information on our current undertaking relevant to Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 3557
Fw: Omshantisandesha.doc
- Original Message -----

march 23rd 2009

From: [nagarm](#)

To: [Murari Nagar](#)

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 5:35 PM

Subject: Fw: Omshantisandesha.doc

Here are some comments in our guestbook:

Om Shanti, my dear blessed friends!

So rare in the millions and billions of web presences, to find the simple lotus, in such a state of its blossoming to capture and sustain such a blessed web site. I congratulate you all. **Swami Gianni Rama XI**

This is a very illuminating website presenting extensive information on OM both from narrative and graphic standpoints. The authors are to be complimented for their creative insight in designing this unique website. My compliments. **Om Sehgal**

I just loaded *FLASH* and can now see the splendid graphics. This website is a journey through the heart of OM. **Kamalee (Kathy Strickland)**

Dr. Murari Lal Nagar, who has the most exhaustive site in the world on OM is interested in the photograph [of Mount Mandhata] and would like to exhibit it on his site. His site is the most unique site on Om and spiritual matters. **Dr. Vikram Pattarkine**

The home page of Om Shanti is thought provoking. Very cleverly designed. Om chanting could be a good background for this excellent piece. **Ramesh Khanna, M.D.**

I am impressed with the depiction of OM—it seems to capture the essence of OM very well. Dr. & Mrs. Nagar have worked very hard to unravel the different interpretations of OM (among various other ‘preservation’ and ‘dissemination’ projects they have undertaken). This is a fitting recognition of their efforts. Kudos to everyone involved in the project. **Satish Nair**

Om Shanti Mandiram has assembled, organized, edited, published, and distributed some wholesome holy literature on OM in various forms more than any other organization in the world as of today. Our total literary output by now exceeds 10,000 pages in 40 volumes, plus 10,000 enchanting pictures and some rare chanting music.

We have done some work. However, much more remains to be done. We are in search of a young scholar, male or female, who would like to continue our work. We may provide plentiful guidance and some substantial funds. All this can be negotiated. OM. Murarilal Nagar (573)449-5871

From: Dr Nagar

April 28th 2009

No 3605

Fw: Shri Shankaracharya and Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama

----- Original Message -----

From: [nagarm](#)

To: [Murari Nagar](#)

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 6:40 PM

Subject: Shri Shankaracharya and Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama

Shri Shankaracharya and Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama

Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peeth Seva Trust, Omkareshvara has rendered a great service to the learned world devoted to Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada. They celebrated Shankara Jayanti in the year 1988 on a highly grand scale and published a souvenir volume. It provides a good deal of valuable information.

We strongly recommend this significant work to any devotee of Shri Shankaracharya who wants to know more of the value and significance of Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama with regard to Shri Shankaracharya.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Apr 28th 2009

No 3606

Fw: Shri Shankaracharya and Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama

----- Original Message -----

From: [nagarm](#)

To: [Murari Nagar](#)

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 6:40 PM

Subject: Shri Shankaracharya and Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama

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OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

may 12th 2009

No 3625

Govindeshvara gupha--the alma mater of Jagadguru Shankaracharya is the greatest blessing to us from One: God Universal. If we had found nothing but this HIDDEN cave, I would have regarded myself as one who has fulfilled the mission of his life. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 3626
Fw: Alma Mater of Shankaracharya

May 12th 2009

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

We have named our OM Holy Book #5 as a source book. We did our best to collect and report most of the earlier writings--good bad and ordinary. But we did not find any detailed information on the Govindeshvara gupha.

Until the venerable Shri Paramacharya Chnadrashekharendra Sarasvati of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha had had a dream of this rare treasure of ancient Indian tradition and mythology--we mean this Gupha--it was unknown to the outside world.

It has been briefly described in the souvenir volume published by the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha celebrating the 12th centenary of Jagadguru Shankara Bhagavatpada.

It was photographed by OM Loves Me in the year 2003 for the first time and briefly described in the Home Page of OM Shanti Mandiram.

It was noticed by Emilie Cremin. One very significant--probably the most significant--photograph was reproduced by Emilie Cremin in her learned thesis on Omkareshvara with some good meaningful explanation.

Later on it was photographed by Father Geo George several times at our request.

Ashish Dabral --a budding genius and a great devotee of OM: One God Universal visited the gupha and photographed it further in the year 2008. He described it well in his learned report of his holy visit to this sacred spot.

It was once again photographed at our request by Father Geo George.

By now we have a good collection of its photographs. We are putting them together. Yet the collection is not exhaustive. The series and sets of photographs taken earlier by OM devotees and described above are not mutually exclusive leading us to conclude that some substantial work is yet to be done.

It is hoped that OM will enable some enterprising devotee to continue our work and complete it.

OMLN

----- Original Message -----

From: [Murari Nagar](#)
To: [Canestraight, Linda M.](#)
Cc: omgod@yahoogroups.com ; omkara-mandhata@googlegroups.com
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 1:44 PM
Subject: Alma Mater of Shankaracharya

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From: Dr Nagar
No 3832
Govindeshvara Mandira

Nov 10th 2009

George March 06 #56 is the Govindeshvara Temple. We read these words below the picture. However, they don't print!

#55 is the interior. Shivalinga may be as old as the time when it was installed--8th century A.D.

The murti of Shri Shankaracharya was installed there by the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha in the year 1988 when a great celebration was organized to honor the 12th centenary of Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavatpad.

OMLN

From: Dr nagar
No 3873
Guru-vandana

Nov 27th 2009

Madonna

Vande guruuNaam caraNaaravinde.... (Shankaracharya)

I bow down to the lotus feet of my Guru....

Ends: Shanti, shanti shantaye OM....

Submitted by OMLN

From: Dr Nagar
No 4171

Jun 30th 2009

Madonna sings a prayer composed by Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya.pdf

From; Dr Nagar
No 4387

Jan 2nd 2011

Young Shankara subduing the fierce fury of Narmada.

Young Shankara subduing the fierce fury of Narmada.

Young Shankara subduing the fierce fury of Narmada.

They say: Maano to Deva nahiin to patthara. If you believe, it is God; if not it is just a stone.

That is what is called Tradition and mythology.

There are many stories connected with the work and achievements of Shri Shankaracharya.

For the first time in the history of Vedic Civilization, Om Loves Me [Linda Canestraight]

representing Om Shanti Mandiram of Columbia, Missouri, photographed a monumental scene still standing in the Govindeshvara Tapasya Gupha at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama.

It depicts the miracle performed by young Shankara in subduing the fierce fury of raging Narmada. This miraculous scene is re-presented by a young scholar—a budding genius-- of great promise, Emily Cremin in her thesis on Omkareshvara.

If we believe in tradition this representation tells us quite a lot.

There are many such miraculous representations of tradition and mythology that are still surviving on Mount Mandhata as well Maheshvara.

They need exploration, deep study and circulation throughout the world.

We seek your kind cooperation.

OM Shanti. OMLN

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They need exploration, deep study and circulation throughout the world.

We seek your kind cooperation.

OM Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

jan 25th 2011

No 4407

Fw: Govindeshvara Gupha and Siddheshvara Temple

----- Original Message -----

From: [Murari Nagar](#)

To: [Canestraight, Linda M.](#) ; [AshishDABRAL@...](#)

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:00 PM

Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha and Siddheshvara Temple

OM: One God Universal wants us to concentrate on Shankaragurukulam Alma Mater of Shankaracharya. OM has enabled us to do quite a lot on OM, Omkara and Omkara Mandhata. The most valuable find in the field of religion is the Govindeshvara Gupha.

And the best find in the secular field is the Siddheshvara Temple.

If we had found nothing but the above two we would have regarded ourselves as fully fulfilled and kritakritya.

These are the two objects or subjects that may generate some funds to continue our work beyond.

Let us concentrate on them.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From; Dr Nagar

Feb 8th 2011

No 4425

Subject: Gurukulam -- Alma Mater of Shankaracharya

Om Shanti Mandiram needs some substantial financial assistance to continue its service to OM: One God Universal.

Om Shanti. Murari Nagar, an Om Sevaka.

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 10th 2011

No 4431

Fw: Our Work on Shankaracharya as related to Omkara Mandhata
----- Original Message -----

From: [nagarm](#)

To: [AshishDABRAL@...](#)

Cc: [OMGOD@yahoogroups.com](#) ; [omkara-mandhata](#)

Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 5:14 AM

Subject: Our Work on Shankaracharya as related to Omkara Mandhata

We are simply amazed at the variety, volume and value of the information--texts and photographs--we have collected on Shankaracharya relative to Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama. We hope someone some day would organize them all and present it to the world in a coherent way.

OMLN 2-10-11

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 10th 2011

No 4433

Fw: Our Work on Shankaracharya as related to Omkara Mandhata

It will be a good idea to prepare an exhaustive and systematic bibliography on Shankara--works by and on--and append it to our publication. OMLN

From; Dr Nagar

Feb 11th 2011

No 4434

Re: [omgod] Fw: Our Work on Shankaracharya as related to Omkara Mandhata

I have many ideas. I cannot do much now. My followers might continue what I have been doing. Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Feb 13th 2011

No 4437

Fw:

----- Original Message -----

From: [Nagar, Murari I. \(Emeritus\)](#)

To: [Nagar, Murari I. \(Emeritus\)](#) ; [Canestraight, Linda M.](#)

Cc: [AshishDABRAL@...](#)

Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 6:31 AM

Subject: Re:

1. Om Holy Book No. 6. Various contributions on OM by many scholars running to about 300 pages.

2. Shankara gurukulam: Alma Mater of Shankaracharya. Texts and photographs.

OMLN

----- Original Message -----

From: [nagarm](#)

To: [Canestraight, Linda M.](#)

Cc: [AshishDABRAL@...](#)

Sent: Friday, February 11, 2011 6:15 AM

Many a time I wonder how did I prepare and publish so many books!

I did not do it. Om didi it.

Two publications are still pending. I hope we get some competent assistant.

It is very sad; very bad. Ashish has not been able to come here as yet.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

May 7th 2011

No 4534

Information on Shankaracharya

A great deal of valuable information on Shankaracharya is presented in the Souvenir volume prepared and published by Kanchi Kamakoti Peeth celebrating the 1200th Shankara Jayanti, especially as it relates to Omkara Mandhata, Govindeshvara Gupha and Govindeshvara Mandira, etc. It is a worthy mine of information.

We hope we are able to organize, edit and publish all the rare information and photographs that we have collected so far relative to this cultural heritage of Bharatavarsha.

We need financial assistance from the devotees of OM: One God Universal.

OMLN 5-6-11

From: Dr Nagar
No 1047

Feb 24th 2005

Govindeshvara Temple Exterior



Govindeshvara Temple Interior



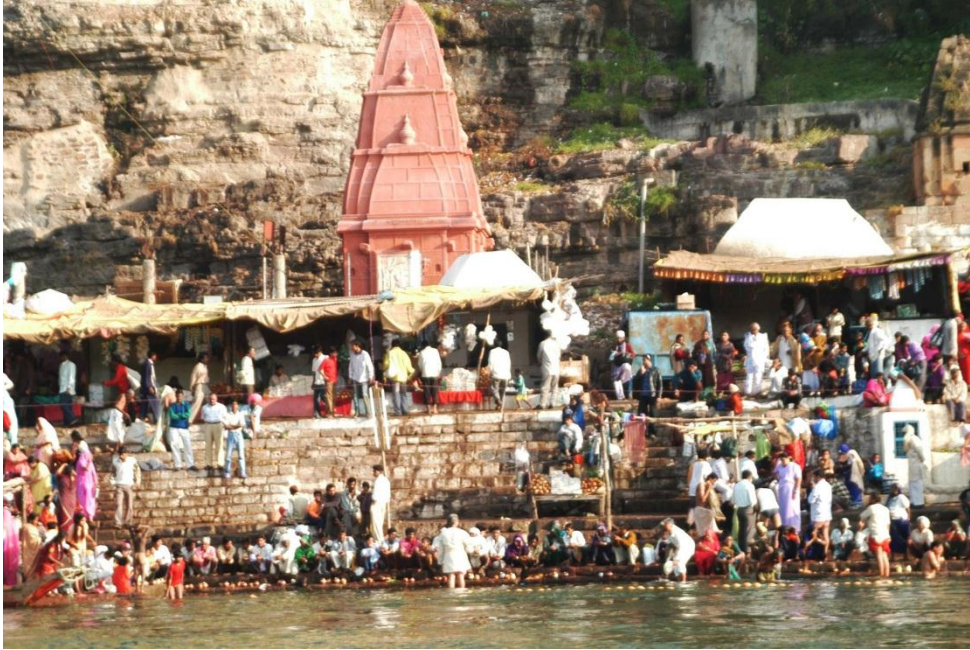
A murti of Jagadguru Adya Shankara



:

Govinda – Linda’s work

December 28, 2011



Govindeshvara Mandira on the Bank of the Narmada -- Koṭitīrtha

This is the sacred site where young Shishya Shankara became a Sannyāsin.

Shri Ganesha Shines in his own shrine.



Mūrti of Shri Ganesha atop the Cave Entrance

Govindeshvara Tapasyā guphā Pravesha Dvāra



From Dr Nagar
Subject: Govindeshvara gupha

February 24th 2005



View of two paths, downstairs to Gupha, upstairs to main temple.

From Dr Nagar
Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha.

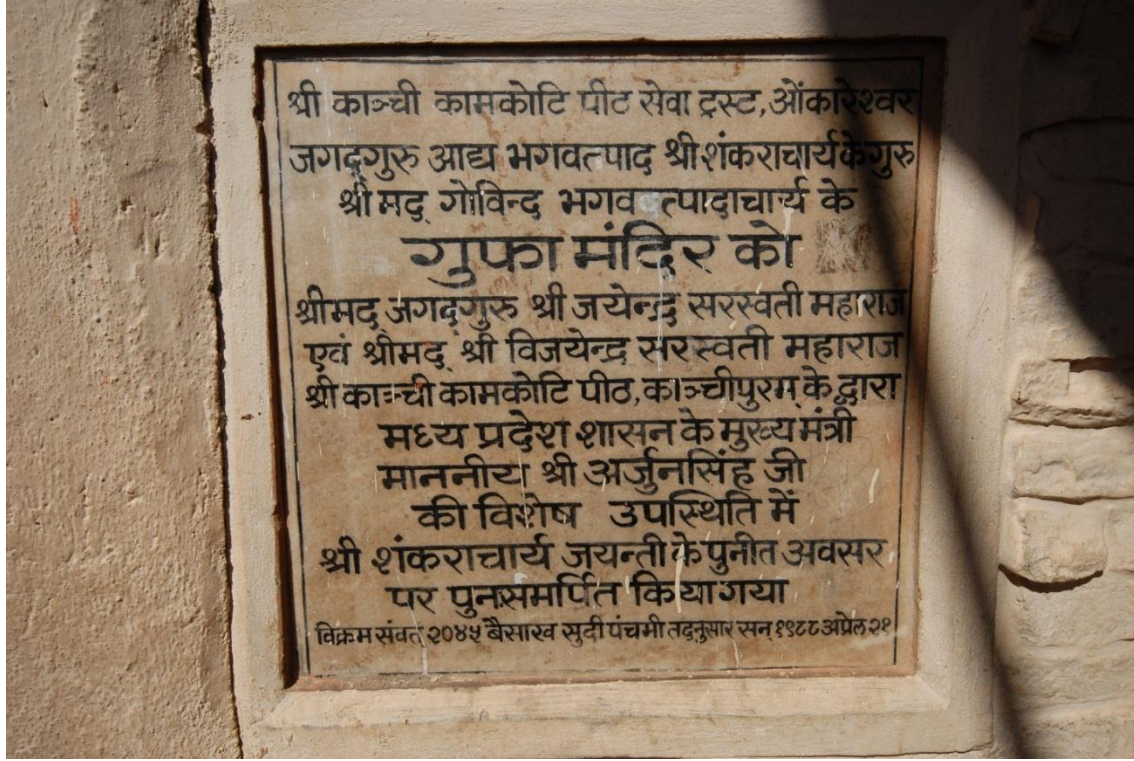
February 24th 2005



Plaque Identifying the Gupha



Name Plate of the Gupha



Rededication of the Cave by Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust
to the People of India.

From Dr Nagar

February 24th, 2005

Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha--Center bottom—

A murti of Shri Govindeshvara, Gurudeva of Shankaracharya



This is Govindeshvara

From: Dr Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]

Sent: Monday, June 13, 2005 4:24 PM

To: 'Canestraight, Linda M.'

Subject: An image on the wall in Govindeshvara Gupha (Cave)

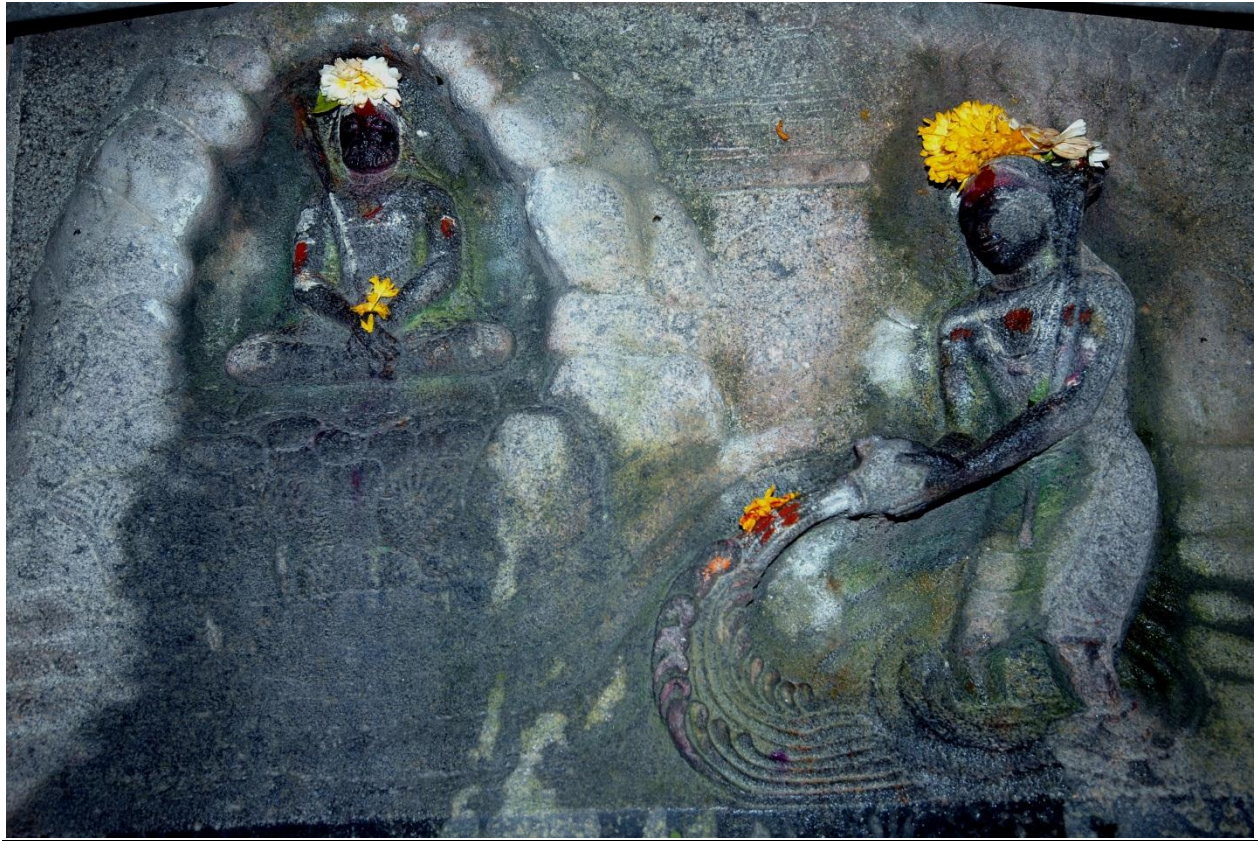
Our new home page contains your account of the Pilgrimage - 21st century walking path journey. There are 98 pictures. No. 64 has on the wall some god with serpent hood, probably. Next to that there is a lady half female and half serpent.

Below that wall image, there is a newly installed image of Govinda Bhagavadpada, guru of Shankaracharya, wearing big marigold garland. We don't know what the original ancient image is.

I have some idea. An ancient Sanskrit text studied by me and incorporated in our Holy Book No. 5 gives an account that Mandhata married five serpent queens and had five sons from them. One of them founded Omkara Mandhata as well as ancient Maheshvara. His name was Muchukunda, by whose name a gate still exists there on the mountain. They call it Muchukunda Dvara (=Gate). You have a picture of that too.

Presently it is a wild guess, but the statue is highly significant to have occupied such an exalted position. I think it is made secure by a steel pole.

More when we meet.





Shri Govinda Bhagvadpada-Guru of Shri Shankaracharya

From Dr Nagar

June 18th 2005

Subject: Origin of OMGOD: Divine Spiritual Group

Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]

Sent: Friday, October 14, 2005 5:40 PM

To: 'Canestraight, Linda M.'

Subject: RE: Primary objective of OMGOD

OMGOD expands to Omkara Mandhata Group of Devotees. Its primary objective is the Recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage still enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama.

We can draw the attention of OMGOD members—those who are ready and anxious to work toward our primary goal-- to some rare objects not yet identified. For example, a king or a representation of some god, is shown sitting in squatted form in the cave named Govindeshvara Gupha. A lady serpent is standing next to the image. What is the relationship? We see another lady with a whisker. That is the sign of royalty or divinity.

An image of Shankara Bhagavadpada, the guru of Shankaracharya, is installed in 1988 right under the image described above. Have they identified it?

Such ideas should be circulated. I want to make this medium a scholarly publication. For example, the three issues of Om Shanti journal have published very rich thought contents. They are classics.

We are planning to publish such rare photos in OMGOD for information and action.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

May 2nd 2006

Subject: Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama

Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama is the gurukulam of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya Bhagavatpada. It is rich in archaeology, architecture, art,

epigraphy, history, legends, mythology, numismatics, sculpture, and tradition—everything!

Om Shanti Mandiram of Columbia Missouri has photographed at a very high cost the murti (image) of Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada, venerable guru of Shri Shankaracharya in Govindeshavara tapasya guha on holy mountain Omkara Mandhata and the murti of Shri Shankaracharya himself in Govindeshvara Temple on the bank of the Narmada below the Omkareshvara Jyotirlinga Temple. On this very sacred spot, it is believed, Shri Shankaracharya received his sanyasa diksha. This is a first in the history of Vedic civilization.

These photos are presented, along with many others, in our photographic collection of OMGOD—a divine spiritual fellowship—a divya satsanga.

Our total collection of pictures relative to OM, Omkara and Omkara Mandhata and related graphics exceeds by now the number 15000! The total cost in this extensive search and research on Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama has come to around \$100,000.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

June 25th 2006

Subject: Images in Govindeshvara gupha

Dear OM Loves Me:

There are two female figurines caved on the pillars inside the Govindeshvara Tapasya Guha. Please post them along with the image of Govinda Bhagavatpada, guru of Shankaracharya. Tradition tells and we are asked to believe that the former practiced severe penance here. The figurines don't fit the environment. These carvings must have been done at a later time, I guess. They cannot be anterior. They say that the ceiling has beautiful carvings. These have not yet been photographed.

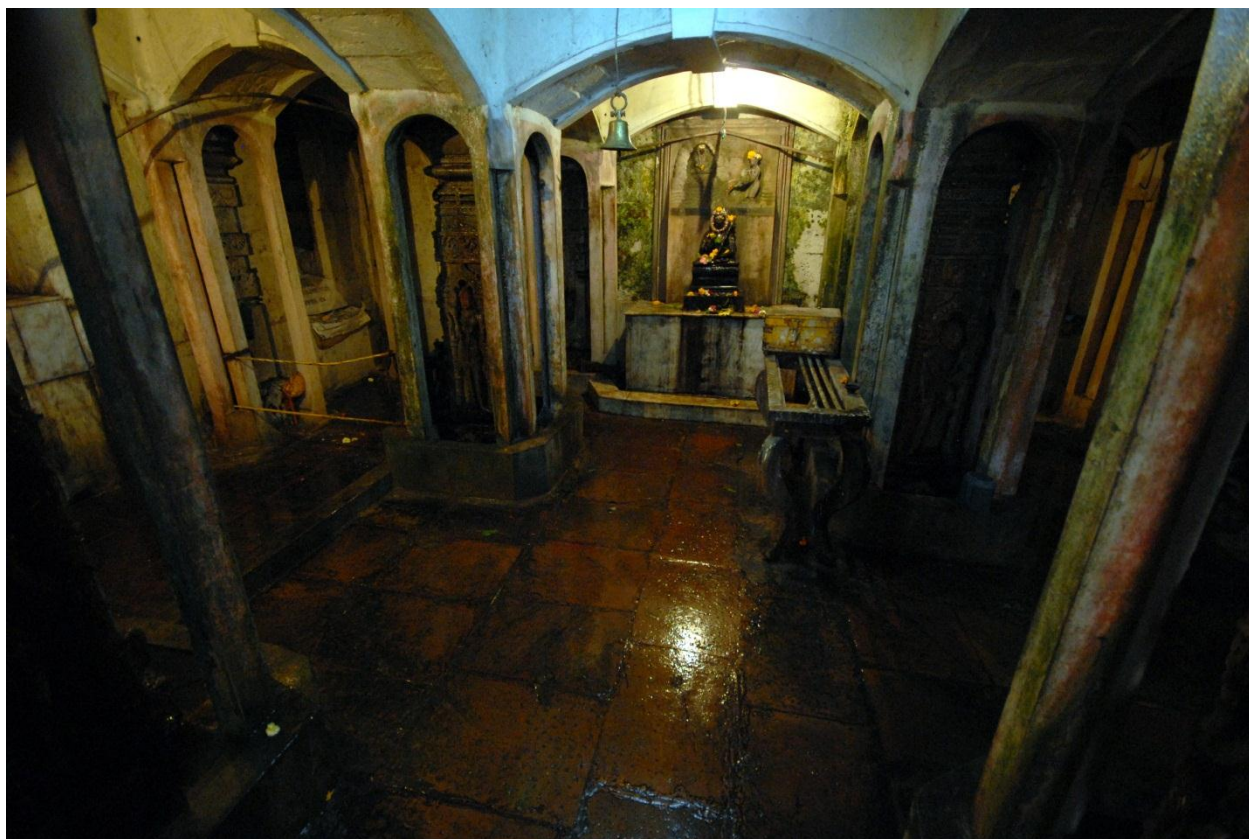
Leaving all these questions aside, we can at least draw the attention of our readers to the large carving that stands above the newly installed image of Govinda Bhagavatpada. We see a dignitary, a king or some god. We cannot say who that figure is. But there is a serpent queen there. We are told (and I have quoted the source in our OM Book 5) that the father king of Muchukunda had married five serpent queens who bore for him five sons, one of them being Muchukunda.

This subject is totally untouched by any other scholar so far. We have done enough and enough is enough. We can only leave these questions for the posterity.

I am posting this message to OMGOD. OMLN



A View of the Entrance to the Cave from Inside



Inside View of the Gupha



Female Figurine inside the Gupha-Column1



Female Figurine inside the Gupha-Column 2

From Dr Nagar

June 30th 2006

Subject: Images in Govindeshvara gupha



Carved Pillars inside the Gupha 1



Carved Pillars inside the cave 2

From Om Loves Me

New photos added: Govindeshvara Tapasya Gupha

June 29th 2006

I have added a new photo album Govindeshvara Tapasya Gupha with images of Govinda Bhagavatpada, the guru of Shankaracharya.

Dr. Nagar is identifying the large carving that stands above the newly installed image of Govinda Bhagavatpāda. He believes it is the Father of King Muchukunda.-

From Dr Nagar

July 1st 2006

Subject: Images in Govindeshvara gupha

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

I share your thoughts.

Let all be happy here, there and everywhere.

Let all be healthy, here there and everywhere.

Let all see decent things here, there and everywhere.

Let nobody suffer any pain of any kind anywhere.

We can only pray for the welfare of all.

TIME will take its toll anyway. That is natural and is bound to happen over a long period of time. All the destruction wrought all over Mount Mandhata visible today was not caused by the man-made blasts during dam construction. I have a mixed feeling. Dams will certainly bring some good to the land and the people there. It is like birth pangs.

Photographing of the remaining rare objects today will save at least the images for some more time to come. It is indeed a noble deed.

Please take special care and give attention to the sculpture still standing above the image of Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada, venerable guru of Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya, in the Penance Cave—Tapasya Guha. I believe an attempt is made--some protective device is applied (steel bars)--to keep it intact and over and above. This sculpture is rare. We don't know as yet what it depicts.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

July 1st 2006

Subject: Govindeshvara tapasya guha

Dear Devotees of OMGOD:

Please view picture no. 2 of 9 posted by Om Loves Me on June 29. This figure is very important. We need its identification. Whose image is this? There is a male figure—a god or dignitary. Next to it is a serpent queen. OMLN

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]

Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2006 12:03 PM

To: Dr Nagar Media Com; Fr George

Subject: Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th Century

Dr. Nagar,

I have attached both images, one of Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th century statue and the other Bhairava statue, at the Bhima Arjuna Gate. Both statues on the wall are in need of preservation and more photos are indeed needed.

We still need to identify the statues in the small shrines along the stairway to the main temple. Close pictures of the ruins at Veerkhala Rock, I have no pictures of the ceiling inside the Govindeshvara Gupha, I wasn't allowed into the depths of the cave to view any of this. Outside view of the Kedareshvara shrine, only have one picture inside. I need to verify the bright orange statue lying on the floor; I think it is Vikata Hanuman at the small shrine at the Gauri Somnath. We need an image of the inside of the Ashapuri Mandira shrine on top of the mount Mandhata. I have two statues images from that site, Goddess Narmada and Jaya Shri Dadaji, I think the later was inside the main temple but I need verification. We have no images of inside the Shankaracharya red stone temple on the waterfront. The images I took of the Mamleshvar temple inscriptions of the Mahimnas Stotra turned out terrible (I'm not a professional photographer) I only managed to get one photo but it is poor and the script is hardly visible. I did not go see Virat Svarupa statue and have no close up pictures of that campus. There is a sangam at the western confluence which we do not have a pictures of either. The more we study the more we find we do not have images of these items. Again one could spend a life time researching and recording everything at this sacred island of Omkara Mandhata.

I hope Father Geo in his many trips to the island will be able to photograph more and verify identity of some statues, etc. Someday I would love to return and spend all my time at Omkara Mandhata but at present I have family commitments that keep me close to home for now. In time I hope to return again.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight



Unidentified Idol (probably Hanuman)



Right Statue is an Idol of Ravana lifting Kailasa-Home of Lord Shiva

Left Statue not identified by us as of yet

From: Dr Nagar Media Com [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2006 3:18 PM
To: Canestraight, Linda M.
Subject: RE: Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th Century

A fruit takes time to get ripened. While working here you are gathering good background knowledge which will help you if and when you go back to the holy hilly island.

It is beyond the power of Father George to secure identification of all the pictures taken so far and yet to be taken.

It was a divine miracle that you met Dr. Yadav and he accompanied you to the holy land. We have to secure help from a person who knows.

I am told that five archaeologists are working on the mount. Contact should be established with them. It is a long and very arduous task.

You still have good relations with Komal. Try to get his self. He can get all this work done through a noble person like Father George. I am willing to pay.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From Dr Nagar
Subject: Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th Century

July 4th 2006

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2006 10:59 AM
To: Dr Nagar Media Com
Subject: RE: Bhimeshvara Shiva 12th Century

Do you know who these archaeologists working on the mount are or how to make email contact? It was be to our best interest to work directly with someone who know only is there physically but also has some knowledge and can identify or verify identity of various items on our list.

I do not want to waste time asking Komal to go to site and try to find out whatever lies people speak, it would be best to go directly to the experts.

It is so sad that Dr. Yadav does not have email as he was a good source I would have like to have started with. But perhaps Prof. Ali knows who we can email and

communicate our needs for verification. Then we could send Srinivas to photograph more either with a professional like Fr Geo or Mr. Sharma from Indore. Not only would Srinivas be allowed to enter the temples, etc. he would be not have any communication problems or religious issues. We could get an introduction with Svami Tej Anand and permission for him to enter the cave back rooms to record the ceiling carvings, etc.

We know so much more now, with knowledge comes more research and the rewards will be even more knowledge. I think sending Srinivas is a very good idea, if he has the desire to go and seek knowledge.

Thanks,

Linda Canestraight



Gupha Ceilings



Pillar Carvings inside the Gupha 1



Pillar Carvings inside the Gupha 2



Pillar Carvings inside the Gupha 3



Pillar Carvings inside the Gupha 4

From Dr Nagar

July 12th 2006

Subject: Cakravarti Samrat Mahan Mandhata and his worthy son Muchukunda.

On pages 229-232 of our Om Holy Book #5 we have cited certain verses from Harivamsha and Shrimad Bhagavata showing deep relation of the above two with Omkara Mandhata. That refutes the view of those biased critics who deny their association with the holy hilly island.

We have presented in our Yahoo Omgod album a photo from the Govindeshvara Gupha showing a dignitary (king or saint?) and a serpent queen. We have no knowledge of their identity.

It is very disheartening to realize that this ancient holy land still remains unstudied and unexplored.

We have made an humble beginning. We can only hope that a sincere soul shall get inspired by what we have done so far and carry forward the torch of learning.

Ours has been a “Search for Truth.”

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

August 21st 2006

Subject: Ravana uplifting Kailasa

Dear Devotees of OMGOD:

OmLovesMe had herself taken a photo of a rare sculpture deposited and exhibited at Indore Museum while she had the good fortune to be there. It was posted by her to OMGOD on June 7, 2006. It is shown in the album named Ravana. This specific photo is numbered 2 of 3. The next or the following frame numbered 3 is an extract from Shiva Mahimnas Stotra. There is the original Sanskrit text followed by its transliteration and then translation.

It is only through the Grace of OM: One God Universal that we are able to sing the Glory of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva. OMLN

By the way, the first picture in this album is a photograph of the same kind of sculpture seen inside the Govindeshvara Tapasya Guha. The episode is the same. An ignorant jiva had identified this (on the back of the print) as Lakshmi Narayana. We are told that an ass does not have horns. Murari.



Ravana Lifting Kailasa-Home of Lord Shiva

From: Canestraight, Linda M. [mailto:CanestraightL@...]

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2007 5:48 PM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Subject: Here is the translation for fig 35 images from Gupha

Au cours d'une mousson exceptionnellement forte, l'eau commença à inonder l'ashram et à pénétrer dans la grotte de Govindapada, immergé dans la béatitude du *samâdhi**. Immédiatement Shankaracharya plaça une cruche de grès à l'entrée et, miraculeusement, le fleuve incontrôlé changea de direction (Fig. 35). Lorsque le maître apprit ce qu'il s'était passé, il bénit son disciple en ces termes : « *Mon fils, ta renommée sera impérissable. De la même façon que tu as pu contenir l'eau tumultueuse dans une cruche, tu seras capable d'écrire un livre de commentaires contenant l'essence de tous les védas* ». Puis il initia son disciple, lui donna le nom de Shankaracharya, et lui conseilla, lorsqu'il le jugerait bon, de répandre la sagesse qu'il avait acquise à Kashî, la moderne Bénarès. Il y parvint à l'âge de douze ans (Coquet, 2002).

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate in the cave of Govindapada, immersed in the bliss of the samâdhi *. Immediately Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculously, the uncontrolled river changed direction (fig. 35). When the Master learned what it had occurred, it blesses its disciple in these terms: "My son, your fame will be imperishable. In the same way that you could contain tumultuous water in a jug, you will be able to write a book of comments containing the gasoline of all the Vedas ". Then it initiated its disciple, the name of Shankaracharya gave him, and advised to him, when it would judge it good, to spread the wisdom which it had acquired in Kashî, modern Bénarès. It arrived there at the twelve years age (Vain, 2002). [Source?]

Fig. 35 : Bas relief taillé dans le mur de la "Govindeshwar Gufa", illustrant la scène mythique où Shankaracharya sauva son gourou de la montée subite des eaux de la Narmada. Source : Université de Missouri-Columbia, février 2005.

Translation:

Fig. 35: Low relief cut in the wall of "Govindeshvara Gupha", illustrating the mythical scene where Shankaracharya saved its guru of assembled sudden of water of Narmada. Source: University of Missouri-Columbia, February 2005.

Thanks,
Linda Canestraight

From Dr Nagar

February 17th 2007

Subject: Here is the translation for fig 35 image from Gupha

Dear friend:

You don't have full facilities right now to enter into due correspondence with me. You may be busy in some other field work in Assam relative to your field and interest. However, since I am studying your work right now to the extent it is possible for me, I am faced with certain questions and I come across certain observations which I would like to share with you. I will continue to send them to you. You may work on them when you have time and opportunity.

You have reproduced one of our illustrations found in Govindeshvara Gupha (fig 35). There is no intrinsic or internal connection between the mythological story of Shankaracharya and his Guru Govinda Bhagavatpada on one hand the theme depicted on the related carving on the other. There is a Nag Kenya there—a serpent queen—in attendance to a king or saint or god!

This slab does not seem to have been cut IN the wall of the cave but attached to it! This picture was taken by one of our friend-photographers. It needs a systematic and deep study by a scholar who has specialized in this field of knowledge.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From Dr Nagar

September 2007

Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate Govindabhagavadpada cave, immersed in the bliss of the *samâdhi**. Immediately, Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculously, the uncontrolled river changed its direction (Fig. 35). When the master learned what had occurred, he blessed his disciple in these terms: “*My son, your fame will be imperishable. Just as you could contain tumultuous water in a jug, you will be able to write a book of commentaries containing the essence of all the Védas.*” Then he initiated his disciple; the name Shankaracharya was given to him. He advised him, when he would judge it proper, to spread the wisdom which he had acquired in Kashî, which is now Bénarès. He had arrived there at the age of twelve (Coquet, 2002).

Fig. 35: Low relief cut in the wall of “Govindeshwar Gufa,” illustrating the mythical scene where Shankaracharya saved his guru from sudden mounting waters of the Narmada. Source: University of Missouri-Columbia, February 2005.

From Dr Nagar

September 30th 2007

Govindeshavara Gupha

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

I have posted a message on Govindeshvara Gupha with an illustration to Omkara Mandhata Google Group. Much can be said about this. I hope I will be able to write and submit.

Emilie’s statement and ascription leave much to be desired. It is only a myth and is to be taken as it is.

I have discussed this subject of myth in our OM Holy Book 5 here, there and everywhere. OMLN

From Dr Nagar

February 15th 2008

(No Subject)

I think there is an expression reading something like this:

You have come along a long way baby!

I am going to send you a copy of my appeal for help addressed to the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust at Omkara Mandhata as early as 2000! I did not receive even an acknowledgment from them. Yet they have rendered a great service to our common cause there. They had many plans. I don't know how far they have advanced. The Govindeshvara Gupha is now their property. They say they have restored it and have renovated it. You know that the image of the Gurudeva of Shri Shankaracharya, Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada, is installed there by this Trust and also the image of Shri Shankaracharya in Govindeshvara Temple on the holy bank of the Narmada.

We have photographs of all of them.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

Date February 23rd 2008

One of our objectives has been

To correlate

Ancient Indian sacred scriptures

With mediaeval architectural sculptures

Through modern electronic moving pictures.

Dear Ashish:

Through the Great Grace of OM: One God Universal you have achieved much more than I expected. You have a great and a very bright future.

I am glad that you met two pillars of the great edifice. Much can be achieved through their support and cooperation.

Your visit to the Gupha and its description is highly valuable and enlightening.

You are truly my vidyottarādhikārin.

With plenty of blessings from OM, OMLN

-----Original Message-----

From: [Ashish Dabral@...](mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...) [mailto:[Ashish Dabral@...](mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...)]

Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2008 12:07 PM

To: nagarm@...

Subject: Visit of Omkareshvara

Dear Guruji,

Here is a brief document about the visit. There is a lot more to describe and discover as the visit was very short (around 7 hours). I took images and a few of them are in the file attached and other images (more clear) I will send next day.

There is much more to discuss but right now I am going to home... as it's already 10:30 PM.

(See attached file: OM.pdf)

With All the best Regards,

Ashish

-----Original Message-----

From: [Ashish Dabral@...](mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...) [mailto:[Ashish Dabral@...](mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...)]

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 8:02 AM

To: Murari Nagar

Subject: RE: Visit of Omkareshvara

Dear Guruji,

That document is just a draft one (there are many spelling mistakes etc...)
There is a lot more to tell about Omkareshvara... and a huge opportunity
is there to do something better for human kind.

With all the best Regards, Ashish

Ashish,

I had the pleasure of looking at your journal and wonderful new photos of Omkara Mandhata. I am sure Dr. Nagar has spoken praise for your capturing certain photos and solving some questions about identities. Shankaracharya offering water of Mother Narmada to his holy guru Shri Govindacharya. This image was hard to indentify from previous pictures, but you captured a very close image that showed the details needed to understand the image we were viewing. Then the images of Pataleshvar Mahadeva which I was never escorted to by the guide provided by Svami Tej Anand.

I believe you now understand our service to this holy island, this holy temple. I was moved by its beauty and by its neglect and understood the grandeur of the undertaking yet to be done for preservation work. The archaeologists have a lifetime of work at this one holy site and the need for a local museum is a must as well.

I am so glad you experienced the holy journey and let Om embrace you even more than before.

May Om bless you and your family,

Linda

From: Ashish_Dabral@... [mailto:Ashish_Dabral@...]

Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2008 9:52 AM

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Cc: Canestraight, Linda M.

Subject: Greetings for the day...

May OM guide us towards the path of truth... May OM give us the strength to give up our ego...May OM make our heart pure... May we attain a mental state of tranquility...And May our Guru bless us...so that we can recognize our true self...

OM.

May we use this day as a step towards our GOAL...

With All the Best Regards,

Ashish

From Dr Nagar

March 12th 2008

Subject: Re: Greetings for the day...

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal!

In the area of photographing, if Shri Ashish Dabral had done nothing but capturing only the specific image we had been trying to identify for a long time, I would have regarded his holy journey fully successful and truly fruitful.

Now the archaeological evidence has proved that this specific Gupha is truly the Govindeshvara Gupha!

Shankaracharya is not offering holy water of Narmada to his guru! He is containing—controlling—subduing--the surging fierce furious flooding water of Narmada and saving everything all around! The image is validating the traditional tale.

The value of this photograph defies description. It is the fruit of the good deeds done by the photographer.

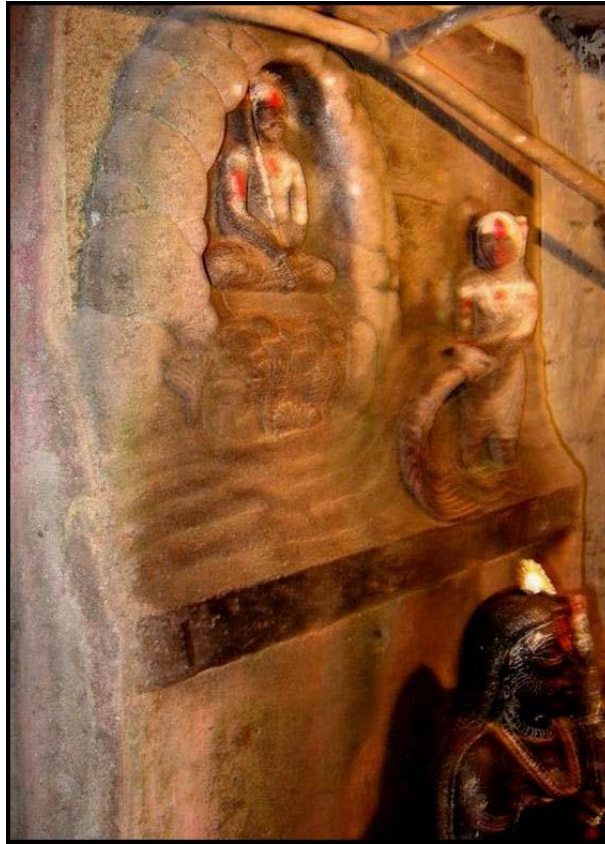
I feel fully fulfilled.

Om wants us all to do some good work for the benefit of human kind for a long time to come.

PHOTOS FROM ASHISH:

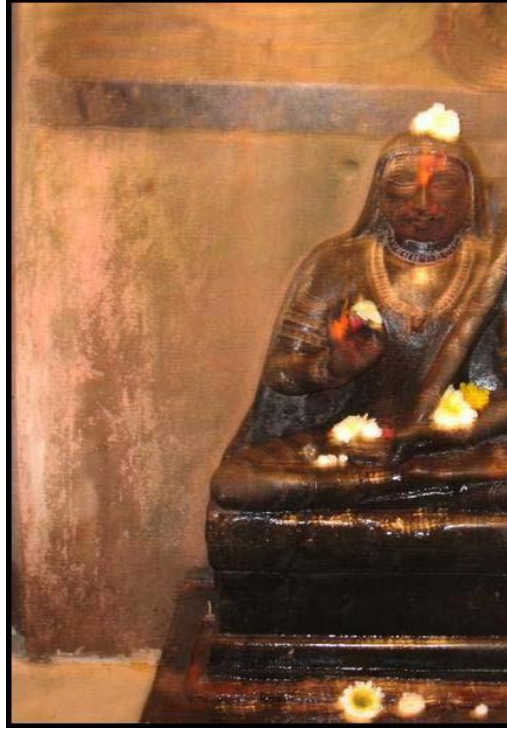


The main and only entry to Govindeshvara cave which was re-discovered by Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha and opened for the common people on 21st April 1988. This is not the original state of this cave, but it is modified by Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust. And there is many more to be done inside this holy cave as it's not discovered/recovered completely in its original state.



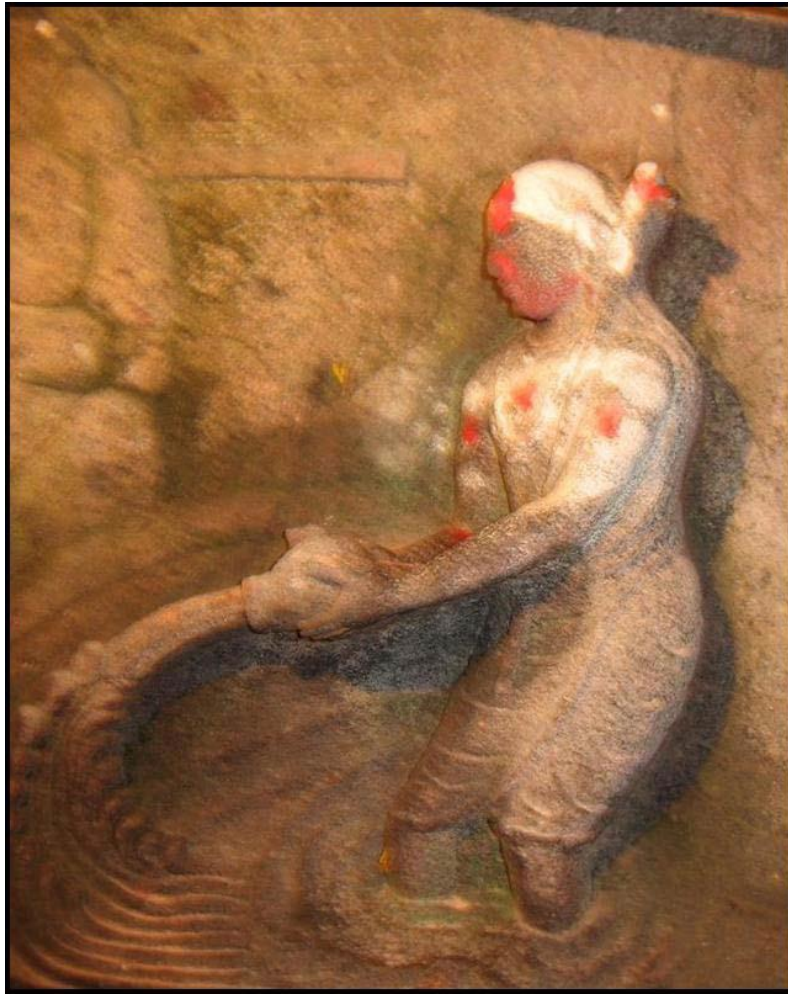
A stone sculpture at the back of Shri Govindeshvara is mounted by Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha which is showing Shri Adi Shankaracharya and his holy guru in the cave.

5/3/2008



Statue of Shri Adi Shankaracharya below wall display is adorned with flowers from devotee.

Image 10



Young Shankaracharya subduing the River Narmada.

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate Govindabhagavadpada cave, immersed in the bliss of the samâdhi*. Immediately, Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculously, the uncontrolled river changed its direction. When the master learned what had occurred, he blessed his disciple in these terms: “My son, your fame will be imperishable. Just as you could contain tumultuous water in a jug, you will be able to write a book of commentaries containing the essence of all the Védas.” Then he initiated his disciple; the name Shankaracharya was given to him. He advised him, when he would judge it proper, to spread the wisdom which he had acquired in Kashi, which is now Banaras. He had arrived there at the age of twelve.

Image 11



The above image illustrates a section inside the Govindeshvara cave. Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust rediscovered this holy cave which was an appreciable effort but unfortunately the cave was not discovered completely. Whatever is visible today is not the complete form of Govindeshvara cave but it is just a part of it. When I visited there personally then I realized that whatever is done inside the Govindeshvara cave is not enough and there is much more to be done in or around this particular cave as it is important from spiritual and cultural point of view.

Image 12



These anonymous aged leaves are kept inside the Govindeshvara cave and left without care. It is believed that these leaves belong to Govinda Bhagavatpadacharya (Guru of Shri Adi Shankaracharya). An intense research is required to reveal the historic authenticity of these leaves.

END OF ASHISH WORK

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

March 26th 2008

Subject: Omkara Mandhata: A great center of learning

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

For the first time in the history of our civilization it has been established by means of direct evidence that the Govindeshvara Gupha is a fact and not a fiction. And the credit goes to our rising star of Om devotees named Ashish Dabral. He is truly a blessing to us from OM.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

March 27th 2008

Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha at Omkara Holy Hilly Island

My dear devotee of OM: One God Universal:

One photograph taken by Ashish Dabral through your kind generosity has highly proved the value and worth of Govindeshvara Gupha.

You have rendered a great service to the holy land by photographing it not only from the land but from the air as well. The most important thing about the fruits of your generous service is that your valuable work is being shown to Om devotees all over the world.

We, all of us, shall remain grateful to you forever if you spare some of your valuable time and yourself photograph the interior of the Gupha most extensively and intensively. It has many unique gems.

May OM bless you with full success in all your generous undertakings,

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

April 13th 2008

Subject: The glory and grandeur of Shankaracharya at Omkareshvara and Maheshvara

Dear Ashish:

This work can be done only through the cooperation of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust at Omkareshvara.

We have to raise substantial funds and for that we have to try various means and methods.

I have received many fresh ideas from OM: One God Universal. I will transmit them to you.

We have to create powerful public opinion—a kind of deep awareness-- in favor of the great goal. There are various ways, means and methods.

I see that every temple there has a donation box. It should be possible to have a locked donation box right at the entrance of the Gupha. There should be a kind of booklet telling the value and importance of the Gupha and an appeal for donation.

This appeal may be circulated throughout the world.

The idea is to find all kinds of means and methods to raise funds.

You may know that we have secured hundreds of pictures of Maheshvara. One rare picture is that of the spot where Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya had the famous debate with Mandana Mishra and where he established the superiority of his doctrine of Advaita Vedanta over Mimamsa Shastra—the principal system of Mandan Mishra.

We also have some information of the Gupha where the body of Shankaracharya was kept under guard while he had managed para-kaaya-pravesha—entering into the body of a king.

We should prepare good reproductions of the photos of such significant events and places and sell them through the booksellers throughout the world. South Mandhata itself has many stalls where such things are sold.

Shri Ramesh Mittal of D. K. Agencies may show us the way.

With bundles of blessings from OM: One God Universal.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

May 28th 2008

[omgod] An Objective of Om Shanti Mandiram

For example, Shri Govindeshvara Tapasyaa Gupha at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama--Holy Hilly Island-- has a large murti—we don't know its dimensions—that depicts Rāvaṇa-darpa-dalana. Shiva and Parvati are pleasantly seated on Kailasa. Ravana tries to uplift the mountain to carry it to his capital—

suvarNamayii Lanka. Shiva just pushes him down by his right toe! He is dumped down to the lowest level of Pātāla. Cf. Amushya tvatsevā---Shivamahimnas stotra.

Tremendous challenging work is waiting for the succeeding generations.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

May 29th 2008

Subject: Fw:[omgod] An Objective of Om Shanti Mandiram

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

We have already stated that one of our objectives here at Om Shanti Mandiram is to be an instrument in preserving and serving India's cultural heritage enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama—a Holy Hilly Island—A Paradise for Pilgrims.

We have just made a Shri Ganesha. The succeeding generations will have enough to carry forward in the future. We are happy.

We have already presented below a murti depicting Rāvaṇa-darpa-dalana by Shiva Shankara Mahadeva.

Here is another image much bigger, more detailed and exquisitely a rare piece of art. This is preserved at the State Museum of Indore and was photographed by OM Loves Me (Linda Canestraight) during her visit there in the year 2003.

The description appearing below is done by a non-specialist—only a servant of OM.

It is much more elaborate. It may be made of marble. It is much larger. Shiva and Parvati are seated in the center.

Top left we see Brahma—Prajapati. Top right displays Shri Vishnu.

Ravana is seated at the bottom center trying to uplift Kailasa.

To the left we see Skanda-- Svami Kartikeya. There is his vehicle swan too.

To the right is Shri Ganesha. There must be somewhere there his vehicle mouse.

A little above we see on the left the Nandin and to the right the lion.

On the very top must be some gods and the gandharvas as well in prayer and worship.

We invite a specialist to provide further description.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 5:13 AM
To: 'Canestraight, Linda M.'
Cc: 'Hesler, Erin Alice (MU-Student)'
Subject: FW: [omgod] An Objective of Om Shanti Mandiram

Dear Linda:

You had taken a picture of this kind of statue seen at the Indore Museum. Please feature it along with the one described below on to OMGOD. Show the way to Erin. She will help me to feature such photos quite frequently. That is an important part of our program. OMLN

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 4:01 AM
To: 'omgod@yahooogroups.com'
Subject: FW: [omgod] An Objective of Om Shanti Mandiram

For example, Shri Govindeshvara Tapasyaa Gupha at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama--Holy Hilly Island-- has a large murti—we don't know its dimensions—that depicts Rāvaṇa-darpa-dalana. Shiva and Parvati are pleasantly seated on Kailasa. Ravana tries to uplift the mountain to carry it to his capital—suvarNamayii Lanka. Shiva just pushes him down by his right toe! He is dumped down to the lowest level of Pātāla. Cf. Amushya tvatsevā---Shivamahimnas stotra.

Tremendous challenging work is waiting for the succeeding generations.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

July 27th 2009

Subject: Ravana subdued by Shiva Shankara Mahadeva

From: Murari Nagar [mailto:nagarm@...] 0
Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2008 6:01 AM

To: 'Canestraight, Linda M.'

Subject: Ravana subdued by Shiva Shankara Mahadeva

Dear Linda: I am not sure the following write-up was sent to you earlier or not. Please see and try to improve. It may be shown along with the one at gupha in OMGOD Yahoo group. Om Shanti. OMLN

Rāvaṇa-darpa-dalana

Our objective here at Om Shanti Mandiram has been

To correlate ancient Indian sacred scriptures

With India's medieval cultural heritage sculptures

Through modern moving and singing electronic pictures.

We have already presented through our multi-media publications a large murti depicting Ravana-darpa-dalana by Shiva Shankara Mahadeva preserved and served at the Govindeshvara Gupha on Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama—a holy hilly island—garlanded by two pious rivers—Narmada and Kaveri—a Paradise for Pilgrims.

Here is another depiction of the same theme sung by Yaksharaja Pushpadanta in his immortal prayer hymn famed as Shivamahimnas Stotra—Amushya tvatsevā....

This large murti is preserved and displayed at the Indore Museum and was photographed by Linda Canestraight (Om Loves Me) during her visit to the Museum in March 2003.

This is much more elaborate as compared to the one seen at the Govindeshvara Gupha. We don't know its dimensions but it must be quite large.

Shiva and Parvati are shown seated in their full glory at the center. Ravana is shown below as subdued while trying to uplift Kailasa and carry it to Lanka, his kingdom.

To his right (our left) we see Svami Kartikeya and his vehicle the swan. And to the left is Shri Ganesha. There must be his vehicle too, the mouse, somewhere.

We see the faces of Nandin and Lion, the vehicles of Shiva and Parvati on two sides.

On the top we see Brahma as well as Vishnu.

Shiva and Parvati are worshipped by all.

OM Shanti OMLN

From Dr Nagar

August 30th 2008

Subject: Fw: Your visit to Omkareshvara

Govindeshvara Gupha—Glory and Grandeur of Shri Shankaracharya

From Dr Nagar

September 1st 2009

Subject: Your visit to Omkareshvara

It is not a flattery but an undeniable fact that you have rendered an immortal service to the human kind in many ways. Om Shanti Mandiram now has the largest and best collection of pious plentiful photographs of Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama: A Paradise for Pilgrims. They are being displayed and viewed by the devotees of Om all over the world. OMLN

Sat, 30 Aug 2008 Murari Nagar wrote:

Govindeshvara Gupha-Glory and Grandeur of Shri Shankaracharya

From: Nagar, Murari l. (Emeritus) [mailto:NagarM@missouri.edu]

Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2008 6:25 AM

To: Nagar, Murari l. (Emeritus)

Subject: Your visit to Omkareshvara

My dear Ashish:

I have written to you already, but would like to repeat it once again with full force that you visited the holy hilly island at my request. You were there only for seven hours. You have had a holy darshana of Omkareshvara Jyotirlinga of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva and an equally holy bath in the Mata Narmada. It was a plentiful pious performance. However, if we keep this unseen virtue aside, if you had done nothing but the virtuous visit to and brief exploration of the Govindeshvara Gupha, I would regard it as one of the greatest contributions one has ever made with regard to this holy land.

I did not know even the name of Omkara Mandhata until this century started and we began its study. Yes, I knew the name of Omkareshvara Mahadeva through the Dvadasha Jyotirlinga Stotra (Saurashtre Somanatham ca), as one of a dozen jyotirlingas of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva, but it was a name only. I did not know even the location-where it was situated! Mandhata? Never

heard of as the holy hilly island!

Now the whole wide world knows this holy temple through our publications. We have collected the largest number of its photographs. We have spread its mighty effulgence through our publications all around the globe.

Now coming back to the Govindeshvara Gupha. Until the year 1988 this was not known to the world at all. Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha deserves great credit for its recovery, restoration and glorification.

However, it still remains un-explored. I did not know at all what a specific architectural wonder it constituted. I had some wild ideas. Today I myself laugh at them. You enabled me so very kindly to identify it –Idam ittham.

This is it.

You were there only for seven hours. However, seven is the most significant number. Some say it is God. If you want to know its full significance, read our writing entitled ISHTA-India's Seven Holistic Temples in America.

You established personal contacts with Raja Devendra Singh as well as Shri Mahajan. They are the two great pillars of that edifice. It is good for our future work in this field.

There are many stories about Shri Shankaracharya that sound like fables. But one thing is certain. Now we have found a physical concrete evidence that Mount Mandhata was the gurukulam of Shri Shankaracharya.

This Govindeshvara Gupha needs scientific systematic extensive as well as intensive exploration and study. How deep is it? I mean its interior? We are told that there is always water on the floor. Where does it come from? How deep? Why not more? Legend tells us that it was flooded furiously when young Shankara arrived there. Is it possible that Narmada herself had flooded it to wash the holy feet of the Gurudeva of Shankaracharya?

We are told that the walls of the gupha are decorated with exquisite carvings. So is the ceiling. We have some photos of the puttalikas-damsels. But not all.

All this exploration and study needs time, money, energy and perseverance.

May OM enable all of us to render this service to the pious world.

With blessings from OM: One God Universal. OMLN

(Repetition of forwarded email)

From Dr Nagar

October 2nd 2008

Subject: Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya--make this as your immediate field of work

Dear Ashish:

Coming and going—this is the world.

I am at the last stage of my life. I am fully satisfied with what OM has enabled us to accomplish.

You are just beginning. Great work lies ahead of you.

I have invested a great deal of my earnings in this holy operation. However, there is only one way to continue this pious work. And that is to raise funds by all possible legitimate means and methods.

We have to approach rich sources of resources. Sarvārambhās tanḍulaprasthamūlāḥ; all undertakings are rooted in a bushel of rice.

We have been doing some work relative to Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya. Now there are many maṭhas (monasteries) run after his name. There is even a university named after him in his birth place. Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha leads. That is so close to you.

A great deal of my work got financial support in the form of grants. But for that you need a specific project.

I would like you to concentrate on one area—one field, i.e. Shankaracharya, specifically the Govindeshvara gupha to begin with.

Float a journal in cooperation with Kamalee. Collect and publish all the information that you could find.

If nothing else, you will be earning a great virtue.

This is my upadesha—teaching coming directly from OM: One God Universal.

This will bring you all that you desire.

Make this as the eye of the bird of Arjuna.

PS. We have some highly significant photographs and data on Shri Shankaracharya still preserved at Maheshvara—ancient Mahishmati.

Combined with these the work on gupha gets tremendously enriched.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

October 2nd 2008

Subject: Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya--Make this as your immediate field of study

Dear Ashish:

This is a follow up the earlier message on the subject.

Our total literary output in all the subjects by now exceeds 12,000 pages in 47 volumes embellished by at least 15,000 photographs!

What to do and what not to do was a big question. OM has given me the insight and direction.

I have written to you more than once that you visited Omkareshvara only for seven hours. Seven is the most valuable and significant number. Kamalee and I have done some work on it. However, let us keep it aside.

Keeping the Omkaradarshana aside, if you had done nothing but the visit to the Govindeshvara gupha, I would regard your visit tremendously successful and fruitful.

We have been studying Omkara Mandhata for many years. There are many subjects and objects worthy there to be studied. However, we can do only one thing at a time. We have to begin our deeper study with some specific subject and object.

Om wants us to concentrate on the life and works of Shri Shankaracharya, his Guru Govinda Bhagavatpada and his Guru Gaudapāda as our next major objective. This is a very important subject and shall be appreciated by all throughout the world.

One thing at a time. I will write to you more and more about it—what, how and why.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

January 12th 2009

When a child has accumulated too many toys at one and the same time, he is lost as to with which to play first!

I was bewildered as to what to do and what not to do.

Our objective has been from the very beginning--Recovery and dissemination of India's cultural heritage enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama--A Paradise for Pilgrims.

Om has now directed that all of us give top priority to Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada with special reference to Shri Govindeshvara Tapasya Guha at Mandhata and many of his memorials at Mahishmati, present day Maheshvara.

We seek kind cooperation of all devotees of OM: One God Universal.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

Jan 15th 2009

Subject: Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya--Make this as your immediate field of operation

From: nagarm [mailto: nagarm@...]

Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2008 8:01 AM

To: AshishDABRAL@...

Subject: FW: Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya--make this as your immediate field of work

----- Original Message -----

From: "Kathy Strickland" <kamalee7@...>

To: "Murari Nagar" <nagarm@...>

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2008 11:47 PM

Subject: Re: FW: Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya--make this as your immediate field of work

Dr. Nagar,

Have you heard back from Ashish on this subject?

I have great respect for Shri Shankaracharya from the little I know of him. He was in an early prakasha of Om Shanti journal, and would be an excellent subject for an article of greater scope in our next journal.

This is a dignitary worthy of further study. Shri Vivekananda is another.

Om Shanti,
Kamalee

(Repeated)
From Dr Nagar
(No Subject)

February 8th 2009

**Govindeshvara Gupha at Omkara Mandhata
Recovery and Dissemination of India's Cultural Heritage**

Enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama.

We here at Om Shanti Mandiram have just received a collection of excellent photographs of Shri Govindeshvara Gupha through the kind courtesy of our benevolent benefactor Father Geo George of Indore. This valuable collection supplements the one already obtained last year by the kind efforts of Shri Ashish Dabral, a rising star among the dedicated devotees and workers of the OMGOD group.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to realize that this surviving specimen of the ancient cultural heritage of India is well taken care of by the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama.

The gupha is fully lighted and made accessible with ease and comfort to the devotee visitors. We were told that the floor of the gupha is always filled with water. We did not know of the source of water. Now we have found that there is a tunnel which goes all the way down to the sacred river Narmada! May be Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada used to use this passage for taking his daily darshana and bath in holy Narmada.

It is hoped that someone some day from somewhere will make a scientific, systematic and scholarly intensive as well as extensive study of this sacred spot.

OM Shanti. OMLN



Tunnel from the Gupha to Narmada 1



Tunnel from the Gupha to Narmada 2

From Dr Nagar

February 8th 2009

Subject: Fw: A cave located on the top of a mountain gets flooded!

My dear devotee of OM: One God Universal:

I hope you are a member of OMGOD and receiving all the holy messages circulated through it.

You have rendered a great service to our common holy cause. This is not just a flattery but a verified fact.

The note made by you under the photograph of the tunnel in Govindeshvara gupha has solved a serious long-standing problem. It is really remarkable to realize its value and importance.

May OM fulfill all your good desires.

OMLN

----- Original Message -----

From: [Murari Nagar](#)

To: omgod@yahoogroups.com ; omkara-mandhata@googlegroups.com

Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2009 6:11 AM

Subject: A cave located on the top of a mountain gets flooded!

The cave was flooded! How? This may be the answer!!

Emilie Cremin writes:

[Her French thesis tr. by machine!]

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate Govindabhagavatpada cave, immersed in the bliss of the *samâdhi**. Immediately, Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculously, the uncontrolled river changed its direction (Fig. 35). When the master learned what had occurred, he blessed his disciple in these terms: *“My son, your fame will be imperishable. Just as you could contain*

tumultuous water in a jug, you will be able to write a book of commentaries containing the essence of all the Védas.”Then he initiated his disciple; the name Shankaracharya was given to him. He advised him, when he would judge it proper, to spread the wisdom which he had acquired in Kashî, which is now Bénarès. He had arrived there at the age of twelve (Coquet, 2002).

There are two types of people in this world: āstika and nāstika. Those who believe in the existence of God are in the first category. Those who do not are in the second category.

There is a popular saying in Hindi which means: If you believe It is God. If not, it is stone.

Myths and Legends and traditions are built around some facts—actual occurring. Earlier we were wondering how an ashram situated on the top of a mountain could get flooded? The answer is here: The TUNNEL!

Om Namah Shivaya.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar
Subject: Identification of Murtis

March 13th 2009

They say:

A picture equals 1000 words. Also, if animated it equals 10,000 words.

However, if not correctly identified--if it does not say what it is--its value is miserably minimized. It is mute. It is dumb.

Murtis are identified by their icons. If we see a trident, we know that the murti is a manifestation of Lord Shiva. If there is a cakra (disc), for example, it is identified as Lord Vishnu.

A specific murti (plaque) in Govindeshvara gupha was photographed by Linda Canestraight as early as Feb. 2003. It remained obscure for a long time. Ignorance is no bliss. We made many guesses which now seem to be silly and absurd.

Why? No specific symbol or identifying icon was visible there! It was covered by flowers!

An artist looks at a murti from his own specific point of view. On the other hand to a devotee it is God to be worshipped.

Shri Ashish Dabral photographed the same murti in Govindeshvara gupha in the year 2008. The specific symbol or identifying mark hidden earlier was visible now. It was a daṇḍa of a śannyāsin!

Now we could see therein Guruvara Shri Govindeshvara and his deserving disciple young Shankara. The representation became really true and meaningful. No more guesswork.

One photograph taken by Linda Canestraight reads on the back Lakshmi Narayana. It is really Shiva and Parvati seated on Kailasa and Ravana trying to uplift the whole mountain--Shiva Lila Lahari--Ravaṇa-darpa-dalana! How do we know it? There is below the Ten-armed Ravana!

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

March 14th 2009

Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha at Mount Mandhata

It is interesting and illuminating to observe that we have been blessed with three series or sets of the photographs of the exterior as well as the interior of Govindeshvara gupha. In many cases they are exclusive--not identical or duplicate.

This proves the fact that the gupha is highly rich in our cultural heritage. Since it has been a gupha, the ravages of time and weather, etc. have not done much harm to the grandeur and glory and richness of India's ancient past.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

Apr 22nd 2009

Subject: Govindeshvara Penance Cave

Nathan has been working on this. His is a highly promising work.

What he has taken so far is the latest series of photographs of the cave kindly given to us by Father Geo George of Indore.

You had taken some photographs back in 2003.

And Ashish had taken some last year.

All these should be consolidated and brought into one DVD--Divine view of the divinities.

There should be some calm soothing background music.

With blessings from OM: One God Universal.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

April 22nd 2009

Subject: Omkara Mandhata Mahatmya

The greatness, value and virtue of Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama--What it is?

The answer is straight and instantaneous: Omkareshvara Jyotirlinga--one of a dozen dazzling jyotirlingas of Shiva Shankara Mahadeva. This cannot be disputed.

However, the next question is: What comes next? The undisputed answer is: Shri Govindeshvara tapasya guha.

The more we study this the more we realize that it represents a highly holy history and tradition--It is a great cultural treasure.

We have been studying Omkara Mandhata for more than a decade. We have invested an enormous amount of our time, energy, matter and mind into it.

If one were going to ask us today: What is our greatest gain? Our immediate and indisputable answer will be the Govindeshvara tapasya guha--the gurukulam of Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada. This gupha has preserved and is displaying even today an earliest representation of an ideal disciple of an ideal gurudeva.

Quite a lot can be written on the above subject. It is hoped that some young scholar would take up this task as his/her future goal of study and research. The result and outcome will be enormous.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar
Subject: Govindeshvara Mandira

Apr 27 2009

Govindeshvara Mandira

We have just posted onto our Omkara Mandhata Google Group Forum a photograph of Govindeshvara Mandira, constructed ages ago, commemorating the sacred spot on the bank of the holy river Narmada named KoTitiirtha whereon Shankara as a shishya was awarded the sanyaasa diikshaa.

In the year 1988 a divya murti of Jagadguru Adi Shankar Bhagavatpada was installed therein by the Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha.

All these were photographed by our great benevolent benefactor photographer Geo George of Indore. May OM bless him.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar
Subject: EUREKA

April 27th 2009

Govindeshvara Mandira can also be viewed on OMGOD Yahoo Group! OMLN

From Dr Nagar
Subject : Govindeshvara tapasya guha

May 7th 2009

Shri Govindeshvara Bhagavatpada was the guru of Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada.

Omkara Mandhata Muktidhama served as the gurukulam of Shri Shankara.

Govindeshvara tapasya guha is a fact and not a fiction. We have been studying it.

We have been working on Omkara Mandhata for more than a decade. We have learnt quite a good deal. Our findings are being posted to OMGOD Yahoo Group as well as Omkara Mandhata Google Group.

If we had found nothing but the Govindeshvara Tapasya Gupha and the Govindeshvara Temple on the bank of the Holy River Narmada, we would have

regarded ourselves as kritārtha and kritakritya. This latter sacred spot is the holy site where Shankara had received his diksha to become a sanyasin.

And, by the way, Shankara acquired his knowledge at Omkara Mandhata and applied it at Mahishmati--present day Maheshvara Mandaleshvara.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

May 11th 2009

Subject: Alma Mater of Shankaracharya

Govindeshvara gupha--the alma mater of Jagadguru Shankaracharya is the greatest blessing to us from OM: One God Universal. If we had found nothing but this HIDDEN cave, I would have regarded myself as one who has fulfilled the mission of his life. OMLN

From Dr Nagar

May 12th 2009

Subject: Fw: Alma Mater of Shankaracharya

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

We have named our OM Holy Book #5 as a source book. We did our best to collect and report most of the earlier writings--good bad and ordinary. But we did not find any detailed information on the Govindeshvara gupha.

Until the venerable Shri Paramacharya Chnadrashekharendra Sarasvati of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha had had a dream of this rare treasure of ancient Indian tradition and mythology--we mean this Gupha--it was unknown to the outside world.

It has been briefly described in the souvenir volume published by the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha celebrating the 12th centenary of Jagadguru Shankara Bhagavatpada.

It was photographed by OM Loves Me in the year 2003 for the first time and briefly described in the Home Page of OM Shanti Mandiram.

It was noticed by Emilie Cremin. One very significant--probably the most significant--photograph was reproduced by Emilie Cremin in her learned thesis on Omkareshvara with some good meaningful explanation.

Later on it was photographed by Father Geo George several times at our request.

Ashish Dabral --a budding genius and a great devotee of OM: One God Universal visited the gupha and photographed it further in the year 2008. He described it well in his learned report of his holy visit to this sacred spot.

It was once again photographed at our request by Father Geo George.

By now we have a good collection of its photographs. We are putting them together. Yet the collection is not exhaustive. The series and sets of photographs taken earlier by OM devotees and described above are not mutually exclusive leading us to conclude that some substantial work is yet to be done.

It is hoped that OM will enable some enterprising devotee to continue our work and complete it.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

August 3rd 2009

Attachment: Govindeshvara Gupha.doc

Govindeshvara Gupha

During an exceptionally strong monsoon, water started to flood the ashram and to penetrate Govindabhadrapada cave, immersed in the bliss of the *samâdhi**. Immediately, Shankaracharya placed a stoneware pitcher at the entry and, miraculously, the uncontrolled river changed its direction (Fig. 35). When the master learned what had occurred, he blessed his disciple in these terms: “*My son, your fame will be imperishable. Just as you could contain tumultuous water in a jug, you will be able to write a book of commentaries containing the essence of all the Védas.*” Then he initiated his disciple; the name Shankaracharya was given to him. He advised him, when he would judge it proper, to spread the wisdom which he had acquired in Kashî, which is now Bénarès. He had arrived there at the age of twelve (Coquet, 2002).



Fig. 35: Low relief cut in the wall of “Govindeshwar Gufa,” illustrating the mythical scene where Shankaracharya saved his guru from sudden mounting waters of the Narmada. Source: University of Missouri-Columbia, February 2005.

(Repeated)

From Dr Nagar

August 3rd, 2009

Attachment: Govindeshvara Mandira.doc

Govindeshvara Mandira

We have just posted onto our Omkara Mandhata Google Group Forum a photograph of Govindeshvara Mandira, constructed ages ago, commemorating the sacred spot on the bank of the holy river Narmada named KoTitiirtha whereon Shankara as a shishya was awarded the sanyaasa diikshaa.

In the year 1988 a divya murti of Jagadguru Adi Shankar Bhagavatpada was installed therein by the Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha.

All these were photographed by our great benevolent benefactor photographer Geo George of Indore. May OM bless him.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

October 21st, 2009

Subject: Govindeshvara gupha and Siddheshvara Temple

Attachments: Doc1_.docx

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

We have been working on Omkara Mandhata for about a decade. It is quite rich from the point of view of art and architecture as well. Its surviving monuments may be placed in two categories—sacred and secular.

Among all the treasures of the sacred nature Govindeshvara Gupha may be placed at the top.

And the Siddheshvara—Siddhanatha would lead in the field of art and architecture of the secular nature.

Yet both of them are sacred as well as secular! In India it is difficult to draw a line between the two.

We have photographed both of them quite extensively, yet much more still remains to be done.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From Dr Nagar

October 27th, 2009

Subject: Re: Our work on Govindeshvara Gupha

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

I have written quite a lot on this valuable subject and have posted all of it to Omkara Mandhata Google Group. OMLN

----- Original Message -----

From: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

To: Nagar, Murari I. (Emeritus)

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2009 7:02 PM

Subject: Our work and works on Omkara Mandhata

Om devotees caring to read our holy Om messages are fully aware of the nature, quality, quantity and value of what we have collected so far with regard to Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama. I would have regarded myself fully fulfilled if we had found nothing but one rare cultural treasure there. And that is the Govindeshvara Gupha.

It was photographed for the first time by Om Loves Me in the year 2003. Our great benefactor Father Geo George has photographed it at least twice a little later.

It was extensively photographed by Ashish Dabral in 2008.

The most important picture of this collection was reproduced and discussed by Emilie Cremin in her thesis on Omkareshvara.

Presently we are working on this in a systematic and extensive manner.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From Dr Nagar
2009

November 10th,

Subject: Govindeshvara Mandira

George March 06 #56 is the Govindeshvara Temple. We read these words below the picture. However, they don't print!

#55 is the interior. Shivalinga may be as old as the time when it was installed--8th century A.D.

The murti of Shri Shankaracharya was installed there by the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha in the year 1988 when a great celebration was organized to honor the 12th centenary of Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar
Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha

November 26th, 2009

It is highly and really remarkable to realize that until Paramacharya Shri Chandra shekharendra Sarasvati of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha was blessed with a divine dream of Kotitirtha and Govindeshvara gupha this extremely rich cultural treasure was totally unknown to the world. This Peetha deserves our veneration. Let us say: jaya jaya. OMLN

From Dr Nagar
Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha

November 26th, 2009

Govindeshvara Gupha on Mount Mandhata is a great treasure of India's supreme art and architecture as well as of culture and tradition.

We are immensely thankful to OM: One God Universal who has enabled us to explore it and disseminate its glory and grandeur throughout the world.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar
Subject: Shri Ganesha atop entrance to Govindeshvara Gupha

November 26th, 2009

The art and architecture enshrined into the shrine of Govindeshvara Gupha defy description.

It was photographed by OM Loves Me (Linda Canestraight) for the first time as early as 2003.

It was an initial attempt limited by many extraneous circumstances. Yet it was a pioneering enterprise.

Our Rising Star Om devotee Shri Ashish got it photographed in 2008 through the grace of Father Geo George, our great benefactor.

Om wanted to spread the glory and grandeur of this art treasure more extensively. Father George visited this art monument once again this year and performed a fully professional extensive job.

We see in this latest collection the objects more closely and in greater details. They are numerous.

We see the grand entrance more vividly here. There is the murti of Shri Ganesha on the top.

However he is shown not just seated, but in a temple of His own!

Only the lucky artists create such wonderful objects to be seen and admired by the lucky critics.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar
Subject: FW: Emailing GEO_2914
Original Message

November 26th, 2009

From: Murari Nagar
To: Canestraight, Linda M.
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 11:44 AM
Subject: Emailing: GEO_2914

Please post this as the frontispiece to OMGOD Yahoo Group.

Label it as -- Enter Govindeshvara Gupha.

Have a holy view of Shri Ganesha on the top.

Attachment: GEO_2914.jpeg

From Dr Nagar

December 8th, 2009

Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha

Govindeshvara Gupha is not just a cave; it is a Museum of Art and Architecture.
One has just to see it to believe it. OMLN

From Dr Nagar

December 26th, 2009

Subject: Shri Ganesha atop Govindeshvara gupha entrance

We are highly delighted that Father Geo George has given us quite recently the photograph of the entrance to the Govindeshvara Gupha. This entrance -- praveshadvaara--was also photographed earlier by some other Om devotees too, but the holy murti of Shri Ganesha was not distinctly visible there!

Further research and writing is desired relative to this picture. We will try to do it Shri Ganesha willing.

Currently it is featured as the frontispiece of our OMGOD--Divine Spiritual Fellowship--A Divya Satsanga (Yahoo forum).

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

January 12th, 2010

Subject: Re: omshantimandiram.org

Govindeshvara Gupha is a highly valuable find. Our collection of the photographs by now exceeds the total of 15,000. If we had found nothing but this I would regard ourselves real lucky. OMLN

From Dr Nagar

February 21st, 2010

Subject: Emailing Copy of Amith George Linda 034

This murti in Govindeshvara is yet to be identified. Totally covered! OMLN
Attachment: Copy of Amith George Linda.jpeg

From Dr Nagar

April 17th, 2010

Subject: Omkara Mandhata

Omkara Mandhata

We have been studying Omkara Mandhata for a decade by now.

Govindeshvara Gupha is the richest treasure in the religious sector.

And Siddheshvara Mandira is the best surviving art treasure there.

We seek financial assistance to continue our work on these.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

Apr 17th, 2010

Subject: Fw: Omkara Mandhata

This is a fervent and earnest appeal to all the devotees of OM: One God Universal.

Bhūkhe bhajana na hoi Gopālā.

All undertakings are rooted in a bushel of rice.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

June 27th, 2010

Subject: Our writings and Notes

Omkara Mandhata Google Group of Om Shanti Mandiram features as many as 41 notes and contributions from us on Govindeshvara Gupha!

OMLN June 27, 2010.

From Dr Nagar

June 30th, 2010

Attachment: Govindeshvara Mandira.docx

Govindeshvara Mandira

We have just posted onto our Omkara Mandhata Google Group Forum a photograph of Govindeshvara Mandira, constructed ages ago, commemorating the sacred spot on the bank of the holy river Narmada named KoTitiirtha whereon Shankara as a shishya was awarded the sanyaasa diikshaa.

In the year 1988 a divya murti of Jagadguru Adi Shankar Bhagavatpada was installed therein by the Kanchi Kamakoti Pitha.

All these were photographed by our great benevolent benefactor photographer Geo George of Indore. May OM bless him.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

October 9th, 2010

Earlier we have stated that Govindeshvara Gupha at Omkara Mandhata is our best finding.

It is sacred.

Siddheshvara Siddhanatha tops all our findings in the field of the secular monuments.

OMLN

From Dr Nagar

January 24th, 2011

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 12:00 PM

Subject: Govindeshvara Gupha and Siddheshvara Temple

OM: One God Universal wants us to concentrate on

Shankaragurukulam

Alma Mater of Shankaracharya.

OM has enabled us to do quite a lot on OM, Omkara and Omkara Mandhata. The most valuable find in the field of religion is the Govindeshvara Gupha.

And the best find in the secular field is the Siddheshvara Temple.

If we had found nothing but the above two we would have regarded ourselves as fully fulfilled and kritakritya.

These are the two objects or subjects that may generate some funds to continue our work beyond.

Let us concentrate on them.

Om Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Jan 25th, 2011

Dear devotees Om: One God Universal:

A Buried treasure is of no use. Let us unearth it and present it to the wide world.

It is really remarkable to realize how much work has already been done by us on Govindeshvara Gupha and Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavadpada. It is all a buried treasure let it be repeated for emphasis.

Let us give it the priority number one.

We have plenty of words as well photographs.

Let us work on that.

Om Shanti.

OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

March 9th, 2011

Attachment: An unidentified sculpture in Govindeshvara Gupha.pdf

Fig. 35: Low relief cut in the wall of “Govindeshwar Gufa,” illustrating the mythical scene where Shankaracharya saved his guru from sudden mounting waters of the Narmada. Source: University of Missouri-Columbia, February 2005.

From: Dr Nagar

Date: March 9th, 2011

Attachment:

Govindeshvara Gupha at Omkara Mandhata.doc

Govindeshvara Gupha at Omkara Mandhata

Recovery and Dissemination of India’s Cultural Heritage

Enshrined at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama.

We here at Om Shanti Mandiram have just received a collection of excellent photographs of Shri Govindeshvara Gupha through the kind courtesy of our benevolent benefactor Father Geo George of Indore. This valuable collection supplements the one already obtained last year by the kind efforts of Shri Ashish

Dabral, a rising star among the dedicated devotees and workers of the OMGOD group.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to realize that this surviving specimen of the ancient cultural heritage of India is well taken care of by the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha Seva Trust at Omkara Mandhata Mukti Dhama.

The gupha is fully lighted and made accessible with ease and comfort to the devotee visitors. We were told that the floor of the gupha is always filled with water. We did not know of the source of water. Now we have found that there is a tunnel which goes all the way down to the sacred river Narmada! May be Shri Govinda Bhagavatpada used to use this passage for taking his daily darshana and bath in holy Narmada.

It is hoped that someone some day from somewhere will make a scientific, systematic and scholarly intensive and extensive study of this sacred spot.

OM Shanti. OMLN

From: Dr Nagar

Date: March 9th, 2011

Vaade vaade jaayate tattvabodhah.

By a series of discussions the reality is realized.

OMLN. 3-9-11

Attachment: Govindeshvara Gupha.pdf

Dear devotees of OM: One God Universal:

I have posted a message on Govindeshvara Gupha with an illustration to Omkara Mandhata Google Group. Much can be said about this. I hope I will be able to write and submit.

Emilie's statement and ascription leave much to be desired. It is only a myth and is to be taken as it is.

I have discussed this subject of myth in our OM Holy Book 5 here, there and everywhere.

From: Dr Nagar

Date: May 7th, 2011

A great deal of valuable information on Shankaracharya is presented in the Souvenir volume prepared and published by Kanchi Kamakoti Peeth celebrating the 1200th Shankara Jayanti, especially as it relates to Omkara Mandhata, Govindeshvara Gupha and Govindeshvara Mandira, etc. It is a worthy mine of information.

We hope we are able to organize, edit and publish all the rare information and photographs that we have collected so far relative to this cultural heritage of Bharatavarsha.

We need financial assistance from the devotees of OM: One God Universal.

No 1047

From: Dr Nagar

Nov 10th 2009

No 3832

Govindeshvara Mandira

George March 06 #56 is the Govindeshvara Temple. We read these words below the picture. However, they don't print!

#55 is the interior. Shivalinga may be as old as the time when it was installed--8th century A.D.

The murti of Shri Shankaracharya was installed there by the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetha in the year 1988 when a great celebration was organized to honor the 12th centenary of Jagadguru Adi Shankara Bhagavatpada.

OMLN

At the end of Shrīmad Bhagavadgītā Vīra Arjuna says:

Nashṭo mohah smritir labdhā tvatprasādān mayāchyuta.

Sthito'smi gatasandehah karishye vacanam tava.

OMLN Saturday, January 07, 2012

Govindeshvara Temple

Image 56



Govindeshvara Temple Interior

Image 55





A murti of Jagadguru Ādya Shankara