

Jyotirmaṭha Pīṭhaṃ

Trotakacharya ([IAST](#) *Troṭakācārya*) (c. 8th century [CE](#)) was a disciple of [Adi Shankara](#), the [Advaita philosopher](#). He was made the first Jagadguru (*head*) of the [Jyotirmatha Peetham](#), the northern [matha](#) founded by Adi Shankara near [Badrinath](#). He founded a matha by name Vadakke Matham in Thrissur, Kerala.

Meeting Adi Shankara

The Mādhavīya Śaṅkaravijayam states that when Adi Shankara was at [Sringeri](#), he met a boy named Giri. Adi Shankara accepted the boy as his disciple. Giri was a hard-working and loyal servant of his [Guru](#), Adi Shankara, though he did not appear bright to the other disciples. One day, Giri was washing his Guru's clothes, when Adi Shankara sat down to begin a lesson on Advaita Vedanta. He however did not start the lesson saying he was waiting for Giri to come back from his chores and singing lessons. At this, [Padmapada](#) pointed to a wall and said that it would be the same if Adi Shankara taught to this dumb object as he taught to Giri. Now, Adi Shankara wanted to reward Giri for his loyalty and devotion. Thus he mentally granted Giri the complete knowledge of all the śāstras (*sciences*). The enlightened Giri composed extempore the [Totakashtakam](#), a [Sanskrit](#) poem in the *toṭaka* metre, in praise of the Guru Adi Shankara. Thus the dumb disciple Giri became Totakacharya.

Works

- Śrutisārasamuddharaṇa — Published edition: Edited with a commentary titled Girisambhutaratna, by Swami Vidyananda Giri, Sri Kailash Ashrama, Rishikesh, 1972
- Toṭakāṣṭakam

Transliterated Lyrics of Toṭakāṣṭakam

Thodakashtakam By Ananda Giri (Thodagacharya) Disciple of Adhi Sankara

Translated by P.R.Ramachander

Vidhithakhila sasthra sudha Jaladhe

Mahithopanishath kadithartha nidhe,

Hrudaye kalaye vimalam charanam,

Bhava Sankara desiga may saranam. 1

I praise and seek the protection of Sankara, Who is the ocean of nectar of our great holy books, And who is like the Treasure Of the essence of the great Upanishads, And I meditate on his clear holy feet in my heart.

Karuna varunalaya palaya mama,

Bhava sagara dukha vidhua mridham,

Rachayakhila darsana Thathwa vidham,

Bhava Sankara desiga may saranam. 2

I praise and seek the protection of Sankara, Who is the great ocean of mercy, And seek protection for me , who has suffered deep sorrow, In the ocean of day to day life, And also request to make me, Know all the schools of our philosophy.

Bhavatha janatha suhitha bhavitha,

Nija bodha vicharana charumathe,

Kalayeshwara jeeva viveka vidham,

Bhaja Sankara desiga may saranam. 3

I praise and seek the protection of Sankara, Because of whom the world has a pleasant life, Oh great soul who can teach the great knowledge, Make me understand the knowledge of the soul.

Bhava eva bhavanihi may nitharam,

Samajayatha chethasi kauthukitha,

Mama vaaraya moha maha jaladhim,

Bhaja Sankara desiga may saranam. 4

I praise and seek the protection of Sankara, When I understood it is him, I became ecstatic with happiness, And requested, please dry the ocean of passion in me.

Sukruthe adhikruthe bahudha bhavatha,

Bhavitha sama darshana lalasatha,

Athi deenamimam paripalaya maam,

Bhaja Sankara desiga may saranam. 5

I praise and seek the protection of Sankara, When the good deeds accumulate and become more, Like you, my mind would see everything as equal, Please give protection to this very lowly me.

Jagathi avithum kalitha kruthayo,

Vicharanthi mahaa maha saschalatha,

Ahimmsurivathra vibhasi pura,

Bhaja Sankara desiga may saranam. 6

I praise and seek the protection of Sankara, Those who are born to protect this world, And who are like a burning flame, Roam everywhere without any one's knowledge, But you shine before me like the Sun God

Guru pungava pungava kethana they,

Samayamayatham nahi ko api sudhi,

Saranagatha vathsala Thathwa nidhe,

Bhaja Sankara desiga may saranam. 7

I praise and seek the protection of Sankara, Who is the teacher among teachers Who does not have any equal, Who is the treasure house of Philosophy And who is merciful to those who seek his blessings.

Vidhitha na maya visadhaika kala,

Na cha kinchana kanchanamasthi guro,

Dhruthameva videhi krupaam sahajam,

Bhaja Sankara desiga may saranam. 8

I praise and seek the protection of Sankara, And request him to shower his natural grace fast on me, Who does not possess expertise in any branch, And who does not even a small piece of wealth(gold?)

See also

- [Adi Shankara](#)
- [Advaita Vedanta](#)

References

- [Madhava Vidyananda](#), Sankara-Digvijaya, translated by Swami Tapasyananda, Sri Ramakrishna Math, 2002, [ISBN 81-7120-434-1](#). Purchase online at www.sriramakrishnamath.org

From: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Totakacharya>

Jyotirmath (ज्योतिर मठ), also called **Jyotir Math** and **Joshimath**(जोशी मठ), is a city and a [municipal board](#) in [Chamoli District](#) in the [Indian state](#) of [Uttarakhand](#). It is home to one of the four cardinal *pīthas* established by [Adi Shankara](#).

Demographics

As of 2001 India [census](#),^[1] Joshimath had a population of 13,202. Males constitute 61% of the population and females 39%. Joshimath has an average literacy rate of 77%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 83%, and female literacy is 67%. In Joshimath, 12% of the population is under 6 years of age.

The matha

Jyotirmath is the *uttarāmnāya* [matha](#) or northern monastery, one of the four cardinal institutions established by Adi Shankara, the others being those at [Sringeri](#), [Puri](#) and [Dwaraka](#). Their heads are titled "[Shankaracharya](#)". According to the tradition initiated by Adi Shankara, this matha is in charge of the [Atharva Veda](#).



JyotirMutt Lord Narasimhar Temple

Jyotirmath, which is close to the pilgrimage town of [Badrinath](#), has not always been an active matha. It is sometimes said incorrectly that the original northern matha was established at [Badrinath](#). This place can be a base station for travellers going to Guru Gobind Ghat or the [Valley of Flowers National Park](#).



JyotirMutt established by Adi Sankara

In its most recent history, the Jyotirmath became inactive in the early 19th century. The formal occupation of the matha was restarted with the aid of the heads of some of the other mathas from about 1940 onward. However, there is an unresolved controversy over the succession to the headship of Jyotirmath. The best known of the claimants to be the current head or Shankaracharya is Svarūpānanda Sarasvatī who is also head of the [Dwaraka matha](#). The other two claimants are Vāsudevānanda Sarasvatī and Mādhavāśrama.^[2]





Ropeway at Joshimath to [Auli](#), Uttarakhand

See also

- [Shri Gaudapadacharya Mutt](#)
- [Adi Shri Gauḍapādāchārya](#)
- [Shri Govinda Bhagavatpadacharya](#)
- [Adi Shri Shankaracharya](#)
- [Mandukya Upanishad](#)
- [Advaita](#)

References

1. [^ "Census of India 2001: Data from the 2001 Census, including cities, villages and towns \(Provisional\)".](#) Census Commission of India. Archived from [the original](#) on 2004-06-16. <http://web.archive.org/web/20040616075334/http://www.censusindia.net/results/town.php?stad=A&state5=999>. Retrieved 2008-11-01.
2. [^](#) See detailed article at <http://indology.info/papers/sundaresan>

External links

- [Photos of Shankaracharya Swami Brahmanand Saraswati](#) Shri Jyotishpeethowarak Brahmleen Jagadguru Bhagwan Shankaracharya Shrimad Swami Brahmanand Saraswatiji Maharaj of Jyotirmath, Badrikashram
- [Life and Works of Adi Shankara](#)
- [Shri Shankaracharya Upadesh Amrita](#) 108 Hindi quotations of Shankaracharya Swami Brahmanand Saraswati

- [Amrita-Kana' \(Droplets of Nectar\) Short quotations of Shankaracharya Brahmananda Saraswati](#)
- [Booklet of 30 short quotations of Shankaracharya Swami Brahmanand Saraswati translated into English language](#) Booklet of Quotations
- [The Jyotirmath Sankaracharya Lineage in the 20th Century](#) About the succession controversy at Jyotirmath
- [Quotations of 'Guru Dev' Swami Brahmananda Saraswati Ji](#) Miscellaneous list of quotations of Shri Jyotishpeethdwarak Brahmlen Jagadguru Bhagwan Shankaracharya Shrimad Swami Brahmanand Saraswatiji Maharaj of Jyotirmath, Badrikashram
- [Quotations of Guru Dev](#) Quotations of 'Guru Dev' Swami Brahmananda Saraswati Ji.
- [An account of the four amnaya mathas](#) An account of the four amnaya mathas, and the *Dashanamī parampāra*.

Related link

- [Quotations from Shankaracharya Swami Brahmananda Saraswati](#)

From: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jyotirmath>