

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION AND SAMKARA

1. Being a man of intense practicality and possessed of rare organizing abilities, Samkara took steps to ensure the continuity of his great work by setting up ten orders of Monks—The Paramahansa Parivrajakas, a band of roving and teaching Monks and establishing four Monastic Centres at four corners of India and entrusting them to the care of Monks noted for their intellect, character and vision. The location of these centres – at Sringeri in South, at Puri in East, Dwaraka in West and Badrinath in North reveals his far seeing genius as also his vision of geographical and cultural unity of India.

- *'Eternal values for a changing Society'*
- SWAMI RANGANATHANANDA

2. Samkara traveled all over the length and the breadth of the vast subcontinent four times, established four principal monasteries at the four cardinal points of India, the Sringeri Math on the Sringeri hills in the south, the Sarada Math at Dwaraka in the West, the Jyotir Math at Badrikashrama in the North and the Govardhana Math at Puri in the East and appointed his four chief disciples as pontiffs of these Maths to promote the spiritual well-being of the monks and the laity within their respective jurisdictions. He also assigned to each Math one Veda. Thus Rigveda went to Govardhana Math, Yajur Veda to Sringeri Math, Sama Veda to Saradha math and Atharva Veda to Jyotir Math.

- 'THUS SPAKE SRI SAMKARA'

3. Before his death at the age of thirtytwo at Kedarnath in the Himalayas, Samkara had established monasteries at Sringeri (Mysore) in the South, Puri in the East, Dwaraka (Kathiawad) in the West and Joshi Math (the Himalayas) in the North and had placed four of his gifted disciples each well versed in one of the four Vedas in charge of them.

'Self Knowledge' SWAMI NIKHILANANDA

4. Samkaracharya reformed the monastic order of India and established four monasteries at the four cardinal points of the country for the study and practice of Vedanta

- The Upanisads (Glossary)

5. The author Sri Vidyananda Swamin is said to have been the head of the Sringeri Math (one of the four principal Maths established by Bhagavan Samkaracharya himself) from 1377 to 1386.

- Panchadasi – TRANSLATION BY SWAMI SWAHANANDA

6. Traditionally four maths are supposed to have been found by Samkara at the four regions of India – Sringeri in the South under Sureswara, at Dwarka in the West under Hastamalaka, at Badari in the North under Totaka and at Puri in the East under Padmapada.....how the theory of four Maths came to have such popularity has to be explained. It cannot be merely

1. because of the mention of it in Chidvilasa's Samkara-Vijaya. On the other hand that text must have merely recorded the popular notion existing at that time. The theory seems to have originated from the fact that the orders of Dasanami Sanyasins recognize and accept affiliation with only these four Maths.....No other Math is recognized by them. Now if there were more Maths of Sankara, why have the Dasanamic Sanyasins limited their affiliation to these four Maths only. The affiliation, no doubt, is only a nominal one and these Sanyasins neither take Sanyasa from these Maths nor follow any directions or control emanating from them. Still the question of how they came to be thus affiliated to be answered. The advocates of the more than four Maths have given no explanation.

- Samkara Digvijaya by MADHAVA – VIDYARANYA
TRANSLATED BY SWAMI TAPASYANANDA