

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have been requested by the Mukti-Gupteshwar Society to prepare information on the revered thirteen Jyotirlingas with special significance of the 13th Jyotirlinga, consecrated in Australia. I have perused the Report prepared by Dr Louise Steding, 'Significance of the 13th Jyotirlinga an Archaeological and Anthropological Study'. The report by Dr Steding is well prepared which also covers a brief introduction to Hinduism (*Sanatan Dharma*).

Significance of Jyotirlinga

A Jyotirlinga or *Jyotirlingam* is a devotional representative of Lord Shiva. 'Jyoti' means radiance and 'lingam' the image or sign of Shiva. Jyotirlingam means the Radiant sign of the Almighty Shiva. In India, there are 12 Jyotirlinga shrines and the thirteenth Jyotirlinga is in Australia. The 12 Jyotirlingas in India were consecrated thousands of years ago whereas the 13th Jyotirlinga, regarded as the last Jyotirlinga of current Creation and Destruction cycle of the earth, was consecrated on the 14th February 1999. Consecration of the 13th Jyotirlinga is regarded as the final consecration to the southern part of the earth.

While the 13 Jyotirlingas are considered to be auspicious and holy, each Jyotirlinga site takes the name of presiding deity and each is considered a different manifestation of Shiva. In all these sites, the primary image is of a lingam which symbolises the infinite nature of Shiva being without beginning and without end.

Jyotirlingas have tremendous power because they were consecrated and created in a certain way not just using human capabilities but by forces of nature. The shrines were consecrated according to the science of energy forms. This is the science using life energies to enhance human life in a phenomenal way. They are located at certain geographically and astronomically significant points. These points are subject to certain galactic forces. A long time ago, people with a certain level of perception carefully calibrated these spaces and fixed those points according to celestial movements.

Description of 13 Jyotirlingas which provide spiritual quest package for all human minds craving Peace and Eternal Bliss are:

1. Somenath (Lord of Nectar of Knowledge) in Gir Somenath, state of Gujarat:

Nectar of knowledge from the supreme Atma (Atma word cannot be translated to Soul in English. Hinduism believes all living being on the earth has Atma. Atma reincarnates infinite times. There is no start, no end for Atma- it is Sanatan or eternal), is a source of enlightenment, benefits and happiness. This removes darkness of ignorance.

2. Nageswar or Nagnath (Lord of five headed snake) in Dwarika, state of Gujarat:

Five headed cobra stands coiled around the Lingam. These five heads raised in striking pose are symbolic of five vices that hold humanity into bondage of Dukha (rough translation-pain). Shiva is immune to this poison of Dukha and so the devotees come here and worship to free from Dukha in life.

3. **Kedareswar** (Lord of Kedar) in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand:

Devotees take long and arduous pilgrimage to Kedarnath Shiva in their quest for spiritual fulfilment. Hard pilgrimage journey signifies that the hard ordeal is sweet indeed. Anyone who is sincere in his quest, the spiritual benefit for themselves and the World will find favour here with the supreme soul.

4. **Vishwanath** (Lord of the Universe) in Varanasi in state of Uttar Pradesh:

This jyotirlinga represents the incorporeal form of light, the supreme being is the Lord of the Universe.

5. **Mahakaaleshwar** (the Lord of Death) in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh:

This jyotirlinga frees devotees from fear of illusion and death. The gift of the divine knowledge of immortality of the Atma, can only be given by the one who himself is immortal beyond death.

6. **Onkareshwar** (Lord of Aum) in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh:

It refers to the form of AUM which signifies that the Supreme Atma Shiva is incorporeal.

7. **Trayambkeshwar** (Lord of Third Eye) in Nasik, state of Maharashtra:

Third eye represents special power of spiritual wisdom and knowledge can see beyond and experience the things that cannot be seen through our physical eyes. When third eye, Lord Shiva is opens, the great enemies, anger and lust are destroyed (lack of wisdom and ignorance).

8. **Ghushmeshwar** (Lord of Positive Energy) in Aurangabad, state of Maharashtra:

The act of grinding and churning (Ghushma) represents the spiritual practice of churning divine knowledge which transforms the intellect to higher purpose of life.

9. **Vaidyanath** (Lord of Vaidya/Ayurveda) in Deoghar in state of Jharkhand:

Vaidya means doctor or Divine Ayurvedic Medicine specialist. The name Vaidya signifies the form of life the Supreme Shiva has, is the healer of the healers, the supreme surgeon! When people can no longer manage the problems of the world then Shiva himself incarnates to erase the pain, problems and disease of mankind.

10. **Bheemshankar** (Mighty & Powerful Lord) in Nigdale, state of Maharashtra:

Mighty power of Shiva defeated the devil of the three worlds. Which signifies, when human Atma, due to their ego and ignorance are diverted and defeated by Maya (human weakness or illusion) at that time Lord Shiva incarnates and gives humanity the power to gain victory over these vices /weaknesses.

11. Mallikarjun (Lord) in Srisailam, state of Andhra Pradesh:

Shiva symbolises spiritual elevation of human life. Mallika means Jasmine flower. Devotees remember Lord Shiva as Satya-Shiv-Sundar radiates through this Shivlinga.

12. Rameshwaram (Ram worshipping Lord Shiva) in Rameswaram, state of Tamil Nadu:

Lord Rama went to seashore and prayed to lord Shiva for power to overcome the demon, Ravana. This signifies even other deities has great love for lord Shiva.

13. Mukti-Gupteshwar (Lord of Salvation) in Minto, Australia:

Lord Shiva redeemer from cycle of birth and death and leads to salvation for his Devotees.

Thirteenth (13th) Jyotirlinga, Mukti-Gupteshwar Mahadev

According to Shiv-Puraan, a Hindu scripture, all the 13 Jyotirlingas, including the 12 in India, are part of the Pashupatinath of Nepal. Pashupatinath is regarded as origin of all the Jyotirlingas. As time progressed, 12 Jyotirlingas were consecrated at various parts of India over 1000's of years ago. All the Jyotirlingas are self- formed linga of lord Shiva. If you have *Darshsan* (refers to beholding of a sacred object. It is considered a powerful form of worship and process of spiritual fulfilment).

Learned scholars from India and Nepal, after many years of research, agreed for final consecration of the 13th Jyotirlinga, Mukti-Gupteshwar, on the southern part of the earth which refers to Australia. Main reason for the 13th Jyotirlinga's final consecration on southern part of the earth was that the earth has prominent north to south cycle called 'continental drift'. Drifting of earth mass towards north is called of Creation (*Srishti*) cycle and drifting back to southpole again is called dissolution (*Pralay*) Cycle. During first half cycle of *Srishti*, the earth mass in south pole break into pieces and drift towards the north pole which we refer as continental drift. During second half (drifting back to southpole) of this cycle, we call it *Pralay* (dissolution) cycle. During this second half of the cycle, all the drifted earth mass revert back to the south pole again. This cycle takes approximately, 240 million years.

According to Hindu sacred text, current cycle, we are now, on the second half of the earth's cycle which means that there is no drifting of earth mass towards the north but drifted earth mass are now, reverting back to the south pole. The scriptural theory is that the last Jyotirlinga is consecrated to the southern part of the earth first and then, eventually, all the earth mass will congregate to southpole even the 12 Jyotirlingas will also revert to south pole. For this reason, the 13th Jyotirlinga is also referred as *Yajman murti* (host Linga). The thirteenth Jyotir linga is the only Jyotirlinga, when viewed with devotion, a face appears on the linga with expression of different mood to individuals (refer appendix A). The face is formed with thousands of white dots. Each dot is holy symbol 'OM'. It is important to know what is OM.

What does OM mean?

In Hinduism OM (also spelled AUM) is a Hindu sacred sound that is considered the greatest of all mantras. The syllable Om is composed of three sounds A-U-M (in Sanskrit, the vowels A and U combine to become O) and the symbol's three fold nature is central to its meaning. It represents several important triads:

- three worlds: earth, atmosphere and heaven
- three major Hindu gods: Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva
- three sacred Vedic scriptures: Rig, Yajur and Sama

Thus, Om mystically embodies the essence of the entire universe. This meaning is further deepened by the Indian philosophical belief that the God first created sound and the universe arose from it. As the most sacred sound, Om is the root of the universe and everything that exists and it continues to hold everything together.

With its threefold nature, special shape and unique sound, Om lends itself to a variety of detailed symbolic interpretations. The symbol of AUM consists of three curves and one semi-circle and a dot. The large lower curve symbolises the waking state (*jagrat*), in this state the consciousness is turned outwards through the gates of the senses. The upper curve denotes the state of deep sleep (*sushupti*) or the unconscious state. This is a state where the sleeper desires nothing and beholds any dream. The middle curve (which lies between the deep sleep and waking state) signifies the dream state. In this state the consciousness of the individual is turned inwards, and the dreaming self beholds an enthralling view of the world behind the lids of the eyes.

These are the three states of an individual's consciousness and since Indian mystic thought believes the entire manifested reality to spring from this consciousness, these three curves, therefore represent the entire physical phenomenon.

The dot signifies the fourth state of consciousness, known in Sanskrit as *Turia*. In this state of the consciousness looks neither outward nor inwards, nor the two together. It signifies the coming to rest of all differentiated, relative existence. This utterly quiet, peaceful and blissful state is the ultimate aim of all spiritual activity. This absolute (non-relative) state illuminates the other three states.

Its formation of a face with thousands of OM on the 13th Jyotirlinga makes it very sacred and revered.

Significance of Australia for the final consecration of the 13th Jyotirlinga

Throughout the cycle of 'Continental drift', Australia does not drift to north but remains close to south pole. The earth has a magnetic field, and the pole in the geographic southern hemisphere generates positive magnetic energy which flows in clockwise spiral over the southern hemisphere. While the north pole absorbs the negative magnetic energy which flows anti-clockwise. Therefore, the inhabitants of Australia are constantly exposed to positive magnetic energy. This energy enhances organic matter. It also enhances the sensory intelligence of the right hand side of the brain called 'perinural'. This part of the brain, stimulated by positive magnetic energy, encourages and enhances spiritual and meditational phenomenon. The positive magnetic energy nourishes the inhabitants of this continent with an earth loving and earth-sensitive sense of reality which refers to our spirituality.

In ancient Hindu scripture, *Shat-Rudra Samhita*, Australia is described as the 'spiritual spinal chord' of the world because positive magnetic energy flows through this continent to the northern hemisphere.

Australia is prominent in many ancient Hindu scriptures. In *Srimadbhagwatam* chapter 20 *shlokas 13-17* gives graphic description of this continent of this sacred continent and refers it as *Ashtalika*.

Skandh Puraan and Shat-Rudra Samhita also describes the beauty and sacredness of this continent. In *Kaivalopanishad* the invocation prayer says:

Rudra yatte Dakshinam Mukham ten maam pahinityam

meaning:

'O Rudra (Lord Shiva) who always resides on the southern side of the earth, please protect us from miseries'.

Some scholars have interpreted the meaning of Lord Shiva, as a compassionate and merciful face, as a reference to this continent. In the scripture of the *Shiv-Veda*, Australia (referred to as *Ashtalika*) is called the permanent abode of *Ashtamurti Maheshwar* (Lord Shiva). One verse says:

'Vishwa Shanti Pradata Cha Jankalyan Kaarkah, Sudhanya Ashtalika Ghanya Shanti Niwasinah'

meaning:

'It is the continent which offers the peace to the world and wellbeing of everyone. Praise and salutations to Australia and its blessed inhabitants'.

It goes on to describe the 'spiritual spinal chord' of the world stretching from the south to the north pole, protecting the entire world with its natural powers. These powers are the positive magnetic energy described above.

Kundalini Yoga is developed on the basis of the principle of energy emanating from a source. In Kundalini Yoga, subtle serpent energy is perceived as coiled at the base of our spine. This is in each of us, positive energy of the south pole can be aroused so that it flows upward towards the north. This opens up the powers latent in the various psychological centres of the body. The image of meditational serpent coiling from the south pole and activating the Latent and creative powers of the earth also reinforces the identity between human body and the position of Australia on this planet.

The ancient people of Australia, the Aborigines are regarded as Vedic people. Their rituals prayers such as fire, earth and sky include all the three objects. In Vedic era of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma) also fire, mother earth and the sky are prevalent. In Hindu prayers worship of snake is common. The Jyotirlinga, Nageshwar/Nagnath is dedicated to the five faced mystical snake. The reason of the snake worship is that - the earth is surrounded by 200 miles of air around it which is referred as 'ionosphere'. Without ionosphere, nothing would survive on the planet as sun's rays would destroy it. The ionosphere is constantly bombarded by radioactive waves from stars causing the ionosphere to be compressed and take the shape of a snake. The tail of this mythical snake, referred as the magnetotail, protrudes through North pole of the earth and exerts its effect at a distance 4000 times the diameter of the earth. The mouth of the mythical snake is positioned around Australia. As mouth is the main part of the body through which we nourish our body by consuming food through it, and make friends or enemies through

the uttered words, location of mouth of the mythical snake around this continent, makes Australia i sacred. In ancient time, sages believed that this mythical snake protected the humanity from being destroyed and that's why the snake worship is undertaken in Hinduism. Aborigines also worship snake as 'Rainbow Serpent' which, according to their belief, this mythical snake is the link between the Earth and Heaven.

It was sacredness of this continent, described above, which made learned scholars and high priests of India and Nepal, to determine the final consecration of the 13th Jyotirlinga in Australia. Based on the above theory, then King of Nepal, His Majesty Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev gave his royal assent in 1998 for the final consecration of the 13th Jyotirlinga in Australia. The Jyotirlinga was formally consecrated on the 14th February 1999. This day was Maha-Shivratri Day a highly auspicious day for its consecration of the 13th Jyotirlinga. In the year 2000 the crown prince of Nepal visited the shrine on behalf of the King of Nepal to receive the blessings of finally consecrated 13th Jyotirlinga, Mukti-Gupteshwar Mahadev.

The Times of India, a national daily newspaper, in 2014 published a special article on spirituality. Pages 19 and 20 describe the 13th Jyotirlinga in Australia along with many ancient Hindu icons consecrated in many parts of the World (refer attachment 3).

In my opinion, the inhabitants of Australia are very lucky and blessed people as their continent is blessed by the consecration of a sacred and revered 13th Jyotirlinga Mukti-Gupteshwar Mahadev. The government of Australia should do its utmost to protect the sacred icon for the wellbeing of humanity.

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Attachment 1: Report by Dr Steding
Attachment 2: Photograph of the 13th Jyotirlinga
Attachment 3: *The Times of India* newspaper publication
Attachment 4: The sacred symbol of AUM.