



## Glory of Bharath » Santh Darsan

Sant Jnaneshwar



**Sant Jnaneshwar**

Jnaneshwar was born at **Alandi** near Pune in a spiritually rich family, the Kulkarnis of Apegaon. His parents were Vithalpant and Rakhumabai. They were in all four children - Nivrittinath, Jnanadeva, Sopan and Muktabai.

During their childhood itself, many miracles have been associated with Jnaneshwar. He made a buffalo chant a passage from the Rig Veda before many pandits. On one occasion, when his sister had no fuel to make fire, Jnaneshwar had generated vital heat and fire within his own body, and Mukta could bake and fry the 'rotis' on his back. On another occasion, he could make a mud wall rise into the sky.

More than all such miracles, the greatest miracle was hardly at 15 years of age, he composed the immortal Jnaneshwari, which occupies most prestigious position in the spiritual literature of India.

When he was hardly 21 years of age, Jnaneshwar, having felt that his mission in life had been amply fulfilled, sought permission of his brother and Guru Nivruttidev, to take Jiva - Samadhi at Alandi. Three hundred years later, Sant Eknath Maharaj got a temple built over the Samadhi of **Jnaneshwar** at Alandi.

The Bhagavad Gita teaches the spiritual way of living in the day-to-day life. The Gita message is meant to provide succor to all men, irrespective of religion, creed, nationality, age, stage of life etc. But this text, till mid-centuries, was in the confines of only scholars, having been originally composed in ancient Sanskrit, and being very cryptic in its presentation and exposition. It was not within the easy understanding of all.



Sri Jnaneshwar realized that the great spring of sustenance was flowing by side of each home; that a gold - mine was lying buried under the very feet of each one. But alas! People were unaware of this great treasure and their great fortune. Unless the great truths and teachings of the Gita were brought home to all, he felt the people and the nation could not be saved and benefited. He therefore undertook to translate the Gita into Marathi language, elaborated the original text to explain the meanings and things clearly.

This unique treasure which he gifted, though was named as '**Bhavartha Deepika**' goes by the name of Jnaneshwari, after his name. Besides this, he also wrote '**Anubhavamruta**', wherein he describes the experience of a realized soul.

Jnaneshwar was the one who laid the foundation for the grand spiritual edifice of Maharashtra. He was the pioneer of the Abhanga tradition and of the Varkari tradition that is the annual pilgrimage to the sacred Vithal Mandir at Pandarpur.

**"Humility is the greatest virtue. A Humble man is he who regards all beings, from the ant to the highest God, as identical with his own self. He is friendly with the whole world to the point where he cannot distinguish between himself and others"**

--- Jnaneshwar

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