Written by James Cooper Monday, 30 May 2016 13:07 - Last Updated Wednesday, 13 July 2022 08:16



An artists drawing of the ancient Martand temple built over a thousand years ago as an offering to 'Surya' god of the Sun and a name formed from 'marta' meaning 'death' and 'anda' meaning 'egg' as in the dead ( marta ) egg ( anda ) a name expressing how Aditi cast him away believing him dead and brought him to life only to see him die again.

The temple was built upon a hill with a view of the entire valley of Kashmir surrounded by a crystal clear lake and generations offered their worship to Martand who became the heart of Kashmir and their spiritual and material prosperity was seen as connected to the worship of this deity.

Sir Francis Younghusband, a famous explorer once commented "Martand has a very high place in the worlds great architectural designs, an example of not only the Kashmir architectural skill but being built at a fine place much prettier than the places of the 'Taj Mahal' and 'St Peters' which gives an insight into the greatness of the people of Kashmir".

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The architect of this temple was 'King Lalitaditya' a powerful ruler of the Karkota empire which flourished for some 400 years and renown as a great builder he constructed many temples to Siva and Visnu and his yearnings to create a monument of lasting beauty led him to create the temple of Martand.

## Hare Krishna Centre - Leicester, UK - Kashmir And The Martand Temple

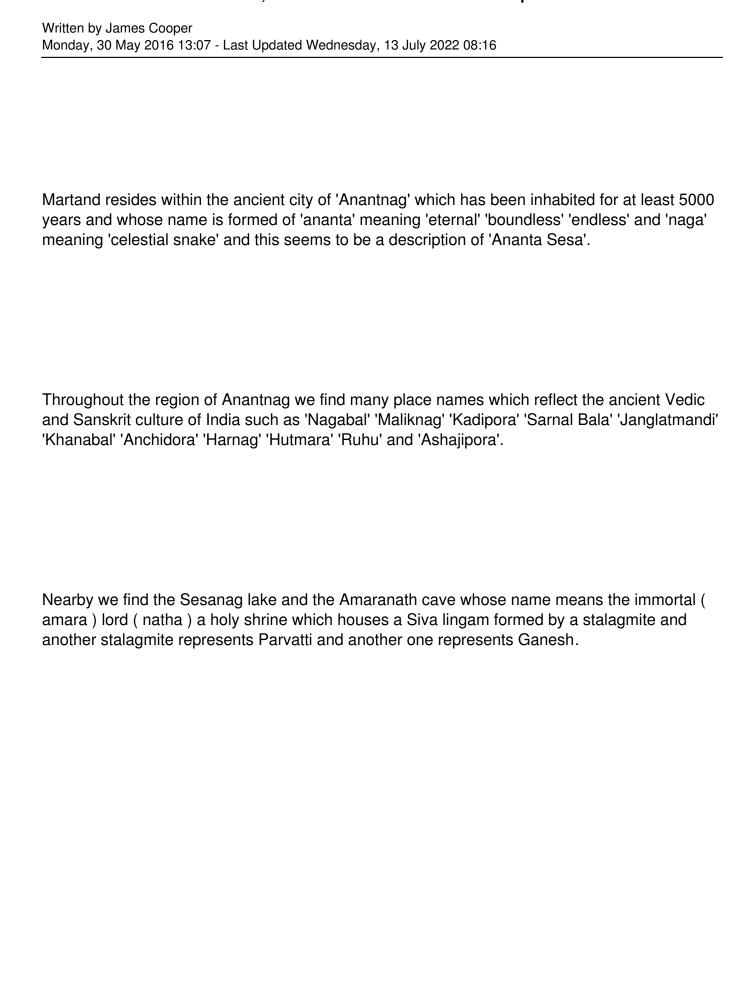
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Kashmirian architecture flourished during the reign of King Lalitaditya and the British architect and scholar Sir Alexander Cunningham says 'the architectural remains of Kashmir are perhaps the most remarkable of the existing monuments of India'.

The temple was built in such a way that the sunlight would fall upon Surya during the day and throughout the temple were various wall carvings which depict the glories of the gods such as Lord Visnu, such as Gangadevi and such as Yamunadevi.



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