



## Special Issue

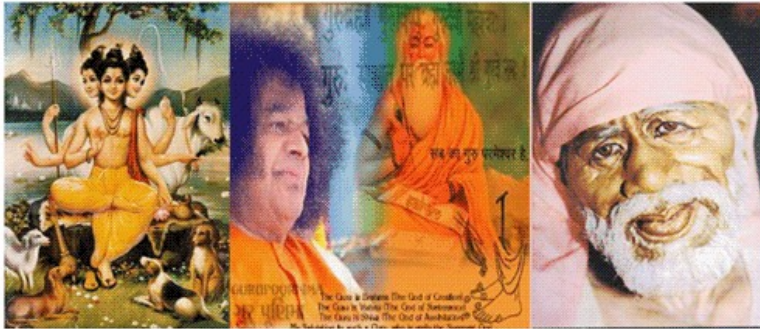
### Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam



"Agnaanatimirandhasya Gnaananjanashalakayaa Chakshurun Meelitam Yena Tasmai Sreegurave Namaha"

Who is a Guru? 'Gu' stands for **Gunatheeta** (attribute less). 'Ru' signifies **Rupavarjita** (formless). There is another interpretation for the word Guru. 'Gu' signifies darkness and 'Ru' denotes that which dispels darkness. (Gukaaro Andhakaarasya, Rukarasthanirodhakaha). So, God, who is attribute less and formless, is the true Guru. Guru is one who dispels the darkness of ignorance, arising out of body attachment. A Guru is necessary to make you understand the formless and attribute less Divinity.

"Gurur Brahma Gurur Vishnu Guru Devo Maheswara; Gurur Sakshat Para Brahma Thasmai Sri Gurave Namaha"



Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu, Guru is Maheswara. A true Guru is the embodiment of Brahmaanandha (transcendental bliss). A true Guru is one who enjoys and confers changeless supreme happiness. He is beyond space and time; and there is nothing higher than Him. He is the very form of truth and infinite. He has neither birth nor death, neither beginning nor end. He is God Himself: He is the Guru.

**Guru is Brahma:** He is the Creator; He Himself is the creation and He is the One that exists in the creation. The universe is filled with Brahman. It becomes clear that the One who Himself has become the universe is the Guru.

**Guru is Vishnu:** Who is Vishnu? Vishnu is one who has the quality of pervasiveness. He is the Doer and also what is done. The universe is the action, God is the Doer. God is the consciousness behind the cause and effect. The whole universe is the form of Vishnu. This Vishnu is the Guru.

**Guru is Maheshvara:** Who is Maheshvara? He is the one who rules all beings in the Universe. He commands and ordains everything in the universe in the right manner. Sun-rise and Sun-set go on according to His command. Seasons, rain, the day and night are His commands. Eshvara is one that makes everything--follow its discipline without any lapse. Guru is not one who merely teaches. A Guru is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent, He is God himself.

**Gurupurnima** means full moon without any defect or lacuna. Moon is nothing but mind. The Veda says: "**Chandrama Manaso Jathaha**". Moon is the presiding deity of the mind. That day is Purnima in the true sense of the term, when the mind is filled with pure love.

Bharatiyas have held the view that one should try to sublimate one's life by seeking a Guru and acting according to his teachings. There are eight types of Gurus:

1. Bodha Guru
2. Veda Guru
3. Nishiddha Guru
4. Kaamya Guru
5. Vaachaka Guru
6. Soochaka Guru
7. Kaarana Guru
8. Vihita Guru

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**Bodha Guru** teaches the Sastras and encourages the pupil to act up to sastric injunctions. **Veda Guru** imparts the inner meaning of the Vedas, establishes the pupil in spiritual truths and turns his mind towards God. **Nishiddha Guru** imparts knowledge about rites and duties and shows how one's welfare here and in the hereafter can be ensured. **Kaamy Guru** makes one engage himself in meritorious deeds to secure happiness in both the worlds. **Vaachaka Guru** imparts knowledge of Yoga and prepares the disciple for the spiritual life. **Soochaka Guru** teaches how the senses are to be controlled through various types of discipline. **Kaarana Guru** reveals the unity of the jivi and the Atma. **Vihita Guru** clears all doubts, purifies the mind and shows how Self-realization can be attained. Of these eight Gurus, the Kaarana Guru is the foremost. Through various teachings and practices, he helps the individual to progress from the human to the divine consciousness. Only the divine can act as such a teacher.

Guru Purnima, also referred to as **Vyasa Poornima**, is celebrated on the full moon day in the Hindu month of Ashada (July).



Sri Vyasa compiled and codified the four Vedas Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Atharva Veda and Sama Veda. He authored the Brahma Sutras, which contain the essence of Vedanta. He wrote the eighteen Puranas, including the deeply devotional Srimad Bhagavata, through which laymen could be inspired by the lofty principles of the Vedas, through the medium of legends. He wrote the epic, Mahabharata which is held in high reverence by Bharateeyas.

He summed up the essence of the eighteen puranas thus:

"Ashtaadasha puraneshu vyasasya vachanadvayam Paropakarah punyaya paapaya parapeedanam"

This has been the essence of Indian Culture since times immemorial. Hence, Vyasa Purnima has been rightly christened as Guru Purnima.

So let us remind ourselves once again the first message of our Beloved Bhagavan in the form of the bhajan -



"Maanasa Bhajare Guru Charanam Dusthara Bhava Saagara Taranam"



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