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THE ROLE OF A GURU IN HINDU DHARMA

A Mini Pravachan

By

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WHAT IS THE EXACT MEANING OF GURU?

- ❖ *GURU (गुरु) is a Sanskrit Word, Consisting of Two Individual Words: Gu (Darkness) + Ru (Dispel)*
- ❖ *Therefore, Guru means: The One Who Dispels The Darkness (Ignorance) or Leads One to Light (Knowledge)*
- ❖ *In Hinduism, the Guru means many things: a teacher, a counselor, one who assists in spiritual development, one who instils values and knowledge, an exemplar, and an inspiration.*
- ❖ *At a social and religious level, the Guru helps advance the Hindu religion and Hindu way of life.*

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A FEW SELECTED SHLOKAS ON GURU FROM “GURU GITA” AND “VISHWASAARA TANTRAM”

अखण्डमण्डलाकारं व्याप्तं येन चराचरम् ।
तत्पदं दर्शितं येन तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः ॥२॥

*Guru can guide us to the supreme knowledge of that which pervades
all the living and non-living beings in the entire Universe (namely
Brahman). I salute such a Guru.*

अज्ञानतिमिरान्धस्य ज्ञानाञ्जनशालाकया ।
चक्षुरुन्मीलितं येन तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः ॥३॥

*A Guru can save us from the pangs of ignorance (darkness) by
applying to us the balm of knowledge or awareness of the Supreme,
I salute such a Guru.*

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A FEW SHLOKAS ON GURU (CONTD.)

स्थावरं जङ्गमं व्याप्तं येन कृत्स्नं चराचरम् ।
तत्पदं दर्शितं येन तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः ॥४॥

*That Guru who can enlighten us about the all pervading
consciousness present in all the three world or states
(activity, dream and deep sleep state), I salute such a Guru.*

चिद्रूपेण परिव्याप्तं त्रैलोक्यं सचराचरम् ।
तत्पदं दर्शितं येन तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः ॥५॥

*Salutations to the Guru Whose Form is that of Consciousness
Pervading all the Moving and the Non-Moving beings of the Three
Worlds, By Whom is Revealed That Feet of All-Pervasive Presence.*

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A FEW SHLOKAS ON GURU (CONTD.)

ब्रह्मानन्दं परमसुखदं केवलं ज्ञानमूर्तिम्
द्वन्द्ववातीतं गगनसदृशं तत्त्वमस्यादिलक्ष्यम् ।
एकं नित्यं विमलमचलं सर्वधीसाक्षीभूतम्
भावातीतं त्रिगुणरहितं सद्गुरुतं नमामि ॥६॥

Salutations to the Sadguru, Who is the Bliss of Brahman, Who is the Bestower of Supreme Joy, Who is the Absolute, Who is the Embodiment of Knowledge, Who is Beyond Duality, Who is Boundless and Infinite Like the Sky, Who is Indicated by Maha Vakyas Like Tat-Tvam-Asi (That-Thou-Art), Who is One without the Second, Who is Eternal, Who is Stainless and Pure, Who is Immovable, Who is the Witness of the Intelligence of All Beings, Who is Beyond the States of the Mind, Who is Free from the Three Gunas.

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GURU-SHISHYA (TEACHER-DISCIPLE) RELATIONSHIP IN SANATAN DHARMA

A GURUS is Highly Revered As GOD Himself:

गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णु गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः गुरु साक्षात् परब्रह्मा तस्मै श्रीगुरुवे नमः

*Guru is the Creator (Brahma), Guru is the Preserver(Vishnu),
Guru is the Destroyer(Maheshwara); Guru himself is the Absolute
Lord, Salutations to that Shri Guru -- from Shri Guru Gita by Maharshi Veda Vyas*

गुरु मेरी पूजा, गुरु गोविंद, गुरु मेरा पारब्रह्म, गुरु भगवंत...

*Guru is my worship and Guru is my Lord. Guru is my Lord
Almighty and Guru is my Supreme Master. --from Grantha Sahib by Arjun Sahib*

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AN EXAMPLE OF GURU-SHISHYA RELATIONSHIP THE STORY OF EKALAVYA

- ❖ *Dronacharya was the Guru for both Kauravas & Pandavas, and taught them the Dhanurvidya (Archery).*
- ❖ *Pitamaha Bhishma was the Grandsire of the Kuru Dynasty, to which both Kauravas and Pandavas belong, and had taken promise from Dronacharya that he would teach Archery only to the princes of the Kuru Dynasty, and nobody else.*
- ❖ *One day, when Dronacharya was teaching archery to a few Kuru princes, including Arjuna, a young boy named Ekalavya approached Drona and requested that he teach archery to him.*

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THE STORY OF EKALAVYA (CONTD.)

- ❖ Being dejected by the rejection of Drona to accept him as a disciple, Ekalavya determined to learn archery by himself.
- ❖ Being a child of a hunter, who dwelled in a forest, he created an image of Dronacharya out of mud, worshiped him everyday as his Guru, and started practicing archery with the blessings of his inanimate Guru.
- ❖ After years of practice, Ekalavya became the most skillful archer, even surpassing the most renowned archer Arjuna.
- ❖ One day, while Ekalavya was practicing archery, a stray dog began to bark at him incessantly, distracting the shooting focus of Ekalavya.



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THE STORY OF EKALAVYA (CONTD.)

- ❖ Eklavya shot seven consecutive arrows into the mouth of the dog with utmost precision to prevent it from barking, but without injuring the dog.
- ❖ The dog with arrows in its mouth roamed into the forest until it reached the place where Dronacharya had brought his disciples to the forest to practice archery that day.
- ❖ Dronacharya & The Disciples were stunned to look at the dog with skillfully placed arrows in its mouth, and began to search for the expert archer who could have done it.



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THE STORY OF EKALAVYA (CONTD.)

- ❖ When Dronacharya asked him about who taught him the archery, Ekalavya said that “It is You, O Great Guru!” and told him the facts.
- ❖ While Dronacharya was quite happy to hear that, he also felt sad that his goal of making Arjuna the greatest archer was no longer possible. So, he devised a plan to stop Ekalavya from superseding Arjuna in archery.
- ❖ Dronacharya asked Ekalavya to offer his right thumb as his Guru Dakshina (Gift to Guru).
- ❖ Ekalavya, with great respect toward his Guru, immediately chopped off his right thumb, and offered it as “Guru Dakshina” to Drona.
- ❖ Dronacharya was overwhelmed with emotions, and said, “as long as the life exists in this Universe, you will be known for your exemplary devotion and faith for your Guru”!



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THE GREATEST GURUS OF SANATAN DHARMA



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ANYWHERE
ON THE
IMAGE
SHOWN ON
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START THE
VIDEO

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