

Guru Puja



DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)

- An inspiring festival celebrated in the Hindu tradition
- Auspicious day of worshipping the guru
- Celebrated on the day of Vyas Poornima or Guru Poornima
- Bhagawa Dhwaj as guru in Sangh

Ved Vyas



The auspicious day of Ashadha Poornima or Guru Poornima is also called Vyas Poornima because Adi-Guru Maharshi Ved Vyas...

➤ Compiled the Vedas into four heads:

Rig, Yajur, Saam, and Atharva

➤ Other works of Ved Vyas were

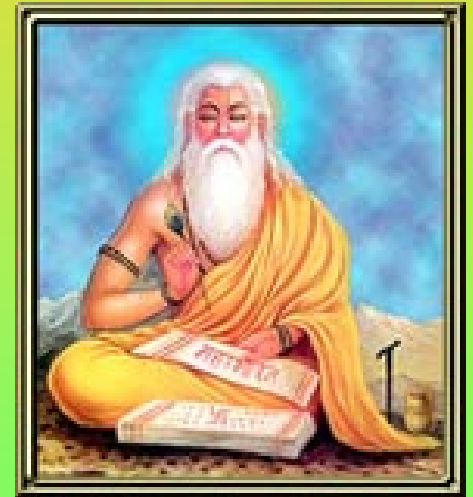
Brahma-sootras – Background of Vedas

Eighteen Puranas – Stories of great heroes

Mahabharat – Greatest epic of all times

Bhagavad Gita – Essence of Upanishads

Bhagavatam – Devotional story of Lord Krishna



Who is Guru?

Dwayopanishad says:

Gushabdasthvandhakaarah shyaat rishabdasthannirodhakah
Andhakaaranirodhitvaatgururithyabhidhiyathe

Guru = Gu + Ru

Gu means darkness, ignorance, or andhakaar

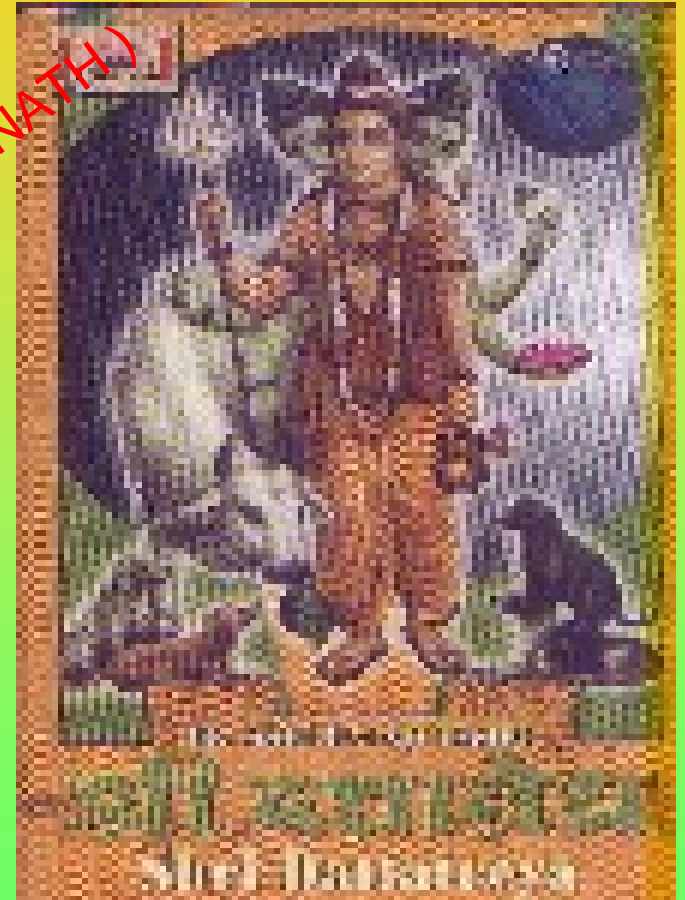
Ru means remover or nirodhak

So, as per Dwayopanishad guru means the remover of darkness

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)

Another Meaning of Guru

Gu stands for gunatheet, meaning attributeless and Ru stands for rupavarjit, meaning formless. So, Guru is the one who is attributeless and formless and an embodiment of God himself.



Importance of Guru

Dwayopanishad says:

Gurureva param brahma gurureva paraa gati

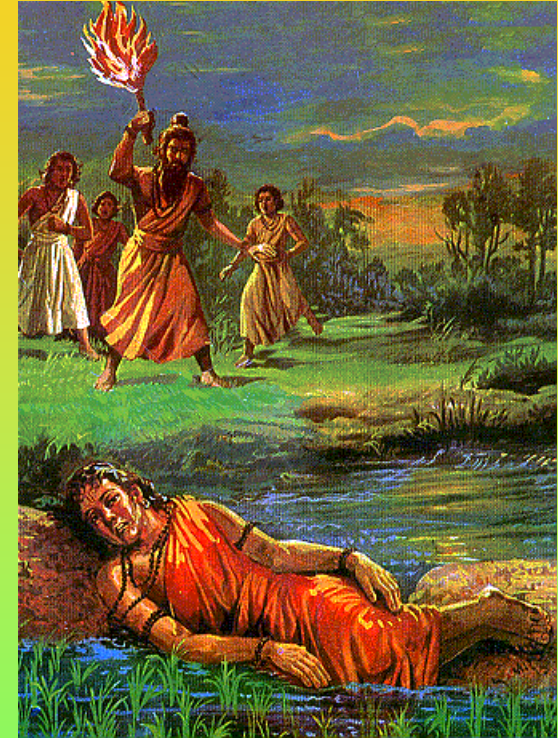
Gurureva paramviayaa gurureva param dhanam

Guru is Brahma. Guru is Parabrahm. Guru is ultimate destination. Guru is knowledge. Guru itself is wealth.

Thus respect the Guru.

Guru-Student Relationship

There is a beautiful story of Aruni of Panchala and his guru Dhoumya in Mahabharat. To fulfill the wishes of his guru, Aruni slept all night in the freezing cold water so that he could stop the water from running out of the farm. When Sage Dhoumya found Aruni next morning sleeping in the breached embankment of the farm, Aruni was muttering, "The water is flowing out, the crops will die." Such was the devotion of Aruni for his guru. Sage Dhoumya embraced Aruni with tears of love flowing out of his eyes. Such was the love of the guru to his students.



Guru-Student Relationship

There is another very inspiring story from the Mahabharat. When his guru, Dronacharya asked for his right thumb in Guru Dakshina, the great archer, Ekalavya, cut off his thumb without any hesitation and gave it to his guru. Even though he knew that he wouldn't remain a great archer afterwards, he had no hesitation before giving up his thumb.



In another story, One time, Sri Akhandanandji told his disciple, Sri Guruji Golwalkar that his hair looks nice on him. To keep the words of his guru, Guruji never cut his hair in his life.

Guru-Student Relationship

Few other Great Gurus and Their Great Disciples

- Samartha Ramdas – Chhatrapati Shivaji
- Chanakya – Chandragupta
- Swami Vidyananya – Hukka-Bukka
- Vishwamitra – Rama-Laxman
- Krishna – Arjuna
- Dhronacharya – Arjuna
- Yama – Nachiketa
- Ramakrishna – Vivekananda

DR. RUPINATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)

Guru Puja and Sangh

Who is the Guru in Sangh?



Once, the founder of sangh, Doctorji was asked to become the guru of the entire Sangh. He simply refused saying that the guru for sangh should not be an individual person but instead something else that can be forever. A human being is after all mortal and however great, has his own limitations. If a person becomes guru, different people will keep finding faults in the person as time goes on. Swayamsevaks researched for an ideal guru and thought of the perfect guru as Bhagawa Dhwaja. Bhagawa Dhwaja has been chosen to represent all the gurus of the past and has been considered as the common guru of the Hindu society. It has been flying over ashrams since time immemorial.

Bhagawa Dhwaj

- o Color – saffron, depicting renunciation and service, epitomizes the culture of Bharat.
- o represents spirit of saffron color of fire coming out of yajna
- o “Not mine, but thine” is the true message of Bhagawa Dhwaj.
- o Whatever one achieves in this life in terms of physical prosperity and knowledge, one has to offer them back to the society. The Ishaavaasya Upanishad declares:

*Ishaa Vaasyamidam sarvam, yatkincha jagatyaam jagat /
Tena tyaktena bhunjeethaah maa gridhah kasyaswiddhanam / /*

(God is the lord of all creation. After offering to Him, enjoy only that which is left over by Him. Do not rob what belongs to others.)

Continued

- In the Bhagavad Geeta Sri Krishna warns: "He who eats all by himself without first offering to others eats only sin".
- The Bhagawa Dhvaj is the most resplendent emblem of this sublime philosophy. And, worship of this holy flag on this Guru Poornima Day is intended to instil in us this positive Hindu attitude towards life. The ceremonial worship of the flag through flowers accompanied by monetary offering is just an external expression of this attitude of surrender to the ideal. Real worship, for a Hindu, lies in becoming an image of the idea himself. Shivo bhootwa shivam yajet – one has to become Shiva Himself if one has to worship Shiva.

○

Guru Dakshina

As per our saastras there are four kinds of Rin or debts that all human beings must pay back before leaving the world, Rishi Rin, Dev Rin, Pitri Rin, and Samaj Rin. The first debt, Rishi Rin can be paid in several ways such as devotion, sacrifice, and discipline. Accordingly, there are three methods by which we can pay these debt, tan, man, and dhan. Tan is the physical form of dakshina such as doing physical service and giving time for selfless work. Man is the mental form of dakshina such as studying scriptures and developing good character based upon dharma. Dhan is the monetary form of dakshina which is donating whatever amount of money to the guru.

Questions

Q: Can a swayamsevak have any other guru in addition to Bhagawa Dhvaj? Can we have more than one Guru.

- Yes. In fact, Bhagawa Dhwaja inspires swayamsevaks to search for an individual guru.
- Sri Paramhansa Ramakrishna had 3 gurus
- Bhagwan Dattatreya had many(23 or 24) gurus

DR. RUPANATH (DR. RUPANATH)

Questions

Q. Should Guru always be in Human form

- Sri Guru Govind Singh established Guru Granth Sahib as guru of shiksh panth.
- Many of the devotees have symbolic guru.

DR. RUPNATHJI (DR. RUPAK NATH)