

GURU POORNIMA

Guru Poornima coincides with the full moon day of the Hindu Lunar calendar month of Ashadh, which usually falls during the month of July every year. On this particular day, Guru Kripa (Grace) is far more active than on any other day of the year. The primary mission of the Guru is to spread spirituality. So on this day, when one undertakes an activity towards the spread of spirituality, one is graced by the Guru a thousand times more. Participation in the Guru Poornima celebration also helps to generate spiritual emotion in the seeker. This auspicious day presents seekers with the unparalleled opportunity to pay their gratitude to the Guru. In truth, the seeker grows spiritually by participating wholeheartedly in festivities through the sacrifice of his body, mind and wealth for the Guru's mission of spreading spirituality.

This is the full moon night when devotees all over the world pay special honour to the Guru.

"Gum Rauteeti Guruh".

This Vedic mantra states that the one, who is perfectly capable of dispelling the darkness of ignorance, is called a guru.

"Grinaati gyanam iti guruh".

The one, who imparts Divine wisdom, is called a guru. Mundakopnishad, verse 1-2-12 says that in order to know God, one needs to surrender to a God realised Saint .i.e. the one who has complete theoretical knowledge of the scriptures and has also practically attained God. The Divine personality who can explain to us and give us the true understanding about- Who God is? What is Soul? What is Maya? How to attain God? What is material happiness? What is mind? What is intellect? Such a divine personality is called a Guru.

***candana taru hari santa samiraa
rAma sindhu ghana sajjana dhiraa***

Lord Hari is the exotic tree of sandalwood. Like the wind, the Saints carry its fragrance.

(Ramayan)

***bhayam dvitiyabhinivesatah syad
isad apetasya viparyayo 'smrtih
tan-mayayato budha abhajat tam
bhaktyaikayesam guru-devatatma***

"Fear arises when one misidentifies himself as the material body because of absorption in (Maya) the external, illusory energy of the Lord. When one thus turns away from the Supreme Lord, he also forgets his own constitutional position as a servant of the Lord. This bewildering, fearful condition is affected by the potency for illusion, called Maya. Therefore, an intelligent person should engage unflinchingly in the unalloyed devotional service of the Lord, under the guidance of a bona fide spiritual master, whom he should accept as his worshipable deity and as his very life and soul.

(Srimad Bhagavatam 11.2.37)

If you forget Shri Krishna, you are forced to be extremely attached to this world. You will start to think, "I am this body. Old age will come and then I will die." Fear comes. At the time of death we cannot take anything with us. So many diseases come, and so many problems come in this world. You should know and understand that your Gurudev is more dear than your father, mother, wife or any relative. Obey him and worship him, and then perform Roopdhyan to Shri RadhaKrishna. Don't disobey your Guru, otherwise you will fall down. You should know that your Gurudev is our most dear friend. You should obey and serve him, and by that service (sewa) you should always serve the divine couple Shri RadhaKrishna. This is the easiest method to attain Them.

*yasya deve para bhaktir yata deve tatha gurau
tasyaite kathita hyarthah prakshante mahatmanah*

Shvetashvatara Upanishad 6.23

One who has supreme devotion in God and Guru (the Saint) equally (no less!), attains that ultimate goal.

Why So? "Because There is **NO** difference what so ever between God and His very Own Saintly Devotees!"

"tasmin tajjnebhed abhavat"

(Narad Bhakti Sutra 41)

And Lord Krishna also confirms this in Bhagavatam in His conversation to Uddhava

*ācāryam mām vijānīyān nāvamanyeta karhicit
na martya buddhyā sūyeta sarvadeva mayo guruḥ*

“Know the Guru to be Myself (God). Never think unfavourably about Him. Do not use your material mind to comprehend the Guru’s divine actions, for all forms of God dwell within Him.”

Shrimad Bhagavatam 11.17.27

A genuine guru is one who descends on the earth from time to time as a repository of spiritual force, which His divinity transmits to the generations through successive links of guru and shishya (disciple).The divine current of this spirit-force changes its course from time to time just as a mighty stream of water opens up a new channel.

On this most auspicious day of my life, I again and again pay my utmost humble obeisance at the Divine Lotus Feet of my beloved Gurudev. His mercy is boundless and my sins are boundless yet His Divine Excellency has accepted me in His service.

'He who explains the essence of the Vedas and fills the heart with love for God, is the Guru.' The Guru is the merciful Lord Himself. Such is My Gurudev, Jagadguru Shri Kripalu ji Mahaprabhu.

Pujniye Gopeshwari Devi Ji.