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Bhagwan Ved Vyasa

Bhagwan Ved Vyasa the day of Guru Purnima, in the month of Aswina is traditionally dedicated to Guru Purnima by Hindus. Also known as Vyasa Purnima, the day is celebrated in remembrance and veneration to sage ved vyasa. He is the Ad (original) Guru of the Hindu Dharma, who classified the Vedas, wrote the eighteen Puranas and the Mahabharat. On this day, the Guru is offered Puja (worship) by the disciples. First we shall consider the role of a Guru in life.

The Need of a Guru

The Sanskrit root "Gu" means darkness or ignorance. "Ru" denotes the remover of that darkness. Therefore one who removes darkness of our ignorance is Guru. Only he who removes the darkness, known as Guru, can imparts and guides us on to the path of God-realization is the true Guru. Students also refer to their school teacher or college lecturer as guru. The connotation of the word guru in this case is one who imparts temporal knowledge (Apara Vidyā) and is thus according to the scriptures.

A spiritual aspirant, no matter how brilliant, can never attain such knowledge by his own endeavor. This is stipulated in the Shrimad Bhagwatam in which Jambharat reveals to king Rahugan:

"O Rahugan! One cannot attain knowledge of Atma and Paramatma by performing penance, sacrifices, renunciation, Vedic study or worshipping deities of water, fire or sun. But when the dust from the feet of a samsarachchud (God-realized Guru) spreads over his head, then one can surely attain this knowledge."

In essence, one can only attain salvation by serving the satpurush, treading the path to God-realization by one's own efforts is likened by the Katha Upnishad as walking on a razor's edge. Adi Shankaracharya echoes a similar injunction: "if a person, despite possessing a handsome, disease-free body, fame, a mountain of wealth, and if he has studied Vedas and other scriptures, and has himself composed many scriptures, but has not surrendered himself at the feet of a Guru, then he has achieved nothing, nothing, nothing."

The Guru plays a vital role in boosting the aspirant frequently, when he loses track, becomes despondent or simply runs out of steam. The aspirant is thus better able to obey the Guru if he understands the Guru's glory.

Glory of the Guru

The Hindu shastras have hailed such a Guru immeasurably:

நூல்களின்போது
நூல்களின்போது
வாய்மொழி வாய்மொழி
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