

Gurupūrṇimā at Avg, Coimbatore

Gurupūrṇimā was celebrated on the 15th of July, 2011 at Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Anaikatti.

In his anugraha bhāṣaṇam, Pujya Swamiji said that this day, called Gurupūrṇimā or Vyāsa pūrṇimā, was a significant day in Indian calendar. On this day one expressed his gratitude to the Guru paramparā. In Sringeri and Kanchi Mutts, the Pontiffs would invoke all the earlier Gurus of their Mutts in separate kalasās. They worshiped all the earlier Pontiffs of the Mutt on this day.

For six weeks from the Gurupūrṇimā day, Sadhus would not travel. This was the rainy season and a lot of small insects would be on the foot path. When one walks on the foot- path, the small insects would get destroyed. To uphold their commitment to ahimsā taken at the time of taking Sannyāsa, Sādhus did not travel during this time. Otherwise Sādhus would not remain in one place.

In those days, a boy attaining the age of 12 years would go to a Gurukulam and stayed there for 12 years and studied under an ācārya. Once he had completed the study, he would be given a apavṛta snānam like a convocation. He will give Guru dakṣiṇa to the Teacher. Taking the ācārya's permission, he would get married. This was the Vedic tradition.



In other religions, there was no spiritual goal to be accomplished in this life. Their ultimate goal was going to heaven, after death. The mahāvākya— “You are that whole”, is not there in any theology or any other culture. There is no teaching and no real spirituality.

Although a teacher of music or dance also claims to be a Guru, he can be really called only as an ācārya. The word Guru is generally reserved for the one who teaches the mahāvākya--Tat Tvam Asi. He should



be able to teach jīva īśvara aikyam. All that is here is one reality. You cannot be away from it. It starts with you and ends with you. There is no distance between you and Īśvara.

Basically there is one reality. The apparent difference is glory of Īśvara. Do not create division in reality. The one who is able to unfold the ultimate equation Tat Tvam Asi is the Guru. Before death, you need to gain this knowledge here. You have to subject yourself to the process of processing all issues, so that you can understand the final equation.

Guru pūrṇimā is a significant day. This acknowledges this equation. There is the equation and the tradition of teaching this equation. All other subject matters fall

within the means of knowledge you have like perception or inference.

A person is an individual. But when he occupies the office of President, he becomes an institution. Like that the person who is an individual, when he is a Guru, becomes a sacred institution. He has power and responsibility.

Guru is a super therapist. Śiṣya should choose to know. Guru makes śiṣya see the meaning of "You are the whole". Guru is great because he makes the śiṣya great. Only in India we have a teaching tradition like this. This teaching methodology cannot be changed. Method goes along with the vision. This amazing method has been maintained. There are really no words to communicate the beauty, profundity and depth of this teaching tradition.



The teaching started with Lord Nārāyaṇa or Lord Dakṣiṇāmūrti. We have a regular written śāstrā from Sage Veda Vyasa. The teaching tradition recognizes Adi

Sankarācārya in the middle. Our own Guru is the unbroken link in the teaching tradition. We salute the Guru paramparā and the profound mahāvākya teaching on this Guru pūrṇimā day.

In the end, Pujya Swamiji released the handy new edition of Bhagawad Gita Home Study Course. Shri B.K. Krishnaraja Vanavarayar, Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Coimbatore Kendra received the first copy.

Report by N. Avinashilingam

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