

Swamiji started the talk with an uplifting bhajan on guru - *guru mahima guru mahima apaara mahima guru mahima*.

One important aspect of any culture is the celebration of festivals. These festivals are of various types—Jayanti or Utsava. Utsava means celebration of some incarnation's birthday or sometimes celebrations connected to agriculture like pongal or to some festival connected with beginning of the year like ugadi or to some festivals called celestial festivals-*divya utsava* which is related to movement of luminaries. One such festival is guru peyarchi. "Peyarchi" means transition. The planet Jupiter (guru) takes 12 years to complete one round around the sun. That is why Pujya swamiji would say that to complete the study of any subject matter thoroughly, it takes 12 years. Like grammar or jyotisha to study thoroughly takes 12 years.

Guru or any graha itself does not affect your life. You must be very clear about this. Astrology or your horoscope or any graha does not decide your life. It is just indicative of your karma. It is a model presented by our rishis who because of their extraordinary power of observation saw the connection between the celestial conditions in the sky and human life. Based on that they had jyotisha sastra by which a person's life is indicated by the conditions of the stars and the movement of the planets. So we should not think that Jupiter will affect me or rahu or ketu will affect me. No graha can affect you. This one should be very clear about because some people are afraid that Sani or Rahu or Mars will adversely affect them. You need not be afraid of any graha because graha is just indicative of your karma. So if at all you should be afraid of anything, it should beof papa karma. You should avoid papa karma so that you will not have papa phalam. This is an important thing we should know about astrology.

In fact in the astrology model, some of the grahas are considered to be benevolent. If they are well-placed in your horoscope, they indicate good karma on your part. Guru is one such beneficent planet. That guru takes 12 years to complete its orbit round the sun and it takes one year to enter and complete its path in one rasi. So every year, guru will be changing its rasi. Today guru will be moving from

Makara rasi to Kumbha rasi. Based on that astrologer will say, if you have this sign, this guru peyarchi is good for you or if you have that sign, you should be careful. In fact we should always think that my guru is always showering his blessings on me, so no graha can do anything to me. That should be our conviction.

Another thing, the graha guru , Jupiter is invoked in Lord Dakshinamurti. Really Brhaspati is the graha who has a different figure and color,etc. but that planet guru is invoked in Lord dakshinamurti who is also guru. That is why today in South India you will find big crowds in Dakshinamurti temples, where pujas will be done specially. Guru's grace is invoked by worshipping Dakshinamurti.

Today we chanted a shloka . These three shlokas are glorifying the guru who is also a devata and even among the devatas, he is the guru of all devatas. Today I will give the meaning of the first shloka and the rest next year.

*Devanam ca rishinam ca gurum kaanchana sannibham*

*Buddhibhutam trilokesam tam namami Brhaspatim*

This brahaspati is the teacher, guide of all the devas and even great rishis. He has a golden complexion. He is presiding over our intellect and because of this high position of being guru of devatas and rishis, he is considered to be lord of the three lokas.

In our tradition we can invoke a particular form of the Lord or we can invoke jagat karta isvara or we can invoke the limit-less, attribute-less brahman. All three of them can be invoked. Here the lord of the three worlds is invoked. To that trilokesa brahaspatim, I salute. Brahaspati is another name for guru. Brahas means speech and pati means the Lord. So I salute Lord Brhaspati.

*Om Tat Sat*