

Guru – Lesson 2

Activity Two - Guru Sloka

*Guru Brahma gurur Vishnuh,
Gurur dhevo Maheswarah
Gurussaakshaath Parabrahma
Thasmai Shri Gurave namah*

Baba says: this is usually interpreted as indicating that the *Guru* is Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara and that he is the visible *Parabrahma*. But, it is capable of a nobler interpretation: "Brahma is the *Guru*, Vishnu is the *Guru*, Maheshwara is the *Guru*, really *Parabrahma* is the *Guru*."

Quiz Questions

1. Who is the real *Guru*?
2. Do we need then to look for *Gurus* in human form?
3. What do we have inside us that guides us and tells us what we should and should not be doing?

Story - Winning the *Guru's* grace – How should we treat the *Guru*

When you are given some work, you should put your heart and soul into it, and do the work with the utmost sincerity and dedication, to the limit of your capacity. Take for example a person who is entrusted with planting trees and developing a garden. If he does the work wholeheartedly the plants will come up well, and the garden will grow into a thing of beauty. When Swami comes to see that garden and feels happy with the condition of the plants, then Swami's joy becomes the Grace He bestows on that person; and that Grace will confer great happiness on that individual.

Here is an example of this:

Sri Sankaracharya had a number of, disciples, of whom 13 were considered important. Of these, four were the closest to the Master. They were Hasthimalika, Thotaka, Suresha and Padmapada. The first three chose to study the scriptures under their *Guru*, but the last one said that he would be most happy just serving the *Guru*. Sankara asked him what service he wanted to perform. The disciple replied that he wanted to wash the *Guru's* clothes and have them ready for the *Guru* each day. The other three would ridicule him for choosing only service to the *Guru*, while they were learning the great scriptures, but the fourth disciple was not at all bothered by that. Every day he used to take the *Guru's* clothes to the middle of the river so that they could be washed in the purest water available. One day there was a flood and he was caught in the middle of the river. He was not worried about losing his life, but he was greatly concerned about getting the clothes to the *Guru*, in time. He began rushing across the river, which was now in spate. Wherever he placed his foot a stone lotus sprang up. Thus he got the name of Padmapada. When he brought the clothes to the *Guru*, the *guru* was so pleased with the disciple's devotion that he showered his Grace on him, and immediately Padmapada became a great scholar. This is the greatness of service to the *Guru* and the Grace it can evoke from him.