

A cellection of stories by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Coming Home to the Master Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

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Tust enter the door of the Master and come home, Only the presence of the Master will bring fulfillment to your life and to all of your relationships,

- Gurudev Sri Sri-Ravi Shankar-



You are lost on the street. There is rain, thunder, wind and cold; you need shelter. You look around and you find a door. You come to the door because it is more inviting, more charming, more joyful than anything out on the street.

When you enter the door of the Master, you come home. You see the world from a new perspective. From inside you can still hear the thunder and see the rain, but it no longer disturbs you. Inside there is warmth and security. The world looks much more beautiful – not a nasty place, but a place filled with love, cooperation, compassion. Your fear drops away.

When you can see the whole world through the eyes of the Master, it is a sign that you have come to the Master; you have entered the door. This is the purpose of having a Master.

If you are still seeing the world as before, then you have not yet come to the Master. You are still standing out in the street; cold and wet. You are only looking at the door, you have not yet entered.

What does it mean to **see through the eyes of the Master**? Just this: Every situation that you face, you think, "If this situation comes in front of the Master, how would he handle it? If this complication arises for the Master, how would he take it? If someone blamed the Master, what would he do?"

The key is to feel the presence of the Master. The Master is the presence, not a relationship. Relationships can be broken, mended,

and broken again. There is craving and aversion in every relationship. This is the wheel of *sansara*, the misery of the world.

All relationships go topsy-tuvy, whereas the presence is vast, infinite, stable and centered.

Don't make the master a wordly relationship. "Oh, he looked at me'. "He didn't look at me". "He said this". "He didn't say that".

"Somebody else is close, I am not close". All this garbage comes into it.

Just enter the door of the Master and come home. Only the presence of the Master will bring fulfillment to your life – and to all of your relationships.





Mannatha ski jagannatha, madguku ski jagadguku, madatma sakva bhutatma, tasmai ski gukave namah.

My Lord is the Lord of the creation. My Master is the Master of the universe. My soul is the soul of every living being.

I bow down to the glory of my Gurudev.



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What is a Guru?

Guru is that principle which is wisdom and love. You also call that person a Guru, in whom, there is no gap between life, wisdom and love. Often one recognizes wisdom but sees a gap between wisdom and one's own life. The purpose of becoming a disciple is to bridge that gap. Being with the Guru means the spontaneous integration of life and wisdom.

You need a mirror to see your own face, right? You cannot see it on a pillar or a wall. You can only see it in the mirror. The Guru is the mirror that shows you your true Self. He is there to show you your highest possibility, and to see you blossom in your highest possibility.

We are in a world where emotion catches emotion. If some people have an emotion, others catch that emotion. Similarly, wisdom catches wisdom. In the company of wise people, your quality of consciousness also shifts. Wisdom is not information, it is a quality of consciousness that shifts in the mind, and that is bestowed by the Guru Principle, by acknowledging the Guru in life.

There are a lot of beautiful Guru disciple stories. I've not read them all, only heard a little bit here and there. But the essence is how the quality of consciousness gets shifted, and the shift is a gift. I will tell you some stories.



Curu Disciple Stories



The First Story of Guru Purnima

Long time ago, there were four elderly men who were seeking answers. The first one was miserable and he wanted to know how to get out of his misery. The second one wanted more progress and success, and wanted to know how to get that. The third one wanted to know the meaning of life. And the fourth one had all the knowledge but still he lacked something, and he did not know what that was.

So these four people were wandering for answers and they all landed up in one place where there was a Banyan tree. Under the Banyan tree, a young man was seated with a big smile on his face, and suddenly all of them thought that this person could give us the answer. The same thought came to all of them from within, that this person is going to solve my problems, and so all four of them sat there and they got their answers.

The young man who was sitting under the Banyan tree with a smile did not say a word, yet all of them got what they wanted.

This is the first story of Guru Purnima. That was a full moon day, and that is how the **Guru Parampara** (lineage of the Guru order) started. All these four elderly people became Gurus.

They all got what they wanted:

- 1. Misery was gone.
- 2. Abundance and happiness arrived.
- 3. The seeking stopped.
- 4. The knowledgeable one got a Guru to express himself.



That fourth man had everything, he had all the knowledge but he did not have a Guru to connect to. So the inner connection to the Guru happened. That's why Adi Shankaracharya said, "Mouna Vyakhya prakatitha, para, Brahma thathwam yuvanam".

(Meaning: I praise and salute Dakshinamrthy (The first Guru), who explains the true nature of the supreme Brahman through his state of silence)

Symbolism of the story

In the story, the teacher is young because the spirit is always young, whereas the students are old. There are so many similes associated with this. **Seeking makes you old**. Seeking for the world, or for liberation, or for anything, makes you old. So the disciples were old, and the Master was young.

What is the symbolism of the Banyan tree? A Banyan tree grows on its own. It does not need anybody's care or protection. If the seed of

a Banyan tree gets inside the crack of a stone, where there is not much water, it will grow there also. All it needs is a little mud and very little water. Sometimes it does not need even that. And a Banyan tree gives oxygen all the time. This is one tree that gives oxygen 24 hours. So the Banyan tree which only gives, symbolizes the Guru Principle.

Guru means the one who removes darkness, misery, loneliness, lack, and brings abundance, because lack is only in the mind. So the Guru removes the lack and brings freedom.







In the presence of the Satguru, knowledge flourishes, sorrow diminishes, joy wells up for no reason, talents manifest & abundance dawns.
To the degree you feel connected to the Master, these qualities manifest in your life.
Sit with your eyes closed and feel your connection with the Master.

- Gurudev Sri Sri-Pavi Shankar-

The Seat of the Guru

This is a beautiful story from the Puranas.

Lord Shiva is the Guru of the entire creation. He is called *Adiguru* – the Guru that is present from the beginning of time, and the Guru that is beyond time.

When Lord Shiva had a son – Karthikeya, he was sent to school to study and receive education from Lord Brahma. So when Karthikeya went to Lord Brahma, he asked him, "Please tell me the meaning of Om".

Lord Brahma said, "First learn the alphabets! You are directly asking me for the meaning of Om".

Karthikeya said, "No, I want to know the highest knowledge first". Now Lord Brahma knew all about the alphabets, but he did not know the meaning of Om. This is because his knowledge was limited to the 'A' part of Om. The 'U' sound belonged to Lord Vishnu, and 'M' sound belonged to Lord Shiva. So, Lord Brahma did not completely know about Om.

So Karthikeya said to Lord Brahma, "If you do not know the meaning of Om, how will you teach me? I will not study under you". And Karthikeya went back to his father.

Lord Brahma told Lord Shiva, "You alone can handle your son. I can't handle him. Whatever I say, he says the exact opposite of that. I won't be able to teach him. So you decide what is best for him and you handle him".

Hearing this, Lord Shiva asked Karthikeya, "What happened, son?

Lord Brahma is the creator of the entire universe. You must learn from him".

To this Karthikeya replied, "Then you tell me, what is the meaning of Om?"

Lord Shiva smiled and said, "Even I don't know".

Karthikeya then said, "Then I will tell you because I know the meaning of Om".

"Then tell me the meaning, since you know it", Lord Shiva said.

"I can't tell you like this. You have to give me the place of the Guru. Only if you put me on the pedestal of the Guru can I tell you", said Karthikeya.

Guru means he has to be on a higher position or platform. The teacher has to sit on a higher place and the student has to sit down and listen to him.

Now how does this get resolved? Where to seat Karthikeya, for there is nothing above Lord Shiva! He is the highest. What to do? Lord Shiva too didn't know what to do. Then Goddess Parvati (Shiva's consort) said to Lord Shiva, "Lift him onto your shoulders".



So Lord Shiva lifted him on his shoulders and kept him high. And in the ear of Lord Shiva, Karthikeya gave him the meaning of the ultimate truth – the meaning of Om!

Symbolism of the story

The Guru Principle is like a child. There is such sweetness and innocence in the Guru Principle that even Lord Shiva had to give a position to the Guru principle which is above Himself.

So the message of the story is that the Guru Principle is like a child – innocent, intelligent, dignified, yet humble. All the qualities present in an infant are the signs of the Guru Principle. And honoring that is honoring oneself, and honoring life which is what Guru Purnima is – celebrating and honoring the Guru Principle, the wisdom, the knowledge, innocence and love.

The meaning of Om

Karthikeya said, "Om means love. You are love, I am love. Everything that is present here is full of love. Love is the essence and the nectar of all that exists."

This is what Karthikeya said. So the meaning of Om came from the seat of the Guru.









There is an element of the Quru present in every human being. That wisdom in each one has to be invoked and awakened.

When this element is awakened, misery in life disappears.

- Gurudev Sri Sri-Ravi Shankar-





The Guru Who Took all the Blame

There is a famous story of **Eklavya** (a character from the Hindu epic Mahābhārata). **Eklavya is considered the epitome of a disciple.**

The story goes, Eklavya wanted to learn archery to save the deer in the forest from being hunted by leopards. He was the son of a poor hunter. So he went to **Dronacharya** (a Master of advanced military arts) and requested him to teach him archery, but Dronacharya rejected him because he was the teacher of the royal family. He was teaching the royal princes of **Bharat** (India).

In those days, if you are a teacher of the royal princes then you cannot take someone else and teach them archery and make them equal to the prince. It was not considered ethical. It was forbidden to make anyone as powerful as the prince, as the nation would not be safe and secure.

So, Eklavya wanted to take Dronacharya as his Guru, but Dronacharya could not accept him. This was the law of the land, that you have to exclusively train the princes.

Nevertheless Eklavya accepted Dronacharya as his Guru. So he went home and made a statue of Dronacharya and he learnt archery from the statue and became even better than the prince. He became an expert. He would just hear the sound of the animal and shoot an arrow at it.

One day, **Arjuna**, the prince found out about this. He saw that Eklavya was far better than him. So he went to Eklavya and asked

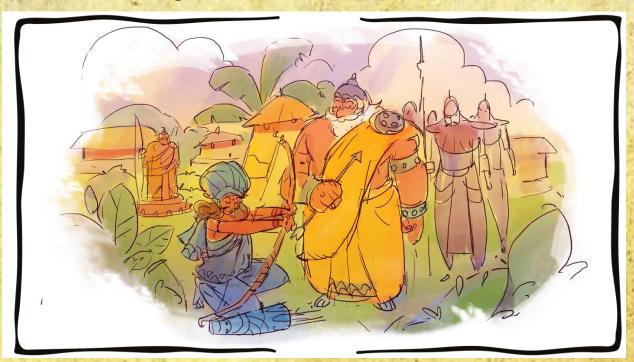
him, "Who is your Guru?"

Eklavya said, "Dronacharya is my Guru".

Arjuna then goes to Dronacharya and shouts at him. "What is this? This is cheating. You are supposed to teach only me, but you taught this man and made him more skilful than me".

Dronacharya was baffled as to who this student was whom he had not taught, and who has become a competitor of the prince. Then they both go and meet this boy. Eklavya leads them to the statue that he made of Dronacharya which he considered as his Guru.

On seeing this, Dronacharya then says, "Now you have to give me some Gurudakshina (a gift as fees for learning)". And he asks Eklavya to give him the thumb of his right hand as a gift (without the thumb there is no archery). Eklavya without a second thought gives the thumb of his right hand to his Guru.



In this story, the Guru is viewed to have a very cruel attitude. The boy has learnt on his own, while Dronacharya goes and asks for his thumb, taking away his archery skill. How bad this Guru was!

This is one way to see: the Guru robbed the student of his skill. But from the other side, if you see, if it were not for this incident, nobody would have ever known Eklavya.

Though on the outer level it seemed as if Dronacharya had done injustice to Eklavya, but actually Dronacharya uplifted Eklavya because this one act made him immortal.

So when people think of devotion, they think of Eklavya, and not Arjuna.

See the greatness of Dronacharya, he took the blame on him and uplifted his student. That is why, even if the Guru is wrong, if your devotion is there, you can never go wrong. But the Guru is not wrong, it appears he was partial but he uplifted Eklavya and preserved his Dharma (duty) also.

This is a beautiful story.



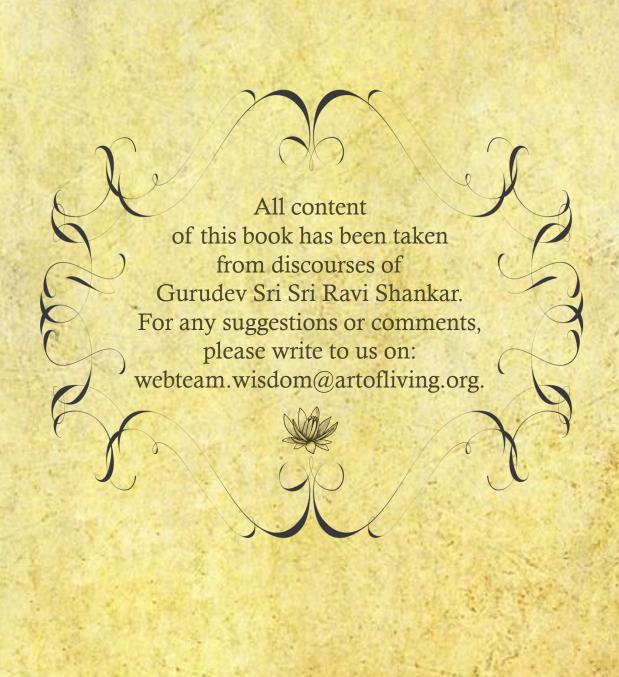


When one has faith, knowledge flows to them.

Taith brings the knowledge.

Eklavya teaches us how faith can bring
forth the skills within you.

- Gurudev Sri Sri-Ravi Shankar-





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