

GURU



GURUMORTEHA SADAA DHYAAAANAM
GURU MANTRAM SADAA JAPETA

One should incessantly meditate on the form of Guru
and recite the Mantra (Verse) pertaining to Guru

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PRINTERS

Bharath Press, Kalsank, Udupi - 576 102
 Phone: 0820-2520452, 99725 20452
 E-mail: bharathpress@gmail.com
 First Impression: 13-1-2014 (Maagha Shukla Chaturdashi)

Rs. 50/-

OUR PUBLICATIONS**ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹಾಲಸಾ ನಾರಾಯಣೀ ದೇವಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳು**

SRI MAHAALASAA NAARAYANI DEVICHE CHARITRA (Marathi)
 THE CHARITHRA OF GODDESS SHRI MAHAALASAA NAARAYANI
 SRI MAHAALASAA NAARAYANI SAHASRA NAAMAVALI (with meaning)
 SRI MAHAALASAA NAARAYANI SAHASRA NAAMAVALI (Marathi with meaning)
 GURU

ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹಾಲಸಾ ನಾರಾಯಣೀ ದೇವಿಯ ಚರಿತ್ರೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹಾಲಸಾ ನಾರಾಯಣೀ ದೇವಿಯ ಸಹಸ್ರನಾಮಾವಳಿ (ಅರ್ಥ ಸಹಿತ)

ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹಾಲಸಾ ನಾರಾಯಣೀ ದೇವಿ ಪೂಜಾ ವಿಧಾನ

ಹರಿಖಂಡಿಗೆ ಶ್ರೀ ಮಹಾಲಸಾ ನಾರಾಯಣೀ ದೇವಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

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ಗುರು

GODDESS SHRI MAHAALASAA NAARAAYANI



**YAA DEVI SARVA BHOOTESHU MAATRA ROOPENA SANSTHITAA
NAMASTASYEYEI
NAMASTASYEYEI
NAMASTASYEYEI
NAMO NAMAH**

**Repeated salutations to the Goddess (Naaraayani) who dwells in the
form of mother in all beings**

INDEX

1. Preface	01-03
2. Guru, Guru's mission, Guru is not a body	04-08
3. Remembering Guru, surrender to Guru	08-09
4. Guru is not selfish, Guru is the only refuge	10-11
5. Goal/purpose of life	11-12
6. Why Guru? importance of knowledge	12-14
7. The place of Guru, God and Guru	14-16
8. How one succeeds in getting Guru	16-17
9. Why is devotion to Guru more meritorious than that to God?	18
10. Guru is a place of pilgrimage	18-19
11. Never abandon Guru	19
12. The company of Guru - A rare opportunity	19-21
13. Have faith in Guru	21-23
14. Guru is commissioned by God	23
15. Service to Guru	23-27
16. Guru's advice, words to be followed in toto	27-30
17. The glory of Guru , Maayaa and Guru	30-32
18. Do not blame, Abuse, Defame Guru	32-34
19. Guru and miracles, Grace of Guru, Guru mantra	35-42
20. Be in search of a real/true Guru	42-48
21. Disciple	48-64
22. Excerpts from Guru Geetaa	64-77
23. Religion, Books and Scriptures, Liberation	78-82
24. Spirituality, Desires and Expectations	82-86
25. Destiny, Karma/actions, Meditation	86-89
26. Shri devyaparaadha kshamaapana strotram	90-93
27. Shri Gurupaadukaashtaka	94-96

PREFACE

Being born as a human being, one needs to be essentially spiritual, i.e. he needs to be in search of truth. There is no other option for him for his upliftment. If he wants to promote his upliftment, he necessarily has to be a spiritual being. There is no future for people who have no spiritual vision. Without spiritual vision, one's future is very bleak. Spirituality prepares us for meaningful life. It channelizes positive energy in us. Spirituality is a continuous process of discovery of truth. One cannot become spiritual overnight. One cannot think of spirituality without Guru. Guru is indispensable to all spiritual aspirants.

Every one of us has to make spiritual journey sooner or later. It is only a question of time. Life has no meaning without spiritual discipline. Spiritual life is essentially an inner journey. For undertaking the journey, we need a guide.

Spirituality is a science of soul. Spiritualism is not a momentary feeling. It needs rigorous and sincere efforts. A man's own judgment and thinking proves to be of little relevance in spiritual field. Every human being is spiritually unlimited, the fact of which most of us are not aware. Though people by and large are God fearing and loving, only a few take to the spiritual path as it is not so charming and glamorous like the worldly path. There is spiritual sickness of people everywhere. If one does not accept spiritual discipline earlier, the nature will thrust upon him to accept it later. Spirituality can be promoted by conscious efforts.

The spiritual path is full of thorns, doubts and uncertainties. One needs an expert master to remove those thorns, doubts and uncertainties which are on the way and that expert master is none other than the spiritual master (preceptor, Guru). The magic touch of Guru awakens one's latent spirituality.

This book is attempted basically with an intention to assist the aspirants in the form of information related to several aspects of spiritual path like Guru, real Guru, disciple, his qualities and responsibilities, service to Guru, to quote a few examples. This is written with a view to facilitating the aspirants (to throw light on some aspects) to have some inklings about spiritual path, journey. Fundamentally, it aims at highlighting the role of Guru in spiritual life. The aspirants are reminded to note well that the main discipline for spiritual growth is studying and progressing under the guidance of a Guru. Guru is sine quanon for all spiritual aspirants.

It is the will of the Goddess/Guru that always prevails. I have a strong conviction that my mother Mahaalasa and Gurudev wanted me to come out with this title. I had a long standing desire to speak something about Guru, but this desire of mine could not be fulfilled due to my own limitations and may also be due to ripe time factor.

One can write something about God or Guru only through inspiration drawn from and under the guidance of the Goddess, not otherwise. One's own wisdom, scholarliness, knowledge is of very little help for such type of writings. Therefore, while writing on such subjects, one should never carry the feeling of egoism with him

I have a strong conviction and it is fact, that whatever I have written is only due to the grace of my Guru. It is my Guru who speaks through me. There is nothing in this writing which I can call as mine.

THREE THINGS ARE HARD TO OBTAIN WITHOUT GOD'S GRACE according to Shankaraacharya, i.e. (1) Birth as a human being; (2) Urge to know the truth to get liberated and (3) Attainment of a holy, perfect preceptor. What I am today is due to the grace

of my Guru. I am fortunate enough to be gifted with all the three things stated above.

Whatever I have today with me belongs to my Guru. I had a sense of deficiency with regard to my service to Guru during my discipleship days about which I used to feel guilty quite often. Today, I have satisfaction that I could do a little more service at my Guru's lotus feet by bringing out this book. Whatever I have written is only due to the grace of my Guru. Needless to say that He is the inspiring force behind this work. Besides, I have with me my Mother Mahaalasaa Naaraayani's blessings in this onerous task.

I had a feeling that a work containing comprehensive coverage about Guru, grace, disciple, surrender, service and such other matters related to spirituality was the need of the aspirants. Keeping this in my mind, I have made a little effort in this direction. Suggestions are most welcome.

I am confident that this work will be of some use to the aspirants who wish to be on the spiritual path.

DHYAAN MOOLAM GUROH MOORTIHI
POOJA MOOLAM GUROH PAADODAKAM
MANTRA MOOLAM GUROH VAAKYAM
MOKSHA MOOLAM GUROH KRIPA

The root, source of meditation is Guru's image and the root of worship is the feet of Guru. The word of Guru is source of couplet while grace of Guru is the root to liberation.

So long as one is not in touch with Guru he forgets his real nature. One who frequents Guru need not practice any more religious rituals. Guru makes one know one's real nature. God, Guru and Supreme Brahma are one and the same truth. Guru reveals disciples oneness with Brahman.

GURU

THINK NOTHING OTHER THAN GURU

Guru is highly revered in the Indian tradition. He has been held in higher esteem than one's parents and even God. The Guru principle, tradition, is not of recent origin. The practice of worshipping of Guru is prevalent in India since time immemorial. It existed even before the universe was created. If we trace the line of preceptors backwards, God Himself ultimately becomes the first preceptor to the first disciple. That is why we are taught not to forget God till the last moment of our life. In the ultimate analysis, God Himself is the Guru because none other than God possesses so much knowledge, strength, power and grace.

Lord Krishna is the original and Supreme Guru followed by sage Vyaasa. Sage Veda Vyaasa belongs to the disciplic succession initiated by Lord Shri Krishna. This disciplic tradition established by Lord Krishna Himself is prevalent since times immemorial. It is Lord Shri Krishna who, in the form of Vyaasa Muni, Shri Guru Dattatreya, sage Kapila and the like, preaches and spreads pure divine knowledge to the deserving disciples. Lord Shiva as Dakshinaamoorthy and Lord Shrimannaaraayana as Hayagreeva incarnated in the form of Gurus. Both are the first, original, primeval Gurus.

MEANING

Simply stated, Guru is a liberated soul. He is an enlightened soul. He is the one who confers knowledge. Guru is the one by whose grace one attains direct knowledge of the self. Guru means the dispeller of ignorance (darkness) ("Gu" stands for ignorance, while "Ru" for dispeller). He who destroys ignorance is "Guru". Guru is the bonafide representative of sage Veda Vyaasa.

Guru, who kindles the flame of enlightenment in the heart, is none other than the God Himself. The name "Guru" is one

amongst several names of God. Hence, no one should differentiate between God and Guru. Guru is the promoter of well-being of the universe.

Guru is the Supreme Lord of this world. He is the manifestation of Lord Krishna Himself. Guru bestows the knowledge which He has acquired from Lord Krishna, the original Guru, to His disciples through the disciplic order. By carrying out His instructions, one can certainly please the God; because the Guru is God and God is the Guru. It is the God who takes birth in the form of Guru on the earth. But the Guru never says that He is Guru or God. Guru Himself is the religion. Guru is a God with form. Guru is the supreme knowledge that dispels ignorance. Brahman resides in the mouth of Guru. Guru is not merely a body but also a principle. Guru is not a person. Human appearance of Guru is deceptive and as such, sometimes, we fail to appreciate the truth.

Guru is absolute. He is the symbol of perfection. Divinity finds full expression in Guru. In other words, Guru is the divinity itself in the form of a flesh. Guru is energy. He is an incarnation of purity. There is nothing greater than Guru. Guru is at the helm of affairs.

Guru leads His devotees from uncertainty towards certainty, from anguish to spiritual bliss. He annihilates the darkness of ignorance within us and fills it up with the light of knowledge. Guru leads His devotees from distress to spiritual bliss. He is the cause of all spiritual principles. He practices what He preaches and preaches what He practices. He is the powerful house of spirituality and ultimate reality. Guru exudes what He talks.

Guru is the one, who knows the eternal wisdom, the Veda and, who is devoted to the all pervasive Lord. He is pure and free from arrogance. Guru is devoted to His preceptors. He is the

one who has witnessed the Supreme God head. Guru is father, mother and everything for us. Therefore, one should constantly remember his Guru forever.

The Guru scolds, blames, insults, ignores, provokes, and pleads - all for the betterment of His disciples. He is the one who leads the fallen souls on the noble path by kindling the light of knowledge.

"GURU IS GREATER THAN GOD" - SCRIPTURES

"Writing about Guru will be incomplete even if I make the entire land as writing paper, making pens of wood from all jungles and making ink out of water from seven seas." - Saint Kabir.

It may be noted that Guru is a divine force that can be comprehended only through the soul and never with petty logical mind. Guru is the ultimate mystery. Guru only is the sole cause behind the creation of entire universe.

There is no truth beyond Guru. Guru's glory, influence is everlasting.

GURU'S MISSION

The generosity of mankind takes place when a Guru appears. Guru is God's grace bestowing power. God takes the physical form of a Guru, who, when worshipped with loving devotion, gives a sense of accomplishment in life and liberation to us. Saints and pious people are living Gods on earth. If we cannot find God in Guru, where else can we find Him? Spiritual teachers descend to renovate faith and promote welfare of the humanity. Guru's mission is to redeem the people from their misery and ignorance. Guru is a channel through which the power of divinity flows for the betterment of mankind.

Guru is commissioned by God to convey, spread and propagate the divine message to devotees. Divine will of God

speaks through saintly people. Therefore, Guru is commissioned at the behest of divine will itself. Guru's mission is to put us on the track of transformation. It is He who takes us to the right path of God.

Guru shows the ways for meaningful life and saves those who are in distress. A perfect seer is a representative of Lord Shri Krishna who descends on earth in human garb with a sacred mission of helping the common human beings to perform the sacred duty enjoined by the Brahman. That sacred duty is to realize the self which is possible only through the divine knowledge imparted by Guru. Guru happens to come here to remove the blindfold and instruct and lead the person who has missed the track, to go back to his original place. He is a guide to those who have missed the right track. Guru inspires by being an example. He sets an ideal, an example.

Guru's job is to rescue the disciple from ignorance and lead him on the path of knowledge. He leads one to God. Guru's concern is to see that no one suffers in this mundane world. The aim of the preceptor is to take the aspirant to the highest state. Guru follows the ideal of selfless service to all mankind. A Guru alleviates the sorrows of people by spiritual means like japa, tapa, yoga, devotion, selfless service, counselling, will power, knowledge and physical transfer of disease.

By following the path shown by Guru, one attains the highest emancipation. Just by remembrance of Guru, knowledge dawns in one automatically. Guru never shows the wrong path. Only Guru can save us from all calamities, troubles, problems and our weaknesses. He is the Supreme caretaker. He has the ability to make us all powerful. Worshipping Guru means worshipping truth (God), knowledge and experience which can only be learnt at the Guru's feet.

GURU IS NOT A BODY

Guru is a principle. The Guru, not being in a physical form, His link will continue even after His physical form disappears. Guru is the essence of the vedaas, smritis, puraanaas. Guru is not a particular body. Guru is the self, Guru is Jiva. But He is the Supreme grace bestowing power of God functioning through human being. Guru is the very manifestation of divinity and the Supreme truth. It is not necessary that only a living person can become a Guru. A Guru affects eternity. He can never tell where His influence, power stops. Hence, one should propitiate one's Guru for the attainment of emancipation. By the satisfaction of Guru, all Gods are satisfied. Guru is a truest and most precious wealth of the land.

REMEMBERING GURU

A real disciple is one who is engaged in constant remembrance of Guru. Constant remembrance of Guru is the supreme spiritual discipline.

There is nothing parallel to remembrance of Guru and God. If we wish that the eternal wisdom related to spiritual knowledge should blossom in us, then we should constantly remember our Guru. Remembering the Guru and God in itself is the daily food, for, there is nothing parallel to remembrance. It is the simplest means to attain peace of mind. Remembering Guru incessantly is very efficacious to promote spirituality. One should trust, listen, remember and obey Guru for realization. Constant remembering of Guru is the greatest Saadhana. Nothing is above it. Guru bhakti yoga is yoga by itself. A wise man should be engaged in constant remembrance of Guru. Remembrance is the simplest way of spiritual discipline. None of the practices are equivalent to devotion to Guru. Just by remembering the Guru, knowledge dawns in one automatically. By the japa of Guru's name, the sins accumulated in countless lives are destroyed. Heart gets purified just by the remembrance of Guru. An aspirant needs

certain qualities to be developed for chanting name, like austerity, purity, honesty, religiousness, tolerance, knowledge and wisdom.

SURRENDER TO GURU

“LEAVE EVERYTHING TO THE DIVINE WILL.”

Surrendering means becoming a pure and unconditional disciple of the Guru. It is leaving everything to the divine will of the Guru. It is resignation to the Guru's will.

Without surrender, one cannot learn anything from Guru. Total surrender to Guru will enable the seeker to overcome ego. The seeker should surrender to the will of Guru. Surrender means becoming a pure and unconditional devotee of the God/Guru. By surrendering, one loses nothing, but gains everything. Surrender is a path of love. If one surrenders to God or the preceptor, he gets liberated from all kinds of sinful reactions. Guru bhakti yoga is total surrender to satguru. Surrender is the best form of devotion. No one can harm a surrendered soul. Whoever surrenders himself to Guru is saved. The only language Guru understands is total surrender. All problems are solved simply by surrendering oneself to Guru. Everything yields to surrender. To acquire knowledge, a disciple should completely surrender his body, mind and soul to his Guru. Before we surrender to God, we must surrender to the Guru. God accepts our surrender to the Guru. The best one can give to Guru is total surrender. However, ego comes in between. Surrendered soul is well protected. Guru bhakta is not tainted by sin. One becomes free from the cycle of birth and death by pleasing the Guru. Guru's blessings can do anything. Everything should be surrendered to the Guru because everything yields to surrender. Surrender requires great mental strength. Surrender is the ultimate freedom. Real surrender means doing nothing unless prompted by the Guru. Surrender is better option than self efforts. Without surrender, we cannot learn anything from Guru.

GURU IS NOT SELFISH, HE IS SELFLESS

Generosity takes the form of Guru. Hence, naturally He cannot be selfish. In this world, Guru alone is selfless. He has everything with Him. He has nothing to possess or achieve. Only Guru gives real love. Guru's intellect is without any selfish desires. All worldly relations are governed, influenced by give and take considerations, i.e. selfishness. However, it is only the Guru, who is an exception to this principle. Guru is free from selfishness, desires and ego. He mainly guides and aids in the self-realisation process without any expectations. Guru does not ask for anything or any favour from any one, for, to give is His very nature. Guru wants nothing but improvement, welfare of His disciples. He is disinterested in name, fame, honour, money and wealth. He is not after any trivial gains. Nothing is desired by Guru. Even He does not seek His worship by disciples or celebration of His birthday by disciples. But, it is the disciples who desire them. Guru is the ocean of mercy without motive.

Though the disciple is prepared for any sacrifice, a true Guru never expects any sacrifice or anything for His sake, in return from disciples. A Guru does not keep a person under His control; instead He frees him from dependency. He is not for detaining but for relieving. Guru needs nothing from you. It is you who need Him.

Humility is one of the essential qualities of Guru. He promotes the welfare of the maximum. He alone is the savior of mankind who works without any motive. Guru gives perfection to many.

GURU IS THE ONLY REFUGE

“EVERYTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY TAKING REFUGE UNDER GURU”

No known comparison exists in the universe for a real Guru.

He who takes refuge under Guru is safe. No power on earth can touch him. To a man, in this world, there is no refuge without a Guru. Guru is the ultimate and the only refuge. It is really impossible to cross over this material world without the help of a Guru. Guru is mother, father, God, relative, friend, guide and philosopher and everything for us. One who strives for perfection succeeds in his efforts only when the stamp of Guru's compassion falls on him. The wise ones should seek shelter under Guru's feet. Guru devotes himself to all those who seek refuge in Him. None other than Guru is closer to us in this world. Guru is all sympathy and passion. He is benevolent by nature. Nothing can be compared to the Guru in all the three worlds. Equality is His mantra.

Our relationship with Guru should be natural and eternal. Contact with Guru means second lease of life. Guru bhaktaas are bound to be happy. Devotees of Guru never fall, perish. There is no place for sorrow in the love for Guru. Guru is fully capable of taking care of His devotees in all their troubles and difficult times. Devotion towards Guru itself is strength and stratagem. Devotion does the miracle. Devotion to Guru is inclusive of all spiritual practices. Devotees graced with Gurukripa can do wonders in the world. Devotion to Guru is the key to success. Guru always stands by the devotee. It is for the sake of devotees that Guru has assumed human form. Devotees of the Guru are the richest men. Devotion never fails. Guru illuminates the hearts of those who take refuge in Him.

Guru fulfills all wishes of His devotees.

GOAL/PURPOSE OF LIFE

Goal gives meaning and direction to our lives. It gives an impetus to move forward. There can be no progress without goal. Goals determine the directions in which we have to proceed.

There is no future for the one who has no goal. Life has a meaning only when God is realized. We must have the highest goal. Lower goal is no goal at all. The true purpose of life is not sensuality, but spirituality. God realization is the highest goal of life because there is no other goal greater and better than this. The purpose of life is to search for the truth. To realize unity in diversity is the goal of life. Without goal, the mind becomes lame. Faith, dedication, devotion, honesty and love are the means to achieve the truth. For that, everything should be done in a spirit of dedication to God. Man's supremacy lies in his capacity to become aware of this truth. The purpose of human life is the merger of the man with the supreme power. Goal makes our life meaningful. Goal is a tool for progress. Just recitation of mantras and chanting of hymns are not means of self realization. Nothing materializes without Guru. An aspirant fails to make progress on the spiritual path due to certain flaws and obstacles. It is the Guru who removes the obstacles to self realization. When God is realized, life has meaning.

Guru mediates between God and the devotee. Without Guru, goal can never be achieved.

WHY GURU?

Truth itself is the life force. The life becomes meaningful through the means of truth only. One should go to Guru for solace and spiritual progress. Spiritual growth is a slow process. Guru accelerates the pace of progress. Life without Guru has no substance, charm. The mission for which we are born is God realization. Logic and reason do not help in realizing the God. Guru's guidance and grace is absolutely necessary for self realization. Guru Bhakti is the only means to self realization. There is no liberation without realization. Intellectual satisfaction or material achievement is not the highest goal. Anyone who desires to get liberated from worldly life (the unending cycle of

birth and death) needs to be a perfect man. Perfection needs knowledge. The darkness within us has cost us so many lives. Without self knowledge, perfection cannot be attained. And to acquire knowledge, there is a need for Guru because eternal knowledge cannot be acquired by any other means. Only a glowing lamp can kindle another.

The aspirant is infected with several lapses and sins. Many times, he is unaware of his own flaws. Hence, there is necessity of Guru who removes these flaws through proper guidance. By being born as human being, we should be prepared to enter a new life - a life of purity, sacrifice, truthfulness, dispassion and great restraint.

Lord Krishna has advised us to adopt three means to acquire knowledge - (i) Humility (humbleness) towards Guru; (ii) Asking probing questions to Guru; and (iii) Rendering reverential service to Guru. To attain self knowledge, one has to surrender himself totally and unconditionally to his Satguru. Without Guru, one cannot know the supreme truth, nor attain self knowledge. But whoever can call on the Almighty with utmost sincerity and intense earnestness needs no Guru. Such people are very rare indeed.

IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge means knowing things as they are. God is revealed through knowledge. All spiritual practices end in knowledge. Knowledge makes us strong. Knowledge itself is liberation. Knowledge elevates us to higher status. Knowledge is power, knowledge is wealth, and knowledge is God. Nothing is more purifying or holier than knowledge. Knowledge is the sole attribute of soul. Knowledge bestows humility. Knowledge descends by disciplic succession. All knowledge flows from God. The perfect

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