

# Vedanshi

The part of the sacred knowledge

*A person who has given up all desires for sense gratification, who lives free from desires, who has given up all sense of proprietorship and is devoid of false ego -- he alone can attain real peace.*

*Chapter 2, Verse 71; Bhagavad Gita*

A Monthly Newsletter

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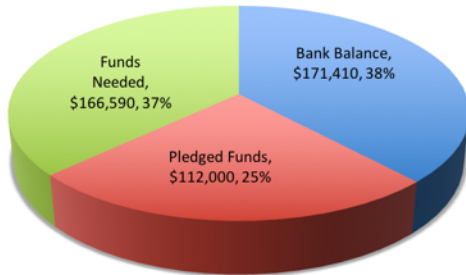
## Sanatan Hindu Sanskar Kendra

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Email: [shskendra@gmail.com](mailto:shskendra@gmail.com), Website: [sanatanlft.org](http://sanatanlft.org)

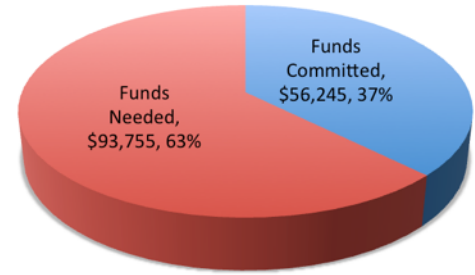


### Temple - Fundraising Campaign

Estimated Construction Cost : \$450,000



Estimated Operating Cost : \$150,000



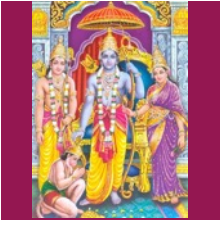
Sponsor Category	Sponsors Needed	Committed
\$15,000	6	2
\$10,000	6	3
\$5000	10	3
\$2500	15	3
\$1000	20	3

#### Residing Deities

Balaji, Padmavati (Lakshmi), Shiva, Durga, Ganesha, Radha Krishna, Saraswati, Hanuman

Yearly Contribution	Sponsors Needed	Committed
\$10,000	6	3
\$5000	8	2
\$2000	8	0
\$1000	12	4
\$500	15	0
Dollar-a-day	20	13
\$100	75	75

Sita Ram



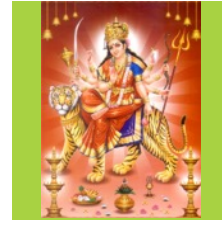
Ganesh



Krishna



Durga



Shiva



## Guru - Part III

by Swami Sivananda

### Mysterious help from the Lord

Just see how the Lord has helped the devotees in the following instances. Eknath heard an Akasvani (a voice from the sky). It said, "See Janardan Pant at Deva Giri. He will put you in the proper path and guide you." Eknath acted accordingly and found his Guru. Tukaram received his Mantra, Rama Krishna Hari, in his dream. He repeated this Mantra and had Darshan (vision) of Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna directed Namdev to get his higher initiation from a Sannyasin (renunciate) at Mallikarjuna. Queen Chudalai assumed the form, of Kumbha Muni, appeared before her husband Sikhidhwaja in the forest, and initiated him in the mysteries of Kaivalya (state of absolute independence). Madhura Kavi saw a light in the firmament for three days consecutively. It guided him and took him to his Guru Nammalvar who was sitting in Samadhi underneath a tamarind tree near Tinnevely. Vilvamangal was very much attracted to Chintamani, the dancing woman. The latter became his Guru. Tulasidas received instructions from an invisible being to see Hanuman and, through Hanuman, to get Darshan of Sri Rama.

Competent disciples are never in want of a competent Guru. Realized souls are not rare. Ordinary ignorant-minded persons cannot easily recognize them. Only a few persons, who are pure and embodiments of all virtuous qualities, can understand realized souls, and they only will be benefited in their company.

So long as there is a world, there are Gurus and Vedas to guide the struggling souls in the path of Self-realization. The number of realized souls may be less in the Iron Age when compared with the Satya Yuga (age of Truth), but they are always present to help the aspirants. Let each man take the path according to his capacity, temperament, and understanding. His Sadguru will meet him along that path.

### Siksha Gurus and Diksha Guru

Man has a twofold duty here on earth-to preserve his life, and to realize his Self. To preserve his life, he has to learn to work for his daily bread. To realize his Self, he has to serve, love, and meditate. The Guru who teaches him the knowledge of worldly arts is the Siksha Guru. The Guru who shows him the path of Realization is the Diksha Guru. Siksha Gurus can be many-as many as the things he wishes

to learn. The Diksha Guru can be only one-the one who leads him to Moksha.

### Stick to one Guru

Do not dig here and there shallow pits for getting water. The pits will dry up soon. Dig a very deep pit in one place. Centralize all your efforts here. You will get good water that can supply you throughout the year. Even so, try to imbibe thoroughly the spiritual teachings from one preceptor alone. Drink deep from one man. Sit at his feet for some years. There is no use of wandering from one man to another man, out of curiosity, losing faith in a short time. Do not have the ever-changing mind of a prostitute. Follow the spiritual instructions of one man only. If you go to several people and follow the instructions of many persons, you will be bewildered. You will be in a dilemma.

From a doctor, you get a prescription. From two doctors, you get consultation. From three doctors, you get your own cremation. Even so, if you have many Gurus, you will be bewildered. You will be at a loss to know what to do. One Guru will tell you: "Do Soham Japa". Another will tell you: "Do Japa of Sri Ram". A third Guru will tell you: "Hear Anahat (mystic) sounds". You will be puzzled. Stick to one Guru and follow his instructions.

Listen to all, but follow one. Respect all, but adore one. Gather knowledge from all, but adopt the teachings of one Master. Then you will have rapid spiritual progress.

### Guru-Parampara

Spiritual knowledge is a matter of Guru-parampara. It is handed down from Guru to disciple. Gaudapadacharya imparted Self-knowledge to his disciple Govindacharya; Govindacharya to his disciple Sankaracharya; Sankaracharya to his disciple Suresvaracharya. Matsyendranath imparted knowledge to his disciple Gorakhnath; Gorakhnath to Nivrittinath; Nivrittinath to Jnanadeva. Totapuri imparted knowledge to Sri Ramakrishna, and Ramakrishna to Swami Vivekananda. It was Ashtavakra who moulded the life of Raja Janaka. It was Gorakhnath who shaped the spiritual destiny of Raja Bhartrihari. It was Lord Krishna who made Arjuna and Uddhava get themselves established in the spiritual path when their minds were in an unsettled state.

### Initiation-Its Meaning

A Bhakta will be initiated by a Bhakta saint in the path of devotion. A Jnani will initiate a student of Vedanta in the Mahavakyas. A Hatha Yogi or a Raja Yogi can initiate another in his particular path.

## Jan & Feb 2016 Dates

Based on Lafayette, Louisiana, US Time

19 Tuesday	Pausha	Putrada
	Ekadashi,	
23 Saturday	Paush	Purnima
04 Thursday	Shattila	Ekadashi
08 Monday	Mauni	Amavas
12 Friday	Vasant	Panchami
14 Sunday	Ratha	Saptami
15 Monday	Bhisma	Ashtami
18 Thursday	Jaya	Ekadashi
22 Monday	Magha	Purnima

For more details please refer [DrikPanchang.com](http://DrikPanchang.com)

But, a sage of perfect realisation, a Purna-jnani (full-blown sage) or Purna-yogi, can give initiation in any particular path. A sage or saint like Sri Sankara or Madhusudana Sarasvati can initiate a Sadhak in any particular path for which the aspirant is fit. The Guru will find out by close study of the aspirant his tastes, temperaments, and capacity, and decide for him the most suitable path. If his heart is impure, the teacher will prescribe selfless service for a number of years. Then the Guru will find out for what particular path the student is fit and initiate him in that.

Initiation does not mean reciting a Mantra into another's ears. If Rama is influenced by the thoughts of Krishna, the former has got initiation already from the latter. If an aspirant treads the path of truth after studying the books written by a saint, and imbibes his teachings, that saint has already become his Guru.

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## Gajendra Moksha Stotra

"Gajendra Moksha" a prayer, addressed to Lord Vishnu by Gajendra, the King Elephant, is one of the most magnificent hymns of *bhakti* from the Bhagavat Mahapurana, embellished with the *jnana* and *vairagya* of the Upanishads. It is a legend from the 8th Skandha of Srimad Bhagavatam where Lord Vishnu comes down to earth to protect Gajendra (King Elephant) from the clutches of death of a Crocodile. The story runs as follows.

In one of the secluded valleys of Mount Trikota, which was surrounded by the Ocean of Milk and intersected by lakes and rivers of various sizes and shapes, there was a beautiful garden which belonged to Varuna, the Lord of the oceans.

Once a family of elephants, which inhabited the forest on the mountain, entered the garden led by their mammoth chief, Gajendra, and made it to a big lake to drink water and cool themselves. As soon as Gajendra dipped his feet in the lake, a crocodile clutched at one of his feet and started dragging him into the water. The cow-elephant and other fellow elephants seeing their leader in distress pulled Gajendra forcibly but they were unable to extricate him.

The long fierce tug-of-war left the unfortunate victim exhausted in body and spirit. When all hope of rescue faded away and death was staring at his face, Gajendra turned his thoughts to the Lord and recalled to his



mind a hymn which he had learnt in his previous life as virtuous Pandya King which he had forgotten in his present animal body.

He recalled that hymn now with great feeling, praising the Lord for his many mercies and

ended with a prayer to Him to listen to his cry of distress and save him.

### Gajendra's Prayers of Surrender to Lord Vishnu

[Skandha 8 Chapter 3]

श्रीगजेन्द्र उवाच ।।

shri-ganjendra uvacha

Gajendra said:

ओं नमो भगवते तस्मै यत एतच्चिदात्मकम्  
पुरुषायदिबीजाय परेशयाभिधीमहि ।।  
यस्मिन्निदं यतश्चेदं येनेदं य इदं स्वयम्  
योऽस्मात्परस्माच्च परस्तं प्रपद्ये स्वयम्भुवम् ।।

om namo bhagavate tasmai yata etac chid-atmakam  
purushayadi-bijaya pureshayabhidhimahi -2  
yasminn idam yatash chedam yenedam ya idam svayam  
yo 'smat parasmach cha paras tam prapadye  
svayambhuvam -3

I salute the Supreme, Omnipotent Lord, who is denoted by the mystical syllable OM, who forms the bodies *asprakriti*, and dwells in them as *purusha*, the Self-efficient Lord, from whom this universe emanates, and in whom it lives, who is verily the universe itself, yet beyond it as its unmanifest cause.



यः स्वात्मनीदं निजमाययार्पितं क्वचिद्विभातं क्व च तत्तिरोहितम्  
अविद्धदृक्साक्षभुयं तदीक्षते स आत्ममूलोऽवतु मां परात्परः ।।

yah svatmanidam nija-mayayarpitam kvachid vibhatam  
kva cha tat tirohitam  
avidhdha-drik sakshy ubhayam tad ikshate sa atma-mula  
'vatu mam parat-paraha - 4

He is the unimpeded Awareness and the Witness of all, who by his own Maya (power) has established in Himself this universe, which is seen in its manifested condition and not-seen in its causal state by others, but is witnessed by Himself in both these conditions. He is the Self-conscious awareness, from whom all other centers of self-conscious awareness (Jivas) arise.

I seek refuge in that Being, transcending all the highest human conceptions of Him.

कालेन पञ्चत्वमितेषु कृत्स्नशो लोकेषु पालेषु च सर्वहेतुषु  
तमस्तदासीद्ब्रह्मं गभीरं यस्तस्य पारेऽभिविराजते विभुः ।।

kalena pancatvam iteshu kritsnasho lokeshu paleshu cha  
sarva-hetushu  
tamas tadasid gahanam gabhiram yas tasya pare  
'bhivirajate vibhuhu - 5

When all the worlds and their illuminaries and protectors like Brahma had been dissolved or reduced to their primeval state by the power of Time and only the fathomless darkness or ignorance in the shape of the Unmanifest prevailed, at that time He, the Supreme Light of Consciousness shone undimmed over such darkness.

न यस्य देवा ऋषयः पदं विदुर्जनुः पुनः कोऽहंति गन्तुमीरितुम्  
यथा नटस्याकृतिभिर्विचेष्टतो दुरत्ययानुक्रमणः स मावतु ।।

na yasya deva rishayah padam vidur jantuh punah ko  
'rhati gantum iritum  
yatha natasyakritibhir vicheshhtato  
duratyayanukramanah sa mavatu - 6

The spectators in a drama do not understand the identity of an actor because of his make up and diverse actions on the stage.

So too, the Gods and the Sages do not comprehend Him, The Lord, who is disguised in His own Yoga Maya.

How then an ordinary person, much less an animal like me, can understand or describe anything about His inscrutable ways?

May that Lord, whom none knows, in truth and in reality, protect me!

दिदृक्षवो यस्य पदं सुमङ्गलं विमुक्तसङ्गा मुनयः सुसाधवः  
चरन्त्यलोकव्रतमव्रणं वने भूतात्मभूताः सुहृदः स मे गतिः ।।

didrikshavo yasya padam sumangalam vimukta-sanga  
munayah susadhavaha  
charanty aloka-vratam avranam vane bhutatma-bhutah  
suhridah sa me gatihi. - 7

Let that Lord be my refuge, whom the sages, giving up all attachments for worldly attractions, wandering in the forests and performing incessant penances, search for.

न विद्यते यस्य च जन्म कर्म वा न नामरूपे गुणदोष एव वा  
तथापि लोकाप्ययसम्भवाय यः स्वमायया तान्यनुकालमुच्छति ।।

na vidyate yasya cha janma karma va na nama-rupe  
guna-dosha eva va  
tathapi lokapyaya-sambhavaya yaha sva-mayaya tany  
anukalam ricchati - 8

He who has neither birth nor actions to perform, neither name and form nor is subject to the Gunas of Prakriti, and yet assumes all these through His inherent power of Maya from time to time for the creation, preservation and dissolution of the universe – to that Supreme Being, I bow down !



तस्मै नमः परेशाय ब्रह्मणेऽनन्तशक्तये  
अरुपायोरुपयाय नम आश्चर्यकर्मणे ।।

tasmai namah pureshaya brahmane 'nanta-shaktaye  
arupayoru-rupaya nama ashcarya-karmane - 9

To Him, the Brahman, the formless, who, yet assumes infinite forms and performs amazing deeds, to that Supreme Being, I bow down!

—To be Continued

~ by T.N.Sethumadhavan-  
www.sanskritimagazine.com.





## Sankranti/Gayatri Yagna/Kite Festival - SHSK Temple Site on January 17th 2016

### Guru - Part III

... Continued from page 2

#### Sakti-Sanchar

Just as you can give an orange to a man, so also, spiritual power can be transmitted by one to another. This method of transmitting spiritual powers is termed Sakti-sanchar. In Sakti-sanchar, a certain spiritual vibration of the Sadguru is actually transferred to the mind of the disciple.

Spiritual power is transmitted by the Guru to the proper disciple whom he considers fit for Sakti-sanchar. The Guru can transform the disciple by a look, a touch, a thought or a word, or mere willing.

Sakti-sanchar comes through Parampara. It is a hidden mystic science. It is handed down from Guru to disciple.

Lord Jesus, through touch, transmitted his spiritual power to some of his disciples. A disciple of Samartha Ramdas transmitted his power to that dancing girl's daughter who was very passionate towards him. The disciple gazed at her and gave her Samadhi. Her passion vanished. She became very religious and spiritual. Lord Krishna touched the blind eyes of Surdas. The inner eye of Surdas was opened. He had Bhava Samadhi. Lord Gouranga, through his touch, produced divine intoxication in many people and converted them to his side. Atheists even danced in ecstasy in the streets by his touch and sang songs of Hari.

The disciple should not rest satisfied with the transmission of power from the Guru. He will have



to struggle hard in Sadhana for further perfection and attainments. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa touched Swami Vivekananda. Swami Vivekananda had superconscious experience. He struggled hard for seven years more, even after the touch, for attaining perfection

#### Grace and Self-Effort

Realization cannot come to you as a miracle done by your Guru. Lord Buddha, Lord Jesus, Rama Tirtha have all done Sadhana. Lord Krishna asks Arjuna to develop Vairagya (dispassion) and Abhyasa (practice). He did not say to him, "I will

give you Mukti (liberation) now". Therefore, abandon the wrong notion that your Guru will give you Samadhi and Mukti. Strive, purify, meditate, and realize.

Guru-kripa-grace of a Guru-is very necessary. That does not mean that the disciple should sit idle. He must do rigid Purushartha, spiritual practices. The whole work must be done by the student. Nowadays, people want a drop of water from the Kamandalu (water-pot) of a Sannyasin and desire to enter into Samadhi immediately. They are not prepared to undergo any Sadhana for purification and Self-realization. They want a magic pill to push them into Samadhi. If you have got such delusion, give it up immediately.

The Guru and the Shastras can show you the path and remove your doubts. Anubhava (direct experience) of the Aparoksha kind or direct intuitive knowledge is left for your own experience. A hungry man will have to eat for himself. He who has a severe itching will have to scratch for himself.

No doubt, the Guru's blessing can do everything. But how can one have his blessings? By pleasing the Guru. A Guru can be pleased with his disciple only if the latter carries out his spiritual instructions implicitly. Carefully follow, therefore the instructions of the Guru. Act up to his instructions. Then only will you deserve his blessings, and then alone his blessings can do everything.

.....[www.dlshq.org](http://www.dlshq.org)

Thank you for your support and blessings.

Srinivasan Ambatipati, Editor