



## The Role of a Guru in One's Spiritual Search Excerpts from the writings of Paramahansa Yogananda

The Guru Gita (verse 17) aptly describes the guru as “dispeller of darkness” (from gu, “darkness” and ru, “that which dispels”). A true, God-illuminated guru is one who, in his attainment of self-mastery, has realized his identity with the omnipresent Spirit. Such a one is uniquely qualified to lead the seeker on his or her inward journey toward perfection.

“The blind cannot lead the blind,” said Paramahansaji. “Only a master, one who knows God, may rightly teach others about Him. To regain one's divinity one must have such a master or guru. He who faithfully follows a true guru becomes like him, for the guru helps to elevate the disciple to his own level of realization.”

The guru-disciple relationship is the highest expression of friendship, for it is based on unconditional divine love and wisdom. It is the loftiest and most sacred of all relationships. Christ and his disciples were all one in spirit, as are my master [Swami Sri Yukteswar] and I and those who are in tune with me, because of the common bond of God's divine love....One who partakes of this relationship is on the way to wisdom and freedom.<sup>1</sup>

“Having a teacher to guide us in any field is invaluable. This is true in Spirituality as well. As Spirituality is subtle or intangible in nature, it is difficult to identify with certainty who is a spiritually evolved guide or Guru. A Guru is very different to a teacher or a preacher. He is a beacon of spiritual light in our world, and teaches us the universal spiritual principles that underlie all religions and cultures.”<sup>2</sup>

Sadhguru answers a seeker's question on the role a Guru plays in a seeker's life. “If I were a moral teacher, I would try to change you. Because I am a Guru, I do not try to change you. I do not ask you to be good; I do not ask you to be peaceful; I do not ask you to be nice to others, because I do not intend to change you like that. That would be just a pretention which would build up over a period of time and implode at some point. My intention and my work are to bring clarity. If you see things clearly, if you know that the whole universe is one – not because someone says so, but because you see so – everything will change. If you see existence the way it is, not the way you think it is, everything about you and your relationship with existence will change.”<sup>3</sup>

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- <sup>1</sup> [http://www.yogananda-srf.org/HowtoLive/The\\_Role\\_of\\_a\\_Guru\\_in\\_One%E2%80%99s\\_Spiritual\\_Search.aspx#.V-1t0iQXXIU](http://www.yogananda-srf.org/HowtoLive/The_Role_of_a_Guru_in_One%E2%80%99s_Spiritual_Search.aspx#.V-1t0iQXXIU)
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.spiritualresearchfoundation.org/spiritual-practice/sainthood/what-is-a-guru/>
- <sup>3</sup> <http://isha.sadhguru.org/blog/sadhguru/masters-words/the-role-of-a-guru/>