

## **Guru - an unfathomable dimension**

Our tradition and cultural refinement always had an inestimable value and worth. The thinkers of our land had taken into account the full human nature, the expression of individuals ranging from this extreme to that. The strain and stress which the zealous seekers face from time to time are known to our Masters of all times. In fact, it is the **ripe knowledge of Truth** coupled with the **ripeness of insight into human nature** at its best as well as its worst that makes one a **graceful effective Teacher**. To handle the soul of an individual in a mission to elevate him to the pedestal of spiritual freedom and salvation has never been an easy task. It is the most sacred, intricate and exacting endeavour, calling for the highest sacrifice and acceptance on the part of the Preceptor.

There is a code which the Advaita tradition has laid down. While Advaita brings in and perpetuates the vision of oneness everywhere, with every one, it holds out a singular exception: **in the seeker's dealings with his Teacher, he should not bring in the spirit of Advaita**. Thus stresses the spiritual culture of our land. The clear difference between the Teacher and the disciple is what enables the seeker to gain and master knowledge. If the Teacher and the taught were to be at the same level right from the beginning, where would be the need for seeking or teaching?

So the relationship with the Guru has to be preserved, protected against the willful and unwillful attacks and damages. The principle of exclusiveness alone will safeguard the area adequately. Also it will add a new dimension to the disciple's spiritual worth. As is the devotee in front of the Lord, so is the seeker in front of his chosen Teacher. There are instances in which the loyal disciples have brought about corrections and excellence on the part of their Teachers, themselves remaining humble, devoted and pure. In that way, the relationship excels in its worth and influence.

*[This is an excerpt from Poojya Swamiji's Book 'My Beloved Baba']*