

# In modern times, the importance of Guru takes us onto the path of light

**G**uru is a Sanskrit term that connotes someone who is a “teacher, guide or master” of certain knowledge. In pan-Indian traditions, guru is someone more than a teacher, traditionally a reverential figure to the student, with the guru serving as a “counsellor, who helps mold values, shares experiential knowledge as much as literal knowledge, an exemplar in life, an inspirational source and who helps in the spiritual evolution of a student.” The term also refers to someone who primarily is one’s spiritual guide, who helps one to discover the same potentialities that the guru has already realized.

The oldest references to the concept of guru are found in the earliest Vedic texts of Hinduism. The guru, and gurukul - a school run by guru, were an established tradition in India by the 1st



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millennium BCE, and these helped compose and transmit the various Vedas, the Upanishads, texts of various schools of Hindu philosophy, and post-Vedic Shastras ranging from spiritual knowledge to various arts. By about middle of first millennium CE, archaeological and epigraphical evidence suggest numerous larger institutions of gurus existed in India, some near Hindu temples, where guru-shishya tradition helped preserve, create and transmit various fields of knowledge. These gurus led broad range of studies including Hindu scriptures, Bud-

dhist texts, grammar, philosophy, martial arts, music and painting. The tradition of Guru is found in Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism.

The syllable ‘gu’ means darkness, the syllable ‘ru’, he who dispels them, Because of the power to dispel darkness, the guru is thus named.

Guru is energy, the medium through which knowledge flows to the shishya or disciple. If you take the shishya to be an ice-cold stone and knowledge to be boiling hot water, then the guru pours this hot water onto the cold stone gradually, drop by drop, lest the stone cracks with the heat. Guru takes full responsibility of the shishya, monitors him every second. Guru literally carries the shishya on the journey of evolution. He is not someone who does sweet talk or makes arbitrary promises to gain your support. A guru needs nothing from you; it is you who needs him. He is a mirror that will show you your true self and helps you elevate yourself, provided you want to rise.

A guru is the most important thing to have, he's not only a teacher but he is also your mother father and friend. Guru will lead you to the right path, and show you the differences between good and bad, protects from any danger and keep out of harm. He is the reason most people have confidence, and mobility to move on even if something terrible has struck you. A guru helps you succeed in academics and as well as in real life.

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