**Guru Poornima Message**

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We have gathered here today to celebrate Guru Poornima, a day selected by our wise ancestors for paying respect to long line of our teachers who have guided our life at different times , taking different forms. Sage Vyasa was the first teacher who thought it necessary to break and recompile a complicated knowledge package called Vedas into easily learnable packets of knowledge including many puranas and upanishadic commentaries. All these documents tell us how we can live our lives in an objective manner with lokahitam as primary concern. Such compilation is important as it was realised that everything cannot be learned by every one.such an exercise in vyasam of knowledge originally done by sage Vyasa and later on taken up by different scholars, has helped a student to choose a subject to learn commensurate with his learning capability, aptitudes, inclinations, resources .This is a gigantic task for which all of us forming mankind, have to be grateful for ever. we do this by such celebrations.

In our life as we start as infant and grow to mature men and women we see different people appearing as our teachers teaching some thing or other. MOTHER , FATHER , ELDER BROTHERS, SISTERS, SCHOOL/COLLEGE/UNIVERSITIES, COACHES /MENTORS IN WORK PLACE, FRIENDS , WIFE AND EVEN OUR OWN CHILDREN TAKE THEIR ROLES AS OUR TEACHERS. This long line of teachers is called Guru Parampara. today we remember this guru Parampara and bow our heads in gratitude and in a celebratory mood . We Indians, steeped in sanatana dharma and following hoary tradition of hindus, have placed teachers at the highest possible pedestal. The upanishidic vakyam Acharya devo bhava stresses this importance. Do you know that in Germany, teachers are given most respect. In Germany, ordinary police can not arrest any teacher. teachers are given first preference in every place,

We attach divine manifestation to our gurus. A guru has an answer to all our questions. He is available to advice us in different ways. He makes us use all our faculties to teach us. he makes us hear, he shows things, he makes us feel, smell and taste. he makes us realise that these organs are not mere decorations to our body but tools that help us learn. That is why we call these gnyanendrias. That is why , on this day we go to see our gurus, hear them speak, feel their presence and enjoy the prasadam they give and feel a sense of great safety and well being in their presence.

The word guru has many synonyms. By the word guru we refer to the presence/person who brings to us the light of knowledge to remove the darkness of our ignorance. If ignorance is a disease, then it is cured by knowledge.so the person who gives us knowledge is also called a doctor.so a teacher is a doctor who specialises in dispensing knowledge as medicine.. He is also called acharya, because he guides s in our acharanam. this word chara means movement and guru who guides our movement is called acharya. What do we mean by this movement. He helps to decide whether to stay in a place or move away from a place depending on his knowledge of place and people in that place. if place is clean and people are pious and learned he calls them sat sang and he encourages. if place is not good and people are wicked, guru advises us to move away from that place. this way he teaches on how we should conduct ourselves in different places.so he is called Acharya

WE also call guru as Upadhyaya. this word includes adhyayanam, means study. he teaches us letters and words, their meanings and usage. by study we acquire knowledge.so he is Upadhyaya.

Everybody has to study as it helps us to achieve higher objectives of life. The person who helps us to read, learn and become knowledgeable is our guru. now a days, every politician talks about Ambedkar. but during his lifetime, politicians were only reluctantly acknowledged his greatness. Ambedkar was very fortunate to have come under influence of a good teacher, who inspired him and found ways to make him study. Ambedkar’s original name was sakpal.his teacher gave him his own name recognising the fact that a proper name also made a difference. The teacher made Ambedkar realise that only knowledge decides who was superior , not kulam.

A teacher encourages you to ask questions and is ready to answer directly or find a way to get proper answer. Teacher helps the student realise his real potential and also point out self-realisation. He uses simple question answer methods to high light what is brahmam and how realisation of brahmatwam would elevate one.

Religious literature is a huge source of knowledge. Various puranas high light important points relating to what is good and what is not good. they show different characters and different ways of goodness and wickedness. A good teacher uses examples from puranas to guide us on how to approach different problems

Let us now take some examples from mythology about how teachers help their students. In Ramayana we have an instance when Vasishta, the kulaguru of Dasaratha advises Dasaratha to send Rama and Lakshmana along with sage vishwamitra, to protect the fire sacrifices performed by vishwamitra and other sages because the dhanavas like subahu, maricha, their mother Thataka repeatedly disturbed these yagnya by desecrating the place throwing flesh and blood etcRama was in two minds about killing a woman. But sage vishwamitra stood firm and said it the duty of a king to kill wicked people.Rama learnt about warfare, yudhdha dharma and use of special missiles.Thus sage vishwamitra played the role of guru to shape the personality of a prince.

Next we see again in Ramayana, sage agasthya entering the battlefield in lanka during rama ravana yudhdham to advise a perplexed Rama , on how to overcome Ravana. The famous Aditya hrudhayam slokam was given by Agasthya to Lord Rama.

Jambhavan took the role of teacher to enable hanuman to realise his full potential to carry out his task of locating Sita matha.

In Maha bharata, we see Krishna taking the role of a Teacher to comfort Arjuna and explain what is real duty of a person. This advice enabled Arjuna to fight the war with a clear objective in mind. There are many such instances in other puranas.

Vyaasa himself appeared IN THE FORM OF A MENDICANT PULLING 4 DOGS, in front of SANKARA CHARYA to make him realise the correct answer to the question,” Who Am I”

Shivaji attained greatness because he had good teachers to advise him on different matters

Thus an acharya has only the well being of his student in his mind.

A GURU WILL APPEAR IN ANY FORM TO HELP HIS STUDENTS. He does not expect anything in return. For real gurus everything is like runam. But it is the duty of students to remember his guru and spread what he learnt from guru.

You know that at JKR we are all clear about what we have to do. Learn astrology from our guru and spread knowledge about astrology wherever you can.

When we greet one another with words JAI MEENA2, we are reminding ourselves of this sacred objective. For such purposes only festivals like Guru Poornima are organised.