

*iti śrutvā gurorvākyaṁ praśrayeṇa kṛtānatiḥ,
sa tena samanujñāto yayau nirmuktabandhanaḥ. (577)*

577. Hearing the words of the Teacher, the disciple prostrated to him with reverence, and obtaining his permission, went his way, freed from bondage.

With the previous verse, the main thesis on Vedānta is concluded and Śaṅkara is, in the few concluding verses, trying to wind up the drama of the Teacher-taught relationship. In the opening verses we had the enumeration of the qualities of a true student and were told of the nobility and grandeur of the Teacher's personality. Then such a perfect student was made to surrender to an ideal Teacher. When the student raised intellectual questions regarding his spiritual problems the questions were exhaustively answered and the discourse has concluded in verse 576.

In these few following verses Śaṅkara is pointing out the reactions upon the student on intelligently listening to and dynamically pursuing the wisdom of this textbook.

Freed from all personality encumbrances, the student, on full Realisation, takes leave of his Teacher and goes his way to revel in his own subjective experience, ever after...

To the student who has thus, realised from his view, that there is no difference between himself and the Teacher, both are experiences of the one infinite Self. Yet the student prostrates at the feet of the Teacher 'out of reverence'. In spite of his Realisation the student cannot overlook his sense of utter gratitude to the Master who has awakened him from the dark dreary misconception of the ego and introduced him into the amphitheatre of the Self.



गुरुरेवं सदानन्दसिन्धौ निर्मग्नमानसः ।
पावयन्वसुधां सर्वा विचचार निरन्तरः ॥ ५७८ ॥

*gururevaṁ sadānandasindhau nirmagnamānaṣaḥ,
pāvayanvasudhāṁ sarvāṁ vicacāra nirantaraḥ. (578)*

*578. And the Teacher, his mind immersed in the ocean of eternal Bliss,
forever wandered about, indeed blessing the whole world.*

When the disciple had gone, the Guru did not sit back with a sigh of relief. The Guru also, with his mind fully steeped in the ocean of eternal Bliss, moved about blessing the whole world, ever-ready to explain and guide seekers who might approach him.

