

Sadguru Janma Dina Utsavam - What is so great about it?

- Vamshi Krishna Ghanapathi

Time is eternal, with neither an actual start nor a quantifiable end. However, we had devised intelligent methods to gauge the units of time, with the aid of celestial phenomena (Such as planetary constellations and positions). With their Intuitive Powers and Long term Observatory skills coupled with Stringent penances, our Ancestral Sages were the earliest to establish a system of time keeping, starting with the genesis of the Universe (Brahmanda) as well as Mortal Body (Pindaanda). Implications of each Time Unit, coinciding with each Unit (Celestial/ Human/ Biological) Body were discussed in myriad texts.

Thus the system of Jaataka Chakram (Kundali) derived, thru which any person can find out what is likely for him/ her in the store. In the case of a disturbing forecast), several forms of remedies were also synthesized with this system of forecast, to lift a soul from the pall of gloom, as a measure of assurance. Asynchronous analysis of the life with the aid of guidelines from Dharma Sastra (Code of Righteousness) was also made an inseparable part of our life, which was resorted to during casual exchanges or introspection.

Apart from this, periodical review of a person's performance in life, was an important factor, deemed necessary for the betterment of human life. For this to happen, an occasion has to be identified. Thus the concept of Birth Anniversary was designated occasion for this annual performance review.

Contrary to the contemporary bash and pomp associated with Birth Day (Bash) Parties, in the name of Re-union, homogeny, Gaiety; this day was devised by our tradition as an occasion for the following objectives.

Birth Anniversary is the right occasion for:

1. Prayer to the Almighty for the great gift of Human Birth.
2. Introspection of our actions in the past year and overall achievement in life so far.
3. Contemplation of future action in accordance with the goals of life in terms of spiritual progress and material progress respectively.
4. Plans for equitable Distribution of our affluence/ wealth and means to achieve this.
5. Finally the prayer for extension of Quality Life for another year.
6. Seeking the Blessings and Guidance of Great Learned Souls for the betterment of life.
7. Re-dedication/ Re-orientation of Life towards the stated/ perceived objectives and focusing on the Goal of Life, as set by the meritocracy.
8. Rationalising the usage of Life – Remainder and stemming the wastage of time, to the optimum levels with proper planning and execution.

Is there a need of celebration?

Yes. It is absolutely necessary to celebrate the great treasure called Human Birth, we all possess. We should cherish the labour and efforts of our previous Janma and Karma (Actions of Previous Births). Hence, there is a need to celebrate the possession with a view to put it to the optimum utility for our own betterment, as well as of others around us.

How about Enlightened Souls such as Sadguru?

However well stated, an iota of doubt lingers in sceptical minds, about the necessity of celebrating the Birth Day of Guru.

Does the Guru still require the above stated activities, if he is so enlightened – is the pertinent question here. For us to understand more about this, let us look at the phenomenon of Avataara (Re-incarnation) of a wise/ enlightened soul on this planet.

Inequality and Difference are real.

How much ever, we exclaim aloud, that all are equal; it is not true in all contexts. It is true to the extent that the aspect of Divinity, Consciousness, Bliss and Wisdom equally permeates every creature. But, the quotient differs from creature to creature, explaining the obvious differences of traits, understanding, names and forms among all of us. It is also an acknowledged fact that there are more souls less advantaged than the few privileged ones, who earned their resources through tireless efforts across many births.

Based on the incidence of majority being in the slumber due to intellectual and spiritual impoverishment, God regularly deputes minuscule percentage of enlightened souls to uplift the majority. This juxtaposition of Enlightened Souls along with the common folks stands as a sign of dexterity and compassion of God towards Humanity.

Hence, the **Divine Deputation** is called the Incarnation. It is more accurate in its Samskruta term. Avataara means Getting down to the level of underprivileged. Therefore, we always find one leader and myriad followers.

Leader and Follower

Once, we realise the mess, we are cluttered in and understand the wavering we undergo to get out of this, we comprehend the necessity of the guiding factor for our emancipation. As the Guiding Factor in the form of Sadguru, explains the reasons for maladies and cajoles the follower to shun the malpractices, the disciple values His Personality. This valuation is frequently upgraded to veneration, as the disciple enjoys the benefits of Enlightened Guidance.

In order to express gratitude, reverence towards the Guidance, the disciple looks for an occasion, which in turn will help naturally.

The pursuit of an occasion, practically directs the follower to the day, which brought joy of wisdom not only to him/ her but also to innumerable followers. That is the incarnation Day of Sadguru. Therefore, every follower has an occasion and right to celebrate the Incarnation Day of their preceptor.

Expression of Reverence and Admiration

As the beneficiaries of Sadguru's Guidance resolve to acknowledge the presence of their benefactor on this planet, they close ranks to celebrate the Spread of Wisdom. This celebration usually comprises several means and methods including:

1. Direct Expression of Reverence in the form of Pada Puja.
2. Acts of Charity, to demonstrate the adherence to the Preaching of Sadguru
3. Activities based on the principles enshrined in the doctrine of Sadguru's Philosophy; such as discourses, seminars etc.
4. Honouring Similar Enlightened Souls and Scholars.
5. Conduct of Rituals for the physical well-being of the Sadguru. (Aayushya literally means the wellbeing and longlife)

However, the core activity that actually pleases Sadguru, is to carry out a candid self-introspection with the following check list:

1. What is the transformation in my life achieved so far in my life with the association of Sadguru, especially in the past year?
2. Am I parsimoniously dispensing my resources for a good use?
3. Am I engrossed in material benefits only?
4. Am I limiting the precious association with Sadguru, to mere guidance in pecuniary mundane benefits?
5. What is the probability of my becoming as a virtuous example for a true disciple? If not, what else needs to be done?

6. How best, am I equipped to serve the mission of Sadguru, by helping others attain the benefit of His Guidance?

This progression of attitude is what actually Guru looks for in all the disciples. To connote the progress, the Birth Anniversary is called Vardhantee, essentially meaning the growth among the followers.

This triumph alone vindicates his incarnation (which is nothing but the downgrading from the Eternal Supreme Bliss to the moribund interim spells of happiness) and proves His mission successful. Hence, it is called Jayantee, which means the Ever Victorious - for the decimation of ignorance, thru the spread of the light called Wisdom.

Birth and Death Anniversaries of Great Souls are referred as Jayantee and Vardhantee or vice versa; in many parts of the country. In some regions, Birth Day is referred as Vardhapana Utsava; which means the day of nurturing the growth. Essentially, all these terms relate to the meta-physical spiritual growth, not limited to physical growth, which is bound to stop at some point.

(Wide Following, as an indication of achievement is the Triumph of a Person's Legacy - Jayantee. Enlargement in the number of followings, practising the legacy is **Vardhantee**. Nurturing the growth if Vadhaapana.)

Darkness is absence of light. (As the Darkness cannot be quantified, the amount of ignorance cannot be described.) Only Light can be measured and quantified. Similarly, the symbols of wisdom, our scriptures are qualified and quantified to beam the rays of enlightenment.

If a disciple really intends to celebrate the Birth Anniversary of Sadguru, it is mandatory to verifiably collect the rays of his wisdom and emulate the magnificent examples set by the Sadguru. Thus the celebration would be the Jayantee (Triumph) and Vardhantee (Growth) in letter and spirit.

Sri Gurubhyo Namah