

Guru-Sishya Parampara

C.S.PITCHUMONI.



- Gururbrahmaa gururvishnuh
gururdevo Maheswarah |
Guruh-saakshaat
parabrahma tasmai
- shri gurave namah ||

Objectives

1. Understand the significance of Dakshinamurthy , the lord of teaching.
2. Three periods 1. mythological 2. historical 3. Current.
3. Dakshinamurthy, Lord Shiva as a teacher.
4. Veda Vyasa, Adi Guru
5. Qualities of a Sishya, and Guru
6. Beginning of Guru-Sishya Parampara.
7. Adi Shankara Traditional Guru
8. 10 Paramparas established by Shankara
9. Oral traditions
10. Veda patasalas today.
11. Continuation of Guru Paramparas



Dakshinamurti, the Adi Guru

- Dakshinamurti – Lord Shiva
- Students in search of knowledge- four sages- **Sanaka, sanandana, Sanatana, and sanatkumara** the mental progeny of Brahma proceeded towards northern direction and did penance .
- *Lord Shiva appeared as Dakshinamurthi " lord having a form facing south"*
- Every teacher is a form of Dakshinamurthi.





Dakshinamurti, continues

- Imparted knowledge in silence. Conveyed everything
- Sishyas are spiritually advanced
- Sits in a posture of 'Virasana' left leg resting on the right thigh
- The right foot rests on the couched form of Apasmara a demon represents ignorance
- The Lord subdues the negative tendencies
- The lord faces the south and the students face the north





Dakshinamurti, the Adi Guru

- Seated under a banyan tree
- Facing the south
- Chinmudra represents knowledge, tips of index finger and thumb touch each other to form a circle.

- **Significance.**

Index finger...Symbolizes ahankara, ego.

Thumb...supports all fingers- represents Easwara..

Cinmudra signifies "Tatwam asi"

Unique Other fingers entire world creation, sustenance, dissolution.

Also three qualities- Satwa, rajas, tamas.Waking, dream, deep sleep.

- ***Viditatmanada, Hindu Dharma. Ahemedabad, India 2008***



Dakshinamurthy

- Represents five elements.
- Left upper hand... a torch ,fire
- Right upper hand... Damaru, drum sound
- Lower left hand... a book, knowledge
- Lower right hand... Cinmudra , knowledge
- Matted locks... Air
- Forehead ...Ganga ..water
- Ashes smeared... earth
- Right ear ring... masculine
- Left ear ring ...feminine The Lord represents both male and female.. Purusha and Prakriti , spirit and matter
- *Viditatanada, Hindu Dharma. Ahmedabad, India 2008*



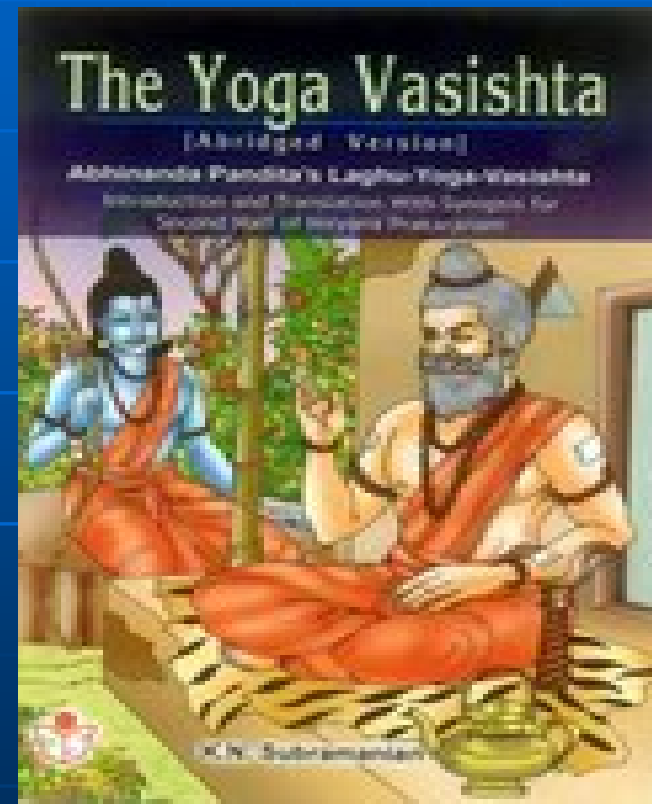
Terminologies



- Guru. Teacher. The letter 'gu' stands for darkness and 'ru' stands for that which removes darkness. 'Guru' implies one who removes darkness of ignorance. A spiritual teacher.
- In today's culture teachers of music or classical dance are 'gurus';
- sisya is from the root 'sas' instruct or discipline. One who has desire for knowledge is 'jijnasu'. The sisya has 'sradha' and 'bhakti' trust and devotion towards the teacher.

Qualities of a student

- Sradha Opens the channel for accepting knowledge from the Guru. Undivided attention, commitment and discipline.
- Bhakti. Devotion to teacher
- Jijnasu. Desire to learn



Qualities Sishya and Guru

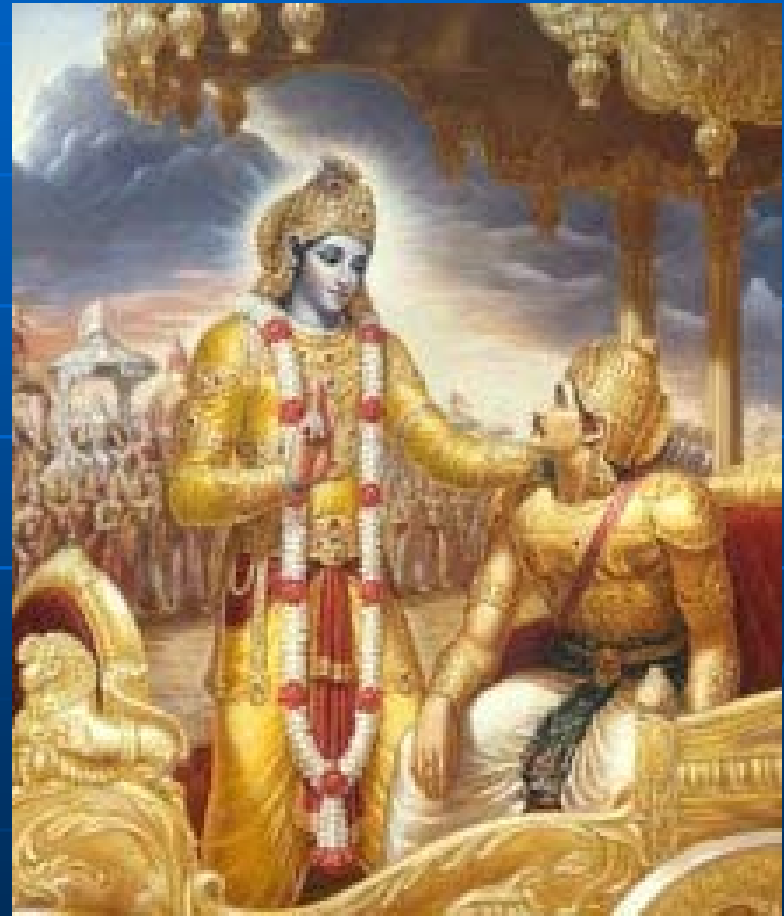


- **Sishya.** Learns to let go his own likes/dislikes. Grows in emotional maturity. Recognizes different dimensions of teacher. Lives with the teacher.
- **Guru.** A role model.. Teaching is not restricted to class room.
"Oral tradition" Verbally trasmitted knowledge with no writing. (is it possible?).. Learning by demonstrated values of teacher.
- Guru is considered to be no less than God or even more.
- *Kabir.. " when the lord and guru are both standing before me whom should I salute first?. Guru First because it is he who helped me to know God"*



Example of sacred teaching

- Bhadavad Gita. Arjuna submitted to Krishna.
- In 18th chapter Lord Krishna asked Arjuna whether his delusion was cleared. Lord would have continued till the message was clear.
- The teacher (Guru) has a commitment to continue teaching till the students gain knowledge.
- Student is willing to give everything, Guru does not want any thing.



Bhartiya Scriptures

Vedas

- Rigved
- Yajurved
- Samved
- Atharvved

Sections of Vedas

- Samhita
- Brahman
- Aranyak (Upanishads)

Smritis

Darshan Shastras

- Poorv Mimansa
- Nyay
- Vaisheshik
- Sankhya
- Yog
- Uttar Mimansa (Brahm Sutra)

Puranas

Bhagwatam

Gita

Itihas

- Ramayan
- Mahabharat

Vedang

- Vyakaran
- Jyotish
- Nirukt
- Shikcha
- Chand
- Kalp Sutras

Upved

- Athvved
- Dhanurved
- Gandharvaved
- Ayurved

Writings
of acharyas,
Jagadgurus

Writings
of Rasik
& Bhakt,
Saints

Vysa Purnima or Guru Purnima

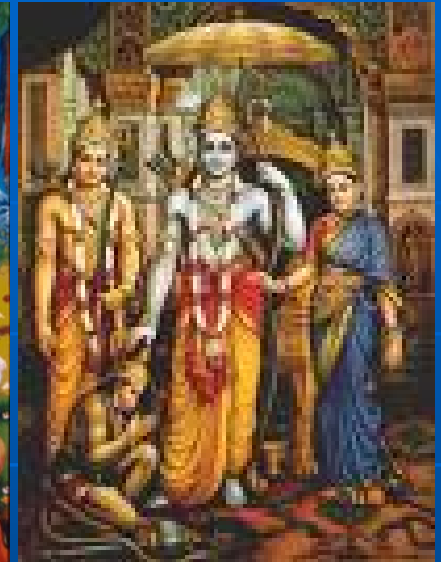
- Ashada masa marks the beginning of monsoon in India.
- In the spiritual field this corresponds to the purifying shower of divine grace.
- Legend states that he manifested himself in front of Adi Sankara in order to nod approval of the Acharyas commentary on the Brahma Sutra giving him another lease of life of 16 years to a total of 32 years.

Guruparampara Spiritual mentoring

- In Hinduism the Guru-the spiritual mentor ranks in stature second only to God. In fact in many traditions Guru is valued even more than god. It is the Guru who introduces you to god.
- Guru is a human form through which the power and grace of divine can manifest.
- The one divine teacher , called Ishwara who speaks through innumerable human gurus .
- The intensity of devotion many Hindus feel toward their Guru is extraordinary.
- In the Hindu Tradition Gurus don't just transfer information, they awaken the students' intuitive powers for them to find answers.

Background of Guru Sishya parampara

- Beginning of oral traditions of Upanishads (c.2000 BCE)
- Upanishads – “upa” near “ni” down and “sad” to sit. So it means sitting down near a spiritual teacher to receive instruction. EG Krishna and Arjuna or Rama and Hanuman.
- Foundation again by Shankara in 9th century through parampara.



From Prehistoric to Historic Period

Guru Parampara



Dakshinamurti, Lord Narayana, and Brahma Parasara, Vysa, Sukadeva,

Historic Guru Sishya parampara starts. Gaudapada, Govindapada, Sankara, Sankara's four disciples. Sureshwara, Totaka, Padmapada, and Hastamalaka.

Sudarshan, Guru Purnima Tattwaloka July 2007 pages 36-37

Adi Sankaracharya



Sankara's childhood

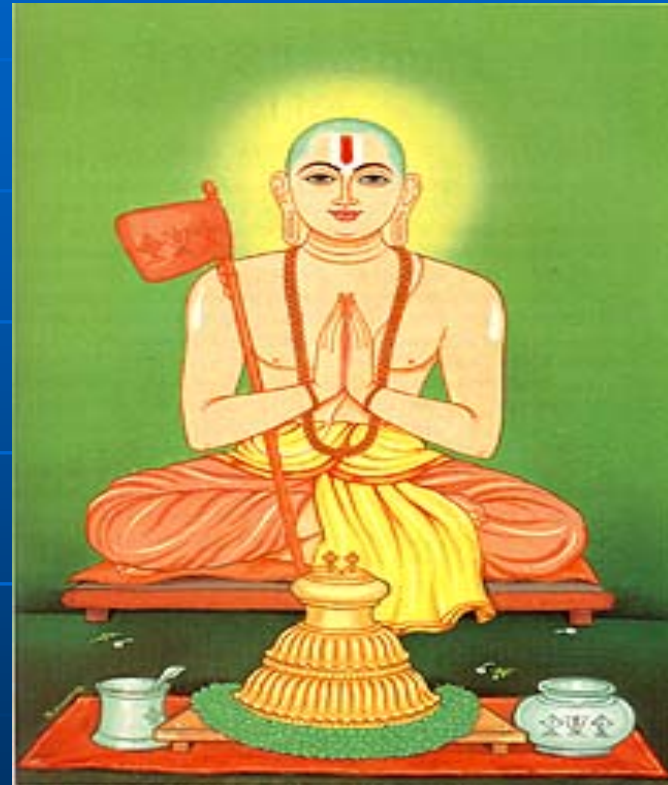
- Shankara was born in the year 805 AD. was raised under the loving care of his mother. From his childhood he turned out to be a prodigy. When he was only one year old he learnt Sanskrit. When he was five years old he was sent to nearby Gurukula. By the time he was 12 years old he had mastered all the branches of knowledge. At the age of sixteen he started writing commentaries on the Vedanta. According to the rules of the Gurukula pupils should get their food by begging.....
- After completing his education at the Gurukula, Sankara returned home. Here he was serving his mother who was ill and also teaching some pupils. Shankara wanted to take up sanyasa. His mother was unwilling to let her only son take up sanyasa. Since the purpose of Shankara's life was much greater than taking care of his mother, a miracle happened. When Shankara was taking bath in the Purna river, a crocodile caught hold of his leg and started to drag him into the river. Shankara felt that his life would soon come to an end. He loudly called out to his mother. Aryaamba rushed to the scene. Since every Hindu is supposed to enter the phase of Sanyasa before his or her death, Shankara requested the permission of his mother to become a Sannyasin. Seeing her son's plight, Aryaamba gave her consent. The crocodile let go of his leg and swam away.

The Guru Sishya parampara established by Shankara

- Shankara founded the dasanami order of sanyasis. It is divided into ten groups namely Aranya, Ashrama, Bharati, Giri, Parvata, Puri, Sarasvati, Sagara, Tirtha and Vana.
- He established Maths in four places:
- *Vimala Pitha* at **Puri** with which Aranyas and Vanas are associated with the mantra 'prajnanam brahman'.
- *Kalika Pitha* in **Dvaraka**, associated with Tirthas and Ashramas, with the mantra 'tat tvam asi.'
- *Sarada Pitha* in Sringeri, associated with Bharatis, Puris and Sarasvatis with the mantra 'aham brahmaasmi.'
- *Jyoti Math* in Badrinath associated with Giri, Parvata and Sagara and the mantra 'ayam atman brahman.'
- Shankara finally proceeded to Kedarnath higher up in the Himalayas. He became one with the Linga in his thirty-second year. This happened around 820 A.D.
- ***Sudarshan, Guru Purnima Tatwaloka july 2007 pages 36-37***

Parampara and Sampradaya

- Word meaning succession of teachers and disciples .
- Knowledge is passed down through successive generations.
- Sanskrit word means uninterrupted series or succession.
- An established parampara is Sampradaya or school of thought.
- Many paramparas, Eg Vaishnavism by Ramanuja,



Vedic Education

- Morning Sandhyavandana.
- "The teacher then instructs the few students seated on the ground around him by rote , and for many hours daily they would repeat verse after verse until one more was mastered. To ensure correctness the hymns were taught in more than one way ,first with the words connected ,then in their isolated form (padapaatha)then with the words interowen in ab,bc,cd pattern (kramapaatha) or even more complicated ways .
- The remarkable system of mnemonic checks and the patience and brilliant memories of many generations of teachers and students preserved the vedas for prosperity in much the same form as that in which they existed nearly a thousand years before Christ."



- A.L. Bhasham. The Wonder That Was India. Mac Millan 1967 pp164-165-

Oral Traditions

- It is astounding that large bodies of Vedic texts have been preserved in oral traditions for over thousands of years, safeguarding their purity and entirety. How our ancients could successfully achieve such an unbelievable task, is truly remarkable.
- In order to achieve this difficult task, an elaborate and a meticulous systems of recitations were devised. These systems of discipline with their checks and balances , ensured the correctness of a text including the correct sequence of its words; purity of the language; exact pronunciation of the words; precise stress on syllables ; measured pause between syllables; appropriate tone, accent, modulation and pitch of recitation; proper breath control etc.
- Shiksha one of the six Vedangas (limbs of Veda) that dealt with phonetics and phonology of Sanskrit, laid down rules for correct pronunciation of Vedic hymns and mantras.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shiksha>

What is a meter?.

- Chandas a meter eg Gayatri mantra seven meters in Rigveda
- Gayatri is one three feet each with eight letters
- Gayatri mantra is in praise of Savitr Lord Sun
- There are many mantras in Gayatri meter.

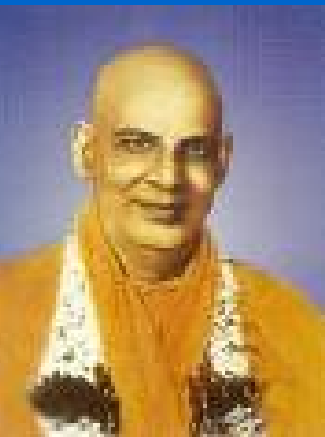


**Viditatmananda Hindu Dharma
Basics and Beyond
Ahmedabad 2008**

Veda Patasalas today



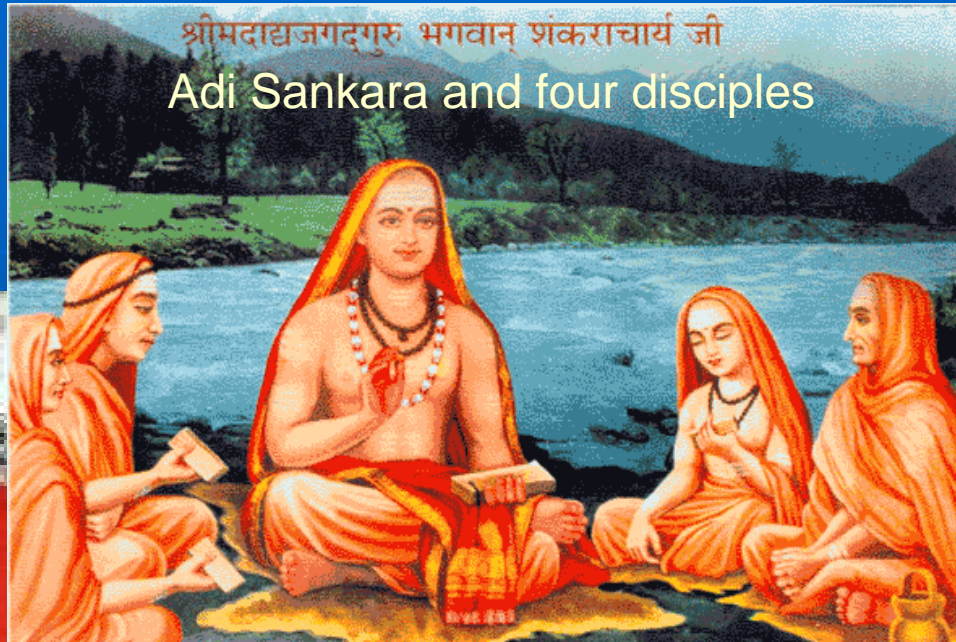
Guru Sishya Parampara



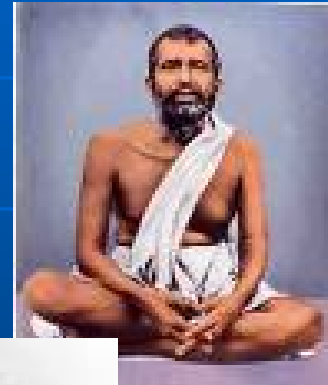
Sivananda



Chinmayananda



Ramakrishna



Dayananda saraswathi



Vivekananda



Tadatmananda

What did we learn

- Significance of the form of Dakshinamurthi.
- Sacred books of Sanatana dharma (Hindu) tradition.
- Vyasa the traditional guru.
- Who is a rishi?.
- Qualities of a Sishya, and Guru.
- Adi Sankara, who established guru- sishya parampara as we know today.
- Oral traditions.
- Veda pata salas today.
- A parampara , Adi Sankara established that touches our lives.
- Future.

Vedic Education in oral tradition

- The students learned Vedanta and subsidiary sciences for its proper understanding.

These six vedangas consisted of :

- kalpa (performance of sacrifice),
- siksa (correct pronunciation),
- chandas (metre and prosody),
- nirukta (etymology, the interpretation of obscure w` ords in the vedic texts),
- vyakarana (grammar),
- jyotisha (astrology or the science of the calendar)

A.L. Bhasham. The Wonder That Was India. Mac Millan 1967 pp164-165-