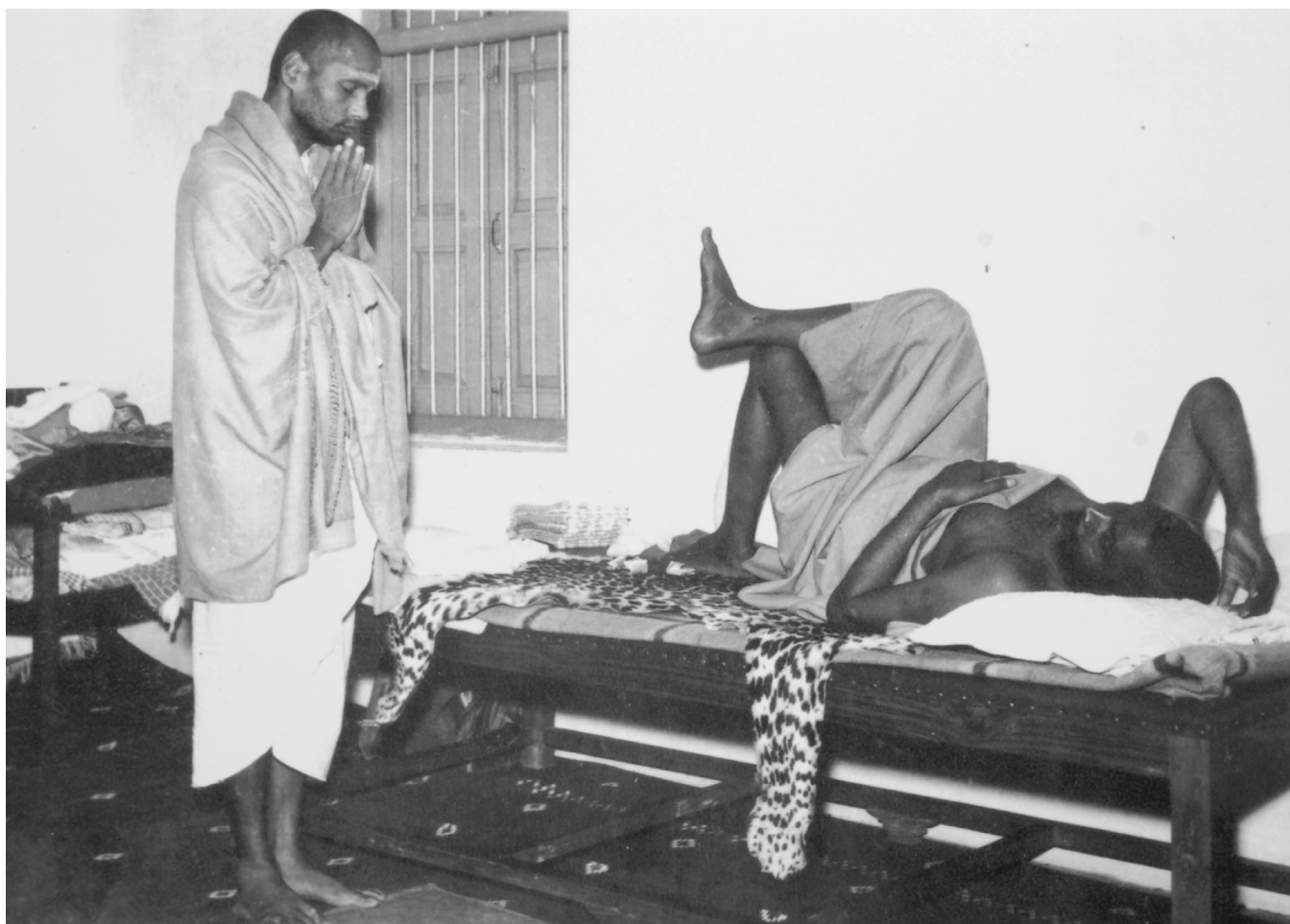


# Happy Guru Purnima



In celebration of Guru Purnima we are sharing an excerpt from *Baba Muktananda.- A Biography* by Swami Prakashananda, We hope you enjoy it.

Sadgurunath Maharaj ki Jai!

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## *Guru and Disciple Together*

Although Baba had already achieved Self-realization, he consciously concealed his attainments and appeared as a simple devoted disciple of Nityananda. Although a *Sannyasi*, instead of wearing the traditional saffron colored robes of the renunciate, Baba often wore a simple white *lungi*. In fact, he was completely devoted to his Guru and considered all those who visited him regularly as belonging to Nityananda's family. One of Baba's favorite verses from the *Rig-veda* was: "Only one who obeys can command." He would later have this verse placed on a sign and hung on the wall near his seat for all to ponder. He would explain its meaning as, "One who has not learnt to be a worthy disciple cannot become a true Guru." To illustrate the importance he placed on following the Guru's command, Baba sometimes told the story of how Nityananda once asked him not to eat a mango. He not only did not eat that particular mango, but he also didn't eat *any* mangos, until Nityananda gave him one to eat some twelve years later. This was what he meant about obeying the Guru's command. There is also a verse in the Chidakash Gita which says:

*"There is nothing superior to one's Guru, not even God himself. There can be no one greater than one's Guru. Guru is one's God, and God is one's Guru. No one should ever dare to forget one's Guru. A true disciple should not allow his mind to quiver like the reflection of the sun in flowing water. No one can ever attain the ultimate Truth without a Guru."*

This attitude of discipleship towards Nityananda would continue throughout Baba's life. Indeed, all the prayers and hymns chanted in his ashram were in honor of his Guru. He used to go for Nityananda's *darshan* once a week, usually on Mondays. Baba would bow to his Guru, and then stand silently in a corner not speaking unless spoken to. After sometime, Nityananda would begin speaking usually about the events of the week. Baba's response were always in the affirmative listening attentively to his Guru's words. An hour or two would pass in this way, and then Nityananda would give him permission to leave. Baba would again bow and leave.

In this way, Baba lived in Ganeshpuri with his Guru for about five years carefully hiding his own spiritual attainments and powers. He attributed everything that happened to him as his Guru's grace and directed everyone to Nityananda. However, some of his own devotees who had personally experienced his greatness were perplexed by his simple attitude. They thought that if Baba had already achieved Self-realization, what was the purpose of remaining with Nityananda. In fact, one such devotee put this question directly to Baba. Baba replied that, "It is not befitting a true disciple, no matter how great the spiritual heights he may have attained to separate from his Guru. Such an act would show ingratitude towards the Guru for what he had given to the disciple. On the other hand, unlimited benefit lies hidden in the blessings of a Guru who is pleased by a disciple's humble devotion."

Baba used to often say that when the Lord is pleased with you, he will direct you to the Guru, and, when the Guru is pleased with you, he will direct you to God. In this way, an invisible bond had been formed between the Guru and disciple. When someone once asked him if there was any way to repay the debt owed to one's Guru, Baba asked the person that if he knew of any to please tell him so that he could repay his own debt. In fact Baba did not think it was possible to repay such a debt. He would often recall what Sri Jnaneshwar had said while addressing his own Guru.

*“I have tried to find a way to repay the debt to You, O Lord, but I have not succeeded. I could not repay this debt with anything of this world, so finally I have decided to give myself to You - the whole of myself - and I will no longer remain me. Take my sense of separateness away from me forever so that even the question of repaying your debt may vanish from my mind.”*

In fact there was such a strong inner bond between Guru and disciple, that devotees who would visit them both often heard them speaking on the same subject even though they were sitting about a half mile from each other.

*Baba Muktananda.- A Biography*  
by Swami Prakashananda,  
(pages 122-125)