

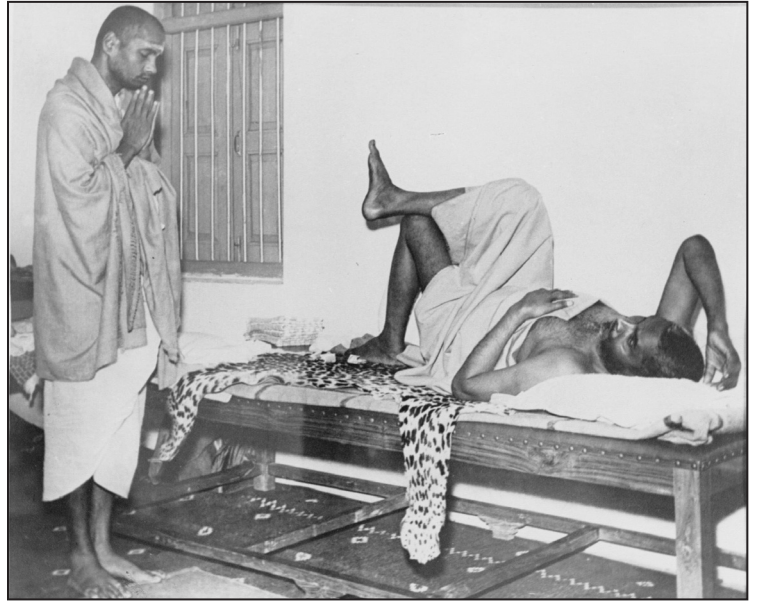
Happy Guru Purnima!

Dear friends,

This year Guru Purnima occurs on July 22, 2013. One celebrates this holy day to honor, and express gratitude towards their Guru. To a true devotee the Guru is everything. The *Chandra Jnana Agama* says:

“Only the guru is father, mother and brother. He is also friend, well-wisher and the only wealth. Thus everything should be surrendered to him. The disciple, fully surrendered to the guru, sees him as God, and then becomes God himself.”

And in one of his poems, the great saint, Jnanadeva (also known as Jnaneshwar), praises the Guru’s greatness when he writes:



(above) Baba with his Guru, Bhagawan Nityananda

“When there is a protector like my Gurudev always behind me, whom else should I care for? Does the king’s wife go begging for alms? So when one’s mind is wedded to the Guru, there is nothing one cannot attain. Living beneath a wish-fulfilling tree, tell me, what could one possibly lack? Jnanadeva says: I have crossed over! I have crossed over this world! The grace of my Guru has freed me!”

While speaking on the Guru during a Guru Purnima celebration one year, Baba explained why we celebrate this holy day. He said:

Today is Guru Purnima. In India, Guru Purnima is considered to be a very significant day. In this world there is no analogy which can be used to describe the Guru. There is a jewel called the philosopher’s stone. It existed in the ancient world, but I do not know if it has disappeared in the modern age. Anyhow, it is said that if a philosopher’s stone comes into contact with iron, it turns that iron into gold. But although a philosopher’s stone can turn iron into gold, it cannot transform it into a philosopher’s stone. For this reason Tukaram Maharaj said, “Even the analogy of a philosopher’s stone and iron is insufficient to describe a Guru, because a Guru turns a disciple into himself.”

So let us remember with great love and gratitude our beloved Gurudev, Baba Muktananda, who revealed the inner Self to us, and who continues to shower his divine grace on us like the pure nectar of light which flows during a full moon.

Sadgurunath Maharaj ki Jai!

Paramgurudev Nityanandaya!

Sadgurudev Muktanandaya!

With great respect and love,
Swami Prakashananda