



The Greatest Gurubhakti

Gurubhakti and *Guruseva* are important factors in spiritual life. *Gurubhakti* helps to free the disciple from earthly attachments to worldly things and beings. *Guruseva* – service to Guru – when properly done, is effective in removing selfishness, laziness and cravings for comforts. True *Gurubhakti* is in obeying and following the *upadesh* (teachings) and instructions of your Guru. Real *Guruseva* is to conduct yourself in such a manner that your life and personal *vyavahara* (conduct) bring a good name to your Guru, raise his reputation to higher heights and make your Guru enshrined for ever in the memory of all men. The best *Guru-Dakshina* is a life lived in accordance with the Guru's teachings. The devotees and disciples must try their utmost best to make themselves the embodiment of the Guru's teachings and reflect Guru's *Upadesh* in their day-to-day life.

The best *Gurubhakti* is to love all, to be kind and compassionate towards all, to never hurt any living creature, and to try as much as possible to benefit life around us – to be Good, to do Good, and to serve all. All that is positive, creative, constructive, auspicious, good, beautiful - that only should come to all around us through our thoughts, words and actions. Anything that is destructive, harmful or injurious to anyone should never come. There is no greater *Guruseva* than to become an embodiment of kindness, compassion and doing good to others. This is the hallmark of discipleship. To be a person of self-control, who has mastered his mind, its desires, vagaries and fantasies, overcoming the mind, and successfully centring it upon the God is the greatest *Gurubhakti* and *Dakshina*. It is true reverence to the Guru, who is Brahma, Vishnu and *Maheshvara*.

Brahma, the creator of life, is the embodiment of *ahimsa*. Lord Vishnu is *Satyanarayana* – truthfulness. Lord Siva is perfectly self-controlled, ever self-absorbed with mind and senses withdrawn, and His entire interior plunged into a state of deep, deep meditation. These three – *ahimsa*, *satya*, *brahmcharya* – constitute the essential part of *Gurutattva*. And embodying it in ourselves, reflecting in all its fullness, glory and immaculate grandness and greatness is discipleship. This is the greatest *Guruseva*, greatest *Gurubhakti*, greatest *Guru-Aradhana* (worship) and the greatest *Guru-Dakshina*. To become an embodiment of compassion, kindness, truthfulness, perfect self-control and contemplation is the essence of discipleship, the essence of *Gurubhakti* and *seva*. May we realise this truth and become blessed.

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*