



The Guru lives through His teachings

By the light of the Sun, the whole world awakens. By the light of the sun, darkness is banished, slumber gives place to wakefulness and sloth gives place to activity. For a sincere seeking soul, a spiritual aspirant, the Guru is, as it were, the Sun. It is the Guru that awakens us from our slumber of ignorance. It is the Guru who, by his illumination banishes the darkness of ignorance, and brings right reasoning, right perception and right thought. It is the Guru that also makes us see the way through his dynamic philosophy, teachings, personal instructions and his own lofty personal life. It is the Guru that points out the pitfalls and dangers upon the path, makes us alert, vigilant, *jagrat*. And even as the sun initiates activity, so the Guru inspires us to arise, awake, seek Knowledge, attain Illumination and become for ever blessed. All this and more the Guru does. The effulgence of the Guru, the light of Guru is his teachings, his instructions. These constitute the real Guru-Kripa (grace).

What is Guru's grace? His kripa, his *anugraha* (benediction) is in the form of his *sandesh* (message), his admonitions, his *updesha* (teachings) and his instructions. They constitute the manifestation of dynamic expression of his grace. They constitute Guru-Kripa. They constitute the light of our life, the light that illumines our path and which shows clearly the Goal we have to attain.

Thus the Guru never passes away; the Guru is never absent. He is immortal and deathless and has come to teach us that we are immortal and deathless. As long as the sun and the moon and the stars continue to shine in the sky above us, the Guru is dynamically present in the lives of all beings in the form of his resplendent teachings. The wisdom teachings of the Guru are our wealth and treasure. They are the ever-present lights that shine and illumine our life and the path before us.

Where there is an earnest, ardent and fervent wish to move along the path pointed out by the Guru, to practice his instructions, there Guru is fully present and Guru-Kripa is fully present. Understand this clearly and walk in the light. The Guru is his *jnana-updesha* (wisdom teachings). The one thing needful is right perception, right understanding and right exertion – *purushartha*. Then everything becomes achieved; everything becomes achieved.

May God Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*