



## Guru-Dakshina

Worshipful homage unto that supreme Divine Presence. Loving adorations to the spiritual presence of Gurudev Swami Sivanandaji Maharaj.

*Guru Purnima* is the sacred full moon day when all over India disciples tend to travel to be present at their *Guru-Sthana*. They fulfil their desire to sit before the Guru, to offer their reverence and receive from him a quickening impulse that will give them a fresh impetus in their journey beyond sorrow to the realm of eternal Bliss, the realm of light beyond all darkness. They also desire to show their reverence by making an offering, *Guru-Dakshina*, as a symbol of their gratitude.

Being sincere and earnest in sadhana, rededicating themselves to the great ideals of spirituality – renunciation, dispassion, discrimination, *abhyasa*, spiritual sadhana – that indeed would be the *Guru-Dakshina* desired by the Guru. The *Dakshina* desired by the Guru would be: Each disciple shines as a centre of fiery aspiration; intense fervour and total dedication to the ideal; a resolute determination to follow the path, come what may; to adhere to Guru's instructions; and to live by the lofty ideals placed before us by the ancient seers and sages.

The ancient saying is, "Physician heal thyself". First and foremost, start with your own good work. Work for a renewal within yourself; work for rebirth, work for the emergence of a new being within you. *Guru Purnima* is an occasion for a renewal. From out of the ashes of your unspiritual self that is wedded to ignorance, to attached to sense-objects, emerge as a shiny new being. Having annihilated the previous personality, begin your work here. Gurudev used to say, "Kill this little 'I'. Die to live. Lead the divine life." That indeed is great *Guru-Dakshina*.

Deeply reflect upon this. Ponder this vital, very significant idea; Start with yourself. Become a new being. Shine with this renewal. May this be your *Guru-Dakshina*. God will be pleased, The Guru will be delighted and the whole brotherhood will be benefited. And above all, you will be most benefited by your offering.

May God and Guru inspire you to contemplate this in all seriousness and sincerity. In all earnestness ponder this, and do it.

May God Bless You All!

■ Swami Chidananda