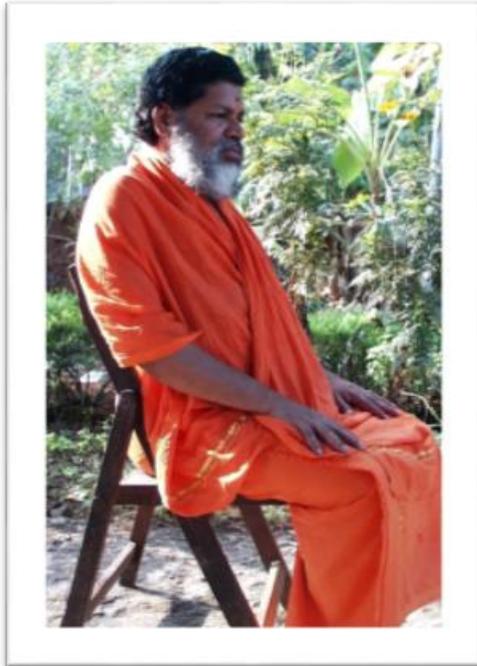


WHO IS A GURU?

SWAMI BODHANANDA

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Who is a Guru?

Guru is one who has the inner leisure to guide another person.

Why should another person need guidance?

Because he has lost himself.

Can one lose oneself?

The need for the other is the expression of loss of oneself.

How does one lose oneself?

By trying to be somebody other than oneself.

Why should one try to be somebody other than oneself?

Because he is not happy with what he thinks of himself.

What does one think oneself to be ?

One thinks oneself to be a wanting person.

What does one want?

Happiness.

What is happiness?

Happiness is a state of not wanting happiness.

How can one attain that state?

By not striving to attain it.

How does one give up striving for happiness?

By knowing that one is happiness itself.

How does one know that he is happiness itself?

By sitting at the Lotus Feet of a Guru who has the inner leisure to allow the other to sit at his feet.

Why should the Guru need the inner leisure?

Otherwise he will always be in a hurry.

Why is one always in a hurry?

Because one is not happy.

Why is one is not happy?

Because he does not know the source of happiness.

What is the source of happiness?

The Lotus Feet of the Guru.

How can the feet of Guru become the source of happiness?

Because he is happiness unbounded.

How can happiness unbounded have feet and hands?

Not possible!

Then how can one sit at the Lotus Feet of the Guru?

By opening up one's heart to the abundant grace of the Guru.

How does one open up to the Guru?

By loving the Guru.

How can one love the Guru?

By giving up oneself totally to the Guru.

How does one give totally to the Guru?

By serving him lovingly.

Does Guru need loving service?

No.

Then what is the point of loving service to the Guru?

Serving a Guru who does not demand service is the way to open up one's heart to the Guru.

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