

Glory of the Guru

(By Ammaji Garu - Translated from Guru Vaibhavam Book)

Guru does not mean a man of the world, he is a divine person. Suppose you get frightened, the Guru is the one who gradually reduces your fear and fills you with Self-confidence.



Even if the whole world is against you, he will give you courage to lead your own life. While transitioning you from fear to fearless state, he will ensure that you are not even aware of that process. You may feel: "How is it that I suddenly became so courageous? I used to get scared by looking at cats, but now I am ready to fight with a Tiger as well". Such is the grace of the Guru, you will be filled with courage!

Until you secure the Immortal state, the Guru will chase you throughout several births. In another birth, you may get a different body, but wherever you may take birth, the Guru will keep a track of you. Even if you forget the Guru, he will not forget you. You may not know where the Guru is, but he definitely knows where you are!



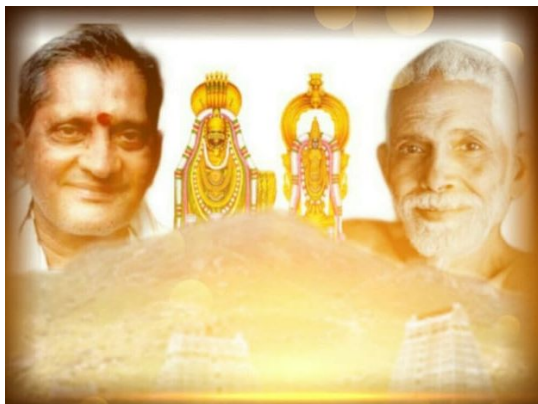


You must have faith in the Guru. You must get the faculty to abide by the Guru's words. When the Guru tells you good things that are useful in your day to day life, don't become deaf and leave them unheard, but accept them into your heart and put them into practice. By leading your life according to the Guru's words – you are honoring the Guru.



The Noble thoughts, Noble actions and Noble words originating from the Guru's heart should not be wasted. As a miser preserves his wealth carefully, you must also preserve the Guru's words carefully, accept them heartfully and put them into practice. Only then it implies that you are nearer to the Guru.

Until you secure the Immortal state, the Guru will follow you throughout several births. In another birth, you may get a different body, but wherever you may take birth, the Guru will keep a track of you. Even if you forget the Guru he will not forget you. You may not know where the Guru is, but he definitely knows where you are!



A person asked Bhagavan: 'If I have to secure liberation, is effort from my end sufficient or do I need the Guru's Grace also?

Bhagavan replied: "Getting the thought of securing liberation is also due to the Guru's Grace. Without the Guru's Grace you cannot get that seeking. To attain liberation, the contribution of self-effort

is very less compared to the contribution of the Guru's Grace. You realize this fact only after attaining that Immortal state"

All of us come unto this planet to bear karma i.e. experience the fruits of our actions. But the Guru's body has not come to bear karma.



After being soaked in Bliss, the Guru takes a physical form in order to reform his disciples. So the Guru's physical form also represents Bliss. Therefore, when we see the Guru, we too experience the Bliss. The Guru's body originates from Bliss and also vanishes back into Bliss. The Guru has not come to distribute sorrow to us. The Guru has come to distribute Bliss to us.

There are some flaws within everyone's mind which people keep expressing in various forms. The Guru tries to eradicate those tendencies but doesn't get identified with them.

If he gets identified with them, he cannot be called a Guru. He then represents an individual (Jiva) only. The Guru knows very well how, when, where and which individual (Jiva) to shower his grace upon. You need not keep waiting for his grace, hastiness is forbidden. It is we who are going to lose due to hastiness.



If we are true devotees, there is only one thing that we can ask the Guru: "Bless me with devotion". There is nothing else to ask for.



When there are floods in a river, very big trees and stones also get blown away like a blade of grass in the torrents of those floods. Likewise, when we have true devotion towards God and a Guru, in the torrents of such devotion our weaknesses and tendencies resembling the big trees and stones also get blown away and get reduced to ashes. Of all the external loves, a Mother's love is the greatest love. But a Guru's Love is greater than a Mother's Love.



Guru refers to that Brahman. A devotee asked Bhagavan: “You are going away and we are staying back here. If you leave us, who is going to love us? How can we get that love and affection again?” Bhagavan then replied: “When this body is alive, is it the body that is loving you all? Is it this body which showers Compassion? No. That which Loves you, blesses you with Peace and Jnana is in no way related to this physical body. The Power, which showers its Love, Compassion, Grace and which aids in securing the peaks of Jnana is deathless”.

If you happen to meet any Self Realized soul, make the best use of His Holy Company. In the presence of a Jnani, the mind which is habituated to extroversion starts getting introverted even without your knowledge.



When your faith in the Guru is true, even death gets frightened. Such is the glory of faith. Even on the advent of death, you will feel: "I am not going anywhere. I am everywhere. I am within the Guru". Guru implies Supreme Consciousness.

Hear the words of the Guru attentively. Whatever you hear, put it into practice. Try to understand those words and bring them into your experience. When those words come into your experience, you will then understand the worth of Jnana and Peace.





Guru refers to Brahman. Even if he doesn't talk, he blesses you with introversion. He aids in annihilating your tendencies. He not only takes you into the cave of the Heart, but also ensures that you get stabilized there.

After the war got finished for the day, Lord Krishna used to bid farewell to everyone and then left for his living quarters in the end. Similarly, the Guru also first ensures that all his devotees get liberated and then reaches his abode. Our sadhana resembles the Mahabharata war. In the process of sadhana, the Guru ensures that not even a single tendency remains within us. The Guru makes sure that our mind is stabilized within the Heart and all our tendencies are destroyed in that process. When all tendencies get destroyed, the Guru reveals Himself as the Supreme Self. Therefore, our devotion towards the Guru has to be peaceful and stable. No amount of sadhana can equal your living love towards the Guru.



A Guru is not an ordinary being. Ramana and Ramakrishna were great Jnanis. They were not ordinary people. As per your past merit, you may develop faith in a great jnani and cultivate devotion towards His feet; then that Jnani will drive and drop you into liberation like a train engine that drives and drags the bogies attached to it towards its destination.



By whose remembrance, the beauty within your Heart is revealed, by whose contemplation your mind gets purified, he only is your Guru. We are in a forest called a body. The one who shows you the way out of this forest (called body) is the Guru only.

Rather than reading innumerable books, rather than doing innumerable pranayamas, a little Grace from the Guru is enough for our reformation.



If you are experiencing any peace, if you are able to remain quiet and calm, it is only due to the Guru's Grace. Though the Guru has a physical body, he is bodiless. He doesn't have any identification with his body. He is aware of the purpose for which his body took birth. He solely concentrates on that purpose. A Guru has got no personal work. He takes a body only to get the devotees liberated.





Don't become proud of your sadhana. Of the 100 paisa in a rupee, your sadhana is worth one paisa. The remnant 99 paisa is the Guru's Grace only. The Guru's role in your sadhana is very important. The Guru won't become anxious because you are getting anxious. He will prepare you gradually. When you deserve it, he will not delay even by a second to bless you with Jnana.

As a hunter chases and hunts the animals, even the Guru chases and hunts you until you get Self Realization. Here hunting implies hunting your ignorance. Without getting rid of ignorance, you cannot secure Self-Realization.





When you see someone close to your heart after a long gap, you hug him lovingly. Likewise, when you become the recipient of the Guru's Grace, you will hug your death willingly. You will not get frightened even on being informed that you are going to die in an hour. As you have become a recipient of the Guru's Grace, you will hug the death as willingly as you hug your friend. Your Love for the Guru is not an illusion of your mind.

Of all the relationships, the relationship with the Guru alone is permanent. If we select the Guru, there is nothing special about it. All the glory lies in the Guru selecting us. Once you get selected by the Guru, irrespective of how many births pass by or in whichever world you may be in, you are bound to get protected. Such is the glory of the Guru's Grace.





When you start making effort towards securing Jnana, the previous births' tendencies and attributes create hurdles resembling weeds. When you use manure in the agricultural fields, the manure destroys all the weeds. Likewise, the Guru takes up the responsibility of destroying the weeds of previous births' tendencies and attributes.

Honors and Dishonors are transient. They keep coming and going. All of them (honors and dishonors) are not true and are happening within a dream. The Guru alone awakens you from this dream. To awaken from this dream, your intelligence and efforts are not sufficient. It is the Guru alone, who awakens you from this dream and drives you towards Jnana.





If listening to a Guru's preaching is equivalent to the prescribed medicine, putting that preaching into practice and bringing it into your experience is equivalent to the diet prescribed. The disease doesn't get cured if you take the prescribed medicine but do not follow the prescribed diet. Likewise, the disease of birth and death will get cured only when you contemplate and put into practice the Guru's preaching that you listen to. Even if it gets delayed, if the Guru's preaching is put into practice, you are bound to get liberated.

To eliminate the worldly affairs that create a hurdle in your Self-Realization, the Guru makes a constant effort on a continuous basis. You may read any number of scriptures or take a dip in any number of holy rivers - they can never equal the Guru's Grace.





The external Guru prepares and pushes you inside whereas the internal Guru pulls you inside. It is God only who exists in the form of the Guru both externally as well as internally within the heart. Externally, the one who pushes your mind inside and internally, the one who introverts your mind towards the heart is the Guru only. Everything is the Guru only. Without the Guru's Grace, these tendencies cannot be thrown out.

Even if your physical body dies, the Guru does not leave you in the forthcoming birth. He will search for your whereabouts like where you have taken birth and chases you accordingly. Love for the Guru is generated within you - this is ensured by the Guru Himself. How can your ego love the Guru? The Guru's Compassion resembles a great flood. It releases you from the name and form mindedness and unites you with the Jnana.





A Guru is the only means. A Guru is the only goal. When you develop devotion for a Guru, when you surrender yourselves to the Guru, when you get a steady presumption that one and only one Brahman exists, you will feel the Guru's Grace.

Try to be the seekers of Truth. Take the Guru's support for that sake. Though you may not be aware of the Truth, the Guru is aware of the same. Till the Truth is realized, the Guru will not leave you. Holy Company is more important than japa and dhyana. The vibrations of Holy people work on us.





A Guru's sight, word, walk and every movement of his is Grace. A Guru's very nature is Grace. There is nothing in this world for a Guru to grasp. The state of the Guru is thoughtless, that is just 'To Be'. Even if he gets any thought, it is only to convey you something for your welfare, otherwise none of his thoughts trouble him.

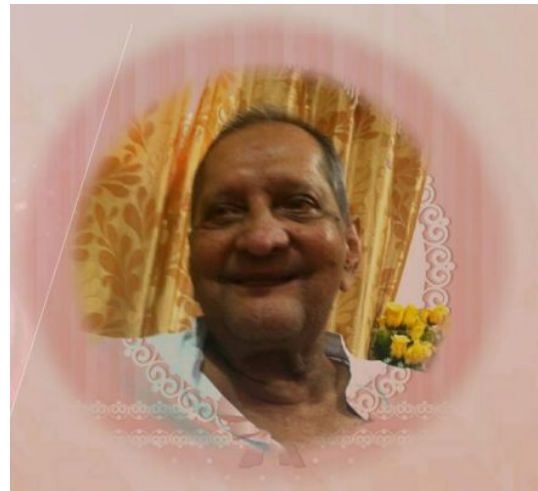
You may have a question: 'Will I have the Guru's Grace forever?' The answer is: 'Whether you ask for it or not, you will have the Guru's Grace forever. As and when you become eligible, you will start understanding the nature of the Guru's Grace. Fire cannot exist without heat. Likewise a Guru cannot exist without Grace'.





A Guru continues doing his work, irrespective of what you think about him. As we are all bound in the sleep of ignorance, a Guru chooses when, where, what and how to awaken us from this sleep of ignorance. Such is the glory of the Guru.

The Guru pulls us within, eradicates our tendencies (related to Jiva), purifies us, makes us mature and blesses us with his true nature (Self) of eternal bliss. When such an eternal bliss comes into experience, you will not feel like seeing God even if he appears and stands in front of you. It is not because you lack respect for him, it is just because you are content with your eternal Self-related blissful experience.





If you have been adoring and meditating upon God since several births and making an effort to secure liberation with a firm determination, God Himself takes a physical form, arrives in the form of a Guru and provides guidance. A Guru doesn't talk or preach with a purpose; He talks and preaches only out of Compassion. Words uttered by a Guru reflect His Compassion. They are a personification of Knowledge and Love. They are blessed indeed who are able to grasp this.

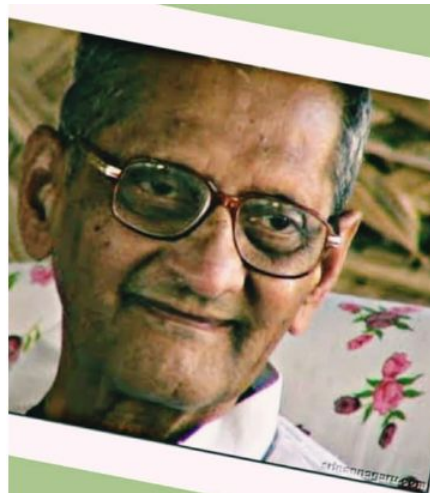
A Guru refers to the Self. A Guru implies the Supreme Consciousness. A Guru himself performs the tasks of all the gods. The tasks of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are done by the Guru. If God gets angry with us, the Guru protects us by swallowing that anger.





To cross a river, you need not swim; it is enough if you sit in a boat. As a boat takes you from one side to the other side of the river, the Holy Company also takes you from bondage towards freedom. When you get the Holy Company, how worthy are your spiritual efforts? The Holy Company takes you from ignorance towards knowledge. It takes you from darkness towards light.

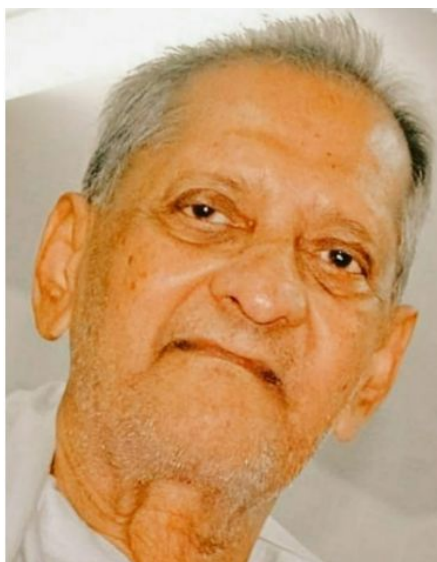
The work of a Guru is to bestow you with the faculty to know that (Supreme Self) by which you will become blissful irrespective of your liking for it. One who reveals as well as the one being revealed - both of them are the Guru.





The Guru says: 'Even if you forget me, I will not forget you'. It is because there is no selfishness in that Love. Therefore there is no reaction in the Guru. Divine Love is different from Human Love. We must practice Divine Love. By continuously being in Holy Company, you will gain at least some dispassion. Discrimination and Dispassion - both of them resemble our two eyes.

A Guru is tolerant and peaceful. A Guru's tolerance has no limits. As a magnet attracts the iron filings, a Guru also attracts his devotees through his words and sight. Not only attracting them, a Guru also bestows his devotees with Self-Knowledge.



When there is a little devotion, a Guru always helps in ripening an unripened fruit and reducing your ego. A Guru extends his help AT all times. When you are eligible and deserving, God descends down as a Guru only for your sake.



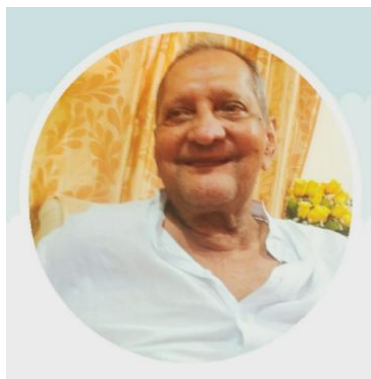
A Guru is a great ocean. A Guru is as wide as the sky and as deep as an ocean. He is limitless. Why does he talk sweetly to us? It is only to drag us into that ocean. When you reach there, you will lose your identification with name and form. Such is the power of a Guru's Grace.

Any number of pilgrimages or visits to holy temples can never equal a single glance of a Jnani. A Jnani's words are very powerful. They cross mountains and oceans. They spread across the entire world. It is because a Jnani's tongue is within His Heart. The impact of a Jnani can be felt by the devotees.



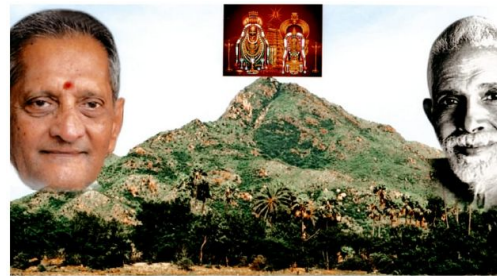
The Guru has more practicality. The Guru makes sure you reach the same state as he is in. All that exists is within, there is nothing outside. Some weaknesses are very deep-rooted. Teaching cannot get rid of them. So the Guru creates a painful incident to put you in a fix and make you spit out the deep-rooted weaknesses. That's how the Guru makes you come out of your weaknesses and purifies you.

The Guru inculcates a perspective of seeing Him in all living beings by creating circumstances. Then you will see the Guru as all-pervasive. A Guru releases you from the differentiating mind, blesses you with the fearless state and thereby bestows you with liberation.



We are in a prolonged sleep called ignorance. The Guru alone can wake us up from this sleep called ignorance. For the Guru, it is as natural and as normal to bestow grace , as it is for us to breathe. All of the Guru's work comes naturally from the Self.

We cannot get rid of the 'False I' by ourselves. If we have the Guru's grace, He will make the ego drop away, without our knowledge. We cannot lose it using our intelligence. God always appears in the form of the Guru to the seeker. "You always talk about Grace and not about Love", someone asked Bhagavan. "Can there be Grace without Love?" Bhagavan said.



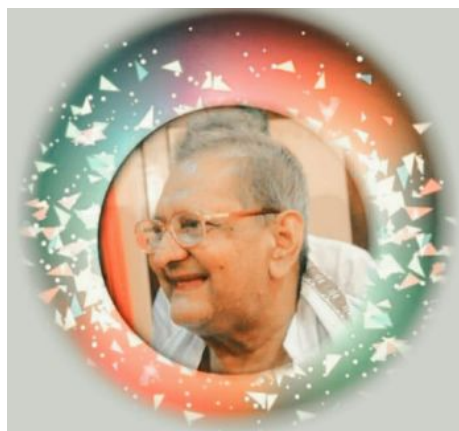
Guru's silence is the loudest instruction. If you possess enough spiritual strength of sadhana and tapas, you will be eligible to receive his silence fully and completely. From His silence, you will be able to receive grace.

He, who falls under the influence of the Guru's grace, is not affected by the ease or difficulty of his external circumstances. His mind becomes like a burnt rope. (Ref- burnt rope exists in form but has no strength to tie). His mind becomes subtlest of the subtle. He becomes introverted. And thus, when he enters the depths of 'The Heart', 'The Truth' reveals itself to him.



While a doctor cures diseases of the physical body, The Guru cures diseases of the subtle body (mind). The Guru cures us of the disease called samsara (vicious cycle of births and deaths) and places us in endless bliss called Moksha

The Heart is the birthplace of the 'Individual I'(Ego). As one holds the Individual I in the Heart for a longer duration, the individual I slowly loses its attributes and assumes a universal form. One needs holy company, meditation, pilgrimage, and dips in holy rivers, etc., to be able to achieve this. Extremely powerful and surpassing all the above efforts is the "Guru's Grace". Those who are able to grasp this, are blessed indeed.



Whatever path we have practiced in our previous births, will influence the choice, interest, and understanding of our path in the present birth. We may not be sure which path suits us best - the path of Karma, or Bhakti, or Yoga? But our Guru knows it. And that is why spiritual instruction varies from a person to person.

How should a Guru be? A Guru should have the quality of being able to love everybody equally; should have a heart that aspires everybody's well being; should be able to teach in such a way that everybody understands. He should have direct experience of 'The Truth' that he is teaching about. Only then, the devotees will be able to comprehend and inculcate.



Whatever path we have practiced in our previous births, will influence the choice, interest, and understanding of our path in the present birth. We may not be sure which path suits us best - the path of Karma, or Bhakti, or Yoga? But our Guru knows it. And that is why spiritual instruction varies from a person to person. For the experience of the truth in our Heart, along with our effort, the Guru's benevolence is also required. Without his grace, just by your effort alone, you will not be able to realize. The Guru does not think that others should know of the help he is extending to you, because he has no 'others'.

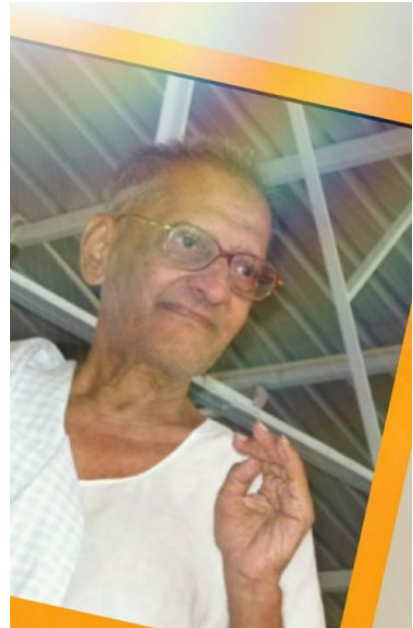
Grace' is not an attribute of the Guru.
The Guru "IS" Grace. The Guru's loving
gaze or his neglect, his conversation or
him appearing indifferent to us,
everything is Grace. Blessed are the
devotees who discern this.



To explain what the Guru's love is: He is the
one who tries to remove the real hurdle(
body bound I) to realizing the truth within
the Heart, from its very roots. He is the real
Guru.

As long as you identify with the body and have a mind that says. "I am the body", so long you need the Guru.

You should digest the Guru's words deep within. Whatever tendencies (vasanas) that pose hurdles in this process are also removed by the Guru himself



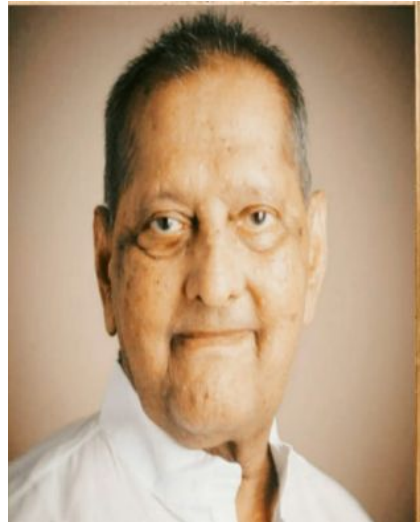
When you love your Guru, don't be under the impression that you love somebody. It is the Self in your Heart, that you actually love.

When the Guru speaks, your mind may receive the meaning conveyed by that sound (of words). But your mind cannot grasp the Guru's silence. Silence is the source from which the mind emerges. Only when you reach that source, you will understand the Guru's silence.



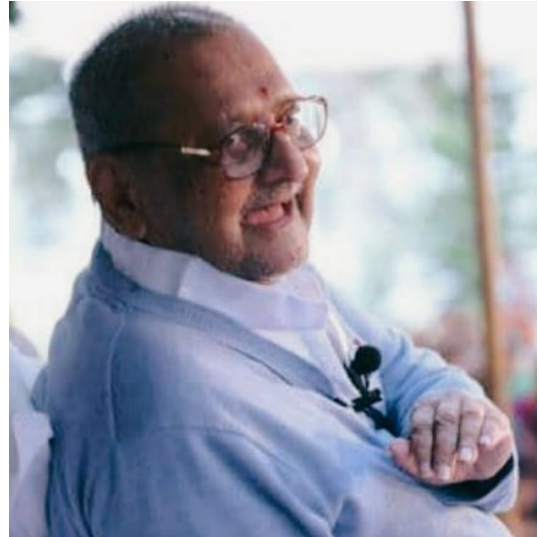
Whoever your Guru may be, whatever tradition he may belong to, if you make effort devotedly and lovingly, God will bestow His Grace through the Guru you are adoring. It is God's Grace only (through the Guru). Don't restrict the Guru to a physical form. The Guru refers to the Self. The Guru means Brahman.

Sometimes the same tendency (vasana) may surface repeatedly. It might come with a strong force, do not get perturbed. However strong the tendency may be, it gets washed away in the Guru's grace.



Even if you have tendencies (vasanas) hidden within, that may result in a thousand births, the Guru draws them out. He brings them to your knowledge, makes you experience them in this very birth, pulls them out totally, and purifies you.

As long one hangs on to the 'I am Body' thought, he cannot get rid of hardships, losses, and sorrows even if he takes innumerable births. Until we know the Truth, the births will continue. And we are bound to be swept away in this current of births and deaths. Only he, who has secured the Guru's grace can reach the shores. Otherwise, there is no chance of reaching the shore.



Everyone likes himself most. Because he is the Self. Even if one appears to love somebody, it is for the sake of himself alone and not for the sake of the other person. That kind of love is not real. Except for the Jnani, except for the Guru, nobody can truly love.