

Do You Need a Guru?

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There is a lot of misunderstanding about the purpose and nature of a Guru. Most people think Guru means teacher or perhaps someone who is an expert in his or her field. We hear the term golf guru, or financial guru for instance. The online merriam---webster dictionary gives the following definitions:

- a personal religious teacher and spiritual guide in Hinduism.
- a teacher and especially intellectual guide in matters of fundamental concern.
- one who is an acknowledged leader or chief proponent.
- a person with knowledge or expertise.

From this point of view, anyone who has apparent knowledge can serve in the function of a guru. There are many teachers who purport to have great knowledge and present themselves as viable teachers. It is true that any student with a desire to learn will gain something from any circumstance. Anyone can provide information and be a helpful teacher. However, if a student is serious about the process of awakening and wants to obtain full enlightenment, then information from a good teacher is not enough.

Since we are focused upon Awakening Consciousness and the path for self---realization, then the issue of a guru takes on special importance. The Sanskrit term, guru, means the dispeller of darkness. The guru is one who takes the disciple from darkness, ignorance to light, or realization of truth. A true guru provides a much more profound purpose than just providing information.

We have discussed the nature of consciousness as energy and the process of transformation of consciousness as the transformation of energy. We have also discussed the unified nature of consciousness and how energy is interconnected throughout the universe. A teacher who has full realization of the infinite vibrates at a higher frequency

than one who has not achieved personal realization. A true guru is able to influence, in a positive way, a disciple's consciousness through the simple sharing of energy. Attunement between the disciple and guru is what deepens this process. The guru's consciousness is what makes the difference, not what he or she says, but who they are. A true guru's vibration can also be transmitted through his or her written word.

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