

WHY?

Why I am interested in spiritual enhancement of my life. Why should I approach a teacher? Can't I learn by myself?

Even when things are very clear, and material is available, it takes years for someone to master a subject. To become an engineer (where, all data is logical and is available), one has to go through 16 years of schooling to be even eligible to *start* to learn engineering. After 4 more years, with a lot of hard work, one can become an engineer.

If it takes so much work to be educated to become just an engineer, how much preparation does one need to undergo to start learning thousands of years of spiritual wisdom? To become an engineer, as one needs to learn mathematics, physics and many many other basic subjects. So also to do the same for spirituality, one needs to, first of all know sanskrit, then that person needs to learn the Vedas, Upanishads, and practice all the teachings without any blemish. Only then, will this person becomes able to understand the spiritual meanings for, everything related to spirituality exists in Sasthras in Sanskrit only. How many of us can do that? Even at this stage, one needs to go to someone who is blessed with knowledge (like professors in college) and learn. (The magnitude is just greater in spirituality). That is why one needs to go to a teacher. The teacher will not only teach, but also inculcate in the seeker the mindset to be able to comprehend the great teachings of spirituality.

Why should I approach a teacher in the Ramanuja lineage? Can't I just approach one of the many Gurus that are available?

To convey knowledge, a teacher must know the subject very well, and the teacher's understanding must be free of any inaccuracies. Will you go learn engineering from a person who is not trained in engineering? Can everyone become a professor in a university? They cannot.



Similarly, only teachers who have been blessed with knowledge can be a good teacher. In addition to knowledge, a teacher must be concerned about the welfare of the seeker.

The above is just the basic qualification of any teacher. Now, when you go to a University, how do you know that someone is a good professor? You look at the University's webpage, and find out that the University has appointed the person as a professor. Then, you take that data and determine that since the university has appointed this person as a professor, he must be qualified with knowledge, and is willing to teach you. Isn't this a certification process? Similarly, the only way of knowing that a teacher is qualified with the most clear knowledge, one must see what the teacher represents.

Ramanuja is the ultimate teacher of spirituality, because he interpreted the Vedas and Upanishads as a whole, without leaving out any part of them, unlike others. Any teacher who follows Ramanuja will know the clearest and true meaning of the Vedas. Also, Ramanuja was very concerned about the welfare of the human beings, and he instructed all his disciples to teach the truth of the Vedas to anyone who has interest. All the teachers who follow Ramanuja follow the above principle very seriously - i.e. they will teach anyone who wants to learn, and they will teach the true knowledge. It is only in the lineage of teachers who follow Ramanuja that we find the two qualities - knowledge and eagerness to teach. In short, other Gurus did not believe in the very existence of God or soul and nature. Then how do they recommend something true to be practised and our attainment would be True? On the other hand, Ramanujacharya believed in all these three as real and souls attainment of Moksha and God also is True. So we need Bhagavad Ramanujacharya to be followed. Real Guru only can teach real things for real goal to a real disciple.

That is why one must approach a teacher in the Ramanuja lineage.
