

We create our own guru

The Buddha is the Dhamma's exemplar
[Previously published as fb191009 piya]

Most of us here actually have "great" teachers for various reasons (mostly past conditionings). We create our Teachers in our image, and the Teacher compliment us. This is called "closed loop" thinking, or the snake eating its own tail.

The Bodhisattva (the Buddha before his awakening), too, sought out teachers, but he found they are not awakened, so how can they awaken him?

He moved on to seek it within himself. Painfully at first. But, in a sense, it was all worth it. I try to see good in everyone, but I still find the Buddha is the best guide, since he points to the Dhamma, which he himself follows.

The Guru that we know: does he really follow the Buddha Dhamma, or has he created his own Dhamma, and that is what we are drawn to. Otherwise, we will see how awakening the suttas can be!

Sometimes we know so crystal clear what is going on, but we just cannot get the message across to those who have no ears to hear. It's like speaking from the future: people now will take quite some time to hear it. Like a light from a distant star!

Sometimes, I think we see the Buddha Dhamma like that. We just need to keep up, catch up. When we are caught with a Guru, he wants us behind him. So we can never go beyond his behind.

A Guru is attention-deprived on account of having bad lingorrhoea. A Guru seems to know all the great stuff from the suttas and Sufis, and quotes them as if he is their Author. Then, we see the sources of the quote, and think: Hey, the Buddha lifted this from our Guru!

The Buddha sits smiling under the tree: Keep moving, he says, don't stop on my account: Catch up with the Dharma.

However, he says just the opposite to Angulimala, who has been living a terribly evil life on account of his Guru. So the Buddha tells him: **stop!** The highlight of the Angulimala Sutta is just this: M 86 (SD 5.11).

Helping the teacher help

Knowing the suttas is like a benchmark for quality control whether a teacher knows, lives and loved Buddha Dhamma. We start by learning what we can with the suttas.

Whenever we do not understand something, as the teacher. If he answers clearly, keep on asking. Then you understand even better. So far so good.

When he does get annoyed or thinks you are not important anymore (when you ask about

suttas), then that teacher does not deserve you. Remember: when you ask about the suttas, you are also reminding the teacher what his renunciation is really about.

Don't ask just one teacher, ask a few. Then, you will get to know the Dhamma better and build up your Dhamma friendship with a true teacher. The teacher represents the Buddha when he answers your Dhamma question with respect: he respects the Dhamma, and everyone benefits from this.

Stop looking for a Guru:

it's never too early, never too late free yourself from the web.

Just **stop** creating Gurus:

One of us is already bad/good enough. Deal with it.

Seek the truth; search the suttas. Make true Dhamma friends.

R660 Revisioning Buddhism 258

[an occasional re-look at the Buddha's Example and Teachings]

Copyright by Piya Tan ©2020