

DIVERSIVE

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ADVAITA OF THE UNSUNG TEACHERS

By Dr. Shruti Shankar Gaur

"When one looks at life through the lens of Advaita, one realises that the whole universe is the grain of their projection."

Happy Teachers Day!!!!

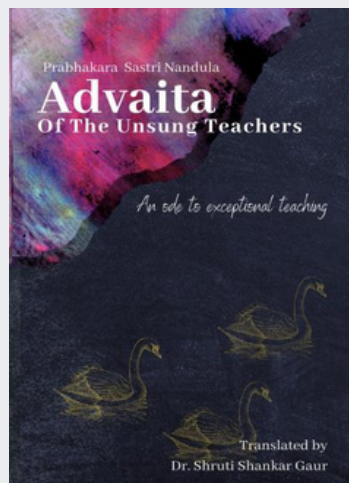
We couldn't have been more delighted.

This Teachers Day coincides with RIEDU's latest publication, Advaita of the Unsung Teachers, an ode to excellent teaching. We often hear that the teaching and teachers of today have degraded over the decades. Have they? Why do we think so?

While examining six great teachers to identify the essential ingredient for an everlasting teaching-learning experience, our quest led us to the ancient Vedic philosophy of Advaita or non-duality. What sort of teachers evoke Advaita in their teaching?

In an era of artificial intelligence where robots might replace teachers, Advaita of the Unsung Teachers emphasises the significance of a teacher's personal touch in their students' lives.

The teaching-learning process is more than just the imparting of knowledge. Teaching means nurturing the students in an environment of curiosity, love, compassion, and belongingness so that they bloom and blossom. We still believe that even today, there are many teachers for whom teaching is more than a profession. These are the teachers we are looking for. (Read more to know more)



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thinkers & empathths.*

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A STUDENT'S NOTE

A poem by Bhavya Paruthi

"TEACHER"

Despite hearing the word our entire lives,
Do we really comprehend the meaning of these 7 letters,
world wise?

For some, it's simply the person who gives us knowledge,
For others, it's throughout their lives they acknowledge.
For some, it's just a part of their lives,
For others, it's motivation and a source that helps them
thrive.

You may choose to define it your way,
But for me, Teachers are next to God, to whom I pray!
It's the efforts they put in that make me believe,
That selflessness is a quality that they surely perceive.

To my teachers, I would say,
I might have faltered in many ways,
I'm sorry for not being the student you
deserved.
For all the mistakes I made,
It was your compassion that I was saved.

You know, we are your students with flaws.
I hope you will forgive my mistakes, big or
small.
I know, I can never thank you enough for all
that you taught,
But please know, I might have acted foolish at
times,
But I still remember all your lovely words,
Your beautiful thoughts made my world!

THE ANIMAL SCHOOL: A PARABLE

By Vittachi Sarojini, Raghvan Neerja & Raj Kiran (2007)



Once upon a time, the animals decided that they must do something decisive to meet the increasing complexity of their society. They held a meeting and finally decided to organise a school. The curriculum consisted of running, climbing, swimming and flying. The animals decided that all the students should take all the subjects. The duck proved to be excellent at swimming, better, in fact, than his teacher. He also did well in flying. But he proved to be very poor in running. Since he was poor in this subject, he was made to stay after school to practise it, and even had to drop swimming in order to get more time in which to practise running. He was kept at this poorest subject until his webbed feet were so badly damaged that he became only average at swimming. But average was acceptable in the school, so nobody worried about that—except the duck. The rabbit started at the top of her class in running, but finally had a nervous breakdown because of so much make-up time in swimming—a subject she hated. The squirrel was excellent at climbing until he developed a psychological block in flying class, when the teacher insisted he start from the ground instead of from the tops of trees. He kept attempting to fly until he became muscle-bound—and received a C in climbing and a D in running. The eagle was the school's worst discipline problem; in climbing class, she beat all of the others to the top of the tree used for examination purposes in this subject, but she insisted on using her own method of getting there. The gophers, of course, stayed out of school and fought the tax levied for education, because digging was not included in the curriculum. They apprenticed their children to the badger and later joined the groundhogs, and eventually started another school offering alternative education.

TEACHERS OF THE GREATS

Activity Made by Bhavya Paruthi

Instructions -

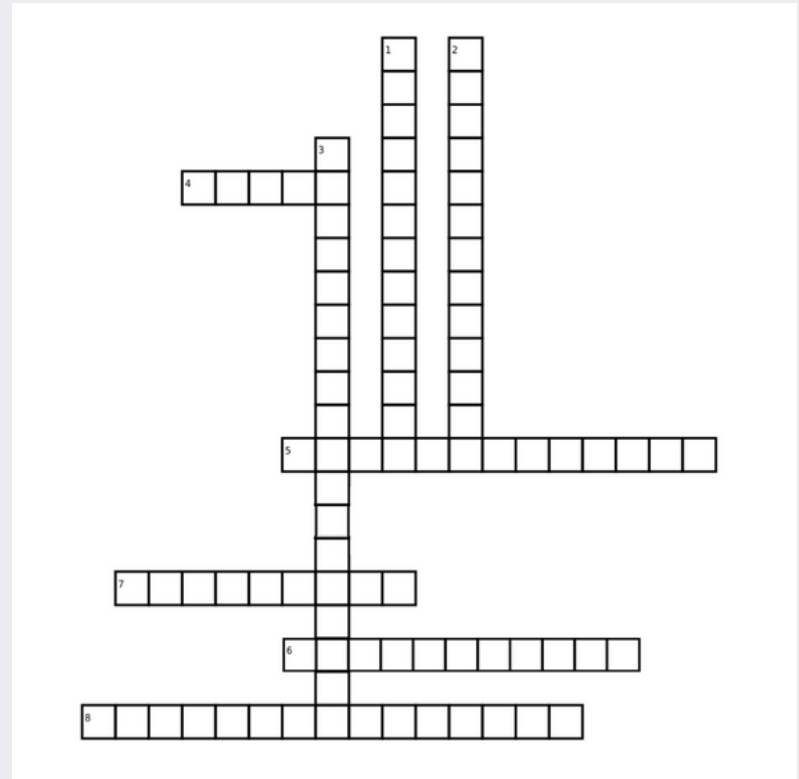
Following are names of some of the most well known and influential people in the world, guess the names of their equally talented and famous mentors by filling them in the crossword puzzle.

Down:

1. Nelson Mandela followed the path to peace and satyagraha.
2. Bill Gates had a fair share invested in himself.
3. Mahatma Gandhi was guided by the diamond of India.

Across:

4. Aristotle knows all about being platonic.
5. Yves Saint-Laurent was mentored by the French fashion legend.
6. Oprah Winfrey knows why the caged birds sing.
7. Mark Zuckerberg was trained by an apple.
8. Virender Sehwag was coached by the god of cricket.



Across -
1- Mahatma Gandhi, 2- Warren Buffet, 3- Gopal Krishan Gokale

Down -
4- Plato, 5- Christian Dior, 6- Maya Angelou, 7- Steve Jobs, 8- Sachin Tendulkar

गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः । गुरुर्साक्षात् परब्रह्म तस्मै श्री गुरवे नमः ॥

अर्थ : गुरु ही ब्रह्मा हैं, गुरु ही विष्णु हैं । गुरुदेव ही शिव हैं तथा गुरुदेव ही साक्षात् साकार स्वरूप आदिब्रह्म हैं । मैं उन्हीं गुरुदेव के नमस्कार करता हूँ ।

Salutations to that guru who is the brahama, Vishnu, and Shiva, who is the immortal. I bow down to that guru who can create, sustain and destroy. The Guru is limitless.

The Guru who is like Brahma, i.e., the one who creates. Similarly, a Guru carves a virtuous person from a child. Guru is also called Vishnu, i.e., the protector of the entire world. In the same manner, the Guru is the one who nurtures the knowledge of his disciples. Guru is also called Mahesh, i.e., the destroyer. The Guru destroys our ignorance and gives us new life.