

Seekers reveal unique facets of Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale

Preface

Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale - the Godly personage, who moulds common people into ideal seekers not only through guidance in the Workshops, but through His conduct as well.

1. Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale teaches Spirituality through His conduct as well.

'Many orators, *kīrtankārs* (One who narrates the glory of God through stories, punctuated with devotion of God through stories, punctuated with devotional songs) guide society on Spirituality. Most of them do so only at the verbal level, meaning, teach through the medium of the verbal knowledge. Conversely, Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale teaches not only through the medium of knowledge but also through His own conduct. His teaching transcends words.

During His initial days, Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale travelled extensively to conduct Workshops on Spirituality. During those visits to various places, He would carry eatables for the participating seekers as per their taste. This act created an impression of *prēmbhāv* (Love without expectation) unconsciously on the minds of the seekers. After reaching the venue of the Workshop, He would Himself clean and arrange chairs systematically, Spiritual texts for the exhibition etc. Through such conduct, seekers were able to learn that most importantly, we are the servitors of our Guru, no matter how knowledgeable in Spirituality we are. During the Workshops, He would frankly narrate His mistakes. He would sit on the floor with all the attendees and have meals. Through Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale's conduct, seekers were able to learn that in spiritual practice one should not have ego. This Text contains many examples provided by seekers which have been a learning for them.

2. A Marathi proverb says -'Venerate the steps of one who walks the talk'

Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale always kept His promises. I remember one such example even today. Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale would always say during the Workshops - 'Sacrifice as much as you can for God. Only then God will give us as much as you can for God. Only then God will give us everything'. In 1992, Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale was in a disciple stage when He celebrated His Guru Saint Bhaktaraj Maharaj's *Gurupournima* in Mumbai. Despite help from seekers and devotees, He single-handedly took complete responsibility of the celebration. At that time, His house had in a way become an Ashram for all the seekers and devotees who were helping in the preparations. These seekers were the attendees of His Workshops. Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale had sacrificed a lot in the form of His mind, body and wealth for this celebration. He had also asked seekers to collect donations from society for the celebration. The celebration was held in the best possible manner. After the celebration, some of the donations in the form of food grains, were leftover. He donated all these to Saint Bhaktaraj Maharaj's Ashram at Indore. Despite so much of sacrifice and having to operate His house as an Ashram, He did not keep anything for Himself. His conduct taught seekers many times more than what they would learn through words. In nutshell, Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale would teach how to spiritualise day-to-day life. Hence, seekers would follow His guidance and put it into practice. Even at that time despite not being a Guru, seekers used to consider Him as their Guru.

3. **Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale's qualities**

This Holy text covers Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale's qualities identified by the attendees of the Workshops. Thus, this Holy text reveals various shades of Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale's personality such as an ideal guide, seeker and disciple.

4. **Extraordinary output of the Workshops conducted by Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale**

Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale conducted Workshops only for a few years. Through these, many were moulded into seekers and they made rapid spiritual progress as well by performing good spiritual practice. Now, many seekers are taking responsibility of various *satsēvās* such as uniting Hindus, bringing about awakening on *Dharma* (Righteousness), etc. Sanatan's Saint H.H. Shivaji Varkar, Sanatan's seeker Honorary Legal Adviser Advocate Ramdas Kesarkar, Sanatan's *Dharmaprasār* seeker Mr Abhay Vartak, have contributed for this Holy text on how they were moulded through the Workshops. This Holy text has been compiled based on the information provided only by a few seekers. There is no doubt that if all the seekers who attended His Workshops write like this, it would become a significant literary work. This reveals the extraordinary output of the Workshops conducted by Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale.

5. **The method used by Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale to conduct Workshops became useful later for Sanatan's *satsangs* (Spiritual discourses) and publishing of Texts on Spirituality.**

During the Workshops, Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale would explain the spiritual science underlying various steps in Spirituality. He would clarify all the doubts of the spiritually curious people, He would explain difficult concepts in Spirituality in a simple manner (through sketches, tables, percentages, etc.) so that common man could understand them easily. He would teach through experiments and also how to overcome obstacles in spiritual practice. Later, this method was also adopted in the *satsangs* conducted by Sanatan Sanstha. This method is also utilised in the Spiritual texts compiled by Parātpar Guru (Dr) Athavale. Though He does not conduct Workshops, Sanatan's *satsangs* and Spiritual texts are capable of guiding thousands of spiritually curious people who are performing spiritual practice and are making good spiritual progress.

6. **Prayer**

We pray unto the Holy feet of Shri Guru - 'May all the spiritually curious people and seekers be able to benefit from this Holy text, may they be able to enhance their spiritual practice and progress faster spiritually.

- Sanatan's Saint H.H. Sandeep Alshi (25.10.2020)

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