

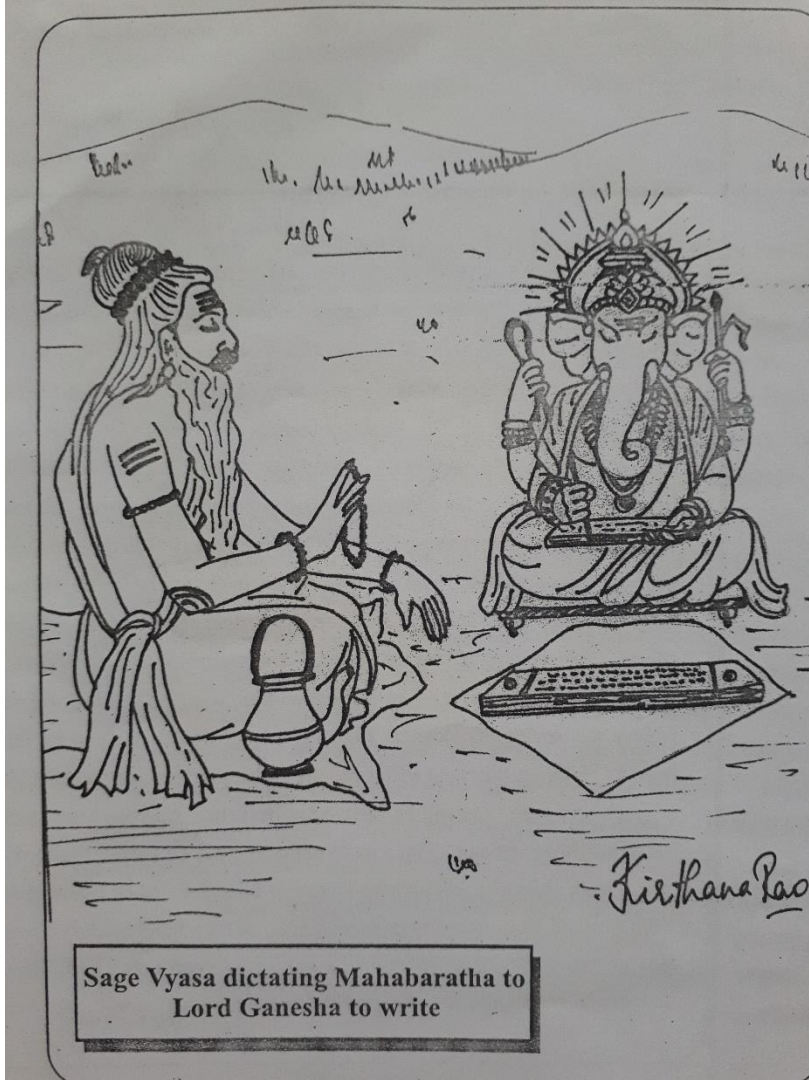
GURU POURNIMA (VYASA POURNIMA)

Guru pournima falls on Ashada suddha pournima. This is observed in honour of the Sage Vyasa, the primordial guru of the universe. Performing this pooja is said to accrue good virtues like forbearance, steadfastness, detachment and obedience.

Pooja Procedure : New clothes are offered to the gurus on this day after performing the guru pooja. Rudrabhishekam is done on this day.

Story of Guru pournima

Who was this great sage Vyasa? Why was he so called? He was also known by two other names :



Sage Vyasa dictating Mahabaratha to
Lord Ganesha to write

1. Krishna Dwaipayana, because of his dark complexion (Krishna means black and Dwaipayana because he was brought forth by Satyavathi on a dweepa or island)

2. Badarayana because he was said to be the author of "Saririka" sastras of the Vedanta philosophy.

The story goes that he was also the father of Pandu, Dhrutharashtra and Vidura.

"Vyasa" in Sanskrit, literally means "The arranger" or one who arranges. He is supposed to have arranged the Vedas in their present form. He is also believed to have authored the epic "Mahabharatha" which is said to have been composed with Ganapathi as his scribe. The eighteen

puranas and the Brahma Sutras are the other works associated with him.

Such was Vyasa's contribution to Vedantic philosophy, it is no surprise that he is considered as the primordial guru of this Universe. He is the foremost among the teachers of Brahma vidya. He is also one of the seven Chiranjeevis.

According to Hindu dharma, there is no one higher than a Guru, who shows the way for self realization. Sastras speak of devotion to the guru in exaltic terms. Guru is described as Parabrahma. The all-too familiar Sanskrit verse : Gurubrahma, guruvishnu, gurudevo Maheshwara; gurusakshath parabrahma thasmai shree guruve namaha" extols this aspect.

The great souls like Adi Shankara himself is said to have performed Vyasa Pooja on Guru pournima day. Such is the importance of observance of Guru pournima or Vyasa pournima.