

# Satguru

— Dattatraya Korde, New Jersey

In the early 1980's when Metallica was still an upcoming but a small band, one day they fired their lead guitarist Dave Mustaine & hired a good but a relatively unknown guitarist, Kirk Hammett. Kirk was a young kid in his 20's and to be hired by Metallica was like a dream come true for him. So here is a young kid, replacing an experienced guitarist in a band that was destined for success. Kirk should have felt like he had made it! He had achieved what most of us spend a lifetime to achieve. In short, he should have rested and enjoyed the fruits of his labor. After all as we know Metallica went on to sell more than 100 million albums. Here comes the twist in the tale, Kirk after playing for Metallica for a little while realized and said it out loud that we needed a "teacher" in his life who can help him get "better". Pause for a moment here and think about this. Kirk is playing as a lead guitarist for one of the most famous metal bands in the world and he is saying, "He needs a teacher to get better". Kirk not only said this, he actually implemented it, and he was able to hone his guitar skills further from Joe Satrini, one of the most famous Classical guitar players.

Mixed martial artist Frank Shamrock, had a technique of teaching which he called, "Plus-Minus-Equal". According to this technique, at any given point of time, we should always be learning from someone who



is better than us, for that keeps us "humble", we should always be teaching someone, so that you are giving back and we should always evaluate ourselves against someone equal so that we never become complacent. Shamrock emphasized how important it was to have a teacher in life so that our "ego" remains in check and he always remain "humble". Without humility long lasting success can never be achieved.

Kirk and Frank are examples from the fields of music and martial arts but both have highlighted two very critical inter-related points which align closely with spirituality as well. They are:

1. "Ego" is the biggest hurdle in our lives;
2. Only a "teacher" can help us curb our "ego" since surrendering ourselves as students to the teacher helps us control our ego.

Someone like me, cannot do it all by myself. This is the precise reason why we need a "Sadguru" in our lives. So that our "ego" always remains in check.

However this bliss can come in our lives, only when we ready to surrender; Only when we are ready to become a "student"; That's the precise reason why it is said, "the teacher appears when the student is ready".