



## ALTRUISTIC PHILOSOPHERS SANT GADGE BABA AND SREE NARAYANA GURU

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**Abstract**

The Italian word "Altrui" denotes 'to others' or 'of others'. A person with altruistic behavior has self-serving passions and a benevolence principle. Actions are self-driven in the interest of others and are the aim of one's actions. Comte's personal definition regarded altruism as "living for others" (vivre pour autrui) Comte and his followers are said to have begun using the term altruism starting in 1830. A new humanistic religion based on a scientific understanding of human nature and society to make a civilized nation. To make a nation more civilized, altruistic sentiments need to prevail over egoistic sentiments in society. The altruistic behavior of society would have a strong social quotient. Both philosophers had a strong altruistic quality to make society a place like heaven. India has a distinct spiritual culture. The term spirituality has different layers of meaning; to limit the activities of the spirit would be a grave injustice. This wisdom has been transmitted by seers and saints for the existence of society. So-called development as civilized Saints have been messengers of knowledge, and the principles that have proved to be timeless in various contexts played a significant role in our civilization's ability to survive.

**Keywords:** Altruistic, Saints, Civilization, Spirituality, Humanistic.

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**Objectives:**

1. To make readers mentally health literate and to develop the scientific temperament it can make future generations healthy, aware, and rationalist.
2. To guide society, help it prosper, and complete the transformation of the readers by enriching them with good values and enhancing and conserving them as well.
3. To eradicate superstition, the annihilation of caste, and illiteracy, and to enhance the personality development of the new generation.

**Introduction:**

Gadge Maharaj (Sant Gadge Baba), was a social reformer and mendicant saint from Maharashtra who lived from February 23, 1876, to December 20, 1956.

Gadge Baba's altruistic behavior made him adopt voluntary poverty and advocate social fairness by implementing social reforms, especially in the fields of sanitation and education. To this day, he continues to be revered and a source of inspiration for many political parties and non-governmental organizations.

Sree Nārāyaṇa Guru was born on M C 14 th Chingam 1031, August 28, 1855, in Kerala, the town of Chempazhanthy

to Madan Asan and Kuttiyama. Guru led a reform movement to oppose caste and favoured social equality and spiritual freedom. He advocated for the unity of humanity, which transcends social and religious boundaries, and his Vaikom Satyagraha aimed at temple entry in Travancore. Which in itself was a big

change in societal thinking

### **Contribution of Sant Gadge Baba and Sree Narayana Guru in societal thinking:**

Sant Gadgebaba is a concept as well as a real person. Gadge Baba's rationalist idea is to liberate society from economic, theological, and psychological delusions through kirtans. People gradually understood Gadge Baba's thoughts and what he preached through kirtans. The main motto of Baba was to give humanity the ability to throw away the erroneous system's strongholds and establish man as its central figure. Despite Baba never attending a school in his lifetime, he became a genuine folk teacher who received his education at a global university and on the streets. Baba dispersed the ray of wisdom to create a knowledge-based society for the ignorant.

Sant Gadge Maharaj led a modest life and only brought what was necessary with him when he travelled, as befits a true saint. His motto was to keep clean, both physically and mentally. His work in Maharashtra's interior regions, particularly those where Dalits are predominant, is remarkable. Gadge Baba raised a voice in concern for the animals. He has spoken against the brutal slaughter of animals for food or any other purpose since he was a little boy. He was a man of great respect for animals and never tried to treat them less humanely than he would have. For the benefit of animals, he established Gaushalas in Vidharbha to safeguard their slaughter. Many kinds of donations were made for these noble causes. Baba used these donations to build homes for orphans and an educational institute. Gadge Maharaj's altruistic drive towards the lower caste led Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to have a friendship and discussion on social and political issues with Gadge Maharaj. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Gadge Maharaj was the greatest servant of the people, next to Phule Jyotiba Phule. Overall, Sant Gadge Maharaj was a profoundly spiritual and humanitarian individual. At a young age, he dedicated his life to

serving society.

On other hand, Nārāyaṇa Guru is credited with creating contemporary Kerala and has played a multi-faced role in changing the state's feudal and caste-oriented society into a modern one. The life of this spiritual leader, who is regarded as a driving force behind the Kerala Renaissance, and his diverse or multi-model views continue to have an impact on Kerala and its people today. Though he was from the lower caste, a monk known as an "avarna sanyasi", or the spiritual head of the Ezhava community, was a free revolutionary thinker who battled to abolish untouchability and caste from society.

Guru's view on 'Why Vedanta', is that sensations and experiences are pleasant or painful. This is because there is an external flux, Prapañca Pravāha. Our thoughts are double-faced, which causes suffering. On one hand, we relate it to our individual external appearances, and on the other hand, we depend on other entities for our happiness. Maximizing happiness has become our goal. So here Guru speaks about happiness for all; if we want to derive our happiness, "Ānand" for oneself and for all. This goal is dialectically paired - with double negation and double affirmation. Double negation means eliminating suffering and happiness with a double assertion: happiness for all. These two are mutually complementary to each other. This is the altruistic approach of Guru towards humanism. Guru says one is meaningless without the other. In Chāndogyopaniṣad, those who seek eternal happiness in themselves, keep themselves away from the din of the world means to keep away from unpleasant things, and those who seek pleasure from the objects of this world and of the other. They get entangled in the Karma aspects of life. This action of getting entangled in karma is due to ajñāna or ignorance. To attain self-liberation and to liberate society from chaos. We can attain self-liberation if we do not get attached to Karma and society is transformed through social liberation.

This is possible when the concept of altruism is imbibed in society at large.

### Conclusion:

There is nothing as magnificent as our true selves. No one can truly measure our glory. First, we need to realise who we really are and how we will rise to an unimaginable, tremendous height. At that point, we will be the same in our inner and outer selves. Nothing would be more joyful than ‘Self-bliss’. The intellect should not submit to the mind’s wishes, which are our gateways- our sense organs. Once we commit to altruistic endeavours, it’s not only giving alms to others; it means guiding our senses, thoughts, and intellect on the proper path, as shown by Sant Gadge Baba and Sree Narayana Guru. It is true that if we cannot control our senses to control our minds, how would it be possible to help others? Helping others requires having control of our minds with an altruistic approach.

It goes without saying that someone who is unable to take care of themselves will find it difficult to pursue altruistic goals. Therefore, we cannot engage in true charity as long as we do not develop our brains and minds and guide them toward greatness. Our intelligence and minds grow along with us as we improve and grow, and we eventually become wonderful people. Then generosity gradually gets ingrained in our being. Thus, we need to put effort into the goal of persona: growth, be our real friend by developing oneself with good mental health, wonderful ideas, and a perceptive mind by guiding our own actions

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