Guru is a Catalyst

A guru plays different roles for a disciple at different levels of involvement and seeking. Fundamentally, at all levels, one way of describing a guru is as a catalyst. Do you know what a catalyst is? He is not involved in the process, but his presence always activates or hastens the whole process. So the role of a guru is always like a catalyst.

Yoga is taught in such a way that there is very little dependence upon the guru. Actually, there is no dependence because it is like a technology that you experiment with. Something is imparted which you work with for some time in your life. It works and when you want the next stage you seek again.

It is only when one has gone beyond all this, in the final stages of one’s realization that a different level of dependence or seeking guidance from the guru arises, because you are completely stepping onto an uncharted path. It is only at that point that a guru plays a different kind of role. But till then, he is just a catalyst.