

## Anecdote

- Narrated by a student of Pujya Swamiji.

Salutations to the Guru

Let me place at His Lotus Feet my cherished passage to a satisfied life.

I am blessed to have been born in a family, which knew Pujya Swamiji from his Poorva Asram days. Because my uncle, late Sri.L.S.Mani was his student from early days, I used to go with him to meet Pujya Swamiji, whenever he was at Trichy – 1970

In 1975, when I had just completed graduation, Pujya Swamiji was giving morning talks at National High School, Trichy, I heard Swamiji talk on “Who am I”. Then on, I became a serious student.

Thereafter, I moved to Mumbai, used to visit Sandeepany Sadanalaya, Powai during weekends while working with Hindustan Lever Ltd. For about two years (1976-78), I regularly attended all weekend programmes at Sandeepany – Lectures, meditation classes, pujas, satsang, bhajans, etc. That gave me a rounded understanding of the rightful place for karma, upasana & prayers in the overall spiritual mindset of a devotee. Pujya Swamiji’s teachings, his soothing and comforting presence meant a lot to me in my formative years as a young adult. I did approach Pujya Swamiji at that time to take to full-time spiritual studies; but Swamiji discouraged saying that I have to be working and taking care of family.

Thereafter, there was a period when I didn’t meet Pujya Swamiji for long periods, but I was reading His teachings, listening to His lectures, kept Swamiji informed of what I was doing in life.

Later, when Gita Home Study program started in 1990, I enrolled myself; started getting 50 pages of the manuscript every month. 1800 pages in 36 months, gave me sufficient time & mental space to study seriously the teachings as unfolded by Pujya Swamiji. It’s a great Blessing.

Thereafter, when I went abroad in 1997 till 2006, I have gone through Gita Home Study many times over. The study helped me have a wholesome understanding of life and my response to life situations has been fairly measured. I increasingly feel that the Gods & the Guru have blessed me.

So, it was only natural that in 2007, with the Guru's blessings, I have taken the opportunity of switching to a contributory vocation of being Gurukulam Manager at Anaikatti and subsequently, Admn. and Mktg. Manager at Arsha Vidya Publications, Chennai.

During my stay at Anaikatti, I had the blessing to closely associate with Pujya Swamiji. I could imbibe the attitudes of helpful interaction, unjudging approach to people, just deal with situations as appropriate, not to project far too ahead and miss the current picture, so on so forth. It was amazing how Swamiji could deal with such a large demand on his time and counsel a large varied society. He has a positive word and provides concrete help to all who approach him. Swamiji's teachings & his interactions with people are seamlessly intertwined without any contradiction. It's surely a blessing, to be there. The temple routines, Sri Rudram chanting, the homams, pujas have left a profound presence in my mind. The understanding of Vastu as one whole pervading all our lives has allowed me to "Be" – "just be" (no strings attached; no binding demands from life, which if not met, would leave me unfulfilled). Lord Dakshinamoorthy forever remains in our hearts.

I only would like to reiterate that constant association with Pujya Swamiji's teachings, satsangs, makes you so much a saner person that one can set proper priorities in life. One's sense of proportion for comforts, achievements, personal life, professional life, if properly set on the basis of overall understanding of life through the teachings of Swamiji is adequate to give one enough mental leisure and inner space. One can make oneself available for contributory activities. Yes, I am blessed; I am able to create enough inner space for me to share with others in small and big ways depending on the occasion.

DHANYOHAM! DHANYOHAM! DHANYOHAM!