

Letters to Pujya Swamiji

October 25, 2011

Dear Swamiji,

Namaskarams. We enjoy reading the Gita Home Study program and discuss in the class for a length of time. You have taught us so much; they have changed our attitudes about what is important in life. It has helped me keep my sanity in so many sticky situations. I do still react impulsively. But I am alert more and more and thankful in my heart that life has brought you and ashram close to us.

When we read some sentences, I always wonder when somebody is talking and if they could talk such beautiful sentences spontaneously, it tells me how much they have been immersed in that thought. I also try to remind myself to be in your teachings of Gita, and not get carried away with the situation at hand.

Our anantha koti namaskarams.

Usha & Chandrasekhar.

Dear Respected Swamiji,

Our family started visiting the Ashram somewhere around 1995, only on New Years. Growing up in India, my husband and I did not have the opportunity to attend talks of spiritual content. After listening to one we were impressed—what better way to start the New Year; a talk that relayed an important message, interspersed with humor and neatly tied up in the end. We haven't missed since.

That started our attending Gita Home Study classes at a friend's place, bimonthly. Studying about oneself did get interesting, and the curiosity increased, lot of questions and mananam started. Also, it started an interest in the teacher – I got a biography about you. After layoffs at work, I started a GHS at home on weekdays, with a few close friends. The numbers grew, the women formed a bond. Along with learning, we were noticing changes in our behaviours. We were happier, our families felt the changes. We became more giving, less subjective, more accepting, we still have a long way to go.

Based on the circumstances at home, we discussed Gita in context, with kids and husband. Sometimes our kids would point out what we should be doing based on Gita like “Mom, didn’t you say Gita tellsz you to not get upset?” or “didn’t Gita teach you to give without expecting, then why do you complain about it?” – we were getting our medicine back, made us look at ourselves and say, “you better start at least faking what you preach untoil you make the value your own!” We climb the ladder of inner maturity, slip down and start again, but we are trying. Also, by seeking and lkistening to all Swamiji’s regularly, the knowledge is slowly sinking in. Ashram is a place we look forward to coming with love. We feel welcome and at lhome.

I also want to thank you for helping me on a personal level. You gave me your undivided attention, visited our home and inquired about my well-being whenever I met you. I would think, “how does he remember an insignificant person like me when he meets so many people every day, in so many locations?”Once when I came to visit you, when going through a bad time at home, you gave me a smile as radiant as a thousand suns – no words, just a smile. My whole world was blessed. Even now, I just remember that day and feel happy and cry. All we are probably looking for is love, I guess. Every time we expressed interest in seeing you, you always made time for us, never refused and followed it through. Your steadfast value for your word isw the message for me.l Your discipline, dedication, and constant giving of yourself are valuable lessons for us.

We pray for your health and well-being. Thank you for everything.

Love and respects,
Geetha Bhasker

Pujya Swamiji,

My pranams to you. My name is Sujatha Chitta. I live in Coopersburg, PA. I feel blessed for living close to the Ashram, able to get your teaching. I find a huge difference in my attitude and approach to the life since I started coming here for the last couple of years.

First major change I noticed is the way I look at the life and its eventsw. I used to think ‘why this way and why not this way’. When something goes wrong

(according to me), instead of thinking how can this happen, now I think 'In the grand scheme of things, how much does it matter? Suddenly it becomes not such a big thing to dwell on'. I am able to accept changes easily. Now I don't think why it happened this way; only think that meant to be this way. I understood the sentence 'accepting with prasada buddhi', but able to practise it in baby steps and I will say it's work in progress. All I realized is people or things or events are the way they are. Only difference is my approach towards them. That gives me so much peace. My family and close friends see a big difference in me. My son tells me that 'I used to tell him what and how to do. Now I am so much open to his ideas. I let him chose his method'. Now, I let him be himself while guiding him. I wouldn't have known this but for coming here.

Mostly, your sentence 'Be a contributor' resonated in me. I realized how many ways we can contribute in our own little way. I am trying to put it in practice. One day I will reach where I sweep the whole universe as one kutumbam. Pujya Swamiji, it amazes me to see your inner strength for taking classes everyday while you are getting the treatment. Where else is Bhagavan? My prayers for your good health.

With pranams and regards

Sujata,
Oct 1, 2011

October 2, 2011

Pujya Swamiji,

Thank you

For teaching us to be

- Prayerful, contemplative and meditative,
- Thinking persons, dropping preconceived wrong notions
- Net contributors (not consumers)

For opening our eyes to the "reality".

From

Purushottam and Indra Ghai
Allentown, Pa 18104 USA