



We're ready now, Sahebdada!

"Jago, yuvano, jago!" This humble prayer for youth to awaken was granted, as the Murti Pratishtha Mandir Mahotsav awakened our souls. We celebrated G.P.P. Sahebdada's 80th birthday and the opening of a divine temple, and in the process, we also celebrated the journey of our souls moving toward God.

During the Mandir Mahotsav Mahatmya-Darshan Sabha, Pujya Virendra Uncle shared the following analogy: In physics, Voltage / Resistance = Current. Voltage is God's presence in our lives. Resistance is our own ego, which prevents us from embracing God. Consequently, current is our connection with God. When we feel less connected with God, is it due to God not being there for us, or is it due to us resisting Him?

MPM shed light on the resistance in our lives. Why was it so challenging for us to realize how blessed we are? For example, in preparation for the Cultural Program, the countless hours of dance practice did not feel rewarding. While serving as Rushi Kanyas for the Maha-Yagna, having to wake up at 2:30am overshadowed our passion for the event. We found ourselves complaining about our fatigue throughout the yagna and the Shoba Yatra later that day. Why were we only looking forward to going back home, while failing to realize that our real home is God?

Why? Because of our resistance - our egos. We were too focused on ourselves, on our own physical comfort, rather than on the manifest God we had come to serve. MPM enlightened us so that we could reduce our ego, enabling us to feel a stronger connection with God.

After the Cultural Program, P.P. Shantidada lovingly said that, our smiles from the dance were forever saved in His heart. After the Maha-Yagna, P.P. Ashvindada encouraged us to pat ourselves on the backs to congratulate ourselves. Looking back at these memories, the overflowing love from the Santos made every second of MPM worth it. In the moment, however, it was challenging to appreciate how blessed we were to be a part of Sahebdada's grand celebration. The voltage was always present; God was always there for us in our lives. However, our

resistance was high, and we weren't ready to take a step toward Him.

> We're ready now, Sahebdada, and we are awake. The smrutis from MPM are now forever saved in our hearts, and we pray at Your lotus feet to reduce

our resistance so we can be fully connected with God.

જેવા તેવા અમને સ્વીકાર્યા જેવા તેવા અમને સ્વીકાર્યા હ્રદય મંદિરે આપ બિરાજ્યા

મનાચે સદાચે સર્વકર્તા પ્રભૂ મારા મનાથે સદાયે સર્વકર્તા પ્રભુ મારા હું પ્રભુનો અને પ્રભુ મારા

રહે નિર્દોષભાવ આપનાં ચૈતન્યોમાં રહે નિર્દોષભાવ આપનાં ચૈતન્યોમાં સ્થિતપ્રન્નતા બક્ષો અમારા જીવનમાં

પ્રાર્થના એ જ છે આપ ચરણે પ્રાર્થના એ જ છે આપ ચરણે દાસસ્ય દાસોસ્મિ સિદ્ધ થઈ જાયે દાસસ્ય દાસોસ્મિ સિદ્ધ થઈ જાયે

Jai Shri Swaminarayan!



~ Saheli Sheth (U.S.A.)

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