
His Life with Meher Baba, 1 of 2

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22:33

ADI: So in favour of doing the work, I modified the language, I modified the words and give the message in such a way that even if the message is not carried literally, the work would be done. And I was very happy the work was done.

So I, the next day I went to Him and Baba asked me, "What did you do?"

I said, "The work is done."

"What was the work done?"

I said, "Baba, the fellow did the work very happily."

"But what was the message you gave?"

"But Baba, I just modified the message."

"Why should you have done?"

Look at this man, He tells Eruch.

"This man has lived with me for so many years and he breaks my orders and he has not given the message in the words that I asked him to do!"

I said, "Baba the work is done."

"What is the work done? You have miscarried my message. I am not bothered about the work, I am more particular about the way that you gave the message.

And you repeat the work that I ask you to do."

I said, "Baba, I made a mistake. I am very sorry." We always catch our ears when we make a mistake, in India. And say, "Baba, now I shall, next time be very careful."

On similar next occasion, after a few days, there was a message to be given. And I remember, that the message was not to be given, that to be given literally, irrespective of the fact, the work was done or not. I was not, I was regardless of it, because Baba wanted me, the first time to give the message in the words that He said and I was very careful.

And again the words were very direct, very straight and I was definite. The Government officers are always very, you see, self-contained and rather, sometimes arrogant also and we have to deal with them very tactfully. But and I went and I didn't bother about the result but I just went and gave the message and just flung on his face all the work that Baba asked me to do. And the work was not done!

Then I go back the next day. Baba says, "What did you do?"

I said, "I am very happy."

"What happy? What did you do?"

I said, "I gave the message exactly as you."

"Did you?"

I said, "Yes."

"But was the work done?"

I said, "Not at all."

So He tells, says, "Look at this fellow! What has he done? He's not done the work at all!" [pilgrims laughing]

I said, "Baba, I am sorry." I just hold my ear again. "I am very sorry. Next time I shall remember."

Third occasion, some such message was there. Now the message, Baba said, "You must give this message to such and such a man."

I said, "Baba, I am not going to give the message."

"What? Not going to give the message? What nonsense this man is talking! I do not understand. What do you think Eruch? What does he say? What is the reason? Why should he not give the message?"

I said, "Baba, first you decide which way I should give the message. Should I give it in the literal words that you asked me to do it or shall I just give the message in a way that the work will be done?"

So He looks at Eruch again, "Look at this fool! What is he asking? This idiot! What does he want? I don't understand. What do you think Eruch about this man?"

Eruch says, "Baba, he's right."

"Adi's right? What nonsense is this! Are you going to give the message?"

I said, "No Baba, I am not going to give the message."

"What?"

"You first decide the way that I should give the message, then I will give it. Because two times, I don't know I, I got myself into trouble with you, I do not know."

Again He asked Eruch and again Eruch said, "Baba, Adi is right."

Then Baba said, "All right, you do as you like! You give the message as you feel best." And then he laughed himself!

He had such a great sense of humour.

PILGRIM # 1: Adi, when Baba was getting angry, perhaps [inaudible], how would that affect you? Would that effect prolong?

ADI: It would of course, immediately, it would affect me a great deal but I definitely knew, more than the words, the one who utter the words was more important to me. So the words did not have that effect as if some other man would fling those words on me.

No, nothing at all. We suffered, but as you say it was all in a joyful suffering.

PILGRIM # 1: And all like that it happened in one moment and it was gone.

ADI: Yes, yes, absolutely gone.

PILGRIM # 2: [inaudible] you were in a hurry.

ADI: I was not in a hurry?

PILGRIM # 1: You were.

PILGRIM # 2: You were in a hurry.

PILGRIM # 1: Getting down from the rickshaw, the tonga.

PILGRIM # 3: O yeah, yeah.

ADI: No, no, that is a long story I will have to say. In the New Life what happened was, we were in the north of India, northern India. And Baba sent me out in advance.

Persons. And the two persons were old Babadas who had sciatica pain and another old fogey Dr. Abdul Ghani who already had once heart attack during our New Life. He had one heart attack. Hardly 32 miles away from Ahmednagar on our foot journey.

Then I had to carry out His instructions. And He gave us some food. We were not supposed to buy any food at all. I was only supposed to, three of us to eat the food what was given to us and do the work and the next, what was the work I'll tell you later. And the next day Baba and the whole party would come and all the three errands that were given to me had to be fulfilled.

So we travelled in the train and in the train these two old, sickly old fellows instead of being a help they were a burden to me and they ate away all the food, I had some and the food was finished right in the journey.

So when we reached the destination, at a place called Najibabad, that was the name of the town, it's a small town. Our food was finished of course. But then we went there and I thought that I will have to pass

night over and a few hours are on hand during which time I have to do three, I have to accomplish three errands and what were the three errands?

The one was I had to seek a house where we would be given a shelter to sleep for three nights. All the twenty people. And then offered free of charge hot water for bathing. Because we had not bathed with hot water for a number of days.

And this was the second errand. First was the house, second was the hot water and third was, no, second was the food that we should be given food free for three to four days that we stayed here by some other man.

One man would give us house and hot water, another man was to give us food for four days and the third man was to buy our train tickets for us to go from there to Haridwar, a distance of about 30-40 miles approximately.

Now, first of all, I had to get rid of these two old people with me. And I was trying to find some traveller's house where I would lodge them there.

And right opposite to the railway station, there is a, we call it dharamshala. There is a poor man, traveller's house. And there the room was not vacant. And one room was vacant but the man would not allow to get in.

Somehow or the other I forced in my luggage, put all the luggage and then he agreed. And it was a small room and he put three cots over there.

When the three cots were fitted in the room there was no room even to stand

there! Anyway, I saw them lying down and then I went away. Out to do this, accomplish this three errand. They were not helpful to me at all.

Now I hired a tonga, horse carriage, to go round the town. I didn't know anybody in the town. So I asked him who are the persons to whom I should approach for a house, for food and for the tickets, for the railway fare.

So he took me from place to place, place to place, nowhere could I find a man who would really prepared to accommodate us in the house and I was not to reveal Baba's name at all. I was not to disclose anybody who had ever a doubt, Baba, just had some doubts about Baba being a great man, he would ask me. I would have to say only that He is my elder brother.

If they had known about Meher Baba they would have immediately come out and done something and helped us a great deal which Baba did not want.

Went from house to house and house, I was absolutely tired and I could not get a house. So I gave up the attempt of looking after a house.

Then I went after the second errand, the second errand was to find a man who would feed us. He was a tall man, six foot tall, you see. A cloth dealer, a cloth merchant. I approached him and talked to him in English, he readily agreed.

"Sir, I will feed you not only for three days even for three months if you stay here. I am prepared to feed all the twenty persons." I was very happy that this errand is really done. Accomplished.

Then the one about the railway fare remains, so this tonga man really guided me and took me to another merchant and I went to another merchant and talk to me. He said, "All right, I am prepared to buy your tickets for twenty persons whenever you want to go."

So he called his manager. Introduced the manager to me and asked his manager that whenever I call on this manager, he must go to the railway station, at a time when the train arrives and buy the tickets for twenty persons. The two things were accomplished.

Now the first one which was rather important for Baba to rest and to have hot water could not be done. Now but at least someplace should be there where should, they must come and just stay there overnight, for two three nights, someplace has to be there, at least an open ground, somewhere safe.

So there was an old discarded garden near that travellers' house where I had lodged these two old men. Nearby there was a garden. So I went near the garden and the garden gate was closed and locked.

And I had become so disappointed and I was in a hurry to get a place. Now inside the garden there was a raised platform, a masonry platform where I thought that Baba could stay with the mandali. It was quite big one like this, as big as this house.

But I, the door was locked. I did not know how to open the door and I did not know whom to ask. Now there was a man standing nearby. So that man from a distance says, "You can go inside."

I said, "But the door is locked."

"You break open the lock and go."

I hardly realised, this man said, "It is my garden." So If it is his garden, then he should open the lock and give it to me. Why should he ask me to break the lock? But in the heat of the moment you know I just break the lock, break the gate and go inside and occupy it.

Anyway, this happened. The next day, Baba and the whole party. No, then at night what happened, after midnight, I went and slept. I slept on the middle cot and Dr. Ghani was on my left hand side, Babadas was on the right hand side and after midnight Dr. Ghani got a heart attack, another heart attack.

There was no light and darkness and he sort of "hmm hmmm" started doing like this. I said, "Baba, what is this I do not know. This is a place, nobody knows me."

If at night this man dies, there will be some, I do not know, the police will come and I could not imagine, what I was really, so much, I became so much nervous at that time I did not know what to do. I said, "Baba, Baba, Baba, Baba." But after a few while, really, the attack subsided and Dr. Ghani slept and started snoring and I thought now this crisis is really passed.

Next morning I see Baba and all the entire mandali coming, a big camel, a gong in the neck of the camel, tong, tong, doing like this. There are horses, [Adi laughs] donkeys and cows and all that and the people saw that a circus is going or what, everytime we pass through the.

So I saw Baba first coming. Baba called me here, "What have you done?"

I said, "Baba, I have done the two things all right."

"But what about the place?"

I said, "We can't get place, we can't get hot water."

"What have you done this?"

Baba showed a little, just a little disappointment over my work but I could not help it now. But I said there is a garden you can come. So Baba and all the party went and I accommodated them in that raised platform in the garden.

And informed the man who was to give us food. So this cloth merchant along with his wife, cooked food by their own hands. They would bring everytime and serve us.

The first day he came, he immediately recognised Meher Baba and he comes and falls at Baba's feet. And I was astounded!

And Baba just looks at me and became furious. And said, "You must be the person who should have told him like."

"Why should I say, Baba? Against your orders. I didn't tell him that He is Meher Baba and on his own he's recognised you and it's not my fault at all."

Anyways, then, he was informed that he should not inform anybody that He is Meher Baba. So he agreed. So for three days, the husband and the wife regularly brought cooked very good, pure, nice vegetable food and served with their own hands, twenty of us. So that was all.

Now what happened in the interim, before we left, another man comes and stands outside the gate. And I happen, no he calls me or I happen to go out and he says, "Who are you sir? What is your religion? Where are you going?" And so many personal questions he started asking me. I said, "Who are you sir? Why should you ask these personal questions? Are you from the secret police or have you any doubts about us? You think."

At that time, you see, there was a great fear of the communists in India under the British Rule.

So, "We are not communist at all, we have got our Identity cards, I can show you."

"No, no sir, it is not like that. Please answer my questions."

"But sir, why do you ask?" I am not going to answer any questions unless you reveal your identity to me, I am not going to talk to you."

"Let me tell you sir, one thing. What have you done, you know? You have trespassed my garden! This garden belongs to me, it is under litigation."

Arre Baapre [foreign], I got a shock, what is this I did not know!

"So why should you have broken open the lock and gone in?"

I said, "I am very sorry, I did not know there was a man standing by."

"That man was a man against whom I have got a legal fight in the court of law. And he deceived you by having you break open the."

I said, "I beg your pardon. I fold my hands before you. I shall ask my elder brother, the whole party will immediately vacate this place and go away, we have no interest in your garden and whatever the expenses maybe for the lock or loss of your gate, we shall, I am prepared to reimburse you, you do not worry."

"No, no, no, no. Don't do that. You seem to be very good people. I won't let you do that. You can stay there but please tell me why did you trespass?"

"Why did I trespass? I explained you once!"

He went on asking me why did you trespass, why did you trespass?

I said, "I am prepared to make you good and go away from here and make you good any loss that you incurred by my breaking the gate and all and your lock and all that you."

"No. no, don't do that, you seem to be very nice people!"

"But if you, we are very nice people, why do you go one asking me why I did it after having explained you so many times?"

Anyway, I pacified him and he went away you see. That happened.

Now the day of our departure arrived. And early morning the train was to come at 5 o'clock on Najibabad railway station which we had to board.

The four women were there. Mehera was there, Goher was there, Meheru, my niece was there and Mani was there. Four women and 16 men including Baba. And

we went to the railway station. The railway station was so thickly crowded you could not imagine!

Now the mandali, male mandali could get in anywhere. And the time was very short of the train to stay on the station. And, but Baba said, "No, no, I won't allow these women to go in this crowded train at all. Please ask him whether he can buy the first class ticket."

Because I had only asked for third class ticket and we got the third class ticket. The men could be accommodated in third class but Baba said, "I will not allow the women to go in the third class. Will he buy the first class?"

But there was no time, the whistle was out, the train was about to leave. So I go and ask that man.

"Yes, yes, I can pay the difference of the first class."

But there was no time for the tickets to be exchanged, from the third to the first! The ticket collector was not there, the train was about to leave and Baba is just pushing me forward!

Anyway, we accommodated this whole women into the First class and I started talking the train was about to move from there. And he says, "There is no time now, you take this money and excess over the first class, I know, approximately, more or less we shall see. And that you can have the tickets exchanged on one of the forward stations."

I said, "All right."

So I took the money and just boarded the train. And Baba was sitting right there in the crowded train. Baba said, "Why did you receive the money? I had asked you not to take the money!"

"How else I could do Baba, I do not understand. You wanted the first class ticket, there was no time the tickets to be exchanged. That man could have done it but now he gave us the money to exchange the tickets."

"You should not have received the money! Anyway, now you be careful. On one of the forward stations you get these tickets exchanged from third to first class for the four women and if ever there is a balance, a single cent as balance, you send him back from Haridwar to Najibabad, from Dehradun to Najibabad."

I thought to myself, it was good I had taken down his address with me or rather I remembered. If I had not known his address I could not have done that.

Immediately, you see, we landed there, at the destination I got down, went to the post office and I had a balance of ten rupees. So I sent him, returned the money by money order.

One thing, very important, I missed. During our stay, before Baba arrived at Najibabad, hmmm?

In the evening, when I felt that I had accomplished the three errands, one in I failed, to get hot water in the house, the second I succeeded for the food and the third I succeeded for the railway fare.

It was evening, and I was very tired. And when I went back, before Dr. Ghani had

heart attack, after midnight, when I, late in the evening I went to the room, they were both sleeping. They asked me that we are very hungry we want food but I was supposed to beg food!

Now where was the time and where was the energy to beg food! It was getting dark and I do not know but, and myself was very, feeling hungry. I had the money but I was not supposed to buy food with the money. What shall I do?

So I scratched my head for a while and I asked this tonga man, his entire fare for the few hours that I went round the town was only five rupees. Say five dollars. Five rupees. So I paid him fifteen rupees instead of that. [Adi laughs]

I was reprimanded by Baba later for using this trick. I said, "Look here, now these fifteen rupees are for your tonga hire. Now out of this you keep five rupees as your genuine hire and the ten rupees you buy food and give us as alms like bhiksha! [pilgrims laughing] And then we will eat!"

"Alms! To you? You to come seem to be from respectable family. Sir, I can't do that!"

"Arre [foreign], please listen to me, if you can't do that, we will starve here!"

"No, no sir but I can't do that!"

It took me so much time to dissuade him, you know! And somehow or the other I brought him around. And I was very happy with these two fogies on my one side. All of us went to a small restaurant there. Then again this fellow changed his mind!

"No no sir, I cannot give these alms!"

"I said, "What are you telling? You want us to starve? We are very tired. We have come on a full journey from long distances, would you like to help us?"

"Yes, yes, I will help you then."

Then he ordered for ten rupees worth food, it was very much. Very cheap in those days, for three persons to eat. And then the food came along. And in the restaurant there was a customer sitting.

I said, "In front of all you must say that this is the food I am giving you in alms."

"No, no sir, I can't do this, I can't do this."

So I pulled him on one side, I said, "You fool, you have promised me to have this plan, it will go very much against you. You see you should not break your promise. Just go by your promise, beside that we shall starve here. And you will be held responsible for that, you see."

"All right sir, all right sir."

Then he comes forward like this, "Yes, yes, yes, I gave this food in alms to you."

I said, "Now you disappear for heaven's sake! "

He went away, and within five minutes we finished the entire food! We were so hungry! Stark hungry!

And, then I told Baba this story. Baba says, "Why did you do this?"

I said, "What can I do Baba? I do not know. Why should you have given these two old men? I would have gone without

food but they wanted food and I couldn't help doing that."

Baba reprimanded me and then again pardoned.

PILGRIM # 2: Adi, when you are at [inaudible] and you are asking them for a place to stay and how, why, did all these

three, what did you tell them that they [Inaudible].

ADI: Now I will tell you. The place we were going to on foot was a sacred place. A place of great Hindu pilgrimage, Hardiwar. And they had always respect for the pilgrims who go on foot, undertaking long journeys, to them they render help.