
BABA IN SPIRIT VISITS MUSLIM

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10:12

ERUCH: A funny thing that I heard was about these things you know like Ramdas and that Yogananda business and all. Many stories are like that. That come to our notice because of the people who come and tell us, yeah. So the most intriguing one that I have come across is this story from Eduardo. You know Eduardo? Knew him?

PILGRIM 1: Yeah he was a close friend.

ERUCH: What had happened was Eduardo once come. He was here last time. So he tells me this story. And of course as we are sitting and exchanging different stories he tells us this. Tells us this story. He says, "You know after Fred-Ella left New York, our Monday Night Group was no longer held at the apartments there." And Fred retired. You know he used to have that big block there. He was superintendent of the block. So he could have a nice hall and all that sort of thing.

"So before leaving, well we were sad about it, that we are going to miss Fred-Ella, Fred-Ella. They were the pillars there." So Fred comforts them and says, "Well, what happened if we cannot have a big place you know to congregate and talk about Him or sing His glory and all that. You all can in your own apartments you all can hold meetings you see. In turn, in rotation. Yeah. Or you can go to any park and do that same thing you see. What is important is to remember Him, that's all. Nothing more than that. Nothing beyond it. And remember Him with love naturally."

But Baba goes a step further and says, "You need not remember me with love, you can even remember me through hatred."

You heard that, Jane? Yeah.

"Whatever it be you can do but remember Me," He says, So Eduardo is telling this story. "One day we were holding a meeting, Baba meeting, Monday meeting in our apartment." When Lisa was also there with him. So people had gathered and in the name of Baba in the love of Baba. And they were all holding a meeting. Meeting means [Eruch laughs] nothing formal, all informal. So in that there was a person who had just come. So she was narrating this story as to how she came to Baba. Half way through her story, it was very interesting and we were hearing with great attention and all that, and half way through the story entered in a stranger. Inside the room. A black person. Total stranger. Tall, hefty person you see. And Eduardo looks at him. Well it's an open house, you can't stop anybody. But he was quiet, he took a seat in a corner. He didn't say anything. Ed all the time, now Eduardo's attention you see is distracted and he wants to find out as to who this person is who's come here?

So the one who was narrating the story had her back to the person. So she was saying out, continuing with the same gusto and fervour and love and all that. And after about 10-12 minutes she says, "Well this is how I came to Baba." And all others were applauded and say, "Jai Baba. It's so beautiful to hear this," and that and all

that. Fine. And then this man speaks out. "Would you'll want to know what brought me here to this place today?"

So Eduardo is the first one, he says, "Yes sir, we would like to know who you are and why you are here?" [general laughter] So now the story begins—

So he says, "I live in New York from my childhood. Now I have got my own apartment there with my family. My wife and children. I am a Muslim by birth. I am employed and I live my life. Every day I go, commute to the place where I am employed and come back. Being a Muslim you all must be knowing that well there is the injunction that we should pray for 5 times in a day but I can't afford to do that. I can only pray twice a day. Once before going to office and once before retiring. And I have a special niche, a room, a corner in my room where I face Kaaba." You know Mohammadans face Kaaba.

PILGRIM 1: Yeah.

ERUCH: Yeah. "And I offered my prayers and I continue to do so. And I am satisfied. Allah has seen to everything and everything is rosy and fine thus far. Was, 15 days ago. And then what happened? Once 15 days ago I was praying, just before going to my office. I - as usual I was praying facing Kaaba and was in tune with the Lord and you know how you pray." Mohammadans pray, they stand up and they bend down half way. They put their thumbs to their ears this that and all that. You know the form of worship. So eventually they, what do you call, bend down, bow down and that's how he was.

So while he was in the act, the final act, and he had bowed down like this somebody gave him a tight kick on his fanny and toppled him down. "And I was so perturbed with that. You know how it is when one in your own home [general laughter] somebody and while I'm praying

to my Lord. Somebody comes you see. Who could that be? Somebody is so stupid to kick me and tight kick so I get down. So what happened? I turned my gaze and looked at the back. I said, "Who could that be?" So I was stunned to see a radiant figure standing there. And with great dignity and authority the person points out: "I am not there", means where I was facing [general laughter]. "I am here" [pilgrims laugh loudly]

PILGRIM 2: Oh that's beautiful.

ERUCH: "I am not there, I am here." And pointing towards Himself. And this man, he was so angry you know. All of a sudden all that just melts out. It's shed and he's puzzled and confused. And he says, "Who could that be?" And with great authority He said that and gradually faded out. And nothing left. And he's confused, he's puzzled now. He does not know who could that be. "I was worshipping my Allah and He comes with great authority and says I am not there, I'm here. Is he Allah? Who could he be? Is he Satan to say such a thing? How could it be, what is it?"

And you know how the Muslims are so fanatic about these things. I don't know anything about the American-Muslims but usually they are [general laughter]. And he does not know, he's confused. And he goes to the office. He cannot greet his wife or children or anything. He goes to the office, he's confused. He tells his wife such a thing happened you know. And he comes back. In the office he thinks about it. This is the story he's telling the whole crowd there that day. "I'm confused, I go back, come back. Come back, pray again and all that. 15 days pass by. Every time I commute, I go by bus," he says. "City bus. And all the time I'm thinking about this man. The figure comes. It's so clear in my mind that it's always there. And I'm confused. Who could he be? He looks so radiant. Is He that? And this while I'm returning from office today, same

commuter. And all of a sudden I see Him again. And that too a huge portrait of Him behind a pick up van."

You know George McQueen used to.

PILGRIM 3: Oh yeah.

ERUCH: [Laughing] So he had that and I looked at it and I was so surprised and taken aback with this that there is the clue. Here, He is the one. He came, He is the one who came. So I just shout in the bus he says, "Stop, stop, stop!" and I just rush out [pilgrims laughing] and I jump out of the bus. And the bus was slow at the time because luckily what happened was that they were negotiating some crowd or something I don't know. But he could jump out and run behind that pick-up van.

He can see Baba's portrait there. He's running after Him and luckily that pick-up van also stopped at the signals there. And he goes there and grabs the hand of George. George was here mind you that day.

PILGRIM 3: Oh no!

ERUCH: Yeah. No when I told the story last time when George had come here. So he was surprised. Says "Yeah, that's right. I had that." So he says, "Ay tell me who is at the back of your van?"

[pilgrims laughing]

So he says that, "At the back? Nobody is at the back, it's just full of things." Says, "No, no. That portrait that is there?" "Oh that's Meher Baba." "Where can I find Him?"

So immediately he writes down this address and he says go, go to this place and you'll get the news. So he knew that the meeting would be held there. "So, this is how I have come to this place. Can I know anything further that that?" So then

of course Eduardo and others started telling him.

Such are the ways.

PILGRIM 2: [inaudible]

ERUCH: Yeah, such are the ways.