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## Baba's Presence in the Barn

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Mandali Hall

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**EDDIE:** I have a very strong story I am about to share. A year ago my sister came to visit and brought her daughter, my niece, and I picked them up on their visit to the Center. And as the habit is, newcomers have to meet Jane, or Kitty who brought them to meet Jane. And Jane is like the patron saint of children. My niece is 10 years old and she was so delighted to be with Jane and they talked about all their favorite TV programs. It turns out that Jane watches only children's programs. [Laughter] And my sister doesn't say very much. My sister is a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Academy. They are a very reserved Air Force family with three boys and one girl and it was the girl who became an Air Force officer - not as my father had anticipated. [Laughter] So, my sister was observing all this and I knew she was taking it in because I've seen my sister did not miss any word or gesture, but she never says anything till years later, you can tell that she remembers. She was watching as Dana seems to be delighted by Jane. And Jane was just so loving. And finally as it dragged in and out, we were go on the tour of the Center. Dana asks Jane, "Can I come back and visit you?" Jane says, "Of course darling." You would think that these two are long lost friends. So, we go to the Center, and we go through the front gate rather than through the one on the side. Because I thought they should sign in, and I thought it would be nice. So, we get in and we are going on the tour, and to my

great joy no unusual people were on the Center. [Laughter]

**PILGRIM #1:** Oh the Center was empty! [Laughter]

**ERUCH:** Not even Bob was there? Bob was not there?

**EDDIE:** Maybe they were off in the golf cart somewhere. [Laughter]

**PILGRIM #2:** A sporting spirit, right.

**EDDIE:** But Havovi was there on the Center. She so lovingly greeted my sister. Just everything was perfect. So we got to the Barn, and Ann was with me. I said, "Let's go the Barn." Ann was thinking, "No, don't take them to the Barn. No, they'll never, I mean— the Barn is too much for them. Too much contact with Baba." She didn't say all this because they were right there. But I could see that she was thinking, "Now that will it for them if they go to the Barn." I don't know why Ann was like that but I discussed it with them. "We are going. We are going to the Barn." So we went. And we get there and the sign says, "Please remove your shoes." And Janice noticed that, and she thought that was kind of unusual. But she did it. She took her shoes off but not without protest, "Why would I have to remove my shoes?" I have been and she has been all over the United States and the sign says

“Remove your shoes” so we remove them. OK, the issue went.

Who is in there but Dan Butler Stone sitting in the one chair – four chairs, three of which had ropes because Baba had sat in them. One you could sit in. So she immediately put some particular importance that Dan was sitting in this one chair that you could sit in. So she asked me, “Can I sit in that chair?” “Well when he moves you can sit in that chair.” “Why can’t we sit in the other chairs?” “Because that is where Baba sat. But you can sit in that chair - He may have sat in it.” “When is he going to leave?” All this whispering and finally Dan, I think his meditation interrupted, he went. [Laughter]

Meanwhile we are looking at the Baba sayings on the wall, and somehow we forgot about Dana. She immediately, as soon as Dan gets up, she gets in the chair. By this time we are sitting in those other little chairs behind. Just quietly absorbing the atmosphere. And Dana peeks her head up over the back of the chair, it’s a high-back chair, and looks at me. She says, “Do you hear it? Can you hear it? [Clock chimes] Can you hear His silence?” With that she got my attention. [Laughter] She says, “It’s Him. It’s His presence that is here.” Now these words were out and I don’t think we ever - I am not sure I told her about Baba’s silence there. And I certainly had not mentioned the word ‘Baba’s presence’. And she said, “You’ve got to sit in this chair. [Laughter] Can you feel it? He is here. You can almost see Him walking. Just wait—don’t talk. Yes, can’t you?” We said, “Yeah, that’s why we come here.” Now she says. “Get in the chair, come on! Come on. Get up, get up! Mommy, Mommy get up!” My sister’s like, you know, can’t believe it. So Ann gets up

and sits in the chair. She was not going to be quiet till somebody sat in the chair. So Ann sat in the chair and Dana sat in front of her, watching to see what would happen. [Laughter] Ann confirmed that yes, she saw Baba’s love and presence here. And then she wanted me to sit in the chair. By this time the whole thing is sort of so—! We decided to get up and go. I may have sat for a second and I assured her that this is perfectly alright. This is why everybody came here. They came for Baba. So that is the visit.

Oh, then the second time she came to the Center, it was Elizabeth and me. She on her own wanted to collect flowers (this is what made me think of the story) to offer at Baba’s chair in the Lagoon Cabin. It was her own idea. It’s not even a custom there to do that. But she came up with the idea. So her and Elizabeth went off and collected flowers and went in and gave them to Baba as an offering. Then she got my promise that she could come back to the Center and be allowed back any time. She doesn’t just go talking about Baba. In subsequent visits she has been on the Center. But there doesn’t seem to be any need for her to talk to me about Baba. It is just as natural as it could be.

**PILGRIM #1:** How old is she?

**EDDIE:** She is eleven now. She was ten then.

**PILGRIM #1:** That’s such a great story!

**ERUCH:** What connection must be there.

**PILGRIM #2:** Did anyone else sit in the chair?

**EDDIE:** Glen wouldn't get up and sit in the chair. I think Glen grabbed on to the chair she was sitting in a little harder. This one. [Laughter] It became quite clear to me that, I mean, my father thought it was Dana who would bring Baba home to my sister, that it wouldn't be me. It wouldn't be me to bring really anything, that it would be her daughter. It was going to be her link to Baba.