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## DISTRACTIONS

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### Eruch Jessawala

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

August 15, 1987

11:18

**ERUCH:** Tomorrow we will not be here because we have to attend a board meeting and usually it is held on Sunday, this time it is on 16<sup>th</sup> tomorrow. so of course the house is open for you all because it is your home. We cannot drive the host away and out from home, so you all are the hosts tomorrow just as we all are today. Goher will be here, Aloha will be here, others will be here. And tomorrow Merwan is there, Merwan Dubash is there. Your mother will be here tomorrow? So the main one to take the podium and address you all and bring home to you all certain home truths.

Merwan do you speak at the time of the meeting here? Then who speaks? Ruby speaks a lot?

**RUBY:** I never talk a lot.

**ERUCH:** You never talk. Even with Merwan you don't talk?

**RUBY:** No we have an understanding. Just communicate.

**ERUCH:** That's great. Did you all go to Sakori yesterday?

**PILGRIM 1:** Some of us did, yes.

**ERUCH:** How many?

**PILGRIM 1:** About 10 or 12 I think.

**ERUCH:** How, in a van? Two vans.

**PILGRIM 1:** We went to Sakori, and Shirdi, we saw the hut where Baba met with Upasni for the last time. We saw a small villa which is now a temple, where Upasni spent time and when Baba came back, Upasni threw the stone, threw the rock.

**DEVANA:** We saw Godavari Mai and she said tell Eruch special "Jai Baba".

**ERUCH:** Oh good, my "Jai Baba" to her too. Does she remember me?

**PILGRIM 1:** Yes she has. She brought it up. She said especially to Eruch, has a special message for Eruch.

**ERUCH:** But did you'll understand the language because she speaks in Marathi. Has she started in English? She spoke in English? She had a translator, Minoos. Minoos translated for her. There were times when I was present when Baba and Godavari Mai were together. I had an eye on the clock that she uses. Because when we were there Baba was made to sit on a swing in her room and they were all there. It must have been sometime you see that the cuckoo clock, the cuckoo came out and struck you see and I said oh! That's a beautiful thing.

Just brushing aside Baba, just brushing Godavari who is now in charge of the ashram. I loved the clock. That is how illusion is attractive. Did you all see that clock there? It's in her room. Do they manufacture even now such clocks, cuckoo clocks?

**DEVANA:** In Switzerland.

[inaudible]

**ERUCH:** Oh! God. I have to repeat again. Nothing is the matter. I was fascinated to see a cuckoo clock in Godavari's room when Baba was with her she was there, all other kanyas were there, the ladies were there. So we were there and all of a sudden bird came out and started chirping, so it fascinated me and my attention was just drawn there rather than on Baba or Godavari. That eventually reminded me how illusionary things distract us often.

**PILGRIM 1:** What a crowd.

**ERUCH:** Do you call this a crowd? Have you ever seen a crowd around Baba? It appeared as if we are on the war front there, you see, at that time. It was frightening. Being surrounded. Here at least there is something like a wall there can be nothing behind you but there we are surrounded from all the four corners. There were no corners all around. Sometimes it is very frightening.

**PILGRIM 2:** Did you have to be very stern? To keep people away?

**ERUCH:** No, not keep them away. They used to observe discipline, there were very reverential and all that but still one never knows. That frenzy is such that sometimes mind cannot be relied upon. You can rely upon the heart. Yes, distraction, you know we get distracted, there is no doubt about it. Even in His presence a clock can distract us. Do you hear me Veronica? And that leads me back to many years ago when in this room I was distracted while interpreting Baba's gesture. And you know the cause of distraction, Veronica? Have you heard that story before? Well when as you say the crowd is so great and all that, this is nothing.

Hall is packed of course this is a tiny little thing but still there is no passage here everything is filled up, all the space is filled up, all are attentive seeing to Baba looking at Him. Every gesture, what He is telling them, what He is saying and there is humour. There is His personal touch with every individual that comes in, and in spite of it all there was a big crowd there and so there was a little aisle here, coming from here, being near Baba for a moment and then passing away. And every time from a distance I had to interpret the gestures. Baba is giving a personal contact, a touch to every individual there.

And the flow is there, people are who are well they came first so they went and took their seats or there are no more seats left so naturally helplessly they would be with Baba for just a few moments and then pass away. And I am attending to the interpretations whatever He says I say it and at that time I am seated here on this little windowsill that is there, because there is a crowd of people, there are people standing and I have to be just like this, just interpreting. In walks a very beautiful young woman. Naturally my attention from here is obvious, is natural so I just looked and my mind immediately says "My! What a beauty it is. How beautiful she is."

Mind goes there and of course I again, she comes close to Baba and Baba is telling her something: "Well how are you, from where have you come?" This, that and all that and then after half a minute of this person with little pleasantries with Baba, she is now leaving after having His darshan. So Baba catches hold of her hand because she is turned back. He turns her face towards us and towards me and says to me, "Isn't she beautiful?" I said: "Yes Baba, she is." Baba said, "She is so beautiful, eh?" I said: "Yeah, she is beautiful." And she is very embarrassed and says that to her, "See, how beautiful you are," and He turns her face around like that and so forth and still Baba has caught hold of her and wouldn't allow her to go and He is addressing to all, "See how

beautiful she is at this age, what will happen to her after 60 years? She will be the same person but where will her beauty go?

She will be all wrinkled up, she will be walking and coming to me with a stick and all that, so where will it all go? So whenever you all feel attracted", now he is not pointing at me but giving discourse to the people, "I want you all to admire the beauty. It's my creation but forget not the creator of the beauty. I don't want you to put your hand like this and turn away your face from the beauty but admire her but at the same time

don't get involved, don't get entangled with that beauty. But time and again always bear in mind the creator of such beauty and I am that eternal beauty." That was what Baba told us that day. It is good because I got distracted there and this was a good lesson for me.

He doesn't want us to avoid but doesn't want us at the same time to be involved. That's all. At the same time, I know that Baba is directing all these arrows towards me when He was saying that, but mind is such what can you do?