
CHILDREN'S BABA EXPERIENCE

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PILGRIM 1: Although, a friend of mine. She's in her mid sixties. And her daughter has never believed in Baba at all. And once when she was visiting her daughter. The granddaughter was there and they were talking or something. And my friend had a little Baba locket on. The girl looked at it and said, "Who's that?"

My friend said, "That's Meher Baba." And she says, "I knew Baba before I was born!" They have never had any talk of any sort about Baba in the house. The mother never said a word. And my friend had never said a word in this, you know. The house wasn't a Baba house, she had never said a word about Baba. The child had.

ERUCH: Yeah. And this reminds me of another. The one that I was saying was a different one. But this reminds me of another episode. It's in a theatre. Mani knows that. The lady who came and reported this. It's a Western, Westerner who came.

And you know in theatre, they put the chairs or sofa, whatever you call it. They put the, relax and look at the show. Film, show or whatever it is. It was a film theatre. Cinema show. And it's dark, you know how it is. Can't expect it to be lighted.

So, it is said. This is what the one who experienced this report said. So she had a Baba ring. You know, that plastic thing. That big one there. Black, original one. She had it. A Baba lover was there in the theatre, looking at the picture there, relaxing and just putting her hand there. So there was a child in the back row who stared this from a distance. Means one chair

behind. Back row but not directly behind. Somewhere there. So she craned over and comes close to that ring and kisses it. In the darkness, mind you.

So the lady there thought, who is that, you see? [pilgrims laugh]. So she turns back and it's a child. So she smiles, that's all. You can see in the dark. And she relaxes and puts the hand. After sometime you see. Again the child goes there and kisses that. Three times it happened. To a degree when the mother of the child admonishes her, "This is not right what you do. Stop [inaudible]. Sit up. Don't do that." And then she kept quiet, yeah.

PILGRIM 2: Luke has a story.

ERUCH: Huh?

PILGRIM 2: When Luke was three I think. He had a dream. And I, something prompted me to walk into the room. He was asleep. He had just woken up and he was shaking with fear. And literally shaking. I had to lie down next to him to calm him down. And he told me that he had dreamt he was drowning in the harbour and Baba came out and put his hand up and lifted him up.

And sometime where, I can't remember. We were driving. We had a Volkswagen camper which opens in the back. The back door latches. And I was driving through an intersection. I came to a red light. I stopped at the red light and then started. And about a 100 yards down the road the woman who was with me started gesturing at me.

And I couldn't figure out what she was saying. She kept calling me behind.

Luke had fallen out of the car, into the intersection, into the traffic. And I just stopped the car in the middle of the road. I didn't pull it over or anything. And I ran straight back up and I just stood over him and he said, "You left me." Those were his words. But I forgot Baba at that moment. Before I knew it, there was a big hook and ladder fire engine. There was a crowd and it was chaos. It was a crisis. And the people were yelling at me not to touch him and I started yelling at them, yelling at Luke.

And then my friend came up with Baba's, with my keys with Baba's picture. And I saw Baba's picture and instantly a bubble came out around Luke and I. Everybody. We were inside the bubble. I picked him up and walked away. And we just got in the car and drove home. That's more a story of remembering Baba.

ERUCH: Hmm. And unhurt?

PILGRIM 2: He had a scratch. He had one little scratch on his arm. He was unhurt.

ERUCH: I remember you all having told us this story last time but you never told us the beginning of it. The prefix was not there.

PILGRIM 2: The what?

ERUCH: The dream was not there. Luke's dream was not mentioned by you. But you mentioned about this accident that took place.

PILGRIM 2: I mentioned the dream to Kitty and she said, "Ah, yes."

ERUCH: [pilgrims and Eruch laugh] Yeah, I remember that story. And what's the name of the girl?

PILGRIM 3: Lisa.

ERUCH: Lisa? Huh?

PILGRIM 1: Lisa.

ERUCH: Huh?

PILGRIM 3: Lisa [inaudible].

ERUCH: Lisa, Jordy and Mark. Lisa and Jordy.

PILGRIM 3: Lisa and Jordy [inaudible].

ERUCH: I see. Margo is the name of the wife?

PILGRIM 1: Yes.

ERUCH: I see. What a name it is. Margaret is Margo. I think they are coming again or something. No?

PILGRIM 3: I think.

ERUCH: Coming again?

PILGRIM 3: Yes.

ERUCH: Coming again? Yeah, good. So this is the story. Husband is blind. He's a teacher as well. Whatever it is. One day, early in the morning at seven o'clock here. I think it was Thursday or Saturday, I forget now. And we are expecting this monster to come, bringing in all the.

PILGRIM 1: All the pilgrims?

ERUCH: I don't know. I can't call them pilgrims, you see. They don't look like pilgrims. I have a different notion about pilgrims. Gary's cargo. [pilgrims laugh] So yeah, of course the pilgrims. So they were expected. We know that and it was there. It's morning, seven o'clock. I had just.

Well, at that time I used to go early in the morning. Earlier still. And I had just returned. I didn't have my bath also that morning. I had just returned. And what do I find in the morning bus. Must be 7:30. Morning bus comes from Nagar. In that some people had come over here. Some people, Indians. Came from a different village. And they came and they were. Well they came and they took Baba's darshan and all that. Four of them. Three or four of them had come.

And they came to persuade the mandali to go for the opening of a Centre some distance from here. And, well I was caught. Because I faced them. Otherwise I would have kept myself in my room and allowed them. Yeah, but I got caught. So I had to come inside and I had to sit with them and debate that it's not possible for us to go. And they are pleading, begging up and so forth and so on. They go on and on. You won't believe. Three hours I spent. They cried. I cried. Really. Because of the love, you know.

The thing is that they were trying to impress upon me that see what the love of Baba has done there. You have no idea. If you go there and just see. Every man, woman and child in the village, they love Baba. They haven't seen Baba. Wouldn't you want to come there? Inaugurate the Centre. We have built it with our own sweat from the brow. And we have spent the money. No labourers have been employed. We have all worked there and we have created a building for Him. And it's there. It's ready to be opened. Please come on that day. And if you all agree that, we don't want only one of you. We want men mandali, women mandali to go with.

And I tried to again and again, keeping myself calm. I'm getting exasperated now. Keeping myself calm. No brother, it's not possible for us. This, that. But why do you want me to come and all that? Why do you want us? They say, "No, we want somebody who has seen Baba, been with

Baba. That would please us. That would please the hearts of the villagers," and all that.

Only this morning a huge album has come to our hands. I think it was sent by you, Jal. Yeah, You see from the album what transpired there although we didn't go. But see the story how it developed. So they are here and I'm just trying to sit. And then luckily Mani came to my rescue. Because she comes now. Little did she know that there are people over here already in the morning.

She comes to offer flowers to Baba in the morning. And it's all closed and each one has his own time. But that day she got caught. She finds us. So after offering the flowers and she is standing there and listening to our debate, you see.

And then she also joins in helping me. "We can't come brother, it's not possible for us. We don't go out. Even now. You know, if we go to your place, it's suicidal. Then there are so many people who have called us and we have refused them. It's not possible for us to do that. You have Baba. Baba is everywhere. Why don't you take it for granted that He's there? Why do you want us?"

"No but we want somebody who has been with Baba and all." And so forth.

In the meantime the monster. Mind you, see how many hours have passed by. I can hear, the monster has come. And the crowd comes in, you see. The crowds are there and all that. And, well, they are still here. They wouldn't want to budge till such time we give the names because they have to issue invitation. They are going to invite the big shots in the district to come there. It was such a thing. And we were helpless. We couldn't do anything. We can't say anything. We simply refused. All the time we refused. We declined the invitation.

So. But I said, "But why don't you take? Take the results. Let some Westerners come."

And I said, "Ok, that I will give. That I will do. I got, yeah, I can escape that. Yeah, I will see that."

"Yeah, yeah, then do. How many will come? We want all of you all to come."

They had given us an invitation at the Amartithi, mind you. All those who had gathered there to come there. And stay there. Free food and all that, you see. They had, what do you call? Given a public invitation, publicly. And now they are coming to invite the mandali. Even we are declining.

So I said, "Yeah, you can have the Westerners. I will name them. Jack Small walks in. He says, "Jack, come." [pilgrims laugh]

And others come, you know. And I said, "Come and sit down Jack." And all that sort. Jal, poor Jal. Jal, you know Jal Dastur? He gets caught. He comes in. I said, "Yes Jal, sit down." Because I want some support, you know. To get out of the crisis of these people.

He says, "No, but I want you all who have seen Baba."

And in runs , what's her name?

PILGRIM 3: Margo.

ERUCH: Margo. That little child, Lisa. And they have just said that.

"But I want, we want you all who have been with Baba, who have seen Baba. We want you people to come also."

I said, "This will be enough. These people. Here is Jal who has seen Baba now. It will be all right."

"No but we want mandali who have been with Baba and seen Baba."

So in runs that little one. And I simply say it out like that. "Well, she has seen Baba, take her. Why don't you take her? Why are you after us? [sound of bell ringing] Why don't you take her?"

I didn't know anything about it. I didn't know what must have transpired there in their life or something like that. They had just come and she came in running and you know how the children are. And then of course the old man, what's his name?

George. He came and sat down here. And he doesn't know what transpired here and I am bringing in, because he is blind. And I am bringing his daughter in the conversation, he doesn't know anything about it. So.

And says, "How come that she can see Baba and she knows Baba?" They were new. They had not seen Baba, you see. So they were, "But Baba, didn't Baba pass away 13 years ago?"

I said, "Yeah."

"What's her age?"

"Six or seven."

"How come that she has seen Baba?"

I said, "Ask her then."

So I said, what's her name?

PILGRIM 1: Lisa

ERUCH: "Lisa, didn't you see Baba?" And she gets stunned, you see. [sound of clock chiming]. And she looks out of this window as if in a daze, you see. And she after 2-3 minutes they are waiting ready to hear what she says. And she

gives out a great shriek and cries out loudly. And I got frightened and they all got frightened and the old man, George got frightened. "What's the matter, Lisa?" He said.

Hearing her shriek, the mother hears the child shriek so she came in running what's the matter with Lisa here? And she's still looking out of the window as if she's dazed or something.

So I explained to the mother, "Well, it's my fault. I just told her this." She says, "Yeah, but Lisa tell them. You have seen, isn't it? Why not tell them? Tell them. Don't be afraid. Come on."

So then she calms down and then she tells her story. And they are wonderstruck and say, "Did it happen?" She says, "Yeah." Now Lisa becomes bold and tells her story. So such are the things.

PILGRIM 1: Of?

ERUCH: What's her story? Now ask her later. Come on now. [pilgrims laugh].

About Lisa. It's so simple. What had happened was. Of course she had seen Baba. And not only seen Baba. Baba had come to her and all that. So what had happened was. This is now the preface given by the mother of Lisa.

It had happened that she was to go for camping. You know the school children are. I don't know what's the system in the States. But this is what I understood from what Margo told us. That she was, she had to go for camping but the site that they had selected was such that she felt that. And the atmosphere there while camping, you know is such that she didn't like it. She didn't want to go there. She didn't want.

So naturally when she didn't want to go, mother asked her, "Why don't you go? It's so good. All the children will be there and you will enjoy. You'll have good fun." She says, "But there won't be Baba." That's what she said. And of course mother couldn't press her. She was left alone.

Some weeks passed by and both mother and Lisa were going out. Just for a stroll. Somewhere near the hills or somewhere there. And there is a hill and the valley and all that sort of thing. [sound of clock chiming] So she says, "This is a good place. If the camp is brought here. I would go and join the camping." And that's how she was chatting with her mother while going.

Her mother started thinking that how come that she selects the place for the camping? Does that mean that Baba could be here? Because Baba is not there. She doesn't feel Baba and all that where the school selected. So she didn't say anything. So the child, sometimes is with the mother, sometimes runs further away and all that. There she goes down the hill and returns with great shout. "Mother, come, come soon. Baba has come." And there she shows Baba there. And mother doesn't see. And the child sees. Yeah.

So, that's a little secret of Lisa and mother amongst themselves. How it was opened, she was stunned, you see. Even I bluntly simply said, "Yeah, she has seen Baba." I didn't know anything about it. So that's the story about the child and the mother. So that's why she got stunned, you see. And she looked out and she didn't say anything. As if, she appeared to us as if she is in a daze. And then she shrieked loudly. That's the story.