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## MYRTLE BEACH STORIES

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### Eruch Jessawala

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

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11:24

**ERUCH:** How about this little girl, a story from Myrtle Beach we have heard. A boy.

**PILGRIM 1:** I haven't heard.

**ERUCH:** You haven't heard it?

**PILGRIM 1:** No.

**ERUCH:** But you are from the States, no?

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah, I'm from the States.

**ERUCH:** Ok. So, you know why I. See how the one thing leads to another. Seeing him reminds me of Marshall. Seeing, thinking of Marshall reminds me of the story. You see, that's how it is. Yeah, it follows like that. Have you seen Marshall Hay? He reminds me of that. That's what. Other day somebody else also remarked. It's so true.

**PILGRIM 2:** I can see that too.

**ERUCH:** Huh?

**PILGRIM 2:** I can see that too.

**ERUCH:** Yeah, you can see now. [Eruch laughs] So that's how it is. Get that some feeling, you know. So, what happened, you know, Peter. There was a certain person who came in a very posh car at the gate of the Centre. Myrtle Beach. Have you been to Myrtle Beach Centre?

**PILGRIM 1:** Oh, yes.

**ERUCH:** That's all right. So then he came and stopped there. And somebody there at the gate, because the car has stopped there. Just comes out and interrogates, "Yes, you want something?"

Says, "What is this? Is it a nudist colony over here?"

"Nudist colony? No it's a Spiritual Centre."

"How, I know! Come on now. Tell me!"

He says, "Well, what do you mean? It is a Spiritual Centre. No, but I have heard. I heard. I heard everything you know. It is a nudist colony. I know that. Come on!"

He says, "No!"

And then there is that little argument and debate going on and this and that. In the meantime Marshall comes at the gate. In his car he comes. And says, "What's going on here? What's wrong?"

I forgot now who was at the gate at that time. But some mild person was there. Not like Marshall. So he says, "Well, he thinks that it's a nudist colony and I'm telling him that it's a Spiritual Centre."

So Marshall says, "Hey, why don't you take him around then? Show him. Show him around the nudist colony." He says if you [Inaudible].

So that's how the whole thing goes, you see. How they have all entered the Centre. So when they

go, of course the man takes him around from one place to another place and all that. And he sees that there is no nude person over there. They are all dressed people and scattered about. Not much crowd that day at the Centre. So, he's been shown that this is Lagoon Cabin and that's Baba House and this and then they are brought from over the bridge. You know that little bridge that is there that connects Baba House to the Lagoon Cabin and other Old Kitchen and all that.

So he's there. So they. With the man is a youngster, his son. His son has come also. He's as old as Sophie. So they are all there. So son holds the hand of father and goes around. While they are coming on the bridge the man who was guiding them, just stops there and says, "Here, Baba would cross this bridge and he would be standing over here and look over this lake, you know. You know this is a lake and that's the ocean there. And this is a sweet water lake." He was explaining and all that. And Baba would stand over here and see the alligators, sometimes they would pop up and all that.

So the man says, "Hmm." He was very disappointed though, the man. Well he's just taking and nodding his head and says.

Just then the youngster says, "But Baba didn't stand here."

So the man looks. "Where did he stand then?"

He says, "No, I'll. Little this distance, you see. He would be standing here."

Oh. So just to pamper the child. He was embarrassed of course because the child wanted to show where the place was because he was himself the guide, you know. So, says, "Yeah, yeah. He would stand here and there and everywhere. That's all."

So then after a while they got out of the bridge. They cleared the bridge and he says, "Hey, you sweep the bridge?"

"Yeah, we keep the place clean."

"You shouldn't have done it. He's walked over it. The dust of his feet has collected."

This child is saying this to the man. So, it reminds of somebody who must have been there. It's like that. Such stories come to our ears, you see. And that's what I was asking the other day about somebody coming from Myrtle Beach. Do you all still know this? I asked Cathy yesterday, you were here when I asked. Is that couple there, still there?

So the story about the couple Rozy told us. Marshall's wife told us. Have you met Rozy? You all haven't seen Marshall yet. So what she told me last when she came over here. A couple of years ago. Says while she was in her house in the morning there is a knock at the door. And she goes and attends. She sees an old man there with an old lady standing out. He says. "Hey, Is this the place for sale?" Pointing at the opposite side of the road. Their house is on this side of the road. The Centre is on the other side.

She says, "No, this is not a property for sale."

"Not the property? Well, we thought that it would be nice if it was for sale."

"No, no, it cannot be for sale." She starts smiling and laughing at them. Says, "It's not the place for sale."

"What is it?"

"Well, it's Meher Spiritual Centre. Myrtle Beach. Meher Spiritual Centre."

"Oh. So what is it? What is it after all?"

Says, "Come inside. Come inside."

Well, they sit down and there's a talk going on. Now what transpired was this.

Says, "What makes you think that this place is for sale?" Rozy is asking them.

"No, we got attracted to the place. That's why we were wondering."

"Just an attraction makes you think that it's a place is for sale? It's a 500 acre estate. It cannot be for sale. It's a Spiritual Centre."

"Oh. What sort of Centre? What is it?"

"I'll take you around, if you wish to."

Says, "Yeah, we would love it. We want to."

"But why are you interested in this particular place?"

So then they tell the story. [sound of clock chiming]. Say, "Well," the woman chirps in and says, "My husband now has retired and for the past one year we are in search of a place where we would want to settle. And each night we pray to our Lord to help us. Where you would want us to pass our last days in His thoughts, in His love. So we wanted a place. And we left it exclusively to Him, to guide us to the place. And we have been travelling a lot and all that in our car, and all the places that we have gone to. But nothing attracted us as much as this little sight of the gate and the thing which we don't know what's there. And we thought that well we are so attracted that we thought that God has led us that it's for sale and you should settle here. So we would want to buy it. That's all."

"Oh!" She says, "I assure you it's not for sale."

So then they go inside and they are very happy to see. They feel that atmosphere there and all that. And then she is introducing to others that these people had come thinking that this place is for sale and all that. They want to settle down and all that. So in that crowd there was one person, hearing this. And that person wanted to sell the property. You see, there. Nearby, you know that Briar Cliffe.

So he says, "Are you really interested in buying some place, house?"

"Yes, we are interested. We want to buy. We like the place. We like the atmosphere."

And the deal was fixed that very day and they began to live there.

So I was enquiring from Cathy whether the persons are still there or not. This is what Rozy told me herself. Do you know anything about it? Anybody from Myrtle Beach here who knows? I don't know what you all do there. Don't you all talk about Baba and Baba's love for the people. How He touches the heart and all. Don't you all talk? When you all go there, what do you all do whole day? What do you do?

**PILGRIM 2:** Sex, violence.

**ERUCH:** At the Centre? [pilgrims laugh]

**PILGRIM 2:** Oh, at the Centre?

**ERUCH:** Oh, you thought in the States? I mean the Centre.

**PILGRIM 2:** Oh, the Centre. You know scream at kids.

**ERUCH:** Because you have kids. No, but such stories come to us, you know.

**PILGRIM 1:** Can you think of any others? Those two were great. [pilgrims laugh].

**ERUCH:** Pardon? You want to hear another?

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah.

**ERUCH:** All right. Same thing. Again we revolve around Marshall because he's facing me, you know. So much. It seems he's haunting me all the time, now this Marshall. So what happened Marshall got married to Rozy and they had a child. What's the name? I forget now.

**PILGRIM 3:** Benjamin.

**PILGRIM 4:** Molly.

**ERUCH:** Molly. Molly was the one. The older one. So they had. Whose child was that?

**PILGRIM 4:** That was Rozy's child.

**ERUCH:** Rozy's child, you see. First husband. So now Rozy and Marshall are married. Naturally the child is with them. Grown up child. Like Luke. So, how old is Luke?

**PILGRIM 3:** Eleven.

**ERUCH:** Yeah.

**PILGRIM 3:** He and Molly are pretty close.

**ERUCH:** Huh?

**PILGRIM 3:** He and Molly are close in age.

**ERUCH:** That's right. But not eleven. She must be at about seven or eight at that time when we heard this. When did they get married? Two, three years ago? Four years ago?

**PILGRIM 4:** No, seven years ago.

**ERUCH:** Seven years ago? So then might be four years then. If it is that. So, she is lying on the rear seat. Lying. And they are driving. Newlywed couple is there. And they are singing and talking and this and that. You know how it is in America. [pilgrims laugh]

**PILGRIM 2:** How is it in America? How would you know you haven't been there for an awful long time.

**ERUCH:** So it will be. It's fun. And it's but natural. They are young and all that. Nothing new in that. So they are boisterous. So this Molly says to Marshall, "Hey Marshall, please keep quiet. I can't hear Baba in this noise." So they kept quiet. What prompted her to say that? She had just come to the home. Hardly a month must have passed by or something like that. So these are the little things, you see that. Yeah, that make us feel about these youngsters who have come to Baba, never seen Baba and how, what makes them say such things. You want to hear another story? About the youngsters you want to hear, huh?

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah of course.