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## Don't Make Me an Also-Ran

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**Eruch Jessawala**

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

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4:23

**ERUCH:** Look at the plight of this man, see now what it is! What's his name? A.Thomas?

**PILGRIM 1:** Hmm. A.T. Thomas.

**ERUCH:** A.T Thomas. Do you all know anybody by the name A.T. Thomas from the States? He has an electronic shop. His father conducts it. Hmm?

**PILGRIM 2:** No.

**ERUCH:** So yeah, and A.T. Thomas also, what do you call doing some business in electronics and he had brought spare parts and all that for the shop. A.T. Thomas. And in the course of conversation, well, he had mentioned that well, I will be visiting Baba's Samadhi there, Tomb there at Meherabad and this and that and all that sort of thing.

Some time has passed by, after some months and all that sort of thing. He, the shop people, means he is helping his father, they say, go and ask him about the spare parts and where can we find and he must be at Meherabad or where Meher Baba's place is there at Ahmednagar.

So he comes on motorbike, he had heard of Meher Baba's place. So he's in search of A.T. Thomas who is not here at all. But he has come. That's how he's come here.

**PILGRIM 2:** Just today?

**PILGRIM 1:** [Foreign language].

**ERUCH:** He says, "No, no, don't say that." [pilgrims laughing] Today, I [foreign language]?

**PILGRIM 1:** [foreign language].

**ERUCH:** 3 years.

**PILGRIM 2:** 3 years ago?

**ERUCH:** No, in succession. "3 years I have been visiting Meherabad."

**PILGRIM 2:** Ah good.

**ERUCH:** [foreign language]?

**PILGRIM 1:** [foreign language].

**ERUCH:** Today he has come here. In search of A. T. Thomas.

**PILGRIM 1:** [foreign language].

**ERUCH:** It's not just A. T. Thomas, I wanted also to pay visit here. [pilgrims laughing].

No, but there is these excuses, these coincidences, these excuses. We need to have these little things. But always Baba would want us to be aware about it but let Him not be the horse that is also-ran. He would use that word. You follow?

**PILGRIM 2:** It also-ran?

**ERUCH:** That we say that "It also-ran" means.

**PILGRIM 3:** An also-ran. You don't know that expression, an also-ran? So and so is an also-ran?

**PILGRIM 4:** She likes sports racing and she doesn't even know what also-ran is.

**PILGRIM 5:** I don't either. Well we are here today.

**PILGRIM 2:** Oh good!

**PILGRIM 5:** We don't know.

**PILGRIM 2:** I don't either.

**ERUCH:** Pardon?

**PILGRIM 3:** [inaudible]

**ERUCH:** Well, it's a saying, you see.

**PILGRIM 3:** Also-ran, it's an also-ran.

**PILGRIM 4:** Well one horse came in first, one horse came in second, one horse came in third and all the rest, also-ran.

**PILGRIM 2:** Oh, ok.

**ERUCH:** But don't put me in the category of the horse also-ran. I am the first and the foremost. Come for the winning horse! Baba would always want us to be there, first and foremost. Hmm. Otherwise you know what happens is, you know, "I had come to", "By the way what brought you here?"

"Well, I was at Aurangabad, I come for the caves, that's one of the wonders of the world over there, you know."

"I was there and somehow or the other I opened and there is a listing of all the ashrams and all the places you know. So I came upon this place called Meherabad and Meherazad there. And I said, well, might as well see because I had to return via Poona, so I have come here."

That is also-ran. He didn't come for Meher Baba Himself, for Him. But he came. By the way, let me have this. Let me have the joy of having visited this place also.

No, He doesn't like that. He doesn't like to be discarded like that. He's very jealous, mind you. He's the worst in jealousy, I think. [pilgrims laughing]. He surpasses all jealousy. Yeah, you have to be very careful.