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## NEW LIFE STORIES

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**MANI:** So, whenever we stopped at any place after these long walk, walk, walk! And then we would stop and we said, "Ah! Now we can relax. And we were tired, hot, dusty. We would have something to eat. We would wash our face. First we would attend to Baba and we do these things.

But know that, word have gone by through the whole village. A strange group of people here. Because we were not like the ordinary people going on a pilgrimage. I mean, they just haven't seen anything like that. We didn't look that kind of people. We looked sort of educated. Wear different kind of clothes and it's not seen in India what we presented. The sight we presented. And we had this strange carriage that was driven by bullocks but looked like a bus. And there was camel cart and all sorts of things.

So before we even actually got down, there was quite, about the whole of the village was round there. Some were there and others were coming very, very fast. We could see them walking from the village. So there we would be surrounded and the men would surround the caravan. Men with turbans. And they would discuss it amongst themselves, you know. And one would go and feel the tyres and the other would bend down. And say there's no machine but [Inaudible].

Pendu used to drive the caravan. So, we would pick up faggots on the way. Dry sticks, branches so that we could make hot water. And Baba's feet would be so dusty and the first day sandals had hurt him. There were blisters. But how do you do all that? You know, you were all the time surrounded. So, and we had to be very truthful.

We had to be very gentle. So Goher would come out and join her hands and say, "You know we are very happy that you have come. We are very happy to see you. Now we would like to rest and we would like to have our tea."

"Sure, sure. Have your tea. Rest."

Because the villagers know nothing about privacy, you see. And we couldn't make them understand that we wanted you now to leave, go back.

So then we had to go. If you wanted to go to the bathroom, you had to go far behind some trees. So we women would go, you know, two by two and then come back. And then another would go and would come back. And I would find them still there.

And one day what happened was that there was an old lady. And they would look at Baba. They would gaze at Baba and they'd feel this was something different. They knew it wasn't just an ordinary person for some reason. And here was once this very, very old lady. She must have been very handsome in her youth. And she said to Baba, she said, "Oh Baba!" She said, "I have an ache here and my elbows here are aching and I can't walk like I used to." And all that's coming out to the father as it were. And Baba listened and Baba said to Goher. "Go to the men's side and get some homeopathic pills from Baidul and give it to her." So he went. She went. And brought these little pills. And Baba told the old woman, "Take it." She looked at these pills in her hand. She said, "But my pain is so big! These

little pills are going to make it all right?" Baba says, "Have it. Have it."

Well, she had it. And then we forgot all about it. She talked some more. And then she got up and started to dance. That old lady. She forgot her pain and everything and she was dancing for Baba. And that sight remains with me as if it's just happening before me.

**PILGRIM 1:** I never tire of hearing the stories about the New Life. Such a unusual period. Fascinating.

**MANI:** The New Life. Of course you have read the "Tales of the New Life." But, for instance once when we camped in a mango grove. A sort of a garden. A park. Where it was full of mango trees. And that was a platform. Clock-shaped platform in the middle.

We were thrilled! I mean we would have some place where we could put our things. You know, not on the ground. Because Baba's things must be clean and nice. Mehera is very particular about that. Ah! We all were so pleased. We started putting our little sacks and bundles and bags and things on the picnic sacks.

And there was a little boy there. He kept mumbling [Mani mimics mumbling sound]. I said, "What are you saying?" "I wouldn't put it there if I were you. I wouldn't put these things here."

I said, "Why not? You go away now. Go home and play. Of course we should put these things in here." [Mani mimics mumbling sound]

At last I said, "Why is it?"

"That's the place where the corpses are put and their hair trimmed."

Now that's the place where, this family was approached if they would supply food. I think Eruch. In Eruch's narrative. You will find it in the "Tales of the New Life." But I saw it. I saw them staring away at the gate of that park and at a distance. And they had brought all things. And they had also brought an enormous kettle of sugar cane juice. You know, just wanting that it will be accepted. Just wanting. And then the word came back. No, they were not disturbing. They were not asked to come and see Him or anything. They just wanted this accepted.

Baba sent word that they could stay there because we were leaving that day. We were there about three days. Anyway, we were leaving that day. And as we were leaving they could just see Him. Not bow. Not say a thing. Simply be there. So I can imagine how thrilled they must have been.

Anyway, when everything was packed and done. And that morning we were leaving. So, Baba just walked on and we were following. I couldn't help turning and looking at this couple who was standing there. And they didn't say a word. They didn't join hands. They were not told anything about Baba. But as Baba passed by, I just saw the tears. The tears were rolling down their cheeks. They just stood there and we went by. I was so touched. They had give us good food and that sugar cane juice, oh! That was a phase when incognito, Baba's power managed to come through among the simplest of. I mean that. He wants. He said He was a companion. We were not to bow down to Him. We were not to acknowledge His Avatarhood or anything like that. And yet that is the time when His majesty came through without anybody saying a word. Even without His name being uttered.

That is the time. Like for instance when were up in Haridwar and this person had arranged for this beautiful place for Baba and all of us to stay there. And to stand up on the terrace and watch

this beautiful procession of the mela, festival of the. It happens once in 12 years. An enormous, big thing.

So as we were going down, Baba told me to convey message to the man who was standing there. Who turned out to be the one who owned the house who had arranged it all. That Baba wants, Baba says. He apologies. He's sorry that He was angry yesterday about this arrangement. Some arrangement hadn't gone right and Baba was disturbed

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So, but you know that's all right. But no, he said, "I shouldn't have done this." So when I went and told him that you know. Baba says forgive Him for having that. That poor man just looked down. I mean he could have just gone through the ground but he couldn't say anything. He just looked like that and went away. Because that was Baba saying forgive me. When you carry a message or something from Baba. Then it's Baba doing it. Like Baba would tell Eruch, go and bow down to so and so. So when he did that it was Baba bowing down because it was.

**ERUCH:** No, but Baba Himself would bow down to us.

**MANI:** Yes. Baba would bow down to you and then you had to go and bow down to? Oh, I didn't know this Eruch.

**PILGRIM 2:** In the New Life?

**ERUCH:** Anytime. New Life or anything. Suppose if Baba has given us an assignment to contact somebody, you see. And give this packet of help to somebody. So always it would be that you would bow down to the person and offer it with love and would say, "Please accept this gift from God and oblige Him." That would be the thing.

When the person is directly in His presence. He would bow down, wash the feet and then bow down. Sometimes bow down and give. So if He is not able to go there to that some place which He thinks of. That I should go and give that. Or somebody. Not myself any mandali would go. So He would of course bow down to us and then He will send. We had to do. Carry it out in proxy He mean to say. Yeah, that's right.