
ALAN CONNIE'S STORY

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Mandali Hall, Meherazad

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ERUCH: Alan Connie's Story - tell us, tell us the story.

MANI: I don't remember the beginning.

ERUCH: I'll tell you the beginning. The beginning is Alan Connie is a teacher, a Baba lover, he comes here sometimes - you may call it often - so once he came here and he told us about his being a teacher and all that and it was fun to hear him and all that. Next time when he came he brought this story to us. He was a teacher and I think in the States the teachers have a Teacher's Day or something - when the school closes they get together, what do you call that?

AM (audience member): Faculty conferences.

ERUCH: Yeah, not conferences but there is a little bit of party-like thing forming amongst themselves.

AM: The last day of school.

ERUCH: The last day of school or something like that.

AM: Yeah, the kids aren't there and the teachers party.

ERUCH: Yeah, yeah. {Laughter}

AM: Not at my school Eruch. {Laughter - and miscellaneous comments}

ERUCH: But then what happens is they sit together and it's the last day, nice day, party and there are drinks also.

MANI: I don't think she said that {Laughter}

ERUCH: Yeah. He did say that. And I said, 'you all have drinks also' and he said 'yeah we drink but a little'. But then what happened is he was to come, that was his last day in school and soon after the school closes, naturally he comes here. So there was some rumor around that Alan was to go to India amongst the teachers. So somebody broached the subject, "We hear you are going to go to India, Alan." So he said "Yeah." "What's there in India? We have heard that you have been there before. What's there, why do you go there?" He tells them 'there is the tomb of Meher Baba whom I revere'. So one of the ladies there, a lady teacher, whom Alan says is in the adjacent class, she teaches to her students there. They meet of course; they greet, meet and all that but there is no such talk of Baba, or anything, no personal talk is there. She looks up and says, "You are going for

Meher Baba?" He says "Yeah." "Oh, I have seen him." "You've seen him? How could that be?" Because Alan now is calculating you know her age and what number of years have passed and Baba has passed away 13 years or 12 years at the time, 11 or 12 years had passed. And he says, "I am talking of Meher Baba you know." She says, "Yeah, Meher Baba. I saw Meher Baba." "But, Meher Baba from India?" She says, "Yes India Meher Baba." He says, "At what age did you see him?" "In 1956 I was I think about 4 or 5 years of age. I still remember. I don't remember anything about it but I remember him." Now (to Mani) you tell us.

MANI: So you see Alan was glad at the chance of talking about India because Alan wanted them to know about Meher Baba and why he goes to India. That he follows Meher Baba. And suddenly he's stunned to find one of them saying, "I've seen Meher Baba." And here he hasn't seen him. So then she explained that she was about 4 years old, 4 or 5, and that her uncle was Polish, and her uncle had come all the way to New York to see Meher Baba. He was a Baba follower. He loved Baba. And so he took his little niece along with him because she wanted to go with him wherever he happened to be going. And she said that it was at the Delmonico Hotel. And there she saw Baba. Now a child's memory - all she remembered is Baba. She does not remember America, she does not remember that great hotel, she doesn't remember the things on the table, she doesn't remember the other people. All she remembers is Baba's smile. She said, "I was led up to Meher Baba." And she said he smiled and she just stood like this. As if it could cover the whole universe - it was just his smile, unending. "And I saw that smile." That was all she remembered.

ERUCH: And then she told Alan that now that he's going to India, can he get the picture of the time, of that time in 1956. So he was trying to find a picture of that to present it to her. And another thing that he said, Alan said, Alan was rather skeptical about it and he tried to find out, you see, how did you know what happened, what was there, were there people around and this...he was interested himself. She said, "I know nothing about it. But I'm definite that I've seen Meher Baba because so often in my household I have another sister at our place and we always point out (I forget the name of that girl). So she says, 'why she is so good because she has seen Meher Baba' That's how it is. So I am definite that I have seen Meher Baba. Because my people say that - elders in the house say that."