
5. ON THE TRAIN WITH BABA

Eruch Jessawala

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

Undated 1970's

44:48

ERUCH: Was after '52 I remember.

PILGRIM 1: After He came to the West.

ERUCH: After He came in US to 1952 and met with the accident and He gave public the opportunity to see Him in the West then He came to India, you [inaudible].

PILGRIM 1: And He [inaudible].

ERUCH: Yeah

PILGRIM 1: For all of the previous years, it was all incognito.

ERUCH: Always, always incognito [inaudible]. Till the New Life, till the wandering of the New Life.

PILGRIM 2: Gosh, I really didn't know that. Except when He was here at Meherabad and everything.

ERUCH: Yeah, His lovers to them of course but in the public when you go out in the marketplace, travels and all, all incognito.

PILGRIM 1: I know that Kitty talked about never being able to say who Baba was. [inaudible] this but even when she first went to Myrtle Beach she was terribly afraid of even saying Baba.

ERUCH: Latest difficulties were like this, but had we told the name it would have

been very easy, because they had heard the name. Name was there, but not to give recognition to that name.

PILGRIM 3: But Eruch, what about like in, we see the Nasik film in '37 was a public darshan. Those were not given generally only.

ERUCH: No, they came for Meher Baba's darshan at that time. But when He would go to the general public like that, His work, He's active while He's doing work, while He's contacting masts, while He's with the lepers, while this, He remains incognito.

When He is busy doing His work, yeah. When He is giving darshan here in Meherabad, there were crowds of people in the early '20s you see when He came over here. On the contrary, Pendu tells us, I was not there, Pendu tells us that how fed up they were of the people who'd come from Ahmednagar.

They didn't know what to do because they were given duties. There were many people there, many sections there and each one was appointed not many hands there, they had to do work till late hours in the night. And when the people would come for His darshan, they would come in bullock carts, tongas at the time they were famous, you know. Ahmednagar tongas were famous.

They would come, they come on foot and cycle and all that. So then Baba would be there, day would pass by in no time and what about the duties at the dispensary, what about the duties at the leper asylum, what about the duty of the wayfarers, who will be there?

What about grinding the, there were no, what do you call, flour mills! We had to grind our own corn, you see, to get dough for whatever chapatis or bhakris or [inaudible].

PILGRIM 2: Traffic jam.

ERUCH: Yeah and all the people will be there by thousands. So they were so fed up of all this, they said Baba how is it possible if they come we here, we can't attend to our duties, what to do now?

Should we tell them? Should we fix a day? "So well," Baba said then, "Well don't say anything. Don't say anything. They will stop coming."

And sure enough, he says he remembers the day, without our telling anything, they came without telling them and they stopped without telling us. There was a day, nobody came and from that day, Baba remained quiet and everything was peaceful, He remained busy with His work and all that. So there was no question of telling people or not telling people.

PILGRIM 1: And all the travels all over India, north, south, east, west and so forth. He was always incognito.

ERUCH: Always incognito, always incognito.

PILGRIM 1: And Baba travelled so many thousands and thousands of miles and we didn't even know about.

ERUCH: Oh yeah, the only reference that we could give is that our elder brother. [pilgrims laugh]. Even the masts would call Him Anna, means elder brother.

PILGRIM 3: Anna, how does that spelled anyway?

ERUCH: A, double N, A.

PILGRIM 3: What did they call Him?

ERUCH: Anna, Anna. Anna means from South India to [inaudible], it was.

PILGRIM 1: So much fighting. So much.

ERUCH: Yeah, upheavals within the country, World War II, and the partition, all the riots and everything.

PILGRIM 1: [inaudible] [crosstalk].

PILGRIM 2: Eruch do you remember saying the other day that it was when imagine during the war that it was quite difficult to travel to get the spaces and things like that on the train.

ERUCH: Well we remember pushing Baba through the window. Lifting Him up and putting Him through the window. There will be one of us from there to take Him inside and what a fight we'll have, but we were strong people, didn't care for these things. Even we used to be, yeah. [crosstalk]

PILGRIM 2: I know and the luggage too.

ERUCH: And the luggage and everything. Huh?

PILGRIM 4: [inaudible] Meher Baba because you guys had to carry.

ERUCH: Yeah, we had nothing to do because Baba was incognito, nobody knows about it. We just pushed our way. We could do that, we were strong people, we knew how to handle them, there would be many fights.

And then this reminds me of another fine thing, real thing that happened. But you know, behind it all was His greatest authority, that we were under the shade of the highest authority, you may call it. And we have that conviction.

So this is another glaring example. I don't know I have told this story to anybody. I don't know. What happened one day we were travelling in train. And at that time, there was this lot of partition had taken place, riots had subsided, those people you see who had become the leaders of the towns and cities, means those who are from the Congress Party and all that. And they wore khadi, khadi caps and everything was fine. They were considered to be the leaders of the public. We were travelling in third class compartment. Baidul was very rough and crude person, he was, he was very good at his job but he was crude, that you have to be very careful with that, he would say things to people like that, [pilgrims laugh] he would just wouldn't care whether he is a saint or a perfect master. He didn't care, he just he was like a bulldozer you know. Just going on and on.

So what happened as we were travelling in Gujarat, those were the days when they

used to tell, they had terrible grudge against Zoroastrians, these people. We would sit on the platform, Baba was with us and they would recognize us as Parsis, Zoroastrians and they would notice us and amongst themselves they would talk in Gujarati. Because Gujarati is Gujarati. And they would say that, "Well, very soon the day will come when these people who call themselves great masters, they will, their wives and their sisters will be working as maids in our house." Baba heard this. Baba heard this. We didn't say anything, we just, means such was the atmosphere, for us, of course in general, not for us, in general.

So that atmosphere, those were the years. So we were one day to having in a third class compartment and it rained a lot. And third class compartments [pilgrims laugh], there is no need to say, you know those who have travelled in India would know this.

Nowadays it's nothing. Formerly, I don't know what had happened. So, nowadays there are many trains, formerly not many trains. So we were travelling, we had our compartment, everything was there. Luckily for us, you know we had to go long distance, few of us, we were passing through Gujarat and Bombay just now. I think it was Nadiad Station, I remember that station. There's a stronghold of Gujarati leaders and all that.

PILGRIM 2: About six or seven of you or something?

ERUCH: Hmm?

PILGRIM 2: About six or seven of you or something?

PILGRIM 3: How many of you were there?

ERUCH: Four of us who were there by myself, Baidul, Kaka Baria, Chhagan Master. Four of us were there and Baba, means five. And luckily for us, we had taken our seats, means pressure as usual through the windows and all that. But we could go to the other side during the journey, to the other side. You know, sometimes it so happens when a train goes the stations are always on this side. Platforms come on this. So we were on the opposite side.

So we were, all four of us were there and Baba, Baba was by my side and Baidul and Chhagan and Kaka, all were there. We had occupied one bench near the window side. Baidul was sitting at the door side, you know there are two doors, one towards the platform, opens on the platform, the other on the other side. So we were seated. We had nothing to do, we just sat very late in the night. We were there, we had to keep awake and all that. And in that rush, what a rush there was! In that rush, I didn't know anything about it, I didn't personally know, I had nothing to do with it.

So I was by, Baidul was there, I was sitting, then Baba, by the side of Baba, Kaka Baria and Chhagan. So we were in the train had come to a halt at a big station. The station name, as I said was Nadiad and knowing fully well, there was a lot of rush at the platform side, so somebody thought it would be nice for him to enter by the other door. You know, that other side. So he did open the door and he entered and Baidul as usual, if he had little sense, what have we to do with these people, you see if they enter or not enter? We have to do our work. But what he did at that time, he

just with his iron hand you know, he just did this to that person and that fellow went fell down.

PILGRIM 3: He threw out of the compartment?

ERUCH: Yeah?

PILGRIM 3: Threw out of the train?

Eruch: He did like this to him and said, "Get out from here! Why do you enter like this?" And he fell down. That's what he said. Later on of course, what happened I don't know, but he was using some harsh words and pushed this man and shut the door, you see, with a huff. Just that! [pilgrims laugh]. All right it's past, past.

He didn't realise who the man was. He was the mayor of the place. And just imagine now what happens to us. So nothing, it was all quiet. People had rushed in, people are rushing. So he entered, from the right side, on the right side now. He looked at, he looked at us. No, then what happened, from there he started shouting, "I will show you, I will see that you people get a." What do you call?

PILGRIM 3: Punishment?

ERUCH: No, no, they call it charge sheet. "I will see that you get charge sheet and you are thrown out of this train." He was shouting like that. So.

PILGRIM 4: What's the word?

ERUCH: Charge sheet. [crosstalk]

PILGRIM 4: [inaudible] ticket or something [inaudible].

ERUCH: Something. Charge sheet where you are charged for something.

PILGRIM 2: In a [inaudible]

ERUCH: Hmm?

PILGRIM 4: An arrest record?

PILGRIM 2: Like not in a [inaudible]?

PILGRIM 4: Like a summons [inaudible] up here.

ERUCH: So all that Baba said, "Why did he do like that?" So He started saying this, "Keep quiet now, don't speak a word," Baba says.

PILGRIM 5: Baba says [inaudible] Baidul?

ERUCH: And He tells me to go and sit at the door. Baidul's side [pilgrims laugh and clap] and He takes Baidul on His side. I was feeling, I don't know what to say. Well we'll see, we will see what is going to happen.

So we just remained seated and soon the train is delayed, we don't know why the train is not moving and the lot of, you know, we could see the atmosphere and you can hear people, there are many other khadi cap and Congress cap and khadi clad people there. They all entered and he comes there and points at me, [pilgrim laughs] "He's the one who shoved me, you know and then he tells the Station Police Department [pilgrim laughs], they have come with their full dress, uniform and all that. Says, "This is the man who shoved me out and I fell down. Yeah, I hurt myself and all that."

So I looked at him. I didn't say anything. I didn't say anything. I just remained calm. And he's accusing me and "There are so many people in the carriage, you see they are all witnesses. Did you not notice this?"

Say, "Yes." They all said yes because he is the mayor, they knew it, because they were all Gujaratis there.

I just kept quiet. So he says, "Take statement. Take their statement. Take the statement of all the passengers here, they are the witnesses and then charge sheet them."

Well, we just kept quiet. We said nothing. Then he got down with a huff, he got down from that compartment. He ordered them, so then these police people come, you see. So instead of asking us anything, they all started, each passenger, each one tells a blatant lie. All made up stories. We are hearing it.

PILGRIM 5: That they are saying.

ERUCH: Yeah, they are saying things and all that sort of thing. And all that the person comes to me, in the course he has taken half the compartment, the witnesses statements, all sheet after sheet. [pilgrims laugh] While the train is moving now. Then he comes to me.

"Have you anything to say?"

I said, "Yes."

"What is it?"

I said, "We did not do anything. I didn't do anything."

PILGRIM 4: Not since I've been sitting here.

ERUCH: I said, "I, I didn't do anything."

He says, "But don't you realise these are the witnesses they say that you shoved him out there and he fell down. They have witnessed that.

"Oh, I see, he fell down?"

And he says, "Aren't you all witnesses to the fact that there was torrential rain at the station when we had stopped the train. Wasn't there any rainfall?"

Says, "Yes there was rain."

I said, "Suppose if a person were to fall down and he had spotlessly clean dress on him, you had noticed that, was there any stain there?" So he just looked at me.

That's how I said, you see. That's what I said. Simply that, was there any stain there? He didn't say anything. He didn't want to commit himself. This is what I have to say, and I kept quiet. Then again started taking witnesses [pilgrims laugh] and then they said, "No he was the one who shoved him and all that." This started, you won't believe beyond this little statement that I gave, nobody took the statement of Baba or any of the Baidul or Chhagan or Kaka, nothing of this sort, nothing.

Then this, our station came after four hours, you see. We just got down from it, heaved a sigh of relief. Baba says, "Come on, let's get out of the station. [pilgrims laugh and clap]

That's how we got out. I don't know what made those people blind not even taking statement or anything from us or signature, nothing, nothing of this sort. They kept themselves busy taking the statement of the witnesses there. [pilgrims laugh]

PILGRIM 6: Anybody [inaudible] seeing you switch places with Baidul?

ERUCH: No but confusion you know, Laurie, you have no idea, people just get hypnotised, you see, with the crowd. They have no idea as to what's happening. Very subtly, Baba simply said, "You come here and change."

So I thought that well, He is asking me because Baidul will blurt out things and I will be the person if somebody asks in English I can at least reply or in Gujarati or something because Baidul's Gujarati was horrible too, he spoke Persian, yeah. So, that, that's how it happened. Very critical situation. Otherwise it would have been a terrible thing for us.

PILGRIM 4: Is this story a long story?

ERUCH: Yeah, so such are the things that we have to encounter. Then there's another, the story reminds me of another episode.

What happened was that, same, same period, but we were now the guests of the commissioner of the place, who was a Baba follower. Very great person, he was honoured and loved by the Government. He was a Parsi, his name was Jal Kerawala, you may have heard that name. So he was the one, so, we were his guests in that and we were shy you see of going to back to the station, how will we get into the compartment? What about the

accommodation? What will happen? All the time it would be like that, you see. As Rano says collywobbles, is there a word like that?

PILGRIM 2: Yeah, stomach. [crosstalk]

ERUCH: Stomach you get that. It is like that all the time. So as the train would come puffing inside, you see, oh my, what to do now? How to get inside? Where will we find the accommodation, like that. We will be ready, you see behind Baba to push Him up through a window. Somebody has to rush inside and get inside first and then we can push Baba and the train is going to leave and all this sort of thing you see.

So with this, there was nothing, there was calm and peace because we were with the authority. Not authority of the town but the whole district was under him. So he had made arrangements, so whole carriage was reserved for us. [pilgrims laugh] Only 4 of us, carriage of 64. All were made to get down, you see. They were all taken out by the police, get up, get up. This is reserved, reserved.

So then he says, "Baba travel happily, hope you have a comfortable journey." Baba is very happy and He embraces Jal Kerawala and we are all happy and all that.

Baba says, "Now lie down." Means have a good, just lie down, take rest on your backs. Carriage of 64 for only five of us. So we were there. Little did we know what was in store for us. [pilgrims laugh] So, well we enjoyed. One Junction after another junction. [sound of clock chiming] The next junction is, one Junction we, you know those fast trains they don't stop at small stations, they stop at Junctions so we

call them here big stations, big cities and big stations.

So one junction passed by happily, we were very nice. Gustadji was there with us, he was also having good rest. And second junction, what a crowd and all the military, without our knowledge, the guard had said, military, reserved for military on the outside here scribbled in chalk. So all the military people came inside and they came inside and we said, "It's reserved."

He says, "On what authority you say?" These people, military people, they are very rough and crude people.

He says, "What authority?"

I said, "Authority? We have sat there from that station, you see and it was reserved for us and we are coming, we are travelling like that."

Says, "No, call the guard."

"You call the guard if you want and we have no courage to call the guard because we didn't have, make it, make any reservations or anything and third class, nobody reserves third class. We can say it like that you see, we can't prove it. Although we have the backing of the commissioner, but commissioner means, far beyond the districts, two districts have passed, no more jurisdiction there.

So we kept quiet. So we made Baba lie down there and we sat there. And so there was another military person, Baba was lying here and the military person was here, he sat there. And then he sat like this you see, because we sat down, carriage was all vacant so all these people sat, some lied down, lay themselves down.

And this man who was by Baba's feet, Baba's head was there and I remained seated by His head. He was lying down. So he sat there, like this, you see. Gradually he started slipping, you see, because the train rolled down. We had a [inaudible], we kept quiet, we overlooked all this, everything was fine.

So gradually as the train moved, the [inaudible] was sleepy and he just slides down and down with his legs like that you know and then he gradually pushes his way forward and pushes those people out. His own personal [inaudible], and he has his legs there because huge boots there, Baba is bare feet. He goes on pushing Baba's feet like that, you see.

PILGRIM 4: You are seeing this?

ERUCH: I'm seeing this. So I got so wild, you know. In the meantime, he was lying there with his feet there on Baba's feet. So Baba just took His feet down like this. Means, He took His feet and brought them in. So then he, naturally he couldn't spread himself, spread out. And I couldn't tolerate. So what I did was, I said, "Hey." I woke him up. "Don't you see that my elder brother is lying here and He needs rest?"

He says, "So what? Don't I need rest?" [pilgrims laugh]

"Don't I need rest? We are fighters."

"Yeah, you are fighters but see that you don't kick an elderly person like that. You are kicking with your boots, you don't know because you are asleep. I didn't want to disturb you. But you are harming my elder brother."

So he just went to sleep as if he ignored me. I lost my temper. I lifted his leg, you see and I just threw them down.

PILGRIM 4: And he went flying down?

ERUCH: Yeah, he went [inaudible]. [pilgrims laugh] So terrible upheaval you know military person like that, you see. And they all started telling me things, you know, and I tried to defend and so forth verbal exchange is all going up and down.

And then, Baba said, keep quiet. I just kept quiet. So he again, everything was silent again. So he again started doing that. I again started getting up, I said, "Hey, don't do that. If you want to sleep, sleep properly, but don't you try to kick my elder brother like that."

So it went on and he started kicking and kicking, pushing further with vengeance now, you see. So Baba took His feet inside more and more just doing that Baba sat down. And I couldn't tolerate this, again I started flaring up.

Baba said to me, "If you speak a single word more, I tell you, I will pull the chain and get down." Means you know, when you pull the chain.

PILGRIM 4: It's Emergency.

ERUCH: Emergency. I'll get down if you speak a single word more. So I remained quiet. What can I do? Helpless. You are, He told us, all of us, never speak a word, enough of all this headache.

PILGRIM 5: He didn't use the alphabet board?

ERUCH: No, He used to, we used to converse like that even before He dropped the board. We were well versed with this sort of thing.

So we just sat quiet. I still remember after a couple of Junctions. And Baba also sat. We were so sad about the whole thing, you know. We had the whole compartment to ourselves now we don't have a place to sit properly. So we are sitting quietly, so we are sad. From our looks, I don't know. So this happened, the ticket collector comes. "Ticket ticket ticket." So they have the vouchers and of course he doesn't care for the military. He cares for the civilians and we are there only civilians.

He says, "What about the ticket?" So I just took out the ticket. We just kept quiet, not a word, you know. So he checks the ticket, they were all right. He says, "Why are you all sad?"

So we can't say! [Eruch and pilgrims laugh]

So he looks at us, "Somebody has died at your place? You are going to somebody?"

PILGRIM 2: Oh my god.

ERUCH: He says. [inaudible] "But why are you all sad? What's the matter? He just looked at us and left us. He even said that, "Why are you all so sad?"

PILGRIM 8: You couldn't even answer for that.

PILGRIM 2: You remember the one where the soldiers for some reason are fighting among themselves?

ERUCH: Oh yeah, that's it, I have told them many times. That was another thing. Lot of things like that, you see. Horrible, horrible tales are there. Another thing that something's very humorous also. Just shut this tape recorder.

You now rags and empty baskets and many things were there, so he would collect, he had collected lot of them. So once we had, we were on a long journey, and he had collected a lot of stuff of that sort. And he being an old man, naturally the responsibility was of Vishnu to see to the luggage.

While we were trying to take Baba inside the compartment, Vishnu had to see that luggage also entered, means he had to count the pieces and all that sort of thing.

One station while we were boarding the train it so happened that all this [foreign language] as we call it, [foreign language] means rubbish, in addition to our luggage, so Vishnu was taking great pains, because we had also vested interest in this, what you call [foreign language] which is rubbish.

Why? What is the vested interest is that later on when this is sold in the market, there is a demand for this, all empty baskets, newspapers, so they weigh and then they give money. And from the money we used to buy candies [pilgrims laugh]. We had the vested interest. That's why we were doing all this, otherwise why should we do?

Poor Gustadji would take the trouble and we under such ridiculous circumstances on the station platform and go after a chit of paper that is there flying, go after, catch them, get the thing, all that. He would do

that, but our duty was to see that it's all bundled properly and taken and sold eventually.

PILGRIM 8: [inaudible]

ERUCH: Hmm?

PILGRIM 8: And then you have the candy?

ERUCH: Yeah, then you have a candy. So we used to do that. So we had that vested interest but we were fed up of all these things. After all with the candy, what is all? All the trouble is in vain like that, you see. What is a candy after all?

So Vishnu was, well, he had remarked once well, because this heap of rubbish was increasing and unfortunately that day in that hurry and scurry, one of our suitcases was missing when we boarded the train because of the rubbish, because all the rubbish was heaped properly but we missed, we lost one of our suitcases. And as soon as we boarded the train, we had settled and each one naturally looks whether his bag is there or not, each one's responsibility.

So somebody says that, "Where is my luggage? Where's my suitcase? I don't see my suitcase." So Vishnu started counting you know, sure enough, there was one missing. Vishnu got so wild! When Baba says, "What happened? You were in charge of it. Why didn't you see?"

And he, it had all come to his lips now. So he burst, says, "Because of him! All the rubbish he collects, you see and we have to see to it and all that." And he just, and Baba then even pressed him all the more and he lost his temper. He opened the door in the running train and he started

throwing all the rubbish one after the other. Gustadji is trying to retrieve. He says, "No, get out from here!" [pilgrims laugh] Everything was thrown out.

PILGRIM 9: What was Baba's attitude to being there in those settings? Just taking part in it?

ERUCH: Just like everybody else. Enjoying, most of the time.

PILGRIM 8: Did Gustadji collect the rubbish under Baba's instructions?

ERUCH: No, no. Baba overlooked all this, it was his nature.

PILGRIM 10: He would collect anything.

PILGRIM 11: Gustadji would collect all the stuff and Baba would just [inaudible].

ERUCH: Yeah, He would ignore. He would just smile sometimes. Sometimes He would help Gustadji [pilgrims laugh] while going on the platform, Baba would point us "See look" [inaudible]. And Gustadji would go and collect, in the meantime the wind blows and Gustadji runs after, [pilgrims laugh] all that.

We were children at the same time grown ups, rough, tough, everything mixed, combination of all this.

PILGRIM 11: Band of merry men.

ERUCH: Yeah, you may call it that way. The desperate people, desperate men. But there were real good days with Him. No doubt about it.

PILGRIM 8: When you were travelling like that, did I know they say when Baba was

travelling in the plane coming to the States that kids would just stop and be fascinated by Him. Were people often drawn to you, to Baba?

ERUCH: To Baba, yeah.

PILGRIM 8: I know I've heard some stories which you had difficulty explaining to put people off.

ERUCH: Yeah, but we can put them off very easily, because Baba would put thoughts in our mind that way. All sorts of thoughts would come, you see. Spontaneously. But the thing that gave me real great chuckle and to all those who were by my side is that I which I always quote, you see, when people recognise Him and would say that, "Is He Meher Baba?"

All of a sudden, I didn't know what to say now. The thought, He poured that thought in my mind. "What did you say? That is He Meher Baba? What?" So he took me, he took it for granted that I don't know who Meher Baba is so He cannot be Meher Baba. You follow?

PILGRIM 8: Without saying a lie.

ERUCH: Without saying a lie. We had to do all this sort of thing. But on the spur of the moment you had to be very alert. There was a case once, we were seated on a station platform. And we were waiting for a train. Open platform, very small station, no roof on the platform. We were there in midsummer there, sitting on the bedding rolls we had and we were waiting for the next train to come. So we sat there. So as we sit, you know, just as there is a complaint by you people, some of you people that people there in the market

they gaze at us, they look at us but same thing with us.

Whenever we go to different parts of India, same thing that happens with us also. They look at us. Who are these people? What's the matter? Who are these people? Like that.

So they were, two of people there, stood there and looked at us. And we never spoke or anything like that, we just kept seated. They came, they stood there and we didn't, we used to ignore them so we just, we remained seated. Then what happened is, then two more came seeing the two, seeing the four, four more came and there was a big circle around and we were seated quietly and they didn't know why there were so many people around. Afterwards, they didn't know and if you had asked, "Why are you standing?" Nobody would say anything. But they came and stood there and they looked, they continued to look at Baba.

PILGRIM 8: Would Baba be looking back at them or He would just be looking around?

ERUCH: No, just like that.

PILGRIM 8: Up in the air, up in the air.

ERUCH: Yeah, not at anybody, just like that. So then what would happen, what happened once was, this was a very good thing. In that crowd came a woman. A woman was standing there and even noticing Baba, watching Baba. And I didn't know what inspired her or anything of that sort. Why did she say it, we don't know.

So what she said is, "Why do you all waste your time like this? Why don't you take

Him? To a place here, there is a good place here. There is a shrine of a great saint and if you were to ask for speech for Him, you will surely get speech. How handsome, how young He is and He cannot speak, I know it. Why don't you go there and invoke the blessings of the saint there?

So then, naturally we had to say something otherwise it is embarrassing for Baba now. So we say, "It's all right, yeah, thank you for telling us. We will think about it."

She says, "No, no, there is no need to waste your time, go now, go now, there is still time."

We say, "Our train will be coming any moment."

"No, no, still time. You go there."

"Next time we will see about it, see about it" That's how it would be. So, with her all feelings you see, for Baba who cannot speak and He is so young, so handsome, why don't you go. Go, go, He will speak good.

My heart would tell about these people, that well, about, who is going to explain all these things?

PILGRIM 9: You should have [inaudible] her. Probably taken her to the shrine in silence.

ERUCH: Provided He would come. He wouldn't come.

There was another congressman you see, while travelling. We thought that well this compartment is to ourselves at that time, luckily we got one compartment, small

compartment to ourselves. Nobody was there.

And Baba then all planned ahead you see, that we will play cards. We had taken a pack of cards also, after that incident we continued to take pack of cards with us. So He knew that. So then we'll play cards and all that, nice comfortable and all that.

One station passed by and there was, some passengers came, so we would say that you please go ahead this is reserved. We would say everything, anything. And it was reserved by us for us. Meaning everything, everything was forgiven to us. So we would say things so that would put them off. The respected people are there, it must be so they will go.

So there was one leader, congress leader who came. He says, "What do you mean by reserved? There is no board here."

"Yeah, but it is reserved by us, we have been travelling like that. So we would like to be by ourselves, you see. There is lot of room now in the train, it's not overcrowded, you can go there."

"No, why should I go there? Can I not travel here? Have I not the right to travel in this compartment?"

"You have a right but you should realise how tired we are and we would like to be to ourselves and have a little rest, please go."

We would be like that too, you see. Who won't be very rude or rough like that. So Baba is seeing to all this. Baba is there, quietly sitting down and I am arguing with that man.

“No” he says, “I must go.” He opened the door and he pushed himself with his foot there and put his trunk inside and everything there.

PILGRIM 8: Alone? He came alone?

ERUCH: He came with a coolie. What do you call coolie? What do you call?

PILGRIM 8: Porter.

ERUCH: Porter, porter. So his trunk was there, he put the trunk inside, he shoved it inside and then came sat there. In spite of our requests, such requests, it was nothing short of pleading and begging, asking him to leave us alone. He sat.

PILGRIM 11: Baidul wasn't there?

ERUCH: Baidul was there.

PILGRIM 11: [inaudible]

ERUCH: He also said, he spoke and all that. So then what happened, Baba tells us now, where His silence was huge, perfectly was under such circumstances. Because if He had spoken loudly, the man would have heard, but we who knew His silence, we could know what He means by in silence, so we could understand. So He says, “None of you speak. Keep quiet. Keep silent.” So He.

PILGRIM 8: Was he testing you? Is that?

ERUCH: Yeah. So we remained silent and then when we remained silent then we said, means amongst us we couldn't speak but with Him. Ok, so, now we realised what He's meaning by you see. So immediately we started out you see and then Gustadji starts with his this and he is

telling some hilarious joke and we laugh and we speak out and we talk amongst ourselves and all that.

So he comes to me, he was sitting by my side near the door. So he says, “Where are you all going?” So I just looked at him [pilgrims laugh] and didn't say and we continued to talk with him and we started talking anything, you see and then we overdid all this and he quite often, “From where have you all come?”

I said nothing, look at him. Total look you see of disgust [pilgrims laugh] so that's what Baba wanted us to do. So it worked miraculously.

Next station, you see, he waited for the train to stop at the station. He was in such a great hurry to get out from this lunatic asylum. He called, he started shouting, “Porter, porter, coolie, coolie, coolie.”

So then he opened the door and then Baba told us to thank him. Shake hands with him, thank him. He said, “You thank him.” We helped the man, he wanted to, we said we will put it. We start speaking to him and he left.

PILGRIM 8: So you guys were nice.

ERUCH: So Baba then tells us he deserved that. He deserved that. Such are the.

PILGRIM 12: First I think that Baba's silent, then I have to remember Gustadji is silent and then you all keep quiet, no one says a word. [pilgrim laughs]

PILGRIM 11: Can you tell me the story of when Baba had Gustadji break his silence to produce a few sentences?

ERUCH: No, not Gustadji, it was another person who came for the Amartithi. That man with the beard and the big bunch of bun here. Mauni Baba, he was the one.

PILGRIM 11: I didn't say it was Gustadji. He was this.

ERUCH: [inaudible] not in my hearing.

PILGRIM 12: Nine or ten years or something like that to prove that he.

ERUCH: In Guruprasad it was, there were doctors who had came and says, "We have heard that you are observing silence for so many years."

He says "Yeah. this silence for my universal work, I don't speak. But I can speak."

They say, "It's impossible. From medical point of view you will not be able to speak."

But Baba says, "This silence is quite different, I can speak. When I want I will break my silence and speak."

"But according to medical, our medical profession it's impossible for the vocal chords to function after some seven year period." Or something they said.

So then Baba, instead of arguing with that man, He looked around and that man was there. This man who, who every time he comes for the Amartithi. He called him, asked him, means in gesture, "How many years you have kept silence?"

So he said that, "Ten."

So I said, "Ten years?"

So he says, "Yeah."

Baba then orders him, "Break your silence and speak the name of God loudly."

So he breaks his silence and spoke out, "Parabrahma Paramatma."

So his ten years silence, that's all.

PILGRIM 12: And he started to talk again right after that?

ERUCH: Then He says, "Keep silence."

PILGRIM 9: Is he still silent?

PILGRIM 13: I missed that. Is this fellow still silent? And was he silent on Baba's orders to begin with?

PILGRIM 9: He is still silent?

ERUCH: Still silent.

PILGRIM 13: What's his name?

ERUCH: Mauni Baba, Mauni means silent, one who observes silence.

PILGRIM 12: He was, didn't get it on his own and Baba said for him to continue with it?

ERUCH: Continue with it.

PILGRIM 12: Yeah.

ERUCH: But it was, he wanted to break the silence so Baba said no. Continue with it, keep silence. He had observed silence for two or three years when he came in contact. I think Bal Natu brought him.

PILGRIM 11: Yeah, yeah.

ERUCH: So, so, that's how it was. So then Baba told him. Keep continuing. From the Baba's orders he was continuing his silence.

PILGRIM 14: He started his silence before he met Baba.

ERUCH: Yeah, there are many people in India who observe silence like that.

PILGRIM 9: I remember someone in, something about Baba saying that there are many who do that but there are almost none of them leave the total life of activity [inaudible] as Baba does.

ERUCH: Yes, these people lead a secluded life and all that. He only mixes when he comes for Amartithi otherwise he remains quiet. We had seen not only people observing silence but people standing on one foot, one leg for years together. There leg becomes like a pillar. Some have got a little cradle like that, you see. One leg and cradle like that. And all sorts of [inaudible].

PILGRIM 15: They sleep standing?

ERUCH: Yes, they sleep also standing. So what they do, you know how they sleep? So they stand on one leg, like that, they stand on one leg, you see and then they have the special things like that and all that. [sound of bell] But then what happens is that [inaudible] and there is sort of a swing for them and there is a platform there. So they just rest standing. [inaudible] [crosstalk].

[gap in tape] What you find is that infinite eternal existence that means, that implies there is no nook and corner where I am not. Even that nook and corner.