
MANONASH

Eruch Jessawala

Mandali Hall, Meherabad, India

January 25, 1979

07:54

(Birds chirping)

WALTER: When you were telling that story of statues, it had reminded me and I'm very vague in my memory in remembering something associated with Baba, that he had statues at one time, I believe on Seclusion Hill. Where there was some ceremony or some ritual or something?

ERUCH: No, the thing is that, it was not a statue but the ...

MAN #2: Model.

ERUCH: Models of the Church, and Temple and Pagoda, and Mosque and, a Synagogue and all that sort of thing, you see.

MAN #2: Fire temple.

ERUCH: Fire temple. It was like that....

MAN #3: There wasn't a Synagogue was there?

ERUCH: Fire temple. It was like that, yeah.

MAN #4: They're in the office?

ERUCH: They are in the office. So, at the time of Manonash phase of the New Life, he had them placed in front of him, what he did we don't know. But when he announced one particular day, that his work is completed, then he asked me to bring paper and pencil and I brought it. And I don't know the exact words but it amounted to this, being that, 'all rights, rituals and ceremonies of all world religions are put to fire.' That's all he made me write there....and then he kept it with him in his pocket, that slip, and in the evening, when after sunset he said, 'light a fire' there was a pit dug behind the cabin, this cabin that you see here, [inaudible man speaking 1:51], no, no, from top - the cabins were on top of the hill, Walter, two cabins. Then after working there for some time, some days, he asked us to bring the two cabins down and make into one, and when the cabin was made into one, the cabin that stands now, so he completed the phase of Manonash in that cabin. With the models and all there. And then he said to us, in the morning he said, get the

paper and pencil and all, and then told us to dig a pit behind it. At sunset time he said, 'light fire' light dhuni there in that pit, so, and he said call all the Mandali. All of us were all around him. When he was at the time of Manonash working there only four were with him. The companions in New Life. And the rest were not there, they were here but they were partitioned. So when they came back, naturally they were called so they came. So they were all around the dhuni and then he said read this out again, he took it out from his pocket and says read this, he told me to read it out so I read out, then he took this, and put this in fire, the slip of paper.

MAN #2: He carried it around?

ERUCH: He carried with him all day. And then the evening he made me read out when the fire was lighted.

MAN #3: What was the message again?

ERUCH: All rights, rituals and ceremonies of all world religions are put to fire.

MAN #2: Burned up?

ERUCH: Burned up. And then he burned it [inaudible].

WALTER: But did he carry it around much longer than that one day?

ERUCH: No, that's morning, evening. In the morning he made me write.

WALTER: Oh, just that morning?

ERUCH: Yeah, just that morning he made me write. But he said his work is finished. He made me write that, he had dictated, and I did not know why he wanted us to write that, I never knew what he was trying to do. Then he simply said, dig a pit there and repair.

WALTER: But he had the statues of the mosque and church and the synagogue at that period after the Manonash?

ERUCH: No, it was from the time of the Manonash when it began, it was in Hyderabad it began. 500 miles away from here. So we began the Manonash phase there and I think it was on 16th of October 1951 we started it. And then we started coming here.

WALTER: But what I am asking is when was it during that time that he had these little statues and images of the churches and the mosque. Was it during the Manonash period or after the Manonash period?

ERUCH: During the Manonash period.

WALTER: On top of the hill?

ERUCH: No, Yeah. So during the Manonash. Do you know when Manoash started? It didn't start here on the Hill, it was a continuation on the Hill, it was a combination here in this cabin here. But it began in Hyderabad. It is a city, a big city. There was a cave called Kudja Buddha and inside that cave for the first time he asked us to place those things there. And he would be there. He started working there. Then maybe after some days, after I think about ten days or twelve days, I forget the time. He says, collect all these things, let's go out on foot. So we collected and all and we started, we left the place. Then we started heading towards this site not knowing that we would be coming to Meherazad, we had no contact with of Meherazad [inaudible]. So we just wandered and came towards this site. And he saw the two cabins and he says 'let's go here' so we came up the hill, and he continued the Manonash phase there and then he continued here. That's what he did.

DARA: So the cabins were already there?

ERUCH: Yeah

DARA: They were for the seclusion work?

ERUCH: Yeah, they were initially for seclusion work.

DARA: and they remained there?

ERUCH: they remained there when we left the new life

DARA: So when did you bring them down during that Manonash period?

ERUCH: Yeah, Manonash period.

DARA: and when they were brought down, some of you still remained on top?

ERUCH: Yeah, till such time [skip] they were being built here but it took only a day or so it was a quick work being done. We dismantled there and we stayed there the next day, or two days at the most, in the meantime all the parts were being dismantled [inaudible] brought down here and then in the meantime there preparing the frame, as soon as they came there nothing but a wooden framework, you had to just put the frame there and mainly the sheets just the asbestos sheets there, what's there to finish that, it doesn't take more than a day when you have the material, to get the thing done.

WALTER: You say that the Manonash period of Baba's work here was the most intense work that Baba had done while he was here in the physical form?

ERUCH: I don't know whether it was Manonash which was the most intent [sic] or anything of the sort. But it must have been because it has to do with the mind. Not his mind. [Man's voice inaudible ...universal] . It was yeah otherwise it would be something very disastrous you see, if he would to annihilate his mind, for us all.

WALTER: But you could feel the intensity of that period?

ERUCH: Yeah. But Walter to be very frank and to be truthful. We now sit back and try to recall those things, when you remind us whether it was 'did we feel the intensity', 'was it like that?'. You see....[end of recording at 7:55].