
Silence; Swimming in the Muck

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Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

Undated 1970's

31:56

ERUCH: Your Auntie?

PILGRIM 1: Oh, yes.

ERUCH: It's [inaudible].

PILGRIM 1: Yes, one more.

ERUCH: Your mother?

PILGRIM 1: Yeah.

ERUCH: On the day that Baba dropped His body without knowing it.

PILGRIM 1: Yeah.

ERUCH: For the whole day.

ERUCH: So this is, this is another story that I [inaudible], because of my cousin, I remember who told me this story.

PILGRIM 2: [Inaudible].

ERUCH: What, my cousin, another cousin who is in Bombay. He was in the habit of sending birthday greetings to Baba when Baba was informed. Now to send both the greetings to the God-Man means how to send, may you live long in peace and be happy and let us have many happy returns of the day. [Pilgrims laugh] Can you send that? We can't send, have you ever realised how to send birthday Greetings to Baba now. What to do now? So he thought of an ingenious plan, you see. He knew

that Baba was very fond of the couplets of Hafiz, you know, Hafiz. So every birthday time, just before birthday, he would open Hafiz and whatever came there, he would write and send to Baba as His birthday greeting. He'll make a mention, "Baba, we once again enjoy your birthday. How blessed we are, how blessed humanity is that you are in our midst. And here is what Hafiz says about you, says.

Every time it would be so apt and he would be very happy to send the greetings. He'll decorate the whole page and flower decorations and all sorts of things you do. He was an artist. He would send this, but he would send it not on 25th of February, he being as orthodox Zoroastrian, he would adhere to the Zoroastrian calendar, the Irani calendars on the date that, that Baba on that day that when Baba was delivered by the mother at 5:00 AM, you see and so forth. That comes sometime somewhere near the first week of February or something like that. So, to in order that it should reach Baba by before the week, the first weekend. Is it very painful? Take medicine.

PILGRIM 3: I Did.

ERUCH: So in order that it should reach Baba before the 7th of February. He had to prepare it. Say at the month end, that is January end.

Now, It so happened that in 1969, January end was approaching, he works in a Bank. So he came one day from his Bank, It was 31st January evening. He had come from the bank and he sat there, had a bath and all that. And he thought that I'm getting very late, he must do something and then start all the decorations and all that and write that Persian couplet in nice handwriting and then English translation for our benefit would read out to Baba and all that. So he opened and you know what he found? Hafiz says, "That well you intend to write a letter to the one."

PILGRIM 4: How can I write a letter to the one who resides everywhere.

ERUCH: No, whose address is, how will you address, how will you?

PILGRIM 4: Yes.

ERUCH: How will he, how will, how will I address a letter to the one who resides everywhere?

So my cousin says, what is this today? How will I address my letter to the one who resides everywhere? So he says, how can that be? What, what should, what does that mean for birthday? You see, it's not good [inaudible] and he was very sad, you know. What happened this time? It was, it was 31st January, evening time.

PILGRIM 5: And Baba dropped his body at 12.15, 31st.

ERUCH: 31st, between 12 and 12:15, noon, Yeah.

PILGRIM 5: And he had not heard, not.

ERUCH: Not heard yet. He had just come from his office there. He had not heard this, It's five o'clock or something like that now. Six must be after he's back. So he sits there and then he was disappointed. So then he took it upon himself that, well, he, not with a pure mind he has opened the book it seems. Because it is said when you open Hafiz, Hafiz tells the truth.

So, well, he again, ventured to open it and then something else came and then he, it was a consolation, so to say, nothing but just, he's tried to write, in the meantime, he heard that Baba, over the radio in the night, in the news.

PILGRIM 6: Eruch, it comes on the radio?

ERUCH: Yeah, all of us, so many days it came. That's why so many people, you know, missed seeing His body. Because every time on the radio, it'll come like that, that His body is to be covered now. Now this is the last day when His body is open and the next day it'll be covered.

And those who didn't dare to come, you see, whether covered or uncovered, they were left, they were left behind, they didn't come. But those who dared to come, whether it is covered or not, we had to go.

So they had the opportunity for eight days. [Eruch laughs]

It is wrong, it is wrongly reported that He decided to speak, it's not that. Mouni Baba was doing it.

Joy, why did you sleep early in the night?

PILGRIM 7: Pardon me?

ERUCH: You have been observing silence for so many years. It's impossible for you to speak. Even if you wish to speak, you won't be able to speak now. It was in a big company. People were all around you.

So Baba says, "It's not that my silence is not the silence you see of all these people who observed silence and or who have their atrophy vocal chord and all that. It's not, that has nothing to do with that."

He says, "But medical profession says that, medically it is reported that if the vocal cord is not kept in disuse for a year, over a year, it gets atrophied, you cannot speak then." You follow? [inaudible]

So he calls, [crosstalk] what's his name? Mouni Baba, Mouni Baba, Mouni means silence, Baba means Baba, small child or big grownup or anything. So He calls Mouni Baba, whom he had told to observe silence, Baba. He says, "Come here." So he comes.

PILGRIM 8: How long?

ERUCH: Huh?

PILGRIM 8: For how long has he been keeping silence?

PILGRIM 9: For more than 10 years.

ERUCH: 10 years. More than 10 years.

PILGRIM 8: Keeping silence for 10 years.

ERUCH: Yeah. [crosstalk] So if he has come.

PILGRIM 9: Officially met Baba after a known silence for 7 years.

ERUCH: So He says, "Come here." He comes, he stands there, he, he's a venerable person with a long beard, huge bun on his head, you see, you know you have seen this Swamis, you know?

PILGRIM 10: Yeah.

ERUCH: Special type of dress and all that. So he comes and stands, says, Baba says, "How many years you have been observing silence?"

Silence this is silence. So he says, like that, "10". So then, so Baba tells these people that he's observing silence for 10 years now, so that means he won't be able to speak.

He says, "No, according to medical profession, he can't speak, he can't utter words". So then what happened? He, Baba tells him to, to speak out God's name.

PILGRIM 11: Yes, Parabrahma.

ERUCH: Parabrahma, Parmatama. So He says, well, alright, show them that you can speak, speak out. I order you to now speak out. Speak out the name of Parabrahma, Parmatama. No, Baba told you to speak. Speak.

PILGRIM 11: Name of God.

ERUCH: Name of God. So he had heard about it, that Baba wants those who are there to speak out Parabrahma, Parmatama. So he gave a loud noise. He spoke, "Parabrahma, Parmatama" [Eruch speaks in an animated voice] [pilgrims laugh]

So they looked at him. Baba said, "There, he can speak." Now Baba says, "Shut your mouth, go." So that happened.

PILGRIM 11: When was Baba suffering the most when, right before He dropped his body in the sixties or the late sixties?

ERUCH: It was all the time, it was silent suffering, you see. The thing is that apart, apart from late sixties, the time that He met with the accident, you know, then there was another accident. Then prior to that there was the trouble with the eye.

Sometimes he would also laugh, you see, and his laughter was very full of vibrations instead of noise, you see. And sometimes he would recount, you see how many, what are, what anatomical parts you see that have not suffered with, in Him, you see.

His eyes had suffering, you see. He had headache, you see. Then He had, what do you, call catch in the back and then He had pain in the neck, you see and then fissure in the anus, you see and piles and what else? Here is the doctor, you see. Hand injury, you see, the arm, fracture of the arm, the fracture of the leg, cut off the tongue, breaking of the nose bridge. [Eruch laughs] Eyes, eyes troubled Him for a long time, you see? So nobody could realise what was happening, you see? He couldn't, He says, my eyes, you see there are thorns inside like picking, huh?

PILGRIM 10: He says my [inaudible].

ERUCH: Sand. Yes, somebody has thrown sand in my eyes, I feel like that. So they tried to examine that. For long period He was suffering like that. So suffer, physical suffering was there all the time. And then

eventually later on, naturally He fasted and this and that. And then the last accident in 1956, that was the worst, that was a terrible suffering.

That was '56, 2nd December. We are approaching that date now.

PILGRIM 8: You tell everybody the story of [inaudible]. I think the time you saved Baba's life? You saved Baba's life [inaudible].

ERUCH: It was not saved. We both got ourselves drowned, you see. Filth, mud. [crosstalk] You asked me that story.

PILGRIM 8: [inaudible] No.

ERUCH: Rosie, today. You asked me, let us, tell us that story about, about the, about the swim in the ocean.

ROSIE: Oh yeah.

ERUCH: So that's the story.

ROSIE: Tell the story.

ERUCH: So it so happened that some years ago, years and years ago, Baba wanted some sort of relaxing, I don't know, after this seclusion or before this seclusion, I don't know what. I forget the period now. You, you recall that period?

PILGRIM 9: After this seclusion.

ERUCH: After the seclusion? This great seclusion, here in the Blue Bus?

So He wanted a period of relaxation that is just before new life, mind you. So He told me to arrange for the far outlays where nobody should recognize Him, and He would just be there. So He wanted Goher,

Mehera, Mani, my sister, Katie, her sister, just this little gang you see of these women and myself driving and Baba.

So I said, "All right, we'll arrange."
He says, "Tell none about it, no correspondence, no botheration for mail or anything."

So I made arrangements and I drove Him there to that place. It's known as, the name of the place is Vengurla. Is it on the west coast?

PILGRIM 9: Yes.

ERUCH: West coast, It's a beach touching the ocean. So well, and it's a beautiful rest house there. That house, the rest house is right off, pardon?

PILGRIM 8: Gotta stick, It's out of here. Six o'clock [Pilgrims laugh].

ERUCH: It's protruding there on the ocean there, the big rock and on it is built that rest house. Very beautiful place. So He loved it and He was very happy that we made arrangement and all that.

One day, got a pleasure, He says, He tells the women, "Will you all want to go for a swim?" They say, "Yes Baba." He says, "Come on." So He tells me that, "That day, that next day they will go for a swim. So find a secluded spot for them."

So I went out and searched for long distance and all that. Got a circuitous route, you see, and took them on the other side. So I can't describe to you the geography of it, but it was the other side of the ocean you may call it. It had some sort of a shape, you see in the ocean there. So, well, it was all right. So right in the, the

palms were there and all that, palm groves.

So, we went there. Next day we went for a swim. All the women and Baba and myself leading

PILGRIM 8: Did Baba know how to swim?

ERUCH: No. So He says, how, how will I know to swim? I'm the ocean. How can ocean know to swim? [Pilgrims laugh]. So yeah, that, somebody asked Him and He says, "How do you expect the ocean to know swimming?"

So what happened? Yeah, then I [inaudible] and we went there, now what happened is that they were told to swim. So they went and started swimming, the women.

And Baba and myself were on the beach chatting, chatting means through His silence of course. This or that and this and that, there was a nice mast there, so Baba said that, "Well, we should contact the mast now and all that." I said, "All right, we will contact." And well, "What's the time now?" and all that.

Then all of a sudden says, "Would you like to go for a swim?" Because I'm an expert swimmer and for years together, I haven't had a chance to swim.

Says, "Good, You like to swim?" I say, "Yes."

"Come on, I would also like to swim. It's nice for me. Don't you think? So?" I said, "Yes, it's very good for your limbs. If you swim in the ocean, salt water is very good, you can have all sorts of movements and all that." He says, "Hold on, hold me." I

said, "I'll hold you." Because He used to have those, you know, these, what do you call these underwear pants?

PILGRIM 8: Called bathing suits.

ERUCH: Bathing trunk like thing. No, no, He didn't have any bathing trunk or anything. So He had this chaddi, we call it half pants. So I said, well, we removed our clothes, we're on the beach and both of our, both of us went inside, so we had a good swim. He liked it very much. About 20 minutes or so.

The women were enjoying there, far out. Okay, so after 20 minutes, says, "Now let's dress up and shout at them", you see that we are leaving now and they can go back to their place, we are going for mast hunt.

Ok, so I shouted at them. They heard it, I said, "Did you hear? Do you hear?" They all heard it and everything was confirmed.

So Baba says, "Now let's go for the mast."

I said, "Yes, let's go."

He says, "Instead of taking the circuitous route, it'll be too far off and it's very difficult." It was a long walk. So again, we had to walk in the market area for the masts. "Why can't we cross this backwaters?"

You see, you know, the ocean has got, well in full tide, the water just strikes against the shores, you see. But when there is ebb, water recedes and you have, what do you call that?

PILGRIM 8: Tidal flat?

PILGRIM 10: Yeah. Tidal flat.

ERUCH: Tidal flat, whatever, we call it Backwaters.

PILGRIM 8: Backwater

ERUCH: Yeah. It's filthy, all the sewage is there. It's full of dirt and muck and all that. Have you had ever an experience to go close to that in ebb time? It's horrible. But even then, at the time of ebb, it is a deep. 30-40 feet sometimes.

So He says, "Why can't we cross it now it's ebb time? I said, "But it's very dangerous, Baba." Says, "Those canoes are there. These fisher women are, fisher boys are there. Why can't we take it?"

I said, "It's dangerous." And the canoes are not the canoe types that you have and visualised, you see, ordinary trunks of the tree, you see, just carved out, It's just a roller. So I discouraged Baba from taking that. But He insisted.

Well, when the Lord insists, what can you do? You accept it. So then Baba tells me to tell the boys that they would receive good tips if they take us safe across the ocean like that. So I called them and they agreed and they were very happy with the anticipation of receiving some baksheesh, you see.

So we sat down. I very hesitantly. Because I was loaded with all sorts of things, you see, His bag was there, His greatcoat was on me, scarf and everything was with me. So I bundled and kept, knowing fully well the hazards, you see of these things. Well, then what happened is we sat, I took Baba there, close there, and I said, "Baba, don't move, just step."

So they, we were so stiff you see in that tiny little canoe, no place for my fanny at

least. So, well, I sat there all the time, you see. I was, I was frightened no doubt. And the boys behaved well, you know how the boys are, fishermen. So they took great care to take us right in, right in mid, what do you call mid area there, where the back water. What do you call? Flat. ebb flat.

PILGRIM 8: Tidal flat.

PILGRIM 10: Whatever.

ERUCH: Tidal flat, Ok, They took us. Other fisher boys spotted us, we were like strangers there seated in those canoes where the naked person should sit. So we were all dressed and all that. So this spot, and they started shouting at these boys who were guarding us and taking the canoe, you see, very softly and smoothly across it. So they came swimming there and one of them pulled the leg of the other boy who was holding the canoe.

And that imbalanced the whole thing and we rolled inside right in the centre of the whole thing, right there we went deep down and touched the bottom. [Eruch laughs]. Luckily I got Baba's arm there, you see with the hand on, left hand on the side. Lucky it was left. I could get hold of his arm there. And we, with great difficulty, we came up, I swung him and I was, I'm a good swimmer. I was at least, I don't know now.

PILGRIM 10: Was Baba holding his breath in?

ERUCH: I don't know, don't ask me. I didn't ask Him anything. So I just got hold of that. And I came up and we started swimming with my hand fully loaded, you see with the bag and all drenched and,

you know how the bags are when they're full with water.

PILGRIM 9: Yes.

ERUCH: The pockets are full with water and well we go on swimming, great streams and terrible distance was there from here to there, that place that the latrines there, you see those latrines there?

PILGRIM 9: Yes.

ERUCH: Far away, maybe half a furlong from here.

PILGRIM 9: How far?

ERUCH: From here to that mango tree. You call it.

PILGRIM 9: Hundred yards.

ERUCH: Huh?

PILGRIM 9: Hundred yards.

ERUCH: Yeah, about hundred yards, you see. And Baba was there from head to foot we are full of slime.

PILGRIM 9: [inaudible]

ERUCH: Huh?

PILGRIM 9: After the nice swim in the ocean.

ERUCH: Oh yes.[Eruch laughs] So we went out and then Baba said, Baba was, Baba was very happy with this, you know how a child, you know, when it plays with dirt? I was very angry with the boys and I scolded them, I threatened them and all

that, they ran away, You know, [pilgrims laugh] they never showed up.

PILGRIM 11: Did you have to swim that whole distance?

ERUCH: Yeah.

PILGRIM 11: Did you have to swim that whole distance?

ERUCH: Yes. Yes.

PILGRIM 11: Nobody came up with the canoe or anything?

ERUCH: No, Nobody came up, nobody came up. They were themselves frightened. They never showed their face. Now what to do. So I said, this is the. Baba said it's not possible for Him to go in the marketplace like that.

So we selected a dilapidated building nearby, you see. This cottage like thing, half of this cottage, you may call it, broken down walls and all that. So behind that was a safe area, nobody could see Him. So He said, this was one of the very rare occasions when He was all by Himself.

Baba would never, we have never found Baba all by himself, except on very rare occasions, two or three occasions, at least in my life with Baba that I know.

So, so I, He said He would sit behind the wall and I had to run back to that place, you know, long distance and get the clothes and then I got the clothes.

I was, I was more afraid, suppose if somebody were to ask Baba and Baba doesn't speak, He is silent, so what will happen. They would recognize Him and recognize Him as this! [Eruch Laughs] What has happened to Him? Turned into a fool or what?

So what, so I returned, I washed Him, bathed Him, took new clothes and all that.

And we contacted the mast. He was very happy, walking jauntily, you see, you know how one person is happy and we were returning to our place and I was full of dirt, no doubt, continued to be, no time for me to change.

So while returning He says, "Eruch, today, you know, I'm very happy. You know what you did? You gave me an arm, you see and got me out of that muck. There will come a day, when I will lend my arm to you to get you out of illusion."

That's what He had said and I'm still waiting for the arm [Pilgrims laugh], it's a long, what you call it, tidal back, long wave.