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## HIS LIFE WITH BABA (1 of 6)

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### Eruch Jessawala

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

November 22, 1975

30:52

**PILGRIM 1:** She didn't have but she came.

**PILGRIM 2:** Yeah.

**ROSIE:** I was working for a brokerage firm in Miami. I was the receptionist. And one of the brokers there was Steve Klein. And so Steve Klein, I also was pretty curious about Steve Klein because he always gave me such a hard time. I used to answer his phones and there were lots of phones and they were ringing all day long as they always do in a brokerage office. So Steve Klein, his orders were to me that I should never, never tell anyone of his clients that he was on the line or that he was in the john. I would have to entertain them until he was free [pilgrim laughing].

Giving no reason. No reason. So this was absolutely opposite to the regular business procedure. And I thought it was, I didn't think he was serious when he first told me that so I proceeded to use my better judgement and to tell them that he's on the line and he'll be right with you. Or he'll be right back. And he blew up every time I did that so I was very curious about Steve Klein. [general laughter]. I couldn't understand, And yet he was one of the most prosperous agents there as well. The phones were always ringing for him.

So it was my 21st birthday and the girls in the office, they were a nice group of girls. They put a sign on my desk that I didn't know about and the sign said, 'Rosy is 21

today and would like to have lunch at the Mousetrap between 12 and 1.'

**MANI:** [Laughing] Isn't that?

**ROSIE:** So Steve Klein comes prancing in and he looks at me.

**PILGRIM4 :** That's a restaurant, the Mousetrap?

**ROSIE:** Yeah, it's a restaurant. A big restaurant. So Steve Klein comes prancing in and the he says, "Hey Rosy, how about lunch today?" And I said, "Isn't that nice -how did you know? It's my birthday today you know." So he took me out to lunch and he didn't say much of anything but he only said that Baba was God. That's all he said. And he gave me His universal message.

So at the time I didn't know. I didn't know why I was doing everything that I was doing. I don't know why I proceeded to follow Baba's instructions and think about Him all the time. Mentally I hadn't decided that Baba was God. But my heart knew what was going on so I started taking Baba's name all the time plugging in the switchboard and [general laughter]. And that's how it happened. Not knowing. I didn't know why, but it happened that way. And that same day Irwin Luck came in to visit Steve. That same day that I learned about Baba, Irwin Luck came in and I met

Irwin Luck for a few minutes and chatted with him.

**MANI:** You'll be happy to know when Steve comes here he wanted to help in the Trust office. I made it a bit difficult for him too [general laughter]. Eruch came and just all those awful addresses to type. [pilgrims laughing]. Of names he didn't know and places. Names that are tongue twisters even to us you know. And he just typed and [general laughter].

**ERUCH:** And Max, how about you? How were you dragged in?

**MAX:** [inaudible][general laughter]

Well, many years ago I think I was maybe 16-17 and I had never really had the sense of any type of tranquillity. There was much agitation in me. And one night I was by myself and I noticed a movie and it said a story about the razor thin line between love and hate by Theron Tower. So I said, "Well sounds like an interesting movie," And I stayed up late to watch it and it was *The Razor's Edge* by Sommerset Maugham.

**MANI:** On the T.V. or a regular movie?

**MAX:** It was on the television.

**MANI:** Oh the television. [crosstalk]

**MAX:** And sometime I stopped and I watched this movie. And as I saw the movie I saw that it was more than just a story about the thin line between love and hate. It was about a man that was looking for something. He was compelled, he was from sort of an aristocratic society and so on. And he was ready to get married with a women but he wasn't ready for it. And so he had to go and he had to wander around and he wondered here and there and spent

some time in France as an artist. And I've since read the book. In Israel I read it recently and I found it it's much more. That I had a sense of something going on in the movie.

And he wanders there. And at one time he works with a man in some caves, coal mining caves and there's a man there who's very wild and so on. But whenever he gets that drunk he would speak on very elevated things and so on. And whenever he was sober again and this man would tell him, "What did you speak about?" He'd say, "I don't know what you're talking about." And so he had, and he would read too. He would go to the library for hours and he would read various books and so on. And finally his journeys took him to India and there he met a master of some sort. And he spent some time with this master.

And one morning he was meditating I believe in the movie and the sun rises and it fills him. It fills his heart and he senses then a certain something. The unity, maybe the love of God for him. Maybe his own sense of worth. And then he returns to the society he came from and people sense that he has something. He has some power. His power, I think he says in the movie, he says, "I sense that the most important thing in life is to be good. To serve." And they sense this and he helps some people. Some people are sick and through his love he's helped. Of course in the movie they've presented as if its almost sort of a psychic power or something. To make it more direct rather than just the love. They can't convey that completely in the movie.

And then he decides that he'll take on a simple job. He'll become a taxi cab driver because he feels that in that role it's good

enough to serve. Anyway I didn't appreciate all these things but I felt something from the movie. And I was at junior high school that year and we had to write an autobiography. What my life is like and so on. The stuff includes the books I've read and people I've met and movies I've seen that have influenced me. And I remember writing at the very end. I sort of tried to convey some of this lack of tranquility I felt inside. And I remember writing, 'Even though I don't have that tranquility now I feel that one day I will find the answer to this longing, this looking,' and I handed it in for then.

Many years later, I was at the university and I was in a fraternity. That's when and I was in a. It happened that a group of Buddhist chanters came. Some fraternity brother got interested and invited them. And they had, again I was reminded of this tranquility because they had this look of tranquility about them. And things happened in the university, ups and downs and so. And it happened that I decided to change universities. But this stuck in my mind, this look about their faces, peace or at peace with themselves and the first thing that was on my mind when I came to my new university in Wisconsin, that I would find somebody to teach me meditation.

So I went there and that was the first thing on my mind and I went around and I found some student. A Hawaiian student and he taught me. There was a meditation on 'A'. The letter 'A'. But I wasn't very disciplined then. I didn't stick with it. And then the transcendental meditation people came. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. And they came and I became initiated. But I again couldn't sit down twice a day, 20 minutes and so on. But I remember in the initial

lecture there was one boy who stood up. He had red hair, Jeff was his name.

**MANI:** Ah, Jeff.

**MAX:** From Wisconsin [crosstalk]. I don't remember his last name. Anyway he stood up and he asked a question that stuck in my mind which was, "How can one distinguish a real master among several masters?" He asked that and sat down but it stuck in my mind.

And so I was initiated. The summer went by and [inaudible] went by. And a very difficult time for me [inaudible]. It was in summer of. It was July of 1969, July. And I hadn't done that meditation for a long time but I decided one day I'd go to a group meditation which they had at the university. And I went there and it was a nice meditation and afterwards I saw this one who was wearing a Baba button. And I didn't know what the button was at first [inaudible]. I couldn't see it from this and I just asked him whose that a picture of. And he said, "It's a picture of Meher Baba." I said [inaudible].

And then I invited him to my home and he brought the Universal Message. And I read it and it was nice but I had studied the Bhagavad Gita and Indian thought before that. It's nice but it's nothing new.

**ROSIE:** Yeah, that's true.

**MAX:** Nothing new. And again I set it aside and about half a year later Jeff invited me to go, to drive down with him and a few other boys from Madison, Wisconsin to Myrtle Beach for Christmas there in 1969. And there were very few people there at that time. And through the feeling there, the love the people had, the naturalness, I was pushed more and more. And then

after I graduated I lived for two and a half years. I thought I would be coming to Myrtle Beach just staying two weeks and going on to Denver. But Baba kept me there two and a half years. And all during through that time, well here I am now. I didn't think that Baba would let me come here for decades. I left Myrtle Beach [inaudible] so.

**MANI:** And then when you went to Israel?

**MAX:** That was [crosstalk]

**MANI:** Wasn't that peaceful?

**MAX:** See this is interesting. When I went to Israel. See what happened was. No. Here's what happened. I had finished teaching in Myrtle Beach. That was a very interesting experience. Not easy, nothings easy with Baba but it all makes sense afterwards. And I was having lunch at Phyllis, Phyllis and Lyn Ott's home and Phyllis asked me, "Well what are you going to be doing in September?" This was about May. I said, "Oh I'm not doing anything. I don't want to teach again, especially. I'm free." And so Phyllis said, "Hmm, oh that's very nice, you're free." And I said, "I really don't know what I should be doing." And just then Phyllis turns to me and I think it was her daughter Mimi who was in Israel at that time. And no actually not, this is what happened. There was a picture of Mimi that was sitting on the dresser outside and Phyllis was sitting in the kitchen looking out. That picture toppled over. And then she said to me, "Max, you know this summer you should be in Israel. You should go to Israel and India," or India and Israel. I don't know which she said first.

When she said that there was a flip. Something with Israel flipped. And it was

that whim, it was very strong you know. And I rushed home and I called my father and I said, "You know what, I'm going to be going to Israel." He said, "Well this is the first thing that you are doing in 8 years that I like." [general laughter][inaudible] going here and there. Well that's good. But I felt it so strongly that I rushed home. And now it seems I've come to India too. It's like what Phyllis said. You go to Israel and India.

**MANI:** And what Baba meant to Carrie you know, a lot. Carrie ben Shammai in Israel. When she would come. When she came in 1969, she really represented the whole of Israel as it were. To us it wasn't Carrie it was Israel. Or when she'd send a cable on the birthday. She really stood that. I wouldn't even say intent it's something that there's nothing else but Baba's love for her. Amazing. But she could commit on you know on behalf of Israel. She would say love from Carrie and Israel and it really like Carrie and Israel [Mani laughs] were one. Very wonderful person. And she would write for [inaudible] for her to have. Sometime a Baba lover would be there. First there was Jacko for a year. She would. And then Jacko was here in India and then I said, "Oh poor Carrie" And then Max came. And Baba would send [inaudible] at the right time.

**PILGRIM 5:** [inaudible]

**MANI:** There was what?

Ah, Portman? [inaudible]

**ERUCH:** Yeah, Denis Portman.

**MAX:** She had seemed to [inaudible] now but she, Carrie had sent some prasad from Israel.

**MANI:** Oh, wonderful. [General laughter]

**MAX:** Ted is a veteran here so I don't know if it's a good time to give it to you but she wanted me to give it to you. You can look at it and if you want to share it.

**MANI:** Yes. [inaudible]

**ERUCH:** Jacko [general laughter]

**MANI:** Very special.

**ERUCH:** Do you know the story of dates with Mohammad?

**PILGRIMS:** No.

**MANI:** Lord Mohammad or Mohammad the mast?

**ERUCH:** No, Prophet Mohammad. [general laughter]. Of Baba as Mohammad. [crosstalk]. Not Mohammad as Mohammad.

So, this is a story [clock chimes] that Baba told us once you see as to how even He has to follow the disciplines. It so happened that while Mohammad was sitting with his close ones, one day rushes inside the hall a lady, a woman dragging her own child. Must be about 14 years or so. And she started you see telling, complaining to the Lord saying that. "Please exhort this child. Do something for him otherwise he'll die eating dates," and all that. He's so fond of dates that I can't separate him from the date tree and all that. All sorts of things you see.

And Mohammad just nodded you know and heard. She went on haranguing for nearly 10 minutes. Then he said that, "Well I will tell him about it all but do

come after a month. You can go back now and bring him again after a month." Well she had no other recourse. She had to go back. And the close ones had watched her. She was so poor and she had come from very long distance. And of course there was no means of transport except you know in Arabia what it's all like. So there were no jet planes or cars or anything of the sort at that time. So poor thing went back. And after a month she did come.

And then Mohammad was told again the same thing. The same story was repeated. And after that Mohammad of course took only 5 or 10 minutes to explain to the young one, the man, young man says, "Look how harmful it is. And you should try to help your mother. Try not to eat many dates. But that doesn't mean that you should not eat dates. You can eat dates if you want to but not more than six a day," And so forth. Eventually he extracted promise from the young one and everybody was happy. The mother was happy, the child was happy and the Lord seemed to be very happy and the close ones were very happy and the child and the mother left.

In the minds of all the close ones, the thought started arising, "Why could you not have said the same thing and sent her back that very day? Why was she called after a month?" So then they didn't say anything. Nobody dared to say anything to the Lord. So but he knew what was happening in the minds of his close ones. So then on his own as Baba has, we know how He would bring out these things from our minds and hearts. So eventually he got the thing out. Somebody vomited this out.

He must have asked, "What are you thinking? What's in your mind? or something like that." So they all said the

same thing. So he laughed. He says, "You know why I didn't dare say the same thing that time? Because I myself was so fond of dates. I eat so many dates [general laughter]. How is it possible for me to exhort the child there like that? It won't carry the weight."

**MANI:** That's typical. I mean that sounds like Baba.

**ERUCH:** Yeah. "So I had to abstain from dates for one full month in order to bring home" [general laughter]. So that's what Baba says, "That I also have to follow certain disciplines in order to bring home to you certain truths." Practice what you preach. Again the same thing.

**MANI:** Why doctors don't practice what they preach [general laughter]. But doctors are very necessary. What you should do?

**ERUCH:** But then they have to use knives. He doesn't use knives.

**MANI:** Haan [laughing].

**ERUCH:** Norman.

**NORMAN:** Sorry?

**ERUCH:** What is it?

**PILGRIM 6:** Tell us.

**NORMAN:** What?

**ERUCH:** Any more questions?

**MANI:** How beautiful it is to record silence. It is so silent now. And silence was being recorded.

**ERUCH:** Except the tick of the clock.

**MANI:** That clocks ticked for Baba. Still goes on ticking.

**PILGRIM 7:** [inaudible] the battery's out of use.

**ERUCH:** Got exhausted. [crosstalk] [inaudible]

**PILGRIM 7:** Guess I haven't.

**MANI:** You know but like Eruch was just saying he probably asked, "What you were thinking?" And Baba would sometimes ask that all of a sudden. Like when we were sitting around and Baba would suddenly say, "What are you thinking?" And you'd be caught sometimes in a very embarrassing moment. You wouldn't want to say aloud for all of them to hear what you were thinking. You knew Baba knew. But in that way Baba was reminding us to always remember Him. To also be aware of your thoughts because thoughts we take it for granted. We just let them rush in, trample through our minds in any way they like. But that you have to be aware of your thoughts. And also that when you are before Baba you should be present in His presence. Not be away as I think I have repeated that a number of times.

Once I was caught and Baba said, "What are you thinking?" And I was thinking of somebody saying, "What an awful color blouse she'd got on. It doesn't suit her. That color never suits her. But doesn't she look in the mirror? She keeps wearing that blouse, awful." [general laughter]. I dared say that. I dared say. I had to live with that person. Baba would be going over to the men mandali but what about me? [general laughter].

And the others too. Usually the answer would be, "Oh nothing important Baba,"

which is right. But after that you would see everybody just thinking of Baba. Waiting so much for Baba to ask, "What are you thinking?" And then they'd say, "You, Baba." He didn't ask [general laughter].

**ERUCH:** This reminds me of another very good, interesting incident [crosstalk].

**MANI:** Yes would Rosie and Max like to go over? After this.

**ERUCH:** After this incident, yeah.

**MANI:** No Tim has been. You have not been in to Baba's room, to Mehera.

**TIM:** Yes, Baba's room [inaudible].

**MANI:** You have been.

**TIM:** [inaudible]. Yeah.

**MANI:** But. Acha you finish this then.

**ERUCH:** So.

**MANI:** Okay. The incident. Oh [inaudible]. Come on Eruch.

**ERUCH:** Polly seems to be so sagacious you see. Brushing his beard you know. What's in your mind? [crosstalk].

**MANI:** Did you have short hair the last time? Polly?

**POLLY:** No.

**MANI:** That would suit you so much. Your short hair. [foreign] Acha pachi?

**ERUCH:** So what happened is you know that *Everything and the Nothing*, that book *Everything and the Nothing*? These are the explanations that have been given by Baba

in answer to queries of certain professor who was a scientist, from Delhi college. So most of the chapters that are devoted there, they are in answer to the questions put by this man to Baba. Whenever he would come during his vacation at Guruprasad and all that.

So eventually of course all these answers were compiled and all that and everything and it, the book went to the press. And you know it was printed and published in Australia. *The Everything and the Nothing*.

**MANI:** Seriously it had to be visitors to ask questions.

**ERUCH:** Yeah.

**MANI:** Because dead sure we wouldn't be asking and there would be no *Everything and Nothing*. There'd just be nothing [general laughter].

**ERUCH:** So, of course the sessions were very helpful to us. Very enlightening. Baba was in good humour because He would always plod this man to ask more and more. Some work was to be done naturally. This book and to come out eventually. So he was made the instrument. So he would ask and all that sort of thing. It went on and on every now and then whenever he would come he put a question and Baba would answer. Book was published. Was in the press for publication and it was also out there in a college, it was published.

The man had come again. Another vacation afterwards. So he was seated like this you see. And he must be having some thoughts in his mind just as Mani said, "Well what are you thinking?" Baba is asking, "Aren't you happy that the book is out now? That you were instrumental you

see in getting so many answers. And public will benefit by it. Aren't you happy about it?" So he says, well that's Baba. He believed in Baba as God in human form. He was a scientist mind you. He was the principal no? Principal of Camp College, Delhi. One of the biggest college, universities you see. He was the principal. He had invited Baba to that Camp College and everything was there, that's past history.

But now Baba's asking and he doesn't seem to be very cheerful this time. So Baba says, "What is the matter? What are you thinking? Aren't you happy about the whole thing?" He says, "I am, it's your work Baba. But you know no sooner I left you last time and when we said that everything is now satisfactory and all my questions have been answered. But I completely forgot you see, there's one thing that always intrigues me now." After the whole episode is over. The book is now out on the shelves you see of the booksellers.

Baba says, "What is it? What's wrong with it? What's the question that I haven't answered now?" And he says, "I completely, I ignored that question. Not that because I came. That question came to my mind but it came to me, it appeared after the book was published." Says, "What is it? What's the question?" So he says, "It is intriguing Baba. I am a scientist and I don't know how to put this question to you." Baba says, "What's intriguing you now? After so many questions have been answered what's intriguing?" So he says, "Baba, I believe in my heart of hearts that you are God in human form. There is no doubt now in my mind about it. But one thought is intriguing." "What is it Baba?" Says. "How could this infinite, which You are. You are Infinite Consciousness. You are

Infinite in all respects. In all your attributes. How could this Infinity be bottled up in this frame which is Meher Baba now? So that has been worrying me a lot."

Baba says, "It's real, it's a question, real question. But that can be we'll see. But do you know that shouldn't make you sad, that shouldn't make you miserable because there are quite a few things that intrigue Me, the Creator also about my creation. So you will be able to help me through your science in that respect." So he bucked up you see. That now there is the God-Man Himself asking him to solve His intrigue you see about His intrigue. So Baba says, "You know there is a thing that has been intriguing me quite often." So he says, "What is it Baba?" So he says. He was seated somewhere here. So He says, "What do you see from this door? He says, "Well I see the sandals that are there." "What do you see? Just that?" He says, "The benches." "What else do you see?" He says, "I see the trees, the plants, the pots, the papaya fruit on the tree." "That's all?" He says, "No I see cattle grazing, there is the shepherd there." "Then what else do you see? Just that?"

Says, "No I see the hills there, the range of hills there. Then there is another hill behind that hill I can see." "Just that?" Says, "No I see the horizon, the sky over there." "That's the thing," Baba says, "That intrigues Me always. How could those little iris of yours can absorb such vastness in this tiny little thing?" You follow? Just that, that was the answer to it.

**MANI:** So Baba was making it out as if He were putting a question. He was really giving the answer to the man.



**ERUCH:** Through a counter question. So that's how He would deal with these people you know.

**MANI:** [foreign] Acha.

**ERUCH:** Now you'll can go if you'll want to.

**MANI:** She can show around Rosie and Max.

**ERUCH:** By the way before you all leave, Gill, it seems that you'll are so interested about any parallels in life of Jesus and Meher Baba. There is another parallel that we came across and that was Jesus limped also.

**PILGRIM 8:** He limped?

**ERUCH:** Yeah. [Eruch laughs] Did you'll know that? It was after a great research you see of a certain scholar who has written a book on the whole thing.

**MANI:** Oh [foreign] mera Baba.

**ERUCH:** Have you come across that?

**PILGRIM 8:** No.

**PILGRIM 9:** We have the passage recorded for you Gill. It's called King Jesus and we. He gave us the paper and we recorded it on a tape.

**ERUCH:** It was read out to Baba. Of that para, the whole thing.

**PILGRIM 9:** How His hip is broken.

**ERUCH:** Yeah.

**PILGRIM 3:** What about the thing with the [inaudible]?

**ERUCH:** Well there's nothing new in it. That God-Man can limp [Eruch laughs].

**PILGRIM 8:** Love. In loving, you love Him. Where there any times when He gave the impression that [inaudible] mandali He didn't care for at all?

**ERUCH:** Yeah. When He wanted to draw us closer to Him, He would be indifferent to us. There were.

**PILGRIM :** Really.

**ERUCH:** Yeah. There were quite a few, many occasions you see. Just when we felt ourselves so privileged you see. It always, He always played up on the ego experiences of individuals you see. So He and. And another thing that is most.

**MANI:** [Foreign][speaking Gujarati]

**ERUCH:** When they have come just now?

**MANI:** [Foreign][speaking Gujarati]

**ERUCH:** So what happened is that whenever we felt that we were the privileged ones, that we were the ones who have the privilege to be by His side in place and all that. And we, well our ego inflated. Then gradually He would just, His attention would be focussed elsewhere so to say, you see. And then we would feel the pinch of it. And then we would become more humble. Then again He would draw us close to Him. That was His was of drawing us closer and closer to Him. Now and then He would just turn His focus aside. But one important thing that whenever people visited Him or whenever there were a large congregation.

