
HIS LIFE WITH BABA (4 of 6)

Eruch Jessawala

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34:14

ERUCH: Slave. When I become a slave I stop thinking. So am I a coward? I have exercised my freedom in order to be bound as a slave. And when I become a slave and if He accepts me as His slave, which would be a great blessing, then what will happen is I won't be able to exercise my free will. So am I a coward in that? Is it my weakness or is it my greatness? Is it my strength to exercise my freedom to be bound?

PILGRIM 1: It's like the last act of the will. To will to give up the world.

ERUCH: Yes, it is that. But give up the world, what? Not to just step out of the world. No, give up the world within us. Turn yourself. That's what Baba said. Simple figure He has given us. We are having our backs on Him now. All what you have to do is just gamble as we said last time, you know that? And turn your, "Face Me," He says, that's all. "What you have to do is to face Me. In all your thoughts, words and acts, face Me."

It needs great daring for that there is no doubt about it. But we'll get it. If we just depend on Him. Therefore He says, "Hold on." Now let us forget everything He says. "Just hold on to Me and remember Me. That's enough for you. Everything is in it, when you depend upon Me." Holding on to His daaman means what? Total dependability on Him. You depend on Him totally. You know the figure that He

has given us of our holding on to His daaman? Is like a child that is taken out in a world fair you see by his mom. Little tiny tot you see. And he's so dazed you see with the sights, with the noise, with all the colors and automatically he holds on to the mother's skirt. And as long as the grip is tight there, the mother moves about freely, enjoys and feels that the child will also enjoy you see. As long as the grip is there, the child would be where the mother is.

So what the child does is he depends totally on his mother. Likewise He says, "Hold on to My daaman and be sure you will never be led astray. You will be by My side wherever it be." He doesn't want us to give up the world. He wants you to play in the world. Go wherever you are but hold Me, hold on to Me.

Yes sir? For me it's time to piddle [pilgrims laugh].

Haan there is that good story here I was telling you.

PILGRIM 2: I'll remind you.

ERUCH: Haan? Remind me about it. It's about what? What was that?

MANI: When things go very difficult for you and you know when the water levels rise as we say [inaudible]. You've had it up to here. And still the water rises and you still swim. Up till here you can't do

anything here then it's too much. But where it gets here, then Baba takes over. By the time. This is Eruch's story and I'll only tell you in short. Baba was going on a mast tour. In the train, those crowded 3rd class compartments then. "What time?" Baba asked. So Eruch says, here is Baba and all of them and he had to get to this particular place. Somewhere way up in North India, at a particular time to see this particular mast. And how to get there? So it was at partition time when. No it was war time. It was war time. What was it? Why were there Indian soldiers?

PILGRIM 3: [inaudible]

MANI: When were the Indian soldiers? Anyway [crosstalk]. It's an earlier thing. Anyway they saw this train. Maybe it was at partition time and that they were keeping [inaudible]. I don't know. [cross talk][inaudible]

But it was wartime. Maybe 38, 40, wartime when India was also doing something. Oh we were lending our personnel. Yes that's right. So whatever it was it was. Baba was going on a mast tour. And this crowded train where you couldn't get in. First preference would be given to the military. the soldiers, they always had the first preference. So they saw this compartment only [inaudible] quite a number of them were in it. So Eruch goes over and speaks to them through the window.

"Please, you know my elder brother and we, we have to go very urgently there. Could you allow us to get in the compartment through the gates you know?" And they said, "Sure, sure come in." [inaudible] come in. So Baba, Eruch and about two others, they got in and there in those old days those

compartments, what do you call? The English call 'bogies' had at the end was a bench you know. Sort of an alcove. Like an altar is inside, it was like an alcove seat, where the servants used to sit. When the British travelled, the servants could not sit on the same seat with their masters [inaudible]. They sat in that thing. So that it was a little secluded.

Baba was there. And then at another station other military personnel came. And they wanted to get in the compartment. And then the first ones said, "No you can't. You don't get in. We are full up. You're not going to come in." "What do you mean?" "No, no why didn't you ask permission?" "What do you mean ask permission?" And they got, they pushed themselves in but. And the train started, as soon as they got in the train started.

And when the train started they really got hot words at each other. They had started grumbling and then they started shouting and then they started abusing and then they. Eruch said it was so inflammable because they were really angry and they were taking to fists. And here was this travelling, fast travelling train. Baba, they wanted to protect His [inaudible] and be with Him. Just [inaudible] these hot blooded, hot tempered fellows were really at it. Then they started picking up things and really giving each other blows. And then they would put you know their guns. They thought they would hit. It was riot right in that train.

And they were helpless. The mandali were absolutely helpless. What could they do? So then suddenly there was a clap. When the clap sounded, all stopped shouting. And all turned [pilgrim laughing] and Baba in that alcove which was like an altar. They

saw this figure standing on the bench. Beautiful figure in white and they thought it was a vision. Baba was saying, "Stop." Baba stood out with that white sadra. And Baba was doing this. How that clap sounded that clap penetrated their shouts and everything. But Baba's clap was loud. And then [inaudible]. This must be a vision. They hadn't seen Baba and the mandali there in the first place. [pilgrim laughter] And then this clap. And Eruch began talking for Baba. And Baba said, "Sit down." They all sat down. And then Baba said something about how if you are not united among you, you're going out to fight an enemy. And if you are not united among yourselves how you going to protect your motherland? You know very beautiful [inaudible].

And then Baba said. Baba sat down and Baba said, "And now you know at the next station I will obtain your tea and sweet." And they all cheered and [inaudible]. And do you know Eruch said first thought was, "Where are the sweets?" [pilgrim laughing] And then he remembered. He and Baba remember, just as the train was moving out of Ahmednagar way in the beginning, Eruch's aunt you know the [inaudible] all of the Baba lovers would be at the station wherever they went Baba would be. Wherever any place like that. So they had rushed there with this big kerosene tin, you know biscuit tin. Big thing like that full of this homemade sweet. Rich [foreign] mawa and they had pushed it just when Eruch and Eruch was shouting, "Why you women, why did you get? We won't take." "We wanted. Because you might need it, you might need it, take it in." [pilgrims laughing].

Alright, Alright. It was so rowdy and so much you know. In Ahmednagar station

nothing to do with that train. So there it had been. And so how Baba had remembered you know because Baba said. Eruch didn't even know Baba had noticed at the time. So Baba said, "Bring that out." So they brought out that tin. They already came in order so when the train came, I think 200 cups of tea because there were so many cups that everybody was having. And Baba was giving [inaudible][general laughter].

And then when the station, the destination soon came after that and they all got out singing the National Anthem and cheering and waving to Baba and. But you see He took over only when you are helpless. Only then do you leave it to Him. One always says, "I leave it to you Baba." One cannot really. Until you are helpless that you just cannot do it. Then Baba just takes over. I mean He took that moment over and so beautifully. Because the men could have done nothing. And they knew it. This fighting game in this fast train in this compartment with Baba and they were there. And, but I can just. I love to think that this is one of my best Eruch stories. When they left that stop [inaudible] with great because Baba looked so beautiful in that sadra. Especially when [inaudible] doing this. And then they just stared and Baba said, "Sit down." [general laughter] [inaudible].

And why He won't do it till we have leave it to Him. It's because we haven't let go of it. For actually what does the word surrender mean? Surrender isn't you giving something. He already has it but you're holding on. Surrender means let go. Let it be with Me. It's as simple as that. But then Baba would say, "It's so difficult because it's so simple." He Himself would say. "So simple," Baba would say, "But it's almost

impossible because of that.” [Mani laughs].

Oh yes Baba would all those years till more recently Baba would give things with His own hands. And I remember in New Life 1950, 1st January 1950 Baba went around. Some cake had come from somewhere. It was always like that. We were, we had no money, we had you know like, we were you might say beggars. And yet, I mean I just now wondered where did that cake come from? It must be something must have happened. Somebody must have. But Baba was handing out this whole cake to everyone on 1st January, 1956. Because He had the board, Happy New Year. A Happy New Life, Happy New Life. Not Happy New Year, Happy New Life. We all took that, Happy New Life. [Mani laughs]

You are such good listeners. We old people just talk, talk, talk [Mani laughs].

Some body reminded me of New Life. You did.

PILGRIM 3: What?

MANI: The operation time. It was you wasn't it?

PILGRIM 3: [inaudible] Your ear?

MANI: Yeah, when Baba touched those children. Wasn't it you?

PILGRIM 3: Hmm it was.

MANI: You remembered. And I thought it was [inaudible]

PILGRIM 3: [inaudible]

MANI: But in the New Life too I mean when I look back and say, “How did they accept all those conditions?” The condition was that they would not see Him. He would not give them an interview. But only if of their own free will of complete happiness. And they said, “Yes, yes. We'll go away. Give the house to Baba. Yes, yes we'll send the food.” And then the food must be only this and this and not you know better food and only dal and rice. I thought I loved dal and rice [pilgrims laugh]. I tell you in Benares everyday while we were in Benares everyday dal and rice. Until when we looked at it that dal and rice I'd suddenly, and just for no reason, automatically something would turn [inaudible]. Because there was nothing else with it. No greenery, no lemon, no chutney, no chillies. Then we realised that what we call dal and rice every day because it has some greenery. Something with it. The pickle the. But this was just and yet at the same time there was this poor man who worked on that property. The people who had given us this place, we don't know who it belonged to because we never saw them. And this whole place was [inaudible] building was there. And that poor man who would sweep the garden and everything was so poor and he had so many children. So naturally we couldn't eat much. So much would be left over. So we'd give it to the man and I tell you he would take it like it was [foreign] pulao, biryani. He would take it like it was you know just life. And we'd feel so awful. See how it means so much to him and yet we'd turn up but we couldn't help it. We couldn't help it.

Then there was another man who used to be in the compound. An old person. And he had a little room. One of those out house rooms where the servants quarters

would be. Otherwise the house was empty. And early in the morning he used to sleep outside in a bed he had made for himself out of rope and wood. He would sleep outside. At 4 'o clock. And we were inside in our Indian sleeping bag you know. And we would hear from 4 'o clock his chanting outside. [Mani imitates the man chanting] Ram Ram Sita Ram. And we'd say, "Oh it's 4 o'clock, it's 4 o'clock." It's so cold outside where he is and I'm trying to curl up so much where I was and you know thank God we didn't have to get up at that time and in that period.

One day Baba said to Goher. He said, "Go and ask that old man what he would like? I want to give him something. What is it that he has needs for, what he wants? Just go and ask him." So Goher went and then when she came back Baba had left for the men mandali so they were quite far away. So Mehera said, "Oh Goher did you go and tell the old man? Did you take Baba's message?" "Yes, yes," She said, "But he said he has a very nice landlord." Landlord means the one who owns the house. Very nice. He says, "My landlord gives me everything." "Everything. But who's the landlord?" "Oh somebody called Thakur." Mehera said, [inaudible] Thakur means is another name for Lord Krishna. He means there is nothing there that I need. He fulfills all my needs. And yet we knew in the little room that he was because we'd once you know just gone in and peeked in. There was nothing, absolutely nothing. It was two earthenware little bowls for cooking. But there was nothing.

So anyway when the message went to Baba, Baba said, "Go back and ask him. Go back till he says something that he wants. So she went back. And again he said, [foreign]"Nahi. I want nothing. What

is it that He has not provided for me? Everything." "No, no, no, no," Goher said, "You've got to ask for something. Surely there's something you need?" "Ah yes," he said, "How could I forget? Yes there is something I've wanted." Goher got saved. "What is it?" "I want matches. A box of matches. You know to light the fire. That's right." So Goher went back and said, "Baba, he said a box of matches." "Good," Baba said. [inaudible]. "Now call him."

Next day he comes. And when he came and Baba had in His hand to give to him that box of matches was on top of a pile of things. He had a blanket, a [inaudible] something, a coat. Maybe Baba's coat I don't know. A blanket, a coat, some big thing and on top of it that match box. When the man came we said, "Come. You know He wants you. Our Elder wants you to give you something." And so the old man came. And he gazed at Baba's face. And what's [inaudible] was saying was that, "Now take them. He's giving them to you." He put out his hand. He never once looked, he just couldn't meet Baba's. Eyes couldn't meet Baba's face. It was as if suddenly he'd been in a dark room and suddenly he was blinded by the light. He just was dazed. He just kept staring at Baba. And then Baba said, "I'm very happy."

We kept saying whatever Baba said. But the man just. And then Baba said, "Now go." And then I think Baba turned and went in. The matchbox. It was very funny. Goher said, "He must have a very good landlord really. [pilgrims laughing]. Gives him everything but not a thing in his hut. Really such a good landlord, what's his name? Thakur." "Oh come, come," said Mehera. I think [pilgrims laughing] [inaudible].

Anybody even bathe. I really think that Hindu people are a very clean people. Because under the circumstances that they had bath and washed their clothes and washed their pots till they shine we wouldn't have done it. Because we didn't actually you know. We'd say, "Oh no, no, no we have to get into bed." The water is cold. [inaudible] clothes on properly. And like this man for instance. In the even at 12 'o clock in the afternoon you couldn't remove any of your covering that you were hugging to yourself. And he would be out and we would hear the well at about 10 o'clock. We would hear the. There was a well outside. And there was this rope and pail that goes in. And it was on a wooden wheel. And it'd go [Mani imitates the sound of the wheel squeaking]. [pilgrims laughing][inaudible].

And we said, "Woo hoo, he's started to take bath." It was [inaudible] we would know. And then he would put the pail in, bring that water out, throw it upon himself again and again. By that time you're freezing, you'd be an icicle. Then he'd put the thing in it [Mani imitates]. And the more we'd visualise all this, the colder we felt [Mani and pilgrims laugh] [inaudible]

And I remember the time when we were in Dehradun and there was this family. It's an Eruch, another story of. How he came. He had a dream and he brought lots of things. There was, this one man saw in a dream that Baba has come. He didn't know about Baba. But I mean the Great One is coming. And that he wanted something [inaudible] to give Him. Not to miss this opportunity. He piled up things in a cart and he brought over. And the Nalavala was told not to tell anybody about Baba's coming. So he said, "I know the place.

This is where I'm supposed to wait." "Wait for whom?" He said, "Who's coming." Said, "Nobody's coming." He got frightened because he thought Baba would scold him, "Why did you give it away that I was coming?" And he said, "But why did you bring all these things?" He said, "It's for Him and His people."

"But who? Nobody's coming," again that man said, Noshervan's father Keki. "Oh yes," he said, "I saw." "But how did you know my house?" He said, "I've seen it all in a dream. I've got directions." So anyway he had brought. He owned, his business was butter. Beautiful butter, packaged butter which would come in tins that even the tins were so beautiful you know. In cans, it used to be in these [pilgrims laughing]. Yeah so we just discovered it. In cans, that you know aluminium cans, strong kind of thing that you have to close with a snap. That's another story. You should ask Mehera to tell you sometime. How after we always trekking and walking and travelling when we at last you know got a place to put our things down in. Not under the tree and in odd places but you know a place. A real cottage, a real house. There these cans of butter were awaiting us.

We'd never tasted anything by any standards they were delicious. But at that time. But that's another story, this is another story. So anyway this man afterwards when he met Baba and. I'm coming to the sort of latter part of the story, jumping through it. He wanted just to serve Baba. Just to be with Baba. And so he said, "Baba." We were now in Dehradun. Settled in this house for weeks. For some weeks we were there. So when we we got down there and this man said, "I want my family, can my family come in

and cook and serve and you know in anyway?" Baba said, "Fine. So your family can come over and cook for the men and the women."

So this house had an enormous kitchen. Not part of the house but at the back there you know. So that's where we used to cook. We women used to cook there. So when we heard that this man. Such and such a dream has come over him. Really? And his wife and sister and [inaudible] and I mean all the family are coming over just to cook for us. Oh that's wonderful. We couldn't believe it. Were we just going to sit and eat? We didn't have to do any cooking and getting up 4 in the morning. No.

So the man he went. You see he was not of Dehradun. He was of another place. What was the place? Not Ludhiana. It was [inaudible]. So he went by train to his hometown and immediately got his family and they came with absolutely no luggage of their own except perhaps a change of clothing but with sacks full of utensils and ladles and skillets and pans and pots and masalas. Just you know sewn up in gunny sacks and so we said but now we must accommodate these women isn't it? So when they saw the kitchen they said, "Don't worry about us. We will sleep here, we will cook here, we will stay here, don't worry. And there's the bathroom. We will bathe here. We will do everything here." "Oh" said. We were very happy we said, "Fine." Anyway it was better because it was a little sunnier there.

So they would get up at 4 in the morning and bathe and then start cooking. But then you know when we got up in the morning at usual time now that they were taking over. So they wondered when we had a

bath. You know, because we didn't seem to use that bathroom there and boy if we told them that we hadn't bathed for 3 days they wouldn't believe it. They thought like the Hindus we would get up every morning you know before prayers have a bath and all that sort of thing. We couldn't [inaudible]. And anyway there were no. The glass panes were missing and then even newspaper didn't help. But they continued to do it. And we mustn't lie you know. It was very, it would have been very easy for me to lie you know. But we couldn't in the New Life. So [general laughter][crosstalk].

And so they would say, "Oh Deviji, you'll have already bathed. Before we do you'll have bathed." And we'd say, I'd say, "Yes, yes we bathe, we bathe." But not saying when or [pilgrims laughing] [inaudible] each other. We couldn't even change our clothes go and have a bath. That too early in the morning in that cold, cold month, no. But then Baba didn't want us to be pampered so much. They were going to be there a month and a half. I think within a week Baba packed them off. Baba said He was very happy with their service. The man would go out in a horse carriage, tonga and they would bring the bazaar for us, you know. They would market for us.

The vegetables in Dehradun, ohh you've never seen anything like it. The peas would be that big and fresh. The cauliflowers would be and the [inaudible] after all the road campings and things we had to do. And in Dehradun anyway the vegetables so prolific and so you know bigger than anywhere else and beautiful.

RANO: Once these people were sort of very well to do and big family. I mean to

do what they had done and living in that kitchen and [crosstalk]

MANI: Yes, yes. They were of a very good family.

RANO: [inaudible] They didn't realise who Baba was at the time.

MANI: And then this businessmen this butter man. His heart must have also been but it just melted with Baba's love completely so that he was never the same afterwards. And anytime anybody would say, "When will?" You know any question at they would ask he would say, "Baba ja-ni." Baba knows. Like you say God knows, Baba knows. "What time is the train leaving?" [pilgrims laughing], "What's her name?" "Baba ja-ni". So that in the end his name came to be known. He was Todi Singh. His name was Todi Singh but he came to be known as Baba Jani. Oh that Baba Jani knows, he knows [inaudible].

[recording stops before end of tape]