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## HIS LIFE WITH BABA (5 of 6)

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**Eruch Jessawala**

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

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21:39

[Song playing]

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah yesterday he was going to tell me and then he said you said it better.

**ERUCH:** No.

**PILGRIM 1:** So I said that you tell me.

**ERUCH:** This is his story you see. So he's going to tell us now [general laughter].

**PILGRIM 2:** [inaudible] that you wanted to tell us.

**ERUCH:** Come on.

**PILGRIM 3:** There was a man.

**ERUCH:** It is meant for us all. Including myself I tell you.

**PILGRIM 3:** [inaudible]

**ERUCH:** But we can't hear you.

**PILGRIM 1:** Mumble, mumble, mumble.

**PILGRIM 3:** Where I go to church a Franciscan.

**ERUCH:** No, loudly. [crosstalk] You know what Baba would do? You know when somebody would just mumble like this from a distance and all that. So what He would do is He'd ask us, one of us the

close ones, "Can you hear it?" We'd say, "No Baba." He says, "He's a deaf person please speak loudly." So that the voice can go to Him you see. That's how He would ask somebody to speak loudly.

**PILGRIM 3:** Come on Pendu [pilgrims laughing]

This Franciscan priest said this. So he said there was a man climbing a mountain. It was a real high mountain and he's on the cliff like on the mountain and he's climbing you know. Beginning struggling up the mountain and he loses his grip and he falls. And as he's falling he's falling down he quickly grabs hold and he's holding on to a bush or a tree, a stump or something. And he laying there real scared and he's dangling. His feet are dangling. He didn't know what to do. You know he's lost there he can't do anything. So he yells down into the valley. He thinks if I yell down you know maybe there's someone there that can hear him and help him. So he yells down, "Is anyone down there?" And someone yells, "Yes."

And then he yells, "Well can you help me?" And the voice yells up, "No. You're too high. I can't reach you, you know. There's nothing I can do. How can I reach you? You're stuck there on the cliff." Well he's really scared now and everything seems lost. He's there, there's nothing he can do so he looks up and yells up, "Is anyone up there?" So a voice says, "Yes." And he says, "Who are you?" He says,

"God." Says, "Well can you help me?" And he says, "Yes, if you'll obey." And so he says, "Anything, anything. What is it?" He says, "Let go." [pilgrims laugh] So he yells, "Is anyone else up there?" [general laughter]

**ERUCH:** [inaudible]. That's how we live in the world right [inaudible] Today morning [inaudible].

Yeah anything that you want we can have if you let go. No you can't. Is there anybody else now? That's how we live. That's what he does not want us to do. That's true. Yes Baba said that.

Right so now you want another story? This is the story that Baba told us. This was the one that Glen told us. And one Baba told us.

Yeah so there was a certain town where a yogi lived. And he was a good person. He tried to help others. He was a great help to the citizens. Those who were keen, who were aspirants, they wanted to have some lessons from him and know about the truth. And they were pleased with him, with his lessons and with his discourses. Years passed by. He lived on the bank of a river. After some 20 years of his stay over there and he had a nice little ashram there and followers were around him.

One day some of his close ones come to him and say, "Sir on the other bank there seems to be some activity." "What is the activity?" "It seems that some other person has come and taken the place there and he's establishing himself." "Oh alright," somebody must be there. And well a hut was nicely created over there and somebody started living there. Two or three persons would be seen, the other bank of

the river. The river was a broad river. They used to watch from the other end. They used to watch here and so forth.

So some years passed by. Gradually what was told to this yogi here by his disciples that you see, "Sir there is an establishment over there. And the person who is there he calls himself the perfect master of the time. He says that he is the one who gives the truth. Shows the truth. Who tells the truth." "How dare he say such a thing?" The yogi said, "How is it possible? Well why should he tell such a thing." He says, "There are many followers who are going there. So gradually you should stay mutually." It was found that some of his following was diverted over there. To the other bank of the river. And they used to go there.

Now in the course of two-three years more the population was divided between the yogi and the perfect master. So that's how it was and that was a serious matter now for this well-established yogi here on this bank of the river. So that's how the yogi started having a plan you know. Some sort of scheme by which he can denounce the other person who called himself the perfect master. So what should he do? He thinks of a plan.

So his disciples were also from all sorts of ranks inside and there were some beautiful girls as his disciples. They were dancers, singers and dancers. So he called some of them. He selected them and said, 'Look here girls I want you'll to cross this river this evening and go to the other ashram there that you see there. And entertain the person over there, the master over there. Good, carry good food. Also carry drinks with you. Hard liquor, liquor, all wine and all that. And dance there and entertain them and let us see what happens there.'

So they went there. It was dark and they were only supposed to come there after certain time. So the disciples came out hearing the noise you see of the boat and water splashing and all that. They found the girls you know with their bells, ankle bells ringing out. "Who are you?" Says, "We are from the other side of the city. We have come for the darshan of the great master And we have come to entertain him." "Is this the time when you should do that?" Says, "We don't get any other time except this." Says, "You can't enter. You please wait here till we get the permission."

Well the permission was got. The master told them to get in. So they all came with all their food and liquor and that jingling bells and drums and harmonium and all that. They went and sat there. The master was very happy to see them. And naturally the master permitted them to sing and dance. And they said that, "Master we have got some food for you and your disciples." "Oh that's good of you. It's very good. We can sit there. What is the food?" So they all had their dinner there. He distributed with his own hands. "There's also drinks." "Oh that's wonderful." So he distributed the wine and they had a very pleasant evening. Late hours. The girls danced and sang and they ate and they drank and everything was wonderful. Till the master attended the show, the disciples were permitted to participate and the girls got tired of dancing, girls got tired of singing. They just slept there.

Master and the disciples went back to their rooms. Next morning the girls went [inaudible] in the boat to the yogi. The yogi heard their story. He says, "This is now a good point. We must denounce this

man who revels in all sorts of things like this. Dancing girls in the night, good food and all sorts of [inaudible]. And wine and drinks and all that. Is this the sign of being a perfect master? Well he must be [inaudible]."

Kevin is going to sleep now. Hearing it for the 4th -5th time. [general laughter]

So then what happened is that the master. The master is a [inaudible]. That means the perfect master. Whereas the yogi is perturbed and he is all eager to denounce the man because he, that perfect master is the cause of weaning away his followers and well it was a loss to him and he didn't like it. He was well established. He found that he's now, his position is being lowered and all that. So he gives a lecture there and he tells his followers what had happened in the night and it was a proof that now the citizens should join him to denounce him. So well the citizens who were his followers they said that, "Sir unless and until you take the lead how can we do it? We would like you to take the lead and we'll follow you."

He said, "Yes. I am going to go there. I'll go there." He says, "No but this is not the way that you should wade through the water. We'll give you a big horse and you sit on the horse and we will follow you. I think it behoves your dignity." "That's right." So a day was fixed and the man sat on the horse, the yogi and the following was there. From the other end the few disciples of the perfect master they watched this. And what did they find? A big crowd coming, passing through, wading through the river waist deep there.

So they tell the master that something is happening from the other side. So the master comes out and just as if he knows

nothing you know. And he tries to see what's happening and all that. So all of a sudden the procession stops because the horse has stopped in the centre of the river. Middle of the river. It is but a sure sign when everything is all right and the horse stops. You know what the sign it shows [inaudible]? Has anybody been a horse trainer?

**PILGRIM 4:** Stop sign right in the middle of the river.

**ERUCH:** Yeah. it's a stop sign why because the horse wants to piddle. So a horse can throw out flop you see while running and jumping and trotting but when it wants to piddle it must stop. Did you'll know that?

**PILGRIM 4:** No [crosstalk]

**ERUCH:** Haan?

**PILGRIM 5:** No we don't.

**ERUCH:** It has to stop. So it stopped. So the perfect master who was watching from a distance shouts out at the top of his voice. He says, "Hey you, who has stopped there? Your horse is piddling there. It has polluted the whole river. How dare you do that?" The perfect master is shouting here. So this yogi you know turns back to these disciples of his who are following and says, "Look at this man. He calls himself a perfect master. How can piddling of a horse can pollute the river that is flowing fast you see? How can a river be polluted like that?" So well all of them of course back him up and say, "Quite right master what you say." So the master gets his voice you see and at the top of his voice he shouts back. He says, "Have you ever heard a river being polluted by horse piddle?"

So then the voice reaches him. Then the perfect master replies, "I accept what you say but have you ever heard the ocean getting polluted by sending few dancing girls and a little food here?" [general laughter] [pause in tape]

These two brothers have met Meher Baba now. So they wrote to their sister that is my mother that, the old lady whom you met this morning. Said, "Look we have come across some person here and to us He appeared to be Zoroaster and wonderful to have Him here in your life." That's how my mother's curiosity was aroused. And first vacation that he had [inaudible] that my mother thought of coming to her home here and brought the kids. Me and my two sisters. We were only three at the time. My father was touring a lot. So it seems that we must have come in the month of December in 1925. It was cool at the time. The weather here has completely changed nowadays but at that time it was really, really cool. You had to burn great [inaudible] in the house in the night. That's how when my mother brought us to her home you see and the next day without wasting much time the whole family thought of going to Meher Baba.

So we didn't have cars at the time. There were no cars here. Not many in India at the time and especially a place like Ahmednagar. It had all dirt roads and nothing, there was no road system, proper road system and all that. So we had bullock carts and tongas and tonga meaning horse carriages. Double horses were there and buggies were there for those who were well to do and all that. So we had our buggies there for our tribe, our family. Two buggies were there. You know what buggy is? [crosstalk][inaudible]

So we were there in a buggy. Myself, my mother, two sisters, aunt and my aunt's [inaudible] and some relatives in another buggy. The tribe was there you see going. 5 miles, 6 miles riding away, going. From a distance one of my aunts who also lived here points out to my mother that look there is Meher Baba. There He is at the same place- dhuni. So all of a sudden she took fright you know my mother and the first thought that entered her mind was, that we are so over-crowded. That horse was burdened and what will Baba say? And of all the people that she could think of she [inaudible] me to jump. So she started saying, "Eruch jump, jump." And I had no [inaudible] because I was really healthy and rather bulky you know. So I was seated there on the footboard you know? A part is there where legs rest and all that. And she started shouting, jump.

I didn't know what was happening. I jumped in such a haste. In a different. The momentum was in the direction of Arangaon and I jumped the other way and I just fell down and my bone, the elbow was wounded. Not bruised but wounded, severely. I was bleeding severely. So naturally in the meantime it so happened the carriages stopped where Baba was at the dhuni. The same place where you find the platform nowadays. So I limping, I was in pain. I came there. In the mean time they had their darshan. At the time what they used to do you see. Baba used to permit them to bow down to Him and Baba would bless them and they would be seated. Sitting means not on carpets or anything. On earth itself that's all. If you wear the best of your dress and then if Baba is there what you'll do? Baba tells you sit down you sit down over there.

So they were all seated and I was coming so Baba looked at me. He said, "What happened?" He gestured I remember that. So one of my family people said that, my aunt or uncle, "He fell down." "How did he fall down?" It happened like that. So I still remember the first contact of Baba was that Baba [inaudible] made me sit on his lap and He picked up little ash from the dhuni pit there, dabbed it on the arm, elbow, tied a kerchief and made me sit by His side comfortably and said, "Not to worry," and caressed me and all that.

So my first meeting of Baba was that I had a fall. I fell for Him. [crosstalk][inaudible] So that's how I came to Him. That's how I came to Him but that didn't bring me to Him. Then what happened is that that was. Well memories are there still that he was very kind and loving gentleman you know, young man.

Then Baba told us to come every now and then. So my mother was very happy to see Him. And the other family of course they were happy, all the members. But what brought me there time and again to Meherabad was the good food that was prepared by Naja's father. You know Naja? He was the chief cook at the time in that [inaudible] And everyday there would be that special dish which is known as dhansak. It was wonderful to have that food there. So every now and then you know as kids we would go there and have good food there. Baba would dole out. Baba would Himself serve. Especially tea time that you have now. Aloba serving you a cup of tea. So Baba would at the time you see with a big kettle pouring there. And we had aluminium mugs. And we used to have tea. With that He would distribute sometimes sweets. [foreign]

Jalebi we would call it or some cookies something like that.

And then who wouldn't want to go there you see? A nice place and a good family person distributing wealth and with love and all that. So for us kids it was nice. So there was no thought of spirituality or God or anybody being saintly or anything of the sort. There was no such thing. Everybody was a saint in India at the time. It was nothing new. They atmosphere was [inaudible]

So nothing. On my mind there was no impression except that this person who I met was a very lovable, loving, good, kind person [inaudible]. Then we left the place. School days. We went to Nagpur again and then it so happened that some years passed by. Then all of a sudden one day He rang. I think it is now 2-3 or 5 years passed by. All of a sudden one day in His first trip to Iran or England. When was that 1930?