
HISTORY OF GURUPRASAD

Eruch Jessawala

Guruprasad, Poona, India

1969 Great Darshan

3:52

ERUCH: Then we come to Guruprasad, this place, it has also its own history. This bungalow, this palace belongs to a very devoted Baba lover, Maharani, Her Highness Maharani Shanta Devi Gaikwad of Baroda. May I request the Maharani just to please be seated here. Shanta ben. Baba has instructed me to call her sister, Shanta ben [pilgrims greet Shanta ben].

She has kept this property at the disposal of Baba and Baba lovers. Every summer Baba would pay a visit here for 3 months and she looks after the property. She keeps the place clean and tidy. She has kept the servants here. She has kept the home, the currents, the lights and everything at Baba's disposal.

The history of it is, one day I don't know I'm very weak with dates, years and figures please, so be indulgent if I am wrong. One day sometime I think, Adi do you remember the year? When was it?

ADI: [laughing] I don't remember.

ERUCH: '57. Somehow or the other Baba wanted a place in Poona. [Inaudible] A place in Poona. A good place in Poona. Ramchandra Gadekar, his father, he went searching for a place and he spotted this bungalow all locked and all that. And he approached the manager over here. The manager said that the keeper is someone else. And he approached there. And

[inaudible] who is also a lover of Baba sent a telegram to Maharani Shanta Devi that Meher Baba wants to occupy it.

Well what inspired her, what made her [inaudible]. She sent a telegram saying that the bungalow can be occupied any day, anytime by you. And for any number, any duration. Baba was very happy with that. Baba made me send a telegram as far as I recollect. Or was it a visit? I don't know. That He will come and occupy this bungalow on one condition. That the owner of this place should not be here. That no visitors should come here. Because naturally this place is kept open. Before giving it to Baba, was kept open for the relatives of the Maharaja of Baroda. Relatives of the Maharani of Baroda and their friends and the other Raja's and Rani's. They would come and stay here for some days.

So Baba made this condition. She agreed to that condition. Baba was very happy. And since then Baba blessed this place and said that Guruprasad will be a place of great pilgrimage. People from all over the world will come to it.

Baba asked Shanta ben as Baba has instructed me to call her the sister, my sister. Shanta ben, ben means sister. So Baba instructed Shanta ben to keep this at the disposal of Baba lovers, the pilgrims, lover pilgrims coming from all over the world and this is the place.

It's kept open and we find that you have sown the seed by coming across the oceans to be at Guruprasad for Baba's darshan. It's a place of pilgrimage. You have made the first pilgrimage. And I bow down to the love of my sister Shanta ben.