
MORE STORIES OF BALUL

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9:38

PILGRIM 1: Didn't he also come to dinner in the queens court?

ERUCH: Coming to that.

PILGRIM 1: Oh.

ERUCH: Yeah. How is Jampu? Did he hear that?

PILGRIM 2: Jampu?

ERUCH: Yes. He heard that [crosstalk].

PILGRIM 2: Yeah he heard the whole story. That's the nickname of the monkey, right?

ERUCH: That's the nickname that you have to give him. With the next story. In connection with our Balul.

Well after this the king never forgot his brother Balul [clock chiming]. And it so happened one day. By the way before I begin this story I must give this little preface to it. Whenever, whenever there would be a royal feast you see in the palace, the queen will never forget Balul to be invited. But Balul being a person in rags roaming about the streets, it was not possible for the queen to use her powers and make him sit at the dining table you see with all the royal guests. Who were all the ministers and kings from the neighbouring kingdoms and all that you see. But she would always remember to invite him and give him the same food that

is spread for the dining table in the royal feast. But he would have to sit you see in a corner of the room. Squat on the floor so to say. And people knew about it. They didn't object. Those who were invited, they knew. And that's how Balul would always be present at the feast, royal feast. He being the king who had left his kingdom but he was there squatting on the floor like a dog. Made to eat from a plate and then he would relish it and go away. He didn't care for all that show and pomp.

But after what the king had experienced you see, this dream. It so happened that the next feast when the banquet was spread, he was invited and the king insisted upon his sitting at the table you see. So he told the queen to see, to make preparations to see that he is given a good bath and that he's dressed properly and royal robes and all that so that it's befitting a royal feast you see. He properly dresses. So all the preparations were made and Balul was made to sit you see opposite his brother, the king. Along with the other ministers and the other dignitaries.

Halfway through the feast you see it so happened that the king spotted him and what he sees is that with every morsel that he takes, he picks up from the plate he throws it into his sleeve. You know these royal robes you see they have very big sleeves. You know those days. Broad sleeves you see. So with every morsel that he takes he says, "Ay you sleeve, eat. It's

for you. It's for you, eat it. You're hungry for it." So the king was very embarrassed. Had he done it silently it would have been alright. But he couldn't contain himself you see. And he admonished Balul saying, "Balul, behave, eat properly. Put it in your mouth. Why do you throw it in your sleeves you see? It's spoiling the robe. It's not good." So Balul answers. He says, "Well the feast is not spread for me. I am not made to sit here you see for the feast. Because of this robe that you have put on me, I am being given a place here on the dining table you see. So the feast is actually spread for this royal robe. So allow it to eat. [General laughter] And I will have my feast there in the corner as I used to have before you see." So that was Balul. Could you call that man a mad man?

One more story about Balul- Who he was, people naturally some of them took him to be mad. Now you come to the subjects you see. How the subjects treated him. Of the kingdom. People revered him as one who was all love for God. And then they would come and sit around him and then chat with him and hear him speak in parables. And there were the others you see who would want to exploit him. And his love for God. And his words that he would speak out you see. Here in India and elsewhere too, wherever you find these men of God. There are two sections in the public. One reveres them and would want to derive spiritual benefit from them. There are others who would want to derive material benefit from them. And the majority of them are those who would want to derive material benefit of them. It's like now there is a race you see in the town. Well they would go and sit around him. They would try to serve him with some food or if he is in the habit of smoking give him good packs of cigarettes.

Or massage his body and in the course of that you see they would say, "Please tell us the number of the horse that would stand first." Or if there are other things you see, gambling dens are there, "Give us the number you see." And so forth. There are the businessmen too who are very rich and wealthy who regulate their businesses and profits and losses with the answers that are given by these men of God. Here in India we do find them.

And elsewhere too. Likewise when Balul walked the streets of his kingdom there was one businessman who said, "Let's best to ask him. Let's see. Let's try him first." So he said, "Balul what do you think would profit me best this year? What should I do?" So he addresses Balul as, "Oh Balul the great, let me know what should I do for my business this year so that I profit." So Balul the great replies to him and says, "Sir, fill your barns with rice." So he goes to his office, orders his people to collect all rice from all ports and fill his barns with rice. And he made a huge profit that year you see. A huge profit. He was very happy. And you know what wealth means. With that profit and with the increase in wealth, he also inflated his ego you see. It got inflated to a bursting point you see. And the next year came and when he wanted to again launch on another business or for the next year you see for his next year budget he asked, he came across Balul and he thought of last year's profits you see. But he was so egoistic this time. And he was now the wealthiest person in the town. So he addresses Balul, "Oh Balul the mad. What do you think should I do now this year?" "Oh," he says, "You fill in onions you see. Onions would do you good."

So he says well that's a turn now. Last year he made me the wealthiest person in the

town. This year I will be the wealthiest person in the whole kingdom. So he corners all onion you see from all parts and just fills his barns to the full. And it so happens that it turned out to be the worst season and the worst year you see. And all that he had earned plus his own, everything was lost. He became a pauper. And he got so infuriated with the words of Balul you see. So he goes, makes it a point to go and approach him and tell him this. Complain to him. He says what he has turned him into. A pauper. So he says to Balul, "Hey, what have you done to me? It's a complete loss. I have lost all wealth now that I had possessed." He says, "What can you expect with my advice?" He says, "Well you advised well the first season you see. The next year you advised me just the opposite." Say's well, "It was your query you see. You asked me as Balul the wise man and I advised you as the wise man you see, good advice. The next year you asked me, addressed me as Balul the mad man. So what can you expect from a mad man you see? Words of wisdom?"

And that's the story of Balul the Wise.