
PILGRIM SEEKS RAMDAS

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7:09

PILGRIM 1: I was going to ask you about this one story. Maybe you were going to tell everyone. This story is of Erico in the airport in Bombay?

ERUCH: Yeah, that's a different. Yeah that's another story. That's a different one about Ramdas and all that sort of thing.

PILGRIM 2: Aah, that's a great story!

ERUCH: [laughing]. That's Erico's story you see. Erico once met a, he was I think, what was he? What was he? Oh brother, what was that person in the, he was?

PILGRIM 3: I think he was a Canadian.

ERUCH: He was a Canadian?

PILGRIM 3: Yeah.

ERUCH: And what was he? He was working in the?

PILGRIM 3: Working in the airport.

ERUCH: No but he was.

PILGRIM 4: Hare Krishna?

ERUCH: No, no, not Hare Krishna. What do you call this you see?

PILGRIM 3: [inaudible][general laughter].

PILGRIM 4: Don't they work in the airport?[general laughter]

PILGRIM 3: Not the Bombay airport, Virginia.

PILGRIM 4: Never know where they work [general laughter].

ERUCH: No, he was employed in one of the, what do you call?

PILGRIM 3: Airlines.

ERUCH: Airlines. And he was not a pilot but something more than that. He was some squadron leader or something like that. He was employed. He was there. He had an access to flights and all that sort of thing. So every now and then it so happened, he would hear distinctly that, "Go to India, go to India. And Ramdas will be the one who will guide you. Go to India." Well he would hear and he would just. Means hearing in the sense not very loud voice or anything of the sort but all the time there would be these what do you call? Yeah, impressioned hearing would be there. "Go to India and Ramdas will show you the way, Ramdas will show you the way, go to India."

So he after years of this he comes one day to India. He has access to these flights and all. He comes to India and he. Now Erico also is in Bombay. He has landed in Bombay mind you. And Erico has to catch a flight from Bombay to Delhi for his own visa problems and all that sort of thing. In the early years. So Erico is sitting there and this man is also sitting there in the room there, in that hall there. And Erico looks here and there and that man looks at Erico. And Erico looks and again it appears that the man is gazing at Erico all the time. He doesn't understand what's this. So Erico,

you know how Erico's nature is. He befriends him and gets him close and says, "Well, you're here in India. From where?" So he said, "From the States." And "Why have you come to India? For sightseeing or on your business trip or?" Says, "No." So he tells about it, that he has been haunted with this 'Go to India'. "And I don't know why I'm being haunted like that to go to India. And who is that Ramdas that will help? Is there anyone by name Ramdas who can show me the way? Where? Which way? What way?"

He's puzzled so Erico doesn't pay any heed to all this sort of thing. He takes him to Khorshed's place you see in Bombay. Because he has to catch the flight. So he says, "Look now that you have come, where are you heading towards?" He says, "Towards some religious places or something. Some spiritual places, Banaras or this or that. I will go from here to Delhi now and go towards the Himalayas somewhere and this and that." He says, "You stop all that. You cancel your flight now. What you do is." And he is rushed you see. He cancels the flight and he rushes there to Khorshed's place. Although Erico is waiting for the plane mind you. It doesn't matter for him even if he misses the flight. He wants this soul who has come right in his hands to be directed properly. So he takes him. So Khorshed now makes arrangement with somebody and sends him in a taxi.

PILGRIM 5: What makes him to go to Khorshed's place?

ERUCH: Erico. Because who?

PILGRIM 5: Did he know her?

ERUCH: Erico knew that. Because Khorshed is the one [crosstalk]. Yeah he was before here. So he takes him there and says, "Please see that he goes to Ahmednagar." So he goes. He's put there and he comes to Ahmednagar. And then

when he comes to Ahmednagar he happens to take a rickshaw and come here. So when he arrives here, he has his bag, suitcases and all that. So nobody was here at that time. And even while Erico is going back from the airport to Khorshed's, so this man is harping on the subject. "Do you know? Brother is there anybody by name Ramdas who will guide me? Who will show me the way?" Says, "No I don't. I have heard of quite a few Ramdas's. There is Baba Ramdas in the States and there a papa Ramdas you know of Kanangarh who has died and all that. But it's not that. You just don't worry about that. You go there and try to find out."

But Ramdas was the uppermost in his mind you see. Ramdas always would surface. It is Ramdas who is going to show me the way. Now where is the Ramdas? And nobody seems to know Ramdas and he has come to India and here he has met this stranger who is forcing him to go somewhere which he does not know and he does not know where Ramdas is. So poor fellow comes here. Now he has been put there so he takes a rickshaw and comes here with his two suitcases. Now nobody was here at the time. We were in the office working there. So Aloba as usual was there. From his room he comes out hearing the noise of this rickshaw you know, rickety [Eruch imitates a rickety engine sound]. So he comes out, "Who is that?" So he sees a Westerner getting down so he says, "Jai Baba". He says, "Good morning." He says, "Well do you want to go to Baba's place?" He says, "Yes". Because Erico had told him about Baba's name and all that.

He says yes, but then seeing that he's holding the two bags from rickshaw, taking them out, all of a sudden Aloba shouts out the name of "Ramdas [general laughter]. Ramdas come here." He's our office peon now, Ramdas. He was working here as a gardener [pilgrims continue laughing]. So he says, "Take this, take these suitcases."

So Ramdas is walking ahead and this poor fellow is following him. He says, "Take him to the Baba's hall there, Mandali Hall." So he puts the two things and then Ramdas shows him this is there, this is the place.

So this man is surprised. This Ramdas is going to show me the way [pilgrims laughing loudly]. So this was how it was. Not only did he come, he sent another air-hostess here and then she sent another air-hostess and all that.

PILGRIM 4: So they lured him.

ERUCH: Yeah. Funny ways how one gets caught.