
SILENCE SOMETIMES A HINDRANCE

Eruch Jessawala

Guruprasad, Pune, India

1969 Great Darshan

4:51

ERUCH: Now I have finished almost all the announcements that I had in mind. And it's now seven minutes to ten. I again invite some of you if you wish to say something here. Rick would you mind saying something?

RICK: [inaudible]

ERUCH: Come. Just say what to say.

RICK: [inaudible]

MANI: Anecdotes.[inaudible][Rick laughing]

ERUCH: Oh anecdotes. What anecdote should I say? Right, yes I get in mind about Baba's silence. Silence is sometimes helpful and silence sometimes come in the way of Baba's activities. It's very good Mani that you reminded me. It's a very interesting thing.

So, it so happened once we were on a mast tour. Travelled long distances. Those were the days of the war. Second World War. We were exhausted. The trains were jammed packed. Baba would travel in 3rd class compartment. And 3rd class compartment mind you is worse than this compartment where you find yourself now. I think it would have 3 times the crowd that is here, if this had been a compartment. So just imagine. And Baba would be seated there in the compartment and incognito, mind you. Baba wouldn't want His name to be known. Baba wouldn't want anybody to know Him.

So, we were travelling. We travelled long distances. Contacted different masts and all that. And we were exhausted. We had to change this train and go in a different direction. Take a different train so we came down towards the station platform of a junction and we were seated there. All exhausted, in the afternoon mind you. No shade, it was a small station. We had our own little bedding rolls. We were sitting there squatting. Baba was on some sort of another seat that we prepared for Him of our bedding rolls itself. And we were all haggard. Baba with a torn sadra, sometimes all perspired and wet, and we looked haggard and all that. And from our common. Then there was a crowd around us. And then the crowd, another ring formed, another ring formed and we were just chatting.

Gustadji was silent, Baba was silent and all that. And we looked so tired and morose to them, that the people there thought that this gentlemen that is Meher Baba, Meherwan, because He cannot speak, He must be dumb. And so they said, "Don't you at all worry. There is a very good shrine over here. And if you pay a visit to that shrine and if you just invoke the blessings of that Saint, maybe that this gentleman will benefit by it and He will be able to speak." [general laughter]

We were so tired, we said, 'Please for heaven's sake you go away. Allow us some air or something.'

[inaudible]

“No” he says, “Don’t feel nervous about it.” They again would come to comfort us and they coaxed us to such a degree that Baba said, “Come on Eruch. In order to get out of this crowd let us pay a visit to the shrine.”

[general laughter]

So they felt so happy because Baba’s habit was such that He would not want to displease anybody’s feelings, hurt anybody’s feelings, displease anybody. So He then took us all you see to the shrine. We just bowed down from a distance. Just a minute, not even a minute and we returned and they were very happy about it.

So this Baba’s silence you see was sometimes not helpful in Baba’s work.
[general laughter]

Here is Sarosh, come Sarosh. [Pilgrims clapping]

SAROSH: Jai Baba.

PILGRIMS: Jai Baba.

ERUCH: Sarosh will be at Ahmednagar. He’s leaving you all on 11th, [inaudible] the distance to prepare the grounds at Meherabad so that Baba feels happy that Sarosh has done his job at Meherabad and I would request Adi to say a few words to begin this.

ADI: Jai Baba.

PILGRIMS: Jai Baba.

ERUCH: By this time of course I would like Jal bhai also to come. Jal. Where is Jal? Jal bhai?