
Bosberg and John Cook

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13:29

AGNES: She came back from India, I didn't know that, and she said she was going to sell the place.

ERUCH: Which place she wanted to sell?

AGNES: Meher Mount.

ERUCH: Meher Mount?

AGNES: She came to India, stayed a few months and Kitty will remember this. She was there only two or three months. Came back to Hollywood and I didn't know whether she was back or not and Baba had told her never to come back to Meher Mount.

ERUCH: Told her?

AGNES: Told her that. I didn't know it but later on her secretary told me that. And then without telling us that she came back to Meher Mount, and there was some big period of silence or something like that and then she left. And then, I didn't know what to do until she said, "Well just wait until I can sell the place." So she turned up with this man who was a businessman and he pretended to be interested in Baba. And anyway, to make a long story short, he pulled a very dirty trick. He pretended to be interested in Baba and he insisted in having the property in his name and when that was done, he told somebody else, "Ha ha, I played a good trick. I'm not interested in Baba, I just said that to get the property. I got a beautiful piece of property and I'm going to have a big hotel here and I'm going to have all the psychics." It was a big psychic library. Can you imagine anything

worse than that? [laughter]. And when I heard that for the first time I wrote to Baba. I knew that somebody was lying and cheating. So I wrote Him the whole story and I said cause on principal I hate anybody who tries to cheat somebody else. I always try to you know just go to their defense.

ERUCH: Was that your first letter to Baba?

AGNES: My first letter and I still hadn't accepted Him. Because I'd been fooled a couple of times with some gurus and this time I was going to watch. And I wasn't going to accept anybody until I met them. So I wrote to Baba a really polite and formal letter and I was sitting at the typewriter. And without thinking I just wrote down, "And Baba if you want Meher Mount, I'll keep it for you through hellfire and damnation." I signed it and sent it off. [laughter] Now why did I do that?

ERUCH: Why did you do that?

AGNES: It's only hindsight that I see that from the very beginning a little string that Baba had me like a little fish pulling me along like this. So anyway I sent it off and so He has been doing that all this time [laughter]. To keep me to my promise, hellfire and damnation. So He wrote back this very sweet letter that He appreciated and loved me very much and that I, by all means, I should keep Meher Mount. And so then I didn't say anything to the man but I merely made up my mind that that place was Baba's, not his. He lied to get it in his name mind you. Legally it was his. Jean had started with a

Meher Mount board and he was to be on it. But when he had it in his private name, the board wouldn't mean anything. She and he and I were to be on the board. I don't know why I was on it. But anyway it went on for a long time until finally he kept sending people in, very elaborate psychic people. Margaret Craske used to come there in the summer and she knows what went on and it was really very weird. And I didn't know what to do but I only knew that the man was not going to get possession of it. Finally, it came to a climax and he wrote a letter and he said, "I have been sending a lot of people interested in putting money into the place with me up to Meher Mount."

I don't know if he called it Meher Mount or not. And he said, "They always come away and say no, they are not interested. Now what are you doing? What are you and that Meher Baba doing to these people?" And he said Baba was a black magician and I was under His powers and all that nonsense. So after a few letters I got very angry and I wrote him a letter. I said, "Look. Stop writing this nonsense and I said, from now." I said, "The place isn't yours. It belongs to Meher Baba, make up your mind to that." And I said, "From now on I'm not going to write you anymore. I'm not going to answer any of your stupid letters." And I sent it off.

PILGRIM 1: May I ask who he is?

AGNES: So he'd keep writing and writing

PILGRIM 1: Who is the you?

AGNES: Bosberg

PILGRIM 1: Alright.

AGNES: She sold it to this man.

PILGRIM 2: Bosberg

AGNES: A businessman. Because she was sick and tired of a few financial things.

ERUCH: Bosberg

AGNES: B-o-s-b-e-r-g [spelled], A ruthless, he was just interested in psychic stuff. So anyway, I received no more letters and then John Cook turned up.

ERUCH: Who's that now?

AGNES: Well now John Cook, [chuckles] he was the heir of the grandson of the Cooks who founded Hawaii, the island of Hawaii.

ERUCH: Oh

AGNES: And he was, he was a little; he was a sweet guy. I liked him. Even Mani called him 'lovable John' at one time. I liked him. He didn't do anything. He didn't have to but his family wouldn't keep him on the Hawaiian Islands because he disgraced them. He danced and he played around with art. But he just wasn't a businessman. They only appreciated somebody who could make money. Any way his whole family rejected him. The poor guy wandered around all over the United States, basically very lonely. But with all the money in the world to spend.

Well finally it happened that, now again a very strange thing. We didn't have a telephone and we were down in the town telephoning. And there were things that they had to sell, and Jean was in the booth. And she said, "Come up to Meher Mount and we got this and this to sell." So a young guy came up and said, "Meher Mount? That Meher Baba's place?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Oh we heard about it from Norina Matchiabelli in New York. She was giving a lecture. And so we're out here in California. We bought a farm." And we said, "Where is it?" "It's right below Meher Mount, at the bottom of the mountain." So they were very excited.

They came up the mountain and they lived there for awhile. But the wife wasn't too interested. She was also sorta occult. But John, he really loved Baba. So he promised Jean at that time that he was going to pay off the mortgage. But after a short time they left and they didn't like Jean either. So then when Jean left the place I didn't know about John's promise. Well six years later, well no more than six years later, when Bosberg still had it, one night I came home and here was John. He's been in Algeria travelling all over the world having a good time. He turned up with an Arab. I found out later the Arab was watching him 'cause John had a lot of money and the Arabs in Algeria wanted his money and the money of all the other rich Americans to get rid of the French. He was involved in politics. You know how they got his interest? They told him that he was a messiah, that he was a very spiritual person. That he was the messiah that Mohammedans said they'd been waiting for all these years and he believed it.

ERUCH: Who, John said that?

AGNES: John Cook. They told John Cook that, the Arabs in Algeria. And He believed it. And because he was just spaced out enough so he thought he was up to Baba's equal at least. So finally he was persuaded and he was going to give his whole fortune. He came to America to settle his finances. He said, "I've got plenty of money left over to pay off the mortgage at Meher Mount. And don't talk around this guy cause he's, you know, he's going to listen." And they deliberately sent him so that John Cook would come back with the money. So John said, "I'm divorcing my wife. I'm giving her a lot of money and I think I have enough left for Meher Mount." And knowing John, he was a sweet guy and I liked him but he never kept his promise. I said, "Oh yes John, thank you very much." And I didn't think any more of it. And he said, "I mean it!" I said, "Oh I know you mean it John." So he went off

and said, "I'm going to phone in a week's time. I'll telegraph you and you come down the hill to the phone." So I received a telegram, went down the hill, telephoned San Francisco. "I've got the money Agnes. How much is it?"

AGNES: I didn't really remember exact figures so I was talking out of my head. I quoted a price, figure. He said, "Yeah I've got that much. Now you have to tell Bosberg, if he'll sell it, to accept the offer." So in the phone booth I had to call him long distance to Chicago. And I knew that I had to be real firm because he was a really greedy man and really ruthless like that. "Bosberg, I have someone who's going to pay you off." I said, "Meher Mount's going to come back to where it belongs and you're going to accept the offer. Do you understand?" "What do you mean?" I said, "Just that." "How much are you offering me?" And I had to quote that. "Well golly I'm going to lose money on that." "That's too bad isn't it? [laughter] You greedy, selfish man. You've lied and you cheated and now you're grumbling about losing money. You're not anyway. You'd be lucky if you got anything. I'm warning you, you take it or you're going to be sorry." [laughter]

And I could have gone to court you know. I really could, but I didn't want to but as a last resort. So I got him scared enough. He said, "Well what do you want me to do?" I said, "Right now, sit down and dictate a letter that you accept my offer and the price and so forth and send it registered right away. I want it by, in three days." And I got it. [laughter] And he went whew you know, feeling sorry for himself. So John paid it but he said, "Now there's another stipulation." On the phone he said, "Agnes, Meher Mount is ready to be Baba's place and you can have it your school or whatever you want, no strings attached, but my brother-in-law insists that it be put in my name, my personal name again."

ERUCH: Whose personal name?

AGNES: John's name

ERUCH: Oh

AGNES: So I fixed it with John. "Well John you love Baba as much as I do, so why not? Your name is as good as mine." And so I didn't think anything of it. And so he wrote the formal letter. The thing went through. They paid off the mortgage. And so for about six years I had no expenses, no mortgage to pay off and they allowed several hundred dollars a month for my upkeep, So I did what I thought was Baba's work, working with people. I still hadn't accepted Baba though, mind you, not consciously. Deep down my stubborn mind said, "Nah." So only when I was doing some work that I finally, at the end of six months, I was teaching and doing things with kids, poverty people. And then at the end of six years, John got paralyzed.

He had met Baba. Oh in the mean time I, in the mean time it was '52 and I had come to Myrtle Beach. I had met Baba, of course that, no questions, it was just an explosion. You know, no doubt. So then I very openly was doing Baba's work, And then John got paralyzed, He said he got polio. He was still in Africa and his family wouldn't have him. Nobody else would have him. And so I said, "Why don't you come to Meher Mount? It has sulfur water and you'll get cured." And he came and something had happened to him. I don't know what it was, something happened to his mind. Baba later on went like this you know. Adi said he's mad. I said, "Baba everybody knows John's mad." But I didn't take it seriously. And then I found out. And then I found out that he really was you know. So when he was there he behaved very badly and I couldn't have it. And he was taking drugs. And I said, "John you can't do this, this is Baba's place." I said, "What's the matter? Look, you're sick and I want to help you but you can't do this."

And something happened to him. He got very angry and he said, "I want my money back or I want to be in charge of Meher Mount!" I said, "Well look John, if you make a donation to a church or a nonprofit, you can't come back after six years and say you want it back". I said, "That's not even legal." I said, "Further, why did you change your mind?" He sat there very solemnly and said, "God has whims and God changes his mind and I am God." [laughter] I said, "Oh brother." And that was that. He thought he was God.

ERUCH: Really, he said this?

AGNES: He really was. He was off his rocker. So finally then his sister came down, the only person in his family who liked him. She came down from San Francisco. I said, "Look John if you want to be in charge of Meher Mount, maybe you should. Let's write to Baba. Let Him decide. OK?" "Alright." So the sister and he and I were going to write to Baba and find out what Baba wanted. And I said, "If Baba says you're going to have it, ok I'll walk out." And we were going to write it the next morning early and I got up and I had breakfast and looked around, and they were gone.

They came back and I said, "Why don't we write the letter?" "Oh we already have written it and we sent it off." "So what did you say?" "Well, what we discussed." I mean yeah, "But why didn't you let me in on it?" So they had sent it off. Now the funny thing is, now this is one of Adi's cute little tricks. I got a letter about maybe a week or two later from Adi. "Agnes, I am sending you a copy a letter that John wrote to Baba which is absolutely mad and Baba's answer, but don't tell Baba I'm sending it to you." [she laughs] I thought that was kind of cute. So anyway here's the letter that they had written behind my back. John said, "Agnes isn't spiritual enough to be in charge of Meher Mount."

The birds aren't singing. The dogs are unhappy. I found a dead possum in the road. Which implies all sorts of catastrophes." He went on and on, poor sad guy. And so he went on, "And therefore I think Baba that I should stay on, don't you think, and be in charge?" And Baba's answer was enclosed. It said, "I love Agnes dearly and I trust her implicitly and she's staying on at Meher Mount."

ERUCH: She's staying?

AGNES: She's to stay on at Meher Mount. So John had brought the mail up and he knew that I had received a letter from India. He also had received one. He said, "You received a letter from India. What did it say?" "You received a letter from India. What did yours say?" He got very angry. He and his sister packed up and they left.