
LOAN

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AGNES: But then his brother-in-law started sending real estate people up. Going to sell Meher Mount. One thing after the other. I was just about fed up. So, finally.

ERUCH: Brother-in-law means?

AGNES: It was in John's name.

ERUCH: Yeah but brother-in-law means?

AGNES: The brother-in-law. John's brother-in-law who lived. Yeah well he's the husband of that sister.

ERUCH: Sister, I see.

AGNES: He was a very prominent lawyer. In fact he was the right hand man of Governor Brown and big, big guy. You know very much of a bully. He didn't care for Baba either. So, he was going to sell the property. He had money on it. So, when they sent the real estate man up, they happened to be two men that I knew very well. I said, "Alright now will you please sit down I have a little story to tell you." I said, "You want to get involved in litigation?" "Nooo." And I said, "Alright." And I never bothered Baba with these problems. That's my problem, He's got enough to worry about. [Eruch laughs]

So, I didn't say anything to anyone and I was worried to death. I said what am I going to do? Banks wouldn't lend it because now the property is worth more. But in those days, country property, nobody. Banks wouldn't touch it. And I didn't have any collateral you know. So, finally I thought, "What am I going to do? What am I going to do?" So, some people who at that time I thought were friends of mine said, "Agnes you're going to wear yourself to death so why don't you let us lend you the money for two years?" I said, "Alright, strictly business. You lend me the money and I'll pay you an interest." They said, "Okay." So, for two years they were going to lend me the money.

But the second month, they lived in Santa Barbara and they had fancy birds and animals and they wanted to move out. You'll never be able to make payments, why don't you let us takeover now? After two months only. I said, "Look, I thought I had

two years." And so she kept on bugging me every once in a while to take the plot. I said, "No". I said, "I don't know how I'm going to manage but somehow that place is going to be kept for Baba." And so this went on for all. Then a year went over and then another year. And I was teaching at that time. And still no possibility of getting any money to pay it back.

ERUCH: Which year is that?

AGNES: Oh gosh! I don't know that was. I know in the 50's sometime. And just about two months before time to pay, a school teacher turned up. And he said, "My wife and I met you when we first came to Ojai about 7 years ago." And he said, "We came up here and we talked about education. I liked your philosophy of education." So, he said, "I gave up teaching and I've invented some electronic thing and I'm making a lot of, I've got a lot of money. I'd like to start a school with you." And Professor Chatarjee, you know that dear fellow was up there. And I introduced him and they liked him. And I thought well, "Maybe he's alright." So Chatarjee said, "You got the money young man?" He never talked about money but he did then. So then he said, "Yeah." So, I told him the whole story and I told him about Baba. And he listened. He was very interested. And as time went on he showed more and more interest in Baba. So, I thought well this is a perfect set up. So, we started working on a contract to work together. [clock chimes]

But when we went into town to the lawyer to sign it up, he suddenly said. He'd paid off the mortgage. Yeah he paid off the mortgage to these people. And they were very angry of course and so they moved next. They bought a property right adjoining Meher Mount and they told the rancher, "She'll never make payment there. We're going to sit here in our trailer and watch and then we're going to grab it." Good friends, wish they were. It was so funny. [Agnes laughs] Isn't that weird?

ERUCH: These people from Santa Barbara.

AGNES: All these kooks around bug me. Isn't that funny? I don't know why.

ERUCH: The people from Santa Barbara.

AGNES: Santa Barbara. Bought that property next door so they could. I wasn't going to make payment and they loved the place. And they were going to grab it if I defaulted. Isn't that weird? They had been good friends before that. Well anyway. They finally, this young man said, he'd paid them the mortgage, he paid off the mortgage. Then he was going to put in a lot of cash to get the school started. And I wanted to take the poverty children. Children from broken homes and he'd agreed to all that.

And then when we were in front of the lawyer he said, "I am not putting in my assets at this time." I said, "What do you mean?" "I mean just that." And the lawyer

even looked startled. And then I said , “Well I’m sorry then I’m not signing,” I said, “Until you make an explanation.” He said nothing. We drove back to Los Angeles. He dropped me off at Meher Mount. And I finally got a lawyer friend. A very good friend. And he said, “Agnes, break it.” He said, “That man is up to no good. He’s going to form a board and they’re going to vote you out. And they’ll be in possession of the property.” I said, “ That’s impossible.” He said, “No, that does happen.”

So, he had us come up together to his home and he talked to this Dean and he said, “What are you pulling on my client?” And he said, “I don’t like her philosophy.” I said, “Look, I told you what my philosophy was from the very beginning. What do you?” I don’t know whether he meant only Baba or what it was. And I said, “What are you talking about? We had this all out.” And he said it was just that. I just didn’t like it so I decided that I’m not going to put my assets in. And then I found out later he’s been having a lot of. He’d brought up the Presbyterian church. He was a very dedicated Presbyterian. They were going to have only Presbyterian children. And Presbyterian [inaudible]. Oh brother, I got out of that one. Can you imagine? And he lied. He was a nice guy but he just lied the whole time. All these people pretended an interest in Baba for an ulterior motive. Isn’t that weird?

So, I broke out and all. But then my lawyer said, “You have to see that Agnes has. That you renew the mortgage for another two years.” Well he was very reluctant but he did because he knew what he did was very wrong. So, he renewed it for another two years. Then at the end of that time something happened. I don’t know. I got a letter or a telegram from Baba saying, “Well what’s going on at Meher Mount? I haven’t had any news for a long time.” So, I may have mentioned something that was going on. I’m not sure. But then another telegram comes just at the time when my mortgage was due to this young man. And we were about to go to the bank and then I wasn’t going to ask him to renew it the second time. But we were going to the bank for some signatures. And I pulled out Baba’s [inaudible]. You better watch out young man, Baba’s watching you. And he suddenly, he got very pale and he renewed it automatically for another two years. [Agnes and pilgrims laughing]

So, then the next time after that was over, I still didn’t have the money to pay him after two years. Because I, you see, I would go down and teach and I didn’t make very much money. Nobody making donations so it was all up to me. So at the end of that time, I still didn’t have it. And he came up one time and volunteered to renew it but he, then he said, “What I would prefer is to co-sign at a bank. So that you can borrow from the bank.” And so we went to his bank and he co-signed and if I defaulted he would be responsible. So, that’s why he’s still a co-signer and they gave me an extension. They gave me a 25 year mortgage thing. But I just paid monthly interest.

PILGRIM 1: Who was the other who signed?

AGNES: This man, the school teacher. Because the lawyer made him feel very guilty and he knew that what he had. Deep down he knew that what he was doing was wrong. And also I think he understood enough about Baba to be kind of worried that he might get into trouble if he kept on. It was his wife who wasn't interested. And he was. And always, it often happens that way. When one is interested in Baba, the other isn't. The other one sort of fades out. So, anyway. So, that's where it stands now.