
Meeting Meher Baba (1 of 2)

Ann Forbes

Unknown Place

Unknown Location

12:00

ANN FORBES: Well, I agreed I would come with them to see the Master. She called me back in the afternoon and she said: "Ann, the Master had an accident." Well, now that was altogether something new, an accident.

"A Master," I said to myself, "A Master doesn't have to have an accident." That was something not quite right about that. "I don't think that could be a real Master. He could not, He does not have to have an accident." Well, I thought it over and then I called her back and I made some excuses, I wasn't going. Well, my ego was rather pleased with me because I used good discrimination, I didn't fall for the first best thing.

So, that was alright, but Loretta promised that she would call me back the next day and tell me how it was. Well, when she called the next day, she seemed in ecstasy and she started out by saying, "Ann, I know that Baba is the Christ, He is the Christ." and I said, "How do you know that?" She said, "Because I had such excruciating pain in my hands and my feet, I could feel the nails in my hands and in my feet, and I fell right down on my knees and I said "Oh my God." She was so sincere, and I know this was real with her and she had the real feeling, and I must felt that I must have missed a great opportunity. So, but it wasn't to be remedied. Now she gave me some pamphlets to read and also explained the Christ of course, I knew suffers for

humanity. At that time, we had never heard the word Avatar, I mean it wasn't in the common language at the time, that the Avatar comes again and again. She explained that to me. Well, I was reading things again and the book *Avatar* was the first book I read, and it impressed me very much. Then I saw a film in one of the hotels in New York, a beautiful color film of Baba. Darwin Shaw narrated it. His very way of love going out when he speaks of the Master that was very impressive. Then I subscribed to certain periodicals.

Then it came in 1953, an order was issued by Baba, that all His lovers should observe on July 10th an hour between 4:00 and 5:00 in the morning repeating the name of God. The Westerners could use God Almighty, the Muslims could use Allah, the Hindus could use [inaudible] or whatever they wished to do. I know now that most of the intimate Baba lovers would have used Meher Baba. At the time I did not know how much power this name carries. But I was very eager to carry out Baba's order. The question is how to do that between 4:00 and 5:00 in the morning is rather an unusual time. My husband wasn't really aware of all this and so how to do that and get the farthest room in the house and carry out the order. Well, I managed to sneak out and for one hour I repeated God Almighty and come 5:00 I came back also undetected and safely in my bed. As I was about to pull up the covers there stood Baba! I know then Baba

is what He says He is and that creates it for all times for me.

So from here on of course I was going to some meetings and met the Winterfeldts and John Bass and so forth. Come '54 when Baba had called the men to India for the Three Incredible Weeks, Loretta again invited us again to come to her house for the afternoon and meet the Winterfeldts again and John Bass. Fred and John told us all about their wonderful three weeks there and we were just in awe to listen to all the stories, you see. That was another great highlight for me.

My intention to see Baba and to apologize profusely, that was the greatest urge in my very heart and soul. Come '56, then of course I had an opportunity, and I was really wanting to impress my deep feeling and my deep regret how I had wasted four years that let that go by and miss that great opportunity. I had invited two friends of ours to come with us to New York and went to the Delmonico Hotel and we met another friend there so the three of us, five of us actually, were sitting in the waiting room waiting for Baba.

A woman came in and said, "The photographers are here and taking pictures of Baba, who wants to be photographed with Baba?" My husband says, "Don't you raise your hand."

[Laughter]

ANN: She said, "Raise your hand." Nobody raised their hands and I said, "What is the matter with these people who don't want to be photographed with Baba?" The woman repeated her request. Up went my hand and back of me another hand. The woman said, "You two come on out." So here we are. She introduced us

to Filis Frederick and Filis opened the door to the hall and there in front of me was Baba on a white satin divan in a white sadhra and white coat and as I looked and beheld Him, to me He was the essence of purity.

I went up to Him and I too fell right on my knees. But nothing came forth. All my nice speech that I had prepared and the apology it stuck in my throat. And there I stand but Baba reached gently and pulled me up and took me into His arms and pressed me for the longest time. There I was for the longest time and I thought, "Is it possible me in the arms of God?" Baba must have read my thoughts because He released me and put His arms on my shoulders and looked into my eyes. For the longest time He looked into my eyes. Up to this day I regret that I had to blink because Baba might have loosened a couple of very old stubborn sanskaras. But at that moment, John Bass came in and he said, "Baba, Mrs. Forbes is one of those people who contributed to God Speaks so it could be distributed in India." That loosened my tongue and I said, "Yes Baba, I have the book, but I don't understand it."

Baba motioned something to Eruch and Eruch says, "Baba tells you must read the book five times and then you will have it for all eternity." Well, with that Baba gave me a grape and I held it in my hand and Eruch said, "You must eat it". Then afterwards I learned it was a seed planted, a spiritual seed so may it sprout. The other young man came that was with me. He had his embrace, he was a black man. While Baba embraced him so heartily, I thought, "Oh Baba is doing something for the black race. It wasn't long afterwards when the riots started in Little Rock.

With that over the photographers started to click and they gave orders. I had to walk backwards from Baba fifteen feet and come forward again and as I came forward Baba shook hands with me. I had to do it three times. Then the black man came forward, Leonard Willoughby is his name, some of you might know him. He was always receiving a very hearty embrace again, three times also. So now the photographer was satisfied, and we were ushered out again and into the waiting room. To my great dismay I had gotten a hat where I thought I looked very nice was alright and pleased with myself but when I met Baba that hat bothered me so much to think I had come to the august Being with a hat on. I couldn't wait to get out in the waiting room and throw that hat in the corner.

[Laughter]

Ann: My husband said, "You will lose it! You will forget it!" [inaudible] So, that was the hat.

Now, the woman announced that the rest of the people could now come and meet Baba. That meant my friends and my husband could come in now too. I got ahold of John Bass and I asked him, I said, "John when you introduce Aaron will you tell Him that he is my husband?" and John in his very dry way said, "I won't do anything of the kind, you go right in and introduce him yourself." Well, how lucky can you get. Once more to see Baba, you know. As we came up in line Aaron had not read much about Baba. He was just very happy that I had something that completely satisfied me. And he had a very responsible job. He was always grateful for me to be happy; you see.