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## Baba Does His Own Work

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18:27

**MANI:** Baba would take us on a walk, or just on the grounds outside. And I still remember one of the things that happened that morning in Ajmer [spelling 0:17] outside our house. We could see boys playing a game, playing football. Sometimes Baba would go out. Baba said, "look, look." So we looked, Baba said to look. And sure enough, we would hear the "pat" of the football. After a while, we caught on to what Baba was telling us. Because the ball would go down, no sound. The ball would go up, "pat." We'd hear the pat before the football after the ball had risen up because sound carries slower than silence.

So little things like that come to me now and then, and I said "That's it. All this is that Baba said "my work is done" everything has happened, but we're only just beginning to see. Now we have seen. All that He had said when I was fifteen. It took up to fifteen, was I was fifteen for it to be revealed, for it to be received. So in the same way, whatever He has given, it is exorbitant following the whole world and all that. None is going to be able to escape His love, His gaze. He's patient, slows time. What is happening? No matter what we do it's going to happen.

Even now we feel in our daily things. We the mandali as you call us. Even the mandali feel as if it's out of our hands. As if no longer is anything in our control. As if

we're just moving along. Say, like in a crowd where you're pulled just by the momentum. Of the force, and speed. That's exactly how we do it. That is all Baba's hand doing it. That we're simply moving along because He's pushing. And more and more we see that when Baba said "I do my own work," it really is so. He is doing His own work.

Which is nice in a way, which is easier. I only wish we had learned the lesson a few years sooner. [cross talk 3:10] I did a lot, but only because I had to. If I didn't have to I wouldn't be doing it. I'd be sitting with a book of my favorite authors, potato chips next to me, or doing my origami or Persian writing you know? There's no time even for the luxury of part-time hobbies anymore. But what I mean to say is He's pushing. It's compelling. It's a lovely thing. It's alright, you're doing it, fine.

In the beginning, when any Baba book came out I used to be disturbed, it used to distress me to find so many mistakes. So many inaccurate things. So many things needed correction. Wow, what had happened. This is going on to the people. And then I find that there's not a single book which hasn't got inaccuracies. Every size, big, small, whatever. So I said 'Well then I find it doesn't matter. The people were getting something from that. Which is the main thing. So, what does it matter if the date was wrong, or the place was wrong, or the things wrong. I mean I have

to come to that conclusion really because there's nothing we could do about it. But in the same way, He can be, His saying, His job. We often tried to think that He would feel, to protect, Baba's image. Is that the word one calls? In an ordinary way? But for Baba, it was a smaller word. Or whatever it is, in our little way, even when we were with Baba, we'd run around trying to protect. Little hands trying to cover. And then because it was only men, that they were giving us an opportunity by which we were close to Him. By which we were given a chance to have His closeness really, serving only needs closeness. And we would not have had that chance had He not, for our sake, shown weakness, frailness. It's just to give us a chance.

I still remember I've told this story again and again. But to me, this has a very forceful impact, because I happened to be a witness at the time. Up comes sunshine in the hall, Mandali Hall, and Baba was seated with the men because Baba would want me for something. Or he would want Goher for something. There were two handbells, brass handbells by the entrance here. The bigger one was for Goher, the smaller one was for me because I was closer. I was typing on that little veranda on my table. Sometimes I would come over when that bell would ring. I would be a witness to very heartwarming things. Or things that struck my heart and my memory very strongly. One of the things was that - I'll just tell you about one. When I came Baba was bent over, slumped over. Baba was slumped in His chair, and He looks at us and says "You know my health is very bad. I'm feeling very bad, very weak. I'm going over to the women's side." Which means for lunch and then rest in His room. So when Baba

was ready to go, to leave the men mandali to go over to the other side Eruch and one of the others, or Eruch and Francis would go forward to help Baba, or to give Baba sandals to put on. So I saw Eruch and Francis both get up and quickly go to Baba to support Him, to help Him get up from the chair. They're strong people, men. They give the support of their hands and their strength Baba would lift Himself up and stand. So, as they do that and now they prepare to lift Baba up I see that all Baba did was just move the index finger of His hand. While they're holding Him. He twists just the tiniest bit and these two men, you know they were strong were bowing Baba, and trying to hold on to the arm of the chair so that they don't fall on Baba, they were almost bowled over by Baba but the tiniest almost invisible little tug with His fingers. And here was Baba saying 'I'm so weak, I'm so unwell.' So they stand, and then Baba looks up and Frances is dazed. And he says 'Oh Baba you're so strong!' and Baba says 'Don't you forget it.' [laughter] And the next moment Baba says 'Oh help me up. I'm so weak and unwell.' So then He allows them to really pull Him up. But had I not seen what happened two seconds ago you would have really have believed that yes Baba needs to be helped up.

What we need is to be close to Him. To be given the opportunity to do what we call "help." Understand we're helping ourselves to really be. Even when we think we are giving something to Baba, or we're doing something for Baba we are receiving something from Him. It is He alone who gives.

**AUDIENCE:** Mani you said before that what Baba does is like a slow plan. Like animals and flies.

**MANI:** Yes

**AUDIENCE:** Is the fact that Baba became old and weak and His body was so broken. He really endured a very difficult old age. Was He working for older people? Was He trying to..?

**MANI:** I don't know, but I haven't thought of it that way, but this much I know that Baba, we have seen Baba's Godhood more exposed to the people around during the time His body, like an old garment, had been broken or had a tear in it. Had been worn down. Had been in the accident. We had seen what we could not have believed. That we would say 'Ah, now what?'

We were chatting up others about Baba being God and all this. You know? Intimate friends, and acquaintances or those who would be allowed to come like in Satara. And then suddenly 'Wow, who's going to believe that now?' But no, that is the time where we have seen them acknowledge, they received something. As I said it's like this body is a garment that covers for our sake, and then when the body was worn, broken, in the accident and in many other ways. It's like a little tear would come and more of His godhood would be exposed to the public, to the people, to strangers.

I know these missionaries in Satarah, they were Europeans, and they were very cynical about Baba. They prayed for Baba's people. They prayed for Doctor Donkin, they prayed for Doctor Goher. And then when the accident happened it was like an explosion. We had for three and a half years in Satara a very happy stay with Baba. And then when this explosion came, well it felt very humiliating. It felt

well like we were sneaking out of Satara. The others were told 'Meher Baba is a God.' Dr. Donkin had sent printed material to these missionaries to convince them the harder they prayed for Dr. Donkin, but still, we had taken that stand as Dr. Donkin had, Dr. Goher had, and now what will they say? Oh, just like anyone else. And then when we left in a car to go to Poona we left everything behind, not even a toothbrush. We just went for that time and Baba said we would be leaving for Poona. They saw these missionaries standing there. They must have waited there for hours. They didn't know when Baba would be leaving for Poona. And the reverence with which they were standing there meant the head were in thier hand, and they were doing this. To me, this was a revelation. It was one of the first experiences - we had never had such experiences before. 'Ah, look at that.'

The same thing in 1952, Baba gave darshan after the 1952 accident. We weren't there. We were told that it was so touching to see those around, those meeting Him for the first time who were coming to the darshan. Weeping in love for Baba. You know dazed, not wanting to leave. And here was Baba broken and frail and weak and silent and we had more and more experience. So then when our instinct to protect Baba, you know 'what do they think?' It was the same. He was not only taking care not only of Himself He's taking care of us and the whole world.

He's doing His own work.

**AUDIENCE:** Is that typical for the mandali when His body was so worn down and broken that He was the God man, an old man. Was that - did that make it harder to

- the people saying 'how could that be? He can't be the God man, He looks like an old man?'

[inaudible audience comment(s) / cross talk 14:53]

**AUDIENCE** 15:43 (Bau?): Like Mani says the garment, divinity shown out of this pained body. Because He having met with serious accidents and broken body and all that. But to the public, in the public gaze His divinity was shining out. And we were amazed. He would say that 'I'm the One. I came once again. I bring love. Love Me. And immediately the impact was there. What is that? We don't know, but it is something. We have experienced that. In moments when He was so frail, so helpless, but in that helplessness He was Divine. What did we see? We don't know. He must reveal to them some portion or fraction of His divinity in that.

**MANI:** Talk about embarrassing. I know a close one who would feel a bit embarrassed when Baba would tell those that came to see Him 'Love Me, love Me more. Love Me more and more.' And you know, if that's what Baba wants. So once that person asked me 'why does Baba say that? Love Me more?' And the answer is we love Him because He told us to love Him. We are not even giving Him that, but we are getting that because we recieved from Him in that command. He has said 'Love Me' so we love Him. 'Love me more [bell ringing] Love me more and more.' We have a lot of chance, we have a lot of scope because He has given it. Where could it come from? That is why when people are sometimes worried about what happens when the mandali go, and they all go, who will look after this. And we say 'Whose looking after them?' The mandali

might be irreplaceable because it can't replace that time of companionship with Him. We say 'No, we are not indispensable because we're not doing it. We will continue to do what He's doing. Even we were not prepared for what He's doing since He dropped His body. We never knew that before. [bell rings] Baba would always point at the clock if it struck while He was saying something. 'See it's true what I said.' [laughter]

**AUDIENCE:** Jai baba, Jai Baba.