
HER LIFE WITH MEHER BABA, 1 of 2

Bili Eaton

Place Unknown

October 4, 1988

58:13

BILI: Oh it's still in 1956. And I had, as I told you last night. I had many incidents. The chances of being alone with Baba. Not that they were planned by me or. This happened by accident. And one time was of course when I was with Baba which I left out. In the Delmonico each one of us had a private interview with Baba. And we met Him in His own room. The mandali, it was private in quotes. The mandali were in the room so it wasn't really completely private. But when my turn came I went in and I sat down at His feet. He was in His easy chair. And I was leaning on His knees like this and I was looking up at Him. And first thing He said to me, He said you know how He did with His big eyes. He says, "You know Mani loves you very much." You know I was just corresponding a lot with Mani at that time and we got to know each other. We'd write back and forth constantly and telling each other all our intimate things. And I said, "I love her too Baba but I love you more." What He just loved that. You know. And I wasn't, I was very much interested in Mani but I wasn't, I wanted to talk about anybody, I just wanted to talk about Baba you know. That was all I was interested in.

And then I thought, "Well here's my chance to ask Him for something. Which if I can get it, I'll have it made." I said, "Baba." I said, "I would love to. I would like to love you more than I love myself." And He said, "Do that and you'll have

everything." Just see how He got out of that pretty neatly.

[general laughter]

So, that was the one time I was alone. And the second time was when I was in the boat house with Him. Which I told you about last night. The third time was when I was. Kitty told me I could do some of my editing which I was doing for Baba all the time at that time. Typing, editing and so forth. And I said, "I don't know where to go? Where will I go with all this stuff Baba gave me?" Kitty says, "Well go on to the Guest House porch. Nobody will be there." Of course you know Kitty, she's always telling you things that never work out that way.[general laughter]

And so I went to the Guest House porch. And I wasn't there a few minutes it was rain. Baba came right out of the Guest House. He used to have His meals there. And He was sitting. His table was set up right in the window that goes, faces right on to the Guest House porch. I think many of you have seen it. And I was there on that big long table and there facing the window. And of course when you're with Baba you just couldn't sit down. The minute He came in you stood up automatically. And I started to pick my stuff and I thought, "God I'm intruding." I started to get up and Baba says, "Stay there." The mandali came in. They put out His meal and. It was very difficult to work

and sit in Baba's presence. And the mandali were gabbling away. I guess it was Gujarati or something. I don't know what they were talking about. [Bili imitates people chatting.] Going around crazy. And then they left and I was alone with Baba. And I watched. I looked, I could have stole a look on Him occasionally while I was working. And I don't think He could have been at the table more than 5 minutes as it was breakfast. I don't know what He ate but He ate. I never saw anybody eat like that before. It was a sort of disinterested. As if He was putting gas in a car. That's how He ate.

[general laughter]

And then He got up and the mandali came you know and they went away. But that was the third time I was alone with Him. The next time I was alone with Him was almost at that point of my honeymoon when everybody else was too far away. And I was very close to Him as I described last night. The next time was when we were out in Los Angeles. We were walking. I was walking through the corridor of His hotel. And nobody was around. And I was wondering where Baba was so I was going toward His room. All of a sudden Baba came down the corridor alone. Now Baba as you people have met Him, you know Wendy, He was never alone. Always somebody was there but this time for some reason He was alone. And I looked at Him. We walked along together for a while. Down the corridor. And I looked at Baba and I said, "You know Baba I must have some good karma since I seem to be running in to you all the time by accident." And He gave me this big look with His eye you know. You can't describe Baba's looks. I mean they tell you worlds. Just worlds. It was just the most

wonderful experience to be with Him like that.

Well, that was the end of my being alone with Baba until '62 when I was in India. But now to get back to. I would keep to my outline. Otherwise I'm getting out of. Oh yes the next thing that happened in 1956 was, one day Baba was receiving people. New people into the Center at the Barn. For the first time. And while He was giving audience, Margaret was set at the door to usher people in and introduce them to Baba. And I stood at the doorway and I was watching people come in and go out. And then I saw Baba call Margaret to Him and He made a gesture to Margaret about His throat. You know like this. And I thought, oh yes He had told Margaret too that she was supposed to repeat something to everybody that came in. I don't know what it was. She had to say something that didn't make any sense at all to everybody that came in. But when He made that gesture I didn't know what He had told her. But when He made that gesture I panicked. Because He had told everybody at the Center that if He ever caught a cold He'd go back to India. Or you know just couldn't stay because it was very sensitive throat and He got cold very easily. And I remembered that. So oh my God, He's got a sore throat. He'll go back to India. And that was one thing we were all scared to death He would do. We wanted to keep Him there as long as possible. So I flew out of the Barn and I rushed around and I said, "Where can I get throat lozenges for Baba?" I asked everybody. Finally somebody said, "Well Kitty has some but she's in the Guest House." So you know it's quite a distance from the Barn to the Guest House. But I started hurrying as fast as I could toward the Guest House.

On the way I met Harold Rudd coming on the car. The opposite way. Cause everybody was streaming to the Barn. Coming from God knows where. So, I was going against the tide. Harold said, "Where are you going in such a hurry?" I said, "I have to get to the Guest House to get some throat lozenges for Baba. He's got a sore throat and you know what's going to happen. He said He'll go back to India if He got sick." So he says, "Oh my God." He panicked too. He says, "Get in I'll take you to the Guest House." [general laughter]

So, I get in to the car and we drive to the Guest House. It seemed like everybody wanted to stop us. "Oh come on take us to the Barn will you turn around and take us to the Barn." Everybody wanted to hitch a ride. Harold says no we can't we can't, we got to go and he was cussing and swearing and he was red in the face. And I was in a panic. And you know we were two of us were acting crazy. It was my fault really but here we were driving back. Finally we got to the Guest House and I saw Kitty and Elizabeth there and I said, "Kitty have you got any throat lozenges for Baba? He's got a sore throat you know. And He's caught a cold I'm afraid He's going to go back to India if we don't do something about it." She says, "Yes I have some right here." And I thought she was very calm and so was Elizabeth.

And you know I just couldn't seem to get them excited. Harold was excited I was excited. And so, I said you know, "Really He might go back and so." Elizabeth said, "Don't tell anybody He's got a sore throat." I said, "Why not? Baba can have a cold if He wants to, can't He?" She said, "Yes of course He can." But she said, "A lot of people wouldn't understand. There are a

lot of new people coming in today. You know people have pre-conceived ideas of who God is and what God is like. And God doesn't catch colds. God doesn't get sick and all that sort of thing. So God doesn't conform to what they think He should be the heck with Him you know." So, I understood what she meant so I said, "Okay, I won't tell. I don't intend to tell anybody but we got to get back to the Barn and give Him the lozenges." So we got back in the car and Harold drove like crazy back to the Barn. Lucky we didn't hit anybody. We got in. I got in to the Barn and I swear I said, "Please Eruch give these throat lozenges for Baba for His throat." And I thought Eruch looked kind of puzzled. Why should I give? You know.

So, apparently He took them to Baba. I don't know what happened but a little while later Baba made an announcement. He said, "You know some of My lovers have gone mad. They think I have a sore throat when I don't have any." [general laughter]

Which was true. I was little bit. You're not quite right in your head when you're with Baba. You're just not. And what He had said to Margaret, "Is your throat sore from repeating all these?" Which I found out from Margaret later. You know that's what He said. So I thought He was saying His throat was sore. But later on I was in the Barn with Baba and I looked at Him and I guess I was just feeling so much love for Him and it was coming out of my eyes. And Baba looked at me and I saw Him give that look and He looked right in my eyes and He said, to Eruch He says, "You know she loves Me very much." Which I thought was sort of interesting cause I didn't know I cared that much. It was just.

You just didn't realize it at the time. Well that was that another incident in 1956.

Then there was another time in '56 where we had some ceremony in the Barn. I'm telling you this because I don't know the answer to it at all. I don't know what it meant. Someday maybe somebody is wiser than I am. They'll tell me what this was all about. I want to ask Mani I think if I don't get an answer with. Next time I go to India. Maybe she knows what happened. But we were all in the Barn and Baba came in later. First of all I was sitting on the floor. It was crowded. You can imagine all those people stuffed in to the Barn. And you know where the fire place is I think there was Adele and Filis. And we were sitting on the floor. I was cross-legged on the floor leaning against the wall. And there was an aisle from the front door of the Barn coming around passed me right to Baba's chair. Well Baba came in. Very solemn. Everybody was quiet. He said, we were told ahead of time, "Don't rise. Stay where you are."

So that's why I was sitting cross legged on the floor. And Baba came in the door. Walked very slow measured steps. With His sandals on right past me and as soon as His foot hit the floor it is. His foot almost brushed my knee that's how close it was. I don't think anybody noticed it but me. The only reason I did was because you know He was right, almost on top of me you know when He went by me. And just as His foot hit that spot on the floor His foot slipped. Ever so slightly. It was just a slight slip. He stopped dead. he turned around and He walked out again out the front door. And I looked at the spot. And I looked what was that? And I touched it with my finger. It wasn't greasy it was nothing there. Now that's funny. Well we

waited and He came in again. He walked past the exact, His foot hit the exact same spot. It didn't slip and He walked back and He sat in His chair.

Now it's a very small thing but He apparently felt it was something. Meant something. What did it mean? I'd love to know, you know. If I could find out why He had to come out and do that again. It was something, I don't know what. So I want to try and find out. If I ever find out I'll tell you all.

Then we went to Washington D.C. where Baba had to meet members of the press. And there was some arrangement made for the rest of us to be toddled around Washington to see the sights. And well, I wondered if I was going to do if I really wasn't interested in any sights. You know when Baba was there that's all that mattered. So, Baba went around. There was some, apparently had been some argument or discussion about some people not wanting to go here and others not wanting to do this and that. And I don't know what happened. But eventually Baba came to everybody and said, "What do you want to do? What do you want to do?" He came to me and He said, "Bili what do you want to do?" And without thinking I said, "Well I want to be with you Baba." Which of course I knew was ridiculous. I couldn't be with Him. He had to be with the press. So, He went like this. Yeah. He was so expressive. So, that was just a little thing. I just wanted to, thought I'd try to bring to you little incidents which could reveal to you what Baba was like in many ways.

Then we took a plane from Washington via Texas to Los Angeles. And there, then from there we were there for a while and then

we went from there to San Francisco and we visited Ojai. Now while we were in San Francisco, Kitty was preparing Baba's breakfast. For some reason she had some trouble with the stove or something. She said to me, "Bili do you think you could go around Los Angeles." And I knew nothing about Los Angeles. My first visit there. "See if you can find some kind of a stove. You know those little stoves so we could heat up something for Baba." And so on. I said, "Well I'll try, you know. I don't know if I can find the kind of stove you want." So, I went looking for this stove. Well I went all around. I couldn't find a stove. There was nobody had a stove such as she had described. And while I was out I thought, "Well I can't find a stove. What am I going to do? Baba has to eat something." Back up, it's funny. Shows you the kind of the state of mind I was in at the time. He has to have something. But I had to get Him something for breakfast. What can I get Him? And I thought Baba has to have something pure. Now why in hell He had to have something pure? I don't know. Since He creates everything He had to have something pure.

And I thought, "What can I get Him?" Well I thought, "Well the purest thing is something untouched by human hands." So I thought, "What can I get that's untouched by human hands." Well I thought I'd get Him comb honey. Cause that's untouched by human hands. Well what about the bees touching it are they so pure? Well I went to get Him comb honey. Then I thought, "Well He can't just sit there eating honey." Well I went to a health food shop and I got Him some whole wheat bread. Now that was touched by human hands. Now why I could get? You see illogical. It was so illogical. I don't

know where my mind was. It was with Baba but really I wasn't with it at all.

So I buy this bread and this honey. Big blob of honey and a big hunk of bread and I take it back. I said, "Kitty I can't find the stove but over here. Says, "But I got it all solved anyway." You know. Which of course was typical of Kitty. So I said to. Well I went to Eruch again. Eruch seemed to be the go between all the time. I said, "Eruch this is for Baba's breakfast. Will you give it to Him?" "Yes, alright", he said. Poor Eruch you know. I'm don't know he thought I was a crazy. But a little while later Baba made an announcement. He said, "I want the 5." Incidentally the 5 were Phyllis, Adele, Beryl, Sylvia and me. Baba always grouped us together as 5. I understand that Baba always had 5 people He worked with. Years ago it was Margaret Craske, Minta, Delia De Leon, and I don't know who the other two were. There was 5 then. And at this time we were the 5. And Baba always called us in together as the 5. And He said, "I want all 5 of you to take this bread and honey before". We were scheduled to go to Ojai that day to Agnes Baron's place. "I want all 5 of you to take this bread and this honey and I want you to eat it all before lunch. [pilgrims laughing]

Well you can imagine. We didn't have time to eat it then. We had to take it on the bus with us. And we had to go up there and we had to, just before lunch we had to eat all this. Alright I made the mistake it's alright to me to eat the bread and the honey but why should the other 4? They didn't done anything. Why did they have to eat the bread and honey? Took the burden off me a little bit but you know. It took me years before I could eat bread and honey again. [general laughter]

And then Baba said, "Eat all of it." Not just eat it but eat all of it. And then we had to eat lunch. You see how Baba will either give you too much or He'll take everything away. I mean He makes you experience the real opposites. So, they got stuck with the bread and honey. And that was the story of my interfering. And there's another incident which I might as well tell you now since it fits. About people interfering with Baba's digestive tract.

You know this must have happened to Baba so many times, you know that if He listened to everybody He would have been dead from indigestion you know but from people telling Him what to do. When we were in, I guess it was in Ojai, yes. Yes, this is an interesting thing. Dana Field apparently had told Baba that He should eat a lot of fresh fruit it was very healthy for Him. And he had brought a whole lot of fruit for Baba. Well ordinarily Baba wouldn't have eaten it I suppose. But for some reason or other He ate the fruit. And later on that day Baba got us all together in the living room in Agnes' house and we're all sitting around and He said, "We're going to have meditation today." What's happened? We never meditated. Well this time we were going to meditate. This was something new so those who were into meditation boy they were excited. This was great. This was the stuff you know.
[pilgrims laughing]

Me, I didn't care about meditation but alright. Baba ordered meditation we have meditation. So everybody got silent and quiet and we're all meditating. And while we were all quiet all of a sudden we heard this sonorous rumble [Bili imitates rumbling sound] in Baba's stomach. Baba clapped His hands, we all opened our eyes. And Baba said, "You see Dana, I

can't eat fruit. It's not good for Baba. You see what happens." So Dana got a lesson too you see. Dana was telling Him what to do just like I had been telling Him what to do. So, but Baba had His own way of teaching you see. He ate the fruit and made this big ridiculous thing of meditation and then had this rumbling going on, just to teach Dana a lesson.
[pilgrims laughing]

Instead of lecturing you see, He created a situation to teach you. Just like He created the situation about the beach that I told, the beach thing. To teach me a lesson. There was an incident before we left. Before we left the Center I forgot to tell you. Baba had us all stand in a circle. This was you know where the Original Kitchen is that big space. Open space by the Original Kitchen. He had us all stand in a circle about Him one morning. Baba was just in a white sadhra. He had no coat on. And He had His hair down. He looked like Christ. Really He did it was amazing how He looked that day. He stood right there and all of us, all hundreds of us all in a big ring around Him.

He said, "I want all of you to look into My eyes until I tell you to stop." And we all had to stand very quiet. We all got very quiet. And it was such a stillness. I didn't even hear the birds or the insects anymore. It was as if all of nature got quiet. And we all looked into His eyes. And I don't know how long it lasted. It must have been about. Couldn't have been more than 5 minutes. Maybe a little longer. And we were able to stare right into His eyes. And then He clapped His hands and that was that. He never explained what that was all about. That was it. It was the end of that. No more, never explained these things to us.

Now different people had different experiences of that but my experience was of the dead silence. The minute He clapped His hands everything in nature seemed to come alive. And start sounding again. That was my experience of that incident.

Now we go back to Ojai again. There was one funny incident. Where Baba, I went into the living room and there was Baba with the mandali and Baba was trying on hats. And all kinds. I don't know where He got all these hats from. And then He came to me and He said, "Come on." And He gave me this tam and He says, "Put this hat on Me." You know He meant put this tam on His head. Well I tried to put the tam on Baba's head and all of a sudden as I was putting it on His head I thought to myself, "I'm putting a hat on God," you know. What a ridiculous situation, what am I doing? You know. And all of a sudden He seemed so delicate. To put this hat on. And I couldn't get the hat on Him. It's just a weird sensation of trying to put a hat on Baba. But Baba didn't seem to notice how I felt. I mean He was having such. He was camping around and having so much fun. With all these hats you know. Trying this one and that one and showing off and acting the part of this hat and that one. It was a lot of fun. When you are the one that was trying to do it though it was quite different. You know, it's really very strange.

One day, Agnes Baron's dog came up to Him. Baba petted it and He told Agnes Baron that that dog would be a human in its next life. Thought that was interesting too. Because Baba had touched it.

When we were in San Francisco after we left Ojai we went back to San Francisco. Marion as I told you, Marion Florsheim

had been running things as the chairman of the Hospitality Committee and taking care of all logistics and everything. And she'd done a lot of work. I had helped her only in small ways. And I had been running the operation topsy writing to all the people all over the United States and so on. So my part was not that strenuous. But when Marion and I were alone with Baba, Baba thanked Marion and me for all the work we had done. I said, "Well Baba it was nothing." Because I felt you know compared to what Marion had done, I felt kind of crummy accepting thanks from Baba. Besides you know, it was sort of an honor and a privilege to be able to do any work at all for Baba. It gave you the chance of being close to Him and talking to Him and being with Him. I mean it was a lucky break really. And so I, that's why I replied the way I did and Baba made a gesture and said, "So you're just too modest." Then while we were there Baba suddenly made a statement. Out of the clear blue sky He said, "Don Stevens is one of My mandali." Just like that, boom. And Marion and I looked at each other and I thought to myself, "What was that all about?" We went outside and I said, "Why did He say that? He must have meant that for you." She said no, "He must have meant it for you." I said, "Well, what was that all about?" That's another thing we know nothing about. Why out of the clear blue sky? He was not a subject, I mean we weren't discussing Don or anything about him so why that, He made that statement at that time, I don't know.

Well, Baba had the 5 of us read, write letters to Mehera and Mani while He was in the United States. Every day we had to write a letter to India. Tell what had happened and so on. Now we were doing quite well until one day at the Holiday

Lodge in San Francisco I just ran out of everything to say. What the hell can I say now? And I was sitting in my room trying to figure out what I'm going to say to Mehera and Mani. There's just nothing else to say. So, I sat there doodling. And then I remembered what had happened only that early, early that morning. I had been with Baba and as I was looking at Him all of a sudden I saw His eyes cross like this. Up this way. I don't know if ever you've seen anybody cross their eyes that way. But they went up just like that. And the look of absolute bliss on His face. Just, I just had a quick glimpse of the tremendous bliss He was feeling and I knew at that moment that He was feeling this bliss continually, all the time. It was as if He had parted the curtain a little bit and let me have a glimpse of it. Just like that and shut it again.

And when I was doodling in my room I began to think of that and I started writing about it. How Baba had crossed His eyes and I saw the Eternal Bliss and so I don't remember what I said. And as I was writing this there was a knock on the door and it was Eruch. He says, "Baba says bring your letter." Because every day when we wrote letters we had to read them to Baba first before we could send them. Incidentally because I had been writing to Mani so much, the first letter I ever wrote, I wrote to the two of them together. I wrote dear Mani and Mehera, and Baba said, "Dear Mehera and Mani." So, from then on we all wrote dear Mehera and Mani. So, right away He established the precedence you see.

Well I said, "Oh Eruch I don't have a letter." He says, "Well you better come anyway." What when Baba calls you, you went and right away. So, I went. I left the

letter there with the doodles. That wasn't a letter. And I went to Baba and Filis and Adele and Beryl each read their letter then Baba came to me. He said, "Bili read yours." I said, "Well Baba I don't have a letter." And He says, "Why don't you have a letter?" And I said, "Well I couldn't think of anything to say and all I did. I was doodling." I said, "And just putting train of thoughts down to try to make up a letter but I really don't have a letter." So, He said well, He says, "Bring your letter." And I said, "Oh God." When He says, "Bring it," you bring it. So I left and I went and got my letter. And I came back and He said, "Read it." So I began to read it until till I got to the part with the crossed eyes. And I thought, "Can't read this! It's saying Baba's got crossed eyes." [pilgrims laughing]

When you just write things like that you don't expect anybody to know about it. So I said, "Well Baba this part you know is just, it's not very interesting." [general laughter]

"It's nothing that I think you would want to hear." He says, "Read it." What could I do, I had to read it. So I read it. He says, "Send it." He seemed pleased though. I don't know what Mehera and Mani must have thought of what that garbage was that I wrote. But you see you can't tell with Baba. The point is you do what He tells you to do and you do it then, right away. But see Baba was so, so human. He was so, more human than you are. More human than I am. So much more approachable than any of us. We just have no idea what He was like. Even I can't realize when I see pictures of myself with Him. I think, If I didn't have those pictures I'd say I dreamed the whole thing. It wasn't real. It couldn't have happened. Just

couldn't have happened, but it did. That's the weird part. It did.

There's another incident, it shows how Baba was intolerant of intolerance. There was a man who was a lovely man. He was really very nice. But he had some very Calvinistic type of thinking in his make-up. I guess it was from Christian upbringing. But he said, he was saying, "Oh you can't dance or be interested in dancing and be on the spiritual path. It's not spiritual. Just not spiritual." Some of them even said you can't listen to the radio and be spiritual you know. No music, no dancing. But he was well I thought, "Well I'm not going to argue with him." And well that afternoon the dancers put on a show for Baba. Each dancer gave a little dance of their own. Some of them did it dancing together. And one of the girls did a slightly erotic dance with a lot of hips and wiggles and that sort of thing you know. And after it was all over Baba thanked the dancers. This man was sitting right next to me so that's why I got the whole thing. I was just in very interesting spots to catch things. I don't know they were accidental or not but. When they were all over Baba had thanked all the dancers, He had asked different people what they liked best. And somebody said, "Well Baba what did you like best?" And Baba says, "I like the one with all the...." [pilgrims laughing]

He went like that, you know. And then once He said it He looked at this man.
[general laughter]

I never heard another word about dancing from that man after that.
[pilgrims continue to laugh]

It was really something. So, you see He doesn't like that kind of thing you know.

Can't be critical. Just like He told me something if [inaudible] treated me that way in '79. As late as '79, 10 years after He dropped His body. Remember my experience in India. If I get to that today I'll tell them that but I don't know if I'll get to that. There's so much junk here.

So, then we get to the part where Baba leaves for Australia. We're at the airport in San Francisco. We're just outside of San Francisco and everybody was in tears cause Baba was leaving. Well for once I was very proud of myself. I thought, "Now I have not cried and I'm not going to cry. That's it." And I was doing very well. And Baba was standing there and we were in a circle around Him and everybody was blubbering away and I was not crying. I felt sad but I wasn't you know going to give in to this. Then Baba was saying goodbye to everybody. All of a sudden He put His hand on my shoulder, like that. When Baba wants to get to you He gets to you. There's no way you can escape you know. He just got to me and I just folded up. I put on my dark glasses. And we watched.

We watched that plane take off. I see the pictures now of the planes and I know what plane it is cause of the plane with that little tail light goes up. That was, I watched it till it was out of sight. We all did. You know if we could have dragged that plane back we would have. It was such a wonderful experience in '56 for me. It was also Tex Hightower's honeymoon too. I understand later cause I wasn't even aware what was going on with anybody else. Because nobody was. They were only aware of their own problems and their own interest in Baba. Well this was fine. Now we get to the tough part.

Baba had given us His love. He sent us a cable to the 5 from Australia. And it said, "My love to my 5 lovers." Which was very nice, wasn't it? I didn't get it right away. He sent it to, they sent it to my old address. I had moved in the meantime. And then they sent me a letter. And then the cable came later. My love to my 5 lovers. Then we got orders. I told you at that meeting this other fellow after I had had that fight with Phillip. By letter. And I met this other fellow who didn't take to Baba. After he had followed Baba's orders I got involved with him because. Through telling him about Baba and then when he met Baba he was jealous of Baba and he wouldn't have anything to do with Baba anymore. Well I was still going with this fellow after I had left Baba in '56.

And then we got orders. I have to write all these dates down otherwise everybody. We've all been asked, "When did this happen? When did that happen?" So, I wrote them all down. Found all the old orders out. He gave us orders on sex on August 1957. I remember that. We didn't accept sex discourse. We just couldn't believe in it for a long time. But by then of course I'd realized that Baba, you know take no lustful action, you don't do it. If Baba tells you not to. So, but Baba must have known people were taking lustful actions or He wouldn't have given these orders. But He said, "You must have. Take no lustful thought, word or deed from September 1957 to March 1958." Which was 6 months of abstinence. That was a tough one. Especially for that fellow and me. We were really [inaudible] 6 weeks. 6 months rather you know, wow.

Well I thought, "Well I have to obey Baba." And I had told this fellow in the beginning, Baba comes first so we have to

understand that. Alright. So here we are. Obedience goes on, I'm obedient for 6 whole weeks. Then one week, one day I meet this fellow by accident. I told him, "We better not see each other during this time. Because you know we see each other it won't work." So, 6 weeks I didn't see him and then I went to a party and he was there. Well that was the end of that. Till the end of that 6 weeks there was no more obedience. Well that was a terrible time for me. I was so guilty. I thought, "Oh God [inaudible] Baba." The first time I disobeyed Baba, you know. This is the most horrible thing to happen. And of course he felt great because he thought he was winning. And this went on and on and on and on and on and finally the day came when the end of the orders were over.

And I felt such a relief at least now I'm not disobeying Him anymore. But we got new orders. Just I think it was just this was in March. The first one was March 1958. We got one week after the first orders were over, we got orders this time just for the unmarried people. So, you see Baba knew about the unmarried people. Not only the married but the unmarried. The married people were okay. They could go on but the unmarried people now. No sex from March. Continue the same, no lustful thought, word or deed from March till July 10th 1958. Four more months. That's 10 whole months of abstinence you see. Well this was unprecedented. I had never before or since known Baba to give such blanket orders on sex. He may have given individual orders to individual people. Which much more stringent but not to everybody like that. I mean to come so soon after the first. Only for unmarrieds.

Well this was awful. Well I thought well this, "I got to give this guy up. There's no way I can do it you know. If I go on like this I'm gonna lose Baba." And Baba did come first. So, I told this fellow, "Got to finish it." He says, "Well I'm not going to continue with this." He says, "I don't believe in Baba and I don't see why I should have to give up." I said, "Then we have to separate. That's the only way." That's the only way. So, I gave him up. And suffering lasted for 2 whole years. You know he was, cause we were so close, not only physically we were close mentally. We had a lot in common in many ways. But I thought, "Well Baba comes first. I love Baba more." But I knew the suffering was not going to. I was not going to have any swap to mitigate the pain. Cause Baba didn't do that. If you choose something, you suffered for it. Nothing was going to ease the pain and it went on for 2 whole years.

And I suffered and suffered and suffered. It was really horrible. And the funny part was all the while this period of abstinence was going on it seemed that everybody was reminding me of it. Reminding me of it. Partly because it was on their minds too, you know. But they just kept talking about it. I didn't want to hear any more about it. And it was just too painful the whole thing. Well my nerves were at a raw edge. I had a meeting once with this fellow. I would only meet him in the street. He called me. And he said let's get married. And he brought me a beautiful gift. And he figured well you know if the only way we get around this is to get married you see. But I said, I wanted to say yes but there was another part of me said no. I said no, we're no one. I said no. Somehow and I'm glad now that it happened that way. It was the best thing. But what is a marriage just

based on sex? It wasn't just sex alone but I mean the inference of getting married you see, why? And besides I wanted to obey Baba. So, I gave him up.

Incidentally 10 years I met this fellow 10 years after. He came to my office. And I met him and I looked at him. By then he had married and had 2 children. And I looked at him and you know I felt only friendship for him. And I thought to myself what was all the weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth about? You know, what was it? It was nothing. I just had friendship for him. It was all gone. But the suffering you had to go through you know to reach that point. I'm glad it happened. But this fellow at least he did have Baba's prasad. He had spent a whole evening with Him, with Baba at - he seemed the most happy fellow in New York. He'd met Him at the airport, you know. So, someday Baba will pull him in. One day, if not in this life in another life.

Then I got orders right after this that Baba was coming to the West again in 1958. Well I had, you know, you can imagine the guilt. Not only me but I had talked to other people too and they were guilty too. I wasn't the only one that had fallen by the wayside. There were many of them. And I think there was a lot of guilt down at the Center that time in 1958. As I shall tell you what happened. We were to meet Baba again. We all went down on the bus. So we got off at the airport. And when we got to the Center we had been talking on the bus on how we were all going to go into our cabins, get washed and then go meet Baba. Well one of the mandali met the bus and says, "Baba says you are not to do anything but come directly to Him in the Lagoon Cabin. Go directly to Him as soon as you arrive. As soon as you get off the

bus." So, He must have known what we were planning to do. So, we went to meet Baba. When I went to meet Him in 1958, there He was, with all the people around Him. And I was so full of guilt. I thought, "Oh how am I going to look at Him again?" I was still in love with this other fellow and I was, felt very miserable. I felt like crying all the time. Yet what was I doing with Baba if I wanted to be with him? All I had to do is call him. Put a phone call into New York and you know, it'd be fine. Couldn't do it. So, I went to the furthest corner from Baba. Behind a lot of people. You know so He couldn't see me. And then Baba would talk to a few people and finally He said, "Bili, where's Bili?" And they said, "She's over here in the corner Baba."

So Baba says, "Come over here Bili." So I had to go over. And go sit at His feet. You can imagine sitting with Baba and He looked to me. You know I said, "Oh God, what am I going to do?" I just felt this you know it was like a heavy paw on me. And He looked at me and He said, "Do you love Me as much as ever?" Well I thought to myself, I had the same feeling then as I did the first time I met Him. That the years and years were going by. And then it was all short. It was time going fast and slow at the same time. And my mind was racing, what answer can I give Him? You know. This seems like the two loves were mixed up together somehow. But I was with Baba. And I didn't know what to say. Then He let me off the hook. It shows how kind He is.

He said, "Do you love me more than Anita?" That was Anita Viellard who was sitting near Him. But that gave me, now how do I know how much Anita loved Him? You know I have no way of knowing.

I said, "Baba only you know all hearts." And He smiled and it got me off the hook. But now I'll show you how Baba shows His love to people like me who did things like, that that I did. There was a point down there where Baba got all of us together again. And this makes me think that a lot of people had fallen by the wayside. And He stood with all of us around Him and He said, "I forgive all of you of all of your sins to this day." Well I felt better. He forgave us but you never forgive yourself. You never forgive yourself. And it took me many, many years to get over that feeling of guilt. You know of not obeying. But while I was down there I had the joy with Beatrice and Beryl and Ella Winterfeldt of cleaning Baba's house. We had to get up around 4-5 in the morning to do it.

And we changed the linen on His bed and His towels and cleaned one room while He was in the other. But then we had the joy of being with Him in the morning before the others came in. So, we had our little interviews with Baba. Every morning all the while we were at the Center and He was there 10 days. Another thing He did. You know Baba, you've all heard what Baba said that things are real are given and received in silence. And this was an incidence where it was really so. We were in the Lagoon Cabin one day. And I was sitting on His right. On the floor. The group of 5 of us were in there and we were reading letters of some kind. Now we weren't writing letters in '58 but it was something. I don't know what it was. And I was looking at a portrait that somebody drew of Baba it was on the wall and I hated that portrait. It didn't look like Baba at all. And here I was almost close to tears then. It's just like I was just being torn apart. And I was trying not to cry. I didn't

want to cry in front of Baba. I wanted to be happy in front of Baba. And I looked at this portrait on the wall and I was concentrating on it cause I hated it so much. To make myself angry you know. So, you know to offset the feeling of sadness. So, I was just working myself into a rage against this.

[general laughter]

And for some reason or other I felt Baba draw me to look at Him. I don't know how to explain that feeling.

[recording error-blank for a while]

It was. There was no doubt. I knew then that Baba loved everybody. No matter who they are, what they are, how terrible they are, simple they are. I don't care the worst murderer. He loves them. He loves everybody. I never could understand that before and people used to tell me, "God loves everybody." It's ridiculous. How can He love some people like this, like that?

[general laughter]

It's probably people like me you know. Nice like me, nice people like me. I couldn't understand you know. But I knew, I know it that Baba, He does He loves everybody and there's no doubt. That love was so great and my healing began then. I began to feel better from then on. It took time. But everything began. He gave me, of course He gave me the strength. I never would have been able to do what I did in the first place. If I hadn't known Baba I could never have given this fellow up. You know cause our love was too strong. But He does help you. There's no question. But you have to go through the karmic pattern that you yourself set up. Baba didn't set it up. I set it up. I knew when I started it wouldn't last cause these things don't last. You can't expect them to last. They're

human love. It just doesn't last forever. So, I knew that. So, to expect it is to delude yourself.

Well then we had this look of love and then the question came up. Apparently some people were having arguments about groups. And I don't know who was brought it up to Baba but Baba again got a group of us around together and He said, "The question has arisen about groups." He says, "Now nobody has to belong to a group to belong to Me." He says, "Does Kitty belong to a group? Does Elizabeth belong to a group? Does Margaret belong to a group? They don't belong to a group. They could be closer. Nobody has to belong to a group." He says, "You can get more work done with a group. And if you need a group that's fine. Some people work better with groups." He said, "But you don't have to belong to a group to come to Me."

And just as He said that He gave a me look. Boom. Well I was with the Monday Night Group at that time. I had been with them for 4 years. But then shortly after that when I went back to the United States, went back to New York, I left the Monday Night Group. I just felt I couldn't be with a group anymore. Not that I didn't like the people, I did. I mean Fred and Ella Winterfeldt or Mike and Adele and Beryl and all these people were my close friends. All my life since then. But I just didn't want to be in a group period. I never was a groupie person before and I only was with the group cause I wanted to be with Baba. Wanted to meet Him, you see. And I wouldn't like it if there wasn't the Monday Night dinner Baba Group in New York where I could go to when I felt like I wanted to go to you know. But I just don't want to feel I have to go to a group every

so often you see. I don't want to be caged in. I'm a renegade I guess, but the dancers are like that. See Baba put me with the dancers group as I explained last night and how He did it. But the dancers aren't a group in the real sense of the word. We see each other about once or twice a year, you know. And it's very loose. They are all too individualistic to be in groups. And Baba recognized that. I suppose that's why He put me in there. They're difficult people to be with in a group you know. We have to be free all the time. And so that was what He said about the groups.

Then another occasion in '58. Baba had several of us come in. He had gifts for us. And He was choosing these gifts and He gave everybody this and that and the other. And He called me and well you can imagine me in my terrible state of mind to receive a gift from Baba. I just felt so unworthy. He called me in and He asked, and you know I thought, "Oh how can I take a gift from Him? I feel so guilty. I feel [inaudible]." I was so full of self-blame. And Baba selected the most beautiful necklace. I would have picked it out myself. It was just my taste, my style everything. It was lovely necklace. And He held it in His hand and I thought, "Well that's it."

And He said, "Wait." And He held this in His hand and He started looking for something else. I said, "Oh Baba one's enough." And He said not to disturb Him. And the first time while He was looking for this second gift I felt He made. First time I heard Him make a sort of a frustrated noise in His throat. What people do when they can't find a thing that they want. And He was looking in all this jewelery and He found a beautiful pair of big round silver and turquoise earrings. Another thing that I

sort of thing I loved you know. And He gives me both. And I think I felt like a worm. You know I said, "Oh." And I said, "What can I do?" You know I just felt like I just pouring ashes of fire on my head. Just taking these gifts. Lovely gifts from Baba and I didn't deserve it. So, I said, "Thank you Baba." What can I do? I had to accept it and I left. Well later I lost one of the earrings that's why I decided couldn't wear either of them anymore so I put them in a little casket which I keep on my table. I think you saw the, when you were at my place, you saw it. And, you did too didn't you? Yeah.

So, I keep those always. Now there are two contrasting vacations. One was the suffering of Baba and the other was the comic side of Baba in '58. We, the dancers had a dance for Baba in the Barn again this time. They had put on quite a show. And Baba was of course this time in a wheelchair with a carrying chair. Something like a sedan chair, that the dancers were carrying Him around in. They were two poles. You've seen it I think. The chair and two would carry it in the front and two in the back and there were 5 dancers so they'd rotate. Cause everybody was jealous about who's going to carry Baba so they had to rotate to keep everybody happy. Well the men were carrying Baba all the time. And we were going to the beach one day with Baba in this chair. the dancers were carrying Him and Baba's. We got near the beach and Baba said, "It's only fair that the women should have a chance to carry Me." Cause the women I think complained about not carrying Him. Cause the men were always doing the carrying, you know. So, He said, "Alright, let the women carry Him." So, I don't know who the women were that were carrying Him and I was running

alongside. And they had never practiced carrying and they did not know beans about how to lift the chair. And the ones in the back picked up before the ones in the front and Baba almost pitched out, you know.

Well, you know I, illogical, "Baba take it easy." So, Baba couldn't do anything about it. Well Baba was funny He went like this. [pilgrims laughing][blank for a few seconds]

And then we went to the beach and we had a good time at the beach. But now the day that the dancers danced for Him in the Barn. The boys were carrying Baba again and they had just. The dance was over and they took Him out of the Barn. They were carrying Him in this chair and all of a sudden Baba made a gesture to stop and put Him down. It was just outside the Barn. They put Him down and Baba had the awful look of pain on His face. Everybody got very quiet. And they stood silent. The mandali formed a ring around Him.

And He looked so, He wasn't there anymore. His body was there but He wasn't there. I never saw any phenomenon like this before. But He was off someplace. And the pain that burden was terrific. It was awful and it was so bad, one woman began to scream, "Baba, Baba, Baba", and she tried to go to Him. She really got hysterical. She went out of her mind. And her husband had to hold her back and couple of mandali. Three men to hold her down. To keep her from getting to Baba. And the Baba stood guard around Baba. And the mandali stood guard around Baba. And they finally got the women away, I don't know where they took her. But she was really hysterical. And then

Baba clapped His hands. I think He came back. And then He picked up the, told the boys to pick up the chair and He started on again. We hadn't gone a few steps and He. Had to put Him down again and again He was off. I know something was going on somewhere where Baba had to be. You'd have to see. I mean it sounds. To say this doesn't sound. I sound cracked I guess but you have to have been there to see this thing. There was no acting here. There was something going on. And there was tremendous suffering attached to it.

And then finally He came back to Himself again and the boys picked Him up and that was the end of that. Baba never referred to it again. The mandali never referred to it. It was just something that the rest of us remembered. And at that time no one, no outside people had been allowed at the Center. And I can see why. You know. These things you can't. You couldn't have outsiders there. I imagine Baba suspected something was going on and He couldn't have outsiders. The one thing that happened to me way back in '56. It gave me another insight into Baba is when I hid in the shrubbery one day. When I [inaudible] to dismiss me. And I could. There was a whole lot of shrubbery and I was just little peek hole, I could see through. And I could see Baba all the time. And I thought I was well hidden. And nobody did see me. And Baba was receiving people. Every time He receives somebody He'd seem to let out a floodgate of His love out, you know. Just every time somebody who came and He just sort of boom, would come out. And of course I'd get some of the residue. [pilgrims laughing]

And as the people more and more came in, I was sort of getting kindly wobbly in

there. And the people. Finally Baba caught me. All of a sudden His eyes just flashed. He saw me and He gestured to Eruch. So, Eruch came and dragged me out you know. And I thought, "Oh God!" But He didn't get mad. He let me stay a little while with Him. Then He dismissed me. But I can see why really Baba didn't let many others outside the mandali be with Him more than a certain amount of time. He'd be with us for as long as He thought we can take it.