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## DISCIPLINE AND LOVE

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USA

May 1980

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**ADI:** Now the relationship between Baba and His disciples was so unique really. It was one of such a simple friendship that it was full of discipline and love. And I do not think anyone like Baba would balance that discipline with love so beautifully well. Baba used to play with us, sing with us, talk to us. He used to talk. He observed. He started. This was in 1922. Three years before he began His silence in 1925 on the 10th of July. So it was really a pleasure to be in the company of Baba.

He was so quick thinking. He was always so joyous, so humorous, so childlike, so playful that any young man or woman who went in His presence you see they had, did not have the least difficulty or did not have the least formality to come in His contact. He was very, very free. And even so that respect which we had. That respect which He had created in us about Himself and about His spiritual status was always there, and it was very well balanced with the freedom that we had in dealing with Him.

At one of His old disciple's house He used to often visit. Now the day was fixed for us to go on a foot journey 115 miles from Pune to Bombay. Very early morning at 3 o'clock He asked us to go to Babajan, the Perfect Master. Of course Babajan was visited by so many other disciples every day. Early morning we went to Babajan and sat near him. Practically He made us keep awake the whole night. We went

near her, sat near her and of course we bowed down took our darshan. And as instructed by Baba we went to the house of that disciple of Baba where all those who were to accompany Baba on a foot journey from Pune to Bombay all gathered. I was a young boy at that time, of course I felt very hungry. So Baba told me. And there was another friend of Baba who became a disciple who was a school friend of Baba. Who was an editor of the old "Meher Baba Journal" if you remember, if any one of you has read it. He was conducting the "Meher Baba Journal" from 1939 to '43. He's no more today. And he became a very ardent disciple. He was a Muslim and it was very difficult for the Muslim to believe in somebody as a Saint or the Perfect Master or much less as the Avatar who belonged to a religion other than the Muslim religion. But here was an instance. He was a school friend of Baba. Later on he became the disciple of Baba. He also accepted Him as the Avatar of the age.

So this Dr. Ghani and I was there. Both of us were there. And Baba of course asked us to get a breakfast for all the people that who were there. He asked us to get some cream and bread. Dr. Ghani was a very clever and a wise man. Very well up in English and Urdu and Persian languages. He had a great sense of humour. He was much older than me. And both of us went to a small shop there. A small cafe early morning and asked him to just prepare so

many plates/dishes of cream and bread and carry it over to the house of Baba's disciple where Baba was there and His disciples were sitting also. To take it there.

When we reached the shop I felt very hungry. And I told Dr. Ghani that, "Would Baba mind if I go and eat a little breakfast here and then carry the rest of it to, for the disciples?" So Dr. Ghani said, "Yes you can have. If you feel hungry you can eat it." So then I sat there to eat. It was a small plate of little cream and bread and then tea. After having that you see it took us sometime to do it. And when we got all the stuff near this persons who were sitting near Baba, Baba at once asked me, "Why was the delay caused?" And I said. Dr. Ghani said, "Yes because he felt hungry and he had to take a little, he sat there and ate it." So Baba just asked me, "Why did you eat it? I asked you to bring it over." You see this was the time when the real discipline with Meher Baba in reference to me really started. Dr. Ghani said that. No. Baba asked me, "Why did you eat? You should have first brought it over here and distributed it to all and then you should have sat and eat." I said, "Baba I felt very hungry and being an elder disciple here I asked him. He said yes you can have it." Dr. Ghani says, "No, no, no I did not tell you anything at all of that. Anything that way at all."

And then Baba really became very furious at that time. And that was that time that the discipline with me at least began. He actually made. I stood there and He gave me a sound slap on my face. So so sound that I fell on the ground [general laughter]. I really felt very bad within myself. But I did not get the least. I was not in a way hurt about it. Because I knew that Baba was a Perfect Master. At that time of course

there was no question of Baba's Avatarhood only was looked upon as a Perfect Master.

And all I felt was that I should have really been very considerate and should not have myself served myself there but brought all the stuff here and then of course I could have taken it along with others. I got into. I became rather. I was a very young man of 18 years old. I got very much depressed and Baba had a beautiful knack that whenever He punished somebody just a little later He used to come around and just console him and explain things to him and give so much love to him that the man who was judged very severely and punished for something absolutely forgot and did not mind any punishment given to him at all.

So the discipline actually began here. And when we reached after 15 days of foot journey on the way there are. You see it will take a very long time for me to give the whole account of the journey and all that. I think I have given the account in two installments in the "Divya Vani" magazine entirely devoted to Baba. Two installments of my life with Meher Baba. And the rest of the installments I have not been. I haven't had yet time to give but I will see in future if I get time I shall. I intend to give the whole life account in the future issues of the journal.

So when we reached Bombay 115 miles, for 9 months Baba made us go through a very, very severe discipline. So severe that when we sat near Him He used to ask us every moment as to, "What are your thoughts? What are you thinking about?" And there were others. Other mandali members maybe sometimes outsiders who came for Baba's darshan and it was very

difficult for one to give away just to reveal the thoughts that somebody was thinking. The thought may be good, the thought may be bad. But Baba insisted upon the thoughts to be revealed immediately. And it was a very embarrassing situation. But one had to go through that discipline.

So I began telling lies to Baba [general laughter]. I was very much afraid of Him. I thought that if I get some such objectionable thoughts and if I were to reveal those thoughts to Baba He would get annoyed with me and He would ask me to go away home. And I would lose the joy of His company here. So I went on telling lies every time but I felt it very deep in my heart. Even at night I could not really get sleep. Thoughts used to come to me that we should be very truthful and honest. Baba wants us to be honest. But I couldn't summon up that courage and every time tell Him the truth.

Baba went on impressing upon me that, "If you love Me there should be no fear in it at all. And whatever I ask you to do you must be prepared to do and whatever thoughts you see pass your mind if I ask you there should be no hesitation on your part." But still I really could not embolden myself to tell the truth. This Dr. Ghani another friend of mine and an old friend of Baba, he was similar. We were sailing in the same boat both of us. It went on and on and one day Baba asked us to sit near Him. And then asked both of us a question, "Do you know who I am?" I said, "Yes you are a Perfect Master Baba we know." "But you have been telling me lies all the time." [general laughter].

We felt very bad about this. "Do you know that I know all your thoughts?" I say, "I suppose so Baba [pilgrims laughing]. I

suppose you know all the thoughts." "Then why is it that you have been telling me lies?"

Then Baba revealed some very old incident of my life when He had not come into my life with all the details. It was a small. I don't exactly remember what the incident was but the incident was very, very small. But with that meticulous accuracy you see He revealed the whole incident, the time, the place, the happening, the circumstances, and the day and everything. In case of Dr. Abdul Ghani also He did the same thing. And then He said, "Now are you convinced that I know everything?" "Yes Baba you know everything [general laughter]. Now we don't have a shadow of doubt that you know everything." And we felt it so bad that both of us you see started weeping there. We wept for full 20 minutes you see. Everything came out. And then we gave a promise to Baba that from now onwards we shall see that you never tell a lie to you. Because we are 100 percent convinced that even if we were to hide anything from you conceal it, it will not be possible because you know everything.

One day Baba told me that, "Not only I know your thoughts today, but I know what you are going to think tomorrow." If you refer to the article in the God Speaks the eternal now wherein Baba says that, "There is no past, there is no future, it is all the eternal now." It is this present moment which is the real and the reality is right here and all what we call the past and the future they merge into the present and there is no such a thing as a past and a future at all. But one has to have that experience of it you see. It is only on our part something said by Baba and heard by us and believed by us. But to go to that

experience naturally one has to become  
Baba Himself. That is apart from the point.