DON'T UNPACK AT BINDRA HOUSE

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Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India September 22, 1972 5:48

ERUCH: Then as soon as my mother came here Mai, Baba's mother, fell in love with my mother. So says, "Merog, I am now very old." And then my father said one day said, "Baba what is this all the time shifting these poor?" My father called us sheep. Says, "What is this? This flock of sheep is being shunted from one place to another you see all the time disrupting the education of little Meherwan," and all that. "And when will they feel settled anywhere?" Baba says, "Everything will be perfect for them. No worry, nothing." In the meantime my mother, then my father said, "That it would be best if they were to, made to settle in Poona."

"It's a nice place. It's a central place." For him to say this and Baba's mother to fall in love with my mother's company you see, it happened you see. And my, Baba said this. Mother, Baba's mother, insisted that my mother should be there in Poona with her because she's now getting old and there's nobody to look after her and I like Gai. Gai means my mother's name is Gai. So I want her company. So Baba then called us aside from my father, says, "Look here, we'll have to play some trick you see. These old people. What I want you to do is you go to Poona, don't unpack things. I will send the whole thing you see, the luggage in a truck, small van. You go there and there is a house that is now." Behram searched for a house. You know Baba's brother. He searched for which is now Bindra house. That house. Same house where they.

"So just for 15 days be there and I will call you back. Just for the fancy of my mother you see. Just pacify her, comfort her. It's for her. And if you. Don't unpack the luggage. Keep it packed there." Now look at the God-Man. How tricky He is like Krishna is. He tells my father that now on the other hand and you see. He tells my father now, "See my mother wants Gai to be there. And what. I have sent Gai there and my mother is not going to last for long. And even if she were to last for long her fancy won't last for long. So what happens is you wanted Poona so your wife and children will be in Poona now. Now what you should do is make them comfortable. See that they are comfortable there." So He sends my father also with me and my mother and my sister and brother. So we are all together now in the house. Now I had been given strict instructions not to unpack things you see.

So we, what we did, we used to sleep on the floor. We used to not to unpack things you see. And call for food from somewhere. Or make some little thing you see. Unpack all the things we shouldn't. Just the things that are necessary. And my mother would be whole day with Baba's mother and all that. And within 15 days.

In the meantime it so happened that one of the Zoroastrian community person died there. And my father being. When there is a funeral there is a special dress to be worn by Zoroastrians. So my father shouted at me, "So what the hell are you doing? Why don't you unpack? I want a dress now for that occasion you see. I can't go in this European style dress you see. We must have our community dress for that." I said, "Father there is no hurry to unpack. I am so tired you know. And why you want to." In the meantime Baba's. Of course somehow or the other my father managed to go there you see. But in the meantime within 15 days of our stay there I think Baba's mother died.

Baba's mother died and the whole thing. Then Baba came you see. I was at Mahableshwar. We were at Mahableshwar. Then I drove Baba. Baba wanted to attend. So Baba was brought there. And it was the same house where Behram and Perin live now. Mother died there. So we were there for a day. Just for an hour or half an hour there. Baba didn't attend the funeral or anything of the sort. Then what happened? That Baba came back and then now my mother said, "Baba, now what's the sense? Tell us what to do now? Whether we should unpack and continue to stay there or come there? Mother is no more now." So Baba says, "You continue to stay there." This is how we are staying there.

And Bindra house became the central station. Every time Baba would be going there and coming and all that. Never once we felt that we were away from Baba or anything of the sort. It continued like that you see. It became more or less a sort of Meherabad or Meherazad for the people. And they know how they used to go there and sometimes 40 people would stay there you see, at a time. And we had music concerts and this and that. Oh terrible. We had to pitch tents there in that small compound and all sorts of things you see. So we stayed there. They are continuing to stay there. That's all. My father died there then.

PILGRIM 1: Who did your father take Baba to be? Did your father take Baba to be the [inaudible]?

ERUCH: In later years yes. He took Him to be the Avatar. The God-Man. In the beginning also but he had greater. He was an orthodox Zoroastrian. So he had believed. My father was made clear in his mind by Baba saying that, "You may take me to be a stone. And Zoroaster your Zoroaster as the prophet. Whatever you bestow on Zoroaster would reach Me because I am the One." So that was, everything was settled you see. [Eruch laughs] So this is one part of the story.