
Living In India

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Washington DC, USA

1978

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ATTENDEE 1: What was it like living in India your having been brought up in the West? And then being in India with Baba.

DELIA: Yes.

ATTENDEE 1: What was that like?

DELIA: Well the first trip as I pointed out we were supposed to be going with Baba to India and then China and then to America where He was going to speak in the Hollywood Bowl.

[Laughter]

DELIA: We were with this idea was that we were going to get God Realization when He broke His silence in the Hollywood Bowl. We went with enormous wardrobe trunks with plenty of clothes. When we got to Bombay, we were entertained there and then Baba said He was taking us up to Kashmir. But all our trunks were put in storage [inaudible] so we each had just a little suitcase. Thinking Kashmir was warm, we had summer clothes. As it turned out it was freezing cold. We stopped on the way to Agra and we saw the Taj Mahal and already Baba started saying, "I may have to change my plans. Do you love me enough to go back if I ask you to?"

Then we were about a week in Kashmir on houseboats and one of the excursions was He took us to the mountain where He said Jesus was buried in Kashmir. And then suddenly He said, "You must all go back home." And before we knew what was

happening, we were right down to Bombay, we were bunkered on the ship back to England. Baba said He would cable us what we were to do. This was our first treatment in obedience and change of plans and meeting his Eastern disciples for the first time but we didn't have much contact, except for the few that traveled with Baba.

As far as India was concerned, we really didn't mix with the people at all. It was on the second trip that we stayed there and then we mixed. There were many Westerners and then we visited the Eastern women. We were part of that life for the time we were there. Does that answer you?

ATTENDEE 1: What was it like when you were living with the Eastern women? Was that hard to adjust to living with the Eastern women?

DELIA: With the Indian women do you mean? Oh, well it was wonderful being with them. We were staying at Nasik a separate time and we used to go up to Meherabad to be with them and we spent the day. Mani was asked to entertain us and we were just part of that Ashram for the time being.

When we were at Nasik it was the first time that Baba let men and women be together in a Center. And we were a most extraordinary crowd. Baba said we were hard nuts to crack.

[Laughter]

We had come there to be trained in discipleship and we really had to start to die. There was Norina Matchabelli, Elizabeth Patterson, Kitty Davy, Margaret, myself, Countess Tolstoy, Jean (Adriel) and Malcolm Schloss, Garrett Fort, Ruano Bogislav, and we were all very like cats round a dressing [inaudible]

[Laughter]

DELIA: We didn't really quite understand what the Easterners understood about this subject. But Baba taught us lessons all the time.

One of my most beautiful memories of being in Nasik was sitting with Baba on a moonlit night and He let us all sit round Him and we just sat there in silence looking at Him and then you felt you were learning more from that than a million talks. He did give discourses and this was a start really of a lot of projects that came to fruition later on. There was the film project, then Garrett and Malcolm Schloss were to start this magazine but nothing happened then, but at a later date it was started and Elizabeth was the editor. So started the *Discourses*, really. Baba was told by Norina that he should give a discourse to each edition, which He did and that was the start of the *Discourses*.