
Discussion of Death

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12:18

MANI: [inaudible] part of that. So when we would have the truthful angle of the thing called dying, it will become a worldwide thing. I mean, dancing and singing, and merriment that He Himself heralded, directed. He himself did it for His friend the [inaudible] For me it's something that will become universal in time to come. But still, it doesn't make it easy for. But then, perhaps, you see, because the pain is from our ignorance. We don't know. We can't reach. We can't see. But knowing Him, trusting Him, we can know. We can know that it is so.

PILGRIM: I have a question about why Baba [inaudible] also because he's got Baba [inaudible]

MANI: Yes.

PILGRIM: Did He ever tell you why that was important?

MANI: We didn't think it was important. No.

ERUCH: It was just that His wish that those who were supposed to be there [inaudible] the relics of gone cases. [crosstalk]

MANI: Barbara, we had very, very few questions, if at all. Nothing was important when Baba is all important with that. There were no questions. No problems. Our biggest thing was, you see, we were occupied by, you know, it was a presence at that time. Obeying Him was the most important thing. Pleasing

Him was the most important thing. Being with Him was the most important thing. And those little, little, little mosquitoes, as I say, that can be very irritating, the little orders, the little things, the little do's, the little don'ts, would keep one fully occupied.

PILGRIM: I'm just impressed by the fact that even that even the body was just nothing really. It was also the irony involved. You can't find anything about Baba that you can say is absolute.

MANI: You know already we are beginning to hear from Baba lovers, who describe funerals of their parents or children, or even. One woman wrote recently. She has had so much happen to her, I couldn't believe it. But to see the love, the strength of Baba's love that made her write, it made me weep. And I'm sure that the others too. When you read it, that, I mean you salute that love of Baba's which goes through. Here is this Baba lover in America, who was parted from her husband, who lost her house, who got cancer, but it was in remission. She got over that. I mean she is alright from that, and whose nine year old son drowned. And the letter she wrote. That's the kind of letter when you can write to, for Baba that love, you couldn't help but weep. And yet it is, it should not be surprising. It's amazing but shouldn't be surprising, you know, Baba being who He is.

And there was also Diana and Steve LaFleure, who lost their only child, only son. Now they

are parted but when they were together, it was, everything was going so beautifully. So I asked Steve when he was here. I said, "Tell me Steve, one thing I'm really interested to know. Would you rather not have had him and the pain you've gone through or are you happier that you had him no matter what you had to go through?" I said, "Think properly. I really want an answer to that, because I've seen this happen a number of times. Would you've been happier not to have had him with the pain involved, of death, or was it a contribution to your life? Was it something that made your life richer and happier? Would you rather have had him and lost him than not had him at all? Tell me."

He thought for two minutes and he said, "I am happy I had him." And then he wrote a beautiful poem. After the pain had eased after a year, he wrote a beautiful poem, and released him, said, "Little Robert, go your way. I don't hold you." You know, because after all in life one's journey is very much one's own. We are only loaned this one or that one. This child, that child, this mother. Nothing is ours. We are only having it on loan. And we are entrusted with that. Caring for it. But we cannot possess it. We cannot possess anyone no matter how close.

We even, you cannot share in somebody's suffering. No matter how much you love a person, you cannot take their suffering. You can comfort. You can hold. You can strengthen. You can support. But you cannot take on. I cannot take on your headache no matter how bad, how much I love you. And your headache is so bad. Can I take it on? No. So it's a journey that we really have not the right to debar anyone from whatever experience they have to go through in life. If that particular soul has to have that experience of death, or that age, or in this way, or that, that really belongs entirely to that particular being. And nobody has the right

to restrict their experiences. You cannot. Because everything is an experience. And if you do not possess anyone, nor their experience, to be able to say, "But this is mine", it isn't. But as I asked Steve. I said, "Are you happier that you had him and lost him or would you rather have not had him at all?" And he said, "No, I'm glad I had him. No matter what I had to go through." But those are also mercy.

These are also gifts. But after all, it's always His. Always His. And He takes care of it all. He takes care so beautifully. But then, naturally, we cry for ourselves. But then even that He heals when you leave it to Him. If you don't just hold on. You have to release. You have to release. It's good for the, for the being, for the soul, for the person concerned. It's good for them also. You know they say, "Please free me. I am on my journey." And it may be with another shirt on at another place. We can say nothing. But then there are other graces. He gives other children.

There are other responsibilities. There is His hand sustaining us all the time. If He didn't sustain us, we could have broken under this pain. But when you could see a letter like that, that Kathy McKee. I forget the last name is very.

PILGRIM: Beth McKee.

MANI: Beth McKee. McKee? And so that is His grace also. But sometimes even now when we hear of people who have lost their parents or brothers or children, there is something at the funeral. Baba's presence is definitely felt. The fragrance can be derived at such funerals because when they write. And from our own experience, like when my two brothers died after Baba dropped His body, one after another, my two brothers. And I tell you it was like a little darshan. And yet it was, to the worldly people, this is death. But it doesn't feel

like that. There is that, Baba's presence is there and little by little it got to be more and more in funerals among Baba lovers. You feel that more. And how often we've had that. No, Eruch?

ERUCH: Yeah.

MANI: A number of times. And I said to myself, "Oh, it's happening there too," You know, and you compare and you see because. And this has happened. His presence is. Because it's joy. Joy for the one concerned. And after all this is not dying. I wish it were. It's not as easy and simple as that. Kabir says, "We all talk about dying, dying, dying. None of us know how to die. If you must die, then die in such a way that you never have to die again."

[In vernacular]

Marna marna sub koi kahay. Maree na jaanay koi. Marna ho toe aisay maro kay phir na jaanay hoi.

So this what we call dying is not dying. It's just going from one loan to another. One step to another. And as I said it is, it is His. We are the caretakers. We are the entrusted ones for the time being. The whole show is run by Him. When He wants it, as He wants it, why He wants it. So all we have to ask Baba is that He helps us to bear with better grace, with more strength.

Because He gives the strength. He sustains. He sustains those who look to Him. Those who love Him. Those who call out to Him. There is no doubt about that. I tell it from my own experience. Because we could not have gone through what we did when Baba dropped His body if He hadn't sustained so strongly, so beautifully that we had no room for our own tears. We were even comforting Baba lovers, who were crying. Who didn't know the language. Who came from Andhra. All they

could say was, "Baba, Baba, Baba." And when I saw even Mehera, when embracing them say, "Baba is here. Baba has not gone. Baba does not." And who? Only Baba would do that. And that too because Baba has said. When Baba tells us, "Love me more." it's because He gives us that love to love Him more. When Baba gives something, when Baba asks for something, He is not really asking, He is giving something. So when He asks you to love Him more, He is making it possible for us to love Him more. We could not have loved Him more had He not said, "Love me more." And the same way on that last day, Baba sent a message with me to Mehera two, three times, "Tell Mehera to be brave. Be brave Mehera." And we didn't even know at the time what it meant. We thought, you know, because He's suffering, and that, of course, means suffering for us.

But, and He was even, even till 12 o'clock, at 12 o'clock, when it was noon, just before, just before that, He was making a light joke, and saying, "Padri is a barber. His homeopathy doesn't work." Or things like that, you know. But He sent the message out. He says, "Tell Mehera to be brave." And because He said it, because at that time of saying it, He's giving it, so she was equipped with that courage to be brave. Because in that message, He gave that courage. You see, it is. All the pain that we have comes from ignorance. With knowledge, pain goes. Knowledge is that depth of understanding. Like if you understand what death means, there is no pain in it. But because we haven't got that knowledge of what death means, then the pain comes. Or anything else. Anything else. [clock chiming]

See, as Baba would say, it's true.