
Her Life with Meher Baba (2 of 2)

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46:04

Attendee: [inaudible]The ego mind.

Leatrice: The egomind. Yes. How you react to things, just a whole shew of things, and it was being restructured — what were my goals now? Being with Baba presented a new challenge to me. What were my goals and what were my values now in the light of meeting Baba? How could I live a life more toward what Baba would want me to live? How could I fit that in with my longing for Baba? All these things were just adding up in a different way, and my sister found the same thing was happening to her and her words for it are that Baba was planting a seed through which a new structure would grow through which He could function with us in our lives.

So I really believe that was what was happening and it was hard work, really hard work. I thought I was doing it all myself. Then after the day was over and all the interviews were over and all of those who were there were called into Baba's room, and we were sitting on the floor and Baba was having some fun with us and relaxing and talking to this one and that one. And He was telling some stories and all of a sudden He looked at me and He put his fingers together in a circle. Just like that. And His eyes brightened up and He said, "I'm pleased with what went on up there." And now I'm thinking, "Oh Baba was doing it all the time! [Leatrice laughs]" That was when I became aware and convinced how carefully Baba maneuvers

within us and how much He knows the ins and outs of our entire being and that He cares so much to help us all with all of that nitty gritty. To work it out with us and so for me Baba is my psychologist, he's my analyst as well. In fact we used to talk about it because we saw how he was treating other people, and we were saying, "Well, He's the best psychologist anybody could have." And that's exactly what He was doing. So for all of my life and for any problem sent ahead to ever come up for me, I always take them to Baba. Because that's part of my spiritual growth and unravelment and everything and it's my chance to come closer to Him through the means that He uses – the troubles, the confusions, the conflicts in life. He works through all of that with us so we that find we have to rely on Him to help us through it. And you know we're really not such a big deal; we really can't through it all by ourselves. And so He's the one who really directs the show. And you know, once in a while we see that He is and we acknowledge that He is. And the more we see that, the more we're willing to accept it and say, "Yes," He really is all the time working with us and He's never absent from us, we are the ones who are absent from Him. So the lessons were being learned and are still being learned. And at another time, still at Mrs. Duce's apartment, Baba came out into the main waiting room; and all the workers were there and some other people were there and Baba was saying this and that. I don't

remember what He was saying and I was thinking, "Oh this is such a wonderful opportunity to just love Baba. And to feel His love and give Him love. But I'm not loving Baba, I'm adoring Baba!" And that was the first time I ever adored anybody. I just sat there adoring Baba. And all of a sudden Baba looks up and He says, "I'm adorable." [laughter] Nothing escapes Him. And so He reassures us over and over. We're little children. We really need that reassurance of His knowledge of where we are and what we're doing and what we're thinking and how we're feeling. Also another time, another reassurance of how we're feeling was at the Wilmington Airport, when Baba had us gathered around. And He was leaving the United States in 1958 and He was just looking from one to another and He wouldn't let us cry. You know you're very willing to break down and say, "Oh now wait, you." And He would smile and was giving us His supportive love, and to face the facts, you can't cry. He was looking at us in a way so as to evoke our courage and bravery, and not to break down and cry. And to sustain His love within and to sustain us and take His love within and to sustain us for the intervening years and for all time. Just pouring it in to make it stay with us. So why waste your time crying about it and just take it all in and feel His love and keep it forever. And so that's what we were doing and I was feeling His love so much.

And then He went over to some other part a little distance from me. I was doing something else and talking to people, and I couldn't stop looking at Him. In fact I was staring at Him [inaudible] and all of a sudden He just stopped from what He was doing and He looked up at me and acknowledged my love in His love. In fact,

way back, and in Mrs Duce's apartment again, one time He said, "Always be alert to my love and my love glances because you never know when I might just shoot a glance at you out of the corner of my eye and then be full of love." So that made us always very alert to His love glances. And He did give us those at the oddest moments all the time. Everybody experienced those I'm sure. It's little things.

Oh let me see. There was a time in 1956 when we were with Baba at Myrtle Beach Center. So there was quite a number of us there and we saw Baba every day. Well for a few days, it was in '56, there was a public time, the public was invited to see Baba and we each saw Baba from time to time at the Center. At the public day at the Barn, people were coming in and coming out to the back porch and my mother was on the back porch and my sister and I kinda stood there too because we always wanted to be, if we ever had the chance to be where we could look in on Baba and just have a glimpse of Him. Cause his love radiance was always coming out and we wanted to absorb more and more. And even in the times in New York or San Francisco or Los Angeles, wherever He was giving interviews and we happened to be around and could be even on the fringe of it, we would just absorb Baba's love all the time. And so that's what we were doing on the porch there. And there was one day when the black people were received and Baba stood for the black people, which was different from his usual greeting. The others just came in and came up to Baba and Baba remained seated. So I felt that was significant. And also that was the time when He was in the Barn when He said, "Love, give everything to me." In '56. And we, there were fifty of us who

traveled with Baba. We were with Baba at the Barn, at the Center for a few days and then we came up to Washington D.C. and we were in a bus and Baba went visiting somewhere else and the rest of us were sent around Arlington Cemetery on the bus. Why, I could never figure that out. Then I guess we stayed there a day or something like that and then we took off across the country to Los Angeles and then on to San Francisco.

Attendee: Excuse me. You talk about meeting Baba in Mrs. Duce's apartment. That was in '52?

Leatrice: That was in '52. See we met Baba in May of '52 then he had the automobile accident in Prague, Oklahoma in July or June, I forget the date, then came back and He had scheduled interviews in New York in the middle of July.

Attendee: I was wondering if you could say something about whether you had any thoughts about Baba's accident and whether the enormity of that occurred to you at the time, or how Baba looked, other than the fact that He had a cast on, I mean.

Leatrice: OK.

Attendee: It's just that it was an incredible event.

Leatrice: Yes, it was an incredible event but I wasn't able to be very conscious of what it meant or how it felt or very much about it at all. I just wasn't there. My conscious mind couldn't register it at all. Eruch asked me a similar question and the answer seemed to be that I found Baba adorable, that He was more loving, more appealing and felt more loving toward me.

I think it registers on one in a way that one can't be conscious. I couldn't grasp the magnitude of Baba's suffering at that time at all.

Attendee 2: How old were you?

Leatrice: I was eighteen. It's not that I wasn't sympathetic for somebody in pain but I just didn't grasp it. Sometime later in my life I did have the chance to be more conscious of His suffering. In my own life, I had a dream, I've had a number of dreams of Baba. One of them was that, I was kneeling before Baba, and He put his left leg on my shoulder and the weight of it was so heavy and He was showing me the weight of His suffering, because it was His left leg that was broken. So that dream preceded, maybe by only a month or two, that dream preceded my ski accident in which I broke my leg, my left leg. I felt that Baba was giving me a very real experience of what it is to suffer a bit. Only my suffering was limited to me and not universal. My brother also cracked his kneecap the month before I had my accident, both skiing accidents. We both felt that Baba was giving us a chance to have some concept of His suffering. We felt it was a blessing to have that chance to suffer in that way. It's not so much what happens to you as how you take it. And that's how we took it and how we lived through that.

But in my personal life also, being very close to Jesus in my younger years, I was always very concerned about Jesus's crucifixion and how Jesus felt in His suffering and I felt that that was a mystery to me and it was beyond me to grasp the significance of His suffering. Especially on Good Fridays I would try to understand it, try to be more conscious of this. All

through my years, it was another one of my secrets which I never told anyone but Baba knew about it, that I was concerned about the suffering of the Avatar and didn't know how to understand it. And I think that it is impossible really to understand it. In 1958 Baba said of us at a Sahavas at Myrtle Beach that we were all blessed to be with Him because by being with Him we were sharing in His universal suffering. And He said, "I have come to suffer untold agony so that you would come to know you are bliss itself." I feel that Baba's suffering is just, well extremely important.

One day in 1958 I was in Baba's house at Myrtle Beach. I was one of three who were asked to come early and dust and tidy up the house. And it was Billie Eaton and Ella and I and we would scurry around. We'd come early and Baba would be in the house and several of the mandali would be in the house. And we'd run the sweeper or dust and straighten things up and then we would go into Baba's bedroom and somehow Baba would come into the living room when we went into the bedroom. And one morning I found a little amber plastic. It was really tiny, Indian bracelet by the chair where Baba sat in the living room. So I picked it up and I was holding it and then while I was leaving the living room to go to the bedroom, Baba was entering the living room and I saw Baba's suffering on His face. He never looked at me but I saw Him suffering, whoof! Really saw it and it, and it is staggering. You just can't know His suffering. So I went on into the room where the two beds are. And here I was still holding this bracelet and I was wondering what to do with it. And I certainly didn't want to go trouble Baba after seeing that expression on His face. And Adi came along and I said, "Look I found this, what should I do with it?" He

took it and he went out to Baba and he brought it back and he said, "Keep it." So I have that bracelet. So after we finished our duties cleaning Baba's room and making the bed together which was very wonderful activity and privilege, the three of us would take turns, one on each side one day and then the next day [her laughter] we would do it all together. We would always hurry up with our work so we could go back out to the living room and sit at Baba's feet until it was time for Him to leave. And then when He would leave, He would go out the front door and we'd go out to the kitchen, out the back. And He'd go out into the car and we all waved to Him while He'd go to the main Center and to the Barn. And then we'd scurry and get ourselves in line. Well this morning I was still holding that bracelet when I went to sit down. And Baba was talking about Jesus's suffering and somehow there were times when Baba would be talking about a specific topic or something and you knew it would be meant just for you even though He was saying it to others and He wouldn't even look at you. And when He was talking about Jesus's suffering I felt the impact of understanding Jesus's suffering a little bit more. He said Jesus suffered the way a man suffers. He didn't relieve Himself of that suffering with His Bliss. He suffered like a man does. And if it weren't some, now saying I don't know how to convey, those words convey volumes to me. I was stunned and holding that bracelet so it's always a reminder of that incident.

Attendee: Leatrice, were you thinking about Jesus the whole time?

Leatrice: No I wasn't. Not at all. And it also conveyed to me that Baba knew that I had wanted to understand Jesus's suffering.

All it was Baba conveys those things to you and no one else in the room suspects what's going on. I'm still trying to understand Baba's suffering. I think it's really quite beyond us. And one of the things that also impressed me about Baba's suffering was how He was being carried in the chair. He was being carried in the chair in 1958 because He couldn't walk because of the second accident and obviously He was in continuous pain. And here we were. All we could think about was His love. And one day this spring I was looking at a picture of Baba being carried in the chair and these words came to me about that, "How patient and enduring Baba was, especially while being carried about in a chair. To allow His body to become so incapacitated as to become dependent on others to move about 'cause He used to walk so swiftly." That was humiliating for a God-Man to be put in that position, to allow himself to be like that. When He walked it was so swiftly and so gracefully as though He were floating along and no one could catch up to Him. And yet He confined Himself to this chair. And in this having to be carried about in the chair, it gave the opportunity to others to be near Him and to give service to Him. When we walked along beside of Baba while He was being carried we were not thinking about how He was suffering, enduring patiently. Yet He was giving us a demonstration of how to be cheerful and giving throughout all that He faced and endured. We were thinking of Him. All eyes were upon Him even as we walked along we saw His love glance and a smile. And we lived in the warmth of His love, in the brilliance of His being. The clouds of our own self and selfishness were evaporating by His blazing sun. Yet we couldn't know it then because we were moving in the spirit of companionship

with Him. Come what may, not knowing what would happen from moment to moment we were caught in this magic moment of being with Him and being a part of His Being. He was our Beloved and that was all that we cared about. We were happy, very happy. Our most cherished desire was being fulfilled. All other desires didn't even come into view while moving along with Baba. We were secure and safe in His hands. We ventured into the realms of the unknown, undaunted and with courage we dared to come close to our Beloved, because there was nothing else to lose except anything that was to keep us separate from Him. Our physical closeness and efforts to be close to us, to Him reflected our inner determination to be close to Him inwardly. And today we strive to be close to Him in much the same way with that courage and that daring, and knowing that we are always secure in His love."

So those were the thoughts that Baba gave me this year on reflecting back on what happened then. Because then I couldn't have had those thoughts. It's just part of the seasoning I guess. I'll pause now for any questions before I tell any more.

Attendee: You mentioned getting Baba would send people glances or love glances at totally unexpected moments. Could you give an example of these? [inaudible]

Leatrice: Yes, out of the blue. Most of the times out of the blue. I was on the stairway in Mrs. Duce's apartment and Baba was going into the main room and He just turned around and shot out a glance like that. Then in another time, it was on the airplane between Los Angeles and San Francisco. I was still not used to flying by air and I wanted the window seat and my

sister had the window seat and I thought., "Oh shucks I can't even look out the window. Now what am I going to do?" Of course the obvious, "Think about Baba and love Baba. After all, He's up there on the same plane with us. Why can't you love Baba?" Well, I can't even manufacture any love for Baba. I'm just dry, I don't have any love for Him. I mean it's not as though I don't love Him, but I couldn't feel any love for Him, to Him. You know what I mean? I wanted to be absorbed in His love and I couldn't. You know, I couldn't just say. "Ok Baba, I'm going to love you now." It didn't work. I was just bone dry. I said, "Ok." And my mother just then, who was sitting behind me, said, "Would you go up and get the camera?" from my father who was sitting the aisle in the row in front of Baba. I said, "Ok." And I went up and passed Baba's, He had the window seat and I went up and got the camera from my father. And I premeditated that I was going to look at Baba when I came back. So I get there and I looked at Baba and He was ready for me [laughter] He just gave me this wide-eyed grin and He just more than filled me up. I was ecstatic! I floated back to my chair and didn't have to do a thing but swim in His love, fold in His love, I was just on cloud nine all the way to San Francisco. He fulfills your wishes especially if they're love wishes. He gives you your heart's desire too if your heart is in the right place. Let's see, is my watch right?

Attendee: Yes. You have a few more minutes.

Attendee 2: I have a question. Do you ever feel those glances now but through other people? Do you feel like He's talking to you?

Leatrice: Yes--

Attendee 2: but through other people?

Leatrice: Definitely.

Attendee 2: I mean, does He shoot glances? I mean, how do you know, what happens?

Leatrice: Well. It's at the oddest moments and the oddest times. Of course the most obvious times are when you are in India and Eruch says something and you go, "Ah!" And you become speechless and you think, "Oh what a dummy I am, I can't even carry on a conversation with Eruch because all of sudden I'm so struck with Baba's love. Things like that. It's very odd moments that you become struck with Baba's love. Through the mandali in particular but, oh in one's life and in one's family life and even sometimes with strangers, you become conscious of Baba's presence or you feel Him in some ways.

Before leaving for India this summer there was all this to do about the airline hijackings and our imminent trip coming up and my parents being very concerned and all that. I felt perfectly comfortable about it and so did my daughter. We were going, scheduled to go through Egypt and Kuwait. Every time I said to, I thought, "Well how do I feel about this?" I was sitting at the kitchen table one time and all of a sudden I felt Baba's presence all around me, very strongly, and I took it to mean that Baba said, "The trip will be fine. Not to worry about it." And then I was also sitting in the dining room chair, still thinking about it. It's like I heard Baba say, "I want you to come." Because there were moments when I was thinking, "Oh, should I really go?" And He gives you these

confirmations. But in the end I wound up changing my flight to another airline because of family pressure not to go through Egypt and Kuwait. And then my old mind was working again thinking, "Well how do you know this is safe?" And my daughter and I were driving the trip up to Albuquerque, 250 miles. She was driving and I was looking out at the scenery and this thought occurred to me again, "How do we know this is safe?" And just then, I kinda looked over the highway and in New Mexico you don't have crowded highways. You don't have trucks passing back and forth. You see a car maybe every ten minutes or fifteen minutes. So the timing is everything. I'm thinking this thought, I look out and coming from the opposite truck, direction is this big truck and across the side of it in big red letters, "Safeway." [laughter] What's next? It's Baba's way of reassuring you, but my mind doesn't stop there [laughter] and you have to really spell it out to me. And it was maybe another hundred miles away again, I fell into the same way of thinking again, the same thought, "Well that was really quite a coincidence." And I started thinking the same. "I really wonder if it's safe." I wasn't thinking another thing and way over there was another Safeway truck. Those were the only trucks I had seen in the whole trip. It's just uncanny. I don't know how to explain but Baba does a lot of that with me in my life because I require a lot of having it spelled out. And He does it my way most of the time. He babies me along in that sense. Anything else?

Attendee: Thank you very much. Part Two tomorrow night.

Leatrice: Ok. Jai Baba.