
Her Life with Baba

Freny Dadachanji

26:34

FRENY: ...the weekend, so they [inaudible] did this letter to Eruch and if he feels like it, he should read it to Baba. And Nariman looked at me and he said, "Well, do you believe Baba to be God?" So I said, "Yes." And he said, "Then He knows everything." I said, "Yes." And he said, "You also know that you are disobeying Baba by writing? It's Eruch, but you know that you are going roundabout way of asking Baba." [muted laughter by attendees] So I said, "Yes." He said, "Well think about it. If you tell me to take the letter I will, but just think about what you are doing." And realising, I tore up the letter, and I said, and he said, "Well, you are coming this weekend. See what happens."

But our stupid minds go on, you know, and I kept on thinking. I said, "How's Baba going to know that there's trouble in my family? And that now I have received the telegram from Papa and that I have to go and all that."

Well anyway, the weekend arrived and I went to Poona with everything ready for me to go fly to Karachi. I was going alone. And we were in Mobo, I remember that very well, we were in Mobo, and I was discussing this with Arnavaz. It was about 10-10:30 in the morning. And I was telling Arnavaz and I was showing her the telegram and everything and Arnavaz said to me the same thing [child's sound in the background], she said, "Well, don't ask Baba about it. But if Baba asks you, then you tell Him. And remember one thing, that you must obey Him. His first yes or a no you have to obey. If He asks you then you tell Him, otherwise just keep your mouth shut, you know." So I said fine. Even then as she

was telling me this I was once again thinking. I said, "But how is Baba going to come to know about it?"

And the telephone rang. This is a fact. And the telephone rang, and Baba said, "All those in Mobo's are wanted in Guruprasad." And we were very few at that time. It was just beginning, you know Baba's darshans were just beginning in May. And, and these were all old timers like Talaati and Roda and Nargish and, you know just the few of us were there.

And so we went to Guruprasad. And we were in that big hall, standing in a horseshoe, I remember that so well, in a horseshoe form. [vehicle sound in the background] And Baba walked in from the small room, in His sadra and He called Arnavaz and He said, "Arnavaz, introduce me to everybody." Now these were really old ones you know. So Arnavaz started introducing, "Baba, Dina and this and this and this and this and she came to me. And Baba stopped and He went and sat on the sofa. [vehicle sound in background] And He became really serious, very serious. And then He said, "Are you going to be here?" And I was so flabbergasted, I said, and Arnavaz nudged me and she says, "Well, Baba is asking you, now tell Him." So I said, "No Baba, such and such a thing has happened, and I am flying to Karachi." And as I was saying all this to Baba, for a split second, [vehicle sound in background] He showed me a no on His face, that I shouldn't go. For a split second that thing came on His face, you know, He was giving me His answer. But to any layman, to anybody else it appeared that Baba and I were conversing. He

was asking me questions and I was telling Him that I would be flying on a Thursday and returning on a Thursday and He was telling me that, but I, that's all right, but that, how was I going? Flying? And I said, "Yes." And He says, "Alone?", and I said, "Yes." And He said, "Well, won't you be frightened?" I said, "No Baba." And He said, "Don't think too much about it, my nazar will be on you and your family."

And all this was going on you know, but is, and He said, "But you must remember to come back on the 1st of May. You have to be here." And I said, "Yes, Baba."

You know, this thing went on and to anybody else it appeared that Baba was saying yes, I could go. But that first split second was a no. And at that moment, I decided I wasn't going, that no matter what, I had made a choice. And I knew what it was going to do to my parents, and though I was hurting inside, [vehicle sound in background] and then Baba said, "Ok, now all of you go."

This was it. Just for that it called, you know. And so when we were going to Mobo's, Arnavaz said, [airplane sound in background] she asked me, she said, "Well, what have you decided? Are you going?" So I said, "No." And she said, "Oh, so you saw the no on Baba's face?" And I said, "Yes." And she said, "Good, don't go, because it was a no from Baba."

And that one obedience of mine, brought my whole family to Baba. Because then what happened was that I wrote to my father. Now my leave was starting from the 1st and so I was happy and I wrote to, to my father saying that look daddy, just delay the, delay our coming, you know. Because now I have a leave, I was coming, but such and such thing happened and that please wait for a month more. After my leave was over, I will take

some more and come in and sort of help him out of his problem.

And a month passed. Now as the month was nearing, Baba again started asking me whether I was going to be there. And He asked me, He says, "Do you have to go back to Bombay?" And I said, "Yes Baba, because my leave is getting over and now this girl, my substitute has said that she wouldn't stay a day more to work for me and that I have to go." And so He said, "Why don't you write a letter to your boss?" [muted laughter by attendee] So I was happy to do it. I said, "Sure Baba", and I sat and wrote a letter to my madam. She was a French lady. And Rustom took the letter and the next weekend he brings a reply and it was a very favourable reply. She writes, "Oh yes my darling, I understand your situation. It's Christ reborn and what a lucky girl you are and what an opportunity it is to be with Christ and all that, and you can stay for as long as you like. Mani has consented to work for you as a substitute." And I was very happy. And Baba was like a child, you know.

And now this weekend, Rustom came with this letter. It was about 6 or 6:30 or something like that, and Baba always retired by 5, one couldn't see Baba after 5. He would be in His room and that was it.

So we would go for a walk passing Guruprasad on our walk. There's Mobo and then two blocks, Guruprasad, and onwards would be the Bund Garden. So we would take our evening walks passing Guruprasad, just to see Guruprasad, you know. And sometimes the ladies would be out and they would wave to us.

This particular day, I was very happy, now I could stay on and we went for a walk. And there was this clapping, calling us in, you

know. So we rushed in, we thought the ladies were out and they wanted a chat. But to our surprise Baba was out on the verandah. And He said, "Well, what happened? Did Rustom bring you a letter?" So I said, "Yes, Baba." And He says, "What's the news?" So I said, "Baba, good news, I can stay now as long as you are here in Poona." And He said, "Fine, very good, now be happy." And I said, "Yes." I was very, very happy. Little realising that my troubles were really starting. [muted laughter by attendees]

So then He sent us away, said, "Fine, now you stay happy, don't think about anything." And I said, "Fine."

So the next day, I wrote a letter to my father again saying that now two more months he had to be patient. [Freny laughs and so do the attendees] And he wrote back to say, oh no, this letter exchange takes days between India and Pakistan, you know. 10 days coming and going, and 15 days, so my letter would reach after 15 days and his reply would come after 15 days, like that another month passed. But my father kept on writing me very pathetic letters, because now the poison was going into his ears, saying that he really lost me completely, and that I was, that Meher Baba would never allow me to go to him ever again. And he said, you have to come and I was begging and pleading that you should be patient that I would go, you know. And this was really tearing me apart because he wrote me such letters and I knew how unhappy he was becoming. And instead of being happy there I was really miserable in Poona. And everybody kept on telling me. And now ok, it was towards the end of Baba's stay, all this exchange of letters brought us towards the last week of Baba's stay in Poona.

And my father sent me a telegram saying, "If you are not coming, then I am coming to

Bombay." And that was it, now I felt that my father would be in Bombay but I couldn't go to Bombay to receive him also. Because still about 10 days were left of Baba's stay. And, what could I do now? So I told Rustom, I said he should go to Bombay, just receive them at the airport and bring them to Poona. Straight off, you know, because my house was closed too, at that time.

So he and I had a fight about it, he called me some names, fancy names, and he said, "How shameless can you be, you know you are hurting your father so badly and what would happen if you come to Bombay to receive them at least?" And I felt that I could not go to Bombay, that if I went to Bombay, I would not return and we would miss something.

And so, he went off in a huff and I just told him, I mean I begged and pleaded, I said, "You just, whatever they say, you just get them to Poona."

Now, he went off to Bombay, and Nariman came and sort of gave us a message from Baba saying that Baba had closed all darshans. That He wouldn't see any of us during the last week that He was there. And I remember Nariman remarking, he says, "How unfortunate your people are, that they would be at the doorstep of Guruprasad, but they would be closed to them." And I felt really sad about it. And I said, "Well, Baba, it's your will and wish, what could I do?"

And, but everybody was, sort of, after me to tell Baba that my people were now arriving, and that I should tell Mehera or Mani or somebody [vehicle sound in the background] but I knew that would be wrong, so I just kept my mouth shut. So I said, "No, it's Baba's will, whatever is in their destiny, would happen."

And so Rustom went off to fetch them from Bombay and we had to, but that weekend we had to take the ladies to a movie. This was now the last weekend of Baba's stay. He would be going away on Monday. So this was a Saturday, and Rustom was arriving that Saturday from Bombay with my people and we took the ladies to a movie and, but Arnavaz gave me hopes, because every time Anu would go to fetch the ladies, Baba would ask her, who all were coming that weekend from Bombay. And she told me that when Baba asked me this question which comes every week, when she went to the ladies, and I would say that your parents are coming and that would be it. Then we should wait and see what Baba did about it, you know.

And so I was, when Anu went to fetch the ladies I was expecting this question to be put to Arnavaz and I felt that Baba would ask the question and that He would come to know about it. And when Arnavaz entered the theatre with the ladies, we were already there, She said, "Freny, I am sorry. Baba, the question never came, Baba didn't ask me this." And after the movies were over, Baba would have retired, and so there was no hope of Baba coming to know about it. And I really felt very bad and then Mehera turned around and she said, "Oh Freny, I've got good news for you. Tomorrow Baba has kept a special program and you should come. It's a good opportunity and you can see Baba again." You know how Mehera is, so I felt more terrible. I said oh my God, now my people will be in Mobo's with me, I have to go to Guruprasad and tell them I am sorry, Baba won't see you, [child's sound in background] but I have to go.

I said, "Baba, what are you doing?", you know, to myself I said, "What are you doing?" And, without a hope, I of course I said, " Ya, Mehera, of course we would be there." And,

the movies were over and Arnavaz went with the ladies and we went, returned to Mobo's. And after a while in Mobo's, a telephone comes from Rano, and she tells me on the phone, she said, "Freny, Baba sent you His love and He says He's so very happy and pleased with your obedience and love for Him and He says why didn't you tell Him that your parents were arriving? And that He wants you to bring them tomorrow to the program in Guruprasad and He would meet them with great love."

Baba couldn't wait 2 minutes for Arnavaz to come and tell me this, you know. He sent Rano to telephone me, and when Arnavaz came back, I said, "Arnavaz, what happened?" And she says, "Yes, when I went back, to my surprise Baba was out on the porch." And she said, "That gave me hope." Arnavaz, it gave Arnavaz hope. That well the question might come and Freny still stands a chance, you know. So she said, "But Baba talked about everything except that question." And after a while He told Arnavaz, "Ok, now you go." And she really felt sad for me. She said, "Oh, still the question didn't come." And then as she was going down the steps of Guruprasad, at the last step He said, "Arnavaz, who all are coming today?" [Freny and the attendees laugh] And so she turned around and she says, "Baba, Freny's parents are coming." And He says, "Yes, but then why didn't she tell me? Oh Rano, go and phone her immediately, she must be so worried and so unhappy." [Freny laughs]

So the next morning I took my daddy, mummy, Zarine, that was the first time Zarine met and my other sister and there were a few other people with my father travelling at that time. So they all had the opportunity and the way I wanted Baba to meet my family, a very small group. I know that was the impression that my mother had of Baba, cause He came

in a sadra and there He was, and mummy was facing Him, so that's how. And also, after that, in...

PILGRIM #1: the same, same year

FRENY: '60?

PILGRIM #1: No

FRENY: Oh yeah, they came back for the East West Gathering, that was another thing of Baba, you know that my parents with Zarine, came back for the East West Gathering, 2-3 months later. This was almost July now, and so August, September, October, November. Three months later they were back for the East West Gathering. But in '65, Baba said no to our going to Karachi.

PILGRIM #1: [Inaudible]

FRENY: And in '66 that they came. '63 we went, but one particular year, Baba said no to our going to Karachi. Everything was ready, we had our shots, the tickets. I had purchased presents, you know, how I do that [Freny laughs], so everything was ready and suddenly [child's voice in the background] Baba said no, that we couldn't go. And it was some sort of a thread ceremony in my family and it was going to be a big 'do' and everybody was expecting me and this really, when I, Baba said no, of course I dropped everything, I didn't go. But that really disturbed my father very much. And, then the Indo-Pakistan war came about and there were years before I could go to Karachi. And, but my father came in between, and he said, "I know you are never going to come to Karachi, that your Baba would stop you." And I said, "No, I tell you I would be there." And he said, "When I die, do you think you will be there?" And I said, "Yes, Baba will make it possible for me to be there if you want it, you know." And it really did happen, that, six days before

my father died, I was in Karachi, and He knew that. And so even that was given to my father.

PILGRIM # 2: Did your family come, did your family come to love Baba immediately when they met Him, in that audience?

FRENY: No, no, because I was telling them about my mother, that my mother accepted Baba as a great spiritual personage, nothing else. And from that moment onwards, she was at ease in her mind, knowing that her two daughters were in good hands. She knew that Zarine wasn't going wrong, and so that sort of gave her peace of mind. But this last July when she came, December when she came for Mehera's birthday, the last year, I asked her, I said, "Mummy what?", and she's been coming to Poona and also to Baba's Samadhi, so she's been with Baba like that, but as I said the click didn't come for her too. And when Baba dropped His body, she was sad about it but nothing much about that. And when I asked her this time, I said "Mummy, now what do you think? It's been years now. What is your opinion of all this?" And she said, "Yes, He has to be God, otherwise all this is not possible."

So. But everyone in my family, even my uncle who was anti, his one son has come to Baba. All my uncles, [vehicle sound in background] one child has come, my brother's child has come, everyone, one member of each family, aunt, uncle, has come to Baba or the Samadhi.

PILGRIM # 1: Baba getting family together.

FRENY: Yes

PILGRIM # 3: Didn't Baba once say that all the Parsis will come to Baba?

FRENY: Yes, I don't know about that [Freny and attendees laugh]. So that's how my family met Baba. [attendee laughs. Sound of furniture being moved]

PILGRIM # 2: Well, thank you very much, everything worked.

FRENY: Welcome, I'm happy, Baba.

PILGRIM # 2: Seems Eruch coached you well or something [Freny and attendees laugh]. Beautiful talk.

PILGRIM# 3: [Sound of mic being adjusted] Did you feel when you didn't go to Bombay that time, was that feeling that, that would be disobeying Baba?

FRENY: Not disobeying actually, because, that I felt that I just couldn't go. That I would miss something, that I wouldn't return to Poona if I went to Bombay. And every moment with Baba was very, very important. And like I said before, that if Baba said, we were ready, in the morning we were ready, dressed for a call from Baba. It could come any time, any moment. Even if He said that He wouldn't see us that day, we would be prepared, if He called. We just wouldn't walk out of Mobo's or go anywhere sightseeing or to the bazaar or anywhere. We would just stay put for the call to come. And invariably, it came. Even though He'd said He wouldn't see us. So I knew that if I went that, I would be missing. It wasn't a selfish wish, that I would be missing. It was just that with Baba there, we couldn't do anything else.

Again Jai Baba [all attendees say Jai Baba together]

PILGRIM # 4: One, for the last 10 years

FRENY: Was

PILGRIM # 4: Was from

FRENY: Poona

PILGRIM # 4: Meherazad to Poona

FRENY: Poona

PILGRIM # 4: Back to Meherazad.

FRENY: Yes, that's right.

PILGRIM # 4: That's all?

FRENY: That's all.

PILGRIM # 3: No other travel?

FRENY: No

PILGRIM # 2: In the last 10 years?

FRENY: Yes, for the last 10 years.

PILGRIM # 5: Not even to Meherabad?

PILGRIM # 2: What? Meherabad?

FRENY: No, no, no.

PILGRIM # 2: [inaudible]

FRENY: No, Meherabad, no.

PILGRIM # 2: Not to Meherabad?

FRENY: No, I don't think so.

PILGRIM # 2: Just Meherazad

FRENY: Meherazad, yes, yes

PILGRIM # 3: [inaudible]

FRENY: No, He didn't. Not to my knowledge. Because they were really ill- prepared when

Baba dropped His body. There was nothing in Meherabad. Nothing. No water up the hill, really a desolate place. Uh hmm?

PILGRIM # 4: Just Mansari

FRENY: Just Mansari, nobody else.

PILGRIM # 4: and Padri

FRENY: We stayed there for seventeen days with Mehera. When Baba dropped His body we were there for seventeen days till Mehera left Meherabad. And it was almost like living New Life for us, because we had not a drop of water up the hill. We were most ill-prepared for the cold. We had no bedding, no covering, we were just in one saree that we just put, dumped into our bed, into our bed, I mean the bag. And it was bitter cold, up the hill. No food, it was almost like Baba made us live the New Life those seventeen days that we'd missed. [child's sound in the background] We never had a bath for seventeen days. And the dust and that is too much for us and when we are used to a bath every day and seventeen days of the dust on us really changed our features [Freny and attendees laugh] Yes, you can imagine it was terrible.

PILGRIM # 2: Where did food and water come from?

FRENY: Water, these boys had to bring it from Ahmednagar. Our food and everything. At that time there was nothing in Meherabad. And Viloo was also not taking anybody, nothing like this had started even. [child's sound in background]. So there was Daulat Lodge at that time. And that's it.

PILGRIM # 4: [Inaudible]

FRENY: Hmm

PILGRIM # 2: You were staying at the Daulat?

FRENY: Yes

PILGRIM # 1: Because there was no other way to travel that time.

PILGRIM # 4: And Mehera was there for seventeen days?

FRENY: Seventeen days

PILGRIM # 4: Just to, going to the tomb.

FRENY: She just wouldn't go back. No, Baba was interred for seven days as you all know. But she just wouldn't go back to Meherabad. And after a great deal of persuasion, it was the seventeenth day when she went back, and we also had to go back to Bombay then. [Sound of something thumping on the ground].

PILGRIM # 4: You and your brothers were in business together all your lives You know the stories about Baba having a special [inaudible, sound of something thumping on the ground]

PILGRIM # 1: Whatever Nariman did or said, we always asked Baba.

[sound of vehicle in the background]

[child's sound in background]

[cross talk, inaudible]

PILGRIM # 4: [Inaudible]

PILGRIM # 1: [Inaudible]

PILGRIM # 2: [Inaudible] I think we should give our guest here a break for a while. Thank you.

FRENY: You're welcome. Jai Baba.