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## Keep Your Face To Baba

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**Mani S. Irani**

Mandali Hall, Meherabad, India

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9:43

**MANI:** But you know it's endless, memories and reminiscences are infinite. It's endless. Baba was infinite. Everything is infinite. His stories are infinite. As the sun, He is infinite and His shadow is infinite. Sometimes, when we see the shadow, Baba Himself has said, at one point, a particular thing which I do not wish to talk about, He said, "Remember I am the sun." And so as long as we keep our face to Him, we don't turn away. As long as we never show our backs to Him, we never see our shadow. It's our own shadow you see. So as long as we keep our face to Him, just the sun, shadows behind, that's His business. He looks over our shoulder, He sees everything else that's concerning us, the whole world, whatever it is, the universe is His business. Our business is Baba. Baba's business is everything, everyone. As long as we face Him. More heaven forbid if ever we just turn around. Oh, I've seen that, when someone, the suffering that this person has asked on himself or herself.

**PILGRIM 1:** You know Mani, what is that about, I'm so curious about, after being with Baba a certain amount of time, the different kinds of stages in Baba and about this feeling of love, thanks. You said that you can become empty like that. Do you always feel like very happy, loving around Baba [bell chimes] or just an empty feeling?

**MANI:** No I'm talking of now. I'm talking of emptiness now. But when I said, "When we came to Baba we were empty", means empty of learning, empty of, our minds weren't cramped with the the superfluous, unnecessary things. We were unmolded you know, we were just pure vessels for Him. I mean we didn't have, there was nothing we could boast about, what I mean. We even now, we can't say we achieved this Look, we were with Baba for so long, we have this. No, because there isn't anything for us to, all His, that kind of emptiness, that kind. Oh no, a heart, that's what I said, but we never felt deprived, because our hearts were all full., our hearts have been full.

It's the mind, this monster that keeps one. But that doesn't mean that it was easy for Baba. I mean we were all so, not that easy because, you know, we're not perfect, that's the whole thing. Even now I know, Baba sometimes I say something like, "Oh Baba must have made me say that," though I don't like that kind of language, that Baba said it through me or anything like that, we never do, none of us do. But sometimes I'm surprised, and they say, they ask me something and I don't know but I love and I want to help and I say something and I find it was the right thing. You know, even in spite of maya, because of maya or whatever it is, His hand.

You see we must not forget, as always said, before it used to be that Baba was in front

of us, pulling us along. Now I feel Baba's behind us, that's why we don't see Him but he's pushing us along. He's doing it all. Oh no this sharing, our Baba with your Baba, as I sometimes say, mean to say, the same, same, the same Beloved, same Baba but without seeing Him and ours was with seeing Him. This sharing, don't forget it's an exchange we receive from you all too, oh yes. But I don't always know how strongly to push where His ways are but at least we can talk about it, we can. Anything is an opportunity and it's a pity if one misses it. Of course, Baba's very patient, He said alright you can't do it this life, another life. Not this year or next year, where's the hurry?

**PILGRIM 2:** What do you mean Mani, you don't know how strong to push for certain things. Can you give us an example?

**MANI:** Oh well, I'd be giving myself away [laughter]

For instance the residents who are here. The residents find that it's not as easy as just visiting because we are more firm with them, stronger, less soft. You know how far, in that set up and I don't know what I mean. Don't bother. [laughter].

**PILGRIM 1:** I suppose living the life Baba in the things that He asked them to do, rather than uh, I don't know, you know.

**MANI:** You see, If you are living the life of Baba even out in the world, it is just like being here because Baba's going to direct that life as minutely as anywhere else. So you'll find all those difficulties and things that you find. But sometimes you wonder why, why isn't it in a Baba form but then that's part of it. He's not indifferent to you. One way to take the difficult bumps of life,

is to remember that Baba knows and if Baba has, He wants you to go through it, it means He is not indifferent. He cares. His attention is on you. He's not just letting you go on with the party, you know He cares. He says, "It's time to stop the party, time to come home, to do the work. You're not just going to spend the rest of your time just enjoying the party." You see what I mean? So when it is the difficult times also, He loves us more, not less. And He's right through with us, you should know. Isn't He, right, right with us, right through whatever we have to go through. And that is very personal, very individual, that relationship with Baba and with each of you.

But don't miss, don't let things go by, you know make the most of it, this is something special that you have received, this time is special, this period is special. He is very, very special. Don't take it for granted and yawn over it. How often Baba would tell us even about the world, "Be alert." The thing is that we have to watch ourselves. It's not that we are capable of giving any less to Baba, any of you. I don't believe that but it is a matter of habits. We've done this all along. It's a nice lazy feeling, but if you have to keep a watch over yourself, am I doing, what I'm doing, is it pleasing Baba?" that's all. That's the gauge of it. You will always know. I won't buy anything that anyone's saying, "But we never know, when do we know, when we are pleasing Baba?" You will always know and He knows that you know and you know that He knows that you know and [laughter].

Like the time when we would be in Baba's room and suddenly, suddenly He would look at one and say, [snap finger] like that, "What are you thinking?" and everybody

looks and you don't want to say aloud what you have been thinking. My goodness gracious. I repeat the one, my favourite thing because others, I don't so much remember but my favourite one was when Baba looked at me suddenly and said, "What are you thinking?" and I just went pale and usually the answer was, no matter who Baba asked, the answer would be, "Oh nothing important Baba, nothing." And Baba would just nod, He would not insist that you would say it. He knows that you know that He knows and that He knows that you know that you know either, see, but my thought was at that time, at that moment, was, "Here I was right before Baba but I wasn't with Him, because I was thinking of somebody else".

One of us walked into the room and I was thinking "Uh, uh, not that blouse again, horrible colour, does she ever look at herself in the mirror?" Now Baba asked me, "What are you thinking?" If I said that, I have to live the rest of my life with her, I'm not going to say that. So I said "Oh, nothing important Baba." And now just as all this is happening, I see the rest of us, five or six in Baba's room in Meherazad. I see the rest of them, you know, sitting up a little straighter and sort of, that look that you can't mistake, waiting for Baba to say, "What are you thinking?" so they can say "You, Baba" [laughter] and I was very happy when Baba didn't ask any of them, so I said, "Hmm". [laughter].