

KG-104B

Mani Irani

Billie Eaton

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

December 8, 1979

44:31

Note: Continuation of KG-104A

Content

Continuation of Mendocino letter from Jaco. Baba movie comes to Mendocino courtesy of Rick Chapman.

Australians announced that there was a nucleus of persons from Turkey who were Baba lovers. Mani also mentions that there are Iranians, both Zoroastrians and some Islamis. Mani thinks there are barely 100,000 Zoroastrians in the world, ("some say 200,000 but I don't know"). Mani mentions that the Zoroastrian community had hassled her family, especially her mother. Baba said, "They will all come," and he made a gesture that made Mani think that Baba was calling them out of mouse-holes in the woodwork.

Baba was called Merwan-Baba by the servants in the house in his childhood. Mani mentions how the word Baba is used in many contexts in India.

Mani tells a story from an old magazine in India, about a greedy man who has a son he loves named Narayan. There is a picture of this man on his deathbed, surrounded by angels and demons. The demons are going to get him, but at the last instant of his death he shouts out the name of Narayan meaning the son, but it is a name of God, so the guy gets carried away by the angels rather than the demons.

Mani recalls a dream in which she holds a picture frame. She is in a convent, is surrounded by nuns, everyone is running here and there, but she calls out Baba's name and in her dream only the place she is standing is left untouched.

Mani explains how they meditate without meditating, i.e., thinking of Baba all the time, whatever they are doing. Mehera is doing something, Goher is doing something, but though Mani might be in front of Baba, she wasn't thinking of Baba. Baba would bring her focus back to him. It is described in the context of maybe being in Baba's room getting ready to read to Baba. Mani remembers thinking, "Oh no, that blouse again, that horrible color doesn't she think about how she looks?"

Mani says to herself, "You fool, you're right in front of Baba why aren't you remembering to be with Him?"

Clock chimes for emphasis, and Mani tells how that used to happen when Baba was present, in the body, in Baba's time.

When Baba appeared to be weak, it was an opportunity for them to serve Him. Hungry, tired, in pain, all these occasions gave them the opportunity to serve Him. On one occasion, just as Baba was indicating that he was about to rise, Francis and Eruch went to help Him up, and Baba made just a little jerk, demonstrating his strength. Then He went back to being weak. In India Baba gives many opportunities to learn patience, self-control because so much is dysfunctional. When you are helpless and can do no more, Baba takes over.

Baba gives opportunities, but he really holds the rein. He takes over when necessary. During the Second World War, it was difficult to get train accommodations, because first priority was for the soldiers, but at that time Baba wanted to do his mast work. One day the circumstances were that they were getting into a train, into third class via the windows [this is a story Mani heard from Eruch]. They saw a compartment that was only half full, and the soldiers are in it. Eruch went up and pleaded for a place in the carriage, and the soldiers allowed the mandali and Baba into the compartment. There was a servant seat in the layout of this carriage, very inconspicuous, left over from the design created by the British, and Baba and the men went straight for the servant seat, and Eruch put Baba's stuff there.

A whole bunch of soldiers come at this point, at the last minute. The soldiers inside wanted to keep this new bunch out, and the new bunch pushed their way into the compartment, but the anger was rising and rising.

On this occasion, Baba lovers had come to the station to see Baba off, and they had given a big tin of homemade sweets for Eruch, which he didn't want. Just as the battle reached its height and the soldiers were about to fight, Baba clapped. They all stopped and they all turned around to see Baba with his arms raised. Baba had climbed up on the seat in his sadra. Baba said, through Eruch, "sit down." They all sat down.

"Here you are, you are sacrificing so much, going out to protect the country, and if you fight among yourselves how are you going to protect the country?" Now be One, and at the next station I will serve you tea and sweets. Baba said to Eruch, "Bring out that tin."

Mani gives an almost pictorial description of Baba feeding sweets to them. They all got down at the next station, singing national songs, and saluting Baba.

Mani says it's her favorite story from the mast tours.

Billie Eaton tells the story of Myrtle Beach in 1966, "This morning I am going to the beach as soon as Baba releases us." But Baba gave her a chore to do typing for Him. Kitty told her to go to a cabin in the woods, which had a typewriter. Billie did the work, and Eruch came out saying that Baba was calling for her. Nobody loves Him, and he is threatening to go back to India. So Billie went right away to the Guest House. Adi came and yelled at her, too. Billie was still cool, and Meherjee came along with a huge temper. Everybody is mad at you. Baba was sitting on a divan, all in white, everyone was sitting around like the

last day of judgment. Baba looked so happy, so radiant, Billie went over and sat right next to Baba, Baba gave a discourse, it was very sweet, and not a word about the incident. Baba's message to all is "Never go anywhere without letting me know where you are." "I didn't wash my hair for three weeks!"

Mani: "Sometimes Baba would tell you to go somewhere, and do some work. You're all enthusiastic, but Baba calls you back and gives you another job and another order, and it prevents the first thing from being done, which doesn't prevent Baba from inquiring why the first job is done.

Billie was told to type up a discourse, "Divine Bliss and human suffering." Billie was asked by Baba what the name of the discourse was, and Billie couldn't think of the proper name and she said something ridiculous. Baba was such a ham, and he play acted his way through the situation. Baba could make your mind a complete blur, whenever he wished.

One person, a guy, had a quirk. He was very straight-laced about certain things. You couldn't be spiritual and dance. It was at the St. Francis Hotel, and Baba had the dancers perform for him, and one of the dancers did a very snaky, sexy kind of dance. Baba, in this guy's hearing, said to Eruch, "You know which dance I liked the best?" and indicated that dance, which made the man very uncomfortable.

Baba was not fond of fruit, but Dana Field made him eat it. Baba's stomach was rumbling from the fruit. Baba said to Dana, "You see? Fruit doesn't agree with me." Baba had a wonderful sense of humor.

Mani recalls that the dedication in a book given to Baba said, "To the greatest humorist."

Billie starts to tell a story, but the tape ends.