

KG-134A

Mani Irani

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

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44:25

Content

Mani talks about her and especially Mehera's segregation from seeing or even hearing men, causing Mani to play the sitar so Mehera wouldn't hear the voices of the men. Mani learned to play the sitar by ear.

One Muslim woman wanted to pay Mani to teach her daughter to play the sitar. She loved the violin, and there was a lady who offered to teach her piano and violin but it was a long way away, and it wasn't suitable. Mani didn't want to do homework while she was living at home. Mani had the ability to memorize things, which made it possible for her to avoid doing some homework. She also had a prodigious intelligence.

Mani had a solar topee and her mother said that it had to last for a year. Mani was up in a tree stealing fruit, with her hat lying on the ground, and the mali took the hat and took it to the reverend mother. After a lot of thought, she went to the reverend mother, who punished her by telling her to stand outside for two hours. Mani realized the lady didn't know her name so she ran home for lunch and nothing happened to her.

If I would be at Guruprasad and I saw a nun, I would go out of my way to say hello to them. I had a greater feeling for the church than my friend Mary, even though I didn't believe the exclusive nature of the religion because I knew my brother was God.

When you put your hand into a holy water container, one day it was cool, and she put it on her forehead, and her friend Mary was scandalized. Mani said she wanted to be a nun, but she never meant a catholic nun, and the sisters were kind to her because she did say she would become a nun. A nun came with the Society for Avatar Meher Baba group. The nun's uniform is different in that order, less enveloping habit. She looked younger than her age, and I saw the tears coming out of her eyes on the second day of that year's Amartithi.

[Mani says they took a harmonium with them in the New Life(!)]

[Mani plays the sitar, and she plays a deliberate quarter tone. Her first scale is exotic to Western ears and complex, the ascending scale different from the descending one, but then she plays a scale that is the same ascending and descending, and the standard one of Western harmony. Then she sings with it. She strums the drone strings at the same time she is maintaining a solo line. The strum is one of the tabla rhythms.]

"The meaning is roughly, 'I am concerned with God. Never mind if the world turns against me. No matter what you have, if He takes it away, let Him. On your head is the pot full of sanskaras. the master shakes it clean,' which is to empties it. 'If the master breaks it, let

him.' This is a song Baba liked very much. It talks about the birds, a cage is made of golden wire studded with diamonds but the bird within it is sad because all it wants is freedom.

"The Delhi group sings this next song. They sing the verse again and again right through the streets, starting at 3 AM on Baba's birthday. It's a sing-along for those who want. The meaning in English is, "Say (utter) Meher Baba"

Jai Jai Meher Baba bolo (Victory to Say Meher Baba's name)

Premsay Meher Baba bolo (Say Baba's name with love?)

Missibenha Meher Baba bolo

Baba, Baba, Baba bolo

Jai jai Meher Baba bolo.

[Now an Australian sings Francis Brabazon lyrics to a drone note from a harmonium. As he says, it sounds Celtic.]

[tape ends as someone is trying to tune a guitar to an alternate tuning.]