
KNOW WHAT TO ASK FOR

Mani S. Irani

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

July 31, 1990

04:50

MANI: Another thing that delighted Baba was; where's that little book of graces?

PILGRIM 1: It's right behind you Mani. Yeah.

[crosstalk]

MANI: This is given by Doctor Donkin to us for our Meherazad thing. And I loved it when I was reading it again yesterday when I came across this booklet of graces and prayers. Prayers and graces. Little illustrations. [recording error]

During the war when you couldn't get enough to eat and; This is English. So, in England:

A. Benison: On War Time, High Tea

*Upon this scanty meal, oh Lord,
Bestow a blessing in accord.
Pour thy grace in measures small,
Lest it more than cover all.
Bless the tiny piece of ham,
Bless the lowly dab of jam.
Bless the partly buttered toast,
Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

[general laughter]

I loved that! It's so true we ask Baba all the time, "Pour your grace on us. Please pour your grace on us." But we are so little. If He were really to pour His grace on us even with an eye dropper we'd be drowned. So isn't He compassionate? This part of the compassion keeps coming to me more and more. But He doesn't give us what we ask for. Because we don't know what we're asking for. He only gives us what He knows is best for us.

That's why when Baba used to say. You know people say you mustn't. We are told we mustn't ask anything of Baba. But Baba didn't say that. No, the thing is we have to be careful what we ask of Baba. Because we're going to get it. Sometime or another when we are probably not ready for it. When we don't want it anymore. But it's going to come. Special delivery, knock on the door. Sign please, here's a package for you.

So often one even experiences that now. But that had given me a thought that that's so. Oh yes so, in fact there was a song. There was a record.

I'd prepare the gramophone record for Baba. Qawwali song, lovely song. And in the song that Baba would also accompany with His fingers snapping to the timing. Or gestures, you know gestures to emphasize the words of the singer. It was ask, ask, ask again. Whatever you ask for you will get. And I swear by God that even if you ask for God you will get. So, it is not the asking that is denied. It is that we should know what to ask for. Not be children and ask for something that will pass away. That will not endure. That is not lasting. And yet Baba does it all so gently. He doesn't say just cut it off like that. But He helps us. He guides us, He gives us hints.

So, here when this song was going and Baba was so beautiful He was going. He's even gesturing. [Mani sings the song, foreign, and then translates]

"Ask again, ask again, ask again of God."
[Mani continues to sing the Qawwali]

"Oh traveller, oh wayfarer, ask whatever you have wishes and you will get."
[Singing continues]

So, you see it is. Look at the right He has given us. To ask. That is our part. Giving is His part only. That He gives us the wisdom, the sense, the good fortune to ask for the right things. He doesn't say don't ask. And He says ask again, ask again, ask again.