
Peter the Cocker Spaniel

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7:01

MANI: [inaudible] chair in the Mandali Hall every morning. There was Peter, cocker, cocker spaniel called Peter, Baba's pet.

He would always come along with Baba. In fact he would wait, "Aren't you coming Baba? Aren't you coming? Come on, come on!" and he would come.

So we wouldn't want to come over, but he would come along with Baba. Then once, the big door of the Mandali Hall, call it door?

ERUCH: Gate

MANI: Gate? Ah, gate. [pilgrims laughter] There would be two brass bells on the floor, by the side of it. The bigger one, if it was rung, then Baba's summoning Goher, So Goher had to come over. If the little one was rung, it was for Mani, I was called over. That meant Baba was calling me, [inaudible] and I would come, same as when the bell rang for Goher.

So one day I was putting on my summer [inaudible] letters that have been written. Because when the Family Letters, long before it was time to write them, when I would try and forget, when one Family Letter was done, I would try and forget it. Oh, heard enough, I wouldn't even think of it, you know. Baba wouldn't let me forget.

Barely twenty days would go by or a month would go by and Baba said, "You are not writing the Family Letters." And I said, "Baba, it's not even a month now! And I am out, oh, we just posted them, you know, a few days back and then He comes after a few days later, "Aren't you writing the Family Letters?"

So anyways, I said before Baba asks again I will put some ideas together. Just as I'm sitting down, [Mani makes a bell sound].

Now one of the things that Peter did apart from, anyway, I mean the pet stories would make books of themselves. But one thing that Peter, the pet did, was snore. He could snore like a human being! [inaudible] Do a full-pitched snore. [pilgrims laughing].

When we were in Baba's room and once when I was leaving after Baba, suddenly I heard a snore and I stopped doing what I was doing. Who could be snoring off like this? [pilgrims laughing]. Knocked at the door I'm looking at Baba [inaudible] to the snoring and [Mani imitates sound of snoring] and Baba says, "Listen." And there was Peter under the chair, snoring, that's him.

So that morning when Baba called over, I heard the bell, I came, it was to show me this Peter, lying by His feet, in front of the chair, and snoring, sleeping. And whatever Baba had to do with the men was over, over. If a letter had to be given or

something to be shown to Baba, it was over Peter! [pilgrims laughing]

Baba, sort of, "Look at this, look at this, I mean look at him!" So I laughed, we all laughed. I said, "Baba, shall I take him away?" "No", Baba said, "That's not a big worry." I just feel it was special to say that. Sure, that was something derived from fun.

Three days later Baba called me again, [clock chimes]. Baba says, "See, that's true!" Two- three days later Baba calls me again, same scene! As if the time had stopped on that day when Baba called me over. There was Peter and the mandali sitting and Baba saying, "Look at him!"

But this time when I looked, he wasn't snoring, he was fast asleep and dreaming! And you know how in dreams, we get excited, and he'd get angry when he would chase a squirrel or chase a cat. He would be so excited that even that he would make growling barks, [Mani makes animated sounds] "Peter, Peter, Peter no, Peter no, Peter! Nothing!"

So that day when he was lying down fast asleep and he was very excited, so excited that his ears, he was frowning and his ears came over, you know because he could be a rabbit! Frown made his ears all the more covered, eyes like Carole Lombard, you know, how she rolls her eyes [pilgrims laughing]. And he was [Mani makes animated sounds] and "push, push, push, push, push" and he was really getting excited in deep sleep, it was worth watching him. Baba called me over because it is such fun.

That part was also something which came back later. Baba said, "See, Peter, he thinks

he is chasing some wild animal or some wild animal is chasing him [inaudible]."

All this that Baba's saying that he's doing but it's not real. He's safe and sound, here. He thinks that he's going through all these hardships, through the mountains and through the deserts, and he's chasing wild animals and wild animals are running after him whereas all the time, he's safe and sound at my feet. [inaudible] That hit me.

That is why Baba [inaudible] even while we think we are going through all this, we are safe and sound, once we have caught hold of Him, we are safe. These are chapters we are going through.

When Baba says "Don't worry.", He's not giving you advice like a doctor. [pilgrims laugh]. Take these pills three times, don't worry. No, He's treating us because He knows, He's telling us from the very authority of His being who He is. Because He knows.

Supposing you know the end of a story, I know the end of a story, and you are reading that book and one of the, some of the chapters in the scene are [Mani makes an animated sound], while you are in the that chapter you go [Mani makes an animated sound]. And I say, "Mani, don't worry, it's quite all right!"

I can't tell you the end of the story but I can say it's all right because I know, I've penned it all! So He who knows has His own story, and being who He is, He also knows our human habit of worrying. If we can't do that worrying, I don't think we'd be alive if we didn't worry. Just worry away, what do you have left? [sound of pilgrims laughing].

So He gives us a legitimate reason for worrying. And He says, really [inaudible] He gives to us, "You needn't worry. Why?" He says. He says, "If you must worry, then worry how to love me more! There is no other worry!"