
MEHERA, MANI, AND ERUCH

Mehera J. Irani, Mani S. Irani and Eruch B. Jessawala

Mehera's Veranda & Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

January 1, 1970

30:39

MEHERA: You always cycled to school. We've never seen you cycling Baba. Could you ride the cycle and we could see you like that? So Baba said, "Alright." Baba took His sadra and He what do you call?

PILGRIM 1: Tucked it in.

MEHERA: Yes tucked it in and then Baba got on the cycle and Baba rode around the road and around this garden like that. One, two times like that. Baba said that He used to do it every day going to college and all that you know. And Baba's [inaudible]. And that was the last time that Baba rode the cycle was here in Meherazad. That too I'd asked Him to because we will see Baba on the cycle it's so sweet you know. Baba smiling all the time.

PILGRIM 2: Yeah there is a picture somewhere of Baba riding on a cycle.

MEHERA: There is?

PILGRIM 2: Photographs. [Inaudible]. Rano. It's in the book. It's in the book from London, The Beloved.

MEHERA: Baba on a cycle I don't know. I've not seen it.

PILGRIM 2: He's got a little white hat on. He's got a white hat on with western clothes. I remember seeing it. It's a little fuzzy.

MEHERA: Must be but we saw Baba here. Cycling when I was 6 or [inaudible]. Where is it?

PILGRIM 1: Oh look.

MEHERA: Ah yes [crosstalk]. Zurich '34. Oh it's in Zurich Baba was cycling. Baba looks so sweet. See how lovely He looks in western clothes. He knows how to. Here also. I think this must be Hollywood I don't know where this is?

PILGRIM 2: You know the suit in the museum? Is that the same one? [crosstalk] How old would that suit be?

MEHERA: What?

PILGRIM 2: How old would the suit be?

MEHERA: Baba was 37, 38. Age you mean?

PILGRIM 2: No the suit. How old was the suit in the museum?

MEHERA: Oh how old the suit is? When He went to England. In England, not in England. Next when He went to America because when He had His mustache trimmed that time Baba used to wear that suit. In England Baba never wear suit. Warm slacks and His fur coat. And then the Westerners had made a. Baba used to wear white sadra so they had made warm, lovely warm material. Soft [inaudible] nice Baba used to. In England it is very cold. So Baba want. They want to see Baba in that white robe and that's why. He couldn't be in a sadra it is too thin and He is feeling cold, Baba would be feeling cold. So they made a warm robe. What do you call robe?

PILGRIM 2: Oh that's like that one picture of Baba where He looks like Jesus.

MEHERA: Yes. That is in a sadra I think. But that robe we have again in Meherazad in a trunk. Two, three trunks that are with Baba's clothes that He's worn once only and twice only. There is a [inaudible] I don't know what all, over coat and everything. And many suits. Suits Baba used to wear. So Baba lovers pick them and they would [inaudible]. And one went to [inaudible] somebody. Gave other suits. Baba would change. Not just wear the same suit only all over again you know. So there are suits also and there are shoes and all and what all Baba wore in West we have preserved it in Meherabad. That's all in trunks. Baba's old clothes. So all these years that Baba had been using everything towels, napkins, Sadras, coats. In our bedroom you'll see trunks. The three quarters just full of His old clothes. Baba told us not to what do you call get rid of. So those are also there. Many things are there.

So what I want to say is this. He has cycled, we saw Baba cycling here. And we saw Baba ride a pony also. That was when we went to Kashmir. We went to Gulmarg. Baba chose the smallest that they have many horses like in an opening and then you have to choose your horse like you know. And so Baba chose the shortest horse because He had never practiced riding so Baba said, "I need a small horse." And Chanji was with Him. Chanji. And we guys chose a nice, spirit horse because I like to ride fast and nice. So we got a nice horse and Mani and me were [inaudible]. Quiet horses. Then we went up. And Baba was so sweet. Baba and Chanji came slowly, slowly [Mehera laughs].

And there, I really loved it up there. Like just perpetual snow you know when you went up to Gulmarg. There's a plateau there. We climbed up and there was [inaudible] valley. First it was a nice ride and then we ride a path and all that. And then you go down then there's a open barren and there's a library and Westerner. Cottages for westerners to stay there. There's lovely links you know where they play golf. And little bit

of place and then from there we go through this pine forest. Anyway you climb up and there we climbed, climbed, climbed for quite some time and then again we got on the top of it. Like a plateau. And it was open and opened out for us to see perpetual snow from far away.

Then we saw this you know coolie. Coolie means the person who's working. The native of the place. So he was bringing ice. He was bringing ice. That thick, that big, broad big piece of ice tied on his back. And it was all dripping. It was good they knew how to put the kind of padding on their back and on that I don't know how it was fastened that big piece of ice on his back. And he was coming down from the slope from. I don't know how they got this ice. They know how to do it and all that. He was bringing it down the hill.

Maybe they didn't have electricity there you know I mean these Westerners keep their food cool or something they used ice. So this big, big huge slabs of heavy ice he carried down the slope. We just saw him. We were already feeling so cold. It was very cold and this man bringing down ice. Dripping on his back also made us feel more cold. And yeah very strong people those.

MANI: Now on the morning this happened to our Peggy. We were at the trust office. Eruch, Bhau, Natu, Rano and myself. And I hurried up with my work because I had in mind to go to the book shop that's. You know where it is?

PILGRIM 3: Right.

MANI: The missionary book shop where they have lovely Christmas cards and things. And I knew Mehera sends Christmas cards out and they said it will be coming in a few days, come back in a few days. So I said this is the right day. I'll just go over and get some Christmas cards.

So I got into a rickshaw, went to the bookshop, found some and I brought them back and the moment the rickshaw entered the gate of Khushru quarters where the trust office is. Even before anybody told me anything, just as I got into the gate I knew something had happened. Something unusual. A Baba thing but something different. And as soon as I got down, before I even paid the rickshaw man I rushed and said, "What's happened? What's the matter?" And they were running about. People were going in and out of the trust office door and said, "Didn't you know? There has been a phone call from Amrit to Adi. Peggy, Peggy fell down and they think she's broken her hip."

And the first thought, the first thought that came to my mind is, "Oh something much worse was going to happen to Peggy and Baba has given less." He always makes it small. So that happened to Peggy. So I rushed in to Adi. I said, "What is it exactly?" And He said, "Oh Amrit was in such a hurry over the phone but so excited and she gave the news and she said we are now going to the hospital and x-rays have to be done and then we will know." So ah, then we still don't know what exactly is the position. And they thought they didn't know because Peggy hadn't uttered a groan or a moan. She was so wonderful about it. That's what we realised afterwards. But because of that they thought maybe it isn't as bad as that.

So then I tried to phone Amrit. In the meantime I saw Viloo come through the gate. And she was very distraught, very excited and she said, "Mani, Mani look come with me we'll go to Peggy." I said, "Sure. Where is she?" They said they've taken her to the Ketkars hospital for x ray. Before I could ask her what had happened or anything she was getting very busy getting the car. And the car had no gas. Wasn't sure so we stopped there at the gas station. And then Viloo drove us. And Viloo, I kept saying, "Viloo go slow. It's alright. Baba's in control."

PILGRIM 3: Yeah, don't worry.

MANI: "Everything's alright now Viloo." Because the way she was, go and stop and go and stop you know. Go fast and then if any. If she saw a car or a person going back she'd stop. It wasn't like her. So that was instead of rushing to the hospital we rushed to Viloo Villa because just as we got out to get in the car to go to the hospital, Laxman rushed out and said there's a very urgent call from Dara saying, "Viloo please come home quick." So she said, "Maybe they have brought Peggy back. Let's go." But we weren't sure. She kept saying on the road, "Now why didn't Dara make it clear what it was for? What did Dara phone about?"

So when we went there and as soon as we entered the gate Viloo said, "See they haven't come back. And then, "Why did Dara phone?" Because she didn't see the bus or something. Or the ambulance or something. So as the car went in Dara rushed out and said, "Mummy they are here, Peggy is here." Oh. Oh then we went in and when we opened the door of Viloo's house I didn't know what to expect. There on the floor was a stretcher and Peggy on it looking smiling and serene and welcomed us. She was like a princess lying there. And as I went in there was Baba's presence was so much in that room. And when I knelt down to kiss her and I think I said, "Peggy I've always wanted to kneel down and kiss you," And Peggy you know gave a sweet smile and we sat there and talked about Baba. It was a Baba thing. It was. Afterwards I said to someone, "It was like a little Darshan time you know. Baba was so much there."

And I tried to leave on some pretext or another hoping Peggy would close her eyes and rest. But Peggy was as usual. As if she were giving an audience. As if she were sitting in a chair having a Baba gathering. It was just like that. And Andy. I know Andy was very moved, very stunned but he stood up too beautifully. And he knew when I said, "Look here Baba has the whole thing in

control. Baba's running this. And I know everything will be alright. But we have to do our best."

Then there was the phones. Eruch stayed at the trust office because then we could contact from Viloo Villa to Adi's office for Eruch to keep phoning Pune, Bombay. We tried to get the phones. At that time the question was. Viloo had already in her mind somehow that first was Pune. But then.

PILGRIM 3: The doctor had said Pune.

MANI: She said, "What am I doing? What am I doing? I better go and talk to Adi, Mani, Eruch. Do something. Then my first thought was Bombay. And Andy seemed to agree. I said, "Not Pune, Bombay. Where there are more specialists, more facilities." And although there are good doctors in Pune but there's the post-operative care we don't know. Whereas. But still it was just running around, Phones, phones. Eruch's phone, back to Eruch, Eruch's phone. Another one. We tried to contact Doctor Meher, Meher Desai Mansari's niece. Who is a doctor and a very, very dear person. I mean she really became a doctor just to serve Baba. And there you are. The clock strikes when Baba would say, "See, that's right."

She's very close, very dear. But we couldn't get her. We tried to phone Arnavaz. Then of course we phoned Meherjee. And Meherjee said, "Yes there are two very good doctors and I know both of them. But I wouldn't take the responsibility because I don't know how the post-operative care would be. I mean I can't guarantee that. I can guarantee with the doctors." All this went on. It was like a whirlwind and yet in that whirlwind there was something very still. Especially around Peggy. So that when you came back and sat with her all that was gone. It was just like being together, talking about Baba, being in Baba's. With Baba you know like.

And then the last minute. And then the ambulance or this or that. We said wait. Let

Goher come. Goher, Eruch phoned sent a man for Goher and then he sent, phoned for Mehera. He sent the car for Mehera. He sent Hermes in the car so that Mehera could rush you know. There would not just be the driver. There would be Mehera and Meheru and Hermes. So Mehera came. But before that when Goher rushed first thing we asked, "Now you decide Pune or Bombay?" She said, "Bombay of course." There's the Breach Candy hospital which is really a hospital for Westerners. It has been and it's in front of Arnavaz's house, close by. It's a beautiful locality and everything. So from then on. You want me to continue?

PILGRIM 3: Sure.

MANI: This story? As far as I gather. Yes. So it was decided Bombay. Along with Goher came Vesta who is a registered nurse. A very, very dear Baba lover who's been with us just wanting to help us and stay on here and she. Goher was amazed how she hadn't forgotten any of the things. Because she did these split second things. Followed the routine of a nurse so perfectly. One after another she did her job you know without being flustered, without wasting time. Then the question of how to get Peggy to Pune? Ambulance, train, car how? And then said no. The ambulance they would not allow us to take to Pune. And then came the thought that the roads are very bad now and ambulance would be jerky. Best would be the train.

Now if it was to go by train there's very little time left. And yet once the thing had happened the movement, the steps that were taken. Although we didn't know at the time the pattern each step fitted in so beautifully. Baba made every step so easy. Everything clicked. This happened, yes, this. Whatever we did just you know.

PILGRIM 3: Meshed together.

MANI: It meshed together very perfectly. So perfectly. So in the end it was decided by train and Goher was arranging all the things

to send with Peggy, with Vesta. All that was done. And then when the ambulance, when Peggy got into the ambulance of course when Mehera came I loved watching Peggy's face. And Mehera's. That meeting was really something. So Mehera and Meheru came and all again talks of Baba. We forgot. We forgot that she is pain, that she had broken her hip. It was unbelievable. You had to remind yourself this has happened.

In the end when she was put in the ambulance and we all shouted, "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai," and Andy, Andy had tears of love you know pouring down his face and saying Jai Baba to Peggy it was like she was just going to Meherazad or Meherabad or somewhere you know. It was a beautiful thing, beautiful. I really, all of us took their hats off to Peggy. And when we praise Peggy we're really praising Baba's love, Baba. Because it's her love for Baba. Baba's love for her and Andy. Peggy Andy that's. And you all. You all were so wonderful. I keep forgetting to tell you that. We're so proud of you all. The way you'll took Peggy to the station was a beautiful thing

Then the last minute of course Viloo suddenly remembered her. The doctor who's a very close personal friend of theirs. Especially Sarosh's friend.

PILGRIM 3: Udwadia?

MANI: Udwadia. So when she phoned him and then Goher was there on the phone and Goher also after Viloo talked with Udwadia Goher gave the details as a doctor. And he said, "Don't worry. Everything will be ready here. Just bring the patient here and we will start the wheels moving and everything will be alright." And then from then on that is only what I've heard afterwards which.

ERUCH: But naturally Kitty was here at the time when we got back so it was. It was a news for us too. And we had heard this thus far. One day Baba was giving interviews to a

Western group here in the States. And who was there in charge? I forget now. Was it Kitty, Margaret or Delia? Or somebody there. I don't remember. But this was the stage that was set. So what happened was the whole crowd was finished. They had finished seeing [inaudible]. And then the person in charge reported to Baba, the receptionist reported to Baba that there's nobody now. So Baba says. "See. Now if I retire once I won't come back. So you better ascertain, better confirm that there is nobody left now. Nobody's left out because I'm not going to come back." So naturally the person who was responsible was very well.

MANI: Chanji was it?

ERUCH: I don't know. I forget now. So this, so they [crosstalk]. No later on it comes. So they go and see in the hall, the adjoining hall. Nobody was seated. Nobody was there. So he comes and reports, "There's nobody." He says, "Go and see. Go and see if there is anybody at the door there. Coming, wanting to come inside. Because I won't be available afterwards." And so the person goes out and sure enough there's a lady waiting out, standing [inaudible]. Anxious for something. Had an anxious look.

So that person goes and asks her, "Are you looking out for somebody? Want to come in here? Want to see Meher baba?" Says, "Who?" "Meher Baba." "No I don't know". "You want to see somebody? Want to come inside? Please come inside." She says, "No. I'm not for this place here. I'm not waiting for somebody here for this." She says, "Why do you ask me?" He said, "The person inside wants you. He's wanting you." That's what the person said to her. "Who is the person?" "Well it's Meher Baba." [Inaudible] I see a person outside. Go and call her. She was the daughter of Einstein.

PILGRIM 4: She was the daughter?

ERUCH: Yeah. So then she came inside.

PILGRIM 4: Did she meet Baba?

ERUCH: Yeah she met Baba. She was very much interested. She cried and all that. She was what do you call? Overwhelmed with love. That's why. She had come there for some other person or some other business.

MANI: She was waiting for someone.

ERUCH: She was waiting for somebody.

MANI: And then she came.

ERUCH: And this is how [crosstalk]. Then Norina got in touch with her. She took some Baba literature. Then Norina sent her Baba books and all that. Then she even wrote to her parents you see and that's how Einstein came to know about Baba. And she was [inaudible]. Perfect Masters and things like that.

That's why we know. But later on where it is said that Einstein met Baba I don't know. I don't recall [inaudible][crosstalk].

MANI: Very uneducated.

ERUCH: Yeah very uneducated [general laughter]. All the thing that we gathered was when [inaudible] that's all. And then we didn't have any opportunity to go through later. Even this. You know who invited Baba for the first time to the States? You'll should know that. Who is the person responsible to have Baba in the States there?

PILGRIM 5: Jean Adriel?

ERUCH: No. But you see.

PILGRIM 6: Oh in the States? [crosstalk]

ERUCH: Yeah.[Foreign]. Are you sitting doing some work? Then? Oh you are with Maxi.

PILGRIM 7: No just.

ERUCH: Maxi and Mini. [crosstalk]

PILGRIM 2: Alexander Graham Bell.

PILGRIM 6: Come here Watson I need you. [crosstalk].

ERUCH: Yeah that's the first message on telephone, "Come here Watson I need you." So that same Watson. Now come I will tell you the story. And because he is a book worm. He told me only last year what he showed me is the passages and it was printed in Chanji's diary mind you. Chanji was the first secretary He had [foreign]. Chanji was all the time with Baba on His tours, Western tours. And in his Gujarati diary it was there. In fact it is a printed book. [crosstalk]

MANI: Was the secretary then with the one who was keeping contact with the Eastern Baba lovers and the Western Baba lovers. And we said, "Oh Baba, Chanji," sort of you know I mean how could you let that happen and just. We just said, "Oh Baba Chanji." And Baba said, " What can I do. Twice I pulled him back."

PILGRIM 8: That was what year? Chanji's death?

ERUCH: Chanji died which year? '44.

MANI: And the fact that Baba pulled him back twice. Well this must be the second time. The first time must have been much earlier. Because there is an incident concerning Chanji connected with his mother. There was a very unhappy, traumatic experience in Chanji's personal life before he came to Baba. He surrendered to Baba. And his mother, his own mother always thought maybe something will happen at the end you know. So she took his horoscope, his birth chart. Iranis don't do it but Parsis do. And took it to the best astrologer that there is. You know real pandits and that sort of thing.

And so she wanted to know what's in the future. What about my sons life, happiness?

In the meantime he was reserved because he was completely Baba's. I mean he just had found his real happiness. But the mother anxious. She went to this astrologer and the man welcomed her, seated her and asked for the chart. Chanji's birth chart, horoscope. And he looked at the chart and then suddenly his eyes and his look hardened. And he looked angrily at the mother. And then picked up the chart and threw it on her and said, "Madam are you trying to make fun of me?" She said, "Why? What is it?" He said, "This entity, this person whose chart you are presenting me is no longer alive. He's dead. So sort of are you trying to come to make a fool out of me say that let's see now what is it?"

She was so shocked. She had no such intention in mind. She knew her son was alive. And she thought he was an awful man. And she said, "Oh how dare you say that about my son? Oh my may he live long," This that and she in a huff she walked away. And then this story relayed. And then we realized how when you're surrendered to Baba then nothing else matters. How long you live or what. He, He does it. Your horoscope, your life, your everything is in His hand. Even Rano Baba actually told her. Rano says that even she had a short life and Baba told her later that, "You would have died but you know I kept you on." And then He said, "Now you'll get along." And then it feels like disgustingly long [general laughter] [inaudible]. You tell Rano every time, Rano[Mani Laughs].

PILGRIM 8: Mani [inaudible]. I know there are a number of Baba lovers who pay a lot of attention to astrology. And I'm wondering if maybe that's not appropriate because Baba you know supervenes.

MANI: Yeah, that is true. That is true. But until we don't, we don't say what should be done or not because it's each one's thing. Some. If you are close to Baba and if one of the things is that. Like when we say that there could be all kind of Baba lovers. Every

sort, every kind. You know wear a face cap, I may wear a turban, so and so may wear. It's their thing. But the fundamental deep down thing is love for Baba. So this is a superficial thing and we pay no importance to it in the sense that it doesn't matter if that's what they think is important. It's there.

The thing is everything, anything you do should serve to bring you closer and closer to Baba. Like anything we say. Anything we might offer, talk to you, answer questions. If it serves to bring you closer to Baba fine. Look what our words and our thing or astrology or anything should not distract you from Baba. It should just you know. As long as you keep flowing. That's why I say anything we say if it helps you to get closer to Baba it is served its purpose. If not just crumble it up and put it in the waste paper basket. That's not important. What we are saying is not important. What is happening from our telling you of Baba is to get you closer to Baba. So nothing is wrong or right in that sense. As long as it serves that purpose. That's the only real thing.

ERUCH: If I were to approach an astrologer with my horoscope and ask him as to how long I'm going to live? So suppose he says you are going to meet with an accident and there are chances that your life will be no more after the accident but then it seems that you will survive. Well then I meet with an accident. According to what the man has said. I will survive according to what the man has said. Then I realise I get out of the hospital and then I meet the other Baba lovers and I then talk about my accident and I talk about my survival and all that. So I will never lay any stress you see on what the man who read my horoscope said you see. I will always go back to the source. Baba wanted me to survive. Baba wanted me to live. Baba made me survive. It is His wish that I am involved with this. It is not the horoscope said it or not that man who read the horoscope said it. I wouldn't lay the slightest stress on that. First of all do I want to go? I wouldn't want to go because once I

have dedicated myself and absolved myself to be His I don't want to go in search of anybody [clock chimes] who says he wants to guide my life or who'd want to say anything there.

If ever somebody wishes to go or takes me there or takes my horoscope there and reports this to me and all that. I would always turn back to Baba and say, "It's you who wanted me. Why am I that unfortunate that You will accept me [inaudible]. Why do you again throw me back [inaudible]?" That's how I will report to Him.

MANI: One of the funniest things about this bloke. According to his horoscope he should have been a girl [general laughter].

PILGRIM 9: [inaudible]

MANI: His grandmother couldn't believe it, couldn't believe it's a boy. Right Eruch?

ERUCH: Yeah. That's what it said. First of all I wouldn't want to be delivered early you know. So I was a month, two months or a month and a half late in delivery. And then and all the time that's what my mother says that her mother in law, that means my grandmother, fathers mother would be always by her side you see. And her days in the hospital and then she'd come back home and then she'd be taken to the hospital she'd come back and all.