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## MEHERABAD BANGALORE MEHERABAD

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**Eruch Jessawala**

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

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16:16

**ERUCH:** On 1st of August 1938 when we came [Eruch laughs], we didn't go to Meherabad because Meherabad was under construction. You remember? You must have noticed there that tower there that says August 1938.

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah.

**ERUCH:** At Meherabad. It did get completed in August but it was not on the 1st of August. We were called on 1st of August 1938.

**PILGRIM 1:** It was about a month after that.

**ERUCH:** Yeah. So we spent a month here you see. There's a bungalow in between Meherazad and Meherabad. There is that Bungalow called the irrigation Bungalow. Now it's called that Rest House. A huge property you see. So behind that Baba and we all lived. Sarosh and Adi and Adi's brother and father and all that. It's a government bungalow meant for 1st class gazetted officers you see, to stay in .

**PILGRIM 2:** Actually that bungalow is an office bungalow.

**ERUCH:** Office bungalow. Yes it is. Still now there is an office.

**PILGRIM 2:** [inaudible]

**ERUCH:** Yeah. So we were staying there you see. We never went to our. Mother never went to her ancestral home you see, parents' place. We went to Baba and we were made to stay there. So then when the place was ready to receive the people there, Baba then took us there to Meherabad with Him. And the women, that means my 2 sisters and mother stayed with the women up the hill. And my father and myself and Meherwan, my youngest, my brother, we stayed down there. You know in that room where it is now that cabin which has the cross and the crescent and all that?

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah.

**ERUCH:** That was given to us first. Yeah. So we stayed in that room. Three of us stayed in that room. And that room was used as a meeting place when in the morning we had to roll up everything you see and clear. Make it tidy and Baba would come and sit there. So that's how we stayed there. Then my father was told to go back to Nagpur. And he was told not to resign then. He was told to take long leave. Preparatory to retirement. Premature retirement. There were two more years you see for him to retire. So then my father was sent back by Baba. Says, "No, you should continue. Now that you have come to Me, I order you now. You will be working for Me now." He said, "Go back and resume your service." [Eruch laughs]. And poor fellow you see the old man having lost the

whole estate, he had to find a little cottage and stay there. And then I was sent back to find a cottage for him and house him there and then to make him stay there. He stayed there all alone for a long period. He joined service. He resumed his services there and well he did his job there and then when he retired he came to Baba. When we were in Bangalore when he retired. He came to Baba and then he served and he was there.

And then how is it that my mother is now in Pune? You might ask that isn't it? So it's not only Pune you see. You have no idea. It's so simple when people say that well the God-Man has told a certain family, "Leave all and follow Me." It's so simple. It is simple there's no doubt. Provided you don't put the question why and what? And therefore this life has become so simple. Because we never put that question, why and wherefore? So when we came to Him then it so happened that He took us all. My father was sent back to Nagpur for two years. Baba started this Blue Bus trip you see in 1938, '39. And we went on a tour. I was driving this Blue Bus. Elizabeth drove, Donkin drove and all that. Donkin came in 1939 by the way, later on.

So well I was in charge of it. So one year we roamed about in this car. There Baba said what you should do is. When we went to Jabalpur Baba said, "What you do now," He tells my mother and my sisters and my brother. My father was housed in Nagpur. My mother and my sisters were dropped at Baba lover's place. He says, "You stay here and see that Meherwan gets education," you see. He is put in a school. He was in a school, he was put. His school was disrupted, schooling was disrupted he was put in another school. So my mother and my sisters now have to establish

another house and they are made to stay there and my brother gets an education there.

**PILGRIM 2:** In Jabalpur?

**ERUCH:** In Jabalpur. And I come with Baba now. I am with Baba all alone. I roam about with Baba, wander about with Baba. And my father writes to me. Says, "I am all alone here." And then he writes. And my mother comforts my father saying that, "You are not all alone. We are just doing what Baba wants us to do." And then I pacify and comfort both of them saying that well, "It's all that." And then again my mother and my brother and sister again are taken by Baba you see. And again we go out on a tour you see. And on a long tour and Baba calls them to Meherabad and then again on a tour. And my father comes during holidays. And then we tour and then we go to Dehradun you see, North India. And then my, Baba tells us that is my mother and. Us means the family that this is a good place for Meherwan to have education. So I find a house there in Dehradun you see and get established, then you see there. And then he studies there in the school there for some months. He says, "No. I think it is better that you'll again wind up the house you see and come to Me to Meherabad." So we go again to Meherabad you see.

And then again Baba wants to go out so we all again go out. And then eventually it so happens that Baba says, 'Now He's going to establish His centre in Bangalore.' You know you have heard of that Universal Spiritual Centre? A huge property was bought and selected by Norina and Nadine and all that. So my father retires and it's a long story you see. A huge property. 500 acres you see. So that's

another chapter in Baba's life you see. Ministry. That Universal Spiritual Centre. So you ask Adi. In Adi's office you see he has got so many sketches of the whole process you see. Of the whole thing.

Well so we went to Bangalore. Baba says now we are winding up all from Meherabad and we go to Bangalore. So we go to Bangalore. In the process my father. It's now time for my father to retire so my father is given charge you see of the construction work of the centre along with other engineer Baba lover. Arnavaz and Nariman's uncle. Anravaz's father was an engineer, civil engineer by the way. There was another civil engineer a Baba disciple by name Kalemama. And my father was a mechanical and electrical engineer so all this put together you see, they were given the different charges and all that. And whole of Bangalore was invited for the, what do you call that?

**PILGRIM 2:** Laying the stone [crosstalk].

**ERUCH:** The foundation ceremony and all that you see. Oh it's a big affair you see. And then after that work started and we stayed. Baba and the women stayed in the bungalow called The Links. And we stayed in Four Palace bungalow and all that. And Baba established that little mast ashram there in The Links itself you see. And I don't know whether you remember the story I told you about 'my prestige'. How we were staying in The Links. A very posh locality you see. And I was in charge of the Mast ashram. So in the beginning I used to drive Baba in car. A good car. Elizabeth's car was there that Ford new car and all that. So sometimes I would be always with Baba you see. My mother and my sisters and all were with Baba at the time. My father was also with Baba. Everything was

happy and rosy now. And I used to drive the car. Drive Baba and all that to and fro. And in front of us, we were staying on Palace road you see. Near the Palace of Maharaja of Mysore. It belonged to the brother of the Maharaja of Mysore, that bungalow. So as soon as we get out of the. Opposite us was a huge place, bungalow of a chromium mine magnate you see. You know chromium mines are there and very wealthy person. So he had two guards on one gate. Two guards on either posts you see. Guarding the whole property with gun and also. They would at once come, get up and salute me you see as soon as I get out in car or drive Baba in or alone or anything like that.

So well I felt very happy about it and proud that well my status is still maintained although I have left the world you see. So this came into my mind one day and then soon after that Baba established the mad ashram, mast ashram in Bangalore. Wayfarers is full of our tours you see and filling in the mast ashram. Going South, bringing Chatti Baba and Phoolwala and all that. High type of masts were brought there you see. Our tours in the South. So one day when I was in charge of that place you see, Baba told me that now there are lots of inmates and the, you know the cans? Latrine cans? The old type you see. We had to draw out the dishes so to say and empty them and put them back when the dishes are full. So what happened [Eruch laughs]. Baba one day told me that there are so many inmates and these boxes are not enough you see. You should get, immediately get some more. A couple of them more you see. I said, "It will take some time," I said, "No time, no question now. You go and get it."

What I thought immediately was. Immediately means immediate. Now my mother had taught me all those things. And I was just a newcomer you see. And I said, "Well we must obey the Master." So I jumped the wall of that building you see and then I crossed the road and ran into 4 Palace Road. It took only two minutes for me to do that. Instead of my going all the way in a car and all that. Why should I take the car? And I went to our quarter. Servants' quarters there they had surplus tins you see. They were all dripping with shit you see. I drew them both together and brought them as soon as I. When I went inside the compound the man got up and saluted me you see. Although I was on foot. The guards. When I came out of the compound with the two dripping tins of shit you see like that. So they wanted to get up but when they saw it, they just sat down and looked at each other. I could notice that you see [general laughter]. I said, "That's the thing you see." What makes you get up? Not the man. Nothing of the sort you see. When you see this, the man is no more there you see.

So you see how? What's all this you see? Just, it's just a farce that's what I felt. That was the first lesson I got you see. So I didn't mind that. I just ran the distance, ran across the road, jumped over the wall and there the two tins are there. Baba was so happy. "How did you manage?" He asked me. I said, "Well I went there and jumped over the wall and got it. You wanted it immediately, it's there." So that's how we had to serve Baba you see like that.

And it went on and on and on. Then Baba said, "Now it's time." Baba wanted to leave Bangalore you see and go away from there. So what about the Meher Spiritual Centre and all that? It so happened the war

got declared you see. 1st World War and the military acquired the whole area. [Eruch laughs] Military pounced upon the area you see because it was there, it was near a big lake and all that. And they gave us handsome rent for it. Compensation was there. And Baba said, "Alright now." We can't go against the military. It was war time. So what happened was that that was a good excuse for Baba to leave Bangalore. And we got back to Meherabad again. So before leaving Baba said, "Why not select a place over here for Meherwan and others you see." And in the meantime Baidul's daughter came. She also. Baidul brought her, his family from Iran then. So his daughter was also to be put in school and all. So Meherwan, Sarwar and Meheru's sister was now ripe for a change in school and all that. Meheru has another sister. She's a doctor now she's in Africa. Baidul's daughter is now married to a very well-known person in Bombay, she's there.

So what happened is that all of the 3 children will go to school. And you'll, my mother can look after them and my sisters are there. So why not have a house? So Baba and I went out in search of. Baba the God-Man goes out in Bangalore in search of a house where He can house my family. So we go out and find a good place there. Baba liked it and there is the opening ceremony and all that and Baba put them there and then we left. Again.

You see leaving all following Him means so many things. Now you have asked me this question then the whole life comes in. So then we go. I again go to Baba to Meherabad. Then Baba tells me to bring all the masts from there. So we bring. We reserve compartments and bring the masts there to Meherabad. The whole compliment is going there now to

Meherabad. On the hill where Kaikobad lives now, you have seen the Kaikobad quarters? Formally it was a maternity hospital there you see and there are a little structures, temporary. So they are all demolished. So this place now where Kaikobad lives as it is was converted into the mast quarters for the high masts like Chatti Baba, Phoolwala, Chacha. Not Chacha, this. From Calcutta?

**MANI:** Karim Baba.

**ERUCH:** Karim Baba and all that. And that from Hassain there was that dancing mast you see all the time he would dance. I forget the names also. So I, then I became the man in charge of this place now. And I continued. My mother and my sisters are there and my father is in Bangalore trying to wind up the whole thing you see. Now he has to sell the property to the people you see. They make into plots and sell the whole property. And many things happened like that and then we continued. Then it so happened that the war broke out and war flared up. And Adi's office was also in Bangalore. Adi didn't want to come back. Adi said, "Now what's the sense of coming back? Meher Baba Journal is being run, it's being published from there. We have given the addresses and it's going on," You know that Meher Baba Journal? Was.

**PILGRIM 2:** [inaudible]

**ERUCH:** Yeah. So Adi said now, he had his office at which place is that? It's called some place. So he had his office. So well Adi, Baba said, "Alright you stay here and Gaimai." Means my mother's children will be here also. So they continued to stay there. But war broke out and it so happened that Japan started bombarding

the coasts, the southern coasts you see of India. So Adi said that now they were coming closer and closer to India. So he sent a wire to us [Eruch laughs]. We were, my mother and my brother and sisters they were happy because they didn't care where they stayed provided they were under Baba's orders that's all. So in reply Baba sent a cable saying that, "Come immediately. Return to Meherabad."

So again I was sent back for dismantling the whole show you see. It's just like changing the scenes you see of the, in a drama. So I went there and wound up the whole show you see and arranged to bring them back you see. That's how we.