
Mani Tells A Joke

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Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

August 10, 1985

4:46

DARA: Mani Aunty, don't forget the joke.

MANI: The joke?

PILGRIM: The joke?

MANI: The joke. You don't want me to leave anything for Saturday?

PILGRIM: No.

MANI: Yeah, but for next Saturday.

PILGRIM: No, no, tell us. [crosstalk].

DARA: Come on, we are all keyed up.

MANI: Accha [foreign] [crosstalk]. I said, that morning, that I was [crosstalk] in. You know what I was thinking this morning was, that how funny, when whatever you say in the language, that you, is yours, you can say it in a few words. But when someone translates it in another language, it always seems longer, I don't know why. You know? I remember still when in 1969, when Eruch would say something on, over the mic, because there were lots of Baba lovers from Andhra and we don't know their language. So there was an Andhra Baba lover, who would translate it into Telugu. So Eruch would say a sentence two inches long, and then the interpreter would have, you know, 5 feet long. Just went on and on and on. And I used to wonder, I mean, how, how maybe that language is different. I still don't know as a matter of fact.

So in India, we call them, at least some people, because of the pronunciation, they don't say interpreter, they say interrupter. You know, "Interrupter, who is saying whatever I said and." And it's very much like that, you know. At the moment, you say something, they interrupt and go "Brr Brr Mmm." And then, by the time you have to connect, Eruch had to hold on to this thought, you know, after this long interpretation. And then he would continue two words and "Brr brp" that man would gallop.

So this joke was, when Colonel, General Montgomery, when he was on a tour, a goodwill tour in the countries in the East. So it was Saudi Arabia and all these places. I'm not good at geography, but you know. So he had this interrupter with him. Very good man, who was always saying whatever he had, but sometimes it seemed much longer than whatever he was saying. So anyway, he was ending the whole thing. He thought he'd end with this joke. You know, make it a nice joke. So he said this joke, which was fairly longish comparatively to these other things that he said, this joke. And the interrupter, you know, said it in the other language in a jiffy.

He just said it in one sentence. And the whole house, all the audience was roaring with laughter and almost falling off their chairs and laughing. And General Montgomery was very pleased with the effect his joke had. "It was marvelous, I say." So when he went out, he thumps the interrupter on the back and said, "Good work, good work. But tell me one thing. How did you manage to

tell my clumsy, longish joke, so shortly and so well that I could see the effect of it?"

He said, "I told them 'Honorable gentleman now telling joke, everybody please laugh.' "

And another is, this one of my favorites. This man was invited by an English friend who had an old castle, and invited to come and spend the night with him and stay a few days. And he accepted. And he went, and he had this room. And the host told him, "I say, I say," he said, "You know, there is a ghost, sort of, a sort of belief around here, but I wouldn't worry if I were you. But you know the place is supposed to be haunted, you know. People see ghosts, like I'm sort of saying."

And the man said, "Don't worry. Don't worry, I am an [inaudible]" So he slept in the room all right. In the morning, when they got together for

breakfast, the host said, "Oh, by the way, did you have any queer experiences or anything like that, you know?"

He said, "Well, what do you mean?"

"Well, I mean, you know, what I told you about last night. About the ghost that." "Oh, yes, yes."

"What do you mean, yes?" "Well, I saw him."

"You saw the ghost?"

"Oh yes. But I got rid of him. Immediately I got rid of him." "You got rid of him? How on earth did you manage that?"

He said, "Well, I asked him for a contribution, and he disappeared immediately."

So it's not only people who disappear when you ask for contributions. You ask the ghost for a contribution. Poof.