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# Mani and the Skipping Rope

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Mandali Hall  
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5:42

**MANI:** Now that the little ones are there, I might tell that.

**PILGRIM 1:** Tell them about the skipping rope.

**MANI:** Yeah, that's a good start. So for instance, in the Convent of Jesus and Mary, where I was educated in Poona, in that school there were the nuns who taught us and teachers and I used to, love the nuns. I just loved the chapel and the church where they put the lilies and decorated the place. And they were also were very hard working, how they taught the children and all. So, but in the Convent they taught you good behavior and manners, music, embroidery and more human things than hockey and tennis and rugby. We didn't have those games [bell clangs]. So therefore, in the intermission, so we called interval, I believe you call it intermission, we had a few minutes break in the morning.

So we would either, I would go along with my Catholic friends to the church, which I loved to go to, or we would play skipping rope. We used to call it skipping rope, I think you call it jump rope or something. So we'd have skipping rope and things, and I got very good at it. I was so good at it that I taught the other girls in this skipping rope thing and I really loved it. I

suppose when you do something very well, you come to love that thing.

So then, when I left home for good to be with Baba, when at last He consented, "Alright, you come and be with me." Baba told me to bring just a little amount of clothes, just like you have your overnight bag or something like that. Not to bring anything, just your few clothes, just that, nothing. So, I mean I knew it was hard on Mother. I loved Mother. I'd had a very happy childhood but my whole goal, from the time I remember remembering anything was, to go and be with Baba, to live with Baba, to be Baba's nun, to be like Mehera, Naja and the others who were there. So I brought along with that. So, when I was putting my few clothes in the thing, Mother was too pained to want to help me with it, but she allowed me to do it. So I put and then I said, I looked at my skipping rope, and I said, "This is stupid, Baba said only a few clothes. Oh but this is not nothing, I mean this is a little thing, this is not breaking an order, this is, what is a skipping rope after all?" So I wrapped that up and I put that with my clothes.

Now see how Baba brings it out. Baba was, I mean, "Master of Masters", even in this little thing of, you know, of bringing out from me, knowing that it's there, how he can scrub it out. So and I of course

stutter. I haven't told Baba and Baba doesn't know anything about it, such, such a minor thing, such a little thing. So what happens? Baba's there and some children that have come for the holiday. I think it was Meheru and Nagu, I forget, must be Meheru. They used to come for the holidays, sometimes two days, sometimes for the whole of the holiday. So Baba brings up the subject of sports. Not me, He asked them. "So what do you?" "Oh we have games of hockey Baba" and this one says this and this, and all these big games and Baba's playing along and He's saying "Oh wonderful, really this." And then He just looks at me and I say, "Oh Baba, we didn't have anything like that at the Convent school, oh no. But I tell you what, we had skipping rope." "Really!" Now Baba's face is just beaming, He is so interested. He knew everything about everything else, but He wanted to learn about skipping, about sports and the time at school.

And I said "Baba, oh yes and I was very good at it!" "Wow" and His expression said, "He's so proud of His little sister, yeah." I said, "Oh yes Baba, I could do a hundred backflips and fifty side flips," and these things and all kinds of names which I've forgotten now, and I was just reeling it out like that.

And Baba's looking, "Gee, look at that, look what my sister can do!" And, seeing the expression on His face, the interest, this incredible interest and I said "Why I can even show you!"

And Baba looks in surprise, "How can you, you haven't got a skipping rope." And I said, "But I have!" And He says, "Ooh", and I am a deflated, a punctured tyre. And I say, "Yes, I have," and I knew immediately. But Baba says, "Didn't I tell you, only bring a few of your clothes? So you've got your skipping rope?"

So then, as if nothing had happened, He calls me over and he embraces me, caresses my cheek and He asks me how much I love Him. And I say I love Him, yes. "More than Mother and Father?" "Of course." "More than?" I mean this has happened to me a number of times with Baba. "More than this and that?" "Oh more than anything in the world." Oh, in the whole world, yeah? You mean, you mean you'd do anything for me?" "Oh yes!" And so Baba says and now He brings back, He leaves that back. "Even if I tell you to take your skipping rope and go and throw it away? You'd do that for me?" "Yes, of course, I'd do that for you Baba."