
His Life with Meher Baba, 1 of 4

Naosherwan Anzar

Location Unknown

Date Unknown

44:51

Naosherwan: Thank you Dan for the very interesting introduction.

[laughter]

Very often I hear myself introduced and I feel so unworthy of it for the simple reason that my life with Baba I take as a kind of meditation. While driving down Dan said, "You could speak of your life with Baba." When I sit back and think of my life with Baba, to me it has been, every situation, every act has been a kind of teaching. And when I say teaching, I mean the emphasis that Meher Baba places on this very simple statement, "I have come not teach but to awaken." Not to teach but to awaken. The situation He puts us in in our everyday lives becomes a teaching: for Him, an awakening for us, a teaching.

To be present at this gathering. I love this word. I'm so happy that all of you title this group as "Gathering" because after all we gather in His Love and if you were under any impressions that I would be sharing hard core intellectual dialectics, please banish them from your mind because talking about Baba, is simply sharing. I remember way back in 1972, I was on the Berkeley campus University of California and after my talk a man, a young man with long hair, flowing beard, a ribbon on his head stood up and called out to me and said, "You are the devil. You are speaking about the devil. You are propagator, You want to convert us. Go away, go back to your country." And in such moments Baba gives me a lot of strength. And I said, "Would you listen to what I have to say and then you can call me names? Whatever you want to call me." When you see a beautiful play or a film, you

obviously go and tell your people at home. You share it with them. Similarly I'm here to share. Ultimately it is between you and God. It is ultimately your relationship between you and God. I'm nobody to tell you to follow this master or that master or even follow God; I've had a beautiful experience and I would simply like to share it. That is all and that is why when Dan said that I'm a speaker, I feel so unworthy of it, because all I do is share in His love.

Last week I met a young Baba lover in New York and I thought to myself that I must mention this trip when I go to Washington because thirty-three years back today, Meher Baba was practically beginning the New Life. Technically speaking, the New Life began on October 16, 1949 but Meher Baba had already taken His mandali through the period of preparation, through the period of training for an initial period of preparing them for a hard life, in our eyes a life of renunciation but what Baba termed a life of Satya Nashi. It's an untranslatable word, but Nashi means annihilation, effacement.

When we look back on the New Life we think of the blueprint that Meher Baba planned out for us to follow, a life of effacement, a life of renunciation. Of what kind? I will tell you in a moment. I'd like to get back to this young man who I met last week, an American. He was a stock broker, and very good, very well at the Exchange. Years went by, made money, bought cars and all the things that go with success. One fine morning the Exchange crashed. He lost a lot of money and

unfortunately he concluded that Meher Baba was responsible for it. He was a Baba lover, a very devoted Baba lover. And so he gave away his paintings and he gave away his paintings, his pictures, his books, everything. He didn't want to have anything to do with Baba. I was very moved with this story and that's why I'm sharing it with you. He went and told Baba lovers that, "I would love to meet you but on the condition that never a mention about Baba should be made in my presence." But of course he drifted away from them; he wouldn't contact them. The story was narrated by the man himself which makes it stranger still. Years went by, and, no, soon after this thing happened he had to do something to make a living, so he said to himself, "Well I have some legal training, I might as well become a lawyer." And he of course trained himself to become a lawyer and went through school and did his training, apprenticeship and the rest of it and became a successful lawyer in the area.

Once again acquired his cars and bought his house and all the accoutrements which go with success. Became a dealer in rare coins and things like that. When somebody who had his old address sent him a flier, and he was going through his mail he opened up this and he saw it was a flier for "Tales from the New Life". So, for that split moment his past came rushing back to him and he said, "Tales from the New Life"? New Life? I've read Baba's books but, what good is a New Life? Something new?

So he says, for a lark let me send for the book. And he sent for this book. He read the book when it came, "Tales from the New Life", and he sat and sobbed and sobbed because Meher Baba, whom he had denounced and renounced, had lived and suffered the kind of life that he had gone through and had entered a phase for the New Life. In other words, he associated his life with Meher Baba's life, a

life of privation which he had gone through, a life of renunciation kind of, which he was forced to go through. And He said, "Oh my God! What have I done!? I have, I have let go of my real self. How will I find it now? How will I, I want it back. I want it all back."

And this when he took the first step and came back to Baba's fold. I believe that he never left it but he believed that he had left it, he had drifted. All of us, each one of us, at some point or the other in our lives go through a phase like that. With just a few people over here, would you call it, "Livingroom Church"?

[laughter]

But each one, everyone around walking on the streets, mankind as whole, as Baba explains is divided into two parts, God-conscious and God-unconscious. Fortunate are we who are God conscious, who are here in his presence. But all of us have gone through this phase, through this period, of divine desperateness, the period of suffering where we became conscious of the fact our lives that we were leading from day-to-day our attachments, our pressures, our commitments to mundane living is not enough. And that we want to go beyond the limits of those surroundings that we bring.

Such a state happened to me way back in the early 60's. In our immature days when you're mentally immature when we go through a period of divine desperateness, when we suffer a great deal in longing and yearning for the Beloved. Meher Baba was in seclusion and I was on the verge of appearing for my graduation when cumulative Baba had not permitted me to come to Meherabad. He was in seclusion. I very much longed to be with Him until at last my soul was in a state of turmoil. I took paper and pen and wrote to Baba that I was coming to Meherabad the next day after renouncing everything. Renouncing. Renunciation was a very strong feeling with me. I believed at that time that

renunciation was the only answer, was the only method for me to assuage, allay my feelings of longing and yearning which were burning within me. Consequently I sent him a letter, amidst tears and I was crying and smudged letters and tears on them, I don't even remember what I have written, it just was that I was coming to Him by the next train. This happened the day earlier and I was nineteen mind you and I went and bought myself a photograph [undecipherable] about to renounce myself so that my parents would have a picture of me and you know all the drama that goes with it [laughter]

So I thought as it was getting towards the evening and the next morning I was to leave, I felt that I should tell my parents, I owe it to them, to tell my mother, not my father. So I told her that, "If you promise not to tell my father [laughter] I have something very important to tell you." So I told my mother that this is what my plan was. She was totally taken aback, very happy that I had taken the decision to go to Baba. Very upset that between, She said, "I'm very happy you are going to Baba. Fine, by all means." But she was worried in that state of mind between Dehra Dun and Ahmednagar I should not go astray. My mind was in such a situation where any Tom, Dick or Harry of a spiritual master would grab me. This is what her worry was. She also felt that suppose what if Baba said, "No." I had told her that if Baba said "No", I would sit in the hut on Meherazad Road.

Of course I'm jumping from one incident to another. As I said that every situation in my life had a purpose, had a teaching. So as the hours went by, midnight, doorbell rings, postman with a telegram. Meher Baba, "Renounce nothing but your present attitude." [laughter] "Letter follows." So the first order had already come through. [laughter]

And I said, "Now there is nothing I can do. So..." But I was such a state of mind, I said,

"No way, I'm going to disobey Baba. I'm on my way". I had tickets bought, everything. I wait, I waited for the letter to come. And so instead of relying on my memory, I'll just read out from, I printed of these this little book called, "The Signal", many many years back. This was actually a couple of poems that I had written to Baba and His birthday and I prepared as gift for His birthday this little booklet in which I had also put Meher Baba's word to, Naosherwan.

And this is what Baba wrote in the letter, "For spiritual aspirants renunciation is of help but those who love the Avatar and are under His direct guidance do not have to renounce anything. The lovers of the Avatar have simply to obey the Avatar's instructions and to love Him whole heartedly. Rest assured one day my grace will be on you to know me as I am." Well this was fine. The letter continued, "Appear for your graduation." Those days all I did was write poems on the back of my books and poems to Baba. I wouldn't study. My parents were worried, but it was Baba's orders to appear and not to worry about the results. He would take care of it. So I appeared for the exams and I got through with second division. So, but I was still not happy with the situation. So I wrote back to Him and I said, "I wanted to meditate, keep fast and silence." You know the kind of little things we do in our love for Baba, thinking this was one of the methods; this was one of the paths that had to be adopted. All of us do this at one stage or the other. And promptly a reply came, "Do not observe prolonged silence nor meditate. Do not serve yourself be doing so. You who lead a dedicated life in my cause have no need for such discipline. You are close to Me and you are very dear to Me. I know how you strive to be merged in my Love, I want you not to strive for this but to allow your dear love to flow freely to Me in its natural course.

Know one most important thing in the spiritual line and that is that no amount of your striving to reach me could transport you to me. The simplest thing for you to do is to just love Me in the most natural way as a child would love his mother, and carry out anything I on My own command you to do."

This was the list of the letter he wrote to me in reply to this. As days went by He knew the state of my mind. The agony continued and I devoted more and more time with Baba, reading His books and shirking my responsibilities. At the same time avoiding, trying not to go in the army, I was in the army for three years and trying to evade that issue as well. And my parents were slightly worried about me in terms of Baba not, in seclusion, and I would read a lot of other spiritual books so out of the blue came a letter came from Baba. "Don't be led astray by any Tom, Dick, Harry of a spiritual master. Beware of such cheap experiences and spiritual stunts of spiritual clowns." Strong language. It was at this time that I read a small news item in the papers which said that the Third World Religions conference would be held in India. So I promptly wrote to Baba for his permission to attend the conference. I was nineteen at that time. This was people from all denominations from all over the world were to gather in New Delhi and the Prime Minister of India was to [undecipherable] and something like two hundred thousand people attending it.

At that time we were about five Baba lovers who had decided to participate and there were different panels, one on education, another one on world peace and a third one on some aspect of unity, global unity, things like that war. I decided to opt for the panel on World Peace and I had to give them a subject. So I just gave them a subject "The Supervening Powers of World Peace and the Supervening Powers of Faith in the Evolution of World

Peace", which meant nothing but I had to give them a subject.

So the President of the conference was Muni[-undecipherable]. You may have heard this name. He is the head of the Jains in the world. And the secretary of the conference was Baron [undecipherable] Von Fromberg, And the vice president of the conference was Sant Kirpal Singh, a name you must have heard. Have you heard of Sant Kirpal Singh? He came and met Baba several times. So I wrote to them and was accepted as delegate and I prepared this exhaustive forty-five minute speech. It was my first major speech and I spent days and nights working on it. Prepared a little pamphlet called "Meher Baba on World Peace" and on the other side was "Meher Baba on Love", printed a large number of copies and took them along with me. That morning, telegram from Baba. "I'm with you with the Third World Religions Conference." And there was [undecipherable]. You've heard of [undecipherable] ? He was a member of parliament and he had sought permission to recite the Masters Prayer. Before the start of the conference when the Prime Minister came in, everybody stood up en masse and read out prayers of all the religions. Each one came forward. There was the Zoroastrian, the head of the Zoroastrian community of the world gave a prayer in Avestic, and the Christian prayer, and the Muslim prayer, every prayer from every domination in the world, and the Master's prayer was also read out. It was one of those grand occasions like the U.N. kinda thing. So then we had this panel where we had, see the Jains have two sects-[undecipherable] where you have one of them where a mask wearing none of the flies and the mosquitos wouldn't get into the mouth because they believe in non-violence to a degree but they don't hurt any creatures or any insects or anything. So you shouldn't go by mistake. The other one is they go about nude. Completely stark naked. So

both the sects were represented. It was a religious head. Sitting stark naked on the stage and there was this two hundred thousand audience ahead of us. So there was [undecipherable] and Sant Kirpal Singh.

And then my turn came to speak and I spoke about, they all believed about I was speaking about Zoroastrianism and about the [undecipherable] and Zarathustra and I said that I had news for them that Zarathustra had taken birth again and today we have in our midst Meher Baba, God in human form. The moment I said this, three people jumped on me. One of them tried to tear my clothes away and one of them tried to pull my trousers off; one of them physically assaulted me. At that very moment that forty-five minute speech went blank,

[laughter]

everything vanished from my head. A bad situation. So Sant Kripal Singh, he looked back and said, "Let the young man be." So they, all three of them sat down and I composed myself and I stood up and I continued and I said in true Hitlerian fashion, I said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I have just uttered the name of Meher Baba. There are people here who oppose the truth who don't want me to speak about Him. Those who wish that I speak about Him, by a show of hands tell me whether I should continue and if you don't want me to continue I will walk away from the stage. So I put it to the vote and in situations like this, Baba simply gives you a tremendous amount of strength. I mean you could virtually be, killed and nothing would happen to you. It's virtually that situation and there was a show of hands and people shouted, "Meher Baba, Meher Baba, Meher Baba, Meher Baba," thousands and thousands of people, two hundred thousand people shouting Meher Baba. So I just started talking about Meher Baba's life.

Meher Baba was born in 1894 and just started talking about Meher Baba's life. And then I said, and then I shouted, "Jai Baba!" People responded with "Jai Baba!" And Sant Kirpal Singh called me and he said, "Young man I have a lot of work for you." So I said, "Any work in the domain of Meher Baba, I'm willing to do." So, this happened. Then that was the last year of the Conference. And that evening the head priest of the Parsis was to give a talk at the Zoroastrian Association in New Delhi and he had come in from Bombay and he was giving a talk on Zoroasterian influence on Hindustani Civilization and things like that. Now it so happened that the president of the association of the entire Zoroasterian community in Delhi, president of the association, was married to a cousin of, my mother's cousin. And her father in the 30s had been one of the most violent antagonist, opponents of Meher Baba. Along with Colonel M.S. Irani, the same initials as Baba, who was Mehera's mother's father. Meheramai's mother's brother. So he, his daughter also anti Baba.

[Aside to Pilgrim, "Are you not feeling well?"]

So it was, so she said, "What are you doing this evening? Why don't we have dinner?" and I said "Fine. Let's go and have dinner." And in the evening she, we had dinner and the husband suggested, "Why don't we have Naosherwan give his impressions of the conference this evening?" And she said, you're, he's going to talk about Meher Baba and you'll be in trouble. So let's just keep him off." So I said, "Look, I'm free. I have nothing to do. I'll come along with you this evening and I'll hear the man talk." And I was not on the schedule.

That evening the man spoke, the head priest and there was this huge audience. And then there was a little bit of time, so the president stood up and said, "We have a young man here who came to the conference and we'd like to hear his

impressions of the conference." So of course I gave impressions of the conference where I'd spoken about Baba at the end. Actually Baba enjoyed these stories, that's why I'm sharing them with you. Baba told me and I narrated this to him.

So this man at the end of my talk stood up and said, "Mr. President, may I have a word? Could I come to the rostrum and say a few words?" "Yes sir, yes please come." "Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to read Paul Brunton's, "Search in Secret India" and that's all." And he walked out of the auditorium. He just walked out in protest. So I stood up and I apologized profusely for the situation. I felt terrible about it. And then we all moved to tea and then everyone wanted to know, where is Baba? When will we be able to see Him? When is He in seclusion? When He going to give Darshan? And everything about Baba. Soon after I went back to Dehra Dun and Baba, I wrote a little account of my stay in Dehli, my encounters with these various people. Of course at the conference Sant Kirpal Singh's men caused, tried to cause a lot of damage to all the Baba people by, they sorta banished all my pamphlets. I kept them in safe keeping and then I find them, my entire bag it was lost. All kinds of things happened after this incident. But Baba then called me over to Poona. And this was a very, very special meeting for me, for a number of events that happened.

My last meeting with Baba was forty days before His dropped His body. But this was in May 4, 1966. The Sahavas had just got over and this was for a special meeting that I was called. There were two meetings, there were of course seven meetings on that day but I participated in two separate, different situations. So the first meeting was as I went, my father was also there because he was one of the volunteers at the Sahavas. So he was also there and as soon as I landed there Eruch was there and you know, before you go to meet Baba,

you have all these thoughts in your mind, "What am I going to say to Him? What am going to, what am I going to talk, or?"

But He smooths it all out when you come in His presence because He's just so totally relaxed. And he talked about how your slept and what you ate, and did you have a good breakfast and, you're at ease. So I, Baba was in the chair and I sat right near His feet. He embraced me as soon as I walked in and the mandali sitting against the wall. And He asked me to narrate the entire story of what had happened at this conference. So I did that. I started in Gujarati and then he said, "Look, Francis can't understand Gujarati, you speak in English." So I spoke in English. Because with Baba, He talks to you in Gujarati and then suddenly you discover that you're not talking, but you're through silence, you're trying to explain to him through silence. {laughter} And Eruch will tell you, "But you can talk." [laughter]

So you have this very funny situation sometimes with Baba where you are trying to explain to through gestures. And then, at the end of it, at the end of my narration, my mind, the way it functions and the way it works, I said, "I'll play a little, small trick with Baba." Fortunately He fell for it. And I said, "Baba at this conference I could answer all questions but there was this one little question that escaped me all the time. He said, "What question?" So I said, see He had told me in the letter, "No questions," because He knows, He knew my mind all the time. My mind is always full of questions, so He had specifically written, "No questions." So I said, "Now, I can just trick Him into one." And I said, "I could answer all the questions but this one in particular, "How can Meher Baba say He is God in human form?" And Baba said, "YOU are God in human form. Eruch, Francis - each one of you are God in human form. I am conscious of my divinity. My job, My work is to make you conscious of the divinity which is you." He

explained it so beautifully to me at that time. He said, "If you went down to the ant and said you were man, the ant would disbelieve you. If you became the size of an ant, the ant would say, 'You're not a man, I don't believe you.' Suppose you went as ant but you had the consciousness of man, and you said--no, I should I have said the other thing. As, in that consciousness and the consciousness of a man if you were an ant and you said that I am a man, the ant would disbelieve you. But similarly in my situation where I am God but I have to give you the conviction and that is all I give you, the conviction to know that I am God in human form. If you want proof I can't give it to you. All I can give you is the conviction and how will you get that conviction? By loving me more and more."

It's as simple as that. You can get that conviction by loving me more and more." Then He asked me to read the "God Speaks" and the forms of conviction--*Ilm-ul-yaqin*, *Haqq-ul-yaqin* and things like that.

Then we were sitting and Baba said, "Do you want to do something? Can you tell me a joke?" And my mind was blank I was thinking of all kinds of other things. And I couldn't think of a joke but I said, "Could I play the mouth organ?" He said, "Yes." I had a mouth organ in my pocket. So I starting mouth organ it like wild and just wouldn't stop playing it. Did Baba, I mean I thought that Baba, but Baba didn't stop me from playing it. And Mehera and Mani, Baba called them. They just they stood behind the door, and Mehera sent a request saying, "Can you play Swanee River?" and I said I couldn't play that. [laughter]

So, I just kept on playing and after that, suddenly Baba asked somebody, "Do you love Me?" He said, "Yes Baba." Then He asked somebody else, "Do you accept me as God in human form?" "Absolutely Baba." And then I would play or somebody

else would say a joke and Baba would ask Francis, "What do you think of Naosherwan's English?" "Baba, lovely, you know, very good English Baba." You know Frances. And Baba would really puff you up, make you feel good. And He said, "Francis, have you read his poems? Aren't they beautiful?" "Yes Baba. They're from the heart." "Will you help him with his poems?" And Frances must have said to himself, "I've had it."

[laughter]

Because that's what later on happened after we stepped out and I said, "Francis?"

"Well you know Milton, first thing you do is throw Milton over the precipice"--that was Francis, but anyway. [laughter] Suddenly Baba said, "Do you accept me to be God in human form?" I was really taken aback because all this was going on and I said, "Absolutelyly Baba."

And he did a very strange thing, He put His hand forward and I stretched out my hand and we held each others' hand, and He said, "I give you the mandate to tell the world that I am God in human form." Very serious moment. Total silence in the room and I of course took it extremely seriously and I take it very seriously to this day. And that is why at no place at any time, at that moment, Baba totally eliminated from me fear and worry. That is something that Baba gives to His lovers. He totally eliminates fear. You've got to believe it. In the worst of situations, He will create a situation. He will give you the force, the energy, the stamina, the dynamism to do it provided you leave the results to Him. Sorry. Provided you leave the results to Him. And since that day, not that I don't think about a certain situation. We had, some years back, we had to come to the United States some years back in a traumatic situation of my son's illness but that story is, is a total miracle. Not for one moment did He, Meher Baba let me think that my child was on the threshold of death. Not one moment. Would you like to hear the story?

It's kind of encouraging. Of course I think I'll narrate that at the end, what, I sent a ghazal a few days earlier to Baba and Eruch said, "I haven't had the time because of the Sahavas to read the ghazal. Why don't you read the ghazal to Baba," which I composed, it was called "The Perfect Man" but it's in, if you like at the end of this time, I'll read it out to you. And then Baba explained a couple of words from the ghazal to me. The significance of the words that I used. So talking about, I mentioned it very briefly but I'll tell you the way Meher Baba works in our life situations...