
OPPOSITION IN DADAR

Mani S. Irani

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

July 31, 1990

04:44

PILGRIM 1: Did the resistance come from the Parsis more than the Iranis? Was there that kind of distinction amongst the resistance to Baba?

MANI: No, no, no.

PILGRIM 1: From one community or the other?

MANI: This happened to be that proximity to us. But I tell you something. Even in Bombay, even our early followers of Meher Baba had it difficult. Because when they would ask for something there was an opening. But when they heard they are Meher Baba people there was suddenly no opening. Sorry, but there's no. You know that past. But the worst was my parents. My family, Baba's family. And I still remember one very interesting incident happened in Dadar in King Circle. [foreign]

My mother for the first time and the last time - the first time the reason I don't know because I was with Baba. But when we went to Mysore in 1936, I had this terrible ear operation of mastoid and in those days there was no antibiotics, there were no whatever it is. There's a lovely story connected with that too. But when we came from there I had to be in Bombay for a few days with mother. So at that time mother was staying for I think about some months or a year in Bombay. For some reason she had to stay. So, there was a house in Dadar Parsi colony. So that all the apartments are taken by the Zoroastrians. And it's known as the Parsi colony. And you know naturally one migrates together where they are. It's a social thing.

So, in those days it was. The landlord was very keen to have tenants. Now the landlord is very eager to push them out.

PILGRIM 2: We'll have to be like they used to be.

MANI: Yeah so, Baba used to visit. Baba had twice visited me even in the 12 days or certainly not more than 2 weeks. I was there for my daily dressing from the hospital. So, going by tram with Jal and coming back. So Baba came twice but he would sometimes anyway go to see mother. He would visit from Meherabad, go to Bombay, visit mother. And there would be Ramjoo

with Him, Barsoap with Him and Gustadji with Him. Gustadji was a Parsi but he didn't look like it. The way he was dressed with Baba you see. Whatever it is. They looked like some vagabonds. He had strong - these people, but they were misunderstood because they were alien. They thought they were non-Zoroastrians. The rest of the Parsi colony you know some, anything happens in an alley all the windows open you know and see. Each one knows what's happening over there and [inaudible].

So, oh they know of course that she's His mother. Even the adjoining neighbours were harassing her at night. Banging on the wall and all kinds of. It always hurt mother. If it didn't hurt her it wouldn't matter. Didn't hurt father. He didn't care. But it hurt mother. So, all the others then went to the landlord. They said, "If this lady isn't out of the colony we will all go." That's a big threat. And they all signed except 3 people. The 3 said, "Look, this lady has done nothing to harm us. When I come down from the stairs that were made she just says 'Sahibji.' I say 'Sahibji.' Why should I wish her out? I'm not going to give." Three resisted. But the rest caved.

And so the poor landlord came to mother. My mother was a strong lady. Strong in the sense strong minded. And she said he wanted her to leave. She said, "Give me one good reason why I should leave and I will." And he said, "Shireenbai, there's not one reason why you should leave. You are a model tenant. You [inaudible], you pay your rent so promptly." Mother would always do things two days ahead. No matter whether it was a train to catch or two hours ahead or. [general laughter]

So, there was no reason. So, mother said, "I'm not going. I have done nothing. You make me just fly from here like a criminal. What have I done?" So she would not go. But she felt very much. You know it's only happened, I heard later because then I had to go. In a few months later or two months or whatever. All those who signed had to leave. Someone lost their job, someone got news of a death somewhere in the family. Someone got this, someone. Whatever it is. But those three. [Mani and pilgrims laugh]

But that was a feather in my cap. Specially for the brothers to tell mother, "Didn't we tell you so, didn't we?" [Mani laughing]