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## STORIES OF UPASANI MAHARAJ

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**Minoo Kharas**

Mandali hall, Meherazad, India

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12:27

**MINOO:** Yeah so what was I talking about?

**PILGRIM 1:** Everything.

**PILGRIM 2:** Oh, I know. Tell us something about how you used to drive Maharaj around. You were his chauffeur, right?

**MINOO:** Yes. Maharaj's car was that hot mobile car. You must not have seen that car no?

**PILGRIM 2:** The hot mobile.

**MINOO:** Someone of you has taken the photo of that.

**PILGRIM 1:** Beautiful. We didn't bring it with. I didn't bring it with though, I'm sorry.

**PILGRIM 3:** But have you seen that body; it is so strong body, my God.

**PILGRIM 1:** Oh, it's huge. Yeah.

**PILGRIM 4:** It was tall.

**PILGRIM 3:** It must be about, say 60.

**MINOO:** It was 1934 model. And I was maintaining that car also and then whenever I used to drive him to Satara. Satara to back to Nasik again.

**PILGRIM 2:** Do you have a picture of that car?

**MINOO:** I've got at my place in Pune. I've got photos. Now I don't have that. But some of the foreigners had taken. That car was there so they had taken the photo.

**PILGRIM 5:** Right. I know in '86 I wasn't able to go when you went to Sakori but when people came back, they mentioned the car and how big it was and, mostly that.

**MINOO:** And 3 at the back.

**PILGRIM 1:** 3 in the front huh?

**MINOO:** No no, 3 by the.

**PILGRIM 6:** In the middle?

**MINOO:** 3 by the side.

**PILGRIM 1:** Facing them.

**PILGRIM 6:** Oh my God. [crosstalk]

**MINOO:** Sit there over there. And then 3 in the, myself and two more. So, all those kanyas and Maharaj used to sit at the back. I used to drive and 2, anybody. So many times, I have driven him. From Nasik to Sakori and from Sakori to Satara and all that.

**PILGRIM 7:** What happened to that car also?

**MINOO:** Someone has. It was I think sold out or.

**PILGRIM 5:** I think it might have been sold in the States. Just by fluke. I think that I've heard something about a car from.

**PILGRIM 3:** No, no.

**MINOO:** No, I don't think so. Some Bombay people, they have taken it away.

**PILGRIM 5:** Because I heard something in the States on the news about a car being released that was Indian.

**MINOO:** I used to import some parts which were not available, and that was so very difficult and at that time.

**PILGRIM 1:** To keep it going. [crosstalk]

**PILGRIMS:** Jai Baba Jal.

**PILGRIMS:** Give our best to Dolly! [crosstalk]

**MINOO:** What else you want to know anything?

**PILGRIM 8:** I want to know about your wife.

**MINOO:** Huh?

**PILGRIM 8:** I want to know about your wife. Tell us about your wife.

**MINOO:** My wife?

**PILGRIM 8:** Yes.

**MINOO:** She was staying with me for very long time but afterwards she had lost her senses and everything. She never recognized anybody. She was with Upasani Maharaj for 3 years from '38. No '39,40,41.

**PILGRIM 8:** Was she Baba lover also? Also, Baba lover. Before Upasani she was with Baba?

**PILGRIM 5:** When?

**MINOO:** My wife. This is a photo of my wife.

**PILGRIM 1:** Oh, I thought it was. That's awesome.

**MINOO:** Say something.

**PILGRIM 1:** Very frail health then.

**MINOO:** Very frail, very frail.

**PILGRIM 5:** So, you were married for many, many years or when you were young? Twenties?

**MINOO:** No, not 20. After meeting Baba, that is '33 I got married.

**PILGRIM 1:** Your parents chose her? You parents choose your wife?

**MINOO:** Yes. At that time parents and parents used to.

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah. Get together.

**MINOO:** But she's my distant relative also.

**PILGRIM 1:** Really.

**MINOO:** My uncle is uncle of her also. Like that you know.

**PILGRIM 1:** And also, nice picture of Godavari Mai.

**MINOO:** Ya, Godavari with Baba. That was taken in Sakori when Baba had come last. Not with the Westerners. And I think that Steve was here no? He's writing some book about.

**PILGRIM 1:** Steve Klein?

**MINOO:** Steve.

**PILGRIM 7:** No, Steve—

**MINOO:** He was here, no?

**PILGRIM 7:** Oh, you mean Steve Klein. I mean.

**MINOO:** Steve. His wife's name is Daphne.

**PILGRIMS 1 & 7:** Yeah. Steve Klein.

**MINOO:** He's writing some book so he wanted to know some information and all that.

**PILGRIM 1:** Good.

**MINOO:** So, before we went 14 days or 15 days ahead, we had been there.

**PILGRIM 1:** To Sakori?

**MINOO:** To see the places.

**PILGRIM 1:** So, he could write it all. Good. It gets easier to remember all these things I would imagine. It gets easier. You have to tell it again and again and then.

**MINOO:** No.

**PILGRIM 1:** No.

**MINOO:** He wanted to know about which particular place is that, which particular place is that, which. So I showed him all those places. Baba's room and then when Baba first came, He sat near the tree, so which was that tree? Then that Yeshwant Rao's room. He had went up there. Which was the house? All that. He wanted to know, so I showed him all that.

**PILGRIM 1:** Well you told us quite a lot today.

**MINOO:** Whatever you ask I have given you the reply. I have not told of my own. Anything more you wanted to know?

**PILGRIM 1:** No, but we can let you have some peace again. We can give you some peace again if you like.

**MINOO:** Peace, what peace?

**PILGRIM 1:** Peace and quiet. [general laughter]

**MINOO:** No, tomorrow you'll get the bill. [general laughter]

**PILGRIM 4:** He told me about \$60 an hour each.

**MINOO:** The biscuit is \$10 each.

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah right.

**PILGRIM 7:** \$10

**PILGRIM 1:** We'll leave it in our wills for you.[general laughter]

**MINOO:** No. Credit it in the Swiss bank. [crosstalk]

**MINOO:** Have you seen this book?

**PILGRIM 3:** Yeah. I've read it.

**MINOO:** You must have seen the photo of Upasani Maharaj and all that.

**PILGRIM 1:** Good photos in there. One's that we haven't seen before.

**PILGRIM 9:** Yeah, they went first class on the printing.

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah.

**MINOO:** Upasani Maharaj. Completely shaved you know.

**PILGRIM 1:** Yeah. As he would be sometimes.

**MINOO:** Everything. Here to here.

**PILGRIM 7:** Oh really. Everything? Head shaved, beard, once a month.

**MINOO:** That also on Ekadeshi. Ekadeshi means, 11th day of a. He used to call that. I'll tell you a very funny story. That barber was there. He was shaving.

**PILGRIM 1:** At the table?

**MINOO:** Shaving the.

**PILGRIM 1:** The mast?

**MINOO:** No. Sakori villagers you know. Not even a shop, he used to sit on the ground and the razor is also that country-made. Just like handle over here. Just how a knife. Have you seen that? In the villages they use still. Still that is not the razor that you use it and open it like that. So, he used to shave that way to Maharaj. And he used to make Maharaj sit on the ground and he used to call. His name was Dattu. So, he used to call him and then he used to, Maharaj used to sit. You know Sabha Mandal? We had been to Sabha Mandal, outside pillar. There he used to sit and then he used to take the face of Maharaj like that on his.

**PILGRIM 1:** Oh no! Like peeling.

**MINOO:** Like that. This way, this.

**PILGRIM 8:** Like a headlock he had there.

**MINOO:** So, I used to laugh and laugh like anything. And then he used to ask. I think he had saved some 500 Rupees. By shaving all the villagers, you know. And that was what he had saved.

**PILGRIM 1:** Oh my God.

**MINOO:** So, while shaving he used to talk to Maharaj and Maharaj used to say, "Maharaj I've got that much amount. Should I? Do I invest in this? Or should I invest in this?" So, Maharaj said, "Alright invest in that." So, Maharaj used to say, "Alright, yes, yes." He used to say, "Yes, Yes." So invested these 500 rupees. The whole life saving. And he lost everything. [general laughter]

And he came crying to Maharaj. "Maharaj you told me to invest and I have lost everything, what to do?" "I never told you to invest in that. You said that, I said Yes. I nodded my head. But why are you crying. I am after you. I am by the side of you, why are you crying? Nothing will happen. Go you." Like that. So still he lost 500 Rupees saving for that old man.

**PILGRIM 5:** And now it's his sense of humor. Upasani's.

**MINOO:** Like that Maharaj was very stingy. Never used to pay anybody. Very, very stingy. Once there was a Parsi. He had some 3,000 Rupees with him. So, he just told Maharaj, "Keep this amount with you. When I go back, I'll take it back with me." He said, "Alright, yes keep it." He kept that money and when he went and asked him. Demanding the money from Maharaj. He said, "I'm quite a naked man. I've got this much only, gunny bag. What else can I give you? I've got nothing." He was so very much upset and, what do you call, frustrated. And went away.

So, even Upasani Maharaj, he used to get married with young girl and all that. He was taken to the court and so many times. Coming and going and coming and going. Ultimately nothing happened. There was a creek in Kopargaon. That time Kopargaon was the big city where all the cases of this villages go there. So, the judge was against Maharaj. Pleaders were against Maharaj. You know there, what do you call that. Made up a ring.

**PILGRIM 1:** Conspiracy, kind of a case.

**MINOO:** Yeah. And to make case in such a way that he should be.

**PILGRIM 1:** Evidence, good evidence.

**MINOO:** False evidence was also there. Everything was there. And to throw him into the jail. So, people were very much upset. So, Maharaj used to say, "Why are you all? You all these people are unnecessarily harassing me, troubling me. What a

lot of trouble I have got for you. It is better I go and sit there. Whatever work I have to do; I'll do it from there also. It's one and the same to me." But they were very much upset. They used to come to Baba. "Baba this is happening. What is to be done?" So, now in Maharaj's case what. How can Baba?

**PILGRIM 1:** What would Baba say?

**MINOO:** But it so happened after hearing of 2, 3, 4 times going to Kopargaon, the case was transferred to Nagar. And ultimately it was stopped. It was not that. They had brought the case as if the girls were married to, not to a person but to the deity. But that is not allowed by law. What called, Devi, Devidas. Devidas it is a.

**PILGRIM 1:** Marriage to a deity is not allowed?

**MINOO:** Not allowed. So, there are so many cases had happened like that. Where the girls are offered to the deity and then they are not nicely treated and then they are used as prostitutes and all that. So, government had stopped all that. So, nothing had happened.