
WARNING BELL, MEN NEARBY

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MANI: And there used to be a passage made out of bamboo matting from that East Room where you see us go which is Mehera's and my room, Masi, Khorshed, and Naja would be there. There was this passage going from our room to the kitchen. The main kitchen where we cooked, Naja and all.

So that's where we were allowed but we had to go through the passage and then although the men saw to our bazaar. In our bazaar means marketing, food and things to be brought. They didn't, there was a link and that was Masi, Khorshed's mother and also Kaku later that time. They would sit outside by the tank which is outside the gate of Meherabad. You see that little tank with the little room at the bottom with the door. Well, that room, by that room and they would sit. And so, keep an eye, any of the men coming up the Hill from down below, the men Mandali, immediately she would ring the bell. We

would hear the bell and although we were not going out, nobody, the kitchen door would be closed.

And sometimes, if a plumber or somebody had to come in, there was no electricity but if a plumber had to come in or some work that some outside person had to come in, then not only was the door closed but I had to play the sitar so that Mehera didn't hear the sound of the men's voices.

And I still remember, I thought I loved playing the sitar, but that time the plumbing work went on and on and my fingers were sore and after, I haven't studied sitar and there are tunes of songs that I know and I go on playing and I played and I played and I played and I played and I, oh, this would just never end! [sound of pilgrims laughing] Waiting for the bell to ring again, all clear and then we would stop.