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## DF-001B: LIFE WITH MEHER BABA

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**Eruch B. Jessawala; Mehera J. Irani**

Mandali Hall; Mehera's Veranda

Meherazad, India

March 6, 1976

45.04

**ERUCH:** Huh? So what from there I could say that that tragedy of being the God-Man you see. First night He says, "After many, many nights I slept very well tonight." So while taking turn there you know how the table top loses the balance you know? Once you go to the one side of it. So naturally it was there so it made a noise. And Baba's body was out. He jumped and stood straight there.

**PILGRIM 1:** But He'd been asleep?

**ERUCH:** Huh?

**PILGRIM 1:** But He had been asleep?

**ERUCH:** Yes. Like man.

**PILGRIM 2:** And that was celebrated later on?

**ERUCH:** That was celebrated yes you read that?[crosstalk]

**PILGRIM 3:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**PILGRIM 2:** Bought ladoos [foreign].

**ERUCH:** It is mentioned there no [pilgrims laughing][crosstalk]

**PILGRIM 2:** It was celebrated that day when Baba didn't get hurt and bought ladoos [foreign] for the whole mandali.

**PILGRIM 3:** Yeah because He didn't get hurt.

**PILGRIM 2:** Yeah [general laughter].

**PILGRIM 1:** What did He buy?

**PILGRIM 2:** Ladoos, sweet balls.

**ERUCH:** So that's what I say that He becomes actually that. Suppose if you. Had there been any ordinary person who is not that he would feel shy to express such things wouldn't he? Common sense tells.

**PILGRIM 3:** Yeah, yeah, yeah to roll over and.

**ERUCH:** It is His greatness that He is that so it is there. He tells us this is how it is.

**PILGRIM 1:** Simple joy.

**ERUCH:** It's simple yes. It is a fact. What is there in that? There's nothing wrong. It is as it should be. Not only that alright rejoice. I am not hurt [pilgrims laugh].

Now Martin what are the other questions that you wanted to ask? Come on. Yeah he has got many questions. Huh?

**MARTIN:** I never had any questions.

**ERUCH:** You never had any questions?

**MARTIN:** Last year but not this year.

**CHILD 1:** How long a worm is?

**MARTIN:** No, not that one [general laughter].

**CHILD 1:** Come on.

**ERUCH:** How long is what?

**PILGRIM 4:** How long is a worm?

**ERUCH:** How long is it? What is that? How long is it tell us the story. What's the joke about it?

**MARTIN:** Not joke.

**ERUCH:** Not joke. Then what is it?

**CHILD 1:** Tell him [inaudible].

**MARTIN:** How long the giantest worm in the world is. Right?

**CHILD 1:** Yeah.

**ERUCH:** What is it? Tell us.

**MARTIN:** 22 feet.

**ERUCH:** 22 feet. How do you know that?

**MARTIN:** Because it held the Book of Records.

**ERUCH:** Oh I see. 22 feet.

**PILGRIM 1:** Guinness Book of Records.

**ERUCH:** Guinness Book of Records. 22 feet of a worm.

**PILGRIM 4:** It's one worm?

**ERUCH:** What's? It's in the water? 22 feet. [Crosstalk]

**PILGRIM 4:** My golly.

**PILGRIM 5:** Jai Baba

**PILGRIM 2:** Jai Baba.

**MEHERU:** Hello. Jai Baba.

**DAVID FENSTER:** Hey you know what I figured out?

**MEHERU:** Yes?

**PILGRIM 2:** You see one day there'll be a Meher University.

**MEHERU:** Yes.

**PILGRIM 2:** So you know in America they say for Oklahoma University OU [inaudible]. So the Meher University Meh U. It will be spelt the same as Meher-U. Meheru [inaudible].

**MEHERU:** I think that's why I have so much to do with David.

**DF:** What no. That's why you're so intelligent so they'll name a University.

**MEHERU:** And what's that on your ears?

**DF:** This allows me to.

**MEHERU:** Know exactly what's being taped.

**DF:** Speak a little louder please.

**MEHERU:** Speak a little louder sir, I'm rather hard of hearing.

**PILGRIM 5:** Either I speak a little more or tape it personally.

**MEHERU:** So now you. Now who is all this for?

**DF:** Now I'm taking over this project.

**MEHERU:** Hmm?

**DF:** Now I'm taking over this project.

**MEHERU:** You are? Yeah. I mean if that's the only equipment that's needed it's wonderful.

**DF:** Yeah no I've got my whole briefcase here.

**MEHERU:** So you're waiting for Mehera?

**DF:** [inaudible] Don't rush they'll come.

[inaudible] Question to ask you.

**MEHERA:** Question. What is the question now? [Mehera laughs].

**DF:** You know how Baba used to put some orders to people like "Don't do this."

**MEHERA:** Baba used to give what?

**DF:** He used to give some orders to people like not to do certain things and just not so much like not eat chicken, say. And just when they would not have chicken they would remember Baba you know. They're ordered so that they would remember Baba.

**MEHERA:** Yes, yes.

**DF:** Like Baba told you to rest in the afternoons.

**MEHERA:** Huh. It's quite true. So how do you mean? [crosstalk] Go about it.

**DF:** I was just asking in your daily life what things particularly remind you of Baba? Like you know.

**MEHERA:** Yes remind me. Baba I feel Baba's with me. I take Baba's name when I remember Baba but I just say to be reminded by Him. How will you say? Oh this is Baba's order yes Baba would like this. Need to do this you know. Or He wouldn't like me to do that. That comes all the time. All the time means. Now how do we say? Often in the day. Now I mean. Now how you say? Many things.

Is this on? Now don't put it on I'll just explain to you then see if you like and I'll say it.

Baba one day. Some subject came up and Baba said, "When you go to bed you must rest on from your right side. Lie on your right hand and then you may turn but never." I had the habit of sleeping on my back. So I would take this thing I would do that. I would like to. But Baba somehow I don't know. Talk came up like that and He. [Inaudible] Baba was in the bedroom and we were. I was there and either 1 or 2 people they were coming and going Baba was telling me. He said. How do you say? "To lie down from your right hand." How do you say it?

**DF:** Right side first.

**MEHERA:** And then you can turn over but not on the left. That is what Baba said and not from the back. So before going to bed also. That's not the only one way that I remember Baba. How will I say? In the

night I've been to Baba's room I'm thinking. How do you say? Talking to Baba and His photo I kiss and all near His bed I bow to Him and all that. So I'm remembering Baba from nearly 20 minutes I'm remembering Baba before going to. That is by 11/11:30 late in the night and all. Then Goher and Mani have gone to bed I'm alone then I.

What I am saying getting at is this that I'm thinking and mediating Baba all the time and then also His orders also come. You know what I want to say is like that. Then in any room I'm seated to I think of Baba. How He used to. How I used to make tea. Means mix tea and Baba used to take a saucer how He used to drink. And then His picture. You may call meditation or Tasavvur [foreign] it is called. Tasavvur means to bring the Beloved's form in front of your eyes. You don't have that. What is it called in your language? I don't know.

**DF:** Vision.

**MEHERA:** Vision, huh. That way Baba how He used to wash His face. How sweetly He used to shave. I used to make His hair, anything. So that way I am reminded remember and that you know and then I again I go to Baba's room then that is first dining room then in His room then I come out and these photos. Every photo I touch and kiss and like that. I mean I'm reminded of Baba that way all the time. And then when I go into my room after taking glass of drinking water. I have a habit of drinking water [Mehera laughs] before going to bed. I don't drink after having what do you call? Food no what do you call this supper, supper. I don't have a habit I don't take it. Mostly I don't take it. Maybe once but that is only when Khorshed is here. She gives me this glass

of drinking water at the table so I drink a mouthful. I don't know but I don't have a habit. So I when I go to bed I take this glass and then I. And then Baba's window is open till 11 'o clock, half past 11 even. Baba's east window and there Baba's image that I bow to. Then I have a few lines that Baba had told me to say in front of His photo. So that at my dressing table Baba's photo is. Huh?

**DF:** In English or Gujarati? Like a prayer in Gujarati?

**MEHERA:** Listen in Gujarati. Just a few lines. So that I'm praying there. So there 5 to 7 sometimes 8 minutes or so is in my room. And Baba's the light photo you know what do you call? Transparent photo that is there. There I touch and caress Baba's hand and all that and so I'm thinking of Baba. What I want to say is so Baba's photo also. [Mehera laughs] What I'm saying my thoughts also on Baba like that and then I get into bed I have to pray. There also I have Baba's photo in one thing. Baba's touched and photo Baba's signed and that photo. Anyway what I want to tell you is that before going to bed also I'm thinking and praying to Baba and all that. And then lying down then again I am bowed to Baba's photo of light and Baba's tree. Curtain is not there I can see in and so then again I. What I want to say I'm thinking of Baba and then when lying down I remember that Baba's told me on the right hand so that time what I am getting at is that all the time I'm thinking that way as well as when I have to lie on the is not the only time that I am reminded of Baba. That is what I want to say you see.

Before that I am thinking of Baba much and so I sleep. I remember Baba told me on the right hand so that I do. Though it

does not come naturally but I do it [Mehera laughs][crosstalk]. Yes that's it. So then and so on. Then that is Baba I remember on the right hand. Now then when waking up also Baba said, "You must get up from the right hand."

**DF:** So you have to turn again?

**MEHERA:** I'm mostly on my back. Mostly. Then I turn around from my right hand side in the morning. Early in the morning I remember Baba first thing I say Baba's name. Baba's picture I kiss and then I remember that Baba has told me right hand so it comes naturally that way you know. Then I open Baba's window there I bow again so. What I want to say is then next comes of course Aarti and all that and yes. And Baba how well Baba knew that I'm not a early riser so I might take a little time to get up and it shouldn't be what you say? Time for Aarti or something later on you know. Baba knew the future. So Baba one day said that, "Don't brush your teeth in a hurry just anyhow." You know.

**DF:** Huh.

**MEHERA:** Anyhow means I don't know how. Carelessly. This is the word, "Don't do it carelessly. Remember to brushing or massage you have to do it well." "Yes, yes Baba." So that's all. So when massaging I want to hurry up you know because I have to go to Baba's room to clean Baba's bed all this and that must be done. Flowers and all. And so on Baba's plaque of hair that is to be cleaned and fresh flower offered there Baba's feet. So by that time Mani rises about 5 or 10 minutes later than I am. Sometimes 2 minutes after me or like that. But then she takes a late and then when she. Rano and the other girls. Arnava sometimes she's here there like that. Of

course they have to go to bathroom this and all. All takes time then they all waiting in the drawing room for me to call them for Aarti because I have to finish cleaning as well as offer flowers and darshan and I say a little prayer also. And they. I call them then they come in. Because this what I'm doing is only one person's work inside Baba's room. Many don't have to run about. Because later on we do Baba's room in detail. Before Aarti I do certain things. Clean and flowers we have to do. Offer flowers there. I clean and offer flowers and then we say Aarti. Baba's bed and all that to be cleaned and attended to. Then after Aarti then they go to the dining room.

**DF:** Do you say the prayer in the morning in Gujarati also?

**MEHERA:** No. Not in the Gujarati. Just before going to bed. When in bed that also Baba's told me lines and praying in bed as well as when I'm not in bed. You know I told you when I go to Baba's room and dining room then at Baba's photo and dressing table I say the few lines that Baba's told me. What I want to tell you is this. So all the time when brushing then remembering Baba. Alright then Aarti and all that and then of course again my thoughts [Mehera laughs]. After I take darshan and I don't go to. I go to the dining room there we kiss Baba's chair in which Baba used to be seated always and you know. What do you call? Have His tea, have His food there with us and He was with us there. And also at the dining table that remember so I. Because Baba's chair there and a big photo I touch and then I have a little hot water drink that Goher has prepared for me you know with a little what do you call it? Dry ginger in it. It's good. So they all have. Drink hot water

in the morning. It's good. So I also have at that time and then I come away from the dining room and I come out in the veranda then I bow to Baba's big photo here and then yes.

Then I look out at the garden. Picture Baba is coming around in the garden path and I'm running to embrace Him you know there are thoughts like that. And then I feel Baba's coming inside our house. I think of Baba that way and then I come inside the drawing room and there I also kiss Baba's gaadi where Baba used to be seated you know. Then Baba's hand there I kiss.

Then after Baba has told me one minute to. Not one minute. Baba told me to do exercise. One day Baba asked me in the room. We were all in a hurry and I'd come to Baba and Baba said, "Do your exercises. Have you done your exercises?" I said, "No, not today Baba, I have not done it today." Baba said, "Do it now in front of me. Do it now." So Baba was seated on the bed and I was standing like this and just a few exercises I did. Then Baba's told me. So I now take it that as an order. That Baba wants me to do the exercise. So everyday though there's not time they are all waiting for me and now they are in the dining room. They talk a little. They are preparing their breakfast. Someone's doing something. The other one is doing something I don't know whatever. Anyway then they have to wait for a minute or two more and then in the meantime they're talking to each other and by that time I do my exercises also.

In the drawing room I have certain pictures Baba's and what do you call it? Mould? Not mould. You know how that spins the Baba's feet and all. After doing that that takes about 3 minutes altogether and then

I go in. Then I. And there I. And Baba's dining chair dust the cushion and all that then place the chair I say, "Jai Baba", And then they all say, "Jai Baba," And then we have our breakfast. So when at breakfast then one another order is there [Mehera laughs]. After the exercise, brushing teeth properly that is an order. Then exercise. Then at breakfast I must have butter Baba said. You know how there are many days that. Mainly there are some days mostly you know in summer time I don't feel. The one thing about me is I don't feel actually hungry I don't feel. That's a very big problem with me. But Baba's told me to, "Must eat butter. Remember to eat butter." "Yes Baba." So those days I used to have butter like that but now I don't feel much hungry so but Baba has orders to eat butter so I see the butter I say, "Oh Baba I don't like to eat this butter but because you told me to I must eat." So on the toast I put it like that and try to dip it in the tea and make it more tasteful or something. Take a little bit jam on it. In some way then I eat that butter you see. Sometimes I take a little cream. Not hungry much but so on. Everybody takes a little bit on this on the cream. So I see Mani eating cream I said, "I also take a little bit," And all that.

**DF:** Put it on the toast?

**MEHERA:** Not on the toast. Yes on the chapati [foreign]. I must take wheat chapati. So half of it sometimes little bit. Not hungry but on a toast I take butter and then on the chapati I take little bit of cream. And that sometimes like this sometimes yes sometimes no. The cream every time not. So now what I want to tell you is the butter is also Baba's orders [Mehera laughs]. And then all day long there is. When you bathe you must one hour.

**DF:** Take Baba's name?

**MEHERA:** That I do. But Baba did not say so. To take Baba's name. One day Baba turned to me at dining table and I don't know Baba said, "Take My name. B A B A. Baba you must say." Like that Baba told me. And I asked Him, "Baba should I repeat it all day long and take your name all day long?" Baba said like that, "Not all day long." So that also I don't know when He meant. So I take it as many times as I can. Like that you know. At certain times and all. So before eating or like that when I'm eating I tell Baba, "Eat with me. It's this. Baba you used to like this have it with me." Like that. In my mind also. So what I want to say yes after bathing when you wipe yourself. What do you call it? Dry yourself. Baba said, "You mustn't in a hurry dry yourself carelessly." What do you call it carelessly?

**DF:** Yes fast.

**MEHERA:** Fast and just anyhow and leave yourself damp Baba said, "No. You must", What do you call? "Dry yourself well." You see [inaudible] certain orders. So at that time also as I said think of Baba and all. Before that some daily work. As I say as I'm pouring water I say Baba's name because you know the water of Ganges are so sacred they say Ganges, "Ganga maiya ki Jai [foreign]". Ganga maiya means mother Ganges. Jai they say these Hindu's and they take water. The Ganges water on them you know they purifies them. So I take Baba's name this water becomes more than Ganges. Better than Ganges when you say Baba's name [Mehera laughs]. So like this I go on thinking and you know through Baba's orders also and then other orders there is. But huh not when I'm. I

love to eat very steaming hot food. I love steaming hot you know. I don't like lukewarm food, lukewarm rice, lukewarm this I don't. I like my tea also everything steaming hot. But for tea Baba did not say anything. But when He eating I used eat hot nicely so Baba said, "Don't eat." This means hot. "Don't eat it too hot. It's not nice. For the teeth it's not." [Mehera laughs]. Baba's so naughty.

**DF:** Not good.

**MEHERA:** To chew on very hot food it's not good for the teeth. So then that I felt very difficult because then I like to put in my mouth when it's hot but I wait and see if Baba allows.[Inaudible] cool enough. So I eat it hot but not lukewarm but so hot right temperature that you don't feel very. The sting of the hot in the mouth you know. Not very hot like that. So at food time like that also. And so on. Yes I think that's all.

**DF:** [Inaudible] Taking a nap.

**MEHERA:** Yes, in the afternoon I still remember I was told to take naps so I. That time I go to Baba's room. [Crosstalk]. Yes. That time also. And then before I go take my nap I always go to Baba's room. But there's someone in Baba's room then I come to Baba's gaadi or somewhere else where Baba's photo is. So then in the afternoon Baba's told me, "Take a nap." So I take a nap. Why? Because the night you know it's 12 'o clock, half past 12. I lose my sleep that time so I need more than food I need sleep. Some constitution is so that more than food that person needs sleep. It happens that way. So on. So Baba told me always to sleep well. Yes and I would sleep well. Like that. Every evening when leaving the room Baba would say, "Sleep well." I said, "Yes Baba." So I know

that is Baba's orders. So Amartithi time also even though we go after 12 to bed because there's much to do. Because we are late in the mandap and on the way we are greeting this one that one so on. By the time we go to the sink where to wash your face na? Bathroom we call it. I don't know where. Wash your teeth, wash your feet, wash your face everything takes 20 minutes, 25 minutes everything wash. And your feet also takes time. Anyway then in the room then again praying this and that so I don't know it's half past 12 or 1 'o clock I go to bed. So by the time we get up at 2:30. I don't know must be 2:30 getting up. So we have an hour or two or so I feel that I am obeying Baba that I did sleep a little you know.

**DF:** Were you able to fall asleep actually?

**MEHERA:** Yes. That's what I'm saying that I what do you call it? Sleepy head [Mehera laughs]. That's the way you may put it. But I need sleep because in the night till 12 'o clock, half past 12 so one and a half hour or two hours you may count. I should be sleeping at 10. So I sleep at 12 that is 2 hours. Mostly half past 12. Sometimes quarter to 1 that I hit the pillow and so on. So that time of sleep is lost so in the afternoon I make up. So Baba knowing the future in 1965 Baba had told me to lie down in the afternoon.

**DF:** And before that you didn't have a habit of doing it?

**MEHERA:** No before that sometimes you used to sleep or not. Just like that rest a little or not. Read while lying down when Baba is in the mandali. Like that. Then maybe sometime had a nap or two but not in Baba's orders that it continues every day you must. Not like that. But since '65 Baba

told me then it's better Baba told me because then I don't feel guilty because I'm lying down in the afternoon. It's Baba's orders and in the night I'm late in bed so I make up for my sleep you see. Then I'm fresh in the morning.

**DF:** So say from 2 'o clock or 3 'o clock you.

**MEHERA:** 3 to 4. Then of course you get up and then you do your hair and dress and this and then it becomes 15 past 4, 20 past 4. So by half past four we have tea. So what is there to take down? Yes. This is bit like this like this you know.

**DF:** Yes. But it's nice to be able to remember Baba so much.

**MEHERA:** Yes.

**DF:** Baba sat here. You've see this chair and know Baba sat here [crosstalk].

**MEHERA:** Yes that is. This chair this red chair Baba once or twice has sat in that chair. Once or twice only. But it was not His custom to sit there. You know some reason once or twice or maybe three times.

**DF:** This chair also?

**MEHERA:** Not this chair.

**DF:** Not this cushion?

**MEHERA:** No, no, no never. Only that chair. I remember. Three times Baba must have sat in it. Once you know it was evening time. I don't know what year it was. In '64 what year it was something only like that. Year I don't remember. Baba was in His room. Now from half past



three. Now even earlier than that Baba was in His room. He had seclusion work He does you know. And then when He claps then the mandali was waiting outside. They open the door and then they open the door. This door from inside it is locked so they open that door. So then we are told to come in. So the mandali. Mandali means Bhau is there and then he goes away then we girls come in. Baba looks a bit tired like that.

**DF:** This is in the evening?

**MEHERA:** Ha, evening. I think quarter to three Baba used to come like that. After doing His work and all. And we are with Baba. Mani reads. Then Baba holding my hand He comes and be seated on that big chair you know Harry Kenmore's chair? There Baba was seated and Meheru would put a small stool there. Baba didn't have you know. That Harry Kenmore's chair this thing has to be. Baba never liked it like that. You know what I want to say?

**DF:** He used to put a stool.

**MEHERA:** So stool He liked His foot like this. And once like you know this hip is hurt so that joint Baba could not do much like that. This action Baba can't do. So He always like that or His foot straight on the stool. But this foot will be like that. And that way Baba in the afternoon would be seated and then Mani used to read. And after a while Baba would say, "I want to eat." So then food would be brought in. Plain dal and rice. I would serve on His plate. And then Baba would take the chutney and as Baba's says, "It's very hot but leave it. I like it." This means I like it. So Baba has that chutney is what do you call? Garlic, coriander leaves, salt and little bit of. What do you call it? Hot pepper tiny

bit a little bit and little bit of coconut. Tiny bit dry coconut. Everything little. Just this much chutney. You can't eat too much chutney also, hot. But garlic is very good for one. Baba always liked garlic. And so on.

**DF:** You used to stand in Baba's room or you would be seated [crosstalk].

**MEHERA:** No, no I would be seated on the chair near Baba's. Chair there are two chairs that chair I would be seated in. But that chair many times I would be seated but there were times. Sometimes that front is. Front window. I don't know this window on this side. Not Baba's bed window. That window. There's a stool. Sometimes I would be seated there. And on that chair then sometimes Arnavaz will be seated. Sometimes another one. But it was not.

**DF:** Fixed.

**MEHERA:** Fixed huh that I must sit on the chair. Mostly I did but sometimes I would let Arnavaz because she can't sit on a stool for long she is. Body also and her back is not strong, so I let her use that chair when she's here. So she would be here for some days only.

Then Mani used to read to Baba and so on. Baba when He found it amusing Baba would laugh and say, "How nice the way." [inaudible]. What is written inside Baba said, "How well."

**DF:** You would always be looking at Baba?

**MEHERA:** Yes. Looking at Baba also and when looking around also at Mani. What's she going to say what's she? And then we look at Baba and then Baba says, "Yes,"

And then watch Baba like how Baba has a twinkle in His eyes feeling happy and amused. And how much Baba's amused like that you know like. All the time. So then that would be in the evening.

**DF:** So then He would say, "Now time to go?"

**MEHERA:** Hmm. Then Baba says. No then Baba would be relaxing after eating and Mani would read more and more till half past 5. Then half past 5 Baba said, "Enough." Then Baba would say, "I want to go to the bed," Baba would say. And then Baba would put out His hand and they would take away the stools and all that. And Baba would. Very this thing. With one hand He would push Himself up and with one hand He would hold my hand like that to. Of course the getting up action you see you are using this much. We don't notice it because we have a normal hip. See you put your. See how much you do this. So that strain must [inaudible]. So holding my hand He used to pull, pull Himself up like that you know. So that was very uncomfortable for Baba.

And then Baba would be seated on His bed. Say, "Goodnight." Baba would kiss me goodnight and Mani. Others Baba did not embrace or kiss. Mani only in the evening time. But in the morning, early morning [Mehera laughs]. Morning kiss Baba would always give me alone Baba would. I used to go and first kiss Baba and in another second you know just two, three seconds kissing Baba. Baba would ask me, "Did I sleep well?" I said, "Yes Baba. Did you rest well?" Baba said. Like this means yes and no. Not well or a little bit. Yes and no this means like that. And that time Goher and then Mani and the others would come in. And we would.

They would talk about Baba's rest and health and Goher would ask Him. You know like that. And after that Baba would sit massage.

**DF:** They wouldn't I mean bow down to Baba [inaudible]?

**MEHERA:** No, no. Nobody bowed. We didn't join hands to Baba also. No we were just natural like that. And then Baba wanted us to massage His legs. Baba didn't like our bowing and joining hands to Him. Baba didn't like it. You have to have love and serve Baba. Just joining hands doesn't mean anything.

**DF:** So if you would leave by 5:30 or 6.

**MEHERA:** Hmm but then Bhau would come in.

**DF:** Bhau would come in but you would still stay on until midnight?

**MEHERA:** No. That time we went to bed early. Because once Baba. Baba's resting we must not make slightest sound. So we are all the time in whispers. Yes. And then when we were having.

**DF:** It was quiet outside to.

**MEHERA:** Yes.

**DF:** You're just in your rooms.

**MEHERA:** Yes. We are reading, sewing in our rooms. Stitching, writing letter or.

**DF:** Would Baba call you anytime? Very rare?

**MEHERA:** Very rarely Baba would. Very rare. Baba say something or. And there was

a time when Baba had His food very little in the evening. Maybe that long time ago 1962, '63, '61 like that long time ago. Then Baba used to say, "Baba wants little bit of food to eat." Dal rice. Then we all again would come back. That time there was no electricity. No electricity. There we had to carry a big what do you call?

**DF:** Kerosene lamp?

**MEHERA:** No this lamp what do you call this? Table lamp, table lamp. Big table lamp. Then Mani would read by the table lamp or Baba wanted it not then not. But she had kept that book ready. Then after serving food to Baba Baba would eat a little. Then Baba would sit to talk a little with us like that. Maybe that time He did not feel sleepy and maybe He was restless something He would.

**DF:** In the mornings you would shave Him before breakfast? In the mornings you would shave Baba before breakfast?

**MEHERA:** Baba shaved Himself.

**DF:** With that electric?

**MEHERA:** Electric yes.

**DF:** Before breakfast?

**MEHERA:** Yes. Baba shaved Himself. But what was I saying?

**DF:** About the no electricity?

**MEHERA:** Umm. Baba when He. After massaging Baba's feet and legs and Mani massaged His back very nicely and all that then Baba turned over on His back and Goher would say. Tell Baba that to do His leg exercises because Baba's not walking

so these muscles are getting weak. It's not good. They did become weak you know. You must walk. Walking keeps the muscles toned. So then Baba used to do His exercise like this. You know turning like that, like that. Or contracting the muscles or that Goher would tell Baba to do and so Baba used to do that. I would stand and count all. How many times He's done. So that would make Baba interested you know. I said, "Baba you've done only 10 times Baba." Baba said, "That's enough. Now the other exercise which are they?" So Baba wanted to skip fast, fast all the exercise He would then. He didn't. What would you call it? He didn't feel like. He wasn't very interested in doing the exercises but He was told by Goher that He must so He didn't want to do it because Goher is doctor and so Baba said, "Alright," And so on.

And after that Baba would say, "I want to get up." So I think to get up also. This is right side no but I don't know somehow it was uncomfortable for Baba. [sound of a bird calling] Funny call of the bird that no? And so then Baba would be lying Baba said, "I want to get up." So that time then I put my hand under Baba's shoulder here. Like that. This hand was out like that. So Baba would hold this hand and just a little lifting of the shoulder like this push and then Baba Himself would. And then Baba would get up. Every time. Yes.

**DF:** You'd bring a fresh sadra sometimes for Him?

**MEHERA:** Fresh what?

**DF:** Sadra.

**MEHERA:** Yes. Every day is not fresh. When we see that it needs to be changed

then we change. And so Baba would say, "Sadra," Then I would bring a sadra. And you know the skirt. It's long sadras. So I'd gather all this like that, like that, like that till the neck you know and then put the sadra over Baba's head like that and then Baba would take the sleeve and then Baba would wear the sleeve and push sadra down like that. And so on. Then Baba said, "Is it warm or is it cold? How is it?" This means cold. So is it cold or is it warm? So we would say, "No Baba it's quite pleasant it's not cold." Baba said, "Alright give me the thin cotton coat." This means thin cotton coat. Something fluttering in the air like that you know how Baba says I want thin cotton coat. So then we knew Baba's sign. There has to be some signs to understand.

**DF:** You know sometimes Eruch and then they would repeat everything Baba would gesture. Did someone there also?

**MEHERA:** Yes we did that also. Sometimes we understood it was we said, "Yes Baba." And I will get the cotton coat. "You want the cotton coat yes Baba." And so cotton coat I will hold it at the back. Baba will put it on and then Baba will button. So when He buttoning I will quickly want to button the last few buttons but Baba was too quick for me [Mehera laughs]. Only the one button I got to button and I would like doing it. But Baba would do it so fast, fast buttoned His coats.  
Jai Baba.

So then Baba that was morning time. Then He came only asking for shave. All these years Baba always shaved Himself you know. And washed and everything. Only I used to mix tea for Him and pour it in the big saucer and Baba used to drink it. Baba would blow on it like this and first two

three times and drink the tea because it will be hot. But it will be in the saucer then it would cool very quickly then Baba. Baba didn't like to sip from the cup. It was.

**DF:** He would pour it Himself?

**MEHERA:** In the big saucer. Make it in a cup. Sugar and milk and tea. Then pour it in the saucer and put the saucer in front of. The saucer was like a bowl. It was very big. It was not small saucer. It's very deep. And then Baba would take it and sip it slowly. But it was 1928. Yes.

**DF:** [Inaudible]

**MEHERA:** Yes [inaudible].

**DF:** Rano said she would [inaudible] get the water of [inaudible]?

**MEHERA:** That is when He was washing His face. When Baba's washing His face. Baba His hip is this thing so He did not come to the bathing room. What would you call it? Bathing room is? You know this we call it mori [foreign] in Indian style. Yes. So when He did not have an accident or even after His first accident Baba could walk and He could stand so Baba even then. Before that also always Baba came to the bathing room. What do you call bathing room? Bathroom. And there they had made like a what do you call it? Like a [inaudible]. How this thing has a. What do you call? Bathing na the bathing place is there but it has a little what do you call? Wall. So if Baba washes His face it will come on. So that high we had made a little partition like that. And over that Baba washes. It was not so high. Baba could wash like that and the sprays would not come. So that thing still is in Baba's bathroom and Baba's.

**DF:** [Inaudible]

**MEHERA:** No, no there's no bathroom here. Real bathroom is there. Big room it is. And there Baba used to bathe and in the same bathroom I used to. I use that bathroom and Baba. Otherwise the girls would use the outside. Because outside is very convenient. The servants can quickly. From the kitchen waters hot quickly put there. To bring it in this bathroom also is not convenient. Then anyway they didn't want to use it because Baba's using it and all that. So we divided this way that then that bathroom for few people is alright then two people. Rano always has a bath here. When Arnavaz is here she has a bath here and Naja has her bath here. Otherwise all the other girls they all have it there. Even if Katie comes or. Mani and Goher, Meheru they all have there. But I use this bathroom always. When Baba was here physically then also and now also. It's good because it's very convenient for me to keep all my clothes there. So what I was saying is. Let me see now let me see.

**DF:** Baba's washing His face.

**MEHERA:** Yes. So when Baba was. Did not have that second accident I'm talking about that time and even before the first accident always from very first when we were in this house Baba used to come to this bathroom there. You know there's a mirror. Hand mirror with a handle. Baba was. That time there was no electric shave. That was long before Harry Kenmore knew Baba. You know what I want to say? So long. That time. So Baba used to brush and what do you call that? Soap and brush and all that? That type of Baba didn't like it. All this damp here and winter time also so. At that time I had a cotton little small bib like

that. Cotton tied like a collar here. So that water would not drip on Baba's coat or like that you know. So Baba used to wash His face in the bathroom and I would be alone there to hand Him the soap, to give Him the towel, to pour the water on His hand you know like that. So I would always be there and then to take the shaver from the hand and like that. Always all these years.

But after second accident Baba did not come to the bathroom because He could not. Can't stand. He can't bear weight. Second accident I'm talking about. After that 1956. Yes but 1956 Baba was always in bed. 1957 when He was started to walk a bit then He would come to the dining table. There Baba washed His face. Face and all that. Shaved also. Yes and I did His hair and Baba had His breakfast there. Everything at the dining table. Because Baba once is seated in the chair then getting up and sitting down that is also very inconvenient for Baba. Uncomfortable Baba because of His hip.

So once He's sit then music we play there on the tape and what do you call it? Radio or whatever you call it. Transistor. Goher would bring and then she would put it on. Mani would be working in the office. Correspondence and go to the mandali and then she would come here. Have a cup of tea or not or. You know she would be here for 5 minutes sometimes 10 minutes sometimes 3 minutes as she. As time allowed her I don't know. She would be for little while like that and she would go back again.

So when Baba was washing face mostly Baba, I and Goher were alone with Baba. Meheru would bring the warm water on a stool. And Baba's dining chair is facing the

table. Then this. Then Baba has to wash His face. Baba would say I want to wash His face and so Baba holding the table Baba would get up you know. Means chair then I turn it this way. The table is here. The chair. Then I turn the chair this way. Means you can. It's open space here and then stool is front of Baba and then another stool in front of Baba here. One stool on the side to put the pail of water. Warm water. Baba didn't like hot water. And then very big aluminum basin. It is that big and. And bib as you call it plastic one you know. Fine plastic one.

Pretty design on it and that [inaudible] it is very big all up till here. Because the water must not come on Baba's feet also. Baba uses much water so. And then that bib is so big like that so it is put on the table also. Like that you know. This is on the table and this part also goes in the. The water gathers here. All this is here bib all like that on the table and Goher is there. She puts. The sugar bottle is there. She puts little bit weight here. And then on this then the water falls in the little small basin here. Because Baba splashes much water. Baba does not use little water. Baba likes much water. When bathing Baba liked lot of water you know. Before He used to have 5-6 pails to bathe and what He did with that pail? So much water but He loved much water.

So this is when the bib. And then I used to hook it at the back so the bib is like tight here and all covered here also. Bib is big so much that is covered here also. But Baba puts up His sleeve like that. Sleeve here so this sprays are here. After washing His face Baba dried His face and then Baba dries His hand a few sprays that have come on Baba and then He puts the coat sleeves down like that. And then I give

Him very soft kerchief because Baba likes to take water [inaudible]. Behind the nose to clean the nostrils. Yes and that way. So Baba cleans the nostril then fine, very fine soft kerchief which is handmade from very fine muslin special. And that I give Him. With that Baba dries His nostrils. And then Baba finished washing His face. Baba tidies His moustache like this then Baba. Music is going on. Goher quickly puts on the music. Baba hears music. Baba says, "This is very nice song. Very nice voice and the song is good also." This means the song they're singing. And so on.

Then if there's qawwali Baba loved the qawwali songs also very much. Baba loved to hear qawwali. Sometimes Baba would. After washing face Baba would ask, "How do I look?" You know. Means pale or is He looking well? Then we'd say, "Baba you look fine Baba." Someone would say, "Baba you look." I would say sometimes, "Baba you look sweet," Or "You're beautiful Baba." Baba said, "Alright?" "Yes Baba." So Baba knew maybe He was feeling weak and all that that's why maybe He wanted to know how He looked and all. But Baba always looked lovely complexion Baba had. At this age also Baba never had a wrinkle. No. Only here this is very natural for us to have this. Otherwise to have wrinkles around the eyes much or something like that. Not so much. This will be Baba's in His 62 years old.

**DF:** Really?

**MEHERA:** Hmm 62. Now in 1956. This is 1956. 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62. 60 years you must add on to.

**DF:** Baba's age. The year. He looked quite young.

**MEHERA:** Yes. In that case His cheeks are nice and smooth you can see. You see?

**DF:** Yes.

**MEHERA:** Eyes aren't have so many wrinkles. Doesn't have. His eyes are youngish. Baba is always young because His love is young. He is God and He is Eternal. Only the physical body has to take the natural process of becoming old. So this I want to tell you that in. When He did not have an accident always He washed His face alone in the bathroom. Shaved there and washed His face then came in the dining room to have His breakfast. But after this then always holding my hand He would walk from the bedroom. Then the girls follow Him. We all would come. And then in dining room there were Rano, Goher they would pull the chair away

because Baba has to take His place at the dining table you know. And Baba's holding my hand so by the. He comes around like that holding there. Then Baba's holding the edge of the dining table like that and then they give Him the chair. Push it inward properly for Him to be seated and then Baba. His weight on the dining table Baba would. See because His hip. Huh, to bear weight. The hip bone is broken. That must have. So it was so sad now I feel that because Baba could not talk. And then now He can't walk and He loved to walk. He loved to sing and He could not sing. All this sacrifice He did for us. Through suffering they do their work you know. And so much love His was that for us He suffered.