

EF-002A**Eruch Jessawala**

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

1980s

47:51

Content

[Eruch mentions, "You had heard this morning before tea time about people who died and when contacted via automatic writing told their heirs to go to Baba." Thus, the talk starts with occultism and automatic writing and Baba's de-emphasis on all those things.] "When Baba was with us, He used to dissuade us from dabbling in such things. He would stop someone who had come to visit Baba, and tell him not to do it. The wonderful thing is, that which he didn't want us to do, he used it to bring the family to Him. So from that, the thought had come to my mind that how true it is that Baba used to tell us, "Do as I tell you to do, not as I do." He may use any instrument in His purposes. At the time when so many young people from the West were using drugs, He used that as an instrument to bring so many of them to Him. Through marijuana and LSD and other things, He brought people to Him, but it doesn't mean that we should use those drugs once He is found."

[Jack Small says someone had a vision of Baba after an automobile accident. He's probably referring to Sharon Muir's experience in the early 1970s. Jack concludes that it doesn't mean that people should have automobile accidents. This gets a predictable laugh. Ed says it'll never catch on (as a means for getting close to Baba). Eruch now chats with James Cox.]

"You may not have heard about another story like that: Before tea time, you heard the stories of these ordinary dead people. Ordinary householders and sons who died are directing their people to go to Meher Baba. But there is another fantastic story about a certain person who came from America. A total stranger entered the hall one day. He didn't know anything about Baba. We said, "Jai Baba" and he said, "Good afternoon." Because we didn't know him, there was pin-drop silence. Finally, we had to speak to him, so I started trying to bring out some words. "Well, where did you come from, when did you arrive..." and in monosyllables he answered, "I've just arrived, from the States."

"How long ago did you hear about Meher Baba?"

"15 days."

"Somebody must have told you?"

"Yeah."

"Who told you?"

"Yogananda."

"Yogananda? In the States?"

"Yeah."

I kept quiet. There are so many people who go by that name. I scratched my neck and finally said, "Which Yogananda?"

"Haven't you heard the name of Paramahansa Yogananda?"

"Yeah, I heard it, but he died long back. How did you hear about Meher Baba from him?"
Eventually he consented to tell us his story.

[Yogananda was born 1893, died in Los Angeles in 1952, was a spiritual figure for most of those years.]

He said, "My parents were staunch followers of Paramahansa Yogananda. I was brought up from my childhood to love him, reading his life story. As I grew up, I became more earnest about him. I longed to see him. That urge went to a pitch that there was a real longing created in me. Fifteen days ago, while I was resting in bed, I saw him standing by my bedstead. I felt within myself that he was not happy to see me. He scowled and ordered me, 'I want you to go to Meher Baba.' I tried to find out, and the upshot is that I am here." Maybe this happened in the late 1970s.

[One westerner chimes in and says that Jack Small says that many people have come to Baba through Yogananda and that Yogananda said himself that his mission was to bring followers to the feet of the lord.]

Eruch: Anyway this is what happened, and when I saw Eric he said that he had come through this path as well.

[One Indian says he has a book written by Yogananda. Eruch came across some person who had lived with Yogananda, who is the father of another Baba lover. He's now a Baba lover. One Indian said there is a Mr. Wright who is a follower of Yogananda. The internet says, "Richard Wright served as Yogananda's personal secretary for many years."]

[Ed talks about an initiation he had many years ago into the Kriya Yoga business of Yogananda. Eruch teases him by giving him an Indian name that causes all the Indians to laugh. Eruch says Ed should have behaved more respectfully toward the person who initiated him. Eruch says there is a clerk in the office who is from the Salvation Army, and the way Ed was embracing Eruch was noticed by this person through the window, and when Eruch went into his room he said, "The gentleman seems to have come after long time." Eruch told him that the gentleman is Father Flanagan, and this shocked the person in the office, who was reading the Glow article about Ed when Eruch left the office.]

[About Eruch smoking, Eruch explained that Baba used to send him out for a smoke, because so much of his mind was on the addiction that Baba wanted him to take a break, get the smoke and come back ready to work for Baba. Eruch tells the story about giving up smoking, and the interaction with Merwan Mistry who, as a kid, was hyper-active. Eruch told him that when Eruch found that Merwan Mistry had stopped being hyper-active, Eruch would give up smoking. Years passed by but one fine day many years later at Guruprasad in Pune, a voice says, "Eruch uncle, do you know that I have passed my exams and am going for higher studies?" All of a sudden it dawned on Eruch that such a change had come over Merwan Mistry. That night, Eruch realized that he had said that to Merwan, and realized that now he had to stop smoking. Now Merwan has picked up chain smoking, James Cox says, and smokes like a chimney!]

[Eruch then explains that he was shy about telling anyone that he had given up smoking. When people used to offer him a cigarette, he would turn them down. Finally, after some time, Harry Dedolchow, Baba's sailor boy, came to visit Baba and brought many cartons of cigarettes. Harry always came with gifts for the mandali, and he brought a suitcase with gifts for the mandali, and it was full of different brands of cigarettes from all over the world. Baba was happy to see it, and He looked at Eruch, saying "What a treasure you have brought." It was a scene created by Baba, which caused Eruch to admit to Baba that he had stopped smoking. Eruch admits that he still has a desire. He derives pleasure out of sitting next to people who smoke to smell the aroma of it. He says he is in the subtle planes.]

Baba remembers Gustadji fondly on the occasion of Gustadji's death. Baba's eyes started watering, and Baba told us to leave the room so He could be by Himself, and when after a few minutes Baba called for the mandali to return to the room, He said, "He was indeed my good companion."

Eruch then tells the story that Prophet Muhammad once cried for a child that had died, and when reproached by his companions for showing attachment to the child, the Prophet responded that these tears were the portion of the child, that the Prophet should shed tears over the child.

Eruch tells the story about being with Baba on travel at 4 AM in a station platform waiting for a train. This leads to the story of the tea stall and the oranges and the boy who sells the mandali for oranges at a discount (as Eruch barter for them), and the father worshipping Baba's picture. This story appears in many places even within these tapes. Boy asks 12 annas a dozen, Eruch offers 8 annas a dozen, and they paid 4 annas and got 6 oranges. Man comes back to fight with them over the price of the oranges.

"It was in his lot that while he was praying to me, I was standing at his side. That much and no more."

...very humorous part that Baba himself liked.

[Ed asks about Baba making sounds, and Mani says no laughing audible, just cough and sneeze, but otherwise nothing.]

Burleson was amazed that Baba made no sound through all the pain and suffering of the 1952 accident not a sound had been uttered. Burleson saw Baba's light reflected from the rest of us. Burleson was a great, great person. He was a person who had not been touched by Baba's love. Some non-Baba lovers were given the opportunity to see Him by Baba, and doctors were foremost among those who had this privilege. [Mani comments that maybe some of these doctors will have an appointment with God knowingly when he comes again.]

Doctors who saw Baba in Ahmednagar some of them never became Baba lovers, though one commented that Baba looked like a heavenly being walking through the gates of Meher Nazar, though Baba covered up after that.

Baba sometimes gives an answer to some thought many years after the occasion of asking. Once on the Blue Bus tour it was bath time for Baba. We would all go in procession with Baba into the big bathroom. There would be a role for each of them [Mani goes on about the various roles and the beautiful smell of His sadra.] Baba bathed with His silk shorts on, till Baba would shoo the women out, and Mani would think that now it was the task of the angels to minister to Him.

In later years, Baba's body did not support him as well as in the earlier years.

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