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## STORIES

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### A FLAG STATION; OUR LIFE WITH MEHER BABA; 1956 ACCIDENT AND AFTERWARDS

#### **Eruch Jessawala**

Mandali Hall, Meherazad, India

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47:56

**ERUCH:** You know Baba's silence, that silence was a constant help you see to Baba during His ministry. Because Baba could be very free in His expressions, with His people who were around Him, because people who were around Him knew His gestures. Whereas the rest of the people who surrounded Him, say in the public streets or on station platforms or at the shrines or in big fairs you see, where he was lost in the crowd you see, and so forth.

So one day, it so happened, that His silence, became so telling to the crowd who were around Him. So the story is based on that.

After long, long travel, Baba wanted to contact a certain mast in a very small town. A township.—it was not even a town. You may call it a little bigger than a village. And being a place which was not large enough to have a big station or anything, it was just a sort of flag station, as we call it. I don't know whether you have such flag stations in the States, where the trains stops at the whim and will of the guard or the Station Master when they put a red flag you see, when there are passengers or parcels to be carried from the station. Otherwise the train just moves on, without stopping. So there are flag stations.

Now it so happened that we got down. Because of the mast there, we had to get down. We had to indicate the guard saying that we want to get down at the station. So we got down at the station and with all our luggage and Baba in our midst. We made, we selected a portion of the platform there you see, at the remote corner, and we made our abode there so to say, for the night. It was evening time, so we were there. No sooner we got down, we made enquiries whether the mast was there or not. He being a very famous person, we were told that he had gone to some other village. He was not there in the village. So we waited there patiently. That place is also famous for a shrine of a Saint. So, and people used to get down at that place you see. Passengers would get down at the place to pay their homage and then return by the next train. So these people who were there on the platform, when we came to know that the mast was outside, had gone out, we waited there for the mast to return and then go and contact him. So what we did during that time was to sit on our own luggage you see. There was no bench or anything there, that flag station. Nothing was there. So we just kept seated there. Baba in our midst and we were seated. And naturally when we are by ourselves, we start our conversation

and people could find out from Baba's gestures that Baba was unable to speak. So these people who were, 2 or 3 people who were just loitering there and gazing and watching at the show there — that is us, they came to know that Baba couldn't speak. Was not speaking. That means was not speaking. He was observing — they didn't know that He was observing silence or anything of the sort.

So, well, seeing them, six more people surrounded us. Seeing six more, there were others surrounding us. And one or two even dared to say to us you see, come too close to me and say that, "Look here, now is the time that you should go, otherwise the shrine shuts. Now is a very good time, good hour, you go there, and we assure that whatever you ask you will be given, the boon will be there, he's so great." I said, "What are you talking about? What do you want me to do? Where, go where?" He says, "Don't you know that? We know, we know why you have come, don't try to hide from us, we know! What a handsome personality, such a flower in this creation." They started now admiring Baba's beauty and say, "But in spite of it all, Baba has not been — this man is not blessed with speech and we assure, that if you were to go and ask, His speech will be restored." But we said that, "But we don't want to go." He says, "Don't hesitate, in this spiritual, what do you call, it's not a begging. There's nothing shameful about it. Why don't you go and ask, and you'll get, I'm sure you'll get the speech. He can't speak, it's your duty to go and ask, plead to give him speech."

So, the crowd then pressed us and forced us to go, you see. We didn't want to go. But then naturally we knew, when Baba kept quiet and he enjoyed the whole thing and we had to face this pigeon you see. This man and that woman and another old man comes and another man comes, pressing us to go and go and go. And we can't, you see, when we go out for such things, it's taken as an insult if we don't go to a shrine and pay our respects there. They don't like the idea. So we had to accept the fact that all right we'll go there. Knowing fully well why we would want to go, we just would go there to pay our respects, that's all. So we took Baba with us and all that. Says, "Look here, don't forget, go and ask, there's no shame in asking for anything and I'm sure, we are sure you'll get the boon."

So we went there just to pacify the crowd you see. And just paid our respects there and came out. But there were people who were much worried about Baba's speech you see. They wanted Baba to speak. Baba being so handsome, He has been blessed with all the great qualities you see, and just one little thing is missing and that is speech. So that's how we were pestered that day, by the crowd to go there and ask for a boon that Baba's speech be restored.

Well life with Baba you see, is not a bed of roses. We also had to encounter many thorns. Thorns, big thorns, small thorns you see. And then, but that didn't matter in the least. Our life with Baba was so — we were so engrossed with our life with Baba, that we had no time you see, to feel that we were treading on thorns or that we were treading on rose petals. But, sometimes, sometimes, very rare occasions

when we did, not we, but our bodies did feel the stress and strain of that continuous life of exertion with Baba. We didn't know from where did Baba derive His energy. He being the master of energy Himself or energy personified, well He could cope up with all that. But our bodies couldn't cope up you see. We were very strong people around Him. And in spite of our strength and stamina, sometimes rarely, we did feel the strain. We told Baba also about it. Baba would give us time to rest but that would all the more you see, be harmful to our body. Because rest was not sufficient for us. It was not something which would just revive our energies. It would be very short lived. And that would be something very annoying to the body as well as to the mind you see. So in the long run we found that, such sort rests, rest periods were on the contrary detrimental to our health, rather than giving us relaxation and reviving our energy.

He would ask us to go to sleep you see, for an hour or so in the afternoon, after many, many days or weeks of travel. But then, being Baba, by our side, in His presence you see. Because the body would be tired. No sooner we just lie down, we'd begin to snore loudly. Completely forgetting Baba's presence or anything of the sort. But then Baba would wake us up within half an hour or three quarters of an hour, and that would be terrible you see to our body. It's a great disturbance. And I don't know whether you all have felt it or not, but this is a fact that body recoils you see. You know, it's like, have you seen an engine stalling you see car? And shaking the whole car you see? Something happens you see. The engine wants the car to move. It would be easy on the engine you see if the car is in motion. But when the car is stopped you see, and there is a stalling and the car starts rattling so to say, and jerking like that. So likewise, when the body is absolutely tired and some opportunity is given to rest, and it takes rest. But during the course of its resting, if somebody disturbs the rest, then such a thing happens to the body. Actually you feel the vibrations within the body you see. You feel the body shaking like that, all the time. Not tremors, not that type, but there is something within. The engine within somehow or the other you see, creates such a situation there. And it's very — very harmful to the body. So it was thought best that we shouldn't take rest. So we never, never thought of taking rest in the afternoon. No siesta or anything of the sort. It's impossible. Well it used to spoil the whole day you see.

So, well we continued our little life like that with Baba. In the nights we used to get some rest. But at nights also we used to do some work. We had to keep watch near Baba you see. There were shifts. Three hour shifts, depending upon the person. Sometimes four hour shifts. If there are a good number of persons, then two hours shifts were there too. So, that was something. We could have some time to sleep then.

But for me, it so happened that I would be the last person to leave Baba. Because I had to see to Baba till the last moment you see, when He Himself would tell me to go and retire. So I will have to be the last to leave Baba. In the meantime, Mandali could get more hours of rest and relaxation. And I had to be the first person to

contact Baba in the morning, early hours of the morning. Why? Because I had to see, I had to wake Him up so to say. And from that moment I had to continue to be with Him till the last moment, when He asked me to retire in the night. So it was too much of a strain on my body, after some years of service to Him. So well, the body of course couldn't stand that for some time and then the mind started playing its own trick. And sometimes the mind would prompt me, "What the hell am I doing over here? Why should I do all this here?"

First of all I used to take pride you see, in trying to serve Him, and then — till the end of course I used to take pride, but then there were periods when the mind would sometimes play havoc you see. It says, "Of what use? You're wasting this energy and strength and stamina. What use would it be?" But that, with Baba's grace and His help you see, inward help, I could overcome all these things you see. I didn't care for it. It's just passing flashes would come like that. Nothing more. But I remember on one occasion, I was caught. And my mind overpowered me, and that was the last, first and the last occasion and I think I had told you once before. And, that I was fed up you see. Because no sooner I used to complete one chore, Baba would be ready with another one. Anything. Whether I had travelled hundreds of miles or whether I had travelled ten miles, there would be something ready, no sooner I used to meet Baba and see Him. Whatever it be. I didn't mind all that.

But one day, my mind said, of what use my returning to Baba after finishing a work that He had given? So I slept. With a purpose I slept. Determined not to go back because going back meant nothing and more work you see, and more work, and more work. And there's no end to this work you see. And as if all this was not proper and good you see, what I still remember that there was no bed. Nothing of the sort you see. So once I remember, a place called Jabalpur you see. Lot of mosquitoes there. No mosquito nets or anything of the sort. We had to just be where — we were so tired, the bodies were so tired that no sooner we go, we lie relaxed on the ground, finished, we are gone. We are no more on this earth so to say. But I remember one thing, to top it all, this Mohammad was once with us you see, and he would choose you see, to sit right there where I would want to go to sleep you see. And if I were to change my place, he'd come back and sit there you see. And he would continue to sit there, by my side there. And then he would murmur and murmur. I didn't know, because I was oblivious to all these things, I used to go to sleep, no doubt about it. Then you'd wonder as to who would wake me up? It's the person who was on the night watch naturally. The man who sits there. So therefore we had nothing to fear on that score.

But one day, I went purposely to sleep you see. Right on the street. On the road — highway. There was a culvert there and I went to sleep. I said, "It's no use my going back to Baba." If I were to go back to Baba, what would happen, he would give me more work. And I went to sleep. So then when I returned home, Baba questioned me as to why was I late. So I said, "Well Baba, this work was this and then this and that." And He actually counted the hours that I took you see and all

that. And then, He made me vomit out what I felt you see. And I said “This was the thing.” So He just pinched my ear and twisted it and said, “Never again should I ever harvest such feeling or thoughts and never I should do such a thing.” And I think that was the last. But then I, quite often I had to speak out to Baba that body was getting very tired. Specially just before the accident I told Baba about it. You know the last accident that — I was so tired that I had to one day, I remember that 15 days prior to the accident, I told Baba about it in Satara. That I am now getting so tired. This body’s getting so tired that it’s impossible to drive the car now safely. I did say these words you see. He says. “Why do you worry about it. It’s not for you to think over this.” I said, “But Baba I remember — Baba I have the responsibility, I feel that Your body is traveling with my body you see, so I must be very careful about it and I plead and I beg of you now to just relieve me of this duty.” But Baba says, “ Well, nothing, you continue with it.” So I had to do it. But I had that premonition within me. And it was a fact, it was a fact.

But that day when the accident took place, I was feeling as fresh as anything. There was no fatigue or nothing of the sort. Nothing of the sort, because that was a day of great relaxation, and when I was preoccupied and everything there, and the journey was safe and when the day was —nothing of but to relax. Baba went from Satara to Pune to see a cricket match, and from there we returned home, that’s all. There was no work. Nothing to do with mast hunting or poor hunting or do this or do that, nothing. Complete relaxation. But in the midst of all this naturally with intense activity, there was no accident. But when I relaxed, there was this accident. That’s how we — I met with that accident, in Satara.

**PILGRIM 1:** What happened?

**ERUCH:** What happened what?

**PILGRIM 1:** In the accident I mean, you were driving I mean?

**ERUCH:** So there was nothing. Nothing happened. Nobody to this day knows about it. What happened you see? And the judgment that has been given by the court is — it’s the hand of God.

[General laughter]

Nobody knows because we were all involved in the accident. I [inaudible] and Baba of course was there. The first thing that I found out when I got out of my unconscious state. I was out, thrown out of the car you see, so I just — my hand was on — left hand was on the steering you see. I must have spilled out, so to say. Out of the car, front door. And when I got up, I just saw Baba who was by my side, sitting there. He was seated there, and the first thing that I saw was that, He showed me His tongue, and it was bleeding. Then I came to realize what had happened. “What’s this Baba?” I asked. On the contrary I asked Him. “So what is it, what has happened Baba?” He showed me His tongue. I said, “It’s bleeding Baba, where did

you get the cut from?" I completely lost that it was an accident, no memory at all. So then Baba says, "Paining. This is also paining." Then I got up immediately you see, and then I took charge of the whole situation. And then, I went on the roadside there and then stopped the car that was coming and made Baba sit. Vishnu was the least hurt, who had seen all this. But he has also no memory he says. He died of course. Not in the accident, but after many years. But when we asked him, I said, "Vishnu, you were all alive you see, you were, nothing happened to you. You were seeing." He says, "I tell you honestly, I don't know what has happened."

We were chatting, talking, everything was there. We were going so slow. We just— a ride, a pleasant ride you see. Baba tells me that we have to go slow because there's no hurry to go. So we are going— otherwise Baba sometimes used to ask me to speed like anything. Nothing happened during those days and this just. We don't know what happened. Don't know. And the car turned in the direction of Pune instead of Satara, [Eruch laughs] when I saw it. We don't know. Nothing happened. Nothing had happened to anything or some — there was no oil. People thought that there must have been oil and the car must have skidded. But if it skidded, the memory must be there isn't it that it skidded. Suppose if I lose the memory, what has happened to Vishnu? Pendu was thrown out. Nilu was thrown, Dr. Neelkanth was thrown out. Myself thrown out. Baba was in the car and Vishnu was in the car. Nobody knew that. I did not know that I was hurt too you see, severely. But I had to take the whole situation in my hand, to see that Baba went back home safe. I didn't —

**PILGRIM 1:** What did you do?

**ERUCH:** But what must be Baba's pain, because I didn't realize what had happened to Baba you see. That Baba had busted His hip joint, I never realized that. Nobody realized anything. I didn't even realize that Nilu is dead or that Pendu's pelvis is cracked or anything, nothing of the sort. That I had cracked my some five ribs and all bruises inside and all that. Nothing helped, nothing was there. Everything was all right, we thought. And then I stopped the car, I told — Baba walked you see, taking support of my shoulder. I got Him out of the culvert you see, and then to the highway again. From the car, with all that broken hip mind you. How He must have walked, I don't know. And then made Him sit inside the car, and the car was over full. I begged of the passengers to just make room for Vishnu to sit. So Baba was made to sit in the front. How He must have been pressed you see on the wound there, I don't know. With all that did, Baba went there, back to the place where the women live. Baba's room there. And Vishnu took the family, the car, and the owner of the car to their place. The women were surprised. I don't know what has happened there.

And here, Baba's car and belongings are there so I stopped another truck that was going in the opposite direction and said, "Take us back to Satara, we have met with an accident." So I helped, so the driver helped me to lift the bodies of Pendu and

Nilu. I just took out the seat, rear seat you see. Made pillows for them and put the bodies in the truck like that. And then I went down and jumped and up and again and brought all the luggage and put there and all that and locked the car and everything was there and locked the dicky and all. Everything safe. Baba's hat was there and Baba's scarf and everything I collected you see, and I jumped inside the car and — on the truck there. And then I don't know. I just black out. Then I find myself in the hospital.

**PILGRIM 1:** What, did you faint?

**ERUCH:** Yes, I must have fainted again.

**PILGRIM 1:** Pendu was unconscious at this time wasn't he? Pendu?

**ERUCH:** Pendu and Nilu, both were unconscious. Then I came to know that Nilu was dead already. Liver had busted you see. He was thrown out. Nilu was the one you see who told Baba that he would like to see Chou En Lai in Pune. We just remained. He went out of the car [Eruch laughs], and he did go out of the orbit. You know Chou En Lai was visiting. We went to Pune that day. It was a terrible thing you see. We didn't know why Baba wanted us to fast that day. Baba told us to keep quiet over the things. He said, "Don't allow anybody to know. I want you all to fast that day and not to smoke, not even to drink water. And see that you don't allow this little information to leak out to women or to the Mandali." So we kept the information to ourselves. We didn't take water. We didn't take tea in the morning, we didn't smoke or anything of the sort. And we started and He says, "This will last for 24 hours, and don't take it." So I said, we said alright, what's there in that. We have been doing this for so many times.

That day it so happened that, naturally when we were in Pune, before the match started while we entered Pune. No, no I'm sorry. After the match had ended and all that and Baba returned you see. So on route, the traffic was just put to a halt. Why? Because Chou En Lai was to visit the National Defense Academy you see there. In Pune, there is a big National Defense Academy there and he was taken you see there, for inspection or something like that. Those were the days when India and China were bhai-bhai, brother-brother, yeah. The stab in the back was not there you see at the time. But it happened soon after this. Just his return there and it's happened. So, we stopped our car, Baba was in the car and all of us, who cared for anybody you see going there? Any dignitary, who cared when Baba was with us. But Dr. Nilu gets a whim you see. He says, "Baba, I would like to go down you see, and see Chou En Lai." Baba says, "What is there in his face, what's there is that?" He says, " No, I want to go and see." He says, "Alright, go and see him".

So he was the only person who went out, and then he came back and we started. The traffic was resumed, and then we left the place you see for Satara. We left Pune city for Satara. We could go for it. And then just few miles away from Satara you

see, we met with the accident. The place where we had played cricket match with Baba. Just there, a place called Utdara.

**PILGRIM 1:** When the car was in the culvert, you had to lift Pendu and Nilu ?

**ERUCH:** Yes, yeah.

**PILGRIM 1:** Out, I mean did the drivers help you? I mean how did you manage this with broken ribs and everything ?

**ERUCH:** That's what I am wondering myself you see. How must I have managed all this you see. From where did I get all that strength, and to lift the bodies up the truck—there you know. Truck, how high?

**PILGRIM 1:** You did it all by yourself?

**ERUCH:** No, with the help of the driver. Yeah. But I was the one who'd— why would any stranger help me like that? But he had to give me a helping hand so to say. But from where did I get the strength to lift such huge bodies you see and put them there? I was strong, no doubt about it at the time. But that doesn't mean that I was strong enough after the accident to lift the bodies like that.

And in the midst of all this, naturally the doctor wanted to have us some tablets or pills you see. So we didn't take, because we couldn't take it. So in the midst of all this Baba remembers this, and sends a message to us, that now everything is over. You can start taking water or anything or eat anything that is given. It was in the late evening, at about 8 o'clock.

**PILGRIM 1:** When did you see the other Mandali and Baba again? Did you see Baba again for some days or what?

**ERUCH:** No, no we were separated then. I think I must have seen Him — I was due in discharge after 20-30, month, over a month.

**PILGRIM 2:** For a month you didn't see Baba?

**ERUCH:** No. Baba was in — was taken care of by Dr. Donkin and Dr. Goher and other doctors you see. And we were, myself and Pendu were in Satara hospital, which is no good. Even the pups are kept in better rooms you see when they're treated there. It's a rural hospital, dirty as anything you see and horrible, horrible place.

And my uncle and my father and all wanted me to be removed to Pune you see for treatment. They brought the ambulance and everything. Removed me and Pendu to Pune. But that doctor didn't want us to be removed. He says, "It's on your own



responsibility, the case is serious. While they travel they'll go, collapse." Because I think I must have exerted a lot. Because that's why, so I was put in — my body, I remember my body was being shoved inside the ambulance and the Doctor came at the spot. The in charge says, "It's on your own responsibility, you take the bodies from here." So we were again told again the same hovel there.

Another thing that Baba told me. "Don't go to Pune". You know while I was taking Baba to that car, from that site of accident, He told me to "Bring all — that we should all go back to Satara, not to Pune." So, so that was the direction that Baba gave me last.

It was considered to be a day of eclipse that day you see. And Indians are so superstitious you see, they never travel on that day. The eclipse of the sun. And Meherjee had come you see, with us that day from Satara. Meherjee stayed overnight with us. So when we started in the morning, to pick up Baba from another place. I got the car out of the gate and no sooner I got the car out of the gate, outside the gate we met a Parsi priest you see, crossing us. So what Meherjee says, "Oh hell with him. You know Eruch, what's the sign. This means sure death you see." I said, "Whose?" He says, "It's a bad sign. To see a Parsi priest crossing us." I said, "It's a sign, Parsi priest means what, so auspicious you see. You are yourself a priest." So that's why I say you see, it's a sign of sure death. [General muted laughter].

And we laughed and it was just taken in good humor and all that, but we did return with a dead body that day. Meherjee was dropped in Pune, and his place was taken by Vishnu, who was in Pune, you follow.

**PILGRIM 1:** But wasn't there a great difference in Baba's health before and after the accident? In terms of His activities?

**ERUCH:** Of course, of course, definitely. After the 1956 accident you see, activities were much curbed. Physical activities, His going about and moving about. But apart from all this we had thought, that from the reports that we received from Dr. Watson Jones you see, he was considered to be a world famous orthopedic surgeon. The reports that we received from him— that this man will never be able to walk again. When the x-rays were shown to him you see, he just threw the x-rays on the table, he says, "This is a case which is irreparable. Nothing can be done." And we were very much dismayed to hear this. And specially it affected me a lot because, I considered myself to be the one, the culprit so to say, the instrument, whatever you call it. So for many, many years I was much affected. I was all the time with Baba, so mentally I was much affected. And since then my health also deteriorated. I am not what I was or I used to be apart from age or anything. That spirit and everything is all gone.

So, but then, Baba always comforted us with the words that— and he just scoffed and laughed at the, what do you call, the prognosis given by these specialists. The world specialist you see. And it did so happen. One day he was sitting at Guruprasad in His chair and all of a sudden, He got up and started walking. That's all. [Eruch laughs] That's the only miracle that we have seen with His body. Yeah. And He walked, and He walked, and He walked, and He walked.

And not only did He walk, but He climbed the staircases too. To pay house, for the house visits you see. To pay visits to His lover's homes. There is a picture where we are holding an umbrella over His head and Baba is slogging His way up the staircases, very steep staircase. In Pune, you know Milan studio photograph?

**PILGRIM 2:** Is it an outside staircase?

**ERUCH:** Yes outside.

**PILGRIM 2:** White?

**ERUCH:** Yeah, yeah. Seen that? That's after the accident. That's the Milan Studio. He goes to that. There are busted hip joint, and where Dr. Watson Jones just threw the things, he says, "It's impossible for a man to walk in his lifetime now."

What do you call this you see. These spasms that the leg would get you see. It would be like, have you seen fish out of water, how it just does that? So these spasms would go like that you see and just lift the whole leg up. The strain on the nerves you see, and the ligaments would be such — terrible. Nights after nights we would just hold Baba's leg, you see like this, and keep it down. Specially it would happen after exertion. When He would give darshan and sit there for hours together you see. And then exert himself, or walk about or move about. The we had to hold Him, His leg for hours on end in the night you see. Just hold on, keep it like that.

**PILGRIM 1:** How many years did that go on? That holding?

**ERUCH:** [sighs] I don't know. Say '64 to '64, '65. '64-'65.

And the funny thing is that when He would be active, nothing would happen. When He would rest, in bed, the spasms would come. So, naturally we were there as night watch, or, it would be night watch, so we'd just keep our hand on it. Hold it like that. And we would feel you see, there would be a terrible wave running through the leg you see. We would feel, when we put the hand here, we could feel there's something running out you see. Some — I don't know what you call it? Electrical potential or something. I don't know what it is. And no sooner that would be there, then there would be this spasm coming, you see. So at that time you'd press his leg harder you see, that's all.

But we were told, advised by the doctor not to press it too hard also. Because the hip joint might again, because it was, it had become so amorphous you see, the hip joint. So we had to be very careful otherwise, it would just be away, out of the joint itself you see. Whatever little joint that was artificially formed by Baba, Himself. You could see the picture through the X-ray you see. So it was an artificial joint that was formed there. So, what do you call, the femur, you see. The head of the femur had become so amorphous that suppose the leg wanted to jerk like this, it is alright. But if we pressed it and it gave a jerk, then this might crack you know.

So that was another difficulty for us you see. We had to be very careful with all these things. Allow the tremors to pass by. It's like allowing the earthquake to pass by, without cracking the building you see. Somehow or the other try to balance it some way. So we passed our days and nights like that, sometimes with Him. But with — In the midst of all activity—

**PILGRIM 1:** Baba made no sound during all this?

**ERUCH:** No, nothing. No, nothing, not even there when I became conscious. He just showed me. Not even [Eruch inhales deeply], ohhh or anything of the sort. Nothing of the sort you see. How would one feel with that busted hip joint, walk the distance you see, from there to there, and get into the car and all that. I just wondered later on what must be the pain there?

And then, Meherjee tells me you see, these people rushed from Nagar and Pune and Bombay and all that. That Dr. Bansot came from Pune and what he did was, he pulled Baba's leg you see. He just put his, I'm sorry, put his foot there in between his loins and got the leg out you see of the joint. And even then Baba didn't make any noise. No noise. It's terrible thing that He must have passed that night. 2nd of December 1956. That's a date to be remembered.

**PILGRIM 3:** That's my birthday. I always remember that one.

**ERUCH:** 2nd of December.

**PILGRIM 3:** Yeah.

**ERUCH:** The activities. But then she couldn't write pages after pages. But then she has given the gist and that's the record that we have. Apart from all that, there was no other thing that is worth mentioning, except that daily affairs continued over here. The correspondence, if you go through the files. And Baba's messages or discourses that He has given, or that He has held the sahasas'. The programs that we had, in His companionship. But then most of the time He remained in seclusion. Not that He was not active. He'd go out you see, He'd come back. But, He didn't see visitors. Didn't allow the visitors to see Him. Not the visitors I should say. Visitors were allowed, but then the crowd, crowd, yeah.

He stopped giving darshan, except in Pune. And 3 months in Pune or sometimes 4 months in Pune would be the active months for Baba. During the summer time. Say from March — From April 1st to July, he would be in Pune, seeing people and the crowds. When He returned here, he wouldn't encourage people to come here. He would want then to wait, for the next year, to see Him there in Pune.

**PILGRIM 4:** About the [inaudible]. Summer of '68, Fall of '68.

**ERUCH:** Yeah. Baba was active as before. It would be just the one more summer you see. We never felt anything of the sort that His health is shattered or anything of the sort. He would be totally immersed in His work to such a degree that when He would call us, you see, we found Him absolutely weak and strained. As if, you know, the launderers, you see, what happens you see when you take the cloth out of the rollers you see, the dry cloth, piece of cloth. Like that He was, just completely drained of all energy. Then we would go inside and change, dry His body and it would be full of sweat and all that. And make Him feel fresh a bit and then bring Him. And then He would join in the prayers you see, the Universal Prayer. As I told you, that He would want to stand up. But He would be so drained that it would be very difficult for Him to stand up and all that. In spite of it all, we never felt that His health was completely shattered you see.

In the summer months, in Guruprasad, He would sometimes see occasional visitors there. Just close ones, from the family. My family or other family Baba lovers there in Pune. Have a good time in the afternoon. Sometimes He would be very lively at the time. And He would continue to prepare you see, for the Westerners and the Easterners to meet Him the next summer. And then we'd discuss the plans and other things. Then He would give us some hints and points regarding the 2nd edition of God Speaks. The revised edition. And He would go through the glossary. He went through all, every word of the glossary you see, that was there. He gave us the proper meaning, the proper words for that. It's a beautiful thing that will help a lot, that glossary, to understand the book. And we used to pass the time like that. And sometimes play cards. And with the bogus news. Morning sessions were always for His seclusion work and also an hour in the afternoon. First hour, say from 2 to 3. And 3 o' clock, 5:30 there will be just this relaxation.

And I don't know what He did with His, we would there that thump on the thigh you see, every time He would beat His thighs with His fist you see. [Eruch makes the sound of beating his thigh with his fist] This thump would be heard you see, continuously. During the time that He's there in seclusion. And it had turned His right thigh, so what do you call, was it the right or the left, I forget now. You don't remember that. You'll have to see that Last Sahavas or something. That Hoshang Bharucha has written that book you see. I think it was the right. [Eruch thumps on his thigh] Yes, so the right thigh became so stiff, it was like a log of wood, you see. There was no elasticity left at all there. No elasticity.

I remember one thing, now this reminds me. You know, the last days of Baba. This thigh business brings me to the conversation that, one of the specialists who had come from Pune with Dr. Grant. That there was a fall in the hemoglobin you see. Red corpuscles. So, there was some transfusion also given. So what has happened is that he said, he remarked when he heard this, that sometime in the early, he remembers to have read in the ancient literature, that the rishis and munis used to do penance you see, and he would hit their bodies and the then doctors you see, had said that that had some effect on the red blood corpuscles. That destroyed them. So, he correlated that you see, I remember now. And he smiled, and Baba also had a good smile for that you see. He says, "It has nothing to do with that," you see. What has He to do with doing any penance or anything. He has nothing to do penance for, nothing to do. This is, "You won't be able to know what I am doing," Baba told him.

And then — but in spite of it all, we had to take care, you see. We had to take care of His body. Just a few days prior to that, prior to His dropping the body, we could feel now that we are approaching the end of this ministry, so to say. This advent. I could feel but, these people, the others who were there, they didn't feel that way. But I could feel, I could sense it.

In the morning He said that, that today was my crucifixion. He would invariably say this every now and then, that, "What a crucifixion, that Christ had His crucifixion, Jesus had His crucifixion on one particular day, but I am being crucified every moment." He would say that, in this advent. On the day that He dropped the body in the morning He says, "Today is the day of my crucifixion." He said that. And then He of course felt his. [recording ends].