
JAL SAMADHI BABA

Eruch Jessawala

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10:44

ERUCH: I don't know whether you have all read Wayfarers?

AM*: Parts of it. Yeah.

ERUCH: So at that time during the war (Wayfarers was written much afterwards) - so it is mentioned that whatever we reported to Donkin he said that. It was not written at the time. What happened was that we were on tours at the time when there was war going on - it reminded me of that - so what happened is that we were touring a lot when we should not tour and we should not travel. Because all these were put up at big stations and every small station - "Travel only when you must!"

AM: And blackouts I suppose.

ERUCH: Oh blackouts were there and windows were painted and black paper was pasted. And many things were there. What do you call those air raid shelters? War means war. Whether it is India or the States or anywhere in the world it is like that. But traveling was done the most at that time by Baba. When we were supposed not to travel. For it was a must for Baba and for the masts. For m-u-s-t and m-a-s-t-s as well. So we were going from place to place. So we were in the north of India somewhere and Baba sent me and Baidul to go to Rishikesh - it's a place of pilgrimage there and to scout there - find out any addresses or anything of that sort. So we had gone there - both of us one morning - it was a close distance not too far away. So we go there and it was not surprising but there was a crowd of people so as usual we have to be that - very inquisitive so that we can gain information for Baba. So we ask naturally and Baidul was the king of inquisitiveness you see he was the head in all our community

AM: Very good at it in other words

ERUCH: Very good at it - very good. He will even draw out your whole family tree within 5 minutes with all your vocations and this and that. So we are there and we are trying to find out who are these people, why are they standing over there - is there anybody inside? They said, "Yeah you haven't heard of Phal Hari Baba" Phal Hari means the one who sustains himself only on fruits. Phal means fruits, Hari means eats. Phal Hari Baba. "You haven't heard of Jal Samadhi Baba? The one who stayed under the water for many months?" "No we haven't heard, who is he?" They said, "Go inside. Go." So we both went inside. He was seated, leisurely and all that...very old person.

As soon as we entered - he was talking and chatting with others - he had just come from northernmost regions in the Himalayas where he used to stay - live. So his reputation was that he was once sitting in meditation at a temple on a turret of a temple and there was a lot of gale winds, a thunderstorm and the whole thing toppled and fell inside the river - the

river Ganges. And he was still there for quite a long time there. Yeah. So that's why he is known as Jal Samadhi - means who remained under water and had his samadhi under water. Jal means water and samadhi means samadhi - means transported into ecstasy. So all this was there. These were his credentials you may call it. So we go and there were many people in India like that. We took him to be one of the saintly persons. But look how he turned out to be.

So we go there and he looks at us. "Ah, you seem to be from Bombay side?" We said, "Yes Maharaj." Maharaj means great one - a reverential term. "Yes Maharaj we are from Bombay side." "How about the war situation there (he said)." "Well here it is so peaceful but there we do feel that there is war in the world and all that." And then he doesn't look at us and he goes on addressing us. "Yeah war is going on and they say that war is being conducted by - he named the persons you see - Hitler is there and Roosevelt is there and Eisenhower is there and some names Churchill - Churchill, Hitler, and Mussolini all these names and we were surprised at how does he know all these names you see. He is in what you call in the know of all these things he must be reading the newspaper or something like that that's what it made me feel.

"So, yeah people know that they are conducting the war and all that - little do they know who is conducting the war." Now he is looking at us. "So you know," he says to me, "have you seen a person flying a kite?" There is the kite flying season here we have a season here where people fly kites. It is sort of a festive occasion. So, I said, "Yeah." "So what do you see?" "So we see so many kites in the sky." "Do you ever see the person who flies the kites when you see the kites from a distance? No. It's like that. The one who is conducting the war is invisible. But we see the kites flying. Here is Hitler and here is Roosevelt and here is Churchill here is Mussolini and they are involved in the war and the war is because of them. But nobody knows in whose hand is the string of the war." So then I said, "That means nobody will know that?" I just asked him. "No there are some who know who he is at the back of this war. And especially those who are living with him who are around him naturally when the kite is being flown by a person there are people around him to help him out with reels and this and that so they know he is the one who flies the kite." "When will the world know?" So at the time I think he, I forget now the number of years - 22 years from now - he has said something - do you remember?

AM: I don't remember.

ERUCH: So he said, "22 years from now the world will begin to come to know who had conducted this war." That's what he said. I think it is reported in the Wayfarers. Did you come across that?

AM: It is in the Wayfarers, yeah.

ERUCH: How many years, do you remember? I forget now.

AM: No, no I don't.

AM: And he meet Baba?

ERUCH: And he met Baba. Then we of course took him and he met Baba. He didn't recognize Baba. No. At least from outwardly he didn't show any sign. Because Baba takes

great precautions to hide himself. He has a special veil he puts on with these people who also see through us. He has veiled also for them too.

AM: But it didn't always work with everybody.

ERUCH: In rare cases they would find out and he would be so embarrassed like a coy woman or somebody like that. He would get out. So he wants us to take him out of this and they wouldn't want to leave. It would be a very embarrassing situation for Baba. And Baba would....sometimes we would say, "Baba he is wanting to love you and all that." And he would say, "No my work is spoiled when I continue with them because I come here as the slave of my lovers. I am Lord of all but I am also the slave of the love with which he loves. So I want to serve him offering my obeisance and all that but when he recognizes me there is a conflict. Yeah. That relationship gets disturbed.

AM: Is that similar to how it is with us when he says, "Don't worship me, love me?" In other words, don't, "Wow that's God" instead of just loving him.

ERUCH: I don't know why because here I still remember there was one person was seated here on this very site here. And when he had come here first he would just look at adore Baba all the time. So Baba pointed at him and says, "You want to adore me you can adore me outside. I don't want somebody to just adore me over here."

AM: Eruch, I seem to remember reading somewhere where each mast that Baba had in the ashram represented a certain country in World War 2.

ERUCH: That was once here he has said that. At that time.

AM: And that they would suffer when a country was going through some sort of travail.

ERUCH: We don't know anything. I don't know first of all these things...I was there but I'm vague. Who paid attention to these things at that time?

AM: You were busy weren't you all the time.

ERUCH: We were busy cleaning their excreta. Who cares about a world war and all that.

AM: Baba kept everybody busy most of the time didn't he?

ERUCH: Yeah. He had the knack to keep everybody busy. Even if there are 6 people it is understandable, but even if there were 600 people he would keep them busy. I don't know what sort of knack he had. He is so busy and so indispensable because he had the responsibility of this and that and all the time we would be on toes....it's like that. Each one felt that he is for Baba and Baba is for him.

***AM** = Audience Member (anonymous)