

KG-001B

Arnavaz Dadachanji: The Life of Nariman Dadachanji

Meherazad, India

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28:03

Note: Continuation of KG-001A

Content

[Missing text in the continuation: A few months after Chanji died, Baba called the family to Aurangabad, where He was staying.]

"...Aurangabad. Baba was staying there at the time. We were so sad. His death was a blow to the family, because we loved him so much. Baba knew we were very sad, and he said, "why do you have to feel bad about his death? In fact it is a great loss to me." I felt that it was sweet of Baba to say that.

Another thing that happened. Before Baba left for the tour, Baba was in Nagar, and he wanted to make arrangement for a darshan in Nagpur. Baba discussed the whole plan with the mandali, and he pointed out those who he wanted to be present at the darshan program. Baba did not include Chanji. "But Baba, you are not taking Chanji with you?" Baba replied, "He'll come if he is alive." Everyone thought that Baba was just joking, but Nilu felt uncomfortable. He later said that he felt "why is Baba saying this?" Chanji died in August and the darshan program took place in September. So many times Baba gives an indication and people didn't catch on to Baba's words.

Baba always said, "Keep faith in me. If I give conviction and you follow me, it's no good. You follow me first and then I will give you conviction." That's why he wants us to keep faith in him and resign to him.

[At Dara's prompting, Arnavaz shifts to the story of Nariman, her husband and first cousin.]

How Nariman came to Baba: Nariman and Arnavaz are cousins, but Nariman always stayed in Karachi. Nariman was studying there, and later he studied in Benares University because it was one of the best universities in India. Because we were cousins on that side, Chanji was also his uncle.

When Nariman finished his school in Karachi, he had holidays, and my grandparents were very keen to see him. He must have been 15-16 years old, and he came to Bombay to see my grandparents. At that time, Baba was staying in our apartment in Byculla at Rustom Bagh. We were all living together. In those days, joint family was a very common thing. Baba would stay for 3-4 days. Being a boy the family told him to bow down to Baba and he did. Later he went back to Karachi. The very next year, Baba and his men went to

Karachi and of course Chanji was also there, so the family in Karachi also came to take Baba's darshan and at that time Baba told Chanji to tell Nariman to come and stay in the bungalow in which Baba was staying. Nariman was in college at the time, and Baba used to send him to college in the morning and at night he would come back and join Baba where He was staying. This bungalow was on the beach. Nariman stayed with Baba for about 15 days. For many years Nariman had no contact with Baba. Nariman was a very brilliant student so he got a scholarship to study either in the US or England. Nariman chose to go to Manchester, in Chemistry, because it was the place he liked the best for Chemistry. He came to Bombay to make all the arrangements to go to England, so after these five or six years had elapsed he got Baba's darshan again.

He left for Manchester in September 1937 and at that time Baba went for his last trip to the West, to Cannes, with Chanji and the women mandali. Before, since there was still time, so Baba told Nariman to stay with him in Cannes until his college career started. Nariman had not as much contact as we had, since for years we used to go traveling around to see Baba wherever He was.

Nariman finished his first two years in Manchester, with a high degree, MSc. because there was no PhD. offered. Nariman wanted to go to Germany and work there, because Germany was very advanced. He was interested in textile chemistry and he also wanted more diplomas. In 1939 in June, I was with Baba in Jabalpur. Of course, though we were cousins we never saw each other, though we were very good friends, and we used to write letters to each other. I received a letter from him in Jabalpur at the bungalow at which we were staying. Baba noticed I was reading a letter and he asked, via gestures, who had written to me, and I said, "It's from Nariman." Baba said, "Read it to me."

In the letter it was written that he has finished his thesis and intends to go to Germany in September to gain experience and study. Baba tells me, "Write to him. Tell him not to go to Germany, but to return to India. This was difficult for Nariman. He had been very hard up for money when he had been a child, and the scholarship still had two years to run. Nariman had had to earn his school fees and college fees by himself, and also had to support his family, so he knew the value of money. He decided that he would honor Baba's message not to go to Germany, but he hesitated to return to India and give up the scholarship money.

In September '39 on the 2nd or 3rd, the Second World War broke out. Immediately he knew why Baba gave him the order. He immediately went to the shipping company to book a passage back. "Well, this is wartime. There is no chance." For nearly six months, he was told, he would be stuck in England. But, they took his name and address in case something came available. Within 15 days he got a phone call telling him there was a passage to India. He immediately jumped, and by beginning of October he was in India. That experience was enough for Nariman to develop strong faith in Baba. Not only due to that letter, but also Baba bringing him back to India when it had seemed impossible. He was about 25 at that time.

Nariman wanted to go into business, and he felt that Bombay was a better place to do that than Karachi. For one year he worked, and gained experience by working in an English firm of colors and chemicals. Another thing was that he didn't have any money to start a business, but then came along a friend of his who knew Nariman's brilliance, and they started a business in colors and chemicals, to import and sell in the Indian market. They would get their materials from Japan, America, and others. Within two years, he earned enough money, but his partner wanted to leave the business, so they split and Nariman was the sole earner for the business, and he had some money to work on his own [Nariman bought the partner out.] After ten years he built a very small factory of his own. He worked very hard, 7 days a week. But then he called his whole family to Bombay and he took two brothers into the business (Hoshang was still in school) and he looked after the family like a father.

His father was very unlucky, never got a job, incurred losses in business, and was a very frustrated man. Father was living in Bombay while the rest of the family had been in Karachi, but now they all came to Bombay.

Jai Baba.