

KG-014A

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Meher Center, SC

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44:38

Note: Continuation of KG-013B

Topics

Suez Crisis

Failure of Astrology

Content

[This picks up the story of the awful night Meherjee spent with Baba at a time when they thought they could look forward to a nice evening. They were at a hotel, an overnight stay on a flight with Baba in Singapore when Baba made the night hell for them, asking for food when He knew the kitchen would not respond, asking which bus would take them to the airport for the flight to Bombay, keeping them all awake, and at some early hour (see previous tape) He went down with all their luggage to sit in the bus that would take them to the airport, a bus that had been incorrectly identified as the bus for the Bombay flight, only to find out that it was the bus for a different flight. Upon being told that the bus was a different one, He asked all to move the luggage to the other bus...]

Baba would find fault with all of us, and when 6 AM arrived and the restaurant opened, He would not allow any of us to take our breakfast or even a cup of tea. All right, we did it. The flight went to Colombo [Ceylon] and we were informed that we could not proceed further. All planes coming to Columbo were grounded because the British and the French had invaded Egypt to seize the Suez Canal in 1956. Actually we were told we could not go, and Baba called us to His room. "You think I am a madman to treat you the way I did last night, now see what has happened! And actually Baba prevented a world catastrophe at that time. You may remember that Russia warned to stop bombing or Russia would come to the help of Egypt. The next morning, Baba asked me to send a telegramme to Satara because Baba's people there were expecting us, that all of us were safe and as soon as the flights start we would be coming. On the telegramme I had written CampSatara as the address, and He came and upbraided me to put two words separately, Camp and Satara on the address. I said, "Baba, I have been sending telegrammes addressed like this..." but He said it would not reach. We shouldn't economize on such things, He said. I sent it that way, after pestering him to agreeing, but that telegramme was never received! Ultimately we returned home, I got down at Pune, they went on to Satara, and I got a strongly worded letter telling me that I should have paid attention to Baba. How all had been so anxious and could not get any trace of the traveling party. I contacted the Columbo telegraph office to complain and they responded that they regretted not having sent the telegramme, and they even sent back the money, but this illustrates how Baba made things difficult for the mandali when the world situation was difficult. I gave one small story here because I thought people would like it.

Now I am going to tell you about Baba and horoscopes! In 1943, after a lapse of almost 11 years, I was to see Baba. I had come two years previously but was not able to see him, [as explained in another talk]. A business friend of mine asked me how my business affairs were going. I said not bad, after many years of suffering. He advised me that I should keep aside some money to invest in land or property, and that I should not squander my money on this wartime business.

Then he said, "Have you a horoscope?" I said I didn't and that I didn't believe, and he rejoined that you must consult your stars. I wrote to my father and asked him to send me my horoscope. One weekend we went a friend of his, a big astrologer and sanskrit scholar, and that man looked over my horoscope and offered to give a full reading the next week. When we returned a week later, we met there, and he said, "Now whatever you have earned, you must be very careful because you are coming under bad stars. There is every chance that you might lose as much as half the money you have earned. I said that I had goods scattered all across Persia, cash on hand, [a safe and conservative financial position, in other words]. But the man said that I should sell lots of goods rather than hold them, so I like a fool sent a telegramme to all my agents across Iran to sell all my goods at current market rate.

Then I went to Baba, who at that time was at Lahore. Baba embraced me, He was happy to see me, my wife was with me also, and He asked how my business was going. "How is it going? Last time you saw me was 1932. Now tell me from 1932 onwards to 1943, what did you do, how did you fare?"

I told him, "Yes, Baba, after many years of work I am doing very well now, by your grace, but this astrologer told me recently to sell all my goods at the current market rate." Baba takes my ear in his hand and twists it hard.

"You fool! You believe in astrology? After you have surrendered to Me? Who am I then? What do you take me to be?"

"God, of course."

"When you take me to be God, have I not made your stars, and can I not unmake your stars? Send a telegramme immediately not to sell anything until you return to Persia." He made me write the telegramme there and then on the spot, gave it to Vishnu and asked him to send it immediately as urgent. Sure enough, when I returned to Persia, I made Rs. 150,000 in profit [on that set of transactions with those goods.] If I had followed astrologer, I would have lost everything."

Meherjee Karkaria

March 13, 1970

Topics

On smoking

On drinking

Inayat Khan and Sufism

Interviews in 1952 in the Lagoon Cabin

Future of Myrtle Beach Center

Content

Walking around Meher Center with various Westerners. From Baba house we used to come walking mostly, and Baba used to stand in the center of the bridge and look at the alligators, and Baba also used to stand here and watch the birds and the lake. I think he might have been in a boat, but I don't exactly remember.

My old friend John Bass came to receive me when I first came to the States in 1947 on a business trip and missed me at the airport. It is a very interesting story of our Monday night meeting when you took me to Alexander Markey's studio.

Myrtle Beach Center is the Center for the Americas, but I feel that it might become a universal center. Every small detail has been chalked out by Him. This will become a place of pilgrimage for all, Baba said, and it is already receiving people from another place. [John adds that people have recently come from Mexico City, Texas and California.] But, it's really a nice place. I like to walk in the woods, every day I try to walk some distance; I feel that Baba has been walking with me, it's so peaceful and quiet. I forget all my home and business, of course until I receive some letter.

Baba has said that He wants this to become developed as a spiritual retreat, not as a hotel or a resort. Baba always wished it to be developed and it has developed a lot since Baba came in 1952. Expanding the building is left to Elizabeth and the availability of finances may be a factor. She is making the library and the kitchen bigger to accommodate more persons. An important event was that this was the first time that Baba lovers had gathered together from various places, and Baba gave individual interviews to each one. This happened in the Lagoon Cabin, and I was present. Those interviews were mostly private -- family, children, health, children all sorts of questions were asked to Baba, and Baba in his own way answered them.

Baba used to play with us or some other visitors in the Lake Cabin. Baba also played cricket very well, though after the accidents it was stopped. [Cricket is explained to woman who asks.]

People were always sitting outside, and one by one they were taken into the cabin. When we come before Baba we always remove our shoes. [taping continues inside the Lagoon Cabin.] Family life, spiritual matters, very tense atmosphere in the cabin, some with tears, some came prepared to ask questions but they could not. In 1952, the chairs were

differently positioned, Baba was using the alphabet board. Baba would ask them to say out, but sometimes they couldn't. Five or ten minutes were typically the duration of the interviews, but at this time the chart of Sufism Reoriented was carried out and it took longer for Ivy Duce and Francis Brabazon's interviews. No journalists, maybe about 200 persons, not all of them staying at the center. People did bow down to Him and at that time they could touch His feet. He embraced all of them, made them sit next to Him. I think it was mornings and afternoons as times for meeting people.

I felt that most (practically everyone) of the people were satisfied with what Baba told them. It was a good experience for them, some were in tears, some were very emotional, and some would say to Baba that there was nothing to say. Some didn't want to leave the cabin though there were others outside waiting.

Sufism as then exists was disbanded, and Baba gave them points but Sufism is nothing but the way to reality. Baba, as long as they were using this word, and continuing as a society, Baba allowed them, but it has to be for Baba and spreading Baba's message of love and truth, not for past masters or saints. Shams, Hafiz were Sufi masters. Most people just came to meet Baba, receive His love, depending on the receptivity of their hearts some received more and some received less. Baba consoled some of them and gave them His blessings. I had taken notes and I do not know if they have been destroyed.

Laura and others talk about their experiences meeting Baba in 1952. "When I met Baba for the second time in 1956, I said, Baba, I'm Laura Delavigne, and someone said Baba knows that, but I thought maybe he had forgotten." Meherjee says he remembers Laura's husband from the 52 event.

[Meherjee speaks a bit more about Inayat Khan, who was not perfect. Mrs. Duce was told to change the methods to de-emphasize Inayat Khan and to use Baba's messages. Plus, there were more practices, rituals and initiations, and Baba stopped the practice of initiation. There were others also, Francis Brabazon, who came as a Sufi but left to work independently in Australia under no label of Sufism on his work. People take it to be something special, when they stick to their denominations.

[Someone, I think Laura says:] "I asked Baba about Sufism and Inayat Khan, and I said it meant so much to me, and Baba said, 'We are all one and we all work together...' because I felt ..." Meherjee: "Inayat Khan was a highly advanced soul, no doubt, but he was not a perfect master. That's why he was a good soul, advanced, on the path, but when you meet a perfect master you don't need rites and rituals, but when the goal is reached you just remove the veil, and it makes a big difference in the lives of people who follow him. There are disciples of Baba who have been with him for 40-50 years, they do have advancement, but it is latent deliberately so that they may not fall victim to powers, and ego may not get in the way, while Baba looks to their spiritual advancement."

Laura: "I told him I had come to the end of everything, and he said, 'the end is the beginning.' And it really was too, the beginning for me."

Meherjee: "Baba's mandali, having surrendered to him, don't care for anything. Whatever he does is best for them.

In response to a question about how Baba liked to be photographed: "Usually he didn't like, but when people insisted, he allowed them to take. Otherwise if while meeting people someone would come into the hall and flash, it was a distraction. He didn't want publicity." Irwin remarks that people might some day wonder about the existence of all those pictures.

Meherjee says Baba didn't like to be filmed, flashed, and he would not allow but in general it broke the attention of people on him.

Elizabeth doesn't like to be photographed either. Elizabeth would remain in the background often, and Baba used to ask her to come forward.

Criticism centered on Baba saying he was God and used to say that he enjoyed life too much.

Meherjee visited Baba in Dehra Dun, and I used to keep water in whiskey bottles, and a rumor started that it was whiskey in my bottle when Eruch used to carry it with him. However, Baba did permit me to have my usual drink at night when away from Baba, at home. But I never carried it with me when I was with Baba.

[Meherjee specifically denies any powers or any ability to guide others. He says he never cared for any powers. "Even if we had powers, he wouldn't have allowed us to use them."

Meherjee is not allowed to smoke cigarettes, by Baba's order. Baba gave him two puffs from a cigarette given by a mast and then told him never to smoke again.

Another thing is that there is prohibition in Maharashtra, and Baba's orders are to obey the law of the land, so without a personal permit it would be impossible to get a drink legally.

Those who come into his contact, even once in the lifetime, and those who think of him get the response...