
PUKAR STORY

Eruch Jessawala

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19:22

PILGRIM 1: Tell us one of the stories about Baba at this bungalow.

ERUCH: There's a story about the New Life. That is the place also. You know as I told you Ken this afternoon. We were talking about New Life. So we left the place on 16th October 1949, '56? When was it? I'm forgetting.

DEVANA: 16th October 1949.

ERUCH: '49. So not to return. During our. Exactly after a year or so I forget now the year and timing also. So He says that He will step into old life for one day. One of the orders of New Life was that any order or any wish that He expressed we had to carry it out without any question of why and what and all that. Well that's His wish okay. So people were informed of the old life people were informed that He's stepping for one day only into old life. Because He had particular reasons. What was the reason that He gave was that well, in the life that was there with Meher Baba He would give orders to some people who would come and ask for something and He says do this and do that.

So there were people who had been given such orders. "Go out on all places of pilgrimage. Sing songs, devotional songs. Beg for food. Don't touch women, don't touch money." And this and then after a year come and see me. Such orders would be there. But Baba all of a sudden abruptly left. So what about that? Then He had given orders to somebody

who was. Whose mother was pestering you see the son, growing son you see who's now 21 or 22 years old. Says, "When will you get married? You seem to be loving Meher Baba and you don't wish to get married? Why aren't you getting married?"

So he said, "What have I to do with getting married and all that [Baba] Mother?" "Why are you worried about it? In due course whenever Baba wills it, it will be so and you know how it is."

So she started pestering Baba [pilgrim laughs]. "So Baba, when are you going to get my son married?" And this. So Baba would write letters and this and that. Eventually to pacify her Baba made me write to her saying that well "Don't you worry about him getting married. I will personally see that he gets married and I will personally attend the wedding ceremony."

So that's fine. So she was pacified. So such people were there [Eruch laughs] whose orders were given and he wouldn't marry because in Baba's absence he wouldn't want to get married because Baba would personally attend. So now Baba has left the place and not going to return. What is to be done now? That means permanently he will not marry because he will obey Baba's orders. Such were the what do you call, relationship of people who loved Baba. To implicitly and explicitly obey His orders you see. That's how it is.

So for that reason Baba says, "Alright those". Because He knew about these things Baba. So He says I'll step for one day in old life. So that's how the meeting took place in the stable. That's what I am saying. And there were many other good things that happened and then.

So then coming to that same. So He said, "Well anything that you have to say?" Baba is asking. So that young man said, "Baba you told me that my mother has asked me specially. Has sent me today to contact you to ask you what is to be done now?" He says, "Well I have told you that I will get you married so of course I will get you married. Come on now." So He called one of the old disciples of Baba who was very old and all that and He says, "Come and stand here before Me. So, take him to be your bride." He's telling that man [pilgrims laughing]. And Gustadji who was given silence you know who never spoke anything. "So now you are his bride and that's how it should be and well I'll bless you both [pilgrims laughing]. Now I've got you married. Now you go home and get yourself married. Whomsoever your mother wants you to get married go and get married." Yeah. So that's how it was. So likewise things happened.

But the funniest thing that did happen at that time was something very peculiar. Want to hear or you're fed up of hearing and gone to sleep?

PILGRIM 3: Oh no, no, no, no. I'm listening. Honest.

ERUCH: Honest.

PILGRIM 3: Honest.

ERUCH: So what had happened is.

PILGRIM 4: She won't comprehend much but she's kind of shallow.

ERUCH: So just a step prior to that what had happened was that in the early years Baba would appear, come to be known by people over India, all over India. But then people were rather skeptical. Most of them were skeptical. Said, "What? He calls Himself the Ancient One. The One," You know what the meaning of Avatar means? Avatar, have you heard the word? Avatar is from a Sanskrit, derived from the word Sanskrit word the ancient language Avatarna means 'descent'. Avatar means descent of God in human form. Just like Zoroaster and Buddha, Mohammad, Jesus the Christ and like that you see. Krishna, Ram and all that. Descent of God on Earth as man amongst men. So this descent is known as Avatarna. That's why He is known as the Avatar. Like that.

So he says how can that be so? So many people well they're rather skeptical about it and all that. But then at that time in India there was a lot of revolution going on and many youngsters have cropped up you see. And wanting to defend their country and they wanted to drive away the Britishers and this and that and all that sort of thing was there. You know India was under the British rule. You must have heard that. In 1947 there was independence.

So at that time naturally leaders cropped up for the volunteers to be led. And the volunteers were all Indians and they were shouting hoarse against the British and their regime and all that sort of thing. So naturally these leaders were there and they were much wanted these leaders by the Britishers. So they went underground. And one of them who went underground had great weight amongst the people of the area there and he was not only just a leader or anything but he you may call it the commander of the forces. Underground forces you see. And he had his illegal weapons he procured and he

had all that sort of thing. So he was much wanted person by the Britishers and others at the time.

So he went against Baba and says, "Who is this man who is now well claiming himself to be that?" And all that. "If I were to confront Him and find Him to be a hoax you know I will shoot Him on the spot." So such was the, such was the atmosphere just to give you an idea about it. So this then goes on. And so there are other people who says, "No, no, you have no idea because you have just been hearing things you know. But look if you were to just see Him once it will be enough for you," And all that. So he said, "Well does He come out in the open? I hear that He's always in seclusion. I hear that He excludes Himself. I hear this and". Said, "No no He's always there. He's on the streets if you want to find out."

So then the persons who were associated with him and who had some favourable words to say regarding Baba said, "By the way you know He's coming very close to our place. About 300 miles from here. If you want to have a view of Him you can go there." "So where is He?" So there was a big fair in North India there at that time so he said, "You can see Him there." He said, "Will He be there?" Says, "No He will be there on the terrace. You will see Him from a distance of course. Naturally He doesn't mingle like that because of the fair." So then they see Him from a distance. Show him from a distance that He is there. And that very sight was there. To him He appeared to be rather radiant. Means radiant, divine. But still he didn't have any, what do you call, good words to say about Him. He says, "Well He. Anybody can have a make up like that." He says, "There's no make up. He's only on a simple shirt there. What's the make up there?" And all. So that's how it was.

So then what happened was that one day when He stepped into old life from New Life then He. Then news spread that He's gone in New Life so he says, "Ahh now He's absconding, eh? Now He has become an ordinary man. Now He's this, Now He's that." Like that. Because Baba said that I'm stepping down from whatever you may feel. I'll be your companion and you be my companion. All that sort of thing. "Ah so that's how it is. I now know." So that's how it was.

So this was a great opportunity for this man to come in close quarters and see Baba. So those who were associated with him says, "Well there is an opportunity. Would you like to come?" Says, "Sure I would like to come." So he goes there. He's among the crowd in that stable mind you. It's a big stable not small. I think 4 times, 3 times.

PILGRIM 3: 4 times this size?

ERUCH: 4 times this, yeah. One, two and three. Yeah from here to. No, I think two. From here to that wall. See that wall there?

PILGRIM 3: Yeah.

ERUCH: Yeah. That doubles the size if you call it or whatever you call it. Longer than this. So that. So we are all. So that day has come. He has been brought unknown. Unbeknown to us who were with Baba in New Life. And that's how it is. And on the appointed day, at the appointed time, Baba comes inside. And all who were waiting for Him they naturally stand up because they were told not to bow down to Him. Because in New Life they should not pay any homage or respect or anything. So they come and they stand and Baba says, "Sit down." He sits on a chair. He said, asks me whether all have come? I said, "Sure. All must have come. Because your time

had been given so they must have come." So Baba. There were no other doors because being a big stable there was a huge gate at the other end. So Baba signals to me and He says, "Tell" Signals to one of the mandali and says, "Go and shut the gate." So that nobody else should enter. It's a private meeting for one, for a few hours.

So that's what happened in that stable. So while the man goes to shut the gate it so happened that three or four persons sneaked in and rushed towards Baba and bowed down to Him. Which was not allowed because Baba was in New Life, Baba won't accept any obeisance, nobody should bow down to Him. So Baba Himself got up from His seat there and went down and bowed. Those people were embarrassed so they bowed again. So I had to catch hold of them and stop this. I said, "What are you trying to do? You don't know? Don't you know? Who are you people? Why have you come? You have not been told?" All these altercations were taking place.

So Baba says, "Doesn't matter." He was just trying to stop me and He embraces them. "Now you have come for darshan, you had My darshan now you can go." So they went away. In the meantime the man who was told to shut the gate, lock the gate he did it. So when he came back so Baba says to him. He was one of the companions in New Life. He says, "What was the order for New Life? To obey whatever I tell you. I told you to lock the gate. What happened? How come that these strangers came inside?" "No Baba I went there and I saw one of our companions who was an old man." You know the bride. Baba called the guy as bride. That old man. Because he was very old, Gustadji his name was. Right from the time of Baba young he was there with Upasani Maharaj and all. So each one had handed him over to Baba.

So and you know when age is there I don't know Ken you have no such experience. I have now. Every now and again you have to go to piddle. When age is there, yeah.

So he had to go to piddle every now and again so he knew it. So he had gone there and he saw him coming inside so I had kept. He tells Baba that I saw Gustadji coming inside because he had gone there so. So He says, "So what? I told you to lock the gate. Finished. You should have done it." And then Baba sat down and He says, "Nobody yet knows how to obey My. How to obey Me. Nobody knows. Even if I were to ask you to give me a slap you should slap me." This is what He. He is now very firm you see. And we thought that Baba has called the meeting and why is he calling this? Because it's always the case with Baba. That some excuse is there but what the drama that is being played behind the stage we don't know till such time it unfolds and then we become aware of it. So this is the drama that was enacted there.

So what happens is that He says, "Come on David, come and slap Me." He calls somebody because they are all seated there. "Come and slap Me." So poor David you know, very, comes and slaps Him like that. Like just like that. So Baba says, "Is this the way to slap Me?" He looks at David and says, "Is this the way to slap Me? Is this the way to obey Me? Come on." He gets disgusted. "You come Pedro and slap Me." So Pedro comes there and gives little there. So Baba says, "What are you patting Me or slapping Me? This is not the way to obey Me. This is not the way to do this and this." He says, "Nobody who. I want you'll to obey me implicitly and all." Went on and on.

So then He called somebody else and that was a man from Pakistan, Karachi

Minoo Kharas his name. So He says, "Come on Minoo you come here and slap Me. I want you to slap Me." And he gave a thundering slap you know and he turned Baba [pilgrims laughing].

PILGRIM 4: Could we see that demonstrated? [pilgrims continue laughing]

ERUCH: So what happened was that, "This is," Baba says, "This is obedience and I am well pleased with you," And He embraced him and cuddled him and caressed his cheeks and all that. "This is how you should obey Me." All this is being noticed by that stranger who had come you know. That underground man. And he being a commander he is used to giving command and he is expecting obedience from the volunteers you know. And for the first time he notices this and he says, "He takes upon Himself in order to make us aware of command and obedience. He must be that." What happened to him we don't know but this is the drama that I have seen, witnessed. He steps forward from the crowd there and he just takes his shirt out, drops his pants there and stark naked and falls there. He says, "My body, mind and soul I surrender to you."

So we all look aghast you see. What's the matter with this? He was a giant like a person you know. So Baba says, "The first order I give you put on your dress." [Eruch and pilgrims laughing]. So that's how he put on his dress. And then he started. He was filled with emotions. He says, "I haven't seen such a commander who commands such obedience through giving His personal example and see how you take upon yourself and so on and so on. And then he was the one who was like a lion became like a lamb and did lot of what do you call? Going around all over India. He went to the

States also. Did you see him in the States when you went, Pukar?

PILGRIM 4: Yes. Pukar came and stayed there.

PILGRIM 3: Oh oh yeah.

ERUCH: That huge person.

PILGRIM 3: Sure, Pukar.

ERUCH: That dark person.

PILGRIM 3: I think so.

PILGRIM 5: Years ago, long ago. [crosstalk]

ERUCH: Years, years. He's dead. He has died now. So he went all over the places telling people about who is Meher Baba. So that's how it was. [Eruch laughs] Pukar.

PILGRIM 6: Oh I didn't know that.

ERUCH: Yeah. But then he took Him to be a great commander and a person who could command. Who could give orders and expect obedience. But he could not realise as to who He is. You follow?