
Their Lives with Meher Baba (1 of 2)

Liz Sacalis & Virginia Sadowsky

Meher Spiritual Center

Myrtle Beach, SC, USA

May 25, 1988

16:58

PILGRIM 1: ...I was wondering what that image was.

GINNY: How beautiful life can be, how exquisite it can be and what joy. How beautiful we all are.

[silence]

LIZ: I've died.

[Laughter]

LIZ: I had problems with Baba with myself. I remember towards the end of the Sahavas I had thought, well I could always go back to painting and art because I'm not really a lover of God the way I thought I was. But it was my mind. It took me two years; I came back in 1960 and stayed on the Center and Baba lifted the whole thing. But I was, there were pictures of me hiding behind a tree. There is a very good photograph, we are just standing back there looking like a spotlight on me. I was afraid of Baba and it's taken me until just a few years ago to realize that I have a father who is unreasonable, and I projected it onto Baba and I thought He would be unreasonable too and I was afraid of Him. These things do have to be worked out. You can't just lead a spiritual life without dealing with your past and your relationship to your family, I think. Baba oils the way, He greases.

GINNY: Well, Baba did say to us that he would help us help ourselves. I feel that is so important. We don't lie down and let Him do everything for us, that's not the

fun, the lela of, the play of life. He also did tell us when we left and I may paraphrase wrongly, someone correct me please. He did say, He didn't like the *Discourses*, they gave Him a headache. I was heavy when I was around Him, if only I could have been more of a companion and make Him happy. The dancers, you'd hear this raucous laughter coming from the Lagoon Cabin and they made Him so happy. [Laughs] Other people would tell Him jokes and I just couldn't do it. I was overwhelmed, I could hardly speak when I was in His presence. At least, I felt the love. My life was hard out in the world but with Baba He gave me what I wasn't getting in the world. He did say at the end, "I want you to go out into the world, I want you to be natural, I want you to be happy, I want you to be yourself." He said, "Live, love, fight." This was surprising. "Be natural." I hope we took that with us.

LIZ: When we got back home, Ann Conlon had had an experience.

[Laughter]

GINNY: She'd been fished.

LIZ: She wanted to come to Myrtle Beach. So I turned around and came right back with her. And Kitty, I feel guilty about it, I wouldn't anymore. Kitty had to come and stay on the Center to be with us, but it was wonderful for Ann and for me. It was what, two weeks later? To come all the way back?

ANN: Barely

LIZ: So she had her Sahavas but a couple of weeks late.

GINNY: Then her special trip to India, which I know you are going get her speak next week.

PILGRIM 2: Did you go to the 1962 Sahavas?

GINNY: I didn't go to the '62 Sahavas, my sister did.

PILGRIM 2: How come you got to go?

LIZ: Just Baba's will

GINNY: It worked out that way.

PILGRIM 2: [inaudible]

GINNY: That was in '56, that's another story

LIZ: A very long story.

GINNY: But you invite us to Seattle, we'll tell it.

[Laughter]

GINNY: She actually did. [laughing] I didn't invite myself, she actually did. I've always wanted to go to Seattle. [laughing] We said we'd pay the way.

[Laughter]

GINNY: Oh, anyway. See what trouble you got into Judy?

PILGRIM 3: How did you feel when Baba dropped the body?

GINNY: Ooh

PILGRIM 3: After having had the physical experience.

GINNY: Truly devastated but I didn't know it. It was stiff upper lip and Baba was not the body. To cry would have, you know, some of the messages Baba had given us

would have been to deny His life, the gift that He truly gave but it was the worst time of my life, it truly was. I had other things happen to me at the same time that now I realize are connected with Baba. The terrible suffering. We didn't go to the Sahavas in India actually because we felt so badly about it. I really felt as everything was over.

LIZ: I was at home when we received the news. I took my dog out in the backyard that night, I couldn't sleep and it was well after midnight and I think it was a work week, I'm not sure. But I looked down the street, I'm up on a hill and I looked down and all the lights were on in the houses down below. I talked to my neighbors a while afterwards and they all said, "You know, I couldn't sleep the other night." And I thought, "Oh wow." But I also didn't cry or try to control my feelings about it. For years, from the time we met Baba, our lives were completely wrapped up in waiting to see Him again and making sure we didn't have any obstacles and keeping our lives free and open. It was just like the bottom had fallen out. This thing about not sleeping is very interesting, even the neighbors felt it. The interesting thing too is I didn't cry about Baba until I read Kitty's book. It really, it finally hit me.

Any other questions? Please.

GINNY: [laughs] Andy?

PILGRIM 4: Can you tell us about the day that Baba walked back and forth on the lakeside of the Barn?

GINNY: That was '56 I think, you know the pictures of that.

PILGRIM 4: Oh.

GINNY: I can't find out why He did that.

PILGRIM 4: [Inaudible]

GINNY: See, I know but we weren't here.

GINNY & LIZ: We weren't here. [in unison]

GINNY: That's why we don't get it mixed up.

[Laughter]

GINNY: So darn! I'd rather get it mixed up and to have been here.

LIZ: But we met Him at the Hotel Delmonico in New York.

GINNY: In '56.

LIZ: In '56 and we didn't know that people were coming down here. We knew nothing about the rest of the trip and when we found out about it, of course we were surprised. But Baba gave us so much at the meeting at the hotel that it never occurred to us that we needed more.

Every time we met Him, every time I met Him, I felt that I was given enough to try and comprehend for lifetimes. He gave us so much each time.

PILGRIM 5: Is there any one particular time with Baba that stands out more than any of the others?

LIZ: Particular what?

PILGRIM 5: moment

LIZ: The first meeting I guess in the hotel because I turned immediately to being a follower and a lover.

PILGRIM 6: Can you tell us about that?

LIZ: This is another long story. But I had been searching for a master. I lived in New York City at the time and I know the Kashoutys, we were very good friends. Kecha and I grew up together, and we used to talk about finding the secret of life and we had evolved through *Life and*

Teachings of the Masters and Dr. Walter Russell and all kinds of esoteric spiritual things. I suddenly realized I needed a master. So, I was walking down Fifth Avenue one day and saw *God Speaks* in the bookstore, in Doubleday bookstore and I purchased it and took it home and read it and thought, "This man knows what He's talking about." So I went back to get another copy and they didn't have it in the window anymore and they didn't have it in the store. The man had to go down to the basement to get the copy to send to Kecha and Henry's Christmas present. I sent it to them and Henry wanted to know where this man was. He ended up writing to India and made reservations for us, appointments with Baba in July at the Hotel Delmonico and that's how we met Him. When I met Baba, He asked me, "Have you read any of my books?"

[Laughter]

GINNY: I met Him reluctantly. I only did it as a favor to my sister. I did like the people I met when I entered the Hotel Delmonico. Adele was there, Fred and Ella, and they were lovely. When my turn came to turn the corner to meet Baba my first impression was they had Klieg lights on Him, spotlights from the theatre and that this was so overly dramatic. My last thought was, being a cynic, I thought, "What a cheap trick, they've got a spotlight on Him and I was turning around and I realized there was no spotlight.

[Laughter]

GINNY: The next step was, there also was absolutely was no barrier between us, and the next step was this is myself, the next step was everything started disappearing and I kissed Him. I thought I'd come home, I'd really had come home.

LIZ: When I did come to Myrtle Beach in '58 I told you I thought I was very spiritual and I loved Baba and the depression came over me was realizing, "Well, you don't really love Him the way you think you do." But in, I forgot what I was going to say.

GINNY: Uh-oh, the coffee's wearing off.

[Laughter]

GINNY: Kitty we're getting these lapses. They call it short term memory loss. Do you remember?

LIZ: Yes.

PILGRIM 7: The second time you went to see Baba at the hotel

GINNY: And you kissed Him.

LIZ: Well, that's a good story.

GINNY: When you said who He was.

PILGRIM 7: What were you doing then?

[Laughter]

LIZ: The second day I saw Baba I sat down and He didn't say anything and He took my hand and He started patting it and I felt a little uncomfortable. I said, "My name is Elizabeth Sacalis."

GINNY: [Laughter]

LIZ: He said, "Yes." He kept patting my hand. I said, "I was here yesterday."

[Laughter]

LIZ: He patted my hand. Suddenly, I lean forward out of control and kissed Him on the cheek and as I kissed Him I realized He was everyone I had ever loved all of my life.

PILGRIM 7: Describe His texture...

GINNY: Oh, yes.

LIZ: Yes, Ginny talks about the lights, He glowed. Absolutely glowed, His skin was like, the only way I can describe it was like the texture of a soft persimmon. If you take a flashlight and put it behind your hand you can see the glowing. That's where the light was coming from not from the Klieg lights.

GINNY: There was no Klieg lights. [Laughter]

LIZ: There were no Klieg lights.

GINNY: The light came through Him.

PILGRIM 8: What was your very first impression? You said that Baba asked you if you'd read any books. What was your first impression.

LIZ: I pictured the book immediately because I had been reading and reading the book. Every time I read *God Speaks* I pictured universes and stars and God and tried to figure out which plane I was on.

[Laughter]

LIZ: When He said, "Have you read any of my books?" I pictured the book and He said, "Keep reading My books and you'll know eternal bliss and joy." So I went home and read some more.

[More laughter]

GINNY: Liz was always the kind of person who learned everything through a book. When we were going skiing, she got a book about skiing. We thought this was wonderful how Baba knew her nature without any explanation.

LIZ: Most of the time He tells people not to read you know books, but "The book I will have you read is the book of the heart." It took me a long time to realize that. I haven't read *God Speaks* since then. But I realized at the time was I left the

room that He was my Master and He was the way. I also went into the other room and found a copy of the *Discourses* and I opened it up, bought it from Fred and Ella, opened the book up and it said, "Life is not an escape, the spiritual life is not an escape from life." I guess my staying home and reading was my way of escaping from life and thinking I could have a spiritual life. That's why the painful experiences was Baba, I was afraid of people, afraid to really live I guess. He changed that.

GINNY: Yes?

PILGRIM 9: What has this week been like for you? [inaudible]

GINNY: Absolutely incredible! I thought that I would come down here and spend all my time in the Lagoon Cabin and the Barn and instead it's been, and I thought I was coming to see Baba and meditate and get away from it all. I've been plunged into the most active week I've ever had.

[Laughter]

GINNY: And I'm so tired. We talk all the time. But it's all talking of Baba and reliving those moments, it's been wonderful. It's been incredible.

PILGRIM 9: What about you?

GINNY: You? This week how's it been?

LIZ: This week the same, absolutely the same, just beautiful. I cried when I heard we were going to have this reunion. I have friends who like to go down to Florida every year and then I come to Myrtle Beach but they don't really know too much about Baba. So for many years I've spent time going up and down Route 17 and I-95 and seeing the Center and just dying inside. Anytime I can get here, I'm very very happy.

GINNY: This has been very special. It was really like an assignment from Baba. It really was.

LIZ: We've seen people we haven't seen in twenty-five years maybe. Right?

GINNY: Uh-huh

LIZ: And they haven't changed at all, nor have I.

[Laughter]

GINNY: We recognize each other but if I hadn't been here for four years, you young people age terribly.

[Laughter]

GINNY: We never dreamed in '58 that it would go on. I really thought well it was finished when Baba dropped His body and to think of all you coming and having this extended family all the time, having this love grow is really wonderful. I think Kitty are you tired now? I think we could say good night.

[Applause]