
TALK AT MPC-A

Mehroo Billimoria

MPC, Meherabad, India

1980's

22:54

PILGRIM 1: Of His lovers, that He would have somebody whose been with Him since 1942. And I've known Mehroo for all the years I've been here, but I've never heard your story of coming to Baba.

MEHROO: Didn't you read the "Showers of Grace"? The book?

PILGRIM 1: Yes. I think so.

MEHROO: Well it's the first story because my name begins from B. Mehroo Billimoria.

PILGRIM 1: It's alphabetical order. I never realized that.

[Mehroo and pilgrims laughing]

Unfortunately, I have a very poor memory so it's brand new to me.

MEHROO: Okay. Jai Baba to you all.

PILGRIMS: Jai Baba

MEHROO: I've taken down notes because I'm a forgetful person. I was brought up in a very religious family. Orthodox, religious. Papa used to pray day and night. Mummy was not there. We were orphans but. And brought up like that. So, all the time my mind said, "Prayer is power." And I didn't know any God but Zoroaster. God was Zoroaster. Everything was Zoroaster. And faith, that's all I depended upon. And while I grew up, papa gave us advice not to go to sadhu and saints. They are all bogus.

PILGRIM 1: Your father advised?

MEHROO: Yes. Just a common general advice. That you know what they do? They all sit in a row. There are disciples and there are public. And disciple will ask you quietly, "Why have you come? What made you come here?" And out of frankness you would speak out something or the other. Your wanting, your search. And that man would go inside and tell the guru quietly. Perhaps this experience, papa must have experienced.

PILGRIM 1: Haan, he must have had an experience.

MEHROO: That's why he told me. He said, "Never go. Then what the guru does? He tells us everything as if he's all knowing. So beware. You will rarely find a

real saint. All are bogus." That stuck into my head. Well, I grew up and in 1942, it was wartime. And it was very hard to sustain our family. I was working all young. And where I was working, Baba lovers were my supervisors.

PILGRIM 1: This was in Bombay?

MEHROO: Yes. In Dadar. So, they had a room. Separate room, Baba books, Baba photo. They used to tell me something or the other about Baba. It didn't struck me much. Even looking at the photo. I said, must be someone. But I liked to hear the stories what they are telling me. Then after a year or so they said, "Look we are going. Baba has called us. Would you like to come?" My first question to them was, "I will come, but don't tell me to bow down to Him." [general laughter]

So, they said, "No, no. Nothing of that sort. You just come and meet Him." I said, "Okay." And while traveling in the train I had made up my mind. I was only 24. And in those days, now children are very clever at 15, but I thought I'm clever at 24.

[general laughter]

So, I thought I'll remember everything and I'm going to test this person. They're calling God, they're saying He's great. I'm going to take His exam. So, I prepared a questionnaire in my heart. I didn't want anybody to read it. Perhaps like papa said somebody would read my paper and tell him. So, I kept everything in my heart. I'm going to test Him. I'm going to ask Him all about Zoroaster. If He is a great man, He'll know about Zoroaster. That was my ——

PILGRIM 1: Plan.

MEHROO: So, we are coming. And while we just came down to Nagar in train, one of the Baba's disciples, Dadachanji I believe, came to receive us. We were 40 women. And all of a sudden, he's asking me, "My dear, what is your name? Why have you come?" I said papa had told me.

[pilgrims laughing]

PILGRIM 1: Sounds like a song you know. Papa told me.

MEHROO: And being young, I was very hot tempered. I'm still hot tempered.

PILGRIM 1: I've heard that said. Rumor.

MEHROO: So, I said, "It's none of your business."

[pilgrim laughing]

I'm not going to tell you anything. Nothing is wrong with me. So, he turned his back and walked away. Then they take me to Baba. Dr. Aloo is the one who introduces me to Baba. But the moment I see Baba in white sadra and white pajama, standing with the board. And Adi Sr. beside Him. In the room where Ted and Janet are staying. That was the interview room. I fell in love with Baba.

He embraced me and I knew at once that He knows everything. He is what He says. That very second. It didn't even take a second. He looked into my eyes and He embraced me. And I began crying. Crying and crying and He makes me sit down on the stool and says, "Don't cry. I know what you are thinking." So I cried more because now I know He really knows.

[general laughter]

Then He again puts His hand on my head and says, "Remember Me and I will always help you." And He has never let me down. But the most important thing is, as soon as I come from Baba, home. The situation of my family changes. And it becomes like a starvation problem. Literally, literally I tell you. Because it's wartime and my husband doesn't get his salary from where he is working. And I have two small kids, two and four. I can't go out. So, I try to do work. Somebody's cooking, somebody's stitching, somebody making toffee. Giving perm to somebody. But still there are many a times when I didn't have a single penny to run tomorrow. So, what do I do? Since the day I met Baba, a family gave me Baba's photo. And I always keep it near me. And the only thing I do, I pray to Him. From then on, I prayed to Baba. Zoroaster was there, but Baba was first. And I used to talk to Him, always. Always I used to tell Him whatever is itching. And believe it or not, I would tell Him I haven't got anything for tomorrow. Now it's for you to do it.

[general laughter]

From the very moment I met Him, I put everything on Him. I said it's for You to do it. I haven't got anything. And believe it or not, the next day the door will be knocked. By someone or the other. They would come and give me advance money for the labor and for the thing they want. So, my days go on. On and on it went for two years.

PILGRIM 1: Depending upon Him.

MEHROO: But just like this, many a times there was nothing. Not even a single pie in the house. And I would tell Baba. I'd say, "Now I have got nothing. You have to do it." And definitely He would help. Definitely, no doubt about it. If nothing comes up, one or two friends of mine, real good friends, they would drop in. I wouldn't ask for money but they would tell me, "You need something? Are you in need? Come on take this." And I would take from two of them and return when my hand is free. Like that two years went. Even the job Baba gave me. It was He only.

While I was traveling one day, an old lady was sitting beside me. She all of a sudden asked me, "What are you doing?" I said, "Nothing." "Do you need a job?" I said, "Yes, very badly." So, she sends me to the recruiting office of women's auxiliary corps of India. You may not heard this word. This is a war time recruitment for civilian women. It's in 1944 now. So, I said, "Yes, I'd like to go." And I go there with her address. With the address she has given me.

There is an exam to be taken. And for nine years I had not taken a pen in my hand. An English exam and a big British lady was there. That made me

frightened. In those days the British people were very stout and bulky and, you know.

[general laughter]

PILGRIM 1: Awesome.

MEHROO: To look at them, frightens me. But then she says, "You have to give an exam." I said, "Okay." "Will you come tomorrow?" I said, "No, today only. No tomorrow. So, I sat down. Everything was easy, but maths. And as always, I'm very poor in maths. So, I was just lingering. Because the option was this; If you fail, you get 60 Rupees pay per month. If you pass you get 120. And I needed 120.

PILGRIM 1: Right.

MEHROO: So, I was worried. I said, "This two sums if I can do it, I would get 120." But couldn't do it. But that lady comes near me. There are so many people sitting giving exam. She comes near me and says, "You don't know these sums?" I said, "No ma'am." "Okay, this, this, this, this. Do it this way." She explains the two sums and I get 120.

[pilgrims laughing]

PILGRIM 1: Jai Baba.

MEHROO: This is how Baba took me. Better and better. Now, there is another story.

Yes. When I believed in Baba. Oh, okay.

[back ground talk] [inaudible]

When I came and told my husband that Baba is God, he didn't laugh at me. He was a real noble soul. Very noble and I think very rarely you can get a partner like that. We stayed together for 37 years. And he didn't laugh at me but he said, "Well you believe Him to be God. I can only say He's a great man. He's a saint." It took him 16 years to believe Baba to be God. Baba gave him an experience. Would you like to know that?

Baba always told us that, "Some people come just like that and some I have to give experience to draw them to me." So, here is my husband's story. Everybody when I came from Baba and put Baba's photo in the front room and call. Anybody would ask me, "Who is this?" I said, "Meher Baba. God in human form."

[Mehroo and pilgrims laugh]

Some would call me crazy, janglee, idiot, all adjectives I had. From my relatives and friends. I said I don't mind it. I believe Him to be God, you don't. I don't tell you to believe Him. That's what went on. And Bomi, it took him 16 years. Yes, in 1958 we had the Sahavas here. For a week. And the preparation was made in November for February. When I sent my application, my husband said, "Oh, you have given your consent?" I said, "Yes, I am going." "Oh, but the boy's only

4 years old. Who will look after him?" I said, "Baba will look after him." He didn't like it.

[pilgrims laughing]

He didn't like it. He said, "What are you talking?" I said, "Yes, Baba will look after him." So, I kept my preparations. I was ready. Now when there are only 15 days left for departure, he is telling me, "Can I come?" I said, "Now it's too late. You try, you try and ring up Arnavaz." Arnavaz was the one who did all the arrangements. I rang her up. She said, "No, no vacancy now. But you do tell Bomi to get prepared. If by chance somebody cancels, he can come." And Baba wanted it, so somebody cancelled eight days back. And we were known and Bomi got prepared.

But now what happened? Bomi was a very sensitive person and loving his children very, very much. Specially the young one. He couldn't live without him. So, he says, "Yes", but I know something is hurting him here. He wouldn't tell me because I would flare out. So, he just kept inside. And then, one day, look how Baba helps. My old maid servant who had looked after this little boy when he was 1 year old, came after 3 years at the right moment, eight days before our going. She comes and says. I said, "Why have you come?" She says, "Oh bai, I wanted to meet Darrius. I'm going to Goa now." A Christian woman. "I'm going to back to Goa. So, I wanted to meet my little one." At once I said, "Can you stay for 8 days at our place?" "Oh, yes, oh yes bai, I can stay." So that made Bomi happy. Because he knew that this, I forget her name. She can look after the boy very well. So, he was comfortable.

Now that is done. Baba has helped us by getting the right person. Now what happens? Still he is brooding inside. Something is itching. He is never satisfied very easily. So, and I know him from top to bottom so I can say at once. So, what happens? We leave. My Darrius is 4 years old. My daughter is 12 years old and my niece is 13 years old. We are leaving these 3 three children in the house with that servant. And we have come here. I didn't know anything, but Bomi had his mind upset. Now what happens? Early in the morning at 3am or 4am, Arnavaz knocks the door of my house in Dadar. And little Zareen, she said, "Zareen don't get upset, it's me, open the door. I am Arnavaz." "Why have you come?" "Oh, I just came to enquire about Darrius. How he is? Did he sleep well? Did he eat well? Is he all right? Is he thinking of papa?" And all was in negative. He was perfectly all right and no thinking and no crying and anything. He was happy.

So, she comes here at Meherabad and she doesn't give me the news. She says, "Call Bomi." I said, "Why?" "Oh, you just call him." So, I go to his tent and call him. And when Bomi comes, she says, "Look Bomi, don't feel upset at all. Be happy. Darrius is perfectly well. I went to your house. He ate, slept and he's not thinking about you."

See that made Bomi realize that Baba is God. And Baba knows everything. Because just before Arnavaz came, a day before, when we arrived, Baba gathered us and told us what? "Look, someone must have left their husbands

behind. Some must have left their wives behind. And some must have left their children behind. Don't worry about them at all. You just be here and take my love. You will never get a chance again. And I will look after your children, your wives, husband and your jobs. Don't worry at all." So, when Arnavaz came and told him, he told me that, "Now I believe that Baba is all knowing. And Baba is God." See how nice it is.

Some takes years and years, and some take a split of a second. It's our destiny. And how Baba helped me in another case. It's a very tragic. But as I told, I always talked with Baba. As I talked with Zoroaster in my prayers, now I am always talking with Baba. Not only praying to Him, but all my difficulties I lay down on Him. So, this day when my daughter said, "Mummy I'm going to school." At once, Baba told me, she's not going to school. Haa, I said, "She's not going to school. Where is she going?" She was afraid of the exams. She was going to fail because she had not prepared herself. A big girl, 15 years old. And this voice tells me she is not going to school. So, I get dress up and I had to see a client, insurance client who had been lingering his insurance many a time. Putting me off. So, this time I said I must go. He has called me; I must take it. So, I am in the bus but all the time, from the moment I left home till the moment I knocked the door 3 hours late, I repeated Baba's name. And very loudly. I knew somebody must have thought me mad.
[general laughter]

Yes, I know that because I said, "Baba, Baba, Baba, Baba help Zareen, Baba, Baba." I just kept my eyes closed. I knew at once that she's in danger. Baba help her, Baba save her. I kept on repeating. And when I come home, Bomi is there. He had his off that day, luckily. So, as soon as I knocked the door, I asked him, "Where is Zareen?" He says, "Why? How do you know?" I said, "Just tell me where she is." "She is sleeping. Doctor has come and given her an injection to smooth her nerve. She had gone to the riverside to attempt suicide."

See, this is how Baba helps us. If you just rely on Him. Isn't He doing all that for us? And how He made me know that she's not going to school? How He made me know it? If you rely on Baba, just blindly He's sure to be at your side. He will never leave you. At least in my case. I don't know about others. But He has helped me a lot, a lot. Even when my husband died. I was very desperate. I couldn't work. I couldn't do anything. I couldn't put my mind to work. All the time I was looking at Baba and telling Him, "Why have you taken him away from me?" But it went on for one and a half year.

Then I said, my license was taken always because I didn't do the quota. I said, "No, no, no. This can't happen. I want to become independent. And I want to go and stay at Meherabad." And what happens? The same day when I'm thinking like this, Baba comes in my dream. I'm sitting at the Meherabad bus stop. Very despondent, very sad. He comes in that very young form, very young form. He's so young and so beautiful. He comes and gives me His hand. I get up and He walks me straight to the Samadhi and then He disappears. But from that day, I got my work and I got my energy. I did triple the work that I would have done in

15 years, I did in 5 years. Yes, He made me do it. I couldn't have. From 7 in the morning till night 11 I was out. And I was alone. I would come and cook.