
Lessons

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Washington, D.C.

1978

9:42

Attendee 1: Delia, earlier you mentioned the story about Margaret and the ice cream that you thought you might like to tell tonight.

DELIA: Oh. Well Baba uses everything to teach you some lesson. In Nasik, on our birthday He said we could have ice cream and cake. It just happened that it was my birthday and Baba was there and we all put on our best dresses and the others were all assembled. Then suddenly the message came, "Delia and Margaret are to go to Baba."

We went gaily skipping, thinking, well I thought I was going to have a hug and a birthday kiss. When we got in Baba was sitting cross legged, looking very, very grave and very, very dark and He sighed and He said, "To think that you my two close disciples could have said such a thing." We said, "Baba what did we say?" He said, "Margaret, you told [inaudible] that I was only doing this, getting up this birthday," we were going to have this big birthday gathering, "that I was only doing this to impress the Western group." He said, "How could you, Delia, have even thought such a thing? I don't need to impress anybody."

By this time, we were in floods of tears and the more Baba looked so sad and we thought what a terrible thing we'd done to criticize Baba. It was a bit exaggerated but we had said something like that. Margaret just said it in her sort of way and I said, "Yes, yes."

[Laughter]

DELIA: [inaudible] I have never seen Baba just reaching such a path. And we cried and cried and suddenly He changed and He patted us on the back and He took us in these streaming faces and said, "Now you can eat your ice cream."

[Laughter]

He used that to break something in both of us, really. Because when you cry with Baba it's something quite different than ordinary tears. It's a cleansing process, I think.

And there was another episode up there. We all had the high point of this trip was this amazing birthday gathering which you see in the 1937 film. We all had to do these bundles in our spare time. I did a certain amount and thought I'd done very well and then Baba sends for us all and said to the person in charge, "Have they all done as much as they should?" And she said, "Delia didn't."

[Laughter]

DELIA: And Baba spelt on the board, "Lazy."

[Laughter]

DELIA: I didn't say a word and it took me quite a time. I felt rather resentful against this person but I realized sometime afterward, there was a side of me that was lazy. Baba was trying to bring that up into my consciousness.

Attendee 2: You said that you felt resentful towards this person and there were all kinds of little incidents. Did you ever feel angry at Baba? Angry or put out with Baba? Did that feeling come?

DELIA: Do you mean was Baba angry with me or with anybody?

Attendee 2: Yes, when Baba would rebuke you or try to teach you a lesson or teach you something

DELIA: Yes, I have seen Baba angry.

Attendee 2: Would you sometimes be mad at Baba. Did you ever feel that way?

DELIA: No, not mad, no. Taken aback, yes. It is as if you suddenly see the power side of Baba. I'd seen Him angry with the men, very angry.

Attendee 3: But you never got angry with Baba?

DELIA: No, I don't think so. Angry with Baba?

[Laughter]

I was often upset but not angry, grief-stricken? [inaudible] [crosstalk]

Attendee 2: In Myrtle Beach once when Margaret Craske was there, she gave a lovely talk. She talked about how Baba would work on people. She loved to dance so Baba would take this love of dance and use it to break down her ego. Do you have any memories of Baba doing that with you? Did He work in that way with you?

DELIA: How He was working on my ego? Well, that was one thing, pointing out that I was lazy in front of everyone else.

Attendee: Right

DELIA: Also, yes. I perhaps I was rather smug about the fact that I was the one who had found Baba and when I took others to

Him and He made a greater fuss of them and sort of pushed me in the background that did rouse feelings in me of jealousy and yes, I think it was a testing. It did put me down.

You see if you think you can't be jealous or you can't be this or that Baba will most certainly bring that up. Also, He would put you in a situation time and time again until you face those things that you need to face. I personally hate upheavals. I don't like quarreling with people. So I was more than often put in that situation.

[Laughter]

DELIA: By people who try to dominate me.

Attendee 3: Like Jean Adriel.

[Laughter]

Attendee 4: What about Jean Adriel?

DELIA: We were very great friends. I came out on the boat with her. She is a most striking brilliant personality, really. And she did try and dominate me. We were put together in a room at Meherabad before going to Baba. She had to have plenty of fresh air and I had a gale sweeping over me and I caught a chill. The next morning Baba had arranged to have a photo shoot at six o'clock in the morning I think because we all were up since half past four in our most beautiful saris and I said, "How can I go? I think I've got a temperature." So Kitty said, "You've got to go, we must go."

Anyway, we traipsed off to this thing I had to sit through two long films. Anyway, eventually Baba told me I could lie down. But I didn't say what had happened. So when we got down to Meherabad to stay with Baba, Baba said to me, "Kitty has told

me this and He said, "Why don't you fight her?"

[Laughter]

DELIA: I said, "I can't Baba! it would be so unpleasant"

[Laughter]

DELIA: He said, "I will do it for you this time." So He kept putting me in a situation right through my life where I've had to decide, when do you fight and when not? There is time for that and a time to compromise and a time to give in. In Nasik, He said, "Compromise" He said, "Fight yes, but compromise." He brought everything to the surface. If you had any resentment, He called everybody in and we had to say exactly what we thought in front of everybody else. And then sometimes He'd give approval and then sometimes he'd say "compromise."

Attendee 5: Have you taken that as a guide for yourself since then?

DELIA: What?

Attendee 5: Some epic around saying whatever is between you and another person if there is any resentment whatsoever? Dealing with that?

DELIA: Yes, I've tried to.

[Crosstalk] I still find it difficult to know when I should stand up to the person. I have lately, I think been cutoff.