

Katie Videos – A Brief Introduction

The tradition of story-telling is a large part of wisdom teaching the world over. Stories of the lives of past Avataric incarnations and their close disciples (Bible, Ramayana and Mahabharata), the so-called myths and fabricated stories of different cultures (Odyssey, King Arthur, Monkey, etc) as well as the histories of Saints and Masters (“Life of Milarepa”, “Muslim Saints and Mystics”, “Little Flowers of Saint Francis”, etc), have the intended effect of loosening the bonds of spiritual ignorance of those who are ripe for transformation.

It is said that parables (“earthly stories with heavenly meanings”) make up about one third of the teachings of Christ; and many of the Jataka tales, which are accounts purported to be of His previous births in varied animal forms told by the Buddha, can have a similarly powerful impact on ignorance.

To quote from the Introduction to Eruch Jessawala’s story collection *That’s How It Was*, “These incidents from Eruch’s life with Baba are not told to simply pass the time, but to help people get a better understanding of how to live with God and for God.” That is, to live the spiritual life, in the growing awareness of the greater Reality.

Meher Baba has likewise told many stories, some retold by Eruch Jessawala (*That’s How It Was*), Bhau Kalchuri (*Nectar for the Children*) and others. The stories told by Meher Baba and his disciples will have a special significance, as they are the “fresh Quaker Oats”, for people living in these modern times. *Stay with God*, the poetic epic by Francis Brabazon, is said by Meher Baba to have “given life” to His own book of *Divine Wisdom, God Speaks*.

In *God Speaks*, Meher Baba informs us that “According to the Sufis, the spiritual life consists of four stages, and man’s life on earth in all its aspects is but a preparation, conscious or unconscious, for the ever-unfolding realms of knowledge and illumination that lead to God-realization...

As the aspirant advances through these four stages, he acquires an ever-increasing measure of certainty concerning Truth.” These enduring

certainities are (1) intellectual certainty (conviction) developed through rock-like faith; (2) perceptual certainty through awareness of God; (3) visual certainty (conviction by sight), the experience of actually seeing God everywhere and continually; (4) certainty of Realization (conviction by actual experience), attained upon union with God; and (5) certainty of Gnosis, living the life of God in illusion.

Wisdom teachings through the medium of story-telling certainly can have an effect on increasing intellectual conviction, and they may also impart a certain degree of perceptual certainty or feeling-conviction, according to the preparation of the soil (for plants will not grow in stony soil), when fructified by the Grace of God.

This phenomenon of soil preparation is described in the Gospels (the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:18) and likewise in Bhau Kalchuri's *While the World Slept*.

Katie Irani was born in Ahmednagar, India, in 1920 and passed away in 2009, at the age of 89. Meher Baba first contacted her at her family home in Quetta at the tender age of 3, and would visit her family from time to time thereafter.

At the age of 18, Katie was invited by Meher Baba to travel with His other Ladies Mandali (disciples) during the Blue Bus tours around India from 1938 to 1941. Upon joining Baba, she stayed with His other women disciples in His ashram at Meherabad. She worked in the kitchen, cooking for the women mandali for 11 years, until Baba began His New Life phase of activity.

During the New Life, Baba put Katie and other mandali members who chose to remain with Him, whilst away from His physical presence, under very strict orders. Even before the Diplomatic office was officially established in India, Katie was told by Baba to work for the Japanese Consulate in Bombay until her retirement in 1978.

Throughout the New Life Katie remained faithfully under His direct orders, and fully participated in the Labor phase of the New Life. Indeed, this phase never ended, as she was called by Dr Goher her sister to Meherazad, to work in Meher Free Dispensary, on her retirement from

the Consulate. After Naja died, she also took over the kitchen work of Meherazad, which she continued to perform daily until she passed away in 2009. Katie often recounted in describing the impact of the New Life in her own life, that she felt like she had 'never left it'.

Katie was a wonderful raconteur, and would tell Meher Baba and the Ladies Mandali many a remarkable tale of her adventures in the mad world outside of the ashram. Many of these stories, later retold to the Baba-lovers at home and during her trips abroad, were recorded (on tape recordings and videos), and are still delighting audiences the world over.

Katie's stories were fashioned for the entertainment of Meher Baba and His close ones, and they naturally have a specially heartfully wise simplicity, while imparting impressions from the spiritually charged New Life focus of their narrator.

Katie Irani was a member of Avatar Meher Baba's Circle (as stated in Lord Meher p 525). Meher Baba in His Discourses has explained that, "Before taking on a physical body and descending into the world of duality, He gives to Himself and members of His Circles special types of sanskaras (impressions linking consciousness to duality), which are known as vidnyani sanskaras...

For all intents and purposes, vidnyani sanskaras are like the ordinary sanskaras of duality, though they are essentially different in nature. Vidnyani sanskaras prompt activities and invite experiences that are similar to activities and experiences caused by ordinary sanskaras. But while the activities and experiences caused by ordinary sanskaras have a general tendency to strengthen the grip of illusory duality, the activities and experiences caused by vidnyani sanskaras systematically work toward the loosening of the grip of duality.

The logic of the working out of vidnyani sanskaras necessarily invites the realization of the oneness of existence. They are therefore known as a threshold of Unity."

Katie's delightful stories may indeed be seen and felt to have the effect of bringing the auditor or viewer closer to God's threshold.

Meher Baba's own story, written by Bhau Kalchuri ("Lord Meher"), one of His Circle, was uniquely inspired in its writing and so it is uniquely inspiring in its effect, and may be found on the internet (www.lordmeher.com).

Other Circle members have likewise told stories of their lives with Meher Baba, including Mehera Irani (Mehera), Mani Irani (God-Brother), Eruch Jessawala (That's How It Was), and Bhau Kalchuri (While the World Slept).

Western Circle members have also told their stories: Kitty Davy, Margaret Craske et al. These stories all have a special value, which is imparted to them by the story-tellers' deep connection with the Avatar.