Reminisces of Ken Lux from Daniel & Carolyn Montague

Daniel first met Ken at the Maine Mela at the Powell’s farm in 1975. I had been sailing off the coast of Maine for Outward Bound and made it over for the last 2 days.

After Carolyn and Daniel were married in 1976 and we moved to Maine in late summer of 1979, we drove over to Ken’s and Katie’s home in Penobscot. Eliah was just a baby. The two of them showed us around their hand-built home and I remember Ken showing off his new on-demand hot water heater. All of us were “hippies at heart” and were happy to know of other Baba Lovers in Maine. The meetings were few – maybe once a month or every other month – and we would alternate between Ken’s home and ours in Belfast from 1979 to 1984 (when the two of us moved out of Maine for the next 17 years). And I can remember Ken picking me (Daniel) up and we ventured down to NY for the very first Northeast Gathering in 1981. Another memorable Baba meeting was a lobster bake we had on the beach in Saturday Cove hosted by a dear sweet Baba lover Calvin Elwell.

We kept in touch with Ken over the years and in early 2001 he put us in touch with a few Baba Lovers in mid coast Maine as we started to search for a coastal town to settle in. We moved to Owls Head (near Rockland) in late summer 2001 bringing with us Carolyn’s mom Verna and three of our children. Ken was so excited to see the Baba population of Maine increase by a third. He pretty much set up and ran the monthly meetings which were held in different locations around the state. Within a year, Carolyn convinced Ken to move down to the Rockland area so he was closer to us. This he did and relocated his psychology practice to Rockland and rented a cottage just a mile from us in Owls Head. So began our very close times together over the next 7 years.

Ken was the glue that held together the Baba Lovers of Maine. We always had great fun. Meetings first usually guided by Ken and then pot-luck dinner/party which was never a disappointment – how Baba Lovers love to eat!

And he attended the Boston Baba meetings on a regular basis and would travel throughout the States to participate in Baba gatherings. Always giving of himself and bringing to so many the intensity of his love and devotion to Baba.

He wrote his book “Meher Baba, Avatar of the Tortoise” in Maine and his publisher Connie Levitt became a Baba Lover because of her contact with Ken and the book.

He also wrote and self-published the first two books on Baba’s Manifestation. He and I (Daniel) would discuss these while he was writing them, going over them to some depth and hashing out differences - usually in our home and sometimes in his place (if it wasn’t too cold). At this time, he told me that after putting in a full day of therapy with his clients, he would stay up until 2am working on his research and writings of Baba; sometimes falling asleep at the computer. He tended to neglect his meals and never wanted to be bothered with dealing with his health. Baba was that important to him.

Carolyn would remind him that he had to take care of himself if he wanted to do all this work for Baba. So she would often have him over for dinner at our home. That was always pleasant and it’s when we discovered that he loved the big bands, jazz and Cole Porter. This music would be entertaining us during dinner. He took great interest in all our children and would pay special attention to them. And he really did become a part of our family there in Owls Head. When we celebrated Carolyn’s 60th birthday in August 2006, we did it with a big Baba party at our home. Ken and his long-time friend and fellow Baba Lover Barry Kornish lead Carolyn through her rite-of-passage for entering her 60s. And just today as I write this (December 10th, 2016), Carolyn came across a birthday card from that party from Ken: “Dear Carolyn – The earth has gone around the sun sixty times since you were born, & what a time to come down to earth! You came here to be with the Avatar, & to have your wonderful family & even your extended family, which includes me. Have a great birthday. Jai & Love, Ken”

We owned 2 video stores at the time, one in Rockland and the other 12 miles out to sea on Vinalhaven Island. Ken loved these stores. He invested in them and also loaned us his Baba video library to rent out in our stores. We had a big Baba meeting out on the island with everyone coming over on the ferry. Held at our small apartment in a restored school house (of course we still had our home in Owls Head). Then in 2007 we started caretaking for a 100 acre estate/farm on the island while still running the video store. Ken came out for a night with us. On the ferry ride over Ken was lulled asleep by the rolling ship. When we hit heavy fog the very loud fog horn started sounding. Ken rolled over and asked Carolyn to tell the Captain to turn that noise off. And he was serious! The next morning when he awoke in our caretakers’ house with pristine views of the bays and ocean and pine-tree lined cove, he burst out “I’ve woken up in heaven!” He truly loved his Maine.

Ken was never into revealing how old he was, but somehow Daniel finally managed to discover the birth date. So on June 10, 2009 we had a surprise 70th birthday for him at a Baba meeting at our house. Complete with dinner, cake, decorations and Ella Fitzgerald singing Cole Porter in the background. We really got him and he was so thankful, thoroughly enjoying himself.

I believe at this party, it was also his bon voyage party before he moved to Myrtle Beach. He had been planning on it for quite a while. He had been living in Maine for 40 years and it wasn’t an easy parting for him. However, he was so excited about the prospect of living near the Meher Spiritual Center and volunteering there. And he was done with the cold winters.

About a month before he left I was walking down a street in Rockland outside of Ken’s office. Ken was standing on the sidewalk and he was not happy. He was watching a large parked truck with its rear door open with a huge shredding machine going at full blast. Ken was having the company destroy and shred hundreds of copies of his book “Meher Baba, Avatar of the Tortoise”. These were left over copies that had not sold. This was his personal obedience to his Master Meher Baba that none of Baba’s photos should ever be trashed or thrown out. Rather, that destroying by shredding or burning was the only recourse.

Ken left Maine and moved to Myrtle Beach (with his son Eliah helping and driving) on October 16, 2009. That evening when we came home, there was message on our answering machine and it was from a very excited Ken: “Daniel and Carolyn, I’m in the truck and on my way to a New Life at the Center! And it’s New Life Day!” We saved the message on our machine for several weeks.