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December 1969

DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)

Editor:

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

"The Meher Vihar Trust"

Volume 5]
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AVATAR MEHER BABA

*New Year Greetings**

By GEMINI

Jingle. tingle the bell rings
And here New Year comes
I send all the best wishes ",,"
My heart goes in prayers
Entreating Avatar Meher, for
His Love-Blessings on you, and for
Endless, stream of His Divine Love to
Regenerate your home with Love.

"Do not waste your precious life-span in differentiating and judging your fellow-men, but learn to long for the love of God. Be pure and simple and love all because all are one. Live a sincere life, be natural, and be honest with yourself."

— AVATAR MEHER BABA.

"The real desire is that which leads you to become perfect in order to make others perfect."

— AVATAR MEHER BABA.

"Let principle in work and honesty in life prevail." —

— AVATAR MEHER BABA.

* Fly Officer S.K.R. Nettimi sent these Greetings to Meherazad and Eruch read the same to Beloved BABA in Jan. 1968. Baba Blessed Dharma Rao's family.

Holy One

By DOROTHY L. LEVY

Avatar Meher Baba—Praise YOUR holy Name!
This Universe is Yours to reign
It is to THEE we sing—Holy—Holy our Holy
Saviour and King!
As, We exchange gifts, and light the Christmas trees
Knowing, You are the giver, and gift of Light
and Love for all eternity!
Around the world again we celebrate the Christ
Child's Birth ...
Few are made aware that God-Man has again
descended to earth ...
February 25th, the day of birth in this Avataric Form ...
January 31st, a Memorial day for us to mourn
Having left His Physical body on this day 1969 at
High Noon ...
To live in our hearts forever His Love to consume . .,
Our Beloved Father it is to THEE we sing—
Baba Baba Baba—Praise YOUR HOLY Name ...
It is by YOUR Grace this Love we share
In Silence we pray for YOUR voice to hear
May YOUR Light forever shine through our eyes....
Reflecting YOUR Glory—The Highest Of The High....
With each word spoken to be another Psalm....
In Universal harmony we sing our love songs....
JAI BABA KI JAI !!! HOLY ONE

Why

By DOROTHY BUCHANAN

Why, Why beats through my head,
Why does He allow it
The hatred, the killing of innocents?
But I know,
Oh, deep down I know
It is not He
But us
We the ignorant, the ones who do not care
It is us
While He loves and weeps
Will we ever learn?

Why, why can't it be stopped
The cruelty of this world
Why, again and again!
Why do we blame Him?
It is so hard to face
That it is us
We who must learn, not blame
Why can't we accept His word
Without question
With pure Love
Why!

THE UNITY OF ALL LIFE

BY AVATAR MEHER BABA

The Tragedy of Unthinking Strife

The world today is presenting the spectacle of *man pitched against man*. Man has become a passive and helpless victim of an unthinking and ruthless machinery which is dragged on from the past through sheer inertia of the spirit.

The Fact of Brotherhood

In the one undivided and indivisible Ocean of Life, you have, through ignorance, created the pernicious divisions based upon sex, race, nationality, religion or community; and you allow these self-created divisions to poison your heart and pervert your relationships. You are already parts of one life and as such, brotherhood is not something which is to be brought into existence through laborious efforts, but is the supreme FACT, which claims your recognition and whole-hearted allegiance, as soon as you have the candidness and the courage to face the Truth. Slowly but surely must you shed prejudices and get disentangled from the superficial distinctions created by identification with forms and names; slowly but surely must you tread the Path to the Formless and the Nameless One.

The Diversity That Does Not Divide

When you enthrone the nameless One in your mind-heart, you do not necessarily put an end to the game of duality. You have to play your Divine Role in the drama of creation without being caught up in duality.

Restoration of unity does not imply the stamping out of all differences. In the world of forms, there always will be room for a rich diversity of expression; but when you understand the Truth illimitable, this diversity shall in no way be allowed to create a note of discord in the symphony of creation but will be taken up in that creative harmony which reflects the ageless and the infinite spirit. Out of this understanding, there shall spontaneously emerge the spirit of tolerance which is different from apathy, of active appreciation, which is different from passive receptivity and of life, which is different from the entanglement of attachment. The Unity of Life has to be experienced in the very midst of its diverse experiences.

Gazal by Jigar Moradabadi

Liked by Avatar Maher Baba

Translated by ADI K. IRANI

1. Use halo qal se wasta, na garaz
mukam-o-qayam se
Jise koi nisbat-e-khas ho,
tere husn-e-bark-e-kharam se

Any one who is especially connected with the stately beauty and splendour of the Beloved is not interested in the stages and states (of the Path) but is only concerned with love and word of the Beloved.

2. Mujhe de rahe hain tasallia
wo harek taz-e-payamse
Kabhi ake manzar-e-am par,
kabhi mitke manzar-e-am se

He is giving me consolations by his every fresh message, at times coming down to the level of man and at times flown high from the mundane world.

3. Garaz kiseese, na wasta,
mujhe kam apne kam se
Teri zikra se, teri fikra se,
teri yad se, tere nam se

I have nothing to do with anyone. I am not concerned with anyone. I am only concerned with my work or objective and it is to talk about you (Beloved), to be anxious about you, remember you and your name.

4. Teri subho aish hai kya bala?
tujhe ai falaq ho jo housala
Kabhi karle ake muqabala, gam-e-hijr-
e-yarki sham se

Oh heaven! If you have the courage and want to know whether Your sunrise is a joy or sorrow, come sometime and confront the torments arising out of the evening of separation from the Beloved.

5. Mujhe yun na khakme tu mila,
 mai agarche hun tera naqsh-e-pa
 Tere jalwe jalwe ki hai baqa,
 mere showk-e-nam be nam se

Do not reduce me to dust like this although I am as insignificant as your footprint. To the longing of my love your every manifestation particularly is an eternity,

To pronounce correctly:

'A' is as in 'Assure'
 'A' is as in 'Far'
 'U' is as in 'Use'
 'E' is as in 'Met'
 'O' is as in 'Oh'
 'AI' is as in 'Ivy'

GOD IS ONE

"The light that glowed in the fire of ZOROASTER,
 That flashed through the arrow of RAMA
 That hallowed the face of BUDDHA
 That radioed the flute of KRISHNA
 That silvered the cross of CHRIST
 That flamed through the brotherhood of MOHAMMED
 Is the Self same light of LOVE
 That is now radiating from the silence of
 AVATAR MEHER BABA."

ADI K. IRANI.

The grace of the Master, the Gate-way to God

BY K. K. RAMAKRISHNAN.

When I say that the grace of the Master is the Gate-way to God, one may not take it to mean that the grace of the master is an identification pass to get admission into the presence of God as a personality. Once, I heard a missionary preaching. He was an Australian. Showing a Passport, he said, "this passport gave me admission into this country. Likewise your belief in Jesus as the only son of God will be a passport into the Kingdom of God,". The grace of the Master is not a passport for the people of the world to enter into a heaven of human imagination, The Grace of the Master is a process of generating pure love for God in the heart of the aspirant. Pure love is sincere longing to know, feel and experience God's presence in one's own self. Pure love is that love which is unmixed with any kind of desires. Pure love for God annihilates the self of man, which is the veil between man and God's presence within oneself. It is in pure unadulterated love for God that man finds God as one's own self. Thus Grace of the Master is a process of absorbing the ego-self of the aspirant—his self centered and separative existence in illusion, and awakening him to the conscious experience of his own real Self as God.

But why the grace of Master, and why not the Grace of God Himself? It is a good question? Fortunate are those in whose mind such questions arise, for question implies inquiry. They are the real seekers of truth and honest lovers of God. Those who seek will find!

Now, what is God? Meher Baba had said, "It is possible for, and indeed is the birthright of every man and woman to realise and experience personally the One Spirit underlying the reply to this question which can otherwise be answered in a number of ways and words." There can be as many conceptions of God as there are individual human beings on the earth. Because God is beyond imagination and conception. "Godhood is the birthright of everyman and woman," said Meher Baba. The idea of God sitting in a heaven of human imagination and ruling the affairs of this world and men and the belief that God is confined within the four walls of a temple or church or mosque should be rooted out of our mind in order to get access to the truth of God's ever-living presence within the heaven of human heart. One who has attained Godhood and lives the life of God in human form in order to show the way of divine life on this earth is a Master. In our ancient spiritual books a Master is glorified as "GURU BRAHMAH"—means Guru (Master) is the Creator or Infinite Knowledge. "GURU VISHNU"—means Guru (Master) is The Parvardigar, the Protector and the Preserver of all. He is also infinite Love & Bliss. "GURUH DEVO"—means Guru (Master) is God. "GURUH SAKSHAT PARABRAHMAH"—means Guru (Master) is in essence Almighty God. For mankind God functions on this earth as a Perfect Master or as the Avatar during the Avataric period which occurs, according to Meher Baba, once in 700 to 1400 years. Although he may appear to be living the life of an ordinary man, he really and consciously lives the life of God on this earth. He experiences himself as Existence, Infinite and eternal. He experiences himself as living in everyone and is in everything. He is embodied Truth; Love personified. In the Master, man sees his own ideal realised; the Master is what his own deeper self would rather be; He sees in the Master the reflection of the best in himself which is yet to be, but which he will surely

one day attain. Faith in the Master therefore becomes the chief motive-power for realising the divinity which is latent in man. But where to find such a Master and how to find him?

The best way to find a Perfect Master is not to search for him, but to confidently and honestly live one's life in the light of one's own perception of the truth. When the aspirant is ready the Master comes, for the Master is always looking for souls who are ready and are prepared to receive his grace. The Masters exist to descend the Grace of God into the life of the aspirants by sowing the seeds of love into their hearts.

But to deserve the grace of God and to reach the feet of the Master some preliminary preparations have to be made by the aspirants. The aspirant has to build up certain divine attributes in his psychic make up. What are these divine attributes? In His message to mankind, "HOW TO LOVE GOD", Meher Baba had indicated as a first step on the spiritual preparation of the aspirant to deserve the grace of the Master—

"If, instead of seeing faults in others, we look within ourselves, we are loving God".

In our everyday life, almost all of us are addicted to indulge in gossip, which involves backbiting or criticism of other persons and their ways of life. When we discuss the bad points in others, we are consciously and unconsciously asserting our superiority over the others about whom we discuss. We thereby invite into ourselves impressions of those very bad points about which we discuss and through the assertion of our superiority over others we intensify the egoistic and separative tendencies in us. Spiritual life is way of life to consciously experience oneness of universal existence—one's indivisible and inviolable unity with all lives. In the message, "THE SEVEN REALITIES", Meher Baba

had explained that the only REAL EXISTENCE is that of the ONE and the only God, Who is the Self in every (finite) self. The aspirant should be alert and ever watchful of his thoughts, words and deeds. Every thought or word or deed that separates one from the other separates one from God, Who resides in the heart of everyone, to realise whom as one's own Self is the goal of life. Thus every time we talk ill of another person we are walking away from the path of God, which means away from the goal of life.

Once a woman came to a saint and said, "I am lonely. No one likes me. No one keeps my company". The saint lovingly listened to her problem. He advised her to bring him a fowl. She brought one. The saint removed the feathers of the bird and gave to her with instructions to spread them on either side of the road on her way back home, and to collect them and bring them back to him the next day. She said she would do as instructed. On her way back she spread all the feathers on either side of the road. The next morning she started to collect the feathers on her way to the saint. But to her surprise she could find not a single feather on either side of the road. They were carried away by the wind. She came and reported to the saint as to what had happened. Then he explained to her that scandal is like the feathers carried away by the wind. Because of her indulgence in gossip and scandalous talk she had separated herself from the community. She was despised as an unsocial being. The saint advised the woman to be good to others and avoid backbiting. He told her that she should see only good points in others and not their bad points. She was advised to look within herself at all times.

When we cultivate the habit of seeing good in others, we imbibe into our lives the qualities we admire in others and at the same time get drawn to them and become one

with them. When a person avoids backbiting and thinks more of the good points in others than of their bad points, and when he can practice supreme tolerance, and desires the good of others even at the cost of his own self, he is ready to receive the grace of the Master. As soon as the disciple is ready the grace of the Master descends, for the Master, who is the ocean of divine love, is always on the look out for the soul in whom his grace will fructify.

Hence let our honest effort be to live the life of truth Beloved Baba had unfolded into our understanding. Let our efforts be to keep our thoughts pure knowing that Beloved Baba's Love kindles the flame of reason in our minds. Let our effort be to see the Beauty of Beloved Baba manifesting through everyone and everything around us knowing well that it is He Who enforms everything and lives in everyone. If we remember Beloved Baba and invoke His Blessing of Love on all around us we will be invoking His Blessing of Love on us as well, for we are all ONE IN HIS LOVE.

JAI BABA

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N. Dharma Rao
Managing Trustee

Avatar Meher Baba and the East-West Gathering 1962

BY GROUP CAPTAIN M. M. SAKHARE

As Avatar Meher Baba says "God cannot be argued about, God cannot be theorised, God cannot be explained, God cannot be understood..." His plans and projects, His ways and work are beyond human comprehension. Hence, the manner in which the affairs of the whole universe are controlled and carried on by the God-Man cannot be appreciated by our puny little intellect. Not a leaf moves without His will. He is continuously conscious of, and is in contact with all the planes, gross, subtle and mental, at one and the same time. In the company of Avatar Meher Baba, the fortunate ones might have experienced it. He would be carrying on casual conversation (by gestures as He was observing silence) joking and laughing with His lovers, His fingers continuously moving, aware of the lightest movement and murmur in the furthest corner of the hall, and suddenly He would be withdrawn silent and serious, His eyes intensely deep with a far off look. His body was there but He was else-where. Next moment He was back again, all smiles, continuing the topical conversation. One cannot even imagine the immensity of his universal work and the ways of His working. But one can visualise His spiritual work reflected in the material and mundane matters of the world. His casual remarks gave an indication of events to come and His symbolic gestures in His spiritual working affected the minutest and the gravest developments in the world. I cite an instance to illustrate this:

The East-West gathering of Avatar Meher Baba lovers in 1962 was a most momentous and memorable one. His

lovers in thousands, from all over the world from the East and west, had congregated at Poona to have His sahas (Company) for one week under the great awning at Guruprasad. It was a many splendored thing in His love. Sitting in front of Him looking at His bright and beautiful face, in that serene, happy and loving atmosphere of melodious music, one forgot oneself and merged with the whole. It was purely a spiritual affair. But in the worldly affairs it was one of the most precarious junctures in human history. Two great crisis were brewing concurrently, one in the East and the other in the West. In the East, there was military conflagration—between two of the great Asian nations—India and China. China had attacked India on its North Eastern borders and was pushing it across and down the Himalayas. This would have turned into a world conflict, World war III, if any of the other nations had taken part in it. In the West, the World's two greatest nuclear giants—America and Russia were confronting each other at Cuba. Any day it would have resulted in a nuclear holocaust destroying three fourths of the world and the modern civilization.

During: those days I was working in the Cabinet Secretariat (Military wing) on the joint Intelligence Staff. With an undeclared war on our borders, the work was heavy. Leave or any outstation visit was out of the question. How beloved Baba got me to Poona and kept me there to attend the East-West gathering was a miracle. It is an entirely different story which I will narrate in another article. But Baba laid down the precondition that we had to leave Poona on the 5th of November after attending the Sahavas for four days, and we left on the 5th. On the morning of 28th October when I was sitting with Baba along with the Mandali, He suddenly asked me as to what was happening on our borders. I told Him that, the Chinese were pouring across the Himalayas and were pressing us down the foothills and would soon be in the

plains of Bengal cutting us off from Assam. He made a casual gesture meaning that they will not come down the plains but will go back. I was taken aback. I was thinking "How could Baba say such a thing? The victorious army would never go back on their own as we did not have the strength to push them back". But with other topics and activities around Baba, I just forgot all about it.

On 30th October, being on the reception committee of the Western lovers I along with others went to Poona Station to receive the Western Baba lovers coming from Bombay. After the initial greetings in His love, the first thing an American lover asked was about the developments in the Cuban crisis. In beloved Baba's sahasas I had forgotten all about our own war and the Cuban crisis. I said I had not heard anything particular and so it should be all right. I asked him not to bother about it as Baba would look after it. The next morning when the Westerners were with Baba I understand one of them asked Him about it. It seems Baba told them that as they had come to have His sahasas and enjoy His company they should not worry about anything. They should forget about the Cuban crisis; and all that will fizzle out. Lo! the same day it was announced on the radio and later came out in the papers that the Russians had agreed to pull out their missiles from Cuba and hence the crisis had fizzled out. According to Robert Kennedy's account, America had given the ultimatum to Russia on the 28th of October and the Russians agreed to withdraw the missiles on the 30th October, 1962. These are historical facts.

Beloved Baba's sahasas in the East-West Gathering was a grand feast of His love. It was meant only for His lovers and not for the general public. On the last day a lucky part of the Public got a chance of His darshan. Half of it had to go back disappointed due to shortage of time. But some reporters, Photographers and V.I.P's were sometimes permitted. On the second day a Times of India reporter asked Baba pointedly about the Chinese aggression

on our country. Baba dismissed him by His casual statement that India, the country in which the Avatar is born, will be ultimately victorious. This news item was flashed around the world and was published in most of the news papers.

Throughout our stay at Poona I was being continuously recalled to Delhi by express telegrams, signals and on telephone and was being pursued by the Provost Marshal who was ordered to pack me back to Delhi, who by the way was not allowed inside Guruprasad. But how beloved Baba kept us at Poona for four days of the sahasas, is as I have said before another story. On conclusion of our short sahasas we left for Delhi with a heavy heart, thinking all the time of the ocean of love we had left behind and the short dip we have had in it. Though Baba had asked me not to worry I was a bit worried of being taken to task for not returning for duty immediately on recall. Disobedience of orders is a court. marshal offence and in war time it has serious consequences. When I reported for duty, all my boss said was, that after having had my Master's blessings I better get back to work quickly and share the heavy burden of the Secretariat work. Then he casually asked me what my Master had to say about the war. I told him that Baba had said that the Chinese will not come down the foothills into the plains but will go back. He was taken aback. He glared at me for a moment and almost screamed at me "What non-sense are you talking about. You a military man believe it, and have the audacity of telling me that! I can understand your Master who does not know much about military matters saying it, just as He said to the press that India the birth place of Avatar will be Victorious. It is just a sort of encouraging message for the masses. But even according to the most idiotic and foolish military strategy no victorious army is going to just march back without attaining their aim. I am surprised at you. Anyway, get back to work."

So, anxious days and nights of vigil and unending activity passed in the Cabinet Secretariat. Every morning there was the war cabinet meeting presided over by the Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and we were doing the military briefing and taking down notes. One fine morning the Prime Minister coolly broke the news in the meeting that the Chinese had unilaterally announced cease fire and were withdrawing from the foothills. I could not believe my ears nor could the others. I was stunned and speechless. After all, our Beloved Baba's word was true! At that moment I did not stop to think that He was the Avatar of the Age and that His word was law and His will was done. He was just My Beloved and I was happy He was right. Later in the day the boss called me to his office but he could not meet my eyes. He said in a low voice "Your Master Meher Baba was right. I am sorry for speaking callously about His message. Please accept my apologies." It was then that I told him that He was his Master as much as mine. Earlier in the month I had given him a copy of the booklet "Meher Baba on War". He had hurriedly gone through it, and I hear that he had passed a copy on to the Prime Minister, but he had not agreed to its distribution in the Secretariat. But he told me afterwards that I could distribute them, which I did. I also gave them to the members of the Military Affairs Committee.

From the foregoing, seen in its correct perspective, one can Visualise Avatar Meher Baba's spiritual working and the significance of the East-West gathering of His lovers at a time of the most critical period of two concurrent world crisis of the century, one in the East and the other in the West, any of which might have culminated in a nuclear holocaust and the end of the so called modern civilization. As Baba has said "Humanity is not going to be saved by any material power—nuclear or otherwise. It can be saved through only Divine intervention. God has never failed humanity in its dark and critical periods.....". Surely it was our Beloved Baba's Divine intervention!

Sometime, Somewhere, Somehow

By GEMINI

Sometime, Somewhere, Somehow
He promised to see you.
When, Where, and How
Is not a worry for you.

To see the Beloved
To love and be loved
On this mundane world
Was a wish you cherished.

On the brink of fulfilment
You met disappointment
But it's only for a short moment
Since He will keep His appointment.

Sometime, Somewhere, Somehow
To make this a reality
To know—when, where and How
Ask your Love's sanctity.

Answers are not mundane
But pure Love Divine. . 1
Love, Love, Love Him more
For journey safe and sure.

With Divine Love, Avatar Meher
Paved way for His lover
By merging all in one
With Love in Love, for Love.

In this incarnation—Meher
Taught love to all for all by all
And to be prepared for Meher
Sometime, Somewhere, Somehow.

GLIMPSES

From
BELOVED BABA'S LIFE

By BAL NATU

The moon was slowly rising at the horizon and the sky was getting lit with silver light. I hurried to catch a train to participate in a musical programme at a village fair. As I occupied my seat, the train whistled and started. I found myself facing a young man with long hair and a beard, on the opposite seat. Just few days back I had returned from Madras spending some days in the divine 'Sahas' of Avatar Meher Baba. I was enough infused with enthusiasm so as not to let go any opportunity to tell about Beloved Baba. I cared less whether people heard me with just curiosity or otherwise! How could I miss such an opportunity of giving the news about Meher Baba to that bearded soul!

'Where are you going Swami?' I opened the conversation. He just raised his finger gesturing a distant place. I gathered that he was observing silence. This made me all the more communicative. The .swami—better to call him Mouni—as he was observing silence, took out his small slate and the slate pencil. I think, it was a queer amusement for the passengers in that crowded compartment.

After some time, I said to him, "You have roamed enough from Hardwar to Rameshwar (i.e. from North to South of India). But Why? Are you satisfied in your quest? Have you realised the Truth?" In all humility he was frank enough to write and nod 'No'. "I too know

no Truth, but I know the One who knows and Is the Reality," I said, "and if you so desire, we will talk about the Realised One later."

By this time the train reached where I had to get down and reluctantly we had to cut short the conversation. I asked him his address and coincidentally I learnt that he belonged to the same place where I lived, Kurduwadi.

After some days I met Mouni and had a long 'conversation' about my association with Avatar Meher Baba. He expressed his earnest desire to have Beloved Baba's 'darshan'. He was sincere about seeing God in human form and in his own heart too. As chance would have it, I got the news that Beloved Baba would give few hours' 'darshan' at Satara. Hearing this, Mouni prepared himself to avail of this opportunity and we left for Satara,

It was July, 1947. Beloved Baba was busy with His Mast Work. On 13th July, Norina Matchabelli and Elizabeth Patterson had arrived at Satara. They were lodged in a separate bungalow and perhaps it was in this bungalow that Beloved Baba was to give 'darshan'. We reached Satara by late noon. The 'darshan' was to begin from 3 p.m. As we alighted from the bus, it began to drizzle. It seems that 'showers' have some mystical connection with Beloved Baba's programmes! By the time we reached the bungalow, the hall was packed to the full. Beloved Baba with a garland of roses looked divinely beautiful.

As I entered the hall, Baba signalled me to come near. He enquired about the one who had accompanied me. I introduced Mouni to Beloved Baba. People were coming in a queue to take Baba's "darshan". They came with garlands and fruits. Baba gave each one a smile or a pat. A small 'Bhajan' party was singing devotional songs.

As the programme was going on I told Beloved Baba that Mouni was observing silence since years. This made Baba happy and He made a sign of touching the forehead with His finger meaning that Mouni was fortunate. Mouni expressed a desire to have a picture of Baba. Someone brought a picture and Baba gave it to him. He continued to receive people for 'darshan'. After a while, Baba took a coconut in His hand and looking at us both began to explain its significance. Catching some threads of the coir Baba said, "This is like a gross body". Tapping the hard shell, Baba conveyed, "This is like a subtle body and the inner white kernel is like mental body." Then shaking the coconut a bit so as to refer the sweet water inside, Baba concluded, "That is I, Baba".

He said all this through such sweet and eloquent gestures and with so few 'words' that Baba alone could explain. Then he gave that coconut to Mouni. Beloved Baba told him to place His photo against that coconut (which would serve as a stand) and concentrate on Baba's face for half an hour everyday, after midnight. Mouni was so pleased, so pleased, that tears of bliss and satisfaction of having met the Real One, sparkled in his eyes. It was his first contact and his sincere wish was so lovingly responded. Baba had asked him to continue the 'Sadhana' of meditation for six months.

After some time, Mouni was tempted to ask Baba a question about his diet. "Are there any restrictions about food? Am I to fast for some days"? Mouni wrote on a slate that I read out to Baba. It is a tendency in man to indirectly exhibit one's ability even when he comes in contact with the Master, who knows everything. It is a trick of the mind to express what one wants in a respectable way. But in this path, one has to understand the ways of 'my' and 'me' and not to nourish them. Baba looked a bit indifferent and said, 'What has fasting to do with what I have told you to do? If you so desire, you can take food

seven times a day or fast for seven days; It matters least whether you take only milk and butter-milk or exclude them outright. Do sincerely what is told. That alone matters." We sensed that it was rather silly to put questions to Beloved Baba. Realising the mistake we kept quiet for the rest of the period to absorb as much of His Presence in silence as possible.

The programme was over by 6 p.m. We still lingered in the hall. At one time Mouni had a loving pat on his back. He turned his head aside and to his surprise he found that it was from Baba who had just passed by his side to the next room. Numerous are the ways of Beloved Baba's intimacy!

No wonder that Mouni whole-heartedly observed the instructions that were given to him. Some days later often he used to see Meher Baba's divine face, smiling at him. Once he saw Beloved Baba's full form that grew so tall so as to reach the skies. After this stipulated period of six months, Mouni began to inquire about the possibility of seeing Baba again.

Now it was summer, 1948. The new building at Meherabad was ready. I got a letter from Adi Sr, that Beloved Baba would be seeing some of His people on a certain day. This delighted us and we—myself and Mouni reached Meherabad (Ahmednagar) in time. Beloved Baba was sitting in one newly built room of Meherabad ashram. He was wearing a yellow silken coat over a white 'Sadra', Dr. Ghani was in the same room. I was called inside with Mouni. Baba looked divinely powerful and compassionate too. We sat on the carpet, just before Him, quite near Him.

Beloved Baba expressed His happiness about Mouni's attempt to obey the instructions 100%. He said, "I am happy you did that. What do you want?" I read out

Mouni's small slate on which he wrote the reply, "Guru-Krupa (Master's Grace)" . Hearing this Baba's smiling face wore a profound expression and He began to spell on the board which Dr. Ghani read as follows:—"What a wish! Even 'seeing' of God is far less important than this. But mind, Master's Grace is not a cheap thing. It's a rare happening. For this, you will have to prepare yourself to obey Me 100% whatever I tell. Are you ready?"

Mouni moved his fingers over his neck meaning that he was ready to cut his throat, if so desired by Beloved Baba. To this Baba replied, "But that is very easy. Cutting one's throat, leaving the family and the home, are very easy things compared to My orders that may appear quite simple. Are you really ready to obey me? Think well before you say 'yes' and Mouni without hesitation said, 'Yes' . "If so," Baba began to spell on the board, "from tomorrow, for a month take a non-vegetarian diet, morning and evening. "As I translated these words in Marathi, there was a marked change in Mouni's face which reached its climax as Baba added, "And a bottle of wine at noon."

Mouni is of an ascetic type. He wears just one long cloth (Dhoti). His needs are very few. He does not allow people to touch his body. Only when he comes to Beloved Baba or His lovers, all such restrictions are not literally observed. He takes one meal a day and no tea or coffee in between. He does not like to drink water touched by others, and so the very thought of having a non-vegetarian diet shocked him deeply. He appeared profusely confused.

Baba began to talk with Dr. Ghani about certain other things as if, to provide time for Mouni to think for himself and decide. Mind is very tricky indeed! It never admits defeat openly. It is an expert in putting forth excuses. So, instead of openly confessing his inability

Mouni wrote, "Baba, I am poor. How can I buy a meat-dish and pay for a bottle of wine every day?" Hearing this Baba said, "That is your look out! You replied that you would obey Me 100% and I am just asking you if you can do it willingly. I know wine is prohibited and if you take it, you will be put in jail. But that is your side! However as you expressed your inability about money, I assure you that it can be arranged; but it is not the main issue. Tell Me frankly whether you are really ready for implicit obedience or not."

Little did Mouni know that till 1932, Baba did not allow His mandali even to have eggs, so that they could neither eat cakes nor chocolates. However, later He granted permission to have a non-vegetarian diet to those who so wished. But it was never an order for any one that he must have it. It is not the diet that binds but the thoughts of superiority and spirituality which are associated with certain diets, that bind. Deep down in Mouni's mind there must have lurked some such thoughts and it was to work on such layers that Beloved Baba might have given such an order. What Baba expected was 100% dedication of action—good and bad, along with the result to Him without reservations. Perhaps that is the condition for the descent of Guru-Krupa. Whatever it be, Baba knows best.

When Baba assured Mouni about money, he was on the point of saying 'Yes'. Just then Beloved Baba intervened and explained, "One more thing. Suppose you are ready 99% with 1% hesitation. In that case it is far better to be honest in saying 'No', for the dedication has to be total. Be quick. I have some others to call in."

This again aroused fresh thought waves in Mouni's mind and the result of it was, he nodded "No". Then Baba said, "Did I not tell you that you have aspired for

the best but that is not easy! However I am happy that you have been honest enough to say 'No'. Now forget about this completely. And here are some other instructions for you which you must observe. For one year, be on a pilgrimage visiting the holy places in India. Don't ask for money; don't touch money. Be careful not to touch any woman. If, in train or crowded street you unwillingly happen to touch some lady, remember your dear mother. Beg for food; don't cook food. Take 'darshan' of the saints you meet but don't go after any one."

Mouni very happily agreed to obey, these orders. He was in fact leading such a hard life of 'sadhana' for years. Fasts, physical hardships and travels were no problems for him. At the end Baba said, "And when you finish with the year's itinerary, come and see Me."

We folded our hands in reverence to Beloved Baba and left the room. As we got out we had a discussion whether it was right on Mouni's part to say 'No', for the order about meat-eating. Mouni felt that it was just a test and that he had made a gross mistake in nodding 'No'; for whatever order the Master gives it is for the highest benefit for the person concerned. So we were about to reenter the room and tell Beloved Baba that Mouni was ready to obey the first order.

However, I felt that before going inside, it was advisable to tell some one from the 'mandali' about this incident. I do not recollect whom I told this but I very well remember the gist of the reply. He said, "Past is past and the game is lost. With the Perfect Master, every moment has an ever renewing significance. As for taking meat, now even if Mouni is ready to devour an alive lamb, Baba is not expected to reconsider the matter. And again that will be disobeying the next order." He further explained, "It was Beloved Baba's wish that Mouni asked for Guru-Krupa and it was equally His wish that Mouni preferred

the second order. Everything happens as Baba wills and it is for the best."

This explanation was enough to drop the idea of seeing Beloved Baba again. And we returned to Kurduwadi the same day. To Mouni, it was nothing like making preparations for an year's journey-visit to holy places in North and South-India. He had to pick up just an extra 'dhoti' and a 'begging bowl'. Money, he already had none. He was also to continue observing silence. In fact he enjoyed hard life in which everything is taken with ease and sportsmanship.

Within few months, he reached Hardwar. From there he had to go on foot to Badri-Narayan on the Himalayas. After leaving Rishikesh there are no towns, not even villages where 'Bhiksha' can be had. Again, in this part, the people think it irreligious to give cooked food as 'Bhiksha' instead, they offer wheat flour and rice. Mouni had to accept these in Bhiksha. As he mounted up, his stomach got upset. Sometimes there would be unbearable stomach-ache. He could not make out the reason for this freak pain. All of a sudden it dawned on him that Baba had instructed him 'Beg for food; don't cook food'. Here in this part, cooked 'Bhiksha' was not available. So he at once changed his mind and instead of going to Badri-Narayan, he began to climb down to Hardwar where he could get cooked food as 'Bhiksha'. Soon the pain subsided though later he had to pass a longer period at Benares in one of the hospitals.

He was still feeling weak when he started for the holy places in South-India. He feared that in those parts people put more chillies and spices in the food-stuff. He thought that it might affect his stomach adversely, but he did not dare to cook his food. To his surprise, though quite foreign to such a diet, he fared well and there was no health complaint.

On the way, Mouni was tempted by some people to be the head of a 'Math' (Ashram) and some even proposed that he should get married and settle at that place. With Beloved Baba's inner guidance Mouni reached safe and sound at Kurduwadi, awaiting another... enlightening interview with Beloved Baba in August, 1949.

This incident reminds me of the following 'words' of Beloved Baba. In later years, when with the group of His closer ones, Beloved Baba once remarked, "Here are some who dislike meat and here are the others who like it most. Dislikes bind as much as likes. My concern is to free you from both. Love alone frees. But where 'self' is, love is not: and where 'you' are not, Love Is. "

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And
HIS COMPANIONS

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SONG

By CONRAD HUBBARD

the Lord came from Persia to India
born in India schooled by latter christian
and within Poona town
drew heart in the skance of Babajan
and raised to the seventh being
his body lay scattered
the gross cohesion gone

scatter journey the five Qutub
Upasni Maharaj flicked pebble on his brow
and the Maharaj gathered Merwan
high scatter and low as the one Son

Lord Baba i would tell by your grace
of the wrath fire and love you weave on your loom
eternal

through the maze of the world

O sun-burst and tear of child
lone jewel whose facets
furnace in the utter mercy
all growth journey through shadowy binding

O God Mother of the world
Your Son Servant has strength of the water
the rocks draw his course
he flows as beckoned
and humble teethes the illusion to sand

Lord Baba i would sing Your love and fiery wrath
 blasting sin through inner winds of the soul
 i beseech You the Prophet
 sing through me that the wound skein fumble
 and fall one rising as the all

Baba Lord of my wandering
 You see in me all I see and do
 You the grass of the fields of my walking
 and the tiger man comes to you as a lamb
 Baba the beyond of the beyond and the here and
 hither
 and thence i will go
 and the same as a sickle
 to weave a river of life through the mind
 of the most high

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With an INTRODUCTION by Shri ADI K. IRANI

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H Y M N

By CONRAD HUBBARD

Meher Baba Father of Compassion
You sit young with Your lovers
and no blush of the world
can touch Your Face Miracle as Om

all the world spirals down
asunder in Your Love
sherds in Your Wake
growing Bloom of the Living God

O Baba we quicken in Your Grace
in Your Face glimpse the Love of God
Thou Messias
born to draw the Love of the world

Beloved of the Father
the sun is Your sandal
as suffering Servant
in Humility Divine
bowing even to the crawl snail
Beloved of the Mother of One
and all myriad being

Newsletter No. 4
25th August, 1969,

AVATAR MEHER BABA

MONDAY NIGHT GROUP

Melbourne

MEETS: Victorian Railway Institute Buildings
Flinders Street, (Cafe Entrance opp. Elizabeth
Street) Room 7 or 10,
Starting at 7.45 pm.

ENQUIRIES: Meryl Baulch 772 3985 Jim Miskias (Office)
690440 x 391 Lee Buchanan 439 7286

Contact by telephone : Open line 9 am - 11 a.m.

The group provides a meeting place for Lovers of Avatar Meher Baba to gather for reading, open discussions, music, films or other activities which may arise spontaneously as a result of having one's life centred on Baba.

Visitors are welcome and should feel free to enter discussions .

If notices and newsletters are desired \$ 1.00 per year is charged to cover postage. Please leave name and address in address book.

Year begins 25th February, Baba's birthday.

An Anniversary Story

At Essendon Airport Melbourne, Baba was being greeted and welcomed by His lovers in the reception lounge. Amid the movement, I noticed a young Indian boy standing still, in, it seemed, a cleared space among the lovers, almost on the edge yet in the midst. I was further back. He was dressed in Indian clothes, and appeared to be about 17 years old. I had the impression that his job was not with the arrival and welcoming part. I thought, "perhaps he has charge of the luggage and other special duties and his services are not required just now." He looked shy and just waiting. I was waiting too, and we caught each other glance. His expression suggested humble human resignation. A kind of helpless acceptance of the situation. It was easy to understand his aloneness, and we half-smiled at each other. It was only for a few moments, there were people all around and either before seeing the boy, or after, I greeted Baba. It was, I remember, with a kiss, as naturally as one would greet one's closest relative.

I did not see the boy again during the time Baba was in Melbourne, and I did not ask questions of those who might know, about the people who accompanied Baba on this visit. Not until 18 months later did I find that no one else other than the four men mandali had travelled with Him. I had seen all four. None wore Indian dress. Without doubt, the "boy" had been Baba! How could He be so apart, right in the midst of the crowd? There was space all round Him. He was not being touched by anyone. I had the impression the boy was alone; with the party, but apart. And I can never forget that expression, that moment of contact on human level.

Contributed by Meryl Baulch.

Anniversary Celebration 1969

Saturday afternoon and evening of August 9th, the anniversary of Baba's first coming to Australia, was celebrated by a number of Baba-lovers, at the home of Roy and Meryl Baulch at Bonbeach.

In 1956, Baba spent two days in Melbourne, arriving Saturday evening 11th August at approximately 7.30 and leaving late afternoon Monday 13th. During these two days, times were set apart for talks, interviews, children, drives; and there was an open period for the public.

This 1969 celebration, in remembrance of such a significant event, was a combination of remembrance, children's, and open period, with refreshments, music, films of Baba, stories and poems.

The celebration was begun with "The Master's Prayer" said by all, Lee Buchanan leading. Baba first set foot on Australian soil at Sydney, Thursday August 9th, at a quarter to four in the afternoon. The year, 1956.

At a quarter to four, on the afternoon of the anniversary celebration, in remembrance of this, "The Birth of a Nation", and "Now Has Come the Moment of Joy", was read by Ena Lemmon. This had been written by Francis Brabazon in 1956, specially for that day of Baba's coming. The children had part of the afternoon at the beach, and in the evening music played for them by the older boys, on the guitar. Informal talk, the subject being relating Baba to everyday life, was the theme of the evening.

LAST DARSHAN SHARING

Here is one of a number of stories told by MANI,
Baba's sister.

Baba, from His chair in the main hall at Guruprasad could see directly into the garden. One morning, He pointed out that EVERY DAY the gardener put water into the fountain for the birds to bathe. Yes EVERY DAY, the gardener put water in the fountain for the birds, and he didn't forget! "Yes", said the mandali members who were there, "yes, Baba". After a while Baba mentioned a second time, that "EVERY DAY the gardener remembered to put water in the fountain for the birds to bathe." "Yes, Baba, Oh! Yes—". Again a little while and once more Baba drew attention to the fact. that EVERY DAY the birds bathed in the water which the gardener remembered to put into the fountain for them. "Yes, yes Baba!" said the mandali, .until at last it occurred to one of them to investigate, and sure enough THIS DAY the gardener had forgotten and the fountain was dry. The fountain was replenished and the birds began to bathe, but Baba's gentle persistence had alerted and awakened all to the significance of THIS DAY in the matter of EVERY DAY.

REMINISCENCES

By DANA FIELD.

"Remember everything I told you;" BABA (to me)

In answer to the Divine Call of the Ancient One, the Beloved Avatar of our time, I was on my way to the "Three Incredible Weeks with Meher Baba," at Meherabad Ashram, in 1954. On the boat from England were many Indian students, and I thought it natural to suggest they come to Baba's Sept. 12 Darshan at Ahmednagar.

To my surprise, one by one they excused themselves. "Masters can change you into anything," confided a young engineer. This remark struck me as somewhat humorous, as his name Meherjee means monkey. A brilliant Oxford graduate did not believe in Avatars, he explained, and besides he was anxious to meet his sweetheart. A graduate of Columbia in international law with all the earmarks of a Yogi, said regretfully that although he was searching for a living Perfect Master pride of caste prevented him from following Baba, although he had His Darshan in New York and "every word of Baba's message was a pearl."

What keeps apparently qualified individuals from coming to Baba? SANSKARAS! (Sama = past, Akara = actions). The little ego functioning through the conditioned intellect can only rationalize. This showed me that even in India there are people who take themselves and their petty lives too seriously and made me, a raw recruit in the ever-growing host of Baba-lovers, the more conscious of and grateful for the unique privilege of being permitted to meet Baba.

Were I to meet again that young engineer, he would probably inquire, "Well, did Baba change you, and what did he change?" The answer would be that Baba, by the removal of sanskaras, helps one "to unhook the 'your' that you had hooked to 'yourself'." (Vol. VI, No. 4, P. 8.). And since the God-Man works principally with our subtle-mental bodies, we may be certain that it is a fundamental transformation of one's nature-character, consciousness, ego, capabilities, and the outward life as well.

Since each person has his own sanskaras, the Perfect Master imparts truth to each individually, according to his needs. This AWAKENING is much superior to any other spiritual training or disciplines.

The wonder is not that so many follow Baba but that the whole world does not rush en-masse to his feet. "When God Himself has descended on the earth and you have the fortune to come in personal contact with Him..." (Vol. V. No. 4, p. 27). The Avatar of this Kalpa is accessible to all, as he has said. Even disciples are chosen with leniency, either by Baba's own standard of love; or by Eastern criteria of truthfulness, sincerity, self-control, detachment, nonviolence, purity and other spiritual virtues and ideals; or by Western norms of personal and social adjustment (and success) which turn out more often to be maladjustment to the "Infinite Within"; and also those who fail to qualify by any standard... Such is the inclusiveness of God's Compassion in this Advent in the likeness of Meher Baba, our Beloved Merciful Father.

In fact, Baba has said that both our strength and weaknesses are useful for his WORK, for they both express energy. Also one's shortcomings do not invalidate his connection with Baba because one can make up for them by greater zeal to improve in love, obedience and surrender to the Beloved and in working for His Cause. The Greater the overcoming, the Greater the enlightenment. Divinity,

says Baba, does not make one less human but more human. Nor does spirituality signify that one becomes infallible, unless he happens to be a Sadguru.

"The Awakener" Special Issue 1955, has a record of the "Three Incredible Weeks" and it reveals how Baba worked with us there as a group. It was an appeal through intellect to our intuition, and the "change" to be effected in each of us and for which we were to strive was of the highest order: "You are God, but you have to know how to become God: and Christ (BABA) humiliated Himself, God Himself Crucified Himself, to teach this—through love, become what you already are." (Vol. H, No.3, P.36)

When one has a very high goal or ideal, the difficulty in making it practical or real is how to start to begin to commence ... Baba had no such difficulty in getting us on the path in many small ways. "Do one thing..." he would say, and give us a step by step program that would suffice until the next Darshan years hence. If one's spiritual advancement has not seemed to be phenomenal despite practicing Baba's recommendations, it is due to the fact that we are not supposed to take cognisance of results, that we are "under a veil. "

"Your work has to be well-defined. It has to be practical and yet divine; practical in the sense that in every life it can be achieved, not just sitting quiet, aloof, renouncing the world." (Vol. II No. 3, p. 36,) Remembrance and love of Baba while carrying on one's daily duties in life is the way to do this, and it is called Sahaj-Dhyan, Spontaneous Knowledge. Feeling Baba near under all circumstance is an aspect of Perfection. The beginning of this great achievement, Baba told us, was to think of Baba for a moment on rising in the morning, at noon, at five P.M. and on retiring for the night. And it has worked like a charm! We find ourselves repeating

Baba's beloved Name during all waking hours. It has become a habit-pattern, with the result that Baba's presence is continuously felt. The significance of this can be gauged by Baba's statement in his Fiery-Life phase of the New Life Nov. 1952, "By a special dispensation of God, also, the very highest type of devotee whose whole being is permanently focussed on the Divine Beloved, is as completely exempt from the law of karma as the Dnyani." (Vol. I, No. 1, P. 6)

It will be recalled that Baba asked us, at the '58 Sahavas in the Meher Spiritual Centre to join him in the Prayer of Repentance... "with all sincerity, and God in His Infinite Compassion will forgive all your weaknesses, shortcomings and failures up to date. Let the prayer sink deep into you and concentrate on me." (Vol. V, No. 3, P. 31) And to avoid needless sanskaric involvements in the present and future, Baba gave us his "Love anti Devotion," "Baba's Wish," "Love is the Remedy," "On Obedience," "The Split-Ego," "On Baba's Work," "Surrenderance," "The Lover and the Beloved," other discourses bringing out the importance of holding on to Baba's Daman through obedience, love and surrender. With past sanskaras forgiven and with Baba responsible Baba has come to give us—though few are ready for the final FANA.

One of the greatest moments of our lives is when we feel convinced WHO BABA IS. And of course this is what Baba tried to reveal to our intuition, often giving the broadest of hints: "Today, you have joined God praying to God. I and God are one," (Vol. II, No. 3, P. 28) after that unforgettable experience of Baba's Prayers, in the great hall of Lower Meherabad. Once we have the faith in Baba as God in Person, the conviction keeps growing through irrefutable proofs in our own daily lives i.e. Manifestations of Baba's Omniscience, Omnipotence and Omnipresence. It becomes an established FACT.

To explain to our gross-conscious minds how man can become God, Baba spent many arduous hours in discourses, although everything was "said" ex-tempore and with the greatest of logic and clarity. The topics discussed by Baba were: impressions, the original state of the beginningless beginning, ascent through the spiritual planes, the various types of Samadhi, "the pure in heart," the Self, God-love, Baba's inspiring biography, Perfect Masters and Avatars, Maya, etc. Baba would end a discourse with a reminder that LOVE and not intellect counts with God, "To sum up, we have to feel in our heart of hearts that only God is real, that He alone exists, that He is in us all, that He alone is to be loved: God and God alone." (Ibid., P 55).

That all are God and God is all, the One in an infinite variety of expressions through Illusion; that our ego, impressions, intellect and Maya veil the truth of our true identity as the one Beloved; that Baba is the Divine Beloved, the Christ, descended to help us realize our own Godhood; and that the WAY is through love of BABA as Baba and as all—this was, in essence, what Baba's explanations were about. A study of the Special Issue of "The Awakener," 1955, will bear this out.

For instance, it is most inspiring to re-read the story of Emperor Janak, father-in-law of Rama, and the youthful Kalyan... the one perfect Master and the other a lover of God bent on having his Darshan. It is our own life-story and how we come back again and again for Baba's Sahavas until one day perhaps we, too, will truly answer "I don't know" to His question "who are you? And then with the divine touch of Baba we shall KNOW the one answer, "I AM God."*

And those wonderful and illuminating songs about the divine Beloved by and about Sufi Masters and.

* If not in this Incarnation, then perhaps a million lifetimes hence

Masts, and how the false self of the lover of God is destroyed in the fire of Divine love: they express the gist of Baba's Prema Marga, or Path of Love. To listen to those Qawaali songs with God Himself translating and commenting on them was indeed a memorable event that impressed itself deeply on our souls. Baba ended with "So today we have tried to love God ... today we resolve that we must love God at any cost..." (P. 46)

Baba drew us close to himself by the story of how he became God-realized and then brought down to Qutubiyat and Avatarhood by Shri Upasni Maharaj. His travail and agonies were, and are, purely for the sake of others—he himself did not need to come to the world, for he always was Paramatma or as Baba expressed it with divinely human humor when offered the American soft-drink, "I'm seven-up already." (Vol. I, No. 3, p. 19)

He can be seen in his human form or as the protecting golden-light around his disciples.

Whether one is conscious of Baba's presence or not he is with us always: One knows this when meeting a crisis or when in danger Baba is there to get one out of the predicament, particularly if one thinks of him at the moment and asks for his help.

It was noticed that one technique Baba used in presenting his discourses to us was to start a subject one day, go on to another day. This he did consistently, evidently to avoid our intellects' saying "I know" and thus not letting Baba's words sink deeply into our consciousness. By skipping through Baba's explanations, as recorded in "The Awakener," it is enlightening to piece them together now.

Baba dwelt also at length on aspects of Christ's life and crucifixion: that it was all planned and engineered by Jesus, by God, for the good of mankind. And Baba made parallels

with his own life and crucifixion, although outwardly different. The living Messiah, the Savior is ever blissful and ever-suffering, simultaneously, Baba told us, and the suffering is entirely vicarious, for the redemption of one and all. He comes to make people "God-minded," to make God more real to us and to AWAKEN us to HIS LOVE "I am the Ancient One, and you will all love Me more and more after my body is dropped, and will see Me as I really am," Baba assured us on the occasion of our Last Drink with him. "My ways are so unfathomable. My last message to you, dear ones, is to love God, and you will find I am one with God." (PP. 63-64).

Our last day at Meherabad Ashram and our visit with the Beloved during the "Three Incredible Weeks" was the climax for which Baba had been preparing us, as he repeatedly told us, Baba's "Final Declaration" at the Last Meeting, Sept. 30th, 1954. In it is expressed the New Hope for humanity, Baba's "Prasad" of new life and spirit to the many-in-the One.

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— *Editor & Publisher.*

Confused report of a state of Confusion

By MICHAEL DA COSTA - England.

Dear Baba

About those sanskaras I have to unwind & cut I keep unwinding & gnawing but oh those sanskaras don't want to get unwound & I keep on winding winding winding new ones & the old ones won't let go & as for cutting them forget it I mean when I try to get away I strangle myself but never mind I must keep on trying to unwind keep at it look out sanskaras I'm after you.

& Dear Baba

You tell me you are the real me & I keep looking deep deep deep but never deep enough I suppose digging around in there I know you're there I think so I seek but do not seek & you will find you say DEAR BABA but but I can't stop seeking & yes I'm looking for something I have never lost but dammit I can't find it but I know it's there oh yes I know you're there & you will wait until I've spent my crazy course in your infinite patience.

& Dear Baba

You talk of god in the beyond beyond state & the journey from unconscious divinity to conscious divinity & it's all so beyond beyond my circumscribed consciousness consciousness that I don't know what to think I think too much I know & not enough but what the hell the OM point the infinite whim Maya the quest & the question is the quest I guess & a guess is all that's left when the real reality is beyond beyond me so much for the intellect sigh.

& Dearest Baba

You talk about love about love all the time & more you did it do it never stop doing it but I can only do it sometimes but how I try although I know we cannot love you as you should be loved or as you love us but we can only try & how I try but love is spontaneity I believe & it's lost once you try but I keep trying & trying & trying & sometimes the love comes & it comes good that outward flow which tells me you must be right & yes & of course & oh yes the love illuminates something forgotten but some something familiar yes of course DEAR BABA you are love if only I could keep it but there it goes & in shambles this stodgy old ego here I am floundering again will I ever learn.

& Dear Baba

You say things are going to get a lot worse before they get any better & it seems like the confusion is growing but so is the fusion growing the fuse is lit the rock is rolling the energy released waiting to be realised the new humanity is on its way perhaps it's here the leap from reason to intuition immense leap into the existential void there is no longer need to despair I hope.

& Dear Baba

You have been & gone & I did not see your coat which you shed on the eve of our meeting & now I must struggle on alone but the lord is my shepherd & Baba love is shining everywhere now so everything's O.K. but I have to keep reminding myself when I forget & it's oh so easy to forget.

& Dear Baba

We who are left have begun the debate did you break the silence are you breaking the silence will you break silence when will you break silence when is was will be the manifestation how the humiliation what the humiliation what the hell are we all doing am I humiliating you DEAR BABA or are you just keeping us on our toes as you did in

the body your life & silence & death the supreme koan while
 still your rivers sing & our traffic roars & your stars shine &
 our plans throb & your trees shimmer & our mouths mumble I
 cannot hear the music for my fingers are in my ears.

& Dear Baba

You kept silence for all those years & here I am babbling
 on all these words words words in duality trapped in the gross
 world gripped with words words words & will I ever learn in
 the beginning was the word & in the beginning the silence &
 in the word the beginning in the word is the word and the word
 the world of words and if I could stop for just a second

Dear Baba

Will I ever learn.

Will I ever learn.

IN PRAISE OF MY LORD

By 'Meher Kiran' Meher Cottage, Srikakulam

You are in our hearts My Beloved God
 Eternally living in each Being and Praised;
 Bliss will be thy Divine Blessing
 To one who crawling and deserving;
 Love Divine Love, Your Stream of Love
 Had flown and made our barren hearts fertile;

Awakening to Truth and Reality everyday
 And pushing us to the path of Truth everyday;
 Eternal Glimpse which is always Bright
 Striking like Lighting to the root of heart;
 It is Reality Eternity which is our Destiny
 In the God's Kingdom of Love DIVINE.

The Right Time For Baba Lovers

By SURENDER RAJ – NIZAMABAD

Real Love:

This is the right time for all Baba-lovers to prove the fact that they have real love towards Baba. The love exhibited by us, when he was in our midst is of little worth, because it is easy to love a man when he is well-off, but it is difficult to love the same man when he becomes a pauper. But the real love is that love which is exhibited equally and with the same intensity when he is well-off and ill-off. We should prove ourselves as real Baba-lovers by loving Baba with the same intensity of love with which we used to love Him, before He dropped His physical body.

I wonder at Baba-lovers putting questions either to themselves or to others. Whether Baba, will come back? Whether He would break His silence through human mouth? etc. To tell you the truth, it is for the lovers to verify the events as pre-told by Baba *now and in times to come*, If I were to write, I say, that a true lover who has drunk the honey of His Jove fully would not raise any questions. Apart from this, let me know, whether we are loving Baba for all these? Are we loving Baba for the reason that He would break His silence and that there would be destruction of 3/4th of the world and so on and so-forth? Certainly not. We are loving Baba because He is God-Himself in Human form, and He is worthy of being loved because He is love Himself, and for nothing else.

Humiliation:

If Baba is humiliated in your presence, bear with it patiently, cheerfully and lovingly. This is not only the Humiliation period of Baba but also of His-lovers. Humiliation of Baba is the Humiliation of His lovers and vice versa. Humiliation is but a necessary phase in the life period of the Avatar. That is why there is no Avatar who had not suffered humiliation before He was worshipped and recognised.

Daaman:

Beloved Baba held our Daaman firmly, during His life-time whether we wanted Him or not. Now it is our turn to hold His daaman more firmly than before. This is only possible when we love Him really, face His humiliation cheerfully but confidently. Hence let us all hold His daaman, because once this daaman is let off, we do not know how many 'Janmas' i.e, incarnations we have to take there after. This is nothing but testing-period of all His lovers and it is for us to come across successfully this period boldly, cheer-fully without any ray of doubt about His divinity.

A correction:— The poem: "COURAGE" published on Page 41 of Divya Vani November 1969 issue, was sent by Ruth Ringer and not composed by her.

News in Brief

Raleigh, North Carolina U. S. A.

Beginning October 17 through the 25th. a booth for Beloved BABA was presented at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh. The booth was the result of the joint efforts of the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Chapel Hill, North Carolina Baba families. The North Carolina State Fair attracted close to one million visitors in its nine days of operation. Many tens of thousands of visitors were able to view the large photos of the Avatar which were mounted on a backdrop in the colors of Baba's flag. His message was presented on a twenty foot long sign across the rear of the booth: "I have come to sow the seed of Love in every heart." —Meher Baba.

The exhibition was open for thirteen hours per day and offered literature by and about Meher Baba and a display of his written work. Baba lovers from Florida, Virginia and New York traveled to North Carolina to join in the work.

Many who approached the booth had already heard the name of Avatar Meher Baba. There were even a very few who had seen Him in India or during the 1958 Sahavas at the Myrtle Beach Center.

Many of the visitors to this great fair were from the rural areas of North Carolina. For most it was their first contact with Meher Baba's message of Love. Some were drawn to stay for hours and even returned day after day, Throughout these days there was a great sense of Peace which spoke most eloquently of all about the Love and Compassion of Meher Baba.

—Marshall Hay.

Avatar Meher Baba

Poona Centre

Dear brother /sister,

Once again God assumed human form; walked over this earth, and out of His infinite compassion for all, gave Himself to His creation; so that man may follow the WAY He lived, and give himself up in his love for God, and find himself as the ONE and the only GOD, Who resides in the heart of every man and woman and enforms everything in existence.

Spiritual history repeats itself. Two thousand years ago, Jesus, the Christ, who was God, whom the Jews acclaimed as their King, walked over this earth to show the WAY. But finally when He offered Himself up as a sacrificial lamb bearing the burden of the universal suffering, on the cross at Calvary, those who were loud in their hailing Him as the Messiah then, went back to their fishing boats. Then one day Jesus appeared on the banks of their own hearts, and they saw their Lord. And Simon Peter heard the voice of his Lord within his own heart!

Simon, son of John, do you love me?

Yes, my Lord! You know I love you.

A second time:

Simon, son of John, do you love me?

Yes, my Lord! You know I love you.

A third time:

Simon, son of John, do you love me?

O Lord, You know all minds and hearts!

"Then Peter, my son, arise and up on your job and stop not till all men heard the WORD of God." Dear ones in Meher Baba's LOVE, look within to see His presence; listen to His WORD echoing out of your heart—

The WORD, which was in the beginning
 The WORD, which was with God
 The WORD, which was God
 The WORD, was made Flesh

and dwelt amongst us as MEHER BABA!

Meher Baba was the WORD. THE WORD has struck the heart of humanity as He had said. Observe all around and see what is happening. Open the ears of your heart and listen. The impact of the WORD is being felt by all in existence. All the tension and strife in society, chaos and confusion that confounds human mind, and all calamities, natural and man-made are but the outcome of the WORD with an irresistible force rising to the conscious level of mankind. A universal transformation of human consciousness is taking place. In this divine devastation of illusion, an unprecedented tidal wave of Grace is rising from the Ocean of His Infinite LOVE, and all but those who hold fast to His daaman will be washed away!!!

Effort of every lover of Meher Baba is to love Him wholeheartedly, and to endeavour every moment to live intelligently and truly His message of LOVE. As a worker for His Cause, one should constantly endeavour to explain through one's thoughts, words and deeds, to as many as those who care, the spiritual values of life Meher Baba, had unfolded to one's understanding. This in truth is loving one's own Real Self and serving one's own Real Self. Effort of every Centre, devoted to the dear Cause of Meher Baba is and should be to create an atmosphere, where sincere seekers of Truth, and lovers of God

could come together in love to learn the mystery, meaning and purpose of human life as revealed by Meher Baba.

Avatar Meher Baba Poona Centre was caused to be established in the sacred town of the Avatar's present advent, by His wish, personal attention and care at every stage of its development. Here, in this Centre, which was opened by His divine hands, He had created an Atmosphere of His LOVE and blessed it. We, in Poona, in fulfilment of His expressed wish, have been endeavouring to maintain the sanctity of this ABODE OF HIS LOVE and to continue the Centre activities for His Cause. In this our effort we had His Nazar constantly on us and the loving help and co-operation of His dear ones in Poona, various other stations in India and countries abroad. Today we know He is within us and is guiding us in our efforts and we hope that the help and co-operation of His dear ones every where will continue to be with us.

Besides our weekly Monday night meetings and Special gatherings in His Love on occasions associated with His life and work, our Meher Era Publication has been bringing out a series of booklets and books in various languages. Our English publications are going all over India and abroad and the demand for these are steadily increasing.

Meher Baba had said, "...the most important condition of discipleship is readiness to work for the spiritual cause of bringing humanity closer and closer to the realisation of God. I am glad to note that through faith and love for me you have wholeheartedly offered yourself to share in my universal work of spiritualising the world. I have full confidence that you will not only inherit for yourselves the Truth which I bring, but also become enthusiastic and valiant torch bearers for humanity, which is enveloped in deep ignorance. Because of its supreme importance for the true and final wellbeing of humanity spiritual work

has a natural and imperative claim on all, who love humanity. The task for spiritual workers is to help me in this universal dispensation of the Truth."

We, in Beloved Baba's love and service invite all those who love and obey Meher Baba in their lives to join us in our effort to serve and share in His Great mission on earth. One can join us by offering one's time and talents in His service and / or by contributing what one can lovingly afford towards the financial needs of the Centre.

You are all aware that Beloved Baba's 76th Birthday falls on 25th February 1970. Poona, the birth-place of the Avatar is and will be the most sacred place of pilgrimage for posterity. Fortunate are those who celebrate the day of Avatavic advent at the very place He had chosen to descend. In view of the importance of Poona in the life and work of the Avatar, Avatar Meher Baba Poona Centre proposes to celebrate the occasion with programmes/ calculated to carry His Call of Hope and Help to a larger section of our society. In this our effort for His dear Cause we invite the whole-hearted participation of all His dear ones every where.

Your contribution for the Birthday Celebration Fund 1970 may kindly be sent by a crossed cheque made payable to AVATAR MEHER BABA POONA CENTRE and Money Orders may be addressed to the undersigned. Local Lovers are requested to pay their contributions either at the centre between 6 and 9 p.m. on any week day or to the Centre workers deputed to collect the contribution and obtain a Centre receipt.

With love, and wishing you and members of your dear family a New Year of Joyous life in Beloved Baba's LOVE,

K. K. Ramakrishnan.
Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba, Poona Centre.

N.B.— Anyone who wish to participate in the activities of the Centre can do so by contacting the Secretary of the Centre. Anyone who earnestly endeavour to love and obey Avatar Meher Baba can become an Associate Member of the Centre by contributing an amount not less than Rs. 10/- annually.

Our Associate Members are requested to renew their membership for the year 1970 as early as possible, but not later than 31st January. 1970.

Those who are well provided in life and have the inclination to associate with Avataric work of awakening mankind to the spiritual values of life can become Life Members of our Centre by contributing an amount not less than Rs. 1000 towards our Building Fund or Educational Activities.

MEHER ERA Publications, Poona

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krishnan, Secretary, A. M. B. P. C.)

ADI K. IRANI

KING'S ROAD,
AHMEDNAGAR,
MAHARASHTRA-INDIA
21st July 1969.

To all Brothers and Sisters,

This is an appeal made to you all Baba lovers from East and West—an appeal based on fulfilment of Avatar Meher Baba's Wish expressed to Brother Bhau Kalchuri just a week before beloved Baba dropped His body.

Baba had enjoined Bhau to write a full life account of Baba in Hindi verses. A life account of beloved Baba can be exhaustive if all events concerning Baba in connection with lovers are brought in to this work.

All lovers from East and West who lived with Baba for long or short duration of time, under His instructions are requested to send to Adi K. Irani, King's Road, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra account of events taken place during their stay with Baba.

Such events should contain descriptions of everything happened in Sahavas with beloved Baba—of duties given and performed, of humour expressed and seriousness impressed, of games played and discipline evoked, of travel made and functions held. They should contain all aspects of difficulties and ease, pleasure and pain, differences and agreements, harmony and discord—all these felt and experienced.

Kindly bear in mind not to exclude in your writing, description of how funny and awkward situations were created in dealing with people whilst obeying Baba's small orders purposefully given.

Besides Baba lovers who stayed with Baba, those lovers who paid occasional visits are also requested to send to Adi K. Irani account of their short visits to Baba.
Jai Baba!

With loving regards,

Yours brotherly,
ADI K. IRANI



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