



# IN HIS SERVICE

JULY / 2014

A NEWSLETTER FROM MEHERABAD

## Baba's God-Realization In His Own Words

IN JANUARY 1914, the Perfect Master Hazrat Babajan bestowed on Meher Baba His experience of God-Realization. That momentous stroke of enlightenment altered Merwan's state of consciousness and catapulted Him into the beginning stages of His role as God-Man. The following account of His experience is excerpted from Baba's own talk on the subject at the Sahavas in Meherabad in November, 1955, as published in *Listen, Humanity*.

"With just a kiss on the forehead, between the eyebrows, Babajan made me experience (May, 1913) thrills of indescribable bliss which continued for about nine months. Then one night (January, 1914) she made me realize in a flash the infinite bliss of self-realization (God-realization).

"At the time Babajan gave me the nirvikalp (inconceptual) experience of my own reality, the illusory physical, subtle and mental bodies – mind, worlds, and one and all created things – ceased to exist for me even as illusion. Then I began to see that only I, and nothing else, existed.

"The infinite bliss of my self-realization was, is and will remain continuous. At the moment I experience both infinite bliss as well as infinite suffering. Once I drop the body, only bliss will remain.

"But after I became self-conscious I could not have said all this. Nor could I say it even now if it had not been for the indescribable spiritual agonies which I passed through for another period of nine months (until October, 1914) in returning to normal consciousness of the suffering of others. During those nine months I remained in a state which no one else could have tolerated for even nine days.

... "During the first three days of my superconscious state (January, 1914) I was truly dead to everybody and everything other than my own infinite reality, although my physical body continued to function more or less normally.

Actually dead, though really living, I

was consequently considered by others to be seriously ill. I was allowed to remain in bed, lying with wide open, vacant eyes which saw nothing.

... "On the fourth day and after I was slightly conscious of my body and began to move about without any consciousness of my surroundings. I received no promptings from my mind as would an ordinary man. I had no knowledge of the things I did or did not do. I did not sleep and had no appetite. No one had any idea throughout this period that I sat, talked, walked, lay down and did everything by instinct, more like an automaton than an ordinary human being.

"My sleepless, staring, vacant eyes worried my mother most. She believed and told others that I had gone mad. In her anguish she could not refrain from going once to Babajan and demanding to know what she had done to me. Shirinmai did this because she knew that I used to go and sit near Babajan for awhile each night during the previous nine months (May, 1913–January, 1914). Babajan indicated to my mother that I was intended to shake the world into wakefulness, but that meant nothing to Shirinmai in her distress."

Baba went on to describe the next months and years, as He contacted the other Perfect Masters and spent time particularly with Upasni Maharaj, whose work with Him served to integrate His God-consciousness with ordinary human consciousness.

"It took me seven years of acute struggle under Maharaj's active guidance to return completely to, and become established in, normal human consciousness of the illusion of duality while yet experiencing continuously my superconsciousness.

"The more normally conscious I became, the more acute my suffering grew. For years therefore I continued to knock my head frequently on stones. That was how I eventually lost all my teeth,

## The Avatar's Unveiling Celebrated at Centenary Program at Meherabad

One hundred and one years ago in May, Merwan met the Perfect Master Hazrat Babajan, an event that changed the course of His life. One hundred years ago in January, He received from her the unveiling of His Godhood, which was the beginning of the nine-year-long process of fully realizing His role as God-Man. In commemoration of this great anniversary in Baba's advent, early this year the Trust hosted a two-day program of presentations under the ongoing series "Discovering the Avataric Legacy."

More than 100 Baba lovers at Meherabad enjoyed four sessions of presentations on 14th and 15th February, 2014. There were a total of nineteen presentations which included lectures, slide show presentations, a pictorial timeline, poetry, song, and film—a true multi-media event. Contributors were Baba followers from Meherabad, other places in India, and several other countries and included several who were not present but who prepared their contributions from afar and had them presented by helpful representatives. The sessions were presided over by a panel of moderators who offered commentary on the lectures.

The topics covered in this program focused on the relationship between Baba and Babajan, Babajan's life, Baba's other Masters, and also the Perfect Masters relevant to past incarnations of the Avatar. Many Baba lovers who attended the program reported that there was much they learned and that their hearts were touched by the insights gained into the relationship of the Avatar and His Masters. The program was hosted by the Trust as part of its ongoing "Legacy" series, an outreach program of the past ten years offering a forum of exchange for Baba lovers to learn and share aspects of Baba's advent, as their hearts and minds strive to discover His divinity and love more and more.

for through the constant knocking they became prematurely loose. This also resulted in a wound which was constantly fresh, and therefore I always used to keep a colored handkerchief tied around my forehead.

... "Several years later, after becoming almost three-fourths normally conscious while retaining full superconsciousness, I went to Sakori and stayed for six months (July – December, 1921) near Maharaj. At the end of this period Maharaj made me know fully what I am, just as Babajan had made me feel in a flash what I am.

"During those six months Maharaj and I used to sit near each other in a hut behind closed doors almost every night. On one such occasion Maharaj folded his hands to me and said, 'Merwan, you are the Avatar and I salute you.'"

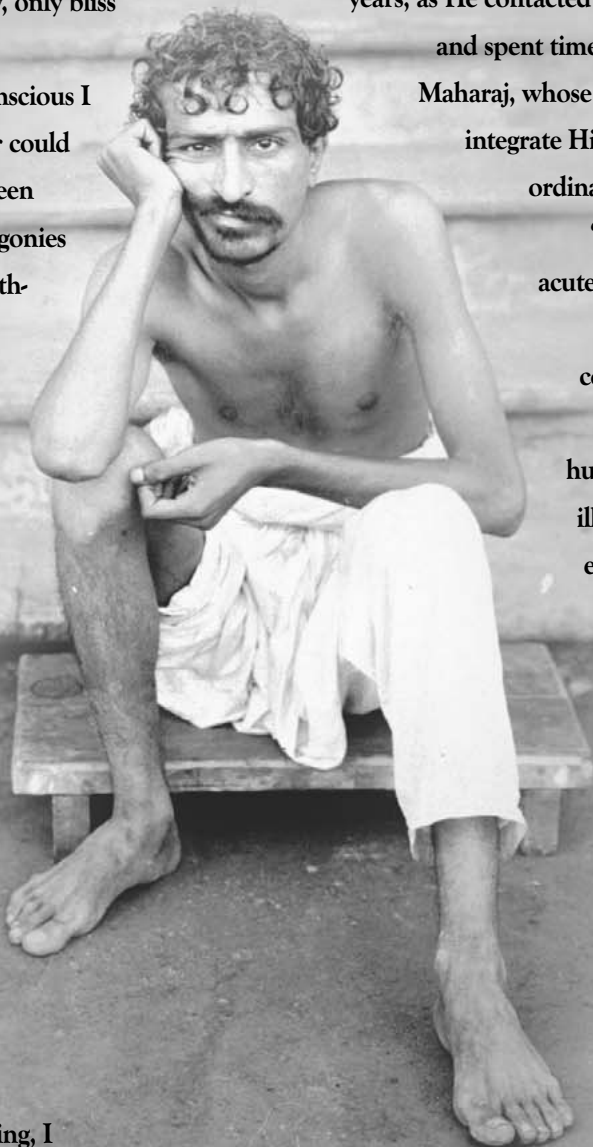


PHOTO COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Jai Baba Dear Family,

By the time you get this newsletter, with Beloved Baba's grace, I shall have completed six months in the office as Chairman of Avatar Meher Baba Trust. I feel grateful for the help and guidance that Baba provides. I have before me the lofty traditions set by my predecessors, dear Mani and Bhauji. I have also the tremendous support of others, the Board of Trustees, the volunteers who serve, and the Trust



employees, all of whom work together in His cause.

One of our objectives in the new era we find ourselves in is better communication with our Baba family around the world and increased transparency in the working affairs of the Trust. As an example, we had some inquiries after the recent elections of chairman and trustee as to how these elections take place. A full explanation of the procedures is now available on the Trust website at this link: <http://ambppct.org/board.php>. You may always consult the website for information and please do not hesitate to be in touch with us by email or in person.

You will find in this newsletter the annual financial

report. You will observe that there is no appreciable increase in the donations from His lovers, which is the main source of income for the Trust. This puts limitations on our undertaking any major new development activities. I appreciate that Baba's lovers are always generous and they may be contributing as well to the activities of their local Baba centers.

In Baba's Love, and with my deepest heartfelt salutations to Him in all of you,  
Shridhar Kelkar, Chairman  
Avatar Meher Baba Trust

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI!

## Merwan Dubash Selected as New Trustee

On 29th March 2014, the Board of Trustees appointed Merwan Adi Dubash as a trustee of the Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust (Firstly), the Meherazad Public Charitable Trust, and Meher Free Dispensary (Meherazad).



Merwan Dubash

Born in 1947 to Adi and Rhoda Dubash, who were close Meher Baba disciples, Merwan was named by Meher Baba. He grew up under Baba's guidance and orders, meeting Beloved

Baba for the first time when he was 18 months old. He had the great privilege of spending time with Baba on many occasions, including the Wadia Park Darshan program in 1954, the East-West Gathering in 1962, and three long visits with Baba in Guruprasad, Pune, in the 1960s.

A Canadian, Merwan is a Chartered Accountant (CPA), who has been spending 6 months a year at Meherabad with his wife, Ruby. They have one son, Neville, who is also a Baba lover. Merwan's voluntary service to Baba through the Trust, particularly in aspects of finance, continues throughout the year.

## A Record Amartithi Marks the Beginning of A New Era

In January pilgrims flooded into Meherabad from all over India and the world in greater numbers than ever before to commemorate Avatar Meher Baba's forty-fifth Amartithi. The hostels and tents at accommodation sites hosted 19,435 registered pilgrims this year, plus 336 in the Meher Pilgrim Retreat, bringing the total to nearly 20,000. For several years the number of registered pilgrims hovered at just over 10,000 but since 2007 those numbers have steadily increased.

All gather under the multi-colored pandals around His Samadhi for the morning program on the 31st. This year the newly elected Chairman of the Trust, Shridhar Kelkar, gave an inspiring talk on Trust activities, but first he took time to share a

beautiful tribute to previous Chairman and Baba's mandali member Bhau Kalchuri. Shridhar also mentioned the absence this year of two Amartithi giants of many years, L.B. Thade and Y.S. Rao, both of whom also passed away in recent months.

At 12:00 noon, "Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai" sings through the air a final time as the crowd of lovers settles into their precious fifteen minutes of silence together, and many hearts become one in His Presence again, each experiencing his or her own eternal moment with their Beloved.



Shridhar giving a talk at Amartithi

## "Bells I Hear:" Meher Baba's 120th Birthday Celebration

*Bells I hear so true and clear:  
It's five o'clock in the morning!*

Hours before dawn on 25th February this year, pilgrims began to gather at Meher Baba's Samadhi on Meherabad Hill in anticipation of that moment when His lovers around the world commemorate His birth a century and two decades ago.

After a rousing "Meher Dhun" (a singing of Meher Baba's name), at the stroke of five all assembled around the portico outside Beloved Baba's Tomb-Shrine shouted "Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!" seven times. The prayers followed, and then several hours of singing, as Baba's lovers gathered at Meherabad for the occasion uncorked the demijohns of their hearts to pour their own personal vintage expressions of love for that same Ancient One who was born in Mathura, Bethlehem, and Mecca long ago. As Baba's own sister Mani put it, in the song that headed the roster in the early morning song-fest:

*His Birth Day is Earth Day  
When hearts in pain are born again  
To hope and light and crystal joy  
Because of Shireen's baby boy.  
Merwan, Merwan, Merwan!*

"Around the world in 80 days." As has been customary since the early 1970s, Baba's Birthday at Meherabad features an original drama, staged in the theater (Hostel A) in the Meherabad "outback" away from the highway near the northeast corner of the

estate. Although for almost forty years the plays were "home cooked," that is, composed and staged and enacted by the resident and pilgrim community at Meherabad, on a few occasions they have been brought in from the outside, as love-sharings from various Baba lovers from around the world.



Director: Buck Busfield

This year the play was brought to us by an American theatrical company that came to Meherabad not only with the play and full cast but also with much of the essential technical staff.

Originally written as an adventure novel by Jules Verne in 1873, "Around the World in 80 Days" was released as a popular Hollywood film in the 1950s.

At that time it was watched and greatly enjoyed by Meher Baba and His women mandali. This film narrative served as the basis for this year's stage adaptation, replete with slapstick humor, lively characterization, extraordinary mimicry and sound effects, non-stop action, and great good-hearted fun from start to finish.



# Crowning Touch: The Spire for the Memorial Tower

Construction work on the Memorial Tower in Lower Meherabad has progressed to the point where the glass spire is being assembled and the marble cylinders are being carved by computer-guided machinery in Ahmedabad.

The Memorial Tower, a monument that Meher Baba called for in a special ceremony in December 1944, will have inscribed upon it 353 names of Baba's

departed lovers that were on a list kept by Eruch and read out to Baba as late as July 1968. The Tower will stand exactly 56 feet high. Its six-foot spire, comprised of four etched glass panels and four solid glass prisms, will crown the tower, and will refract rainbow bands of light down onto the marble cladding with the inscribed names below.

This feature of the spire poses special technical problems, particularly in the construction of the prisms, each of them—nine-inch high pyramids positioned upside down. To illustrate one of the technical difficulties: after the glass had been poured into its molds, just the cooling took eighty days, to ensure that the glass did not crack. At this juncture the prisms are being fitted into their stainless steel cradles and the greater structure of the spire is being assembled around them.

At night the spire will be lit up by a light produced at the base of the tower and channeled up through fiber optic cables in a steel pipe inside the tower's marble encasement. The pipe will also enclose a copper cable running from the ground to a lightning rod at the spire's highest point.

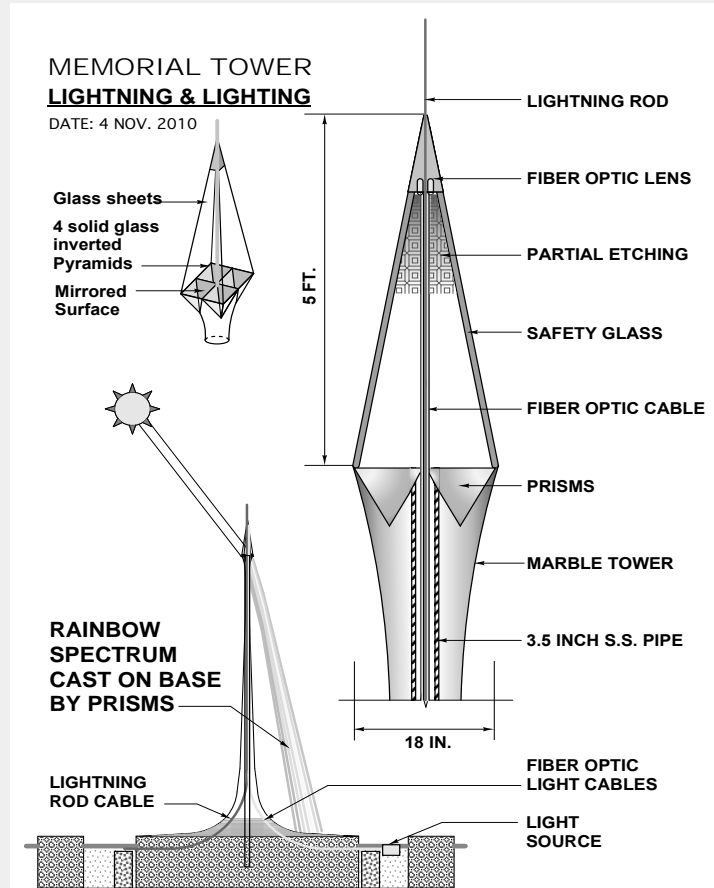
Over the last several months the tower itself has begun to rise: the central pipe has been put in place, and

soon the marble cylinders will be lowered around it. By the end of 2014 perhaps, the spire will be perched in its roost, and the main focus of work will turn to the laying of the marble at the foot of the tower with its engraved names.

PHOTO BY PAUL LIBURON



Recent installation of the central steel pipe.



## Meher Baba's Directives to the Trust, as Recorded by Bal Natu

### HISTORY OF THE TRUST, PART 3.

This series of articles on the creation of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust traces the Trust's history from its original establishment in 1959 through the 1975 "Declaration" that brought into existence the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust, under whose auspices the provisions of the original Trust Deed are carried forward today.

The July 2012 issue of this newsletter narrated the sequence of events that culminated in the drafting of the original Trust Deed and Meher Baba's signing it—by which act the Avatar Meher Baba Trust was brought into existence—on 6th June 1959. The July 2013 issue reviewed the contents of that Deed and outlined some of its main provisions.

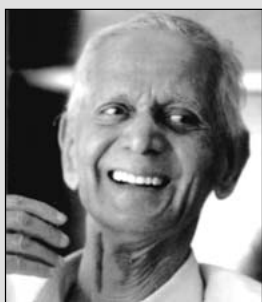
One of these, clause (b)(F)(vii), merits special notice. In the language of the original document, the Trustees are directed to utilize funds for "[f]acilities for training Baba-lovers in living a life towards spiritual enlightenment according to instructions which the Settlor may give to the Trustees from time to time" (emphasis added).

What "instructions" are these? In point of fact, in the decade that followed the signing of the Trust Deed, Meher Baba did indeed give such instructions on a number of occasions. Fortunately Bal Natu was on hand, and he kept notes. A year after Meher Baba dropped His body on 31st January 1969, Bal wrote them up and sent them to Eruch.

In what follows, and in the next few articles in this series, we reproduce Bal's notes, which record some of Meher Baba's most important instructions for the Trust, particularly with regard to the aims and objects that it should pursue.

We begin with extracts from the cover letter that Bal wrote from Kurduwadi on 17th March 1970 to "dear Eruchbhai." After some personal comments on the Great Darshan of 1969 and the new challenges posed by a life without Baba in the physical form, Bal turns to the main topic of the letter.

. . . DURING MY STAY AT MEHERAZAD IN



Bal Natu

November 1968 I wonder why dear sister Mani suggested [to] me to learn typing and even asked me to carry the Royal Typewriter with me to Kurduwadi, to type whatever I write about Baba. It was a sort of indirect incentive to me to write Beloved Baba's Life. As you already know I continue to collect and compile the File of chronological References connected with the Life of Beloved Baba.

In the midst of this work, I am reminded of Beloved Baba's special and personal instruction given to me on October 31, 1968 at Meherazad. He had asked me to collect the notes I had taken regarding the instructions He gave at Guru-Prasad Poona and Meherazad pertaining to the clause (b)(F)(vii) mentioned in the Trust Deed of Avatar Meher Baba Trust. For the last few weeks I am after this work, whenever I finish my regular duties at school.

Now I am happy to write that with His blessings I have been able to collect the notes I had taken during my stay with Baba from time to time—with reference to the subject mentioned above. I am enclosing with this letter typed copy of the instructions (two sets) given by Beloved Baba during the years 1963, 1965, [1967] and 1968. These notes are quite self-explanatory. I hope you will bring the points mentioned therein to the notice of the Trustees at an opportune time who will do the needful in this matter, as wished by

Beloved Baba. I must also mention that it is quite possible that Beloved Baba might have given some more instructions to you all when I was not there. I might have missed to note a few points and so the mandali and the Trustees who were present at such meetings may include those instructions in the list of instructions that I am sending. . . .

BAL CONCLUDES his letter with a list of "enclosures":

- (a) May 14, 1963, Poona (Guru-Prasad)
- (b) May 21, 1963, Poona (Guru-Prasad)
- (c) May 26, 1965, Poona (Guru-Prasad)
- (d) April 28, 1967, Poona (Guru-Prasad)
- (e) October 31, 1968, Meherazad.

FIVE DATED ENTRIES filling eleven typed pages follow. The first of these broaches the subject of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust and object (b)(F)(vii), on which Baba's promised instructions had not yet been given. Bal's notes relate the story of this day's conversation thus:

May 14, 1963 Guru-Prasad, Poona.

In the afternoon Baba was sitting with the mandali and a few close Baba-lovers from Poona. In the course of informal chat Nariman Dadachanji incidentally asked Baba about the instructions under object (b)(F)(vii) given in the Trust Deed of Avatar Meher Baba Trust. Baba conveyed through gestures the following:

"I have been giving instructions about this clause, since long; and you know some of them. You all know about the New Life phase. It (this life) expected of one the spirit of

renunciation and detachment, with a sincere longing for God. You have to be in the world and yet be not of it. The Trustees and Baba-workers have great responsibility about giving training to others that will create such spirit in them. For this you have to lead the life of honesty, sincerity, selflessness and then only can you arrange for such training." Nariman then asked, "Baba, how should this be arranged?" Baba continued,

"I have given many messages and discourses and some of them will help you to find the answer to your question. These will explain the ways of putting into practice a real spiritual life. Being Avatar and Lord of the Universe, I am leading a life to set an example to the whole of humanity, as to how they should live in the world.

"You can bring this to the notice of the people in general—in different parts of India and even in different countries, by unfolding presenting my life and 'words' through the establishment of or helping in the establishment of museums, memorials, study halls, libraries, fairs or exhibitions or melas at such places as may be feasible from time to time."

Further "talk" on the subject was discontinued as some Baba lovers from the out-stations visited Guru-Prasad for Baba's darshan. At the close Baba instructed Eruch to remind Him for further instructions on the subject.

To be continued in the next issue.



Nariman Dadachanji

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

PHOTO BY COLIN ADAMS

## How to Contribute

The Avatar Meher Baba Trust is supported entirely by love-gifts from Meher Baba's lovers around the world. In truth, it is Baba Himself who gives through your hands, and it is Baba Himself who brings these objects to completion, objects that He Himself laid down in the Trust Deed, when it pleases Him to do so.

For those who have not taken the opportunity to contribute, here is how. In the UK, please send your tax-deductible contribution to Avatar Meher Baba Association, c/o Sue Chapman, 2 Chapel Hill Row, Craster, Northumberland NE66 3TU, tel. 01 665 57 69 57, e-mail suchapman@hotmail.com.

In the United States, persons who wish to make tax-deductible contributions or wish to name the Trust as a beneficiary in their will, 401K, IRA, or insurance policy should contact Susan Ayers, P.O. Box 398 Mystic CT 06355, tel. 860-535-0370, e-mail TrustPlan@ambppct.org. Avatar Meher Baba Foundation will send you relevant information along with a list of eight Meher Baba tax-exempt organizations that have grants in place to support the Trust. These include a Trust Development Plan grant, an Operating Expense grant, and a grant for the construction of the Memorial Tower.

Baba lovers from other parts of the world should send contributions directly to the AMBPPC Trust, Post Bag No. 31, King's Road, Ahmednagar 414001, Maharashtra State, India.

A public accounting on Trust finances is provided annually in the Trust Financial Report, sent out with the June/July issue of this newsletter and posted on the Trust web site. The Financial Report details and breaks down information on Trust receipts—including current donations to the three grants—and expenditures; it provides as well a current and projected expenditures report for the Trust Development Plan.

More information can be found in the Trust's web site at [www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org](http://www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org).

## The Meher English School Computer Lab

Five students in colorful school uniforms come rushing into the computer classroom at the Meher English School during recess time. With a smile beaming on his face, one student asks the teacher, "Miss, can I sit there?"

"Wait. Get your book," she replies. During their free time, students come to the computer classroom to work on assignments. Students in standards three through ten have computer class one hour a week to learn about topics that include basic programming, word processing, and spread sheet programs. In tenth standard, students must pass the computer exam given by the Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Education in order to graduate.

The computer classroom currently has three printers, a DVD player and monitor, a fledgling library of computer books, and eighteen computers. The monitors and keyboards of ten of them are networked to one server computer, which allows for shared access to its programs and files. Next year it is hoped that another server computer could be purchased to connect the monitors and keyboards from the remaining eight computers.

The computer teacher at the Meher English School comes from a Dehra Dun family with a long association with Baba. Before getting the opportunity to teach at the Meher English School, she taught in computer classrooms for seven years at other schools. After three years of teaching at our school, she says she is "so happy to be here."

# Meherazad Outreach at Pimpalgaon High School

Baba's home, Meherazad, has a long history of providing health care services to the poor and needy through the Meher Free Dispensary. For the past two years, volunteers from Meherazad, Meherabad, and also visiting pilgrims, have taken part in another outreach program for the village children residing in Pimpalgaon-Malvi, Meherazad's next-door neighbor.

Once a week, volunteers go to Pimpalgaon's Sriram Vidyalaya High School, comprising students from fifth standard through twelfth, and teach conversational English to the ninth- through twelfth-grade students. The students attend these classes as an extra-curricular activity, in addition to their normal English classes. Already the results in oral exams have shown a tremendous improvement in the ability of the students to converse in English. In addition, of course, they have the opportunity to imbibe Baba's love indirectly through the Baba-lover volunteers.

As this year's school term came to a close, some of the students taking part in the conversational English classes wrote and performed an original play before the other classes and teachers. The audience was amazed to realize how far these children had come in their English skills and how comfortable they appeared in speaking English. Afterwards, the students presented their teachers with gifts and hugs in a show of appreciation. Mr. Kharade, the school Principal, told the volunteer teachers that he had no

doubt that it was Meher Baba who sent them to help the students.

Meherazad has also been instrumental in providing the school with needed desks, books, and other necessities, as well as sponsoring one of the school's most popular programs — classes in Taekwondo, a Korean Martial Art. On February 21, 2014, Meherazad held a Children's Day program in commemoration of Beloved Baba's birthday. The Pimpalgaon-Malvi school children and their teachers and Principal were invited to Meherazad for darshan and prasad. Among the various performances by students was a most remarkable demonstration of Taekwondo and a singing performance by the children taking the Conversational English classes. These students sang "He's Got The Whole World in His Hands" in perfect English, to the delight of all in attendance.

As the mandali aged and passed away and the old villagers who had met Baba also passed away, a gap in communication began to grow between Meherazad and the nearby villagers. Now through the enthusiasm of the sons and daughters of these same villagers, who are carrying home to their parents the joy that comes through success in learning, a new and stronger bridge of understanding, love, respect, and appreciation for Meher Baba and His home Meherazad is gradually being built by the next generations.



## WHAT IS THE AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST?

CREATED IN 1959 under Meher Baba's direction and bearing His signature on its Deed, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust had at its founding two purposes: to provide means of subsistence to certain named disciples of Meher Baba, and to fulfill certain charitable objects. Today, the first of these functions is discharged under "Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Firstly," and the second under "Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust."

The Trust Deed calls for maintenance of Avatar Meher Baba's Tomb and the creation of pilgrim facilities; for educational, medical, veterinary, and other charitable services; for estate development and procurement of sources

of water; for the promulgation of Avatar Meher Baba's love-message through melas, lectures, publication, and the arts; and for spiritual training. The Trust's current Development Plan focuses on the creation of new facilities for pilgrim accommodation at Meherabad and other goals.

Subscriptions to this newsletter can be sent to that address or to Avatar Meher Baba Foundation, P.O. Box 398, Mystic, CT 06355-0398, USA (tel.: 860-535-0370, e-mail: [eayers88@gmail.com](mailto:eayers88@gmail.com)). To subscribe to Tavern Talk (the Trust's electronic newsletter), send an e-mail to [Listserv@ambppct.org](mailto:Listserv@ambppct.org) and include in the text of your message the words "subscribe tavern-talk." Pilgrims

seeking accommodation at Meherabad can address their e-mails to [pimco@avatarmeherbabatrust.org](mailto:pimco@avatarmeherbabatrust.org) (to stay at the Meher Pilgrim Retreat) or to [jaibaba@ambppct.org](mailto:jaibaba@ambppct.org) (for Hostel D). Other information (including back issues of this newsletter) can be found on the Avatar Meher Baba Trust's web site at <http://www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org> (or <http://www.ambppct.org>).

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