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For the
Sake of
Love

LOVE MAKES THE FORMLESS AND INFINITE
BECOME ENFORMED AND FINITE
AS THE GODMAN AMONG MEN

LOVE ME MORE AND MORE BECAUSE
FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE
I HAVE COME AMONG YOU

MEHER BABA
Birthday Cable
February 20, 1968

*Donated by
Bro. Paul Libeiron
Box 29 Pontiac,
Sask., Canada S0N 1Z0.*

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In celebration of AVATAR MEHER BABA'S Birthday

February 25, 1894

The White Horse Players
of Sufism Reoriented
present

For the Sake of Love

February 24 and 25, 1979
Sufism Reoriented Center
1300 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, California

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The Avatar

Zarathustra . . . Rama

Krishna . . . Buddha . . . Jesus

Muhammad . . . Meher Baba

The Avatar was the first individual soul
to emerge from the evolutionary process as a
Sadguru (Perfect Master), and he is the only Avatar
who has ever manifested or will ever manifest.

Through him God first completed the journey from
unconscious divinity to conscious divinity, first unconsciously
became man in order consciously to become God.

Through him, periodically, God consciously
becomes man for the liberation of mankind.

The Avatar appears in different forms, under
different names, at different times, in different
parts of the world. As his appearance always coincides
with the spiritual birth of man, so the period
immediately preceding his manifestation is always one in
which humanity suffers from the pangs of the
approaching birth.

In those who contact him he awakens a love
that consumes all selfish desires
in the flame of the one desire to serve him.

1-700323

—Meher Baba
Discourses, vol. III, pp. 14–15

Each time the Avatar comes, the same divine drama is repeated, for he is always One, with one message. To capture a few shining facets of his endless game we have gathered stories from the God-Man's seven incarnations in this cycle of time. These vignettes are presented chronologically and are drawn from scriptures, legends and esoteric traditions as illumined by Meher Baba's explanations. Each scene is introduced with narration and followed by an original choral song. We have included the lyrics for your enjoyment.

FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE

*For the sake of love, long ago You took birth
As stars and whirling galaxies, dust, air and earth.
On thousands of worlds, out of love You were born,
To find Yourself lost to Yourself
In myriad names and forms.*

*For the sake of love, You became living stone.
And sculpted with chisels of time, the face that was Yours alone.
As a flower You bloomed, as a tree You took root;
As a bird You gained freedom from earth,
But as man You bore fruit.*

*How many lives did You wander in darkness,
Ruled by Your passions, blind to the purpose inside You?
How did You shatter the chains of Your bondage?
How did You find the right road without someone to guide You?*

*Love was Your guide, for love was the reason You came.
Losing Yourself in love, You found love was Your real name.
You were the first Your own truth to discover,
So ev'ry age You return to us
As our Beloved and Lover.*

*How many lives in Your Infinite Mercy,
How many roads must You walk before love is fulfilled?
How many times must the thorns of our heedlessness
Pierce Your bare feet as you carry our cross up another hill?
Why, Beloved?*

*For the sake of love, Love comes as Man to us,
And in a life of perfect love, reveals Love's plan for us.
You show us the way by the one gift You give:
Again and again, You lay down your life
That we may learn to live
For the sake of love.*

Soloists ANTOINETTE CRUSER
TERRY HASSEN

Scene 1
ZARATHUSTRA
Passing of the Flame
A temple, Ancient Persia

ZARATHUSTRA	RICHARD ANDERSEN
Rustom, a young soldier/disciple	BERNARD GLASKY
Enemy soldiers	JOHN HAWKINS
	RICHARD LAURENCE
	THOMAS SMITH

UNDYING FLAME

*Truth is a Flame that never falters,
That burns away the darkness of our night.
The brilliance of the sun is but its echo,
The stars but scattered embers of its light.*

*Truth renews itself on mankind's altar;
In ev'ry age it bears a different name.
Its brightness is its suffering, that all may know
Truth is the Undying Flame.*

*Undying Flame, purify our lives!
Guide us through the shadows, teach us your name.
Breathing flame, dancing flame, flame of sacrifice!
Burn away our darkness, O Undying Flame!*

*When, blinded by desire's storms and flashes,
We let the wick of righteousness burn low,
The Flame takes human form and walks among us
To set itself in ev'ry soul aglow.*

*Its kindling turns selfishness into ashes,
Our walls of separation break apart.
The brightness all the firmament cannot contain
Is born anew in ev'ry human heart.*

(Refrain)

Note: Zarathustra was known as Zoroaster by the Greeks.

Scene 2
RAMA
His Exile

The King's royal chambers, city of Ayodhya, kingdom of Kosala, India

RAMA, son of Queen Kausalya	TERRY CURTIS
King Dasaratha	JAMES WHELPLEY
Kaikeyi, Dasaratha's second wife	GHIDA AL-FAQUIH HEAPS
Manthura, Kaikeyi's servant	CHARMIAN KNOWLES
Lakshman, son of Sumitra	ROBERT MILLER
Sita, wife of Rama	TERRY HASSEN
Bharata, son of Kaikeyi	MICHAEL PETTINGILL
Satrughna, son of Sumitra	NICHOLAS REMER
Queen Kausalya, Dasaratha's first wife	CECILE CROCKETT
Sumitra, Dasaratha's third wife	RUTH SOBEL
A charioteer	MICHAEL McCUNE

WITHOUT KNOWING

*He was God more than man, you say,
He walked with angels on his shining way.
We came for warmth to his fire glowing
And we loved him without knowing.*

*He held the worlds, you say, in the hollow of his hand,
And yet men drove him from his native land.
He never told us where he was going,
And yet we followed him without knowing.*

*You call him King, yet he wore no crown;
With careworn hands he worked our rocky ground.
'Twas seeds of love he was sowing;
We worked beside him without knowing.*

*You call him Christ, we knew his other name.
We called him "friend," for as a friend he came.
A real Man was he, his whole heart showing . . .
Yet we've forgotten him, without knowing.*

Soloist	ANTOINETTE CRUSER
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Scene 3
KRISHNA
His Dance with the Gopis
A forest in Brindaban, northern India

KRISHNA	ROBERT HOLCOMB
Gopis (cowherd maidens)	RANDA HASSEN, DIANE CROCKER RACHEL ABRAMSON, GINA RUTENBERG
Krishna's reflections	KEVIN KENTFIELD, STEPHEN CROCKER ALLAN SAVISKAS
Narad, a disciple	GARY RUTKIN
Village headman	FRANK TEHAN
King	TONY DAVIS
King's attendant	GAY BALLARD

BE RESIGNED

*We have died so many times for nothing,
Our promises an empty waste of breath;
O you who crave for life only to die,
Why not die to self, this time before your death?*

*We have spent so many lives perfecting selfishness—
Traveling down a road that has no end;
We have won and we have lost so many friendships,
Why not try now to befriend the Real Friend?*

*Be resigned to the Will of the Beloved,
O you who think that life is just a game;
You have had so many roles, so many other lines to learn,
Now try a new part—learn Meher Baba's Name!*

*We have spent our lives in vain pursuit of beauty,
And run from hardship seeking painless cures.
Seek this time to take whate'er He gives you—
Just win Him, and the Universe is yours.*

*O you who waste your lives on false desires,
Love's paradox you'll never understand:
Agony and pain become our pleasure
Because these slaps have come at Baba's hand.*



*Be resigned to the Will of the Beloved,
O you who think that life is just a game;
You have had so many roles, so many other lines to learn,
Now try a new part—learn Meher Baba's Name!*

*You long to taste the Wine of Selflessness—
There is but one way to earn this cup:
Give up this world, and the next, give up desire for God,
And then give up the thought of giving up.*

*Things that are worthwhile do not come easily:
How many lifetimes equal one true lover's sigh?
The path leads who knows where, just give your life to Him
And damn the rest—what matters is to try!*

*Be resigned to the Will of the Beloved,
O you who think that life is just a game;
You have had so many roles, so many other lines to learn,
Now try a new part—learn Meher Baba's Name!*

—based on a ghazal by Kamil of Hyderabad





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Scene 4
BUDDHA
The Swan

Outside the King's palace, Kapila, India

Prince Siddhartha, the young BUDDHA	MICHAEL CORRINET
Devadatta, an older cousin	MICHAEL HASSEN
King Suddhodhana	DUANE HEAPS
Shadow puppeteers	PATRICIA O'LEARY EDITH CHARLOT

LOVE IS LIFE IS LOVE

*Life is love,
Love is life.
Love is what we can believe in.
Believe in love and you will know that . . .*

*Love Pure love
Is life Is irresistible,
Life Is gathering power,
Is Love Spreading itself from
Love is what we can heart to heart,
believe in. Transforming everyone
Believe in love it touches with
And you will a glow of radiant
know that . . . inner peace.*

*Life,
pure being,
Is dying
by loving,
Matchless in
majesty,
Beauty . . .*

*Love is a tree with seven branches.
Love's roots are deep in the ground of being,
And its fruit is happiness.
Love is a tree with seven branches—
Their names are: Service, Devotion, Self-Denial,
Self-Sacrifice, Renunciation, Annihilation and Truth.
And it is called the tree of life.
For ev'ry branch leads straight to God;
And God is:*

*Love Pure love . . . (as above)
Is life . . . (as above)
Believe,
Believe in love,
For love is the reflection of
The unity of
God.*

based on Meher Baba's discourses

Soloists	ANTOINETTE CRUSER (S), TERRY HASSEN (A) PETER BROOKS (T), WILLIAM C. BODMAN (B)
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Scene 5
JESUS
“Cast the First Stone”
The temple, Jerusalem

JESUS	Roc DZIKIELEWSKI
Mary	MYRA SUE HOCKING
Rabbi	DAVID PASTOR
Scribe	DAVID KERSHAW

IN HIS EYES

*In His eyes,
Twin oceans of liquid light,
You can see the worlds' reflections with a different sight.
All that was and is and ever shall be,
The long parade of lives that builds our destiny,
The hatreds we've concealed and the hopes we prize,
All stand revealed
In His eyes.*

*In His eyes
God's grace flows like clear spring rain,
Forming twin pools of love bounded by shores of pain.
As God becoming man binds His infinity,
His eyes bind perfect bliss to endless agony—
To know life's truth you need share no book to make you wise,
If you can bear to look
In His eyes.*

*In His eyes, ever changing, ever the same,
You can see the world transformed by love's redeeming flame.
You can see the goal of life, and how it is realized—
All this and so much more in His eyes.*

*In His eyes,
I discovered a truth so vast
That it drowned my secret fears and touched my heart at last.
He showed me all I'd been and all that I could be,
And with twin fires of love, He set me free.
And though in the eyes of the world, my life is in tatters,
Though in the eyes of the world, I am damned and despised,
All that matters
Is what I am
In His eyes.*

Soloists	ANTOINETTE CRUSER MELODY DICKINSON
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Scene 6
MUHAMMAD
The Miracle of the Cave

A cave on Mount Thaur near Mecca, Arabia

MUHAMMAD	PHILLIPS PHILLIPS
Abu Bakr, chief disciple	KENNETH HASTINGS
Asma, Abu Bakr's daughter	GAIL SMITH
Abu Kurz, the magician	JERRY MAGGIONCALDA
Men of the Quraish, (Muhammad's original tribe)	ROBERT McCLEAN
	ANDREW MAYER
	STEVE SARDELLA

TAWAKKUL
(*Trust in God*)

*Refrain: Trust your life to God,
Trust in Him alone.
Nearer is He than your very breath,
Closer than hands and feet.
Trust is the road that leads beyond death,
And God makes each hardship sweet.
Trust in God—to Him we shall return.*

*By the gathering morning light,
Your Lord has not forsaken you.
He spreads the stars on the canopy of night,
And sends the dawn to awaken you.
He found you wandering and gave you guidance,
You were poor, He nourished you;
Homeless, He gave you shelter.
To Him all praise is due.*

(Refrain)

*By the shining Pleiades,
Your Lord does not abandon His.
He sees to all His creatures' needs
Who simply put their hands in His.
And were the seven oceans turned to ink
And every tree on earth a pen,
They could not write the boundless ways
God's mercy comes to men.*

(Refrain)

based on the Qur'an

Scene 7
MEHER BABA
The Taming of Satya Mang
Shortly after Baba began His Silence, Meherabad, India

MEHER BABA	ZUHEIR AL-FAQIH
Satya Mang, leader of a band of thieves	MISCHA RUTENBERG
Adi, <i>mandali</i> (disciple)	JAMES PETERSON
Chanji, <i>mandali</i>	JOHN OSBORNE
First Brahmin	TIGHE O'HANRAHAN
Second Brahmin	RICHARD WATSON
First <i>mandali</i>	LEROY PARKER
Second <i>mandali</i>	PHILIP HOCKING

THE PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

*We repent, O God most merciful; for all our sins;
for every thought that was false or unjust or unclean;
for every word spoken that ought not to have been spoken;
for every deed done that ought not to have been done.*

*We repent for every deed and word and thought inspired by selfishness,
and for every deed and word and thought inspired by hatred.*

*We repent most specially for every lustful thought and every lustful action;
for every lie; for all hypocrisy; for every promise given but not fulfilled,
and for all slander and backbiting.*

*Most specially also, we repent for every action that has brought ruin to
others; for every word and deed that has given others pain; and for every
wish that pain should befall others.*

*In Your unbounded mercy, we ask You to forgive us, O God, for all these sins
committed by us, and to forgive us for our constant failures to think and
speak and act according to Your will.*

—Meher Baba

Musical setting by David Hogan
© David Hogan

Producer	IRA G. DEITRICK
Composer and Musical Director	HENRY S. MINDLIN
Director and Narrator	JOHN KRCHNIAK
Associate Directors	
MUHAMMAD	SELMA HASSEN
JESUS	GHIDA AL-FAQUIH HEAPS
KRISHNA (choreography and direction)	BRYNAR MEHL
ZARATHUSTRA	MICHAEL SMITH
BUDDHA (puppetry and direction)	SANDRA STAR
Production Coordinator	ELLEN EVANS
Costume Designer	ROBYN MOULDING
Costume Production	LAUREL KEELEY
Makeup Coordinator	BARBARA BOYAN
Makeup Design	EDWARD BROOKS DIANE COBB
Stage Manager	THOMAS SMITH
Stage Design and Construction	PHILIP HOCKING RONALD DUCE
Sets	PHILIP HOCKING GERALD SALAZAR
Properties	RICHARD LAURENCE
Lights	RONALD DUCE
Sound	FRED BRUNSWIG FREDERICK WARREN
House Manager	ELEANOR SMITH
Publicity	KAREN WELLS
Play Secretaries	EDWARD BROOKS DONALD DAVENPORT

With utmost appreciation to all the Sufis
who have contributed in so many ways.

CHORUS

Soprano: Dorothy Crane, Antoinette Cruser, Adell dePersia, Terry Hassen, Marilyn McGivney, Pauli Nemanic, Margaret Patrick, Heather Shulak

Alto: Tracy Craig, Melody Dickinson, Joan Dimpfl, Karen Kaye, Winifred Kershaw, Susan Pastor

Tenor: Timothy Barnhart, Donald Black, Peter Brooks, James Taylor, Stephen Spraitzar (Assistant Choral Director)

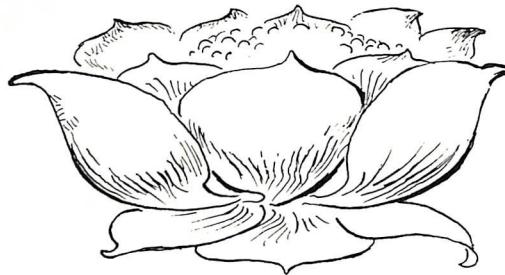
Bass: William C. Bodman, Benedict Clark, Richard Cruser, Michael Hassen, Robert Miller, Giora Pinkas, Peter Skiff

Rehearsal Pianists: Kate Brooks, Stephen Spraitzar, Alicia Reeks, Bernard Schwartz, William Wilson

ORCHESTRA

<i>Flute</i> Richard Carroll	<i>Violin</i> Steve Bonacich Randall Hammon Brigit Taylor	<i>Piano</i> Nadya Taylor Bernard Schwartz
<i>Oboe</i> Roger Siegel	<i>Viola</i> Jonathan Palley	<i>Percussion</i> Craig Boyan Peter Ravazza
<i>Clarinet</i> Lillian Remer Kathleen Carroll	<i>Cello</i> Loel Miller	

Special thanks to Virginia Blair Menges and Neal Crockett for their help.



The Avatar awakens contemporary humanity
to a realisation of its true spiritual nature,
gives liberation to those who are ready,
and quickens the life of the spirit in his time.

For posterity is left the stimulating power
of his divinely human example,
the nobility of a life supremely lived,
of a love unmixed with desire,
of a power unused except for others,
of a peace untroubled by ambition,
of a knowledge undimmed by illusion.

He has demonstrated the possibility of a divine life
for all humanity, of a heavenly life on earth.

Those who have the necessary courage
and integrity can follow when they will.

—Meher Baba
Discourses, vol. III, p. 16

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I bring the greatest treasure
which it is possible for man to receive—
a treasure which includes all other treasures,
which will endure forever,
which increases when shared with others.
Be ready to receive it.

—Meher Baba
Discourses, vol. III, p. 17

