

DIVYA VANI
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December 1965

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the "Meher Vihar Trust"

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Monthly:

December 1965

D I V Y A V A N I

(DIVINE VOICE)

Editor:

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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Number 6]

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(A. P., India)

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(Continued on 3rd cover page)

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December 1965

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(DIVINE VOICE)

AN ENGLISH MONTHLY

Devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His Work

Editor:

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

Hon. Assistant Editor:

Shri L. Venkayya, B.Sc., LL.B., D.P.A.

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*EILEEN

By Francis Brabazon

The moon pales as she sails on her journey nightly,
The dawn breaks, Eileen wakes, the sun rises brightly;
And her soul to her heart begins a sweet singing:
Today is the day which my Darling is bringing.

Meher the most fair, of all Fair the Fairest,
The Perfume, the soft Bloom of all singing rarest
Has promised this day that Himself will be pacing
The petal-strewn path to our house to be gracing.

Then she rose and quick chose the best of her dresses,
Spent not long, with soft song, in combing her tresses.
He came to the gate, and she flew to him crying;
And the flowers inhaled the breath of her sighing.

He held her and told her the one ancient story
That ever as a river reflects its first glory.
Amidst the bright flowers she left her cares sleeping.
I wonder why it is that I now am weeping?

* With the kind courtesy of the author, from
"Let Us the People Sing"

Editorial:

Shri Koduri Krishna Rao

Rests Eternally in Beloved Baba

It is indeed a shocking news for all the members of Baba Family throughout the world to know about the sudden demise of our beloved and revered brother Shri Koduri Krishna Rao, who has left his mortal coil on 11th November 1965 at about 5 a.m. Indeed he has immortalized himself by constructing Mehersthan on the Western banks of the sacred river Godavari at Kovvur (Andhra), which houses the image of our Beloved Baba embodied in bronze, with his love so pure and perfect and yet so simple and solemn. Great is the pain to part with a great lover of Baba, but greater is our comfort in knowledge that our brother Koduri has eventually reached Mehersthan, his goal, to rest eternally in his beloved, the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba.

It was on the 28th of February, 1963 that our revered, sister Shanta Devi Gaekwar, the Maharani of Baroda, has declared open this House of His at Kovvur, as His Abode, for it was His Compassion that has inspired it and His love that has built it. More than 32 months have elapsed since then, but His image serving as a Permanent Symbol of Love for the spiritual uplift of those who will ever unite in one common approach to God, the Almighty, stands more alluring in pure love, drawing human hearts nearer and dearer to each other with mutual experiences of enduring peace. It is a common experience for one and all, who with loving faith in Him pay a visit to Mehersthan, to feel the Divine presence of Beloved Baba and this fact has been proved by the experiences of many a lover that has been fortunate to have the privilege of a pilgrimage to this Holy shrine. The guest house has been constructed in the premises of Mehersthan to provide all facilities for the visitors and hardly 8 months have elapsed since Shri Sarosh Irani and Srimathi



Late Sri Koduri Krishna Rao

Villoo declared it open. The munificent hospitality of brother Koduri and his family welcomes every lover of Beloved Baba from East or West so as to feel at home as members of the one universal family sharing His Love, so lavishly bestowed by His Divine presence that pervades in that Abode of the Avatar of the Age, our Beloved Baba.

It is now the duty of every one of us, His lovers, to respond and reciprocate His Love by making frequent visits to this shrine of our Beloved lord and console ourselves in making the cherished desire of our late lamented brother Koduri to share this greatest opportunity of enjoying the Divine presence of our Beloved Baba which is made available by his Divine Grace at this unique place while He is not available otherwise for giving His contact due to His seclusion. It is our privilege indeed to have the joy and bliss so bestowed on us all, for Beloved Baba has promised to be found there in Mehersthan by His lover who brings Him there in his heart, for Mehersthan has been built for Him with love. May brother Koduri live long in his love for Beloved Baba and may brother Koduri's family live long in Baba's love with prosperity to perpetuate his loving memory in the hearts of humanity for ever. May we all be blessed by our Beloved to imbibe His love and follow the example of our immortalized brother and serve Him to the last breath of our lives.

Jai Baba !!!

B a b a ' s S e r m o n

Mahabaleshwar

16th Oct. 1950

Being just now in "Old Life" for these few hours, I will tell you what I feel to be the established Divine facts:

Essentially we are all one. The feeling of our being otherwise is due to ignorance. Soul desires consciousness to know itself, but in its progress towards this Goal which it cannot realize independently of creation, it must undergo the experience which it gathers as the Individualized ego and which is all imagination.—Thus it is faced at the outset with ignorance instead of Knowledge.

Dual forms and illusionary creations are the outcome of Ignorance: birth and death, happiness and misery, virtue and sin, good and bad—all are equally the manifestation of this same ignorance. You were never born and will never die; you never suffered and will never suffer; you ever were and ever will be, as separateness—exists only in imagination.

Soul undergoes experience through innumerable forms such as being king and beggar, rich and poor, tall and short, strong and weak, beautiful and ugly, of killing and being killed. All these experiences must transpire as long as the soul, though it is one in reality and undivided, imagines separateness in itself. When soul is bereft of the impressions of these illusionary experiences it becomes naked as in its origin, to become now fully conscious of its unity with the Over-soul which is One, indivisible, Real and Infinite.

The soul becomes free of the binding of the impressions through various paths. And Love is the most important of these paths leading to the realization of God. Through this love, the Soul becomes entirely absorbed in God, ultimately

forgetting itself completely. It is then that all of a sudden Knowledge comes as swiftly as the lightning bolt which burns to ashes all that it falls upon.

This Knowledge uproots illusions, doubts and worries, and apparent sufferings are instantaneously replaced by everlasting peace and eternal bliss which is the Goal of all existence: Soul now free from its illusions, realizes its Original Unity of Being.

Let us not hope, because this Knowledge is beyond hoping and wanting. Let us not reason, because this Knowledge cannot be comprehended or thought of. Let us not doubt, because the Knowledge is the certainty of certainties. Let us not live the life of senses, because the lusty, greedy, false, impure mind cannot reach this Knowledge. Let us love God as the Soul of our souls and in the height of this Love lies this Knowledge.

The divinely Perfect Ones can bestow this Knowledge on any one they like and whenever they like.

May we all gain this Knowledge soon.

Note: This 'Sermon' was read by Dr. Donkin. A Hindi version was also read and with His own hands Baba distributed a copy of the 'Sermon' to all present on that significant day, i.e., 16th Oct. '50

Appeal to our dear subscribers:

The Subscription for 'Divya Vani' for the current year commencing from July, 1965 to June, 1966, which is payable in advance is yet to be received from many of our dear subscribers. There are some who have paid Rs. 8-00 for the Bi-Monthly, Vol. 2, commenced from January, 1965. As they have already received 3 issues of the Bi-Monthly and 4 issues of the Monthly by the end of October '65, subscription is due from them from November '65 onwards. We would, therefore, request all our subscribers to kindly send the amounts due, immediately; and help us to serve them in Beloved Baba's Cause.

—Editor

DIVYA VANI

(An English Monthly)

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Kindly note that the subscription for the year is from July to June and is payable in advance. The amounts may be remitted to us through either: Mr. Fred Winterfeldt, 100 West, 57th Street, New York, N. Y. 10019, U.S.A., or Mr. Bill Lepage, Meher House, Kalianna Crescent, Beacon Hill, (N. S. W., Australia) or Mr. Douglas H. Eve, 71 Grosvenor Ave., Carshalton, Surrey, (England, U. K.) from the respective countries.

-Editor

News From Meherazad

from one of the Mandali

22nd November 1965

This is begun on a Sunday morning, the music of the typewriter keys mingling with the choir of bird-song. Actually Sunday at Meherazad is little different from any other day of the week, except that all the clocks are wound, one can catch up with more work left over from the week, and the Sunday paper will have its page of comics and cross-word that some of us enjoy. Time runs so fast it appears to stand still. It seems but 'yesterday' that the last letter was posted to you with Baba's announcement of the December Sahavas cancellation. And yet much has happened in between, and much has not happened.

What has not happened is improvement in beloved Baba's pain. But then we think, could we really expect it when we know it is from the burden of His universal work. As one of the mandali remarked: "It would seem that the universe has literally become a 'pain in the neck' for Him!" Some months ago, when Baba would sit up for long hours during the day without a break, we would plead with Him to rest His body more by lying down in bed to ease the neck condition as advised by our Dr, Ginde. Well, we asked for it. Now it makes us unhappy to see Him have to lie down for a number of hours, as sitting up for more than short stretches at a time aggravates the pain. Our prayer to God-Baba to help Baba-God in His self-ordained suffering, could not be better expressed than in the words of a Baba-lover from Australia, a doctor. He wrote to Baba: "If an ordinary person like myself could express a wish affecting You, it would be that the time may not be far distant when You can partake more of the 'bliss' and less of the 'suffering' of Avatarhood."

Another thing that has not happened is rain. Since my last report of the rainfall, all we have had is occasional clouds—herds of clouds galloping across the sky with the wind in full chase. What had seemed a glorious beginning, turned out to be the sum total of the monsoon! The fields are turning out a scanty return for all the grains and work the farmers put into them in hopes of a bumper crop. Moreover, we've had one of the hottest Octobers we can remember, with the scorching sun rays sucking up what little moisture the earth might have retained from the early showers. Often on an evening, our old mehetrani (sweeper woman) would sing, in a voice having far more volume than tone, her rain-song: "Allah mia, give us rain; the cattle are hungry, the fields are dry; give rain O Protector of all." I can't help wondering how many of those whose livelihood is eked out from the soil, have the patience, faith and courage to say, "Thy will be done!" To top it all, it seemed to us this year that the mosquitoes, ants, flies and midges were having a 'population explosion' too!

The tragedy of war has been brought closer home to us thru' the violent outbreak over Kashmir. It has also proved the strength that lies in unity—and that such unity, alas, is achieved not in days of peace but in times of danger. Like family members who bicker amongst themselves and complain over the endless daily hardships but stand together when their home is attacked, the multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious inhabitants of India rose as one family to fight for their principles and land.

In this paradoxical age of "too much" and "never enough" the loudest cry is for peace, the greatest movement towards wars: war against countries, peaceful and otherwise; war against poverty and affluence, against hunger and obesity, disease and drug addiction, illiteracy and the abuse of science; crime and injustice; the ever-rising cost of living and dying; against death and the tidal wave of population; and above all war against War. How ironical it is that we must for ever fight to have peace. I'm reminded of the joke I read to beloved Baba the other day of the man from Texas who arrived at a small town and loudly announced over a drink at the bar: "I

aim to have peace and quiet, even if I have to shoot everybody in town in order to get it"!

To view the world through the daily papers is like window-gazing into a store crammed with chaos, where greed and fear, hate and passions, are free for the taking; where there is never a shortage of floods, famines, earthquakes, wars and disasters of every kind; where Love and Truth are dusty commodities not easy of access, for few customers care to give the price for them. But there is hope and salvation too, for God has incarnated again to save us from ourselves. One can imagine these intermittent disturbances all over the world as being clouds of dust that rise up and choke us when God's broom is applied to the layers of darkness and ignorance of spirit, which must be swept off before we can realize His promise of "Peace on earth and goodwill among men". We dare not think of the final universal sweep-up that must come before He is revealed to all humanity!!! And in His divine compassion He must suffer with us and for us, knowing what a painful process this is for His children who cannot learn the easy way, who frantically strive for all manner of 'independence' without dependence on God. We read in a U. S. A. magazine, a prayer that says: "We have the conceit of strength; the arrogance of money; the vanity of knowledge; but none of these shall save us as they saved not the mighty empires of the past. Only a Man shall save us even as we have been saved before."

A great lover of Baba in Andhra, Koduri Krishna Rao, who erected "Mehersthan" (the Abode of Meher) on the banks of the river Godavari in Kovvur, has come to his true abode in Baba. Koduri Krishna Rao passed away on 11th November from a heart attack. A fine distinguished person, undemonstrative and gentle by nature, he was one of the fortunate few whose very life was Baba's message of Love and Truth. Mehersthan is the living monument of his silent love for his beloved Master—and he had his reward "according to love", as we can see from the personal message sent by beloved Baba to Krishnarao's wife and family who are wholly devoted to Baba:

"Your husband Koduri Krishnarao's love for Me and his service in the cause of the Avatar have made him

immortal. Krishnarao now lives eternally in Me and is blissfully happy. I want you to be brave and to keep happy in Krishnarao's happiness. My Love Blessing to you and your dear children."

And His message to His lovers in Andhra:

Koduri Krishnarao was one of My dearest lovers and has come to rest eternally in Me

—MEHERBABA—

The direct letters to Baba from you, His devoted Westerners, have wound their way from all parts of the world to flow into the Ocean of His heart. Beloved Baba placed a hand on His heart while indicating this message from Him to you:

"I am deeply touched by your love for Me and your complete resignation to My will. You have made Me happy. I give My Love and blessing to you each, My own."

Each letter is read out to Baba in full, and the enclosures, (photographs or drawings) seen by Him. The letters were begun to be read out from 6th October, as wished by Him—a few every morning. They came from His lovers 'old' and 'new', from men, women and children of different ages, nationalities, religions and vocations in life—they came from His own. The little ones often chose crayons in shaping their offering to Baba—wild chicken-tracks or splashes of colour and the words laboriously scribbled: **I Love Baba.**—or drawings of their cat, dog, house, bird, of themselves, their mummy, daddy—all the things dear to them, to be shared with Him they love. Other children chose prose and poetry, their simple acceptance of Baba mirrored in every line, as is the moon in a clear pool of water.

One five year old writes:

Dear Baba I love you very much. I wish I could see you. You are the best.

Another girl writes:

We went to see you in 1956—I remember that very well. I was about 3 then. My brother and I sat on each knee and you

gave us some fruit. I remember that as though it was yesterday. I remember I used to say your name until I fell asleep. Mommy said it was just like praying.

And this is what her twin brother had to say:

Thank you for granting all my prayers and thank you for all the things you have sent me throughout the years. My mother told me that you are all around us. I still remember the time I saw you in New York City and you gave me some grapes and kissed me and my sister on our head. Dear Baba why are there not signs of you around us? Lot of children ask me whose is that picture of and I say that picture is of the Great Man who lives in India named Meher Baba and they don't believe me because they can't see you or feel you. Now I ask you!

Another youngster writes:

Last Saturday I played in my first cricket match this season. I was a bit nervous when batting at first but I said 'Baba' to myself as the bowler commenced his run, then as he was about to deliver the ball I reminded myself to 'watch the ball'. After the first half hour I was all muddled up and was saying, "Baba, watch the ball" and "Baba, keep your eye on the ball". I tried to imagine You were sitting watching the game and so I must play brightly. I was eventually run out, I must have forgotten to say "Baba" before starting to run!

A 4½ year old boy says:

I am next to Baba and Baba is next to me and loves me.

From a 9 year old girl comes:

Last time Uncle Reg was here we built a birds' tray outside our window... Five Noisy Miners, two Butcher Birds and two Magpies come to feed. We say Baba! to all the birds... I have written a poem for You:

Baba's face is a pearl
Baba's eyes are sapphires
Baba's lips are rubies' red
I kiss those lips before I go to bed.

Words are like lanterns, meaningless and cluttering space—until they are lighted. The words that came wrapped in these hundreds of letters to the Beloved from His Western lovers were gloriously alight with the flame of His Love, bathing us around Him in the glow of Baba's beauty reflected from them! They were indeed not "letters"—they were a prayer, a song, a longing, a cry, a thankfulness, a pledge, a confession, a personal chat with God, an out pouring, a sahas. Nearly every letter was simply an opening of the innermost door of the heart where He abides, and where perhaps the writer himself has dared not enter except to kneel before Him in love and gratitude. Like some stirring piece of music or song that haunts you long after you've heard it, snatches of these letters keep coming back to us through the day. I feel that to reproduce some of them here would not be violating the sacred privacy of these communications to the Divine Beloved, but rather the singing together of His Love, His "Arti". My problem is how to limit it to just a few of them. When at first I planned to give passages from selected letters, I didn't realize I would wind up by selecting from almost every letter!—but then they were most of them so utterly beautiful. To try to quote from them all would be a task as crazy as trying to cram an ocean into a tea cup! So with Baba's permission, I give here passages from a few, that carry the thoughts and feelings expressed in the other letters to Baba from His Western lovers.

From among the men, this is what was written by

A distinguished writer and journalist:

Beloved Baba, you have told us that we may write one letter to you. This is a privilege we accept with joy, and we know that you will have your own way of sending us an answer ... None of us know what your work on earth is, but we all understand that it is done for us at infinite cost in suffering on your part. So we send you our gratitude and love, which is only a reflection of your love for us, and we hope to see you in bodily form when you give the word.

A college boy:

Oh Baba, it is my prayer to live a life in Your love as You would have me do and become a better individual for You. I

cannot plead ignorance Baba, I know how I should live, for you have been explicit in Your wishes. You must know how much I love You Baba, and that You are my life, so I know you will help me.

One who works in an Oil Company:

Oh Beloved Baba, the longing in our hearts—our love for you—can only be satisfied by your love for us. So fill us with your Love Beloved Baba, fill us full. Let us be so full of your Divine Love that it will flow from us into the lives of others.

A composer:

I am very thankful that you love me. With or without the December Sahavas I love you more than all other things ...

A boy in his teens:

Thank You for all the wonderful blessings You have given me. My heart seems to swell and tears of joy fall when I think of all the love You radiate. In words I cannot say, what You already know I feel. You have said that it is Your Will for You to suffer dear Baba. Yet I wish the world would lighten Your heavy burden. Your suffering is a great monument to Your great love for us. Father You are kind, even as You suffer and work universally, to listen to all our words which are empty and small ... You as the Master make our lives more meaningful in every way. How many times have Your Westerners said: "What would life be without Baba!!" The answer is unthinkable and only in nightmares do we ever dream it!

An interior decorator:

We would be rudderless without Your constant love and presence. Thank You for Your many blessings, Baba.

A surgeon:

My deepest love and devotion to You, Baba, and my heartfelt thanks to You for Your love and for being the Rock on which I can make order out of chaos and purpose out of an otherwise purposeless world.

An industrial personnel consultant:

You are infinite Compassion, with You in mind and heart everything is possible; and nothing, except Your presence, is important. There is nothing to do except what You wish and what will please You. Whatever You decide is best. I would do anything for You, not just because I believe You are God, but because You are You, Love itself, infinite Suffering and infinite Compassion, for me, for us all, absolutely beautiful and true through and through. You have shown us love. You have shown us truth; You have given us so much, You have suffered for us Your children, constantly; been infinitely patient and loving in awakening us to what You would have us realize.

An young man in the publishing department:

... .. hungrily I awaited another glimpse of Your divine Form, the effulgent warmth of Your ageless smile and most of all Your gentle Touch... I know in my heart that You are the only reality, and my want is to obey and love You completely.

A retired electronics designer, who has taken up sculpturing Baba:

I am slowly proceeding with sculpture and sometimes in my imagination You are with me, Baba, in the image in front of me, and it is as though You play games with me, perhaps saying "See? Am I not being very helpful?" If I say, "No Baba", You look incredibly astonished, and say (with a twinkle) "No? How can this be?"... Then sometimes Baba by Your love, and in spite of my ineptness, a little gleam, the smallest reflection of Your infinite beauty will appear like a miracle, and I am in tears before You. So that despair at my inadequacy is tempered by the knowledge that by Your grace anything is possible and that the result is according to Your will; and it is often banished by indescribable felicity in the endeavour to shape Your lovely hands and feet, Baba, and I think in Francis' simple words "How beautiful You are!"

A ballet dancer:

After much searching I finally heard of you through some dancer friends and Miss Craske. When we were allowed to come to Myrtle Beach in 1958 to be with you, how I wanted

to love you; but when you were there I never had time to think about it.... The day you left and waved to us from the plane, I knew you were leaving but would always remain a part of me. How I would have loved a burst of glory at my discovery, but it was so simple as though it was something I knew already and had just forgotten.

One formerly associated with the author of 'In Search of Secret India':

The awakening that You have already implanted in me is Your gift for which I am, though unworthy, utterly grateful. And because I accept You as Lord God, dear Baba, it is this unworthiness which helped me to drown my disappointment over the cancellation of the December Sahavas. For who am I, a newcomer already invited once in Your Beautiful Presence, to enjoy a repetition of such an experience only three years later? Woe to me that my ignorance is already Your present pain and burden!we are not really denied Your sahavas for You have now permitted us to enjoy it through the different medium of writing to You, and for that we thank You. May an ever-widening circle of lovers enjoy Your sahavas in whatever form You may choose to bestow in the future. And may Your Love and Your compassion inspire us towards the only experience worth while—to settle as dust at Your Beloved Feet.

A doctor, who has not yet been in Baba's physical presence:

Oh Baha! how I need Your wonderful healing Love. How I appreciate that I am being used as a channel for Your love and healing, and pray that I may become a clear channel until only You flow thru' me and I no longer exist..... Help me my Father to love You more and more, that I may really live Your message of Love and Truth. We (my wife and I) look forward to the day when we shall see You face to face and the day when we are fit to serve You properly. I am so happy that You have allowed me to know that once more You are here in physical form.

One who ran a gift-shop:

At last one can write these words knowing that they are really going to You after all these years; but now that the privilege is granted, I have no words to say—except to repeat Your name—Baba, Baba, Baba, Baba! Questions, words, requests? All are meaningless—only BABA counts.

A young man studying the sonar system to help the blind:

You who are closest of all, eternal companion, who are God on earth, the source of all light and truth, the only reality... You who are my true self... May I be open to Your Silent Voice, undistracted by the illusions which hide Your Supreme Reality. Awaken me to Your Constant Presence, to Your Divine Love which has no end. Awaken my eyes to see You in every person, in every form in all creation. Awaken my ears to Your Voice in every sound. Awaken my heart and mind, Beloved, to know that *You are here!*

A doctor, who has been with Baba a number of times:

It is enough to know that You are "the Kingdom, the Glory and the Power for ever more". And it matters not where or how one exists as long as it is in the knowing that You are Existence Itself! For, because You exist I exist ... Nothing exists **But Your Will!!**

From among the women, this is what was written by

A school girl:

Your love is more important to me than anything else on earth. Please be with me, Baba, and make me worthy of Your Love.

A 14 year old girl:

I think that your coming into my life has made a great change in everything ... All the things I shall do will contain a flicker of your love to each person affected. Sometimes I feel so unworthy of the things I have. Other times I find myself looking at what others have and asking myself—why I don't have as much... I would rather have nothing at all than lose you and all the beautiful things you stand for.

A secretary:

How do I write a letter to God, Who knows the beginning and the end and all in between, my past and future lives, and the present one so much better than I do. I can't tell You anything You don't know, and just thinking about You makes me cry ... and even with the tears there is a sense of joy and gratitude to know that God is Real, that there really is a God,

that You are true and there is meaning and purpose to life and the whole of creation ... Thank You, Avatar Meher Baba, dear God, for being Real.

A ballet dancer:

Your great love for us fills our home and I feel that those who come here cannot but feel it too. You are everything in my life, my dancing, my child, my husband, my friends.

A nurse:

All my nursing skill is useless to aid You, for only by living according to Your teachings can I help to ease Your agony. It is very easy to love You; it is loving one's neighbour as one's self that is difficult. I do not wish to tire You with a long letter but I must thank You for all the blessings You have seen fit to shower on me. I know I haven't deserved it, but I appreciate it so from all of me....

An aspiring actress:

Thank You, Baba, for many blessings and for the greatest blessing of all—that of touching me with Your Love, for having been in Your presence once, and for the promise that we shall see You again. I can imagine no more horrible existence than one without Your love and light to guide and sustain us in this midst of confusion. You are truly *all*—and I so desperately long to really *live* Your life of truth, love, purity and beauty... If I have learned nothing else, I know that You are the only constancy in this transitory world. I love You so Baba— You are my need, courage, strength, discipline, hope ...

An elderly lady who met Baba many years ago in India:

Baba, You are indeed my whole existence, my life ... The hard-ships of ill-health I have shared with You in very truth, but Your grace sustains and I am able to do things that many can scarce believe is done, and I can only say it is because I am ever in Your holy presence day and night... I have a circle of poor folk for whom I can do some needful help, so I am quite happy doing this kind of loving of my Beloved, and see You in everyone whose need is filled with the friendship I offer them in Your Beloved Name.

One who longs to understand:

Dear Meher Baba, it is sad for me that I must use this one precious chance to write a letter at a time when I do not know who you are. The only way that I have seen your light is in the eyes of other people (who love you). I have had a great desire all my life to know God and to see his beauty in the life around me. You have brought so much goodness and beauty into the lives of my friends that I have received something of your nature from them ... It gives me a great deal of happiness to reach out this way to touch your hand even if I do not quite understand you.

A 'newcomer' into the radiance of His Love:

Oh Beloved Baba! You who know everything that is in my mind and heart, I sit here to write to you and I weep, and I don't know why I weep. Unless it is because I know I love you and I know how imperfect that love is. I wish it were so consuming a love I had that it would burn away all my desires, all my will, all my little self and leave only an empty shell to be completely filled with you.

Wife of a retired Airlines Vice-president:

Beloved Lord, it must be at least thirty-five years ago that I was first overwhelmed at the depths of Christ's love for man and I am equally humbled now by that same love expressed through You. Here is the world tottering on the brink of self-destruction, and man's puny intellect can faintly imagine the suffering You are enduring to right it, yet in Your infinite Compassion You have given Your Western lovers the profound privilege of writing to You ... Your last promise, that You will meet Your Western lovers somehow somewhere before breaking your Silence, is a steady glow in my heart; yet even if that promise cannot be kept it will make no difference to my love for You.

Wife of an art teacher:

If I could sing like Hafiz I would be able to praise You, but my voice comes out cracked and impure. I kneel at Your feet and offer what poor gifts of love and service I have, not knowing even how to write to You, though my heart aches with

longing ... It is spring, but the intoxicating call of the cuckoos does not ease my heart, for I shall not see You in December. We who have lived for this Meeting bow in Your Will and accept Your decision. I love You and want to serve You—nothing else matters.

One dealing in cosmetics:

Oh God in human form, beloved Christ! Let me be worthy of Your sufferings and pains. Let me be worthy of Your Love and Grace. Let me surrender to You: all lives that I have ever lived, all thoughts that I have ever thought, all acts that I have ever committed. Let my surrenderance to Your Will be total and complete, regardless of any suffering it will inflict on me.

A dress-maker:

Thank You from the bottom of my heart for this opportunity to write to You and offer You once again my love and a rededication of myself and all that I am, to you my Divine Father ... I thank You for giving us all this chance to express a greater degree of resignation to Your will, and may the combined love of all Your lovers help to lighten Your stupendous burden in some small measure.

A house-wife, whose husband and children are likewise devoted to Baba:

No words or sounds that I know could touch Your magnificence—no love I have felt could be worthy of the dust under Your feet. If it takes the love of Saint Francis to please You, I haven't much of a chance. But that which I have is all Yours, my Beloved. Oh God, forgive me for being so little when You deserve so much, and let my small gift of love give You a fleeting moment of pleasure. I love you Baba with all my being.

Another young mother:

I remember our meeting in '56—how incomprehensible that Your frail form contains All. Yet I believe whatever you say and do, is so. And it makes me happy within that you let my heart know this transcendent Truth—to be friends with God! How great and wonderful and how appreciative I am dear Baba that

You gave me this gift of awareness of Yourself in human form. So beautiful and joyous, I would like to express this beauty and joy in song, in dance, in word. I want to share the love, the greatness, the beauty of You with those I love ...

A housewife, awakened to Baba through a 'newcomer':

What does one say dear Baba, how does one express with mere words the inner faith and love you have awakened in us, how do we share with our loved ones and those around us the knowledge that this inner faith has always been and will always be there ... We have found our true selves at last, and though we still find stumbling blocks it will be easier because You are with us.

An artist:

My Beloved Baba, there are no words ... Your silence for me is ever speaking in my heart. It is the greatest love song I know. For me, as yesterday, today and tomorrow, You are always the Baba I love, in whom I found life.

And now to switch over to the Meherazad reporter having the last word. To those who find this letter to be too lengthy all I can say is: remember it could easily have been 20 pages And to myself I say that perhaps it is better so, as the next letter is not expected to go out before February 1966.

JAI BABA!

Note: Those Western Baba-lovers who have not yet written their one direct letter to Baba, should do so in time for it to reach latest by December end.

*Awaken Humanity

Poetic interpretations of the profound and divine Silence of
AVATAR MEHER BABA

by Dr. C. D. Deshmukh; M.A., Ph.D. (London), Nagpur.

45. Awaken

Awaken Humanity;

Inner experience of Truth is very different from ability to
repeat worn-out phrases.

It is so easy to drown the world in words and send it to the
peak of self-hypnotism.

It is no easy thing to remain awake and to impart
awakening to groping humanity.

The world needs the guidance of inner experience and the
power of Truth.

If without real experience, you make a bid in the spiritual
realm, you are inviting upon yourself a sorry plight.

In the net of your creation, you are yourself enmeshed far
more firmly than those, who hearken to your empty
words.

Know your own Self, which is the Self of all selves.

One who arrives at this last understanding knows no
sorrow or fear.

46. Rituals and Ceremonies

Those who make a bid in the spiritual sphere are as much
the children of God as those, who do not.

My eternal love goes out equally to saints and sinners.

To understand the Truth you need not be victim of any one.

It is easy to be hypnotised by the pomp and show attendant
upon Bhajans and Kirtans, the offering of prayers
and the performance of imposing rituals, tinkling
bells and resonant bands.

External rituals and ceremonies often feed the ego and
create firmer shackles for the soul.

*By kind permission of Bro. Adi K. Irani (Continued from the
November, 1965 Issue).

They cannot bring you towards real enlightenment or true freedom,
Love and Truth alone matter in the Life of the Spirit.

47. Everything and Nothing

God is Everything.
Besides God, there is Nothing.
The universe is Nothing; and this Nothing has come out of Everything.
Nothing cannot include everything; but everything includes nothing.
Everything cannot come out of nothing.
But nothing can come out of every thing.
Even so knowledge cannot come out of ignorance, though ignorance can come out of knowledge.

48. The Mystery of Ignorance

God is Eternal.
God is Knowledge.
Knowledge is eternal: in the beginning there was Knowledge. This Knowledge asked itself: "Who am I?"
This question is itself the beginning of ignorance.
Thus ignorance has come out of Knowledge and is the Mystery of mysteries.
This ignorance gets further deepened by successively identifying that 'I' of that initial question with stone, metal and vegetable, worm, fish and bird, the infinite variety of animals and finally man.
Consciousness and ignorance are at their very height in the human form.
The fun of it all is that it is Knowledge,
Which asks itself, "Whom am I?"
And it is Knowledge, which thinks and says 'I am this', 'I am that' and finally 'I am man'.
When knowledge asks anything, it gets converted into ignorance.
And it is through ignorance that it answers the question born of ignorance.

49. The Answer of Awakening

The Awakening, I bring, is fully conscious Knowledge.
 In this Awakening, there is no question of asking any
 question
 This Awakening is the Answer to all questions.
 It is the Answer of answers.
 It is the ending of all questions.
 No further questions can arise in this final Awakening.
 You know yourself to be the everlasting and Infinite
 Truth.

50. Awaken to Your own Unageing Truth

First there was Knowledge, but without full consciousness.
 It was Knowledge holding within itself the Mystery of
 incipient ignorance.
 Then there is the emergence of ignorance and con-
 sciousness, flourishing and evolving, side by side.
 Finally ignorance disappears; and Knowledge exists in full
 consciousness,
 In this Awakening, you realise that you are not body,
 energy or mind.
 You see the whole universe as shadow or illusion.
 You know yourself to be the limitless ocean of Love, Bliss,
 and Knowledge.
 Inherit your own divinity and infinity.
 Awaken humanity ;
 Awaken to your own unageing Truth.

51. Mighty Waves of Duality

I am in all.
 So I cannot be jealous of any one.
 If jealousy were possible in Me, it would be jealousy for
 Myself.
 Understand Me without the pre-conceptions of a
 wandering mind.
 Though others also use the same language as Myself, come
 straight to Me.
 I invite your whole hearted and undivided faith.
 A mind scattered in all directions is perpetually caught in
 the realms of illusion.
 Your faith may receive challenges of no mean magnitude.

Do not be tossed hither and thither by the duality.
 Come unto Me and rest in Me.
 You are the very Truth, in which you find your true
 bearing
 to everyone and everything.

52. You and I are One

In India Vedanta has a deep hold on the minds of people.
 It unequivocally asserts the identity of individual and
 universal soul.
 'Aham Brahmasmi', 'I am God' is a common-place belief.
 But belief and experience are often poles apart.
 Only God can save the simple ones from the snares of the
 fakes.
 Steer clear of all self-created obstacles.
 The more you get away from the incarnation of Truth the
 further you go from the Truth of your desperate
 search.
 Search within yourself and find yourself as that Truth—
 You and I are One.

53. The Tide of the Awakening

In the present Atomic Age material progress has zenith.
 This is really a shadow of the spiritual progress, which
 some have achieved in the planes of consciousness.
 Fusion of the material and the spiritual will come through
 understanding.
 I invite you to have your ample share in My divine game
 of establishing harmony in the outer world.
 How can you establish harmony if you are yourself
 divided on petty considerations?
 Develop the spirit of giving in.
 You may appear to yourself as fully justified in this or
 that.
 If, even then, you try to arrive at mutual adjustment,
 You will arrive at deeper understanding of life.
 You have to preach to the world not only by words,
 But by example.
 The tide of the New Awakening is on.
 Work with it and for it.

Parallel Thoughts

by Moorty

AT THE DAWN
of ancient Diwali
with modern looks,
Beyond books
when I see
in the Cosmic Mirror
of Universal Mind
At heart, I find

GOD BEHIND—
all forms of life
Storms of strife, and
Thunders of death.
Floods of blood, and
Famines of Faith
Terrors of tragedy, and
horrors of War & worry

AND, I REALISE
That,
Curious claims, of cultural fashion, and
furious flames, of religious passion
Can only drive
PEACE to a desperate plight
even at Himalayan height
with the FUTURE frowning tight.

Let us, therefore,
Continue to fight
with all our might
For Justice & Right!

AT THE DUSK
of this dark festival,
when, the black naked night
quickly comes,
well - dressed in white light
to conquer bliss
with a killing - kiss
Then, I take a flight
up above the Soul's sky,
The Highest of the High
like a spiritual Kite
with a sweet delight

AND, I VISUALISE
That,
In the twilight of Truth,
Trillions of twinkling stars,
Millions of melting moons,
Billions of burning suns,
are not so bright
as the SINGLE LIGHT of
SILENT LOVE
of GOD—within sight.
Let us, therefore,
Commit no blunder,
but surrender
To the Avataric WONDER!

IMPORTANT

Bro. Adi writes:

It is requested that Baba-lovers sending reply-paid telegrams to Baba should mention in their telegrams their address. There are quite a few instances where due to absence of complete address, the telegrams could not be properly responded to.

The Nature of Divine Love

by Dana Field, U. S. A.

*"Those who are united in love know no separation,
Wherever you are, I am always with you."*

*"The only place that can hold Me is the heart. Keep Me
close with you I am always there.*

—MEHER BABA

Neither the ordinary worshipper of God nor the usual devotee of the Master has any idea of what divine love is ... what inner and outer heroism it takes to be a true lover of God. They would not even recognize one, if they saw him; for Baba says the spiritual path is altogether different from people's conception of it. He may be found in a deserted hovel amidst dirt; he may be the beggar whom you disdain; and he may be a famous and successful person, a Prince, a millionaire, or a scholar. With the divine lover of God, one must be careful not to be deceived by appearances; his greatness, bliss and purity are hidden from the sight of the vulgar and mundane. Baba has said that secrecy is one of the characteristics of their love: another is their utter humility, of which we know very little. Those who flaunt their spiritual powers, and even those who practice extreme austerities and Yoga, are not necessarily the recipients of God's grace. Baba has given us a Discourse on this very subject:

"On the Path, cowards have no place. Hafiz has said that when he became a lover of God, he thought he had got a grip over the "Pearl" (God--realization) ; but he never dreamt of the depth of the ocean and the dangers to be faced from storm and waves.

"Guru Nanak (the Sikh Master) once said, "O God! No one can know Your beginning nor fathom Your end!" I am that Infinite God. I am God and yet I cannot fathom My Own Self! All

these infinitely varied things come out of Me. Once I thought of seeing with My physical eyes all that I had created. I tried to count all the things, but even I failed to fathom My endlessness! The wonder is that everything is within you and yet you cannot see it. The Infinite is within you, and not in space. God is Infinite; you are drops in that Infinite Ocean. When Knowledge dawns, you know everything.

"The true lover (*Mardan-e-Khuda*) in his love is continually experiencing a burning, an intense burning for Union with God and is in agony; but he must not complain to his Beloved about his agonies. He should remain cheerful! As soon as he complains, he loses all that he had silently treasured within him. Some Masts (the God-absorbed) are greatly advanced; others are not. One Mast, Dhondiba, always remained naked and used to roll in dust. He used to say, "I cannot bear comfort!" He suffered a lot and yet I did not shower My Grace on him. How then can I shower it on you who have not yet suffered anything in love?

"I have explained a lot of things. Rumi says, 'Words have no meaning; become the man of Experience. And for that, become effaced—become dust at the feet of the Perfect Master.'" (*The Awakener, Vol. 9, No. 4, p. 18-19*)

Regarding the suffering undergone by real lovers of God in the process of purification and destruction of impressions, Baba says that they suffer for themselves, albeit selflessly. Can we imagine, therefore, the suffering of the God-Man, who is Lover and Beloved of all?

The word *Darshan* has the literal meaning—"to have a glimpse or view". Speaking of devotion to the Master, to have Darshan is to place one's head on the feet of the adored and revered one. Still this is not the Real Darshan, as Baba explained at Dehra Dun, at the foot of the Himalayas:

"I am happy to be in your midst.

"It is the deep love of some of My lovers in Dehra Dun that has drawn you all together today to have My Darshan.

"But to have My Real Darshan is not easy.

"To see Me at close quarters, to do obeisance to Me, to offer Me fruits and flowers, to bow down to Me and then to return to your home, can never mean that you have had My Darshan. "Having seen Me with your eyes you have still not seen Me as I am. You have not had even a glimpse of My true Being, in spite of having gone through the convention of so-called Darshan.

"To have My Real Darshan is to find Me. The way to find Me is to find your abode in Me. And the only one and sure way to find your abode in Me is to love Me.

"To love Me as I love you, you must become recipient of My Grace. Only My Grace can bestow the gift of Divine Love. To receive My Grace, you must obey Me wholeheartedly with the firm foundation of unshakable faith in Me. And you can only obey Me spontaneously as I want when you completely surrender yourselves to Me so that My Wish becomes your law and My Love sustains your being.

"Age after age, many aspire for such a surrender; but only very few really attempt to surrender themselves to Me completely as I want. He who succeeds, ultimately not only finds Me but becomes Me and realizes the aim of life.

"My being in your midst today would serve its purpose even if one from this multitude has understood what I want you all to know.

"I give My blessings to you all."

(The Awakener, Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 3)

Very few People can even dream of seeing God, either as the Perfect Master or as He really is. But here we have Baba

offering such opportunities and possibilities, and fortunate indeed are those who avail themselves of the offering.

In connection with spiritual truth, we particularly in the West, have the tendency to organize and institutionalize any new religious movement, crystallizing the living truth into dogmas. We want a method and a technique for producing more of the same type of followers. In the Orient there is less building of academies or monasteries to promote a spiritual ideal or idea. The Master-disciple relationship is still in vogue there; the devotees remain gathered around the Master, who has the living Truth, rather than the intellectualized and rationalized version of it given out by paid teachers or religionists. Collective emotion evoked by symbols are a poor substitute for inner experience.

In India, where religion is often heavily overladen with rituals and ceremonies, Baba has explicitly proscribed undue religious show by His lovers, especially in Baba's abodes where His statues are housed. At the founding of *Mehersthan* in Kovvur, Andhra Pradesh, Baba sent the following eight messages to be inscribed therein, as well as in the hearts of His lovers:

1. Tear the curtain of set ceremonies and rituals and you will find that I am the Worshipped, the Worship and the Worshipper.
2. To clothe simple Worship with the garments of ceremony and ritual is to expose Me to the cold winds of ignorance.
3. To faithfully love God-Man is to truly worship God.
4. To find Me here in Mehersthan, search the depth of your heart.
5. Mehersthan has been built for Me with love, but I may only be found here by My lover who brings Me here in his heart.
6. As the heart is, so is the house; as the eye is, so the Image within the house.

7. The heart of man has always been the ancient temple for the worship of the Ancient One (God and His Avatar).
8. Nothing can house the Ancient One that does not house love. (The Awakener, Vol. 9, No. 4, p. 10)

Baba also sent His Andhra lovers a cabled message for the auspicious occasion: "God is for those who are not for themselves."

One of the leading workers there became quite disturbed and confused at the prospect of having to give up the outward forms of religion to which he, as a pious Hindu, has been used all his life. This was the purport of the first of the above messages, especially. He wrote to Baba's secretary, who passed the letter on to Baba. In his letter, the lover quoted "the authority of the Vedas", cited the teaching of Lord Krishna in the Gita, the example of Lord Rama's installation of his own statue, the various levels and evolution of understanding, worship and devotion to God; the constructive reforms and attitudes of Vedic sages and teachers. He said, further, that he could not believe that Baba would destroy Vedic rites and rituals; as even Ramakrishna Paramahansa did not give them up, and that the Perfect Master King Janaka practised austerity in solitude.

As Baba was in seclusion. He did not answer directly but indicated to His interpreter to answer as from Baba. We interpolate and expatiate on that answer here, and it bears on the subject of real love for the Divine Beloved, as God and Baba.

As to whether rituals are to be entirely done away with it was said in the reply: "Baba as the Avatar of the Age wants you to believe that He does not want the true worship of His lovers to be entwined by rites and ceremonies. Any ceremony on which the rust of past ages of *formal* observance has long since set in should never be entertained in His House of Worship. Baba has been often stressing that He has come again as the Avatar of this age to cut clean through the thongs which restrict the voice of true worship to God to the point of strangulation..."

"Beloved Baba further clarifies that when *Love* for God is expressed spontaneously, then it is worshipping Him indeed; and such outbursts of true worship can be seen sometimes in the form of an offering of flowers and garlands, in singing hymns and bhajans and Arti, in ecstatic dancing or rolling in dust, etc., etc. When such expressions are spontaneous—**Not Formal**—and are in praise of the Highest of the High, they constitute true worship of God, for this reaches Him and is acceptable to Him.

"But when the mind expresses itself in patterns of *formal* rites and rigid ceremonies, it is nothing more than an empty echo of the habit of countless generations, performed automatically without 'heart'. Baba says that such a worship not only does NOT reach Him but holds the worshipper more firmly in the grip of ignorance."

Jesus was against hypocritical worship, as of those who have not cleansed their hearts from a grudge against their fellows, a characteristic of the times. Mohammed was against idol worship or the worship of any human being as God, to counteract the over-doing of idolatry, polytheism, by the primitive Arabs. To-day the question of how best to worship God is much more complex, in its details, than in the past; for Baba brings the Universal Religion and it will be practised by peoples of both East and West. Those who are satiated with orthodox worship with its excess symbology, however beautiful and uplifting, want no part of it in their expression of love for Baba. Neither do the seekers of Truth who came to Baba independently of any religious affiliation, nor those with a Protestant background, where worship has been simplified for the masses of people. Baba, therefore, takes His stand as being averse to formal, traditional, conventional and perfunctory observances, regardless whether worship is offered to God as Allah, God the Father, Ahuramazda, Paramatma or to God Personal—the Perfect Masters or God-Men. Baba takes into consideration the psychological and religious background of the individual: in some cases some or more rituals will be helpful, where one's love flows through such channels; in others, where heart needs to be activated and love

redirected from Avatars of the past to the Living God here and now, less genuflection and more real feeling and love are indicated.

Nobody can benefit from worship, if one is not freed from the mental habits of formal religion. When worship acts as a psychological veil, it is merely a habit and a conditioning of mind and feelings, with no benefit to consciousness, no spiritual advancement. This kind of worship is by those who do not love God but fear Him, and wish to avoid the consequences of their sins or to avoid hell and go to heaven. There are all sorts of ulterior motives in religious worship ... social position, economic gain, rivalry between creeds and castes. Baba wants us to forget barren dogmas—childish things—and value the Real.

Baba defines worship as a spontaneous expression of love for God, which finds its own creative forms through art, music, song, prayers, the dance, etc. For that matter Baba has said again and again that we are worshipping Beloved God when we think of Him every moment of our lives, when we live according to His will—with pure heart and mind; when we act generously and lovingly to others, forgiving others and overcoming anger. Thus atheists too may be worshipping God, if they live as real human beings and do not defy Him in speech. We remember God best when we forget self in service, for love of God.

Baba has come to this Age not to give more ritual, liturgy and ceremonies but to awaken divine love in us; they, in fact, act to prevent such unveiling of Self. The clash between limited faiths that seek to perpetuate themselves is due to ignorance of Religion. Tradition is truth, and morality is not love or spirituality. They are false gods.

There is no reason, however, why those of various faiths, who come to Baba, should not sing their hymns to God. But if they keep worshipping the other Avatars and Masters instead of Baba, who is all the Avatars in One, then it is not a full expression of love for Baba—the God-Man of our age. Dead

Masters have not the authority to help people spiritually. Otherwise there can be freedom according to the dictates of one's heart.

Hafiz wrote:

"In love there is no stipulation as regards monasteries or taverns, no provisos as regards orthodox Moslems or men of other creeds;

"Everywhere there is the light of the Beloved's face for all."

(Selections from the Rubaiyat and Odes of Hafiz,

London: John M. Watkins.)

In answering the query whether at the unveiling of Baba statue at Mehersthan Vedic hymns should not be sung, it was said: "After the unveiling, not only Vedic hymns may be freely sung in praise of the Highest, but then also full freedom should be given to Muslims to recite their Koran in praise of the Highest, to the Christians to sing their hymns in praise of the Highest, to the Zoroastrians to sing their 'Monajats' in praise of the Highest, and to the Harijans to sing their Bhajans in praise of the same Highest of the High!

"Indeed, Lord Rama may have installed Shri Ramalingeshwara with Vedic rites and singing of hymns, but remember that any action of the Avatar's doing is NEVER the same as our doing that same action. As Baba Himself has often told us, "Do as I tell you, and not as I do."

"Also we should remember that although whatever the Avatar does must be right (since He is God), His actions at a particular time are not necessary for all time. Furthermore, in each successive Advent, Avatar has to clear away abuses which have become attached to His former actions, even at the cost of apparently denying the validity (at the time) of those actions.

Regarding the third question, requesting Baba to prescribe the procedure for installing the statue or idol, i.e., how it should be conducted, in the reply it was said:

"This very question arises from the misleading idea that you will be installing an idol of Baba! Baba says that His living Person is by itself the real idol of God and no other idol can replace it—it will be replaced only with His next Advent after 700 years! No amount of ceremonies for '*Pran pratishtha*' can ever breathe life of Baba into any idol!

"The moment you think of an idol of Baba in Mehersthan, you wash away the very foundation of your own faith in Baba, your own love for Baba, and your own obedience to Baba's dictates! Only those who fail to feel His Presence anywhere else than in the bronze image of Baba, will find Beloved Baba as a mere statue or idol in Mehersthan.

"Lovers of Baba should make Mehersthan the House of True Worship by expressions of their pure love for Him, and they should believe that in it is housed the very Presence of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba and not His idol or statue.

"The answer in a nutshell to your third query is that you should believe in the very Presence of Beloved Baba at Mehersthan, and drive away all thoughts of replacing Baba's presence with the installation of an idol of Baba 'sanctified' by Vedic rites. The bronze statue of Beloved Baba can be of help to perpetuate Baba's presence in Mehersthan for posterity."

The last point brought up by the Andhra Baba-lover was about the regular daily conduct of worship. In answer, it was said:

"... ..this question will never arise if all lovers of Baba enter Mehersthan with the belief that Baba Himself is in it. Your conduct should be as it is when you are in the presence of your Beloved Baba at Ahmednagar or Poona.

"Any lover of Baba who enters Mehersthan is himself the pujari (priest) of Baba; every lover should have full freedom of expression of love for Baba according to the dictates of his or her heart. Anyone should have free access to Baba in Mehersthan, and be allowed full freedom of expression of love for Baba without any reservations of caste, creed or race.

"There can be no better form of worship in Mehersthan than repeating Baba's Name and singing in His praise and those who cannot sing can read, recall and repeat Baba's Messages and Discourses; can recite "The Master's Prayer" of Parvardigar and the "Prayer of Repentance"; can read aloud the messages of the "Highest of the High" and "Meher Baba's Call"; can listen to Bhajans on Baba, and, above all spend most of the time sitting quietly in Baba's presence, recalling the incidents and happenings of all the Sahavases and recent East-West Gathering.

"In short, there should be no restrictions whatsoever for the conduct of worship in Mehersthan, and love for God should have full scope of expression without any reservation of high or low, rich or poor. The precious Eight Messages given by Beloved Baba for the occasion of the opening of Mehersthan are by themselves the code of true worship. Nothing that is strictly formal or set or merely customary practice should be adhered to, while worshipping in Mehersthan at Kovvur.

'However there should be strict rules framed to maintain discipline, cleanliness and hygienic conditions in and around Mehersthan, Mehersthan should have a watchman to look after the property but no regular and paid *pujaris*, for every lover of Baba is in himself a true *pujari*..

(from The Awakener, Vol. 9, No. 4, p. 6-9)

In fact there is no need of imitating the worship of other Avatars, because one has to get out of the particular frame of religious reference and mold of worship into which he was born—if he is to bring all his love to Baba. Impressive ceremonies are not called for. There should be a fresh out-pouring of individual and collective love for the Divine Beloved, God-Baba. There is no need for intermediaries or priesthood, in divine love. There can of course be a Baba-lover to preside at certain services when necessary.

The lover in question accepted Baba's explanation and instructions literally and joyfully, passing them on to the other lovers. Just as the beautiful temple and its statue of Baba, built by the love of His lovers, will remain there for posterity, so Baba's description of how to worship Him in love and joy and peace, will enlighten future lovers on this important and otherwise contro-versial issue. There should be no further question about it, for it is by "the worshipped, the worship and the worshipper".

Meher Baba says:

"I have only Love to give, and all I want is love"

To sum up, let me quote Baba's very inspiring discourse on the subject given during Nov. 1955 Sahavas:

"The one who loves, desires to do the will of the Beloved, and seeks union with the Beloved. Obedience performs the will of the Beloved and seeks the pleasure of the Beloved. Surrender resigns to the will of the Beloved and seeks nothing.

"One who loves, is the lover of the Beloved. One who obeys is the beloved of the Beloved. One who surrenders all—body, mind and all else—has no existence other than that of the Beloved, who alone exists in him.

"Therefore greater than love is obedience, and greater than obedience is surrender. And yet, as words, all three can be summed up in one phrase—Love-divine.

"One can find volumes and volumes of prose and poetry about love, but there are very, very few persons who have found love and experienced it. No amount of reading, listening and learning can ever tell you what love is. Regardless of how much I explain love to you, you will understand it less and less if you think you can grasp it through the intellect or imagination.

"Hafiz describes the bare truth about love when he says:

'The majesty of love lies far beyond the reach of intellect; only one who has his life up his sleeve dares kiss the threshold of love.'

"The difference between love and intellect is something like that between night and day: they exist in relation to one another and yet as two different things. Love is real intelligence capable of realizing truth; intellect is best suited to know all about duality, which is born of ignorance and *is entirely* ignorance. When the sun rises, night is transformed into day. Just so, when love manifests, not-knowing (Ignorance) is turned into conscious-knowing (Knowledge).

"In spite of the difference between a keenly intelligent person and a very unintelligent person, each is equally capable of experiencing love. The quality which determines one's capacity for love is not one's wit or wisdom, but one's readiness to lay down life itself for the Beloved, and yet remain alive. One must, so to speak, slough off body, energy, mind and all else and become dust under the feet of the Beloved. This dust of a lover who cannot remain alive without God—just as an ordinary man cannot live without breath—is then transformed into the Beloved. Thus man becomes God.

"Listen to love without philosophizing about it. None present here loves Me as I ought to be loved. If all of you had such love, none of you would be left before Me. You would all have realized God and we would all have become the *One* which we all are in reality and in eternity.

"You accept Me as being simultaneously God and man, the Highest of the High and the lowest of the low; but by *accepting* Me to be THAT, you do not *know* Me to be THAT. To know Me as I am, you must become conscious of My *Real State*, and for that you must love Me as I love you.

"The *mandali* who have been with Me through thick and thin all these years, are fully prepared for love of Me to lay down their very lives at such a sign from Me. Yet even they do not love Me as I love them. If they did, then they would have become one with My Oneness, which in reality is the Oneness of us all.

"It is love alone which can lift the veil between a lover and the Beloved. Believe Me, you and I remain divided by nothing but the veil of you, yourself.

"What does 'you yourself' mean? When you feel hungry, you say, 'I am hungry'. If unwell, you say, 'I am not well'. When you say, 'Baba, I slept well', 'I am happy', 'My son died', 'They abused me', 'I feel miserable', 'Those things are mine', it is this 'I', 'me' and 'mine' which is the veil.*

"It is only because of the veil of the false ego lying between us that you find yourselves involved in so many difficulties, troubles and worries, all of which disappear automatically when touched by the reality of Love. When the curtain of your limited 'I' is lifted—and it can only disappear through love, and love alone—you realize unity and find Me as your real Self, i.e. God. I say so because it is only I, everywhere. There is really nothing like you.

"It requires cycles and cycles for one to be enlightened with real knowledge of Self, or God. Therefore millions upon millions of so-called births and deaths on your part are not sufficient in themselves to lift the veil of your limited 'I'. It can be removed through love, though in infinitely less than a split second.

"All those who are true ascetics, yogis, *walis*, *pirs* (5th and 6th plane Masters, respectively. Vide **God Speaks**, Index and charts) and saints are not necessarily God-realized. Only real lovers of God, irrespective of sex, are the true *mardan-e-Khuda* (men of God). Even from among a hundred thousand such men of God, though, perhaps only one will become God-realized after many cycles.

"Both Hakim Sanai and Moulana Rumi say the same thing in different words:

" 'It needs many cycles for just one advanced soul to be realized.'

* One's egotism is definitely an obstacle to love the Master. Baba is speaking here of egoism, the veil that can be removed only by His grace. This is the false ego because it identifies with body, mind, energy and possessions, which are illusory.

" 'When for many years man has longed for God-realization, one out of a hundred thousand such men of God, achieves it.'

"No amount of rites, rituals, ceremonies, worship, meditation, penance and remembrance can produce love in themselves. None of these are necessarily a sign of love. On the contrary, those who sigh loudly and weep and wail have yet to experience love. Love sets on fire the one who finds it. At the same time it seals his lips so that no smoke comes out.

"Love is meant to be experienced and not disclosed. What is displayed is not love. Love is a secret which is meant to remain a secret save for the one who receives it and keeps it.

"To love Baba in hopes of achieving health, wealth, betterment of family and friends, etc., is to love all these and not Baba

"Love God and become God. I have come to receive your love and to give you mine, as I have already said. If you love Me you will find Me. Unless you love me, you can never find Me. Do not think that you can never love Me or that you can find no time to love Me. I often say that I want your love. I mean it, because that is *all* that I want from you. Therefore I always tell you to love Me, more and more.

"I have also said that You cannot love Me as I ought to be loved. To do that you must first receive the gift of My love, and that gift depends upon absolute pleasure on My part in giving you just a glimpse of the Reality of My Self. No one can possess love by any means other than as a gift. But I give love to self and accept it myself. The giving of love knows no law save love, which by itself is the law which governs all other laws of nature.

"It is always infinitely easy for Me to give—but it is not always equally easy for you to receive—the gift of My Love.

"Sometimes it is also infinitely impossible for one to receive that love. That is why Kabir says that some ask for it and do not get it, some get it unasked, and yet there are

those who are unable to receive it even when it is offered to them.

"I am ever prepared to give the gift, but you must also prepare yourself to receive it. That requires real daring.

"Even in ordinary animal and human love there are upper reaches in which a mother is sometimes negligent of her own life for the sake of her offspring. Or a man can remain without sleep or food or thoughts of lust for days due to his restlessness, born of true love for a woman.

"Divine love is the fire which not only eliminates all kinds of cold, but also all sorts of imagined heat. For example, amongst the very, very few who possess such love is the *Mast* (God-intoxicated person) known as Dhondiba at Kolahpur. Though exposed to the rigours of heat, cold and rain through all the seasons, his body remains healthy, well-fleshed and strong. The fire is burning within him unknown even to those in his surroundings. His mind has no link with his body. Love pervades him from head to foot.

"Although love is beyond intellect, there are innumerable points about it which can still be explained by reason and brought within its grasp. But in finality, I remain; everything else is zero, and I am the only Reality. That Reality cannot be reached in illusion through illusions, and there can be no hide-and-seek about love. When God becomes man (Avatar, Buddha, Christ, Rasool), He can bestow both love and obedience upon and accept the surrenderance of any and all individuals.

"I say all this as much to those who have been living with or for Me all these years, as to those who are only with Me now for this *Sahas*. I tell you honestly that if you obey Me honestly you will become Me—your own real Self.

"This is not the first time I have said this. For ages past I have been telling all to leave everything and to follow Me. That means to obey Me so that you may have conscious experience of Me. Now is the time when those who obey Me will realize Me.

* "Obedience which is greater than love is the one per cent obedience described by Hafiz:

" 'Carry out every command of the Master without question, as is becoming to a lucky slave.' "

(see *Listen Humanity*, pp. 17-21)

*This stress on obedience by Baba has been followed up by orders over the years—for three months do this, for six months don't do that—and during that time one gets the habit and it becomes a part of him. For instance, Baba has asked us not criticize, to indulge the body less, to repeat His name, to be honest, truthful, etc.

A Child's Prayer

Beloved Baba—my Father:

On Thine Holy Feet,
 I place my humble heart.
 I pray—Thou Dwelth in Me,
 and make Thine integralpart,
 My heart is in my songs—
 which I am sending Thee.
 No longer I exist
 And Thou shalt ever Be.

Dust of Your Feet
Your child
Preet Kamal Bindra

IN MEMORIAM

by Kemali

"Greater love hath no man than this,
that he lay down his life for his friend."

To understand and fathom deep his motive
I must find. I cried aloud:

"Why must this be?" I cannot walk alone.
All ways I tried for happiness

My misery to appease, until I found in
sacrifice my suffering was eased.

In silence when I am alone, and I can feel
it true, I hear his 'Voice' which guides me.

Such happiness I knew when all self-pity
I had crushed, he said : "I'm proud of you."¹

It was his choice I learned that I, the stronger
to become, must walk alone to tread the path

And not depend on him. Our love sincere
was blessed by God, our happiness supreme.

Then Baba called me to His side and He
explained it all: "There is no death", He said,

As we this mortal coil pass on, we only change
our garments to a more worthy one.

Baba has shown me greater love, a love that is divine
so I the purer life may live

When I no longer roam. Then will I hear the 'Voice'
again,

"Swing low, sweet chariot, I'm coming for to
carry you home."

A LETTER

from Maud Kennedy, England

Dear friend,

If you take one step to-wards God, He will take ten towards you. We are so much needed by God to take part in His great awakening process. Every moment is precious, the eternal living moment—Now. Now is the time, for God is here in our midst in the person of Sri Meher Baba, living quietly in India. His great Light is with us and once you catch a glimmer of it, you progress quickly towards the Source of All Light.

The Light of Baba's Love becomes like a flower blooming in your heart. This Light is so radiant and lovely that you wish to share it with others. We cannot keep it all to ourselves hidden.

There is a battle going on in the world, of light and darkness. The hearts of men is the battle field. We have to conquer evil in every form. We have to search for truth and hold fast to it. We can send out loving thoughts to all we know and even to those we don't know.

Spontaneous loving action comes without any effort, if our thoughts are pure.

We, who know about Beloved Baba, are blessed beyond words. To have someone we can trust utterly—who is above every small thought, who can be loved by every human being – who recognises us and understands our weaknesses, who forgives us always and tells us to come to Him unreservedly.

We are never disappointed when we reach out to-wards Baba. He tells us everything we need to know. He is like an inexhaustible gold mine—you dig and dig and there is always more gold. He gives us so much love, so much more love than we deserve. If we open a little chink of the door of the heart,

His Love comes pouring in, so that we feel warmed and glowing and full of Light. We can keep His portrait near us and look at it often and feel the goodwill of God, so that no loneliness or doubt is possible. Or we can ask Him a question. You only have to ask sincerely and an answer comes immediately from the Universal Mind, which Baba says is His mind. This is a great mystery.

"All else may fail, Love never fails."

Baba has asked us to hold fast to His daaman—the hem of His garment). He is keeping silence for our sake—at what cost in suffering we can never know, until the moment when God forces Him to break His long silence because of the agony of men's hearts, who will at last cry out to God for help. Then will every heart be touched according to its state of preparedness, consciousness will be raised, men's minds will change and receive a new direction because of the love poured out by Baba. Like a great cloud bursting, the rain of His compassion will fall on all. Then will begin the time of sharing and giving, as if the world were just one family. It will be the end of fighting and strife and violence will cease. The One Word will have been spoken, which will come to us as from God—a new sudden revelation of Pure Love.

*"Look for the flower to bloom in the
silence that follows the storm;
not till then.

After a few years of knowing Baba, gradually meeting and making friends, with His people—one feels very happy and all idea of loneliness evaporates, even if one lives alone. In fact being alone helps one to realise one's great good fortune in knowing Beloved Baba. He is actually a Friend to the whole world. This is a mystery but it is a fact.

* From 'Light on the Path'.

*Unity**

by Dorothy Levy, U.S.A.

Unite, we must—if in God we trust—
United—is a powerful word
Around the world, let it be heard,
Not with missiles, or atomic bombs—
But brotherhood, friendship, and open arms
It is not your country, nor is it mine
God created the Universe in love, it is THINE!
We are but channels to be tuned in
For His work—with loving kindness, and useful hands;
But there must be the balance of heart and mind
For those seeking power—are yet blind,
The Master has said, "I am the Light, the Truth and the Way"—
To know Him (Baba) is to follow this inner guidance—each
day
Division, or separateness, is only in thought—
Freedom—is Unity, and is not bought—LOVE*—

PUBLICATION RECEIVED

THE GOD-MAN: Published by Sri R. K. Upadhyay, C/o Sri
A. K. Hazra, Bai-Ka-Bagicha, Jabalpur,
Madhya Pradesh State. Price: 0-50 Paise.

This is a brochure in English and Hindi, devoted to Avatar Meher Baba and is proposed to be issued periodically from Jabalpur. It contains Baba's discourse on 'Violence and Non-Violence' and other interesting articles relating to Beloved Baba. Copies can be had from the Publisher.

—*Editor*

News in Brief

Aligarh:

At the invitation of Avatar Meher Baba Aligarh Centre, Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, M.P., visited Aligarh on 27th and 28th Nov. '65 and addressed several meetings in the City. On 27th, he addressed about 400 students and teachers at B. H. S. School and also students and staff at D. S. Degree College, presided over by Sri V. G. Jhingran, Principal of the College, and about 30 lawyers at the Aligarh Bar Association, regarding the Avatarhood of Baba and the significance of His divine silence. Later in the evening he also gave a detailed account of his first meeting with Beloved Baba and his complete surrender at His holy feet, before the monthly meeting of the Centre held at Kela Sadan Brahmanpuri.

On 28th Nov., he addressed a meeting held under the auspices of Manav Seva Sangh at Tika Ram Temple Satsang Bhavan. He explained why God has to be loved and obeyed implicitly. Sri D. C. Chaturvedi, Advocate presided over the meeting. About 60 persons attended the meeting held in Ram Tirth Mission and heard Beloved Baba's Message of Love and Truth with great devotion. Another meeting was held under the auspices of the Theosophical Society at the residence of Sri Bhagwan Bihari Mathur, Govt. Pleader, under the presidentship of Dr. Chand Bihari Lal Mathur. Earlier, a very impressive gathering of Baba-lovers was also held at the residence of Sri Todi Singh, when kirtan was performed and prayers offered to Beloved Baba. The visit of Sri Saigalji to Aligarh was a great success in Service of the Avatar.

HYDERABAD

The Meher Vihar Trust:

The first meeting of the members of the Board of Trustees was held on 27th Oct '65 at Meher Vihar, under the presidentship of Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen to consider matters per-

taining to the taking over by The Trust and activities to be undertaken in furtherance of the Trust. Unanimous resolutions were passed at the meeting, which was attended by all the Trustees. Earlier in the morning on the same day, the first meeting of the members of the Board of Advisors was also held.

Tour in Andhra:

Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen, President and the Managing Trustee of the Meher Vihar Trust along with Sri N. Dharma Rao Naidu, B. E., Retd. Divisional Engineer and member of the Board of Trustees and Sri B. V. L. Narasimha Rao, Office-Manager, are on a tour in Andhra for a period of two months from 7th Nov. '65, visiting by car prominent Baba-Centres and other places to contact all lovers of Beloved Baba and to spread the Name and Message of Love and Truth of the Avatar of the age. Every effort is being made to carry the divine torch of His Love and to keep it aglow in every heart of His lovers, by holding lovers' gatherings and public meetings, conducting Sankeertans and by making available all literature by and on Beloved Baba in English and Telugu at all the places so visited by them, with the loving co-operation of the local brothers and sisters of the Baba-family.

Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, Kakinada:

A special function was arranged at Kakinada on the 7th Oct '65 in commemoration of the discarding of the alphabet board by Beloved Baba on 7th Oct '54, An account of the proceedings that took place in the presence of Baba on that significant day was read as also the Prayer offered by Baba to the Five Sadgurus and repeated by His disciples present on the occasion. Later, Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao, read out a poem specially written by him for the occasion and explained it to the audience.

Avatar Meher Baba Vijayawada Centre:

At Vijayawada, the Centre arranged a series of four lectures on various phases of Baba's Work by Sri Annapragada Laxminarayana, B. Com. (Hons.), Head of the Commerce Dept.,

of the local Govt. College. The lectures commencing on 26th Sep '65 were well attended and were very much appreciated by one and all.

Avatar Meher Baba Vishakhapatnam Centre:

On the occasion of the visit of Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastry to Vishakhapatnam, the Centre arranged a special meeting at the Theosophical Lodge on 6th Oct '65 under the presidentship of Sri R. Lakshminarayana, a scholar in Sanskrit and Telugu and a lecturer in the local College. Sri Sastry spoke at length about his contact with Baba and His universal Message of Love, which impressed the audience very much. On his return journey from Srikakulam, Sri Sastry also attended the Poornima Sannam held on 10th, at the residence of Sri K. Mahadev Gandhi in Scindia Colony. After 'Sankeertan' by Sri Babji of Kakinada, which touched the hearts of the lovers gathered, Sri Sastry spoke about the divine love of Beloved Baba in such an impressive manner that everyone including the little children felt the presence of the Beloved, though not in the physical form. For some time, the entire audience was immersed in Baba's Love.

Another huge meeting attended by about a thousand people was held on 30th Oct '65 in the premises of the Jagannadhaswamy Temple. Sri B. V. S. Patrudu, M.A., Lecturer in Andhra University addressed the gathering. He also addressed the meeting held the next day in Prem Samaj arranged by the local Centre.

Anakapalli:

Sri A. Ankala Rao, P. W. D. Draftsman and an old lover of Baba arranged a meeting in the local Theosophical Lodge on 5th Oct '65, when Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastry spoke on Baba's Avatarhood and Message of Love and Truth.

Sri S. Suryanarayana along with Sri B. V. S. Patrudu from Vishakhapatnam visited the place on 1st Nov '65 and addressed the gathering in Kanyaka Parameshwari Temple.

Vizianagaram:

Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastry visited Vizianagaram on 7th Oct. '65 and addressed a meeting convened at the local Theosophical Lodge, which was attended by a large number of educated people

of the place. Another meeting was arranged at the same place on 3rd Nov., which was addressed by Sri B. V. S. Patrudu. The Diwan of Vizianagaram, the Principal of the local College were among the prominent persons who attended the meeting. In the end, Baba's 1954 Sahavas film was also shown. These meetings seemed to have opened the eyes of the people here and led them towards the living Avatar. Sri I. V. Subba Rao, Retd. Asst. Engineer and Sri K.V. Bhaskara Rao, Asst. Station Master have evinced keen interest and helped to make the functions successful.

Bheemunipatnam:

Sri A. Satyanarayana, Sub-Treasury Officer arranged a meeting at this place on 2nd Nov '65. Sri B.V.S. Patrudu from Vizag spoke very elaborately to the huge gathering about various aspects of Baba's life, the significance of His unique Silence, etc., which impressed the audience very much and created in them a strong desire to know more about Baba and have His darshan.

Avatar Meher Baba Srikakulam Centre:

At Srikakulam, the Centre arranged a special meeting on 8th Oct '65 in connection with the visit of Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastry, which was presided over by Sri A. V. K. Hanumanth Rao. The gold ring (Sivalinga with the serpent's hood and an arch over it embossed in the ring) touched and sanctified by Avatar Meher Baba in answer to the unexpressed but sincere prayer of Sri Parananda Bharati Swamy of Ramabhadrapuram was personally delivered to him by Sri Sastry, under Baba's orders at this meeting. Sri Sastry also conveyed Beloved Baba's love and blessings. This ring was originally sent to Baba by insured parcel in August '65 but without any letter. However Beloved Baba, who dwells in the hearts of His lovers fulfilled the unexpressed wish of Sri Bharati Swamy and instructed Sri Sastry to deliver it personally with His blessings.

The next day, another meeting was held under the auspices of the local Theosophical Society. Besides Sri Sastry, Sri V. Suryarao Pantulu, Pleader and Sri. K. Subba Rao, Advocate and Secretary of the local Centre also addressed the meeting.

Sri Sastry, in his very impressive speech, explained why Baba is the Highest of the High and also the special privilege of the present day humanity, who live in the Avataric Period.

On 4th Nov '65, another meeting was held in the Municipal Multi-Purpose School Hall addressed by Sri B. V. S. Patrudu. The audience which was more than 300 were greatly impressed. In the end Baba's film was also screened.

Avatar Meher Baba Dowlaishwaram Centre:

The Centre arranged Beloved Baba's 'Namajapa' from the morning of 2nd Oct '65 till the next morning without any break at its premises. About 500 persons including several devotees from Alamuru, Rajahmundry, Tanuku, etc., participated in the day long function.

On 17th Oct. there was a gathering of Baba-lovers from Dowlaishwaram, Alamuru, Rajahmundry, etc., in the local Theosophical lodge. Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastry addressing the lovers exhorted them to live up to the teachings of Beloved Baba, in case they want to work in Baba's Cause. He advised them to form themselves into a 'Samiti' and meet once in a month and spend the whole day in the continuous thought of the Beloved in order to prepare themselves for the task.

Avatar Meher Baba Alamuru Centre:

At Alamuru, the usual Poornima Sammelan was held on 8th Nov '65 at the residence of Srimati Nagam Chandrakanthamma. More than a hundred persons including many ladies participated in the function and evinced keen interest. After the 'Sankeertan' and prayers, Sri K. V. Suryanarayana spoke on 'Baba's Grace and how to win it'. Later Sri Ch. Satvam also addressed the gathering .

Rajahmundry:

At a special meeting held at the residence of Sri G. Veeraraghavaswamy, B. A., B. L., Income-tax Officer, it was resolved to elect Sri Veeraraghavaswamy, as President of the Meher Centre in place of Sri E. Bhagirathi Rao, Special Magistrate who has been transferred. Sri N. Dharma Rao Naidu, Sri K. Satyanarayana Murthy and other devotees were present on the occasion.

Ramachandrapuram:

At the invitation of the Centre, Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao, along with Sri V. Venkiah Naidu, visited Ramachandrapuram on 23rd Oct '65 and addressed a group of Baba-lovers from Kaleru, a neighbouring village on Baba's universal Mission. At a ladies function, he explained that they would receive Baba's Grace in proportion to their love, faith and devotion. Later in the evening, he addressed a public meeting, which was attended by many prominent persons of the town. Sri S. Ayyanna, Secretary of the Centre arranged all these meetings.

Bhimavaram:

A meeting of the Centre was held on 8th Oct '65 at Ramakrishna Hall, addressed by Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao and Sri I. Ch. Mallikarjuna Rao, who specially arrived for the occasion. Both the speakers stressed on the Avatarhood of Baba and the special advantage which the spiritual aspirants can receive, when He is physically in our midst. Sri V. V. Sriman Narayana, M.A., B.Ed., Lecturer in the local College and Secretary of the Centre also addressed the gathering.

Munamarru:

On the occasion of Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao's visit accompanied by Sri I. Ch. Mallikarjuna Rao, devotees of Munamarru arranged a grand meeting in the Ramalayam (Temple) on 9th Oct. '65. After usual 'Sankeertan' and Prayers, the audience which was more than 500, were explained about the Avatarhood of Beloved Baba and His Messages. Sri M. Buchilingappa Sastry from Vadali also addressed the gathering.

Avatar Meher Baba Guntur Centre:

Since its inception, Avatar Meher Baba Guntur Centre is remarkably enthusiastic in spreading His Name and Message in and around Guntur. Besides the usual Sunday gatherings, the Centre arranged Poornima Sammelans on a very grand scale. The seventh Poornima Sammelan was held on 9th Oct '65 at the residence of Sri Maddi Ramakrishna, which was sanctified by Beloved Baba's visit in 1954. Baba sent His Love blessings to

all gathered in His Love on this occasion. Several Baba-lovers from Vijayawada, Masulipatam Narsaraopeta, Pedakakani, etc., also attended the function. Sri Majety Rama Mohana Rao, in his presidential speech appealed to the huge audience to accept Baba as God Incarnate and to understand the essence of His Messages. Sri K. P. Sarma and Sri M. Ramakrishna, the host also spoke in the end.

The Centre arranged a special function on 16th Oct '65 to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Baba's 'Sermon Day'. In 1950, on this significant day, at Mahabaleshwar, Baba gave His 'Sermon' regarding what He termed as the established Divine facts. Beloved Baba was pleased to send His Love Blessings for this occasion also. Greetings wishing the function success were received from Sri Adi and several other Baba lovers. After Prayers, Dr. K. Surya Rao Naidu read Baba's Sermon in English and Sri G. Kanakiah Naidu, who presided over the function explained it in Telugu to the gathering. Sri K.P. Sarma in his very eloquent speech exhorted the audience to follow the path of Love which is the easiest and the quickest. A booklet in Telugu containing songs in praise of Beloved Baba was also released on the occasion. Copies of this booklet and 'Sermon' were freely distributed to those present.

It was a unique idea of Baba-lovers in Guntur and Pedakakani to celebrate Diwali on 24th Oct '65 in constant remembrance of Baba. This festival is celebrated throughout the country in commemoration of ultimate victory of good over evil. After the morning function at Guntur, prominent Baba-lovers proceeded to Pedakakani and participated in the evening programme, Sri M. B. G. Sastry, speaking on both the occasions about Baba's Love invoked His Blessings for the destruction of 'Selfishness' and eradication of 'ego' in every one of us on this festival day, as Baba did in His previous Avataric periods.

In connection with the 8th Poornima Sammelan, there was a very big unprecedented gathering on 8th Nov. in the premises of Lord Ramasatyanarayana Temple, arranged by Sri M. Srirama Murthy. Sri M. R. Appa Rao, Minister presided on

the occasion and spoke on the advent of the Avatar. Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao in his impressive speech narrated as to how he came into Baba's fold as long back as in 1941 and also the dual unfoldment within himself of the true glory and status of Baba. Many prominent Baba-lovers from Vijayawada, Gadivada, Masulipatam, Kovvur, Eluru, Markapur and other places also participated in the function and made it a grand success. In the end, Baba's films were also shown.

Sri Bapusaheb Shinde rests eternally in Baba:

Sri Bapusaheb Shinde, the Trustee of Avatar Meher Baba Poona Centre passed away on Monday, the 13th December, 1965. The following telegraphic message was received from Avatar Meher Baba:

Meherazad,
14th December, 1965

"Bapusaheb Shinde has come to Me to rest in Me eternally. One of My dearest lovers and workers Bapusaheb served me wholeheartedly and shared in My suffering. Circulate this to all Centres."

-Meher Baba

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