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25th February 1969

DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)

Editor:

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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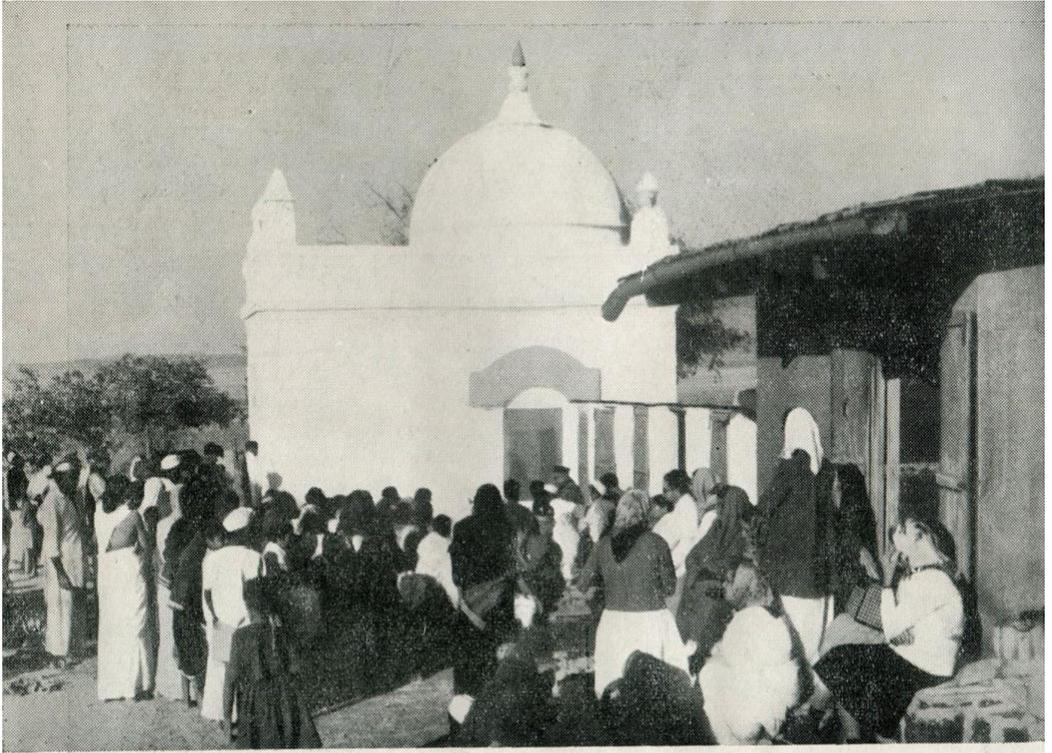
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Avatar Meher Baba's last physical darshan
at Meherabad Tomb. (31-1-69 to 7-2-69)



Avatar Meher Baba's Tomb at Meherabad (1.2.1969)

Editorial :

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Most unexpectedly the following message was received here on the 31st of January 1969 at about 10 p.m. (I.S.T.) by Express Telegramme from Bro. Adi K. Irani Disciple and Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba, Ahmednagar (India):

"AVATAR MEHER BABA DROPPED HIS PHYSICAL BODY AT TWELVE NOON 31 JANUARY AT MEHERAZAD TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE HEARTS OF ALL OF HIS LOVERS (STOP) BELOVED BABA'S BODY WILL BE INTERRED AT MEHERABAD ARANGAON ON 1 FEBRUARY AT 10 A.M. IN THE TOMB HE HAD ORDERED TO BE BUILT LONG AGO.

— ADI K. IRANI."

This was either unbelievable or shocking for all His lovers throughout the world, since none expected this calamity. On the other hand we have been anxiously awaiting for the Beloved's Darshan soon from April 10th to June 10th positively as clarified in the latest Life Circular No. 71. When all are preparing themselves for this happy occasion, it is our misfortune that our Beloved Baba has to leave His physical body, so suddenly. Whether we believe it or not, it has happened though contrary to all our expectations.

By Baba's Grace some of us have reached Meherabad, via Bombay by specially provided plane by 1st midnight. It was a miracle that the Body of Beloved Baba was not interred till Friday, the 7th February, at 12 Noon. It was done exactly after 7 days of public Darshan to all His

lovers who have gathered there from all over the world during this seven days period. Beloved Baba gave His darshan to His lovers reclining, as has been promised, for one full week. There was no decay in His body and it was ever fresh to the last moment, until it was covered. His Divine Presence during this period of seven days of His Unique Darshan and the Love He poured out filling the empty hearts of His lovers are indeed unparalleled and unprecedented. Our Beloved Meher Baba, the Avatar of the Age, has dropped His physical body to live eternally in the hearts of all His lovers all over the world. Long live Avatar Meher Baba and may He bless us all with His Divine presence and Love eternal!

Now, some of us feel that we are all orphaned, since our Beloved Baba, who has been guiding us all along has dropped His body. Some indeed believe that He has not left us at all, for His Divine Presence will eternally guide us and His Divine Love will eternally flow and fill our hearts more than ever. However there are many who are not able to believe that Beloved Baba has left His body, for He has said before that He will not leave His body without uttering the Word of words. Questions after questions are being placed to us regarding this sudden news and the apparent inconsistency in Baba's promised Darshan at Guruprasad, Poona (India) to His lovers, old and new from April 10th to June 10th, 1969 and in His other utterances. Despite our love and dedication to Him, the disappointment and despair at this juncture is so great that even most of the near and dear ones of Beloved Baba have to keep mum at this confusion and could only pray for His help to clear out this smoke from out of our eyes and grant us the vision to do our duty. We are sure that He can never fail His lovers; but we shall have to compose ourselves in absolute surrenderance unto Him and understand that we have to obey His command what ever it may be without any question of why and what. It is with this idea that we humbly place the following before our dear readers for their deep consideration and loving

understanding despite the disturbing circumstances we are placed in at this juncture.

Believe it or not, the most unexpected has happened and our Beloved Baba has dropped His physical body and it has been interred at Meherabad, Arangaon on Friday, the 7th of February 1969 at 12-15 noon in the presence of His dear and near Mandali and all other lovers who happened to be there at that time.

It is now for us to reconcile with the situation and recollect the commands of our Beloved Master given from time to time. Let us at this moment forget for a while about the answers we have to give to the general public since our duty is towards our Beloved Master lest we may miss His Daaman, once for all.

He has given us the warning: "I have been saying: the Time is near, it is fast approaching, it is close at hand. Today I say: **the Time has come. Remember this!**"

Even before this, Baba has said:
"Coming, Coming, Coming ... Came!
I am tired of the illusion game."

With a smile in His eyes, Baba said: "None of you can know what it means." .. (Family Letter, 9th September 1968).

Again we were informed from time to time, how His internal work has caused His body tremendous strain, especially in keeping the link with the gross plane, while working in other planes of consciousness. On this occasion we have to remember what He has said about death: "Although I am present everywhere eternally in My formless Infinite state, from time to time I take form, and the taking of the form and leaving it is termed My physical Birth and Death. In this sense, I am born and I die when My Universal Work is finished." And Beloved Baba had already declared: "My work is done. It is completed 100% to

My satisfaction..." ... (Family letter 9th September 1968).

And now a few words about Beloved Baba's so-called enigmatic Final Declaration which has become specially important now for His lovers and for the public.

He said: "It is really very difficult for any one to believe and understand what I say, because none can grasp the meaning underlying My words. It is natural even for My intimate Mandali not to understand My Final Declaration; but I want you to take everything that I said in Meherabad during the Meetings very seriously because all that I said was the Truth, they were words of God, and all the things said must come to pass exactly in the manner described by Me."

He has clearly explained about the language He used thus: "In order to help you to understand My Final Declaration, and to put an end to your confusion and worry, I want all of you to know that when you see Me dictate on My alphabet board during the meetings at Meherabad, and heard about:

- 1) A strange disease attacking My body: It was said in your language.
- 2) The humiliation that I will suffer: It was said in your language.
- 3) The breaking of My silence and My uttering the one Word of words: It was said in My own 'language' and simultaneously in yours because when I utter that Word it will be an audible word to you.
- 4) My Glorification: It was said simultaneously in My language and yours.
- 5) The destruction of three-fourths of the world: It

was said in My own language alone.

- 6) The stab in My back: It was said in My own language alone.
- 7) The dropping of My body: It was said in My own language and simultaneously in yours.

"Consequently, whatever is said by Me in your language, you are able to understand and know what is said; but, that which is said **in My own 'language'** is impossible for you to understand however much you all may try to interpret and grasp the underlying meaning behind My words. Only the fulfilment of events can unfold to you, in due course, the meaning of what is said in My own 'language'."

..."All this that is destined to take place is unavoidable, yet the resultant effects can be modified in two different ways according to relative circumstances. The modification of the effects of a destined plan can on the one hand either affect the intensity, scope, shape or size of the chain of events, or on the other hand bring about a considerable change in the factor of time."

So, considering carefully the above clarification by Beloved Baba, we find that out of the seven items, Nos. 5 and 6 are said in His own language and hence they are to be taken as beyond our comprehension. Now, item No. 1, a strange disease attacking His body: It was seen that Baba's health became worse and the symptoms were completely confusing to the doctors who were called from Poona and Bombay and so it was indeed a strange disease that attacked Him. Item No. 2, the phase of humiliation which was also said in our language is, we suppose the present period in which we, His so-called lovers and the public tend to take Him as an ordinary human being and talk low of Him. Item No. 4 His glorification: We are sure that this will follow the short period of humiliation, when His manifestation starts.

And Item No. 7, the dropping of His body, which was said in His own language and simultaneously in ours has taken place on the 31st of January 1969, Friday at 12-15 p.m. It was interred according to His instruction in the Tomb ordered by Him to be built many years ago, exactly on His birthday, according to the Zoroastrian Calendar, on Friday, the 7th of February 1969, after He gave His last Darshan to His lovers, old and new, in silence, reclining.

The only item responsible for breaking of heads for many is the breaking of His Silence and uttering the Word of words, which He said will be audible. For this, no evidence is forthcoming from the near and dear ones of Beloved Baba who happened to be close to Him when He left the physical body. So much confusion might have prevailed there at the time that none could follow what has actually happened, since every one too close to Him and serving Him unto the last minute with utmost anxiety and love as ordinary human beings, were completely over taken by feelings of parting which will certainly be sad. But the facts known to them are given by Bro, Adi as authoritative on behalf of Mandali, and are published elsewhere in this issue.

According to this it is clear that when His body manifested severe spasms, He told them: "This is My crucifixion." Baba also said to the doctor attending on Him, "My time has come." Sometime back He is also understood to have given instructions to Bro. Eruch specifically concerning the disposition of His physical body, after He had given it up. Bro. Aloha was asked by Beloved Baba one day before, to bring the board on which were the final instructions as it were for all of us, and place it there before Him, at 10 a.m. on the day of His dropping His body. Many more things can be quoted to say that Beloved Baba has not left the body unawares but has done so, deliberately according to His Divine plan.

Mohamed, the Mast at Meherabad has indicated this fact on the previous day, in his own way. We therefore clarify that what has appeared in some of the news papers that Baba's body was found dead in a cave is absolutely baseless and untrue. We affirm solemnly that He left His body according to His Divine whim most consciously, though for His own reasons did not make it clear to His Mandali before hand.

And now let us submit humbly our own feelings based on true information and loving regards to all concerned that it is high time for us to collect our wits and courage and boldly stand as soldiers worthy of our Divine Master, the Avatar of the Age and sincerely try to live up to His expectations. Let us remember Beloved Baba's words: "I am free from all promises, bindings, undertakings and arrangements ... It is now for you to decide whether to hold on to My daaman, believing in Me and remaining devoted to Me, by following My orders and instructions." (The Die Is Cast, P. 15)

It is time for us all His lovers to be alert and not allow His daaman to slip off our hands, what ever be the circumstances that will seemingly justify our letting it go. We believe that this is the stage of His humiliation for which He has warned us thus:

"In the stage of Humiliation, the measure of your love for Me and your preparedness to obey Me will be tested, not by Me but by the phase of Humiliation itself. Blessed will those be among you who will hang on to My daaman through it all, emerging triumphant in the divine glory of My Love.

"The stage of Glorification to follow, will be when I break My silence with the Divine Word—THE WORD that will indisputably assert the existence of God, in the mind and heart of man; that will make that world know that God not only exists, but that HE ALONE exists, infinitely and eternally."

(The God-Man, p. 350).

And again, we wish to draw the attention of our dear readers to these words of Beloved Baba regarding the uttering of the Word: "I want you to know that I will definitely break My Silence; and I want you to cling to My daaman till the very end, irrespective of whether I speak or not. I am the Highest of the High, and want you to love Me not for any spiritual or material gain, nor for the impending breaking of My silence and My manifestation, but I want you to love Me for Myself, as being God in human form." (The God-Man, p. 355-356).

As Beloved Baba has told that He will not leave His body until He utters the Word, we are among those who firmly believe that He has uttered the Word of words and this will be revealed by its after effects. It has been our personal experience that the hearts of all His lovers wherever they are have been touched and the spontaneous out-burst of love overflowing their hearts can be seen more than ever after this unique event. It is yet to be experienced how our Beloved Lord will be pleased to bless us from the 10th of April to the 10th of June this year when His lovers meet at Guruprasad to honour Baba's invitation for Darshan. Some of the lovers are inclined to believe that they will be able even to see His Gross body. For clarification we would like to mention here what Beloved Baba has said about Jesus in the same context. "... the body in which Jesus was seen after the Resurrection was his spiritual body and not the gross body, as many people are inclined to believe. The spiritual body—Baba relates—is not ghostly, ephemeral form, but partakes of all the physical characteristics and what ever degree of density the Master chooses to give it."

Hence we are certain that our Beloved Baba will grace the occasion in His Spiritual body on that day and that His Grace on us will be in accordance with the individual receptivity. It will indeed be a novel experi-

ence and it will be too difficult to try to judge the same much in advance. However it is certain that His loving presence will be there and we earnestly hope and wish that every one will receive His Blissful Blessings on that unique occasion.

May we do our utmost to keep our hold on Beloved Baba's Daaman, what ever be the circumstances that may prevail and pray our Beloved to bestow on us that courage and love to hold fast to Him ever!

Jai Baba!

BELOVED BABA'S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS*

Befitting a fortunate slave carry out every command of the Master without any question of why and what.

About what you hear from the Master, never say it is wrong because my dear, the fault lies in your own incapacity to understand Him.

I am slave of the Master, who has released me from ignorance, whatever my Master does is of the Highest benefit to all concerned.

* This is the English version of three verses of Hafiz contained along with the original in Persian language on a board, which Beloved Baba ordered Aloba (Mr. A. A. Shapurzamaan) one of the resident Mandali on 30th January '69 itself to be brought the next day (i.e., 31st January '69) at 10 a.m. and placed in Baba's room near Him.

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S MESSAGE

ON THE OCCASION OF

His 75th Birthday—25 February, 1969

To love me for what I may give you is not loving me at all
To sacrifice anything in my cause to gain something for
yourself is like a blind man sacrificing his eyes for sight. I am
the divine beloved worthy of being loved because I am Love.
He who loves me because of this will be blessed with
unlimited sight and will see me as I am.

MEHER BABA

Baba's Darshan at ' Guruprasad '

DESPITE BABA'S PHYSICAL ABSENCE THOSE LOVERS WHO DESIRE TO VISIT GURUPRASAD POONA TO HONOUR BABA'S INVITATION FOR DARSHAN UP TO TENTH JUNE CAN STILL COME ABIDING STRICTLY TO THE SCHEDULED DATES AND CONDITIONS AS PER FAMILY LETTER DATED FIRST NOVEMBER STOP JOURNEY WILL NOW INCLUDE HALF DAY VISIT TO MEHERABAD TO PAY HOMAGE AT BABA'S TOMB STOP AFTER TENTH JUNE ANYONE CAN MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO POONA AND BABA'S TOMB INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE ON ONE'S OWN STOP INFORM ALL CONCERNED IN YOUR AREA JAIBABA

ADI K. IRANI

Note: The above is a copy of cable sent to Baba lovers in the West. However, it is applicable to His lovers in India and elsewhere also. The conditions of 'Darshan' have also been laid down in Life Circular No. 70 dated 1st Nov. '68.

2nd Day, 50th Week, Meher Year 74

This is the true account of Avatar Meher Baba's dropping His body, on 31st January 1969 according to the resident mandali.

The three years of intense work in seclusion had had an untold effect upon His body, and a faint reflection of this on us caused a deep depression among us. But beloved Baba warned us that this was disobeying His order to be always cheerful in His presence. And He quoted, as He had many times over the years, Hafiz's couplet: "Befitting a fortunate slave carry out every command of the Master without any question of why and what."

On 13th Oct, 1968 Baba told us that He would give His darshan to all His lovers all over the world from 10th April to 10th June 1969. Considering His physical condition we were apprehensive of His body standing such a strain. But He said, "It will be easy for me to give my lovers my darshan, so you are not to feel concerned about it. I will give darshan reclining and that will be no strain on my body. It will be different from all previous darshans and it will be the last in silence. Although I will be reclining I will be very strong. My physical condition now is because of my work, but by then my work will be complete and my exultation will be great. A very poor man winning a rich lottery can become so excited over his fortune that he collapses and dies. My fortune will be in my work being finished and in the knowledge of its certain results; but my exultation will not cause my collapse—it will be my glory."

Despite these assurances, Baba's health became worse. But the symptoms were completely confusing to the doctors we called from Poona and Bombay. His blood urea was so high that the doctors said usually an ordinary man in such a condition would go into a coma, but there was not even the least sign of mental confusion or the faintest trace of uremic odour. Similarly, when muscular spasms were occurring, when a specialist from Bombay examined Him, he asked why he had been called, because there were no symptoms at all—Baba's condition was quite normal.

Outwardly, to our eyes, Baba's condition deteriorated still further, and we wanted to take Him to Poona so that further tests could be carried out, but He refused to go and warned us that we should not try and take Him against His wish. He said, "If you want me to drop my body now, then take me to Poona. My condition has no medical grounds at all; it is due purely to the strain of my work. Do not call the doctors again until I tell you." And so, helpless before His will, we had to obey His will.

Over the last days Baba's body manifested severe spasms, and He told us, "This is my crucifixion." Two days before He dropped His body He told us to call the doctors. The one from Poona came the next morning and said he could do nothing until further tests were done so that a definite diagnosis could be arrived at; and this could only be done if Baba went to Poona. Baba said to him, "My time has come."

The next day the doctor from Bombay came, and also one from Ahmednagar. By the time they arrived a great spasm shook His body, the pulse rate fell to nothing, and breathing ceased. This was at 12-15 p.m. At 12 noon He had been joking with us about all the medicines He had been given.

In the evening we brought His body to Meherabad. The sun was setting and moon was rising as we placed it in the tomb for His lovers to take His darshan, fulfilling beloved Baba's word that He would give His darshan reclining.

5th Feb. 1969
King's Road,
Ahmednagar,
Maharashtra
India

Sd. Adi K. IRANI
Disciple & Secretary
AVATAR MEHER BABA

ON BABA'S BEING "DEAD"

By Robert Dreyfuss, U.S.A.

Who is Baba? Baba is your Real Self externally manifest. Because we are habit-bound (conditioned to looking outward, Baba in His infinite compassion has taken a form for us, so we can see Him (our Real Self).

Who is He? He is you as you REALLY are, within (the essence of) that collection of people you call "I". And because it is so difficult to identify who you are—apart from the others within you Baba tells you. There is no mistaking who Baba IS. His is the language of silence; but He has a voice. And, don't forget, He asserts that He knows everything. In learning to listen (called stillness) you begin to hear His voice. You can never mistake Baba's voice once you hear it. But He is more than a voice speaking from silence in stillness, He is love.

Because we look outward (away from) to see ourself, Baba takes a body and lives a life that is a mirror. When we look into each other's eyes we see ourself fragmented, when we look into His eyes, we see ourself whole. To look into this mirror is to see unblemished purity, radiant love, all-knowing truth, and beauty effulgent. Though the mirror has no name it takes a name—Baba—so that our tongue, dumb in speaking, can say the name of the speaker. Baba says that He is closer to us than even our breath... When you learn to see, and you look into this mirror (only by His Grace) you realize that there is no mirror: there is only your Self, seeing itSelf, being itSelf, blissfully adoring itSelf.

However, because we learn slowly, to reach this seeing with our I, Baba gives us time—it is only in time

that awareness of growth can seem to be. And Baba is infinitely patient: He has all the time there ever was and shall be, and is all now. He waits, for in His knowing who we really are (Himself), He knows that sooner or later in the illusion of time; everyone comes to Him; for there is nowhere (now-here) else to go, there is nothing else to do, there is no-one else to be. Baba is everyone and everything—and is beyond everyone and everything—and being everyone and everything, He displaces nothing. He is love.

Consciously or unconsciously, we are all searching for who we really are. We look everywhere, and with the mind we attempt to untangle our continuous experience of what Baba calls "superficial diversity" in the struggle to extricate ourself so we can know ourself. And we keep falling into the trap of looking with the mind for the source of our being, as if our being were contained in our mind! And because we host so many strangers (desires) we do not see ourself because all we see are the strangers (wantings). There is no end to wanting and no end of things to want, and so we are not content and stillness eludes us.

What is it we really want: an end to wanting. It is called fulfilment of yearning, of longing, of seeking, of feeling lost, of feeling alone and afraid, of feeling separate. We assert our separateness (out of ignorance); Baba asserts our Oneness (out of Knowledge). What we want is peace. Everyone wants peace or happiness. Because we do not know who we are, we experience a lack, an emptiness, an aching void that we are continuously trying to fill. Love is that fullness.

Baba tells us that in loving others we love ourself, that in serving others we serve ourself, that in giving to others we give to ourself. We must become empty (of illusions) to be full. We must die (to our desires) to be born anew. We must want nothing to have everything.

Baba is everyone, so in serving the Baba in everyone, we serve only ourself. For let us not forget, we too are Baba. O, let us not forget, let us not forget.

In remembering Baba, we remember who we are, and when we know who we are, we know all there is to know. Baba tells us that all suffering is our own labor of love to unveil our Real Self. Baba's will works out to awaken us to this Knowledge. His grace pours out ceaselessly—to receive we must give. His peace is everywhere always.

Baba is not "dead". How can Baba die? He is alive in all of us. He does not die when our body dies, nor is He then born. He is infinite consciousness, permeating everything everywhere. He is infinite love... He is the Divine Beloved who loves us more than we can ever love ourself. Because He is, I am. He assures us:

"BE COMPOSED IN THE REALITY OF MY LOVE,
FOR ALL CONFUSION AND DESPAIR IS YOUR OWN
SHADOW WHICH WILL VANISH WHEN I SPEAK THE
WORD."

May we all be ready to receive this Word of Words!

MEHERAZAD NEWS

From one of the Mandali

26th January 1969

A prosperous 1969 to all of us—prosperous in the wealth of Baba's Love which thrives on poverty of the lover's self !

We stand on the last step of the 1960's, arms laden with gifts of His Compassion, hearts singing in tune with these lines from a lover in the West:

Amidst the holiday conventions of giving and receiving gifts, more and more hearts are rejoicing in the only Real Gift.

God has given Himself to His Creation.

The glory of this Gift is that the joy of receiving is the joy of giving. Receiving the Beloved means giving Him love. Giving Him love means receiving His Love. Receiving the Love of the Beloved means sharing it with all. Sharing Beloved's Love means receiving Him in all.

O God, most Beloved Baba, may we show our gratitude for Your supreme Gift of Yourself by receiving Your Love and giving Your Love and living Your Message of Love in our lives.

Although 1969 begins with clouded skies—the clouds of personal trials and tribulations in the lives of a number of His close ones, the clouds of world-wide disunity and violence—for His lovers there is the resplendent silver lining promising fulfilment of the long longed-for darshan of their Beloved. Even through the great cloud of Baba's health there is a small soft light

shining. I wrote to Fredella some days ago: "Beloved Baba's health has not been at all good for some time, from the tremendous strain of His Seclusion Work. And although the extreme anaemia (which a recent routine test showed) has been promptly remedied, His physical condition is very weak. Goher and the other doctors strongly feel there should be a thorough check-up done. As this is not possible at Meherazad—Ahmednagar, we're trying to persuade Baba to make an early move to have it done in Poona. We are hoping He will agree."

Baba did NOT agree. He refuses moving to Poona before the usual date, which is about the end of March, in time for the Darshan beginning 10th April. Baba says that the pressure of His universal burden reflects upon His body; and as the strain of His work in Seclusion was severe, the effect on His body is consequently severe—but though the effect is human the cause is divine, and it is therefore in His hands. We get fleeting glimpses of this, at moments when unaccountably He looks more well and glowing than one in the pink of health. Indeed, in the light of recent tests made, the doctors are much puzzled and amazed by certain favourable factors that are contrary to all rules of medical science!

Baba tells us that He is both 'God and Man. Seeing Him undergo sickness and accidents and suffering, are stark reminders that He is Man, that He has said: "I have taken on the form of Man to take on the suffering of man." And when, tending to His body to the utmost of our ability we feel over-anxious or worried, He reminds us: "Don't forget I am God. I know all. Simply do as I say." We bow to His Will.

I did not expect to write to you before February. What actually launches this letter on its course round the world at this time, is another circular just issued by Adi—Life Circular No. 71, which I give here for all of His Western family:

Beloved Avatar Meher Baba wishes all His lovers to know that His three years of intense work has shattered His health.

In spite of this He has invited His lovers from all over the world to come to Him for His darshan next summer, for it is the time for them to come to Him and receive His Love.

It is the time; and the place, Guruprasad, Poona has been fixed.

But with the present condition of His health, how beloved Baba will give His darshan to the thousands who will come, yet remains to be determined; but it will be. He will give His darshan.

This darshan, Baba says, will be the last given in Silence—the last before He speaks His world-renewing Word of words.

NOTE :

- (1) No one should write, telegraph or cable for Baba's blessings for persons or events or programs, but remain content in the knowledge that His blessings are continually with His lovers. No such communications will be conveyed to Baba and so cannot be acknowledged.
- (2) No one should attempt to see Baba until 10th April onwards in accordance with Avatar Meher Baba's conditions printed in Life Circular No. 70 dated 1st November 1968.
- (3) No one should write to Baba or to the resident mandali and Adi about problems of Baba-work or conduct of centres, or of inquiry about Baba's health, as time and circumstance will not permit our attention.

- (4) Change of postal and telegraphic address only should be communicated to Adi.

* * * * *

Remarking on this last darshan to be given in Silence, Baba said it will not only be last it will be unparalleled. This He tells us from His omniscience. But viewed even from our angle it appears so, when we compare it with just the figures of past darshans, Taking a single point: At the one week of East-West Gathering held in Poona in 1962, the total number of His lovers from overseas was less than 200. For this 1969 Darshan of eight weeks' duration, in the first week alone, the number of Western lovers expected is 250—the limit laid down for each week! It is astonishing but not surprising, for His Family has grown massively in the last few years. His children have waited long for this home-coming, and now that the way is open they are toiling towards the means. Baba's Moochewala (Rick Chapman, U.S.A.), directed to write to Him, wrote after receiving the last Family-letter:

"The latest Family-letter has made a tremendous impact on the Family of Your lovers, who have so long been so eager for a glimpse of their Beloved. While most Western lovers look with awe at the love of Your Eastern lovers, many of whom will journey long distances at great hardship to see You, only once, they seem to give no second thought to the prospect of settling down to five months of hard working and tight saving to fly to India for a mere week, and that at knowing they will see none of the 'sights' in India. Powerful evidence of the love in so many of these new lovers, who have their sights on One Sight only and will do anything they can for a few moments with their eternal Beloved.

"May we all come to You, dear Baba, with our hearts in our hands, with no expectation and no purpose except to be totally resigned to Your Perfect Will of love, to obey You down to the last thread of the

Daaman, to take Your Love with us in our hearts to every corner of the world, as evidence that the Christ has come."

There are the many who know the Christ has come, and adore Him; the many who know but cannot believe; the many who do not know and await Him; and those who sit on the fence, waiting. Not so long ago Baba said to a sincere visitor: "I am the Expected One who will also be the Accepted One while I am yet in this body. All will know me when I manifest, but those who know and love me now are the really fortunate." That in this Advent the privilege of accepting the Expected One will not be left to history, but given to the people of today's world, is witnessed by us constantly. Among the most recent happenings that testify to this, is the public and official cognizance given to the place where He was born. As one who heard reports of it remarked: That the AVATAR is honoured in His lifetime and in His hometown, honoured not only by the people but by the People's Government—this is surely unique!

On a wall of one of the cottage-wards standing in the grounds of the Sassoon General Hospitals in Poona, is a marble slab with these words engraved on it in English and Marathi: "AVATAR MEHER BABA WAS BORN IN SASSOON GENERAL HOSPITALS on 25th February 1894." Sanction to install this marble inscription was given telegraphically by the Government of Maharashtra. Its unveiling, done by the deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, was attended by dignitaries and staff of the Hospital, by representatives of the Press, and of course by lovers of Baba. This was on 9th December 1968—it was the second honouring of the place honoured by our Beloved's birth. The first, inaugurated by the Dean of the Sassoon Hospitals, was on 1st December 1968—the first of the ten days when the Hospital was celebrating its 100th year. On that day,

Baba-lovers from all parts of Poona assembled in the Auditorium of the B. J. Medical College (adjoining Sassoon Hospital) where the Parvardigar and Repentance Prayers were recited, speeches made by some of His lovers from different parts of India, a Baba-film shown, and the Arti sung. A proud day for the assembly of Baba's lovers, particularly for His brother Jal who was responsible for the idea and labour of bringing about these unique events that mark an Event of universal importance.

Adi, who played a chief role on both occasions, has given a detailed account in the Christmas issue of 'Divya Vani'. English and vernacular newspapers also recorded the events in words and pictures—some went as far as to give pictures of Baba, of His parents, and of the maternity cottage where He was born. A number of papers, which surprisingly included the Times of India, published this message given by Baba for the occasion of the hospital's centenary:

I GIVE MY BLESSINGS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE
MEDICAL AND WORKER STAFF OF THIS
HOSPITAL IN WHICH I, THE DELIVERER OF THE
WORLD, WAS DELIVERED TO THE WORLD.

—MEHER BABA—

The message was in response to a letter from Prof. Dr. G.S. Mutalik, Organizing Secretary for the Centenary Celebrations of the Sassoon General Hospitals, asking for His blessings on the occasion.

In 1894, before the expansion of the hospital had begun, the main building with its adjoining cottages and private wards was known as the David Sassoon Hospital. The wall that now bears the marble engraving shows the ward where seventy-five years ago a sixteen year old girl

named Shireen gave birth to the God-Child. His birth was heralded by a strangely prophetic dream which the young mother had the night before He was born. Sheriar, the father, on hearing his wife's dream had exclaimed:

"Shireen, you do not know Who this Child is that is to be born unto us!" I might add here, that even now when Baba speaks of His father, He says, "There was none like him. It was because of him that I was born as his child."

Dreams and visions – beloved Baba discourages us from attaching importance to them, for all life is a dreaming that the Soul must go through before awakening to Reality. But dreams and visions are also His servants who may serve to awaken hearts to His Love. Over the years, as we have known from personal recountings and letters, a number of individuals who are Baba-lovers were first awakened to Baba through a vision of Him. Of late we've been hearing of such episodes more often, which is what inspires me to touch on the subject and to give this small selection of accounts heard at different times:

The following experience; as narrated to us by Eruch's family, was had by a woman living in Aden. A staunch and pious Zoroastrian, she had heard of Baba but refused to entertain the preposterous idea that He could be the same as Lord Zoroaster (the Christ)! One morning, while she was praying before a framed portrait of Zoroaster, she saw the picture fade away before her eyes and in its place appeared a Face she had never seen before—it wore an expression of ineffable love, and hair that was down to the shoulders of a brown fur coat. For a long time she believed it to have been a vision of St. Peter, until one day she saw a picture of Baba in the home of a dear friend in India, a head study that seemed to her a replica of her vision—and then she knew that it was Meher Baba she had seen in Zoroaster's picture! She and her family are devoted Baba-lovers.

Another instance is of a woman in U.S.A. who hadn't even heard of Baba. She was lying critically ill in hospital, when she saw the form of a man approach her bedside. He was dressed in a soft white robe, bathed in a light that was dazzling but cool. Smiling with love, He bent down and placed a hand on her brow that soothed her to sleep. Years later she came across a picture of Baba in some magazine, and recognized her Visitor of the hospital! As far as I recall, this was related to us by Norina (Princess Matchabelli) during the years she was with us in the ashram at Meherabad.

Among the very recent we have heard of, is the experience of a man in Bombay, a Parsi who denied and challenged Baba's divinity whenever he heard his acquaintances and friends talk about Him. One night, in an agonizingly vivid dream, he saw a sky overcast with dark clouds. While he was gazing up, a great light shot out from the clouds like a big sun, from which a figure emerged walking towards him. Dazed, the man moved forward and kneeling before the figure he bowed his head to the ground and cried out: "Meher Baba, forgive me for all that I have said about you; it was said in my ignorance. O forgive me!" The Figure then bent over him and caressed his back for a long while, until he felt his back was beginning to bleed. Looking up he found himself alone, and woke up. His wife related this dream to a Baba-lover family she visited in Ahmednagar. Understandably, both man and wife are very keen to have Baba's darshan. They have been asked to await April.

This last I quote from a letter to Baba received last month from a man in U.S.A., a complete stranger to us till now who addressed the cover of his letter so incorrectly that it's a marvel it reached us! As the letter was personal I omit his name, but I feel sure he will understand my wanting to share its heart-warming contents with the rest of the Baba Family. Beginning his letter

to Baba with, "Excuse my ignorance, I do not know how to address you properly", he writes on:

"I am sure that you know about me, and that what I will tell you is not new for you. After much reflection and hesitation I have decided to communicate first with you, since from what you will read you will see that I have some justification. I have been in the U.S.A. since 1967. I was born in , Bulgaria, where for 23 years I experienced all the horrors and difficulties that people have who are characterized as enemies of the State. In addition, I was accused of having taken part in sabotage later it was proved that I was innocent, but that did not ease my situation.

"I first quite tangibly observed help from 'invisible helpers'; when escaping, they conducted me together with my wife across the frontier in daytime, at 2-30 on a bright sunny day through wire entanglements, among mines and heavily armed guards. When I arrived in U.S., I began to work, but on July 19, I fell down the stairs and my spinal column was injured and my left arm atrophied. I was immediately operated. Two months later my wife underwent a very complicated operation for a tumour. Medical care here may be the finest in the world, but at the same time it is terribly expensive A few days ago I was told that I would soon have to undergo the same operation again. This was truly a great trial for me. Then unexpectedly there occurred what is actually the subject of this letter. I don't know whether to call it a miracle or a vision, and if I had not been fully conscious I would not have believed it myself.

"During the night of November 26-27, I was awakened by a strange noise; the next moment the room was filled with a blinding light, in the center of which I saw a completely normal human figure, which pronounced in

pure Bulgarian: "DO NOT FEAR. DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?"

'Yes' I answered mechanically, 'YOU ARE MEHER BABA.'

"I must confess that I had known nothing about the bearer of that name although it is true that about four months ago I merely heard it pronounced, without any other details. What led me to answer immediately thus I can still not understand.

"The human figure with a kind glance and meek words continued: 'BELIEVE FIRMLY, I SHALL HELP YOU.'

"It became dark again; I heard the strange noise. which also awakened my wife. She found me in a state of feverish excitement which lasted two days—like a frenzy or trance. All this impels me to seek a means to get in touch with you. I now already believe deeply that you will help me. I will joyfully wait to receive your instructions. My greatest hope is, if I can, to be of service to you.

Yours sincerely,

....."

And so another lover is born, from the womb of suffering into a life of His Love. In replying to his letter, Adi conveyed this from beloved Baba: " Meher Baba wants you to know that your sufferings have brought you to Him He says that He has been with you in your dark hours, and will continue to be with you and help you if you hold firmly to Him."

This does not always imply that Baba removes our material sufferings, but when His Love is our strength they are lighter to bear. A man, badly crippled, once wrote to Baba: "For fourteen years I have been confined

to a wheel chair. Since a year I have come to know of :you, and believe in you. I am still confined to my chair, but it is not the same any more because you are with me. Now I not only can bear my affliction without bitterness. I know it to be the tool that prepared me to receive your Love."

I don't know when the next letter will be going out, but at least I know it cannot be before the Darshan in Guruprasad—unless of course another Circular causes a premature delivery like this one! Although this letter is pretty long it is not complete, in that it fails to include a report of the work that Baba's lover-workers in the East and West are doing in reaching out His Love to others. But this is not because there is little to report, it is because there is too much! And even that is but a part of the whole, for what we know of is what we gather from stray reports and printed matter (invitations to Baba-gatherings, News letters, posters and cards with the Beloved's pictures and sayings, pamphlets from the various Meher Baba Information outlets); and from what we see through the windows of regular Baba-magazines that store the precious grains of words and works relating to Him: "The Awakener" and "The Glow" and "Divya Vani" (in English), "Meher Pukar" (in Hindi), and "Avatar Meher" (in Telugu). In recent issues, through an account given by May Lundquist we have shared the joy and glory of an unprecedented Baba-procession in this year's Warana Spring Festival of Australia; and of the dynamic visit to England by (Dr.) Allan Cohen who crashed barriers of official and human reserve, reaching His Message to the people through radio and television, bringing the Beloved closer to His growing family of young lovers. We only wish more accounts, as well written, were sent in to the editors of Baba-magazines by lovers in different countries for all the Family to feast on.

In this happy Birthday season welcoming Meher Year 75, which has begun with a number of His Centres observing seventy-five days of celebration of His Birthday, the Babamagazines will have a bumper crop I'm sure. But they are waiting, as His lovers are the touch that will give life to the fields of their endeavours in loving and serving Him—a message from the Beloved. Beloved Baba has given the message. I convey it here; please circulate it among all His lovers in your locality before the 25th of February:

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S MESSAGE

on the occasion of

His 75th Birthday – 25th February, 1969

TO LOVE ME FOR WHAT I MAY GIVE YOU IS NOT LOVING ME AT ALL. TO SACRIFICE ANYTHING IN MY CAUSE TO GAIN SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF IS LIKE A BLIND MAN SACRIFICING HIS EYES FOR SIGHT. I AM THE DIVINE BELOVED WORTHY OF BEING LOVED BECAUSE I AM LOVE. HE WHO LOVES ME BECAUSE OF THIS WILL BE BLESSED WITH UNLIMITED SIGHT AND WILL SEE ME AS I AM.

—MEHER BABA—

* " MY TIME HAS COME. "

—MEHER BABA

AVATAR MEHER BABA DROPPED HIS PHYSICAL BODY AT TWELVE NOON 31 JANUARY AT MEHERAZAD TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE HEARTS OF ALL OF HIS LOVERS STOP BELOVED BABA'S BODY WILL BE INTERRED AT MEHERABAD ARANGAON ON 1 FEBRUARY AT 10 A.M. IN THE TOMB HE HAD ORDERED TO BE BUILT LONG AGO.

—Adi K. Irani

Cable received 1 Feb. 1969

Early in the morning of February 1, a report was received in the U. S. A. by phone from Adi K. Irani in Ahmednagar, India. The connection was extremely poor, so the communication was fragmentary and incomplete. As far as could be determined, Adi reported the following information – that Baba had dropped His body around 12 noon Friday, and that Baba had indicated for about two days prior to that time that he would "go" and that He would "come back". Adi could not give any further details concerning what Baba meant by this, and he said that Baba had given no final or last-minute messages or instructions.

He seemed to indicate that several people were with Baba at the time when He was said to have dropped His body. Adi said that following his arrival on the scene, Baba's body was wrapped in a white cloth, and after some deliberation, it was moved to the tomb on Meherabad Hill, where Baba has for many years given instructions that His body be placed.

* *Noted and compiled by Rich Chapman and Dr. Allen Y. Cohen, U. S. A. on February 3, 1969.*

Finally, Adi reported that further details would be sent to the West as soon as possible.

On February 3rd at 12-30 a.m., a call from the U.S. to Bombay reached Dr. Ram Ginde, one of Baba's personal physicians. Having been called to Meherazad from Bombay, Dr. Ginde was present with Baba during the morning of January 31st. He reported that Baba had been resting well until, at about 10 a.m., He said, "My Time has come."

Some excerpts from Baba's messages and discourses have been collected here to help give perspective on these most recent events. From His many warnings regarding the period of His inevitable "Humiliation" and the "dark cloud" which He must face, to His most recent statements about the crushing strain on His health which His work in seclusion has caused, Baba seems to have been preparing His lovers for this very time:

At the darshan-discussion gathering in Meherazad, (October 13, 1968) Beloved Baba said:

"I have been saying: the Time is near,
it is fast approaching, it is close at hand.
Today I say: THE TIME HAS COME. Remember this!"
(Family Letter 79, 1st November 1968)

" COMING, COMING, COMING—CAME!
I AM TIRED OF THE ILLUSION GAME."

With a smile in His eyes, Baba said: "None of you can know what it means."
(Family Letter 78, 9th September 1968)

MY WORK IS DONE. IT IS COMPLETED 100% TO MY SATIS-
FACTION. THE RESULT OF THIS WORK WILL ALSO BE 100% AND
WILL MANIFEST FROM THE END OF SEPTEMBER.
(Family Letter 78, 9th September 1968)

The Work that walked hand in hand with the seclusion, did not stop when the seclusion did—it went on till the end of July. "How I kept it going over the last stretch to its completion, I alone know!" Baba told us. He said, "You cannot have a seed of an idea how crushing the pressure was, for it is beyond human understanding. On the final day My body felt as though it had been through a wringer." we (the mandali) learnt what a labour it was for Baba, during these specific hours daily when He worked entirely away from the gross plane, to retain the link with His physical body. He had to take great pains, He said, to keep the thread-fine link from snapping! Another absorbing remark fell on another angle. It was at one of those times when we begged Him to be less neglectful of His health, to go slower by working less hours, and Baba said: "That would mean once again prolonging the Work and postponing the date of its conclusion. If now I allow that to happen, it will indefinitely postpone the result and set it on a different course!"

(Family Letter 78, 9th September 1968)

"The strain of that 18 months' Work was tremendous. I used to sit alone in my room for some hours each day while complete silence was imposed on the mandali and no one of them was permitted to enter the room, during those hours every day. The strain was not in the work itself although I was working on all planes of consciousness, but in keeping my link with the gross plane. To keep this link I had to continuously hammer my right thigh with my fist."

(Family Letter 79, 1st November 1968)

Beloved Avatar Meher Baba wishes all His lovers to know that His three years of intense work has shattered His health.

In spite of this He has invited His lovers from all over the world to come to Him for His darshan next sum-

mer, for it is the time for them to come to Him and receive His Love.

(Family Letter 80, 26th January 1969)

* * *

"I am never born, I never die. At every moment I take birth and undergo death.Although I am present every-where eternally in My formless Infinite state, from time to time I take form, and the taking of the form and leaving it is termed My physical Birth and Death.

In this sense, I am born and I die when My Universal Work is finished. "

(Twenty-one Fragments)

"GOD ALWAYS EXISTED
GOD WILL ALWAYS EXIST.
HE IS NEVER CHANGING, EVER THE SAME—
AND ILLUSION IS HIS ETERNAL GAME."

(Family Letter 78, 9th September 1968)

"EVERLASTING, NEVER ENDING
NEVER CHANGING, EVER THE SAME
AND HIS ONENESS IN ITS FULLNESS
PLAYS IN MANYNESS HIS GAME."

(Family Letter 78, 9th September 1968)

"Believe that I am the Ancient One. Do not doubt that for a moment. There is no possibility of My being anyone else. I am not this body that you see. It is only a coat I put on when I visit you. I am Infinite Consciousness."

(The Everything and The Nothing, p. 56)

" I am not limited by this form. I use it like a garment to make Myself visible to you; and I communicate with you— Don't try to understand Me. My depth is unfathomable. Just love Me. I eternally enjoy the Christ state of consciousness, and when I speak I shall manifest

My true Self, besides giving a general push to the whole world,
I shall lead all those who come to Me toward Light and Truth."

(Awakener, Vol. V, No. 4, p. 33)

* * *

Say to my brethren when they see me dead, and weep for me, lamenting me in sadness: "Think ye I am this corpse ye are to bury? I swear by God, this dead one is not I. When I had formal shape, then this, my body, served as my garment. I wore it for a while."

(Al-Ghazali—1111 A.D.—composed on his death bed)

Ali went out weeping from the room. Omar, who was standing before the door, said to him: "Ali, these faint hearts are saying the Prophet of God is dead!" Ali answered him nothing. A man went to tell Abu Bakr, who, coming in haste, found Omar still at the door, with a crowd around him crying: "These faint hearts are saying the Prophet of God is dead—He is alive! And be those tongues torn out!"

Abu Bakr, hearing, went into the hut. Aisha was wailing and tearing her face with her nails. Mohammed's body laid with His own mantle thrown over it. Abu Bakr uncovered the face, and bent down, till his brow well nigh touched the brow of the Prophet of God. Then he drew the mantle over the face again, and went out. Omar was still shouting to the crowd.

"Gently Omar!" Abu Bakr said. Then he turned to the people and spoke: "Lo! As for any who worshipped Mohammed, Mohammed is dead. But as for him who worshippeth God, God is the Living One and He dies not." And he recited from the Koran the verse: "Mohammed is only an apostle; apostles before Him have passed away. When He cometh to die or be killed, will ye turn on your heels? The man who so turneth will not harm God, but God will reward those who acknowledge Him."

It was as if the people had never known that such a verse had been revealed.

(From **Mohammed's People** by Eric Schroeder)

* * *

Statements from Baba's enigmatic Final Declaration become especially important. He explains that such events as the "dropping" of His body were foretold both in our language and in His own, the meaning of which "only the fulfilment of events" can make clear:

"It is really very difficult for any one to believe and understand what I say, because none can grasp the meaning underlying My words. It is natural even for My intimate Mandali not to understand My Final Declaration; but I want you to take everything that I said in Meherabad during the Meetings very seriously because all that I said was the truth, they were words of God, and all the things said must come to pass exactly in the manner described by Me.

"From the day I declared in Meherabad that there will be the destruction of three fourths of the world, that a strange disease will attack My body, that I will suffer humiliation, that I will break My silence and speak one Word, the Word of words, that there will be My Glorification, and that finally I will drop My body when I shall be stabbed in the back, My lovers and others have been unnecessarily confused, and they all have been trying to interpret My words in different ways.

"Everyone is free to interpret My words in any way they think and feel. But one thing I tell you, that whenever I say a thing I naturally use My own 'language', and whatsoever is said by Me is Truth. But, My 'language' is such that none can understand or grasp the underlying meaning of what I say; therefore, when I want to say a thing I have simultaneously to make use of your

language also, knowing well that you would understand nothing whatsoever if I were to make use of My 'language' alone.

"In order to help you to understand My Final Declaration, and to put an end to your confusion and worry, I want all of you to know that when you see Me dictate on My alphabet board during the meetings at Meherabad, and heard about:

- (1) A strange disease attacking My body: It was said in your language.
- (2) The humiliation that I will suffer: It was said in your language.
- (3) The breaking of My silence and My uttering the one Word of words: It was said in My own 'language' and simultaneously in yours, because when I utter that Word it will be an audible word to you.
- (4) My Glorification: It was said simultaneously in My language and yours.
- (5) The destruction of three-fourths of the world: It was said in My own language alone.
- (6) The stab in My back: It was said in My own language alone.
- (7) The dropping of My body: It was said in My own language and simultaneously in yours.

"Consequently, whatever is said by Me in your language, you are able to understand and know what is said; but that which is said in My own 'language' is impossible for you to understand, however much you all may try to interpret and grasp the underlying meaning behind My words. Only the fulfilment of events can unfold to you,

in due course, the meaning of what is said in My own 'language'.
"

..... "All this that is destined to take place is unavoidable, yet the resultant effects can be modified in two different ways according to relative circumstances. The modification of the effects of a destined plan can on the one hand either affect the intensity, scope, shape or size of the chain of events, or on the other hand bring about a considerable change in the factor of time.

"...the most important and significant point is that definitely and emphatically the link between My physical body and all My external activities as carried on up to now, will be dropped by April 1955, and there will take place an immeasurable change in the external relations between Me and those who are closely connected with Me. So that if I do not drop My physical body, I will yet, so to say, 'die', for I will then become actually dead to the world up to the end of the modified period of time."

(The God-Man, pp. 278-280)

"There is now no time limit. Things may happen after one month or three months, after three years or twenty years. In short, I may speak tomorrow or after ten years. I am free from all promises, bindings, undertakings and arrangements.....It is now for you to decide whether to hold on to My daaman, believing in Me and remaining devoted to Me, by following My orders and instructions.

(The Die Is Cast, p. 15)

"My manifestation as the Avatar of the time will be of short duration. This short period will, in quick succession, cover My humiliation, the breaking of My silence, My glorification, and My violent physical end. Everlastingly, with all the divine bliss within Me, I eter-

nally suffer for one and all—thus I am crucified eternally and continually for all."

(Awakener, Vol. II, No. 3, pp. 81-82)

"When the Greatest of all says, 'I am the Greatest', it is but a spontaneous expression of an infallible Truth. The strength of His greatness lies, not in raising the dead, but in His great humiliation when He allows Himself to be ridiculed, persecuted and crucified at the hands of those who are weak in flesh and spirit."

("Meher Baba's Call")

"I want to tell you one important thing which each of you must remember well. It is a fact that I am the Lord of the Universe. I am omnipresent. Now the time is fast approaching and I clearly see the 'dark cloud' hovering. I see its picture. By this I am not referring to the recent motor accident that has already come to pass. The 'humiliation' that I was referring to since long is within sight. During that phase of My life there is every possibility that I may slip off your hands.

"Now let Me first explain what I mean by humiliation. Suppose you are loved by some one very dearly for several years and, one day when you happen to meet him, he suddenly begins to abuse you, kick you and spit on your face; in the context of your previous relations with him, your plight becomes an example of humiliation. In the same way, if some persons, who have previously adored Me and raised Me up to the skies in adoration for years, suddenly turn against Me and express extreme disdain for Me by throwing Me in filth, will be another example of humiliation.

....."You have read in the Gospels wherein Christ had said to His Apostles, 'you will deny Me'. This did happen when Peter the chief Apostle denied Jesus. The thing is that during the phase of humiliation the circums-

tances will so array themselves that you won't be aware when My 'daaman' has slipped off your hands. At that time, you may even feel justified in leaving Me.

"But if you feel that this should not happen, there is one remedy. You should grasp well, all what I say, and understandingly act up to it. In short, I clearly see the 'dark cloud'. I do not wish to make a mere mention of the 'dark cloud' without any reason; but this is My loving warning to you so that My 'daaman' may not slip off your hands!"

(Warning from Baba, pp. 2-4)

"At the time of Jesus, I uttered many warnings, yet none could grasp in advance about my crucifixion.

"The dark cloud is very, very near to bursting and I have to take the whole force of it upon Myself. You can have no idea of what that will mean for Me—it will be like hell itself bursting upon Me on earth. Be resolved to hold fast to My daaman even when this cloud bursts; you will thereby share in My Work."

(The God-Man, p. 291)

"The Work... can be compared to the amassing and arranging in a universal heap the accumulated rubbish of man's ignorance in illusion that enmeshes him in the false and prevents him from realizing his true identity.

"The result... will be as My applying the match to this rubbish-heap.

"The stage of humiliation to follow will be as the smoke that will first result, getting into your eyes and 'blinding' you, creating confusion and trying to envelop you. Do not let it confound you or get you in a panic.

"The fire that will follow will clear away all the smoke of doubt and confusion, its light will reveal the

One Truth that Is, and all that is not will perish in its consuming flames. This is My Glorification.

"Do not worry. Be happy in My love and continue to hold fast to My daaman to the very end. Rest assured that all will be Divinely well. God does not abandon those who trust Him. They who love Me and obey Me as I should be loved and obeyed, will one day be similarly loved and obeyed. Those who have today willingly chosen to become My slaves, will become true masters tomorrow."

(The God-Man, p. 351)

"Just as I am now quite unable to do so many physical things unaided, in spite of an otherwise healthy body, I may, at the time of the impending crisis, become even mentally helpless, without being mentally deranged in the least. You may then not be able to continue to hold on to my daaman because circumstances will seemingly justify your letting it go. I am infinitely merciful, and so repeat the same thing again and again so that you may remember My words and try your best to cling to Me. For example, in a sudden and terrifying earthquake, any man, in the blind hope of saving his life, is likely to run, forgetting in an instant his family and all his possessions, and thus forsake them before he realizes what he has done If it is destined that my daaman should slip from your hands, it will; but it is for me to warn, and for you to remain alert."

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

"Maya being the Showman displaying things that do not really exist, will make everything, including My health, body, energy, words and promises, go against Me, and this will automatically test the faith of My lovers. But the only thing that Maya cannot go against is My Work, because Maya itself is the means of bringing about the results of My Work.

"Maya, being My instrument for fulfilment of My Work, has to do its utmost to bring about the utmost results of this Work.

"Maya, having existence only in non-existence, will, in the end, give way to the one and only Reality that is God. And so God will manifest in His Glory.

"I want all my lovers to guard against Maya's tricks and hold firmly to My daaman."

(The God-Man, p. 349)

....."Though all happenings are in the realm of illusion, a great so-called tragedy is facing Me and My lovers. My long expected humiliation is near at hand.

..... "The love, courage and faith of My lovers will be put to severe test not by Me but by Divine Law. Those who hold fast to Me at the zenith of this crisis will transcend illusion and abide in Reality.

"I want My lovers to rest assured that My humiliation and 'tragedy' though necessary are but passing phases which are bound to have a glorious end—as is destined."

(Life Circular No. 29, July 5, 1956)

In the stage of Humiliation, the measure of your love for Me and your preparedness to obey Me will be tested, not by Me but by the phase of Humiliation itself. Blessed will those be among you who will hang on to My daaman through it all, emerging triumphant in the divine glory of My Love.

"The stage of Glorification to follow, will be when I break My silence with the divine Word—THE WORD that will indisputably assert the existence of God, in the mind and heart of man; that will make the world know that God not only exists, but that HE ALONE exists, infinitely and eternally."

(The God-Man, p. 350)

"The point I wish to drive home is that it is never too late to obey Me, that you should obey Me to the end, that you should obey Me with a courage undaunted by my disaster, and that, above all else, you should obey Me when I stand face to face with the dark cloud.

"Although to let go your hold on My daaman is always easy, it is never easy to hold on to it.... But if you try with all your heart to do so, I shall surely help you. Once you let go, remember that it will be very difficult to grasp My daaman again."

(Baba's Reminder, 1957, p. 7)

"I want you to know that I will definitely break My silence; and I want you to cling to My daaman till the very end, irrespective of whether I speak or not. I am the Highest of the High, and want you to love Me not for any spiritual or material gain, nor for the impending breaking of My silence and My manifestation, but I want you to love Me for Myself, as being God in human form.

"I want you to remain undisturbed and unshaken by the force of life's currents, for whatever the circumstances they too will be of My own creation."

(The God-Man, pp. 355-356)

"There is no peace of mind on this Path. If you want peace of mind then you can get it elsewhere, and in other ways. You can go for nice long walks or listen to soothing music or take sedatives or go to saints and sadhus. But here is not the place to come for it; for if you come to Me, remember that the Spiritual Path is full of hardships and sufferings ... "

(Divya Vani, Vol. III, No. 1)

"A post, to stand erect and firm, must have its butt-end sunk well into the ground. Likewise, My lover needs to have the base of his faith deeply embedded in

My Divinity, if he would remain stead-fast in his love."
 (Awakener, Vol. XI, No. 2, 1966)

* * *

..."In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light. And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

(Jesus, Mark 13: 24-26)

"Be composed in the Reality of My Love, for all confusion and despair is your own shadow which will vanish when I speak the Word."

(Meher Baba, 72nd Birthday Message)

* * *

Avatar Meher Baba's Message on the occasion of His
 75th Birthday, 25th February, 1969:

TO LOVE ME FOR WHAT I MAY GIVE YOU IS NOT LOVING ME AT ALL. TO SACRIFICE ANYTHING IN MY CAUSE TO GAIN SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF IS LIKE A BLIND MAN SACRIFICING HIS EYES FOR SIGHT. I AM THE DIVINE BELOVED WORTHY OF BEING LOVED BECAUSE I AM LOVE. HE WHO LOVES ME BECAUSE OF THIS WILL BE BLESSED WITH UNLIMITED SIGHT AND WILL SEE ME AS I AM.

—————

Shedding Tears
on Avatar Meher Baba's Tomb
(Samadhi)

By M. R. Dhakephalkar, Ahmednagar

Here lies He, the Eternity, in Eternal Silence and in Eternal Sleep. Baba said, 'God becomes man to become God. Baba is God. He had become man to give us God. The Eternal and the only infinite Existence had limited itself in human form of Baba. The infinite Ocean of Love and Mercy had contained itself in a drop. The all-pervading Divinity had been treading on this earth in the form of Baba. The drop has become the Ocean. The human capsule falls down and the Eternal Existence is free to act universally. "I am not the body," said Baba and still, still lies the body of Baba in Eternal rest. He has dropped the body. The dropping of Baba's body means that He has given Himself to His creation.

Baba loved humanity. He has suffered infinitely for the humanity. His sufferings were really infinite. He has again crucified for the humanity. He has cut Himself to pieces for the humanity. Once He said, "I am the Divine Beloved who loves you more than you can love yourself." He was love personified. "I don't want anything from you but love and I have nothing to give you, but Love." He said, "He who gets that love experiences Divinity, becomes God." He had come to awaken us to that Divine love.

We are all one; we are all equal; every one has the same and equal right to approach God because the same Divinity resides in us all. The Divinity could be experi-

enced if we win the Grace of God. That Grace could be won only through love for God. Baba is limitless Ocean of Love. By dropping His body Baba has distributed that Ocean of love, has planted that love in every human heart. His Universal light has lighted a flame of love in every human heart. He has left a legacy of love to the humanity. Let us then be up and doing. With that love in our hearts let us forget ourselves in selfless service. With that love in our hearts let us love those who even hate us. Let us live for others and die for others. Baba's lovers thrive, on the poverty of the lover's self. The leaner goes the ego the nearer we are attracted towards His love. Let us carry the flame of His love, the Message of His love to every human heart. Let us think for others more and less for ourselves. Let other's sufferings be our sufferings.

Let us divide the legacy of His love amongst us. To divide His Love means to receive Him in our hearts. Receiving the Beloved means receiving His Love; sharing Beloved's love means receiving Him in all.

Let us receive Him now in all. Let us live His message of love in our life and let us carry His message of love to everyone from the prince to the pauper.

Dear Baba! Silently you have broken Your Silence. Silently you have manifested Your Self. In silence the Universe received the impact of Your manifestation. The seed of Your Love is planted in every heart. Glory to Thee Oh Avatar of the Avatars. You were Silently glorified by Your lovers. Your humiliation was in Your Silence; silently You cut Your body to pieces and silently You have dropped it and Silently it was hurried to Your eternal resting Samadhi. The drop became the Ocean. Everything that You had said came to be true. You are the Truth—how could it be otherwise!

Has not the new Meher Era started?
 The Era of love; the Era of brotherhood;
 the Era of selfless service ; the Era of sacrifice;
 the Era of joy and happiness and bliss;
 the Era of love for Divinity in every human heart;
 the Era of peace and understanding.

Oh Avatar, Oh Baba. Oh Avatar Meher Baba! Let me wash
 Your lotus feet with the tears in my eyes—in tears of love, in
 tears of separation. I ever look to Your Samadhi for Your kind
 Mercy. Let me love You till the last—forgive me, forgive me.

Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai !

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—*Editor & Publisher*

INTRODUCTION TO "MEHER SAROD"

By **Adi K. Irani**

The one hundred and sixty songs of 'Meher Sarod' by Bhau Kalchuri are in fact poems composed by the author after the pattern of gazals. They contain verses which sound like the tap dances made up of strange contortions erupted by an interplay of heart and mind forces. They are tiring when imagined how painful they were in experience. How enlivening and joyous they are when read in their lyrical presentation!

"Naach nakhronpar tumhare thak gaya Meher Prabhu"

To cope up with the whims and fancies of the Beloved by implicit obedience tantamounts to being tossed about like a football, aimed at the goal of life with an art of passing and placing in a field of scientific love-game. The Beloved is a past Master in the art of flirting with human hearts but with an avowed object. The course of love-making and love taking is full of inconsistencies unpalatable to bear up with, but firmly grounded in the Knowledge and Benevolence of the Perfect Master.

Meher Baba has given to Bhau inspiration to write these gazals. On several occasions and at various junctures He has taken interest in suggesting and forming thoughts and words that have gone into the structure of 'Meher Sarod'. The entire book is a Song of Love set up to the tune of the Beloved's charm.

The love from the side of beloved Meher Baba to man is His glorious Presence that resides in the hearts of

everyone who has either the fortune or longing to feel it and be blessed by Him. One has to set 'himself' aside from all his preferences and attachments to body and mind. That is why Bhau says, "Parda bhee hai mujhee se" Think of Him more than you think of yourself. Love Him more than you love yourself. How fortunate is the writer to have close affinity with the King of lovers and how potent would be his experience to ignite the hearts of the readers with the sparks of his Beloved's Love? Says Bhau, "Uske bade naseeb hain jiske khareeb aap"

Reading through carefully the poems one cannot but be conscious of the 'yes' and 'no' presentation of the 'pull' and 'push' relationship with the living God who is as much a Man. His perfection covers the extremes of the attributes of God and man.

Contradictions denounced by logic are embraced by love; but not without a touch of suffering. When the suffering becomes poignant, it blurts out in words of Bhau in bitter complaints and defeat.

"Ishq ke ab naam se saqt ghabrata hai dil"
 "Tumhe aansu bulate hain" and adds,
 "Kahan meri jaroorat hai" "saqt phasan hoon"

Bhau cannot wait long and see his words of complaints misconstrued although they be a true picture of his weariness and agony. He recovers himself promptly from his mood and interrupts by saying:

"Thoone jo Meher mujhko apnaa na liya hota"
 "Jeevan ka kabhee mujhko maqsad na mila hota"

The purpose of life which the poet says has been made clear to him by the Master having made him His own. The process of 'making own' is the one that follows the process of 'disowning oneself'. One cannot be owned by the Master if he continues to own himself. Bhau's words here are very meaningful:

"Ye hastee meree mera dushman ban rahee hai"
 "Khudee mit Khuda paa raha hoon"

Any soul who realizes his true Individuality realizes God. Personality is the form individuality puts on during the protracted process of evolving consciousness to know itself, but in the very process of doing it gets confined to the awareness of personality and continues to be unaware of his true Individuality. A friction arises between disposition of individuality on one hand to know itself and the assertion of personality on the other to maintain its false identification. Dispossessing personality calls for its eviction, so Bhau puts it in these lines:

"Mujhe tumne bilkul nikamma kar diya"
 "Bahut kaamka main huaa jaa rahaa hoon"
 "Mujhko to jaan se hi apnee hai gujar jaanaa"
 "Tujhko to nahi kuchh bhee parda hi uthana hai"
 "Mujhe qud se chhuda diya toone"

A tremendous tension created with oneself is part of a struggle between the 'true' and the 'false' both entrenched firmly in their positions, and the result in the words of Bhau is:

"Kyaa kyaa sitam hain teree raah me"
 "Har ek qadam pe chubhtee qanjar teree chhati me"
 "Yaad me teree ye dam nikle"
 "tumhe ham moom samjhe magar pathhar nikle"

There is no power in the world that could contain the two opposing forces of good and evil, except love of the Beloved. Love can level up the two opposing forces and bring peace and harmony in life and life hereafter by finally transcending them to the eternal Bliss of the Beloved.

Much as the art of unadulterated and unselfish love sounds uncommon and impractical, it is the only power that can relieve humanity from the present chaos and uneasiness by the Love Blessings of Meher Baba about whom Bhau has chosen to sing and make others sing in an unfailing chorus of Jai Baba!



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