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MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 1972

divya vani

(DIVINE VOICE)



AVATAR MEHER BABA

EDITOR
SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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(Divine Voice)

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Editor :

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

Associate Editors:

Sri E. Lakshminadha Rao, M.A.

Sri R. Dayanidhi, M.A.

*

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Editorial :

B A B A L O V E

Baba Lovers profess Baba Love accepting Baba as the Avatar of the age—meaning that He is the embodiment in Human form of God, the infinity of Power, Knowledge and Bliss and also of knowledge of illusion which enshrouds the human mind.

It is not enough to profess Love. One must live it as Baba Says.

This truth might appear simple; but it is so difficult to live it because it means going against our inherited instincts and character.

These instincts and this character are based on self-centredness and a separatist consciousness while Baba Love means to be one in consciousness with every one and everything.

The egotism which is inherent in human nature is the most powerful obstacle to Baba Love. Our professions of Baba Love are perpetually contradicted by our ego-ridden thinking and conduct.

The elusiveness of ego is its insidious character which makes it so difficult to fight it. The desire to stem against it becomes itself the focal point for the functioning of the ego. The explicit ego which one can know may be overcome; but the implicit ego—the unconscious compulsions of our natures are hard to identify and combat.

But this ego in all its functionings shall have to be overcome, to experience the fullness and bliss of Baba Love. We cannot Love ourselves and also love Baba. Self-love in separateness is a denial of Baba Love.

Love of Baba is Love of God because Baba is God. Every one and every thing is a manifestation in essence of God. So Baba Love means Love for every one and every thing.

But many Baba Lovers labour under the false notion that if they sing the praises of Baba, in verse and song, or give Arathi

or speak of Baba in endless speeches at meetings or to one another, they are showing their Love for Baba. They are hardly conscious that what is demanded of them is endless Love for every one and every thing. A continual awareness of Baba and His unconditional Love is of all things the supreme standard for everything that a Baba Lover thinks, speaks or does.

But there has been a worse thing found befalling Baba Lovers in the recent past and that is quarrelling with one another and slandering and back-biting. Not only is love exiled; but hatred, whispering, aloofness, and ... other attributes of lowly human nature are distorting their minds and it would seem they are giving Baba a back seat in their hearts, if not altogether burying Him by the pressures of their wicked feelings.

This is hypocrisy which Baba repeatedly proclaimed as the most heinous quality and which God never forgives.

The worst aspect of this quarreling is each 'Baba Lover' thinks that the 'other' is the devil. This kind of hypocrisy and self-deception is making Baba and Baba Love a mockery.

These 'Baba Lovers' feel drawn to Baba not out of Love for Baba but out of fear, fear of themselves and fear of the difficulties and dangers that hurt life. Worship of the Avatar, they believe, singing his 'Arathi' and all that, can ensure a life free from travails and anxieties. How unavailing 'such love' could be, when its outpouring is from the egoistical self is plain enough to those who experience the joy of inner transformation, genuine and spontaneous love brings. Such Love can sustain the self against any challenge of fear.

This is not letting go 'your hold on my Daman' against which Baba used to warn fairly frequently. Genuine Baba Lovers seeking the haven of true Love, are overpowered by the immense difficulties of existence sometimes with their purely human, and limited outlook. It is against this kind of slipping back into the old egoistical ways when face to face with overpowering odds that Baba used to warn. But the warning is superfluous for persons who are not trying to shed their egoistical habits of living.

Let Baba Lovers, whose hearts have under the stress of inimical feelings become void of Baba introspect and recapture

Baba, through Love. That is the way how one can get relieved of the confusion in which one might have found one self, since the time that Baba had shed his earthly existence and be able to live the life of Bliss, Power and Knowledge which true Baba Love offers.

It is through such Love alone that the separatist consciousness of the ego can be transcended and replaced by Baba-Consciousness—the consciousness that we are all one in and through our many manifestations. It is not as though we can find ourselves transformed from self-loving consciousness into Baba consciousness from today to tomorrow, It is our human destiny to make the change sooner or later. To make it take place sooner, we have to keep on remembering Baba constantly and whole heartedly.

Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen arranged a seminar under the auspices of the Meher Mission of Baba Lovers, to focus their thinking on how they are to live their lives to be true to Baba. A report of the Seminar appears elsewhere in this issue. Many Baba Lovers participated in the Seminar and there was a refreshing searching of hearts to identify how we could judge the right conduct and distinguish it from false conduct in the light of Baba Love, which must be constantly nurtured in our hearts. There was no dissidence or divergence and the remarkable result of the gathering was the enrichment of Baba Consciousness in every one of the Baba Lovers who gathered for the occasion.

JAI ! AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI !

(E. L. R.)

Glimpses of the God-Man

MEHER BABA

Special Circular for Baba-people

1948 — Part V

—By Bal Natu

Visits To Baroda And Ahmedabad

After the refreshing day of interviews on 1st June, 1948 at Meherabad, Meher Baba wished to resume the work with the *masts*, a profound and mysterious phase of His life. The *masts* outwardly appeared to be extremely dirty, adamant and beyond any hygienical advice. Some, not without reason, regard them as mentally deranged, beyond any treatment. But, are not appearances often deceptive? We have to be careful. Let not the shell decide the pearl! The precious 'pearl' in these dirty moulds is their undaunting love for God, the Beloved. Naturally the only cure and restorative for them is through the contact of the One who is one with God. Their ways of living are queer and unpredictable because theirs is not the mind-made passage of definite plans or conclusions. They keep themselves forever open to the Will of God. They are the 'free' people. Theirs is the heart-led track, mostly off beat, on the expanse of Life. That is why in the company of the Avatar who is Life itself, they felt relieved and in His embrace secure. Just as a "botanical reserve" is maintained in some part of the country, methinks, India is divinely ordained to be the "spiritual reserve" comprising the *masts* of various traits, repellant or pleasant, distressing or delightful.

By the first week of June, 1948 Meher Baba left the headquarters at Ahmednagar, on a short tour to visit Baroda and Ahmedabad. Baidul, Eruch and Gustadji accompanied Him. At Baroda He renewed the contacts with the two great *masts* of the city—Chambu Shah, a fifth-plane *mast* and Rafai Shah. This time Chambu Shah was accessible without much difficulty. * It was to Rafai Shah that Shri Baba wished to present His coat and

* For the first contact of Chambu Shah refer: Glimpses of the God-Man, 1947 Part VI.

held it in His own hands till the *mast* willingly slipped it on. From Baroda He moved on to north to visit Ahmedabad—the capital of Gujerat, with a short break at Nadiad, to contact Janakidas Maharaj.

On 10th June, 1948 Meher Baba was at Ahmedabad where the main contact was of Jagannath Maharaj. He had a spacious *Ashram* on the outskirts of the city. Jagannath's original place of residence was not known to the people. One fine morning he visited this city and people began to treat him with respect. As time passed on he founded an *Ashram*. By the time Shri Baba visited this place, he had 200 cows and had opened a free kitchen for Hindu *sadhus* and Mohammedan *faqirs*, alike. Though Meher Baba's identity was not disclosed, Jagannath Maharaj somehow sensed Shri Baba's spiritual greatness. He very lovingly and cordially received Meher Baba and both were in each other's embrace. Jagannath offered Shri Baba packets of fresh, rich food and a few shawls, one for each of the *mandali*.

For two days Shri Baba stayed in Ahmedabad and contacted about ten *masts*. Baidul and Eruch collected information from the local people, about these God-intoxicated souls and Shri Baba spared no pains to meet them. Mohammed Hussain was spotted in a urinal enclosure where he happily passed most of his time. Here, he ate and rested too, undisturbed by the stink. Formerly he might have stayed in different parts of India, for in his unconnected talk he used so many Indian languages. Karewala was a mediocre *mast* who enjoyed wearing iron rings over different parts of his body, so common with the *masts*. Iron seems to be the favourite metal of some *masts*. Majzoob Shah sat quietly in a shrine and had to be fed by others. Some *masts* ate whatever was offered to them, a few demanded food whenever they liked and the rare ones were fed by their *mujawars* (attendants), morsel by morsel.

Catching A Bus Provided A Dramatic Situation.

During this stay, Meher Baba contacted a few seekers too. One of them was a school teacher. A contact with an advanced pilgrim named Baitullah Shah was much remembered by the *mandali*, not much for the pilgrim but for the incredible incident connected with it. This person had a greying beard that shadow-

ed his otherwise youthful face. He used to offer prayers to Allah five times a day. Every invocation kept him busy for two hours at a stretch. On Fridays he would be reading the Koran continuously for sixteen hours. Meher Baba with the *mandali* reached one of the suburbs of Ahmedabad where Baitullah Shah resided. They found the pilgrim engaged in his prayers. Hence, Shri Baba decided to visit him the next day. So, Eruch and Baidul hurried ahead to reserve the seats in a bus. Shri Baba too walked briskly. But Gustadji because of some physical ailment was having a slow easy walk. Baidul gestured to Shri Baba that the bus was about to start and Shri Baba clapped His hands gesturing Gustadji, to walk fast to be in time for the bus. "Gustadji broke into a trot...." and the dramatic situation that followed was well described by William Donkin.

But prior to this description, the following information of the political situation in the State of Hyderabad, that prevailed in those days has to be explained. In August, 1947, the British regime in India was over. But with the departure of the British, the internal problems of some former States ruled by the Kings became acute. A few *Rajahs* (Kings) tried to claim their sovereignty of rule. The Nizam of Hyderabad, a Muslim ruler was one among these. In support of his claim, an organization under the name of *Razakars* was formed. It was headed by a fanatic Mohammedan pleader. The members of this organization, the *Razakars*, started harassing the Hindus in the State, looting their properties and even kidnapping the children and the women folk. The news flared up in the newspapers, particularly in the adjoining parts of Maharashtra and Gujerat, So, people began to look down on the *Razakars* with great disdain. An Arab from the organization, who was also known to the people by the word *Chaous*, was detested most for his inhuman and brutal activities; so much so that the very word *Chaous* evoked ill feelings as to one may have for the word "murderer".

To continue the quotation, * "Gustadji broke into a trot at once, but did so at the very instant that a small boy was coming towards him. This boy was somehow seized with the idea that Gustadji was running at him, and he uttered a yell of terror and turned on his heels and fled in front of Gustadji, screaming

* The work of Meher Baba by William Donkin.

as he ran. Bystanders saw, as they thought an innocent child being chased by a wicked little man in a black cap, and one or two shouted, "*Chaous*" (Arab)—and to shout this word at this time was as much as to shout "murder" ... Gustadji was intent only on running and thus utterly unaware that a score of people were girding up their loins to pounce upon him. Baba, however, the Master of every man and every situation made a lightning signal to Gustadji to stop still in his tracks which he did at once. This freezing of Gustadji allowed the onlookers to see not a villain, but a man clearly more incapable of violence to the innocent than the very child who had fled from him. The critical tension having been thus relaxed, Eruch and Baidul dissipated what was left of it by explaining with vigour that Gustadji was neither killer nor Arab, but simply a man running to catch a bus

"Those who know Gustadji's amiable face and figure—the kind of face Rubens would have loved to paint—may wonder how on earth Gustadji could be mistaken, even for a second, for an Arab out for blood....." But was not life with Meher Baba unpredictable?

A Month of Observing The Order.

From 21st June commenced an important period for Baba-people, all over the world. About a month earlier, on 4th May, 1948 a circular was issued to all of them in East and West. It contained the information that Meher Baba will be engaged in a special type of spiritual work from 21st June to 20th July, 1948. All His disciples, devotees and followers, both men and women, were to carry out any one of the following five orders, for a period of one month:

1. Observe silence.
2. Fast with one meal a day. Tea or coffee to be had only once during twenty four hours.
3. Feed one new poor person every day with your own hands, morsel by morsel.
4. Repeat orally every day, one hundred thousand times any one Divine Name, cherished by you.
5. a) Do not touch or carry money.

- b) Do not touch the members of the opposite sex, excluding children under seven.
- c) Do not hit any one under any circumstances, even in jest.
- d) Do not insult or abuse even when provoked.

Every Baba-follower was free to select any *one* of the five orders, but once decided he was expected to follow it literally and without any compromise. Those in India were asked to communicate their decisions to Meher Baba by 21st May while those abroad by 31st May, 1948.

Most of the acknowledgement slips from the U.S.A., England, Australia and other countries were received in time. To some of the westerners this was an opportunity to write directly to "Baba Dearest" and to send in their hearts' love and also to request Him for the privilege of meeting Him in person. In England Will Backett did most of the work of informing Baba-people. The Head of the Sufi Society in Australia was F. E. von Frankenberg. He formed a small group interested in Meher Baba. Francis Brabazon, Ena Lemon and a few others were the members of this early group. About ten persons from Australia sent in their willingness, to follow Meher Baba's orders. Frankenberg in one of his letters requested Meher Baba to clarify the spiritual significance of the circular. In reply sent to him through Dr. Ghani, it was stated, "To try to understand a Perfect Master from limited, egotistic human standpoint is a sheer impossibility. By one action of His the Master perhaps serves many purposes on different planes. The only thing worth doing is to carry out the Master's behests most sincerely". Malcolm Schloss from the West coast of the U.S.A. wrote that he had a dream about the Master (Meher Baba) who conveyed to him that He was busy working hard for the spiritual upliftment of humanity. Malcolm wondered as to what could be the significance of the dream. And, coincidentally the day's mail brought him the cover containing the copies of the above circular. A comforting corroboration; Malcolm conveyed the contents of this circular to the Baba-people in California. Over a hundred disciples and followers from the West were in readiness to join Meher Baba in this Divine Vigil.

"Worry Not Over The Past..."

Meher Baba had mentioned in the circular that He should not be disturbed in His special work by any correspondence, from his people, till 20th July 1948. Nevertheless, the letters in connection with the "Five Orders" were brought to His notice. After sending in their approval, some Baba-devotees sought His advice on some practical problems they faced, while carrying out the orders.

The first order was about observing silence. The number of participants was small and they did it sincerely. The second was about the partial fast and a cup of tea. One devotee unwittingly joined his friends in drinking lime juice. He felt very sorry for the breach of order. He wrote to Shri Baba who pardoned him and asked him to continue the partial fast in right earnest. He was also to be on guard not to commit the mistake again. There was one who enquired about the size of the cup! Shri Baba with a gay mischief in His eyes, gestured, "Any size, but only one cup a day and no more!" In the earlier period some of the devotees were asked to observe fast once a week. During this stipulated period, the previous order was suspended. A young Baba-lover informed that in the beginning he used to have some slices of bread with tea as 'a part of the morning tea'. Later on he felt that it was not a literal obedience. He wrote to Shri Baba about it. In reply He conveyed, "Worry not over the past; be vigilant in the present. Commit not the same error again".

The third order was about feeding the poor. One of my friends who had agreed to abide by it, fell sick. The poor person who was brought to his house denied to be fed morsel by morsel. His health did not permit him to go out in search of other persons even on the successive days. Shri Baba directed him to try as best as he could and leave the results to His divine will.

Repeating The Divine Name

The fourth order was about repeating the Name of God, one hundred thousand times a day. At the outset, one of Meher Baba's devotees did not realise the time, he would require for it. On the very first day he discovered that it was impossible for

him to cross the limit of 25,000. He frankly confessed his mistake and with great remorse begged Meher Baba's pardon. Shri Baba seemed touched by his words and asked him to repeat the cherished Name only 15,000 times a day. He also added that if the person carried out this new change in the order, Shri Baba would consider the number as equivalent to the one required. Some of the persons felt a bit confused over the selection of the Divine Name, as no specific Name was mentioned in the circular. One of Meher Baba's very dear ones wrote to Him, I believe OM refers to "The *Nirguna* – The Formless", whereas Meher Baba signifies "The *Saguna*, God-in-human-form" state. Since the day I heard about you I have adopted Om Meher Baba as my Divine *mantram*". In later period, I have come across some Baba-people who repeat as and when time permits, the Divine Name of God. I feel, the wholehearted remembrance is more important than the selection of the Name. In fact all those who repeat the cherished Name are invoking the same Infinite Consciousness that periodically becomes human, in the Form of the God-Man, the Avatar. One of Meher Baba's devotees enquired if he could repeat, in his natural course of breathing the Sanskrit word *So ... ham*, meaning "I am That", as the cherished Divine Name. He was permitted to do so. Here I am reminded of an incident in later sixties, when Meher Baba Himself demonstrated silently to one of His lovers, how to repeat BA ... BA as one inhales and exhales. But this has to be done, He specially mentioned, in a very easy and delightful manner. BABA, the unique Divine Name.

A small group of four women in Bombay decided to repeat one hundred thousand times the Divine Name and they carried the resolve successfully. They being closely associated with Meher Baba's women *mandali*, Shri Baba got this news and felt pleased. By the end of the first week the group was specially ordered by Shri Baba to observe silence for a week. They gladly did it. In the third week they were instructed to feed one poor person a day and at the end they were asked to observe the partial fast. A lucky group indeed! During this period, one of the women had a remarkable experience. One day, all of a sudden, she became deeply unconscious and remained so for a longer time, so much so that outwardly the symptoms of 'death' were noticed by her friends, including a doctor. They felt greatly

concerned and whole-heartedly called on Meher Baba's help. Soon the 'patient' woke up as if from a deep, rather too deep a sleep but with the experience of a rare ecstatic calmness.

A Delightful Trial !

The fifth order was the composite one with four injunctions. One of the restrictions was, "Do not touch money; do not carry money". One businessman could not decide whether in the literal sense of the order, he could handle the bank drafts and cheques or not. Adi Sr. conveyed to him that signing of cheques or drafts was permissible. Another one, who had to handle money as a part of duty was exempted by Shri Baba from the restriction of touching money during the office hours. He was instructed to carry out faithfully the rest of the injunctions, contained in the circular. I, too, was observing the fifth order. As a teacher, I had to collect the fees of my class. So, I used to ask some one from the pupils to count the money, which he happily did and then he would hand over the amount to one of my colleagues, who would credit it in the office, While teaching the mixed class of boys and girls I had to be attentive that while distributing or accepting the notebooks, I did not touch any of the girls! The problem of using the cane was easily solved by not carrying it in the class-room at all. But I had to be mindful in not hitting any one lightly, even in jest. Because of my nature it was not so difficult for me to check myself in using harsh language in my dealings with the pupils. I personally wished that all these injunctions should be observed without letting the pupils know that I was carrying out Meher Baba's order. It was a delightful trial! Of course in many ways, at the opportune moments, Meher Baba's inner guidance saved me from the slips. It was indeed a game of meditation, wakeful and lively.

One woman, a Baba-devotee from Bombay expressed her inability to follow any of the five orders, because of certain household responsibilities. Another was expecting a baby during that period. Meher Baba sent His blessings to both of them and exempted them of His own from observing the orders. In short, any honest difficulty was lovingly considered by the Compassionate Father, Meher Baba. There was no monotonous regimentation in the observance of these orders. I was sent some extra

copies of this circular. I informed my friends about it but never insisted to fill in the acknowledgement slip. A few who did are Meher Baba's followers, with deep conviction in His Divinity, even to this day. Can you command a bud to bloom? Coming to Meher Baba is a spontaneous response of the heart. To me, issuing of that circular was a call of Love to those who wished to follow the One who was and is Love Itself.

Extreme Prejudice Against Meher Baba.

Every circular had drawn some new persons to Meher Baba. The experiences of the old and new Baba-people whether pleasant or trying, as they observed Meher Baba's orders, definitely linked them closer to His universal heart. Instead of registering the experience of so many Baba-people, I intend to relate an account of a person who had not till then met Meher Baba physically. He had no faith in Meher Baba's Avatarhood and yet had agreed to abide by one of the orders mentioned in the circular. The experiences of others who believed in Shri Baba's Divinity can well be guessed.

Keshav Narayan Nigam is one of Avatar Meher Baba's very dear ones. He is B.A. (Gold Medalist) and a Law Graduate too. He relinquished his services to serve Meher Baba's Cause and at present he is the Editor of Meher Pukar, a Hindi Monthly dedicated to spread Meher Baba's message of Love and Truth. Since July, 1954 it is being published from Hamirpur. In the early forties Keshav was a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi and a sincere devotee of Lord Krishna. He first heard of Meher Baba in 1942 from one of Meher Baba's people named Babadas. Once, during the casual talk Babadas said to him, "Meher Baba is Lord Krishna who has come down on earth in the Form of Meher Baba." Keshav, ironically smiled and scornfully turned a deaf ear to this statement. Babadas gave him some beautiful Baba-pictures and some literature on Meher Baba. Keshav did not care to read a single page, so biased was his attitude. Out of extreme prejudice against Meher Baba, he threw away the Baba-pictures on the public road, to be trampled by people. With such scorn and malice was Meher Baba received by Keshav, who later regarded Him as the only Beloved, the Eternal Avatar.

In 1943, on political grounds Keshav Nigam was put in jail.

He was among those patriots who were staking their lives for the independence of India. In the jail he met Shripat Sahai, one of his old colleagues who brought to him the fresh news about Meher Baba. In 1942 Shripat Sahai had absconded in connection with a violent political movement. From his young age he was also interested in *Ashtang Yoga* and would daily practise some *yogic* exercises, Noticing his spiritual temperament, one of his friends, in the period of abscondance, directed him to meet Meher Baba. Shri Baba was in partial seclusion at Meherabad. But He granted *darshan* to him. During the meeting, Shri Baba asked Sahai to relate the main incidents in his life. After hearing all that was said, Shri Baba blessed Him and assured him of the guidance in the spiritual Path. He also asked him to end the underground activities and to surrender openly to the District authorities, leaving the results to His Divine Will. In that short interview with Meher Baba, Shripat Sahai felt so convinced about His Divinity that he proceeded straight to Hamirpur, informed the District Superintendent of Police and willingly joined the jail life. Sometimes he used to tell Keshav about Meher Baba's Avatarhood to which Keshav never agreed. Instead, there would be a hot discussion in which Keshav always asserted that Meher Baba lived idle, without doing anything and took pleasure in declaring Himself as the Avatar.

Light Dawns On Keshav Nigam

After some months, most of the political prisoners including Keshav were released from jail. He began to stay at Hamirpur. In spite of his perverse views about Meher Baba he continued to receive Baba-circulars, from Adi K. Irani. Being over-prejudiced, without opening these, he would throw them away in the waste paper basket. In May, 1948 he received the circular about Meher Baba's five orders. This time, through an inner urge, he opened it and read it too. He did not find anything inconsistent in it. On the other hand the contents somehow appealed to him. Meher Baba had asked His people if they could follow willingly any one of the five orders, for a period of one month! Coincidentally Keshav felt impelled to fill

in the acknowledgement slip, expressing his readiness to follow the fifth order. At that moment, his biased attitude vanished and he wrote the following letter to Meher Baba.

Revered Shri Meher Babaji.

At last your light seems to have dawned upon me. I paid no heed to your circulars prior to this. But now I sign the fifth order of your circular most voluntarily and the above order shall be followed by me, literally, most faithfully and without any compromise. I have a daughter about eight years old. I do not know how I would be able to avoid touching her, as she remains with me, for the major portion of the time, when I remain at home. I rely on your help in this matter.

Part of All-Pervading Soul,
Sd/- K. N. Nigam.

This short letter was a link that had linked Keshav to his Beloved, Avatar Meher Baba.

Violation Of The Master's Order.

By this time, quite unexpectedly Keshav received a call for the post of "The Director of Public Information", in the newly formed Government of Vindhya Pradesh. As a pleader, he was having a good practice in Hamirpur. He had neither applied for the post nor had he expressed a desire to that effect. So, the appointment was a great surprise to him. Some of his close friends had recommended his name for the post. Keshav was about to refuse this offer; but it seems that the Divine Will inwardly persuaded him to accept the post. He acceded to this proposal on 21st June, 1948, the first day of observing Meher Baba's order. This decision had a far-reaching effect in his personal life too. For, since the day he joined the duties, his ties with politics ended for good. He never reentered the political field. To meditate on Meher Baba and to serve His Cause appealed to him most, in the rest of his life.

Keshav joined his duties of the new post at Nowgong. During the stipulated period of one month, he had sought Meher Baba's help in keeping away his daughter from touching him.

His reliance on Shri Baba worked itself in a wonderful way. For, in spite of the intention on the part of his wife and daughter, for one reason or the other, they could not reach Nowgong before 20th July, 1948. But Keshav failed in his pledge to Meher Baba in following the order faithfully and without compromise. It so happened that while departing for Nowgong, he knowingly allowed a girl over seven years to apply *tilak*—an application of red powder on the forehead which is regarded as auspicious by way of a happy farewell, as was the current custom. He lovingly caressed this girl which was against the spirit of the order. He also touched money and carried it on his person, in his journey to Nowgong. The worst part of the affair was that he knowingly violated Meher Baba's order. He did not know then that he was trying to play with Fire!

After a few days, there developed an abscess on Keshav's right palm, that fondled the girl and handled the money. The abscess turned septic and there was a huge swelling, right up to the arm. The pain was so severe that the abscess had to be operated. Even after the operation the pain did not subside. But now it helped Keshav to remember Meher Baba intensely and whole-heartedly. The wound kept on healing till the last date of observance of the order and then this strange suffering ended.

It is noticed that in spite of the best of efforts, if one forgets unawares to observe the order of the Master, the ill-effect is felt practically nil; for the Master's All-Pervading Presence is full of Compassion. But to disobey Him purposefully is definitely harmful, physically and spiritually, as it indicates a deliberate attempt to go against the Divine Will. This does not mean that the Master is a despot and dictator, but the fact seems that His order releases specific power for the spiritual advancement of that particular person. But, if in place of cooperation and obedience one tries to go against the "current" one is bound to invite suffering. But, that too is in a sense the *Jalali* aspect of His Compassion! Every moment of ours is a leap into the Unknown, a vague attempt to find one's Self. The order from the Master which is practical and practicable, directs one's journeying to Him, the Self of all. He is the Divine Director!

Keshav Nigam Translates "Avatar" In Hindi.

It was during this period that Keshav received a letter from Adi K. Irani who requested him to honour a registered post parcel containing the book Avatar, by paying rupees eleven. Adi Irani also wrote that the book was sent on the express wish of Meher Baba and mentioned that a wish of the Master had a deeper significance. For the moment, Keshav failed to sense any significance in Adi's letter. Instead, the old mistrust in Meher Baba flared up in his mind. He thought that Shri Baba and Adi were befooling the people, to exploit money from the credulous. After some days he realised his folly and on the last day of the stipulated period, 20th July, 1948 he gratefully honoured the post parcel.

Thus the first and the last days mentioned in the circular marked a remarkable change in Keshav Nigam's life with Meher Baba. The book Avatar, was instrumental in developing in him an invincible faith in the Avatarhood of Meher Baba. He felt so impressed by the book that he asked permission from Jean Adriel to translate Avatar in Hindi. It was later published through the numbers of Meher Pukar, a Hindi monthly for the benefit of the Baba-lovers who could not follow English. In short, every circular issued from time to time, during Meher Baba's life-time was an occasion for Him to bestow His grace of love and compassion, on His dear ones, spread all over the world.

Rusted-tin Flavoured Tea !

In the last week of June, 1948 Meher Baba left Ahmednagar for a short tour to contact *masts*. He first visited Nasirabad, a place over three hundred miles to the north of Ahmednagar. It was a special trip to see Jhipra Baba, a *mast* contacted about five years back. This particular *mast* was first an *ittefaqi* but later he developed the characteristics of *jalali* and *madar-zad* types, Such a change is not so common with the *masts*. So, Shri Baba had put him in the category of "freak *mast*" of high order. This *mast* would partake just a little of the food offered to him, throw away the rest and would simultaneously demand for more, repeatedly. He would just take a puff or two of the cigarette, then lay it aside to ask for another.

A peculiar characteristic! From Nasirabad Shri Baba journeyed towards Bombay. Enroute He contacted a *mast* who all the time repeated aloud just one word "karak" which meant anything or nothing. He was named Karak Mastan. Of some *masts*, it was difficult to know whether they were Hindus or Mohammedans. Karak Mastan belonged to this group. The resident *mast* of Meherabad is a Hindu though he is known to all by the name Mohammed. But has *masti*—intoxication in love for God, any connection with the so-called religion?

On 30th June Shri Baba reached Bombay. The monsoon was in full swing. On that night, the rains did not come in a gentle downpour but it lashed the city in torrents. Yet, by early morning Shri Baba was ready to go out to meet a *mastani* who lived near Carnac Bundar Bridge, As Shri Baba accompanied by Baidul and Eruch reached this place, they found this old woman, in her late seventies, soaked to the skin, nonchalantly lying under a tree. Her uncared for hair looked like a solid thatched roof, over her head. She was offered nice hot tea. She directed to pour it in her old rusted tin-pot and then drank it. What flavour it had was a matter beyond comprehension! Then Shri Baba visited Kolaba to contact a person named Ramdas Maharaj. Originally he belonged to Sind (Pakistan). After the partition hundreds of Sindhi Hindus migrated to India. With them, they brought Ramdas Maharaj, whom they loved and revered dearly. Meher Baba described him as a rare type of *Dnyani Salik*.

Meher Baba Ate The Powdered Leaves.

In the afternoon of 1st July, the Baba-party visited Mahim where the family of *madar-zad* (born) *masts* and *mastanis* lived. Ali Asghar, the 'gem' in the family, was an advanced *majzoob*-like *mast*. He was first contacted in February, 1948. At that time Shri Baba had offered him a cigarette and had been with him for some minutes. This time Ali Asghar bluntly refused to see Shri Baba. It was a period when that *mast* was experiencing a strange phase of *masti*. He had not had food for days and had had no sleep for nights. After Meher Baba's arrival the *mast* closed the door of his room. So, through the window bars, the *mandali* members entreated him to let Shri Baba in for the

contact. But in vain! Even after waiting and imploring him over an hour and a half, the *mast* did not budge, On the other hand he clearly expressed that Meher Baba should leave the house. Shri Baba had never contacted the *masts* against their will. He at once left the place but conveyed that it was extremely necessary to contact Ali Asghar as soon as possible. The party returned to Ahmednagar by 2nd July, 1948.

While leaving the city Shri Baba instructed a few of his disciples in Bombay to meet the eldest brother of Ali Asghar and to get regular information whether the aggressive mood of the *mast* was over and whether he would permit Shri Baba for a contact. After a week a telegram from Bombay was received conveying the good news about the required change in the mood of that *mast*. The next morning Meher Baba with the same group of *mandali* left Ahmednagar and reached Bombay by early afternoon. He instructed His people that in order to maintain the link with His last visit to Ali Asghar on 1st July, the same route and routine should be followed. Accordingly the party reached Mahim. After visiting the house it was noticed that the *mast* was still unwilling to receive Meher Baba's "spiritual touch". Again good many appeals were made through the window. After half an hour Ali Asghar came out of his confinement and Meher Baba sat alone with him for a secluded contact. What transpired in the meeting, the *mandali* did not know. But when Shri Baba came out He looked exceptionally radiant and pleased. The *mast* as he walked out got into the next room, picked up a pair of big scissors and snipped off seven small leafy sprigs of a mulberry bush. He somehow bound them in a small bunch and presented it to Meher Baba. Perhaps, this was a spontaneous gesture of love, an outcome of that significant contact. Then patting on Shri Baba's back he muttered, "Now, you can go". What a wonderful meeting!

After this contact the Baba-party left Bombay for Ahmednagar. Shri Baba gave that precious bunch to Eruch and instructed him to keep it well preserved, 'leaf and stem'. On way back Eruch got down at Bindra House, Poona where his parents stayed. He put the seven sprigs into a small pot. As the leaves dried up, he collected and kept them safe. Shri Baba's instructions had turned these leaves into a treasure! Few days

later, Shri Baba asked Eruch to visit Ahmednagar with 'sprigs and leaves'. When this 'treasure' was placed before Meher Baba, He looked immensely delighted. He instructed that the leaves be powdered and later, He consumed it! The seven stems were preserved as a souvenir of His meeting with Ali Asghar. What a love for the *masts!* What a mystical give and take!

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(To be Contd.)

'DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY'

—By Dorothy L. Levy

"DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY"—Beloved Baba's reassuring
WORDS

Around the world—let the MESSAGE of LOVE and TRUTH
be heard.

Those yet Jiving in a dream world of fantasy and dreams—
Seeking physical pleasure—afraid of the unseen
God-Man came back on earth with the MESSAGE once again..
AVATAR MEHER BABA—The Ancient ONE ever the same.
Negative thinking clouds the mind and promotes worry—
Striving for material gain—always in a hurry,
Afraid of the future—trying to make haste
Seeking social contacts and energy waste.
Yes our Beloved Baba said "DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY"—
in all situations

Only He can lighten our burdens, this a consolation!
How blessed indeed are those having seen God-Man
Having His Divine TOUCH—and Love understand ...
There is no earthly beauty that can surpass nature

So few take time to view God's WONDERFUL CREATION...
To see Him in everyone; in the flowers, plants and trees ...
Makes one ponder, and realise the WONDER of His creative
MYSTERY.

Each Spring Mother nature takes a new birth

But the great WONDER of wonders—God-Man took a
FORM here on earth

We, can be happy when in harmony with all creation ...
The language of love understood in all nations.

AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST

AHMEDNAGAR

a brief sketch

One day, fifty years ago, the God-Man and a few disciples came walking along the road from Ahmednagar to Dhond, halted on the outskirts of Arangaon village which lies six miles south of Ahmednagar town, rested under a tree and refreshed themselves from the well. And it so happened that this semi-barren area, with a few scattered old buildings which had served as a temporary barracks for the British regiment during the first World War, belonged to the father of one of the disciples. Upon Meher Baba saying that He liked the place, the disciple went to his father and told him of Baba's pleasure in the place. On hearing this, the man came with his son and offered the area to Baba and He accepted it and named it MEHERABAD. * Gradually the place blossomed into buildings of service: schools, hospitals, ashrams for Masts and the mad, shelters for the migrant poor. Finally was added the Tomb in which the God-Man's body would be placed to rest when He had finished His mission to the world. And even as the place blossomed and hummed with the divine activities of the God-Man, He spoke of the time to come when Meherabad would be peopled by His lovers from all over the world and would flourish beyond imagination as the greatest place of pilgrimage on earth.

After a number of years, the initial purpose of the place being fulfilled, Meher Baba left Meherabad. Before long, apart from the Tomb and a few buildings, it again became a semi-barren area and remained so until He dropped His body—except intermittently during the brief Sahavas occasions when Meherabad blazoned into life and joyous activity with the presence of the Beloved and of His lovers from near and far.

* Meher-abad: "abad", pronounced "aabaad", literally means prosperous, flourishing.
Meherabad lies on both sides of the Dhond-Manmad railway track: the property on the lower level known popularly as lower Meherabad, and the Hill where the Tomb stands referred to as upper Meherabad. The Tomb is located on the site where Meher Baba in the early years spent months in seclusion.

On several occasions over the years, Meher Baba remarked: "Although the Universe is mine, I own nothing in the worldly sense. I am the King of kings, and also the Faqir of faqirs. Even the Tomb wherein I have directed my body to be placed when I drop it, does not belong to me," And so it was, since on the 6th of April 1959 Avatar Meher Baba created the AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST Ahmednagar. He entrusted the Tomb and other Meherabad property, with its land and buildings, to the care and administration of ten trustees, enjoining them to carry out His wishes as specified by Him in the Trust Deed. This again was confirmed by Baba in the "Last Will & Testament" executed by Him in June of 1967.

Beloved Baba never touched money, except when handing it individually to selected numbers of needy persons during His work with the poor from time to time. Like all things in illusion, money has served as an instrument for Baba's working, perhaps more so by the nature of its universality. It has also served as a medium for His lovers wishing to express their love in a practical form. Fortunate were they whose love offerings were accepted by Him, for not always did He do so. The offerings that were accepted flowed out from the perennial spring of His divine bounty to tend the various fields of His work under His personal direction and supervision. Primary was the one in His immediate proximity, which included the men and women who were blessed to give Him their all and live with Him in love and obedience.

Being the Compassionate Father and "The Knower of the past, the present and the future," Beloved Baba provided a practical way and a perpetual opportunity for His present and future lovers to share in carrying out the love-commitments laid down by Him in the Trust Deed. It is a trust He has reposed in the trustees of His Trust and in His lovers everywhere. The trustees of the present time and those who will replace them in future, are the mechanics tending to the machinery of the Master's design; it is the love of His lovers which will always be its driving force.

By the very nature of its objectives, it is not surprising that the Avatar Meher Baba Trust (Ahmednagar) began to actively function only after Beloved Baba dropped His body.

A few months after that, the "Avatar Meher Baba Trust" Ahmednagar was registered as a Public Trust under the Bombay Public Trusts Act 1850. Its Board of Trustees, always ten in number, is given the duty of administering the Trust Estate, collecting and utilizing the funds in the manner directed by Baba in distinct detail in the Deed of Trust. The deed was executed and signed by Him before a sub Registrar at upper Meherabad on the 6th April 1959.

Avatar Meher Baba's directions in the Trust Deed cover a two-fold objective: the immediate and the long-range. The *first*, marked in the Trust Deed as "Firstly," directs that 89% of all donations made to the Trust be distributed among 41 of His disciples who are named as "beneficiaries", in the exact proportions specified by Baba; The beneficiaries consist mainly of the single men and women mandali residing at Meherazad and Meherabad and various places, and others who have a family to support or maintain. The Beloved had taken on Himself to see to the livelihood of the ones whom He selected to name as beneficiaries, many of whom are now wholly dependent on His "prasad" thus provided for them through the medium of the Trust.

The *second* objective, marked in the Trust Deed as "Secondly," directs the trustees to see the upkeep and maintenance of the Tomb and of the rest of the Trust Estate and, in the course of time, to its development with building of dispensaries, hospitals, schools, libraries, living quarters, shelters, etc., along with road and water facilities—for use of all concerned irrespective of caste, creed, religion or nationality. For this second objective, the proportion of the collective funds allocated by Baba is 11% to begin with. This will keep gradually increasing in percentage each time a beneficiary passes away, finally reaching 100% at the demise of all the beneficiaries.

At the date of writing, the 11% has already increased to 24%, since six of the forty-one beneficiaries have died. As each single beneficiary dies (and 10 years after the death of a beneficiary maintaining a family) his or her share of the Trust benefit is from then onwards made over to the root fund of the Trust. This adds to and replenishes the 11% allocated for the other projects specified in the Trust Deed. Such a beneficiary's share becomes a donation to the Trust each time when a distribution

takes place. Thus, in His Love and compassion, Baba has also provided that the beneficiaries who now receive from the Trust shall in time become perennial donors to the Trust—unfathomable are the ways of the Beloved!

Those of you who can and wish to share in fulfilling the commitments laid down by Beloved Baba through the instrument of the Trust, please take careful note as to how you should send your contributions. In order to ensure your cheque or draft or money-order reaching us, please do as follows:

1) Make out cheque or draft or money-order to: AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST, AHMEDNAGAR, (M. S.), INDIA.

2) Be sure to send it by REGISTRED letter,

3) Address the envelope to:

Miss Manija S, Irani, *Chairman*
Avatar Meher Baba Trust,
Kings Road, Ahmednagar, M. S., India.

This introductory account of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust (Ahmednagar) is written in fairness to our large Baba-family, as we find that many are either unaware of the Trust's existence or are confused by lack of authentic information. It goes to you each one with love, in the beloved Name of the God-Man, Meher Baba. Manija S. Irani.

Attention: "Avatar Meher Baba Trust" *Ahmednagar* should not be confused with any trusts or missions elsewhere bearing a similar name.

Note: Baba Centres having printed copies of the *Avatar Meher Baba Trust* are requested to loan a copy to anyone who would like to read it. Although at this juncture the Trust Office, Ahmednagar has a limited stock, those visiting the Office can obtain a copy on request.

Ahmednagar, India.

May, 1972

"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

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai !

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AHMEDNAGAR, MAHARASTRA, INDIA.

A Ruined Life Redeemed

—By P. G. N.

Till the end of 1962, I had not heard the name of Meher Baba, either from any one or through books. I was 45 years old at that time. Yet, Meher Baba has been playing a most significant role in my life for the past few years. How this miracle happened in my life, is described below with a background of my earlier life as a contrast.

To day, when I look back on the days gone by, I find I had always depended on somebody since my childhood. As a child I had depended on my auntie, since my mother had been ill. After my mother's death, I had entirely depended on her and she, a childless widow, brought me up with all the mother's care and affection and love. Time snatched her also in due course, and I then depended on my cousin, who had guided me through the ocean of worldly life like the pole-star. After my marriage, my loving wife had taken complete charge of me without anything to be worried about. I had been passing my days in apparent peace and happiness, without knowing the true purpose of life. One fine morning in June 1961 I was shaken to the stark reality, when death took toll of my beloved wife. She had been the last near and dear one in my life, all else having departed to the other shore of life.

I then thought, "On whom should I depend now? Who is there to guide me by the hand for the rest of my life? Is there anybody in this ephemeral existence – permanent, not snatched away by the cruel hands of death?" Intuitively I got the answer, "God".

For the first time I began praying to God to show me the way, to guide me by the hand, to fill up my anguish moments with His divine presence. After a few days, a significant event happened in my life.

It was in the early part of the night when I was weeping in silence with tears rolling down my cheeks, alone in my sitting room, amidst hundreds of memories of my departed beloved wife. At this moment, I heard a knock at the main entrance

door. I opened the door and found an acquaintance of mine whom I welcomed in. After the exchange of information for which my friend had come, I enquired of him if he could lend me any book on philosophy to fill up my idle moments with idle curiosity on life. He replied, "I am a devotee of Sai Baba; I will lend you a book called 'Is Sai Baba living and helping now?'" He further added, "I will lend you another book 'God Speaks' by Meher Baba". I heard these two auspicious names for the first time in my life.

The two books, as promised by my friend to be sent the following day, were not received. The day after the next came and went, but no signs of the books! Days lapsed into weeks, yet the promised books did not reach my hands. On the 21st day after I had met my friend, while in office, the thought of non-receipt of the two books flashed in my anguished mind, and I began to contemplate on the golden promise made by my friend in the stillness of that auspicious night. At that very instant, a peon of my office stood before me with the two long awaited books. I was amazed. Instantly I enquired of him as to who had given him the books. He answered that his boss had given him the books. Later on, I came to learn from his boss that my friend had met him the following day by chance in a club, and that due to his pre-occupation he had given the books to him (the boss) with a request to hand over the same to me. As luck would have it, the boss remembered about the books, after a lapse of three weeks!

However, at long last, I got possession of the two promised books and began to read them vigorously. The book on Sai Baba was finished in no time, but the book "God Speaks" was too tough and dry to be read so easily. It had to be diluted at every step with clear reasoning and perception. However, with much labour and patience, I finished the book at a snail's pace, and I wanted to read additional books written by Meher Baba since my hunger for knowledge had been aroused vehemently. I also wanted to know who Meher Baba was, and whether he was alive or dead. I enquired and enquired, but nobody could supply me either books or the answer I wanted. A few months passed in this way. Then another chance incident happened in my life like the receipt of the book 'God Speaks'.

One day, a colleague of mine, who had been posted to Calcutta, and who had come down to my place in connection with his sister's marriage, came to me in the office and asked straight away, "I understand you are interested in Meher Baba and books. If so, you come to my place in the evening, and I shall introduce you to my brother-in-law who is the secretary of the local Meher-Centre". I was awestruck at his question, because I did not know from whom he had come to know all about it. One year later, I asked him the same question from whom he had come to know that I was interested in Meher Baba, but he could not remember. However, the same evening I was introduced to the local secretary by my colleague. The most funny part of it was that I used to pass every day the Secretary's house without knowing anything about it.

Then I came to know gradually from him that Meher Baba is the 'Avatar' of the present age; that He lives in seclusion at Meherazad, about 15 kilometers from Ahmednagar; that He has been maintaining silence for the last 39 years etc. I was elated with joy when I came to know that Meher Baba is still amidst us.

The secretary had a well equipped library containing Meher books, Journals, Magazines, pamphlets, circulars, Family Letters, Messages, etc. etc. He was kind enough to give me an opportunity to exhaust his library slowly. Since then I have been reading continuously but as yet I have not read all the books.

A few months after my introduction, the Secretary, who by this time became an intimate friend of mine, informed me that Meher Baba would give 'Darshan' in the summer of 1963 at Guru Prasad Poona. My heart leaped with joy in silence and I agreed at once to undertake the journey for His 'Darshan'.

During the three days stay at Poona, 4th, 5th, and 6th of May 1963, I had Baba's Darshan to my heart's content. I am quoting here relevant extracts from the account of this 'Darshan' written by me and read out in the local Centre.

"After the songs, He wanted one and all of His loyal subjects who had assembled there to come quietly in an orderly

manner through the passage and touch His feet and then take their seats again, It was the most coveted thing in life, it was the desire of everyone that after the 'Darshan' he or she would be fortunate enough to touch His feet at least once in his life time, not to speak of being embraced or kissed by Him, the Royal Emperor. I have read that in this manner Perfect Masters, out of Divine Love, allow their devotees to unload their burden of "Sanskaras" on to them, thereby freeing their souls from the burden and helping them to advance further on the spiritual path towards the goal of life, i.e. Self-Realization. Such an unique opportunity was given to all of us who were there. It was decided unanimously that ladies should start first and that the order should be from the rear line. So, row after row of ladies came through the passage slowly, and one by one touched his feet, garlanded Him, offered their prayers in silence, begged as if for His mercy for His love, for the fulfilment of their long cherished desires, and went away with heavenly bliss in their hearts. It appeared to me as if they dived into ocean of Love, one by one, with different sizes of pitchers on their heads and came out of the ocean with the pitcher full.

After the ladies, the turn came for us and the same pattern followed except for one thing. Instead of filling the pitchers, as done by His female subjects, His male subjects lighted, one by one, it appeared to me, their heart lamps from the mother source of Light.

At long last, the turn came for my row to take darshan. Immediately my heart started beating faster. With a trembling heart and prayers on my lips, I started moving slowly along with others through the passage towards the source, whence I started my journey from time immemorial. For this momentous meeting with Him, I was being "prepared" by Him months ahead—nay—years and years ahead before I took birth in this Life. It was pre-planned, it was in the Divine design. Fortunately for me, the second man ahead of me was a great composer of songs from our group and the man just ahead of me was the smallest man in our group. As the turn for the second man came, Baba asked him to sing a new song composed by Him. We had to await our turn till the song was over. So we sat down in front of Him. So near yet so distant. Between Him and me was the only veil in

the form of the smallest man in our group over whose head I had a full glimpse of Him. It was an unique opportunity given to me by merciful Baba. I gained time to hold my breath and my heart-beats became normal again. I gazed and gazed and gazed at His radiant, exquisitely handsome and compassionate face with an unusually broad forehead. I forgot the time and the place. It appeared to me, as if I was seeing the sun rise—the golden coloured-circular shaped, exquisitely beautiful Sun—rising slowly from the bosom of the crimson-hued sea under magic spell of the song composed by our great composer. I had a glimpse of the First and foremost 'Usha' which had been so much eulogised in the hymns composed by the Rishis of Rigveda. My eyes got dazzled and I lowered my eyes down to His feet. My consciousness brought me down from the dream-land and I found my feet on the solid hard cemented floor. I glanced at the sole of His foot which was partly pointing towards me. I looked intently on the partly exposed sole of his foot to find out if there were signs of lotus, conch, flag etc. which Lord Krishna, I had read, had. Since such an opportunity would never come to me, I was struggling to look intently on the partly exposed surface of His sole. And lo! He immediately turned the full surface of His sole towards me so that I could have a better view. He had read my thoughts! But, even then, I could not see any signs. But signs or no signs, this little incident revealed beyond all doubt that He reads every ripple of thought that rises on the surface of our mind's lake. I was convinced that nothing passes unnoticed, unheeded and uncared for by Him, the omniscient and ever-merciful.

The song finished. It was highly appreciated by all. He gave the composer an affectionate embrace in appreciation. The flow of human stream which had stopped temporarily because of the song, continued once again towards the Ocean of Love. At last, my turn came and I surrendered myself completely to Him by placing my head on His lotus feet, a chance so difficult and rare to be had even by the Yogis and saints of the world. My heart craved in silence for the same which Maitreyee had begged of Yajnavalkya, which Nachiketa had enquired of Yama, which every yearning soul seeks and strives to acquire. I looked up and found His hands outstretched towards me with utmost love

and affection. He held my face with His two hands. I felt the touch of the softest and tender-most petals of a lotus. I lost myself for a second, but I was soon brought to my senses by someone who was introducing me to Baba. I left the place soon after.

During the period of one and a half year after the death of my loving wife and before my coming in contact with Baba, my life was dry and wretched, completely shattered to pieces and devoid of all values and sense of Beauty and Joy. I shunned society. I became completely aloof and distant from all. I was dying every moment. But after I came in contact with Baba, a complete metamorphosis has taken place in my life. Every moment of my life I am enjoying now. The fountain-spring of Joy which had been temporarily choked by the sudden demise of my loving wife had once again found its way through the dark despair of my dilapidated life towards Bliss and Freedom by the magic, melodious music played on mutely by Meher Baba out of His boundless Mercifulness.

Meher, Meher, O my Master!
 Make me die faster, faster
 To my Self—the Ego-Self
 Give me help, not the pelf.
 Make me stone, an inert stone
 On your Path be left alone;
 Kick it on, to and fro
 Till it breaks with a blow;

Make me dust faster, faster,
 Meher, Meher, O my Master!

Thought of as maturity in the form of woman and man ...
 Marriage a partnership when we truly understand ...
 If thinking of childhood is looking back –
 With many fond memories of joy, and some foolish acts.
 Avatar Meher Baba IS our Loving Father – Mother – ALL ...
 We, His children large or small.
 An artist paints pictures, a sculptor moulds
 Beloved Baba holds the key to the universe—our soul He
alone knows,
 The heart of a young child; and the child-like beauty of the old.

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Jai Baba-dear Brother's: Congratulations on the happy occasion of the Ninth Anniversary of Meher Vihar Trust, and First Anniversary of the Avatar Meher Baba Mission. I regret I cannot contribute something financially, but trust I may offer something—spiritually to this most worthy cause in our Beloved Baba's LOVE.

May He continue to bless us all! I feel most privileged, and indeed blessed to share inspired thoughts with others through Divya Vani in the universal language. Childrens Corner is dear to my heart and beautifully expressed. I am enclosing a poem written a few years back that may be an inspiration to future generation that must continue to spread His MESSAGE around the world.

In Beloved Baba's Love,
 your sister
 DOROTHY, L.

GLIMPSES OF MEHER

(Life-Story of Avatar Meher Baba in Historic Present)

By Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, M.A., PH.D, (LONDON)

Director, Avatar Meher Spiritual Academy, Nagpur.

(Continued from August Issue)

is her only Shelter,
in heat and cold, in storm and rain,
under all the clemencies and inclemencies of changing
weather,
throughout the round of marching seasons, day in and day out,
in the deserted loneliness of midnight,
and in the midst of buzzing life after day-break.
The eyes of Babajan meet those of Meherwan;
and he feels the enigmatic and irresistible call from her,
his first Master.
Thrills upon thrills of unbounded ecstasies
engulf Meherwan, as Babajan holds him in her arms,
giving her divine kiss on his forehead
an experience too deep to admit any verbal expression.
Fifteen minutes with Babajan,
of silence unperturbed, are eventful beyond words,
lifting Meherwan into a new realm of spiritual being,
as aeons of immeasurable life try to be vocal,
in that short span of communion.
Few people know the earlier life of Babajan.
Out of detachment for worldly things, Babajan leaves her
home
in Baluchistan, on the very day fixed for her marriage,
to attain in due time her divine state of perfection,
through a spiritual Master.
In the Punjab, the fanatics bury her for her heresy;
but she mysteriously slips away to Bombay,
her appearance startling a regiment, that knew the antecedents.
Her settling down in Poona marks the beginning
of the nineteenth century.

A perennial source of inspiration to thousands,
 Babajan is over hundred years, the miracles attributed her
 being numberless.
 God has ordained that Babajan is to discover Meherwan
 and bring him to his own, for the world-task ahead of him.

1914

After the first meeting with Babajan,
 Meherwan pays daily visits to her place;
 and though Babajan is generally very sparing in words,
 in January 1914, she declares, "This son of mine
 will one day move the whole world".
 Coming back to his home, Meherwan is in his bed at eleven;
 and after a few minutes, he has, in that moment of Eternity,
 thrills upon thrills, losing all consciousness
 of the body or the world,
 and becomes God.

The Grace of Babajan lifts Meherwan
 from the mundane to the eternal,
 working out spiritual upheavals in consciousness,
 destroying the illusory universe,
 and reinstating the reality of the Eternal one.
 A complete severance of consciousness from all its
 contents,
 the transformation brings, at every step,
 acute agonies and corresponding ecstasies.
 Replacing illusion by reality is no idle game
 of mere ideational exchange, but the reconstitution of
 being itself.

A stepping out of the false into the Truth,
 is irresistibly devastating to everything,
 with the slightest tinge of the false.
 Gone beyond the three bodies and the three worlds,
 Meherwan is eternally one with God!
 The wildest of speculation encompasseth not the God-state,
 into which Meherwan has emerged,
 while others can only notice his utterly blank gaze, refusing
 to yield any tidings of his inner state
 of blissful realisation.
 Startling and frightening for his mother,
 the transformations in Meherwan's usual behaviour,

are sudden and unexpected,
 all his bodily actions being mechanical.
 Without the least relief that comes from sleep,
 Meherwan has become an automaton
 with no trace of purpose in anything that he does.
 If he sits, he keeps sitting for hours together;
 If he walks, he keeps walking indefinitely,
 at times, making three trips to the Bund Garden,
 in one day.
 The entire universe is for Meherwan
 one abyss of void or emptiness;
 he is utterly oblivious of all surroundings
 or bodily needs including meals,
 Refusing to be mindful of anything, he yet would not sleep,
 in spite of morphia-injections.
 Inwardly immersed in the bliss of the God-state,
 his mindlessness to the outer world continues
 unrelieved for full nine months.
 In November, the blankness of the gaze has yielded;
 but return to normalcy is only in respect of eating, and
 many more years have to pass
 before he regains consciousness of the body or the world,

1915

In the April of 1915,
 Meherwan starts his rambles of saint-pursuit,
 meeting many saints and Masters –
 Shri Narayan Maharaj of Kedgaon, Tippo Baba of Bhendi
 Bazar at Bombay,
 Bannemiya of Aurangabad, Tajuddin Baba of Nagpur
 and Sai Baba of Shirdi,
 eventually to meet Shri Upasani Maharaj
 in the Khandoba Temple at Shirdi.
 As Meherwan approaches,
 Maharaj flings at him a stone, hitting him on the forehead,
 at the very point Babajan had kissed.
 Then starts the gradual process,
 bringing Meherwan down to body-consciousness.
 After two days with the Master,
 Meherwan comes back to Poona, to continue his daily
 round
 for the Darshana of Babajan.

His external behaviour is inscrutable for the world.
 To find relief from his deep restlessness,
 he bumps his head against stones in the jungle nearby,
 hurting himself and wrapping his kerchief to hide his
 wounds
 as he comes home.
 Now lost is the appetite for wandering
 in search of saints or Masters,
 though his fortnightly visits to Maharaj continue

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(To be Contd.)

For the 1st Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba Mission

R E M E M B E R !

Baba is our help, in every need;
 Baba alone does, all the deed;
 Baba walks beside us, guides our way;
 Through every moment, of all the day!

Now, dear Baba lovers! the time has come,
 When we all should be wise and true;
 Patient, kind, courageous and loving too;
 Have firm faith in Him, everything He can do!

We can't remain to be sick, Baba is our health;
 We shouldn't dare to beg, Baba is our wealth;
 Baba is our strength, unfailing and quick;
 We have to lead the life, He can't tolerate any more trick!

Baba is in every heart, we should know no fear;
 Remember; Baba and Love and Truth are here;
 Enjoy, Enjoy and Enjoy, His Love and Blessing,
 Remember! Baba Baba and Baba, He alone is Everything!

Jai Meher! Jai Baba! Jai Meher Baba!

Yours lovingly,
 T K. Ramanujam

News & Notes

The first Anniversary of the Avatar Meher Baba Mission and the Ninth Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust and Meher Vihar Association was availed of for the formal inauguration of Avatar Meher Baba Saranalaya on Monday the 21st of August at 6 P.M. Sri Kasu Brahmananda Reddi, former Chief Minister of the Andhra Pradesh who was to have inaugurated the Saranalaya could not be present for unavoidable reasons and in his place, the inauguration was done by Swami Chidambarananda of the Ramakrishna Mutt, Kaladi, Kerala State who gave his presence at the function very unexpectedly. He was at Hyderabad in a different context and as a Lover of God, he filled the gap very befittingly. Sri E. Lakshminatharao, Retired principal and a Baba Lover presided over the function. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, Retired Professor of Philosophy of Nagpur University unveiled an enlarged photo picture of Late Sri N. Dharma Rao with Beloved Baba. Swami Satya Prakash gave a brief speech at the commencement of the function offering welcome to the assembly of Baba Lovers and setting out the objects and purposes of Baba Saranalaya and Avatar Meher Baba Mission. The meeting was largely attended.

Sahavas and Seminar:

The occasion was also availed of for the conduct of a Sahavas in the spiritual presence of Avatar Meher Baba of a number of Baba Lovers who came from far and near, and a seminar for focussing attention on "The way of life, we are expected to live and the work we are to undertake now, in accordance with the wishes of Beloved Baba and in obedience to His directions".

The programme each day used to commence with an assembly of Baba Lovers for the recital of the Parvardigar Prayer followed by the Repentance prayer and then the Baba Arathi at 7 A.M. With an hour's recess, there used to be Baba Sankeertan for an hour and then the conduct of the Seminar, which was inaugurated by Prof. Deshmukh from Nagpur and presided over by Dr. G. S. N. Murthy from Kharagpur. The Seminar,

was conducted for three days on 22nd, 23rd and 24th during forenoons as well as afternoons with suitable recesses for food, Tea etc. The arrangements made by the Mission as well as the Meher Vihar Trust for the Sahawas and the Seminar and for food and comforts of the Sahawasis gave all round and full satisfaction. The remarkable feature of the programmes was the large number of out-station Baba Lovers who participated in the programmes.

The following Baba Lovers spoke during the Seminar on one day or another.

Prof. C.D. Deshmukh, Nagpur, Sri E. Lakshminatharao (Vijayawada), Sri Sharma (Nizamabad), Sri Guiab Das Panchal (Bombay), Smt. Jagadamba (Kakinada), Sri Appalaswami (Anantapur), Sri P.S.K. Sarma (Anantapur), Sri L. Venkayya (Warangal), Sri Pukar (Hamirpur), Sri Dayanidhi (Nalgonda), Sri N. Kutumba Sastri (Ahmednagar), Sri V.V. Narayana Rao (Hyderabad), Sri Vijayasaradhi (Hyderabad), Sister Usha Nanda (Hyderabad), Sri D.V. Sriramamurthy (Palmaner), Sri R.S. Prakasarao (Hyderabad). Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Anantha Butchanna, Sri N. Bhimasankaram, Sri P. Anjayya, Sri Satyaprakash Udaseen (All from Hyderabad), Mrs. Gulab Das Panchal (Bombay), Sri Yadav (Jhansi) and Sri G.S.N. Murthy (President, Kharagpur).

The highlights of the Seminar were the impressive renderings of Baba's message of Truth & Love by young Lovers of Baba who had been cultivating contact through Baba Centre at Hyderabad with Baba Lovers, and developed inner contacts with Baba having never had the Darshan of Baba in the physical Body.

The other was that throughout the speeches, the ring of Baba Love was heard with recollection of the rich Legacy of Sayings and wishes which Baba had left and which preserved with unflinching consistency, the Love He inspired in the hearts of His Lovers.

Messages:

The Messages were received for the success of the Seminar from Shri V.V. Giri, President of India, the Mandali and Shri Adi K. Irani, Sri T. Dhanapathi Rao Naidu, Sri A.C.S. Chari,

Shri B. Venkateswarlu (Kakinada), Shri Sigan Poria (Bombay), Dr. Barucha (Navsari), Dr. Kapil (Delhi), Shri Dahke Phalker (Ahmednagar), Sri K.V. Suryanarayana (Allagadda), Shri T.K. Ramanujam (Madras), Shri Mangaraju (Madras), Shri D.R. Gadekar (Baroda), Shri Bala Natu (Kurudvadi), Shri Bashyam (Visakhapatnam), Shri Veer Raju (Mandapeta), Shri T.V. Rama Rao and Shri C. Sambasivarao (Rajahmudry), Shri Y.S.R. Rao, Ganguli (Mysore State), Shri A. Jagannatha Rao (Bangalore) Shri V. Ramarao (Bilaspur), Shri Bh.V. Ramana Rao (Vijayawada), Shri Dubey and Sri Pankraj (Jabalpur), Sri K.M. Gandhi (Visakhapatnam), Shri Babji (Kakinada), Shri Lalit (Calcutta) Yogi Suddhananda Bharati (Madras), Sheligram Sarma (Jhansi). The following are extracts from the messages which touch upon the subject of the Seminar.

1. **Nowsherwan Anzar, Editor 'Glow'.**

"While seminars, conferences and meetings are important to share with each other the Avatar's consciousness, the importance lies mainly in the adherence to his Message. While Meher Baba's motto was 'Mastery in servitude', each Baba lover must try to have mastery over self. If, instead of bickering over the treasures left behind by the Master, we accept in our hearts the bounty of his love, we will be truly serving him. The greatest advantage of being a Baba lover is, that beloved Baba helps you to observe your ego, analyse it and thereby annihilate it completely. This I feel should be the central theme of the Seminar".

2. **Shri N. N. Mistri (Bombay)**

"The Beloved has put the greatest emphasis on Love, and love holds the key to health, happiness and prosperity for individuals as well as nations. Love alone can overcome the uglier emotions that destroy harmony in the home and the community, and poison relations between nations, resulting in wars that engulf the world in death and destruction, turning men into veritable devils.

But illusion has instilled in man the separative outlook, which involves him in selfishness the insistent desire for his own happiness, which breeds and sustains the lower self. Thus brother-hood of man remains merely an ideal, except for a few

blessed souls. Love is the panacea prescribed by Baba for all evils mankind is afflicted with. And if it were universally practised heaven would descend on Earth right now."

3. **K. K. Ramakrishnan (Poona)**

"Avatar Meher Baba dropped his body three years ago after completing his avataric work. Thoughts arise in one's mind

Have we been awakened to true spiritual values of life? Are we able to express these values in our everyday life of relations with one another? Do we truly love God who resides in every heart? Do we truly believe God to be infinite honesty in our moment to moment life? How many Baba-lovers are there who have made their lives 'living messages of Meher Baba's Love & Truth'? How many Baba-workers are there who follow the way of effacing oneself in their work for the Cause of Baba? I think it is important we find answers to these questions from our lives. For according to Meher Baba to preach what one does not practice is hypocrisy in its worst form".

The following Baba lovers participated in the Sahavas programmes with families:

Shri Ghulab Dass Panchal (Bombay), Dr. G.S.N. Murthy (Kharapur), Shri L. Venkayya (Warangal) and Sri V. Sree Rama Murthy (Palmaner).

The following Love contributions received for the functions are gratefully acknowledged:

Mr. Kenneth Lux (U. S. A.) 50 Dollars.
 Shri N. Rajeswararao (Hyderabad) 500 Rupees.
 Shri N.N. Mistri (Bombay)100 Rupees.
 Shri Appalaswami (Anantapur)100 Rupees.

PUBLIC MEETING:

A largely attended Public Meeting was held on the evening of 24th as a fitting conclusion to the three memorable days of Sahavas and Seminar at the Y.M.C.A. Auditorium for spreading the message of Love and Truth of Baba. Shri Anantha Butchanna of Hyderabad presided and the following Baba Lovers spoke on Baba in the languages mentioned:

Shri C.D. Deshmukh (English) Shri Pukar (Hindi) Shri E. Lakshminatharao (Telugu) and Dr. G.S.N. Murthy (English), With Arathi and distribution of Prasad, the meeting came to an end with enthusiastic shouts of 'Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai'.

A RESPONSE TO AN EARNEST APPEAL

By Sister Carrie Ben Shammai, Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, 22nd August 1972

Brother N.N. Mistri's "Appeal to Baba-lovers" in April number 1972 of "Divya Vani" regarding observance of Annual Leprosy Week and establishment of International Organisation for spreading Baba's Word is most sincerely, I would say, is over due. Baba did and is doing forever His own Silent Work. But Baba Lovers must fulfill Beloved's Wish in His Service to carry on this Work at all available free moments, opportunities and possibilities. Three years have passed since our Avatar's Amar Tithi, but suggestions regarding establishment of a Universal Centre have remained mere suggestions. Are we sincere about doing Baba's Work? We in Israel offer to make preparations here, with the help of many of you, please! ! — for an International Meeting Place for Baba-Gathering, to discuss and thrash out a plan.

It was our good fortune to have had Dr. Allan Cohen with us at the time the article appeared in "Divya Vani". We discussed the matter with him and also wrote to other Baba Lovers, especially in U.S.A. All say, they do their best, but it will take time. We would like to see in "Divya Vani" practical suggestions from other Baba Lovers to make the idea of an International Organisation a reality.

Expecting your answers and suggestions in Baba's Grace.

Ki Jai, Sister,

CARRIE BEN SHAMMAI, JERUSALEM.

MEHER VIHAR TRUST

3-6-417, Post Office Street

Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-29, (A. P. India)

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N.B. (i) All the prices are inclusive of Postage by Book Post.

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1. I belong to no religion. Every religion belongs to me. My religion is love.
2. I am the divine beloved that loves you more than you can ever love yourself.
3. I am the Lord of love and Servant of My lover.
4. Let *Principle* in work and *honesty* in life prevail.
5. One penny extracted, in My name, without true basis is dishonesty and will be the cause of *millions of births*.
6. Think well of those who think ill of you.
7. If you truly and in all faith accept your Baba as the Highest of the High, it behooves you to lay down your life at His feet.

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