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(DIVINE VOICE)

Editor:

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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"When mind soars in pursuit of the things conceived in space, it pursues emptiness; but when man dives deep within himself he experiences the fullness of Existence."

— MEHER BABA

THE AVATAR

By MUNCHERSHAW J. SUKHADWALA

There seems to be a controversy as to "Which Prophet—of which Religion—and of what Age and Period of Time" had been responsible for the various inceptions and conceptions introduced from one religion to another, leading the world thereby into constant conflicts and struggles about the Supremacy of one religion over the other and keeping the various peoples of the world in continuous quarrels amongst themselves and thus keeping them divided, forgetting that all religions are branches of One and the Same Tree (God).

It seems from the different religious scriptures that all religions, truly and honestly followed with complete faith in them, ultimately lead to One unseen God, the Creator, the Preserver and the Protector of all His Creations in the world (universe), and all universes beyond.

Since ages, to keep up and continue the religious struggles, conflicts and quarrels among the various religions and people following them, has become the personal interest of Mobeds, Pandits, Sayeds, Mullas and priests of all religions, to bolster up their financial and professional positions, by the performance of various rites, rituals and ceremonies. There is a conflict, as it is contested in religious books written by religious scholars, that the Prophet the second, in his scriptures and testaments, copied some portions from the scriptures and testaments of the first Prophet and the third Prophet copied in his messages some portions from those of the second Prophet and so on.

Prophet is the World Messenger, or the Incarnation in human form of the Highest One, God. These Prophets are not different Beings; but One and the only One World Messenger or the only One Incarnation of God in human form, who appears in this world in different forms and in different ages to implement and to spread again and again God's Message of Truth and Love to people of different climes and temperament when they create chaos, confusion, corruption and crimes in this world and forget their Creator by their greedy and lustful lives, in that particular age.

It is farcical and laughable to understand that the Creator will send different Messengers from time to time, with his instructions to copy from one scripture to another, like school-boys copying from one book to another, their school lessons. Hence it is essential to rightly understand that the Prophets are all One World Messenger or Incarnation of God, the Creator, in various human forms, suiting the time, age and language of the people of the time, to awaken them and guide them with the Only One Message of Truth and Love. If this is correctly understood by the people of this world, then alone the people will understand the Unity of all Religions and the unity of brotherhood of mankind on this earth.

It is preached in all religions that age after age, there is chaos, confusion, corruption and crimes created in this world. When people forget their mighty Creator, then God takes human form, descends on this earth, to guide His Creation through the Path of Truth and Love towards Him.

Today, the age is ripe for the advent of the Ancient One on this earth, and we have amongst us and in our presence in this world today, the Same World Messenger,—The Avatar of the Age, in the human form of Meher

Baba—The God-Man. He has again come to awaken us in this world with His Universal Message of Truth and Love.

Millions of His creation through past good 'karma' have the good great fortune to have His darshan and to be in His Presence, and to be graced with peace and happiness.

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai !

Extracts from Four Publications

Ethical Conceptions of the Gatha

by Jatindra Mohon Chatterjee, M.A.,
(Deputy Collector, Bengal)

Combined Cults of Zarathushtra and Ramchandra in (1) Principle and (2) Life.

"Zoroastrianism as a bridge between Hinduism and Islam, and its influence on Buddhism, Judaism and Christianity."

Page 2

"Simplicity however only leads to the Gate of Internationalism. It is Democracy that forms its Life-Blood. The Organisation has not reached its Perfection, until every one member can feel for it the love that every other member feels. There can never be Equality of Devotion, Without Equality of Rights. This Equality of Rights must form the Basis of effective Organisation."

Page 500

"For the Gatha, with its three Principles of (1) The Higher and the Lower Self, (2) The Highest Manifestation of the MAZDA in the Higher Self and (3) Unison with

MAZDA through LOVE. The movement came into Persia as Islam and emerged as Sufism." Page 504

"Come Ye', all together with words of Praise to the LORD of HEAVEN. He is One and Omnipresent and Superior to all. He is the Old One, yet He Pervades all that is New. All the ways, various as they are lead to Him alone." Page 506

"Muhammad brought again, the Wisdom which had become lost after the departure of Zarathushtra." Page 534

"The Jews did not learn the lessons of Monotheism and non-idolatry till during the Exile, they came under the influence of the Zarathushtrians. And in so far as Hazrat Muhammad derived his system from the Jewish Scriptures, the Gatha of Atharvan Zarathushtra may be said to be the ultimate Source of the Koran." Page 541

"As a matter of fact Sufism is based on three great fundamental Truths, and these alone, viz. (1) That there are two selves in a man—A Higher Self and a Lower Self. (2) That the Higher Self is the Highest Manifestation of God (and that therefore Self-Realisation is the Medium of God-Realisation). (3) That God is not an Impersonal Entity but a Personal Being; and (as Divine Personality implies Fellowship with Human Personality—Higher Self), Self-Realisation in the highest sense, is Existence in God through LOVE.

"The Revelation of Atharvan Zarathushtra, on each of this point is unambiguous and unmistakable. Thus He lays down (1) that the Path of Sabas (Sufism) is the Path of the two Selves. (2) That the Higher Self is not anything but God Himself, and (3) that it is in and through the love of a father, a husband, a servant, a lord, or a comrade that the love of God realises itself and unites man to God." Pages 567, 568

"Unity implies a blending of different elements into a harmonious whole, and the greater the antithesis, the higher is the value of the synthesis."
Page 587

"Thus the Gatha of Zarathushtra is as much a Scripture of the Hindus as well as it is of the Parsis. The Gatha of Zarathushtra—and the Prisni of Ramachandra represent the Right Arm and the Left Arm of the Aryan Culture. Both together, they make a complete whole, capacious enough, to include every variety of Faith and Culture and Devotion."

Page 590

Bhagavad Gita

**Translated by Swami Prabhavananda
and Christopher Isherwood**

Shri Krishna says to Arjuna:

You and I, Arjuna
Have lived many Lives,
I remember them all
You do not remember,
I am the Birthless—the Deathless,
Lord of all that breathes,
I seem to be born,—
It is only seeming,—Only My Maya,
I am still Master of My Prakriti
The Power that makes Me.
When Goodness grows weak,
When Evil increases,
I make Myself a body,
In every Age, I come back,
To Deliver the Holy,
To Destroy the sin of the sinner,
To establish Righteousness.

Page 50

*What Am I Doing Here?

by Ivy Oneita Duce

"According to Meher Baba, if we are to achieve the goal of our long Journey, we will have to learn to love divinely, for God Is Love and God Is Divine. He can never be reached or understood through the intellect. So, after innumerable lifetimes, people from those planets must incarnate here to learn the biggest lesson of all—love: love for home, kindred and country, marital love, parental love, love for animals, ... and eventually, love for God." Page 21-22

"Our only free will is to choose to live a life pleasing to God—and that simply means to live honestly, to use such abilities as we have, to cope with our problems bravely, to try to harm no one." Page 29

"There is one Master above and beyond all masters, and He is the World-Messenger, who comes into the world at stated intervals An Avtaric Cycle lasts about 700 or 1400 years, depending upon how fast the message of the World Messenger gets corrupted and turned into a lot of rites and dogmas to which people pay lip service." Page 52

"It is always the same One, who appears from time to time, under different names and in different places, to produce a new springtide, replenishing the sterile ground." Page 53

"If only all knew that the Messenger is always one and the same, revealing His Message, geared to the times, what brotherhood we could have!... Why hasn't it occurred to them, that may be the same Avatar was repeating His Eternal Message of Truth? People and time have created the differences." Page 54

(Continued on page 50)

WORLDLY KNOWLEDGE

Vs.

SELF--KNOWLEDGE

By Dana Field, U.S. A.

"My panacea to the worried world is the effort on its part to get an answer to the questions, 'Whence and whither'."

—Meher Baba

The world's chaos is due to ignorance (Avidya) of God's Divine Plan and the metaphysics of the universe. Therefore Meher Baba says that His panacea is "Spiritual Understanding". People may be well-informed about the world's affairs and yet be spiritually ignorant, for spirituality does not consist of worldly knowledge. Truth and information are different—the one engenders humility while the other leads to pride.

The libraries are full of volumes on every conceivable subject, and yet false values are the standard for our lives. We do not have wisdom. As Meher Baba says, "A man becomes wise by practicing, not by preaching virtue. Ability in advising others about virtue is no proof of saintliness, nor is it a mark of wisdom."

Hence we have the anomaly that an educated man is not necessarily an enlightened or spiritual man. The reason for this is that the mind itself is part and parcel of illusion, which is the nature of all creation—thinking is within illusion and does not yield Truth. Three curtains—the gross, the Subtle and the Mental—interfere between

man and real Truth or Paramatman." When Baba was asked what debt He owes to His teachers and college professors for His exalted status, He replied, "What connection has education with Truth?!"

Knowledge, we say, is power; and **power** is what we really worship. Power gives zest to our lives because it enhances our egoism. But even from the point of view of power, spirituality is much greater. Baba says: "Of all the forces that can best overcome all our difficulties is the **force of Love**, because the greatest Law of God is Love, which holds the key to all problems. This mighty force not only enables one to put the ideal of selfless service into practice, but also transforms one into God."

The only knowledge that is real is that of the Self; and the only power that is truly worth-while is control over one's lower nature and its desires. Baba says, "True knowledge is that knowledge which makes man, after Self-Realization or union with God, assert that his real Self is in everything and everybody." Again, "The existence of almost all persons is under the control of the mind, but scarcely one out of every ten thousand persons controls the mind, and thus masters the very existence itself."

Baba poses the question which is the greatest challenge to man: since the universe is illusion, and "the Self alone is real and absolute," why seek more and mote knowledge of illusion and neglect Reality? It is man's complete failure to face up to this challenge that has brought on all his woes, both natural and of his own making.

The Occident is proud of its ability to put ideas to work, and all its time, thought and energies are taken up with this activity. But this has not brought peace, contentment, wisdom or love, i.e., it has not created true culture.

Ordinary knowledge is communicated through the written or spoken word, but Meher Baba says: "Things that are real are given and received in silence," Or, as the Bible says, "Be still, and know I am God." Conversely, within illusion noise is the rule—Godlessness. We have therefore forgotten God. Although we condemn atheism, we are atheistic ourselves. But God will not be forsaken!

This does not mean that the positive mind cannot be useful to the Masters, for they often work through their disciples. The words of a Perfect Master are not the empty words of men—they contain Divine Knowledge, Power and Bliss. Their words are of spiritual benefit, for they uplift the consciousness and purify our being. The words of a Perfect Master are God's blessing.

Ordinary mind is filled with information in relation to the outer world and with all sorts of thoughts, ideas and impressions. The heart of man is filled with all kinds of desires and ambitions. But all this is an obstruction to Self-Knowledge and Self-Realization. Meher Baba makes it very clear: "Only when the heart is cleaned out and the mind completely emptied, can they become instruments, hollow as the flute or drum, to give forth divine music." This is not the music of the spheres spoken of by Pythagoras but the NAD, the sound of Original Creation. And this music, being Real, is heard in perfect silence... not merely of mouth but of heart and mind. This is the state of desirelessness, when "Thy Will be done, not mine" is our law. It is this **silence** of Meher Baba that will help create the New Culture and New Humanity to come—first within, then outwardly, because the **consciousness** must precede the fact. The Universe of silence will be revealed to man, and he will see God's beauty, truth and goodness in all and everything.

Baba says that before one can claim the "I Am God"

state, he must be able to sincerely admit two things: "I don't know" and "I am nobody, nothing." Jesus said it, "Of myself I can do nothing." This is what Baba calls becoming "dust" before God or the Master.

What does the false ego claim? "I am an educated man; a business man; an important man; a spiritual man... I have wealth, family, friends, power, intelligence, etc. I know. I do. I give. I take." It is always I, me, mine—*my will* be done, not Thine, Lord. Is it any wonder, then, that mankind lives today in a world that is on the brink of destruction? And even if it is preserved, what will it be preserved for?!

In His "Universal Message," therefore, Avatar Meher Baba says:

"I have come not to teach but to Awaken... You have not to renounce anything but your own self. It is as simple as that—though found to be almost impossible. It is possible for you to renounce your limited self by My Grace. I have come to release that Grace."

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—*Editor & Publisher*

AVATAR MEHER BABA AND HIS FORTY-TWO YEARS OF SILENCE*

By A. K. Arjani, East Pakistan

There have always been at all times a limited number of great souls of Spiritual Eminence and Perfection ordained for the management of the universe. These personalities of spiritual eminence are commonly known as "*Wallis*", "*Saints*", etc., while the personalities of spiritual perfection are known as "*Majzoobs*", "*Qutubs*", and "*Perfect Masters*".

According to Meher Baba, there are altogether 55 Perfect Masters in each cycle of time ranging from 700 to 1400 years. In each cycle of time, there are 11 ages of sixty-five to one hundred and twenty-five years, its length depending on material, spiritual and universal circumstances. In the last, the eleventh age of each cycle—as NOW—there is the "*Saheb-e-Zaman*", who is commonly known as Hazrat, Rasool, Avatar, Prophet. In their life time they have not only given GOD REALIZATION to many, but have administered spiritual uplift to mankind. The boon that they have conferred on mankind is indescribable; yet mankind through ignorance has not only flouted the teachings of the Prophets in their life time, but have spared no pains to oppress and even harm them physically. History has many

* From the speech delivered at Dacca, on the occasion of Baba's 42nd Silence Anniversary.

instances of such regrettable behaviour towards the respective Prophets of the past, but Prophets have unflinchingly grappled successfully with all these obstructions in their way and have done the "Duty" assigned to them of removing the darkness of ignorance from mankind and that is why even centuries after their physical departure from this world, they are remembered and revered by one and all.

Meher Baba further adds:—

"When man seems more than ever enslaved by desire, more than ever driven by greed, held by fear, swept by anger, when more than ever, the strong dominate the weak, the rich oppress the poor, and large masses of people are exploited for the benefit of the few in power, when individual man finds no peace or rest and seeks to forget himself in excitement, when immorality increases, crime flourishes, religion is ridiculed, when corruption spreads throughout the social order, class and national hatred are aroused and fostered, when wars break out, and humanity grows desperate, when there seems to be no possibility of stemming the tide of destruction, at this moment, the Avatar appears."

The trend of world events at present fully justifies the advent of an "Avatar". He and He alone can untangle the knots within knots of turmoil and trouble in which humanity at present finds itself ensnared, and He alone can give new dispensation to mankind.

In the present age, Merwan Sheriarji Irani, commonly known as Meher Baba, embodies in Himself the Divine Eminence and Spiritual Perfection. Born in Poona, India, of poor Persian parents, on February 25th, 1894, He received His education at the town of His birth.

One morning, in May 1913, while a student at Deccan College, He was bicycling down Kedari Road, when He

looked up and met the eyes of an old Muslim woman, sitting under a neem tree. He knew who the woman was, Hazrat Babajan, reputed to be a very holy person to the inhabitants of the area, who held her in very great esteem. She beckoned to Him, whereupon He left His bicycle, and went over to her. She arose, and embraced Him, though not a word was said. He remained sitting with her for about fifteen minutes and then left her. That was the first meeting between Meher and Hazrat Babajan.

After that first meeting, He visited her every night. One night, in January 1914, when He made His usual visit, she kissed Him on the forehead. She later declared, "This child of mine will after some years create a great sensation in the world and do immense good to humanity."

Years later, Meher Baba identified Hazrat Babajan and four other holy men—Sai Baba, Upasni Maharaj, Tajuddin Baba and Narayan Maharaj—with whom He subsequently came into contact, as the Perfect or God-Realized ones, whose function was to "unveil" the superconsciousness in Him. Babajan, He said, gave Him God-Realization, the complete merging of His consciousness in the Infinite Ocean of Divine Love, Knowledge and Bliss—enabling Him to realize by His actual experience, the Infinite Existence.

However, it was at the end of December 1921, that Upasni Maharaj, one of the five Perfect Masters mentioned above, returned Meher Baba completely to normal consciousness of the world with full retention of His God-realization, and signified it with a short address, "Merwan, you are the Avatar and I salute you".

"*Avatar*" is a Sanskrit word and it can be equated with other words that apply to what is regarded as a similar and special phenomenon, namely, Messenger, Messiah, Rasool, Prophet, etc., even though these terms

are variously interpreted. But Meher Baba has given His own unique explanation in His book, 'God Speaks', whose theme is Creation and its purpose.

Whatever may have transpired during Meher Baba's relationship with the five individuals mentioned, the fact remains that it was plain to many who came into contact with Meher Baba thereafter, that at the very least, He possessed an unusual understanding of the spiritual life and a deep and rare insight.

As a result, He drew disciples to Himself very readily whom He trained for an arduous life of selfless service through moral discipline, love for God and spiritual understanding. It was some of these early disciples who gave Him the name "Meher Baba" which means "Compassionate Father".

After years of intensive training of His disciples, Meher Baba established a colony near Ahmednagar, India, that is called Meherabad. Here, His work embraced a free school, where spiritual training was stressed, a free hospital and dispensary, and shelters for the poor. No distinction was made between individuals, and all mingled in common fellowship through the inspiration of the Master. At Meherabad, many of His Eastern and Western disciples who were of different backgrounds, received their training under His personal guidance.

Meher Baba has travelled extensively throughout India, giving His 'darshan' or spiritual blessing to hundreds of thousands and contacting many of a special category of advanced spiritual pilgrim whom He has called 'Masts' or God-intoxicated souls.

He has also travelled many times to the Western world and has visited several countries.

(Continued on page 41)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ON MEHER BABA

1. Q. : Who is Meher Baba?

- A.: (i) Suggest to the questioner to read the booklet "Who Is Meher Baba?"*
- (ii) He is the essence of your very being which provokes you to ask this question.
- (iii) He is the Awakener who will awaken humanity from its sleep of ignorance to the knowledge of its true Self.
- (iv) He is the Arouser who will arouse man to the consciousness of his rightful divine heritage.
- (v) He is the Light which will dispel the darkness of our selfishness, and make us aware of our oneness in God.
- (vi) He is the True Friend, who has come to guide mankind to the path of Truth.
- (vii) He is God in human form.
- (viii) He is the Saviour, the Messiah, the Christ, the Rasool, the Avatar, the Buddha.
- (ix) He is the Answer to all questions.
- (x) He is the Avatar, the God-Man.

* Published by Avatar Meher Baba Bombay Centre for the Stall MEHER BABA—THE AWAKENER at the International Tourist Fair in Bombay. The Fair was inaugurated on 30th October, 1967.

2. Q. : Why is He called an Avatar?

- A.: (i) He is not an Avatar, He is the Avatar.
The same One God who manifests on earth at different times, in different forms, under different names is the Avatar. Meher Baba is called the Avatar because He is the Avatar. He cannot be called other than what He is.
- (ii) He is the Avatar, not an Avatar. He is called the Avatar because He is God in the form of a human being, the God-Man. The difference between an ordinary man and God-Man is this: The ordinary man is not yet conscious of his inherent Godhood but fully conscious only of his manhood. The God-Man is fully conscious of His Godhood and Manhood simultaneously. He continuously experiences infinite Knowledge, infinite Power and infinite Bliss. He simultaneously suffers with, and in, each one of His creation. As God-Man, God helps mankind age after age, individually and universally.
- (iii) Avatar is the Manifestation of God in the form of a man. At intervals, God manifests on earth in human form because of His Love for His children. As God is One, the Avatar cannot be more than one. The Avatar is the one and only God-Man on earth. There cannot be two Avatars at any time.
- (iv) When God mingles among men as one of them, He is called the Avatar. All other so-called avatars can only be avatars in name, not in fact.

3. Q.: What makes you believe that He is the Avatar?

A.: One's belief or faith is an inner revelation, a deep conviction, that cannot be communicated to others by words. It has to be a personal experience. We believe that Meher Baba is the Avatar, because in Him we find the affirmation of the existence and attributes of God. There are hundreds of thousands who are fortunate to have experienced this, who believe that Meher Baba is the Avatar.

4. Q.: Why is Meher Baba observing Silence?

A.: For the benefit of mankind.
Meher Baba says, "The voice that is heard deep within the soul is My voice. Through those who are receptive to this voice, I speak eternally. My outward Silence is no spiritual exercise. It has been undertaken and maintained for the good of others. I bind Myself with Silence, that when I break it mankind will realize what real freedom is."

5. Q.: When will He break His Silence?

- A.: (i) Two parties cannot talk simultaneously. One has to talk and the other has to listen. Meher Baba will break His Silence when the world is ready to listen to His Word.
- (ii) Meher Baba says, "People have asked Me when I will break My Silence. I, in turn have asked them, if My Silence does not speak then of what avail would be speeches made by the tongue?"

6. Q.: How does He communicate?

- A.: (i) Through His divine Love which reaches the hearts of all who come in His presence.
- (ii) Through the language of the heart which is Love—pure divine Love.
- (iii) Through the silent language of the heart which is more potent than any spoken word.
- (iv) Through the gestures of His hands, which are more expressive and eloquent than the spoken word,

7. Q.: Will He be able to speak after so many years of Silence? (Doctors say it is not possible.)

- A.: Yes, He will be able to speak, for His Silence is not the silence of man.

8. Q.: Why has He been putting off the breaking of His Silence from time to time?

- A.: Because of infinite compassion.

Although a doctor knows that his patient will take a long time to recover, he comforts him by saying he will get well soon. Every time the doctor sees the patient he assures him that he will soon be feeling quite well and strong, and to help him do so he promises his discharge from hospital in a week then another week and yet another week—until finally the day arrives when the patient is fully recovered and obtains release.

The God-Man is the Divine Doctor or Messiah who has come to heal a very

sick humanity. The breaking of His Silence will release humanity from its ignorance of the purpose of God's Creation.

9. Q.: Why does Meher Baba remain in seclusion most of the time?

A.: Because as the time of His manifestation approaches, His intensified universal work demands His undivided attention, Also to make His lovers impatient to see Him and make them feel His presence all the more when He steps out of seclusion and gives His darshan.

10. Q.: What does He actually do when He is in seclusion?

A.: He attends to His universal Work on the inner planes of consciousness, of which we can have no idea. At such times He wishes to remain absolutely undisturbed by visitors, or correspondence, etc. Also He says, everyone does something but He does nothing.

11. Q.: What is Meher Baba's religion?

A.: He belongs to no religion. Every religion belongs to Him.

He says, "My personal religion is My being the Ancient Infinite One; and the religion I impart to all is Love for God which is the truth of all religions."

12. Q.: What are His teachings?

A.: (i) Remember God and love God, and forget yourself and everything.

- (ii) He does not teach but awakens in one love for God.

13. Q. What are His activities?

- A.: (i) He helps the poor and the afflicted.
- (ii) He gives spiritual discourses to His disciples who live with Him.
 - (iii) He gives darshan to the public when He is not in seclusion.
 - (iv) When He is not in seclusion, He gives interviews to His lovers who come from distant places and different countries to be with Him.
 - (v) When He is not in seclusion, He gives personal attention to the large amount of correspondence that comes to Him from His followers all over the world, and particularly from the hundreds of Meher Centres in India and abroad that spread His Message of Love and Truth.
 - (vi) When He is in seclusion, He does not attend to such matters, wishing to remain undisturbed for reasons of His universal work. Although He continually does His universal work on all levels of the inner planes of consciousness, at specific periods when His universal work is stepped up to a greatly intensified degree, He retires into strict seclusion.
 - (vii) Sometimes when He is in seclusion, He washes the feet of the lepers because He says that He finds them beautiful souls in ugly cages. Because He himself suffers infinitely, those who suffer are dear to Him.

14. Q.: Does He give special Prayers or Meditation?

A.: Yes, He has given two Prayers to mankind:

- (a) The Master's Prayer (O, Parvardigar).
- (b) The Prayer of Repentance.

He does not lay stress on any form of meditation. He stresses remembering Him wholeheartedly and constantly while attending to our daily duties. This, He says, is the best form of meditation.

However, He has given some discourses on meditation, as well as two Charts called "The Divine Theme".

15. Q.: Why doesn't He have an Ashram where anyone can go for His darshan freely?

A.: He says that the whole Earth is the Ashram of the God-Man and that His REAL DARSHAN can only be had within oneself by His Grace. However, when He is not in seclusion, He is available to all who seek His darshan, at the times fixed by Him—mainly when He is residing in Poona during May and June each year.

16. Q.: Why doesn't Meher Baba perform miracles?

A.: Miracles when performed to exhibit occult powers are nothing more than a passing show—a tamasha.

Meher Baba's miracles are performed silently in the hearts of His followers, awakening them to the spiritual values and true purpose of life,

Meher Baba says that God is to be known through love and not through the illusion of miracles. He says, "My first and last miracle will be performed when I break My Silence. It will be the greatest miracle of all times. When I perform that miracle, I won't raise the dead but I will make those who live for the world dead to the world and live in God; I won't give sight to the blind but make people blind to illusion and make them see God the Reality."

17. Q. : Why does He call Himself God?

A.: What else can He call Himself when He is God?

He says there is nothing but God. He not only says He is God, He says that ALL are God in varying degrees of consciousness. We are not conscious of our Godhood, and continue to experience the duality of illusion. He has the full consciousness and continuous experience of Godhood, and the authority to say: "I am God!" He says that He is God in human form, the Avatar, the Ancient One, who has come to redeem the modern world.

18. Q.: How do you know He Is God?

A.: When one has implicit faith in God and His attributes one can feel the presence of God in every little thing. When God Himself manifests as the Avatar, Christ, Rasool, Buddha, it is possible to recognize Him and know Him as God. But

only implicit faith in God and His attributes and the Grace of God can make one know the presence of the Avatar among mankind.

19. Q.: If He is All-knowing and All-powerful, why has He allowed Himself and His disciples to meet with accidents and to have suffering?

A.: Only when the All-knowing and All-powerful shoulders universal suffering can humanity have hope of deliverance from suffering. To meet with accidents and to have physical injuries are but the outward signs of the inner suffering of the Avatar.

Zoroaster allowed himself to be stabbed in the back, Krishna chose to be shot by an arrow, Rama made himself helpless to prevent Sita's abduction and roamed the forests in search of her. Jesus Christ permitted himself to be crucified, Mohammed was stoned by his adversaries, Buddha died of poison. And yet, the Christ—the Buddha—the Avatar, is All-knowing, All-powerful.

Meher Baba is the Compassionate Father of all, and in His Compassion He permits some of His disciples to share in His universal suffering. To the disciples it is a blessing, a divine boon.

20. Q.: When God is in our midst why is there so much suffering in the world? How can we believe in such a God?

A.: Only when suffering reaches its height in the world does God manifest Himself as

Avatar in our midst, to deliver mankind from suffering. The Avatar does His work with infinite compassion whether one believes or does not believe in such a God.

21. Q.: Why is India suffering more than any other country even though the Avatar is born and lives in India?

A.: It is always when suffering is intense on earth that God manifests as the Avatar, the Christ. And it is but natural for the Redeemer to live among those who suffer most.

22. Q.: What has He done so far to help humanity?

A.: There is chaos, confusion, and tremendous destructive potential in the world today. His Presence on earth is the very act of Divine Intervention that checks the world from headlong catastrophe and saves it from total destruction.

**23. Q.: Who are His intimate disciples?
Has any of them realized God?**

A.: Anyone who adheres to the discipline set by Him and carries out His every command without any reservation is His intimate disciple. To live with Him from day to day is more than God-realization for His disciples, who love Him and revere Him as God on earth.

24. Q.: How does Meher Baba maintain Himself and His disciples?

A.: There are many followers of Meher Baba who desire to spend money for His and

His disciples' daily needs; only a few are permitted to do so. Apart from these followers, there are those who wish to express their devotion in the form of simple gifts, and when the manner of expression touches Him, He accepts these also, and distributes them among those who are with Him at the time.

25. Q.: What does He eat—Is He vegetarian or non-vegetarian?

A.: He is neither a vegetarian nor a non-vegetarian. He eats little and is indifferent to such matters. He takes whatever breakfast, lunch and supper is prepared for Him with love. However, His favourite dish is plain dal and rice.

26. Q.: Does He observe fast?

A.: Yes, He has often observed rigorous fasts, for weeks at a time. Once He fasted for six months, taking nothing but a limited amount of coffee each day. But His fasting is not an act of austerity or penance, as that of an ascetic who seeks spiritual gain. For Him there is nothing left to gain. When He fasts it is for the spiritual benefit of mankind.

27. Q.: Is He married?

A.: In this Advent, NO.

28. Q.: Has He ever been in Love?

A.: Yes, He has. And He is still in love.
He has been and eternally is in love with humanity!

29. Q.: What has He to say on marriage?

A.: If a man and a woman love each other and wish to marry then they should marry by all means taking into consideration their family and social responsibilities.

30. Q.: Does He allow inter-caste marriages?

A.: He is unconcerned about this, because for Him there is no distinction of caste or creed. He says that if both individuals love each other and their parents have no objection to the marriage then there is no reason why an inter-caste marriage should be objected to.

30. Q.: What has He to say on family planning?

A.: Restrict the number of children to not more than three if you can afford three, and abide by the laws of the land.

32. Q.: What have you learnt by following Meher Baba?

A.: That we have to completely unlearn all we have learnt in order to begin to know the Truth.

33. Q.: What have you gained by following Meher Baba?

A.: The loss of some of the false self.
Unless one completely loses one's false self one cannot gain one's true Self.

34. Q.: Does one have to receive any initiation from Him to be His follower?

A.: The only 'initiation' is the love for Him that He awakens in one's heart.

35. Q.: Does He give any mantra or teach any sadhana?

A.: To repeat His Name is the only mantra that He gives.

To just remember Him wholeheartedly at all times is the only sadhana He prescribes.

36. Q.: What yoga does Meher Baba teach?

A.: Meher Baba says, "The yoga I teach is: you go from you and come to Me."

37. Q.: What does He want of us?

A.: He wants complete surrender and complete obedience.

38. Q.: How can one get happiness? What has He to say?

A.: He says:

"If man wants the happiness he is striving for, let him be more aggressive towards himself and more tolerant towards others."

"The cause of misery is the selfishness in man."

"Happiness and misery are two facets of Illusion."

39. Q.: What is the Goal of Life according to Meher Baba?

A.: The annihilation of the mind and the realization of the Self.

40. Q.: What is Meher Baba's mission?

A.: He is not a missionary to have a mission.

He is the Ancient One come again among men to help them to know that God alone is real and all else is illusion.

41. Q.: What is God?

A.: What is not God? God is Existence infinite and eternal.

Everything is God.

Though everybody in existence is nothing but God, the difference between Meher Baba and us human beings is that Meher Baba is simultaneously and continuously conscious of both His Godhood and manhood, we are conscious only of our manhood.

41. Q.: Is not this stall in the International Tourist Fair (Bombay) a propaganda for Meher Baba?

A.: On the contrary, His followers are lovingly obliging those who have not yet heard about Meher Baba by spending their own money to give out the proper information about Him and His Work so that the children of the present generation do not blame Meher Baba's followers for not having informed their parents of the Presence of the Avatar on the Earth.

NOTICE:

Most attractive and beautiful Baba lockets are now available as follows. Please write to Sri Jal S. Irani, 765, Dastur Meher Road, Poona (Maharashtra State), India.

	Rs. p.
Rings with stones complete	3 00
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EAST AND WEST

By Delia de Leon, U. K.

In His first Message to the West, Baba said, "I intend to bring together all religions and cults, like beads on a string, and re-vitalize them for individual and collective needs."

In the past, Avatars have given out teachings, destined to take not only in particular countries in the East—the exception being Jesus—for Christianity was destined to spread throughout the Western World. Baba has said that Jesus went with disciples to Venice and sat on the spot where St. Marks was later built. It is probable He made other visits laying cables for His future work.

From these past historical facts, we can see the greatness of Baba's mission in this age, for it is to bring together East and West and give a spiritual push to the whole World.

It is illuminating to trace back that soon after gathering His Eastern disciples, a link with the West was made; for we are told that Mr. C. C. Leek, a European lived at Meherashram for sometime. Then in March 1928, Baba laid His first cable to the West, when He sent Rustom Irani to England. The result of that visit was that Meredith Starr, his wife and sister-in-law went to India. After six months there Meredith was sent back by Baba and he founded a Centre called East Challacombe in North Devonshire.

All those people who were destined to meet Baba when He first came to the West heard of Him directly or indirectly through Meredith Starr. So the time now being ripe and as He said "Drawn by our love"—Baba came to the West in 1931.

It was a tremendous occasion for the Avatar of the age to set foot for the first time on Western soil. This was perhaps the beginning of His World Mission.

In one Message, He said: "The Religion that I shall give teaches the knowledge of the One behind the many."

In another Message in 1932, He makes it clearer: "I shall bring about a happy blending of the head and heart... The West looks at things only from the standpoint of reason and logic and is sceptical about things which baffle the intellect—My work will embrace everything, it will permeate every phase of life—it will be one of My greatest miracles to bring together and blend the realistic West and the idealistic East, the West at the zenith of its intellectual and material attainment, and the East at the height of its spiritual manifestation in the shape of a Perfect Master will meet without shaming or looking down upon each other. I repeat materialism and spirituality must go hand in hand. The balance of head and heart must be maintained (the head for discrimination, the heart for feeling), whereby it is possible to realize Infinite Consciousness in art, science, nature and every phase of life."

We can see Baba working to bring this great synthesis about, for since 1931 the linking process has continued in His many journeys to the West, always gathering more and more disciples—and also in the many visits of His Western disciples to India. The first being in 1933, when a group of Westerners from England and America arrived in Bombay, travelled with Baba up to Kashmir and then

were sent back again to the West. Baba paid many more visits to the West laying more cables and meeting those who were to meet Him—then came another outward symbol of meeting and mixing when Baba called a group of fifteen Westerners to India. They lived for many months at Nasik Retreat and when this was broken up, Baba came to Cannes, with His Eastern women disciples, many of His Mandali and a group of Westerners and also the Mast Mohammad.

This visit had deep repercussions on all material and spiritual levels, for not so long after, World War II broke out and the breaking up of Western power and prestige began.

Since then Baba again brought His Eastern women mandali to the West, this time to the Meher Spiritual Center, Myrtle Beach, and it was in America that the first accident took place and His blood was shed on this soil as He had foretold.

We cannot understand Baba's working or when, as He says, He speaks His own language. But it is clear that America has a great role to play in the future, for He said: "America represents the vanguard and the synthesis of the White races and hence forms the best foundation for the spiritual upheaval I will bring about in the near future."

Then, in 1962 was the first East-West gathering in India of men and women.

We can discern by what is happening in the World to-day a pattern of this promised synthesis. Great changes are taking place on all levels in our lives—the inventions of the age give to all peoples the opportunities to gain a knowledge of each other and each

others problems. Television, broadcasting, flying rockets to the Moon have almost overcome time and space and, however inadequate, we have a United Nations—all these are heralds of the approaching New Order.

However there are great difficulties to face, the temperament of the peoples of the Western World being more materialistic makes them less intense in the search for God and of developing the attitude of mind which enables them to see the One Existence prevailing throughout the Universe. Greed, fear and selfishness in both East and West make for mutual distrust. As Baba says: "Economic adjustment is impossible unless people realize that there can be no efficiently planned co-operative action in economic matters until self interest gives place to self-giving love, otherwise with the best of equipment and efficiency in material spheres, conflict and insufficiency cannot be avoided." Baba also tells us how we can help bring about the New Order. He says:

"Those who would be soldiers in the cause of truth have to help others, not only in launching upon the thrilling enterprise of attaining victory over oneself but also in every step they take towards that attainment. There is no other way of sharing their burden." And again "The task for spiritual workers to help in this dispensation of the Truth to suffering humanity means that you all have not only to prepare others to receive this Truth but to get established in it yourselves. As spiritual workers you have to aim at an inclusive and creative attitude to the individual and social problems of life."

Walt Whitman in his inspiring poem tells us:—

"I have said that the soul is not more than the body and I have said that the body is not more than the soul. I see something of God each hour of the twenty-four and each moment then.

"In the faces of men and women I see God and in my own face in the glass.

"I find letters from God dropped in the street and everyone is signed by God's Name. And I leave them where they are, for I know that where so'er I go others will come for ever and ever ... "

Now Baba is here to help us and nothing can stop the work He has come on earth to do. He gives us in terms of our own times the perfect example of love and of a life perfectly lived—so that we of East and West have a focal point and gauge for our inspiration. In the light of His life we can re-orientate ourselves anew. He is right in our midst to awaken those who are ready to a better understanding of real spiritual values.

As said in Qoran:

"For to God belongeth the East and the West, and which so ever way ye turn there is the Face of God."

Meher Baba, The Ancient One demonstrates this truth again and again in His life, His personality, and His abounding love.

APPEAL TO OUR DEAR SUBSCRIBERS

The Annual Subscription for "Divya Vani" for the current year commencing from July '67 to June '68 is payable in advance. We would, therefore, request all our dear subscribers to kindly send the amount as early as possible, and enable us to serve them more promptly and felicitously in Beloved Baba's Cause.

We specially request our subscribers, who have not yet paid for the previous year also, to send the amounts due, immediately.

— **Editor and Publisher**

'Divya Vani'

MEHER BABA AND THE DIVINE MOTHER

By A. K. HAZRA, M.A., **Jabalpur**

DEVI DURGA is the culmination of a series of concepts by man of the Divine Mother of the universe. The concept of a Divine Mother dates back to the hoary past when the matriarchal society and culture held its sway over several nations and civilizations, notably that of India, Babylon, Crete, Sumer, Egypt, etc. There was hardly a country of religion which could escape the impact of the matriarchal form of worship in toto and in some form or other (whether by deifying Mary, Mother of Jesus as the Roman Catholics do or by deifying St. Catherine or St. Agnes or by deifying great spiritual women as Rabiya as the Sufis do or by raising concepts of female deities such as Venus, Diana, Iris as the Greeks did) the vogue of matriarchal worship has been continuing ever since it began. The instinct was universal and relics of an expired civilization and culture in Germany, Southern and Western Europe, Greece, Italy, America, etc. bear witness to this historical fact of the universality of matriarchal worship. However it is in India that the finest form and concept of this kind of worship has been evolved and maintained till this day. It is the concept and form of the Devi Durga... the Goddess without peer!

Devi Durga is, synchronously, the Goddess of destruction as well as of protection. Indeed, she destroys

so that she may protect! She destroys the 'evil' personified as the Asura or Mahishasura (the demon endowed with the protean attribute of changing forms—in the present instance, he is the buffalo-demon), evil which the Hindus rightly realized, and conceived as a master disguiser, who appears in every other form except its own! It is this hydra-headed and Protean Evil which the Devi destroyed in order to protect the 'Suras' who represent the powers of goodness in the universe. And if the Devil has myriad heads, the Devi has myriad hands holding myriad lances to smite them all! This faith in the conquest of evil, as symbolized by the Hindu concept of Durga, is not mere figment of complacent imagination; it is not a mere wish-fulfilment, it is not even just an optimistic outlook about life and the possibility of human happiness upon this space-ship called the Earth—it is a fact with a divine seal of ratification upon it.

From this factor issues another important point worth our notice. We celebrate Durga Puja annually. We wear our best clothes, move about in the best of spirits, arrange the best entertainments & programmes. But, do we pause for a while and ask ourselves a vital question, 'What are we celebrating in fact?' Are we celebrating the victory that Devi Durga had over Mahishasur so many light-years ago? Or, are we celebrating the victory that Avatar Ram had over Ravana—a more modern counterpart of Asura? In both cases, we are celebrating and rejoicing over past victories and prehistorical triumphs, but is THAT all? You will say, celebrations are always of something that has taken place, something great and glorious and what is there to ponder about it. And yet I feel that this is a mere truism and it conceals the truth that we are in some respect more 'then-minded' than 'now-minded.' If the conquest of evil by the forces of good is a spiritual fact then the best way to celebrate that fact would be fresh conquests of the same type. Rishi Bankim Chandra's revolutionist sanyasis in

the 'Aanand Math' set an example of the true worship of Devi Durga—the fighters for India's freedom set the right example of matriarchal worship when a Khudiram, a Surya Sen, a Subhas Chandra worshipped The Mother in the form of the Motherland and converted the Mrinmayee India into the Chinmayee Bharat-Mata, by force of the only mantra they had and lived, the mantra of 'Sande Mataram'. They did the Durga puja not in the context of the past, not at the cost of the present but for the present and in the present. I could cite many more instances of such real worshippers of Devi Durga but I am not interested in presenting you with a list at present. It is sufficient to remember these men and the fact (which they understood) that the Devi is not outside us but within us, and we partake of Her Universal power and invincibility as children the qualities of their mother and that true worship does not go by the calendar or by the clock merely (as St. Paul truly said: 'Pray out of season.') but 'muhurmuhu' in every moment of our life and in every beat of our pulse!

Today, the Asura has reappeared on the stage of the world with tremendous powers. It has thrown its gauntlet to the power of good, once again. It has many heads—all teeming with scientific ideas about destruction, heads more powerful than ever! It has a thousand hands holding the hydrogen and cobalt bombs, it has glaring eyes sending neutron-rays and it can assume many shapes and disguises, i.e. of 'isms' and 'ideologies.' It is not just that clay image that we buy from the image-maker and install in the Puja pandal, The Asura is the terrible fact of the twentieth century. He is there right in front of you, grinning a deadly grin and threatening to wipe out the name of goodness from the world, nay, the very existence of life from its face. Is it not time, really, to pause and ask—what are we exactly celebrating, today?

Truth is always bitter and yet it does us good.

Better a bitter truth than a sweet falsehood! It is a great truth which Avatar Meher Baba, who is the hope of the modern world, puts before us when He says, "Value is not value unless it is lived." He makes this clear by an analogy: "The energy which is expended in mere thinking, talking or writing is like the steam, which escapes through the whistle of the railway engine. It makes noise and is even interesting. But it cannot drive the engine itself, even to the extent of one inch."

Today, the One who can truly manifest the power of Devi Durga, who can make the 'Mrinmayee image' a 'Chinmayee Devi', who can draw out from within the infinite might of the Goddess in order to subdue and defeat the Asura, must be One who does not behave like the engine that merely spends all its energy in whistling and never moving an inch, in other words in merely talking, thinking and writing about great things. He must be Silent, storing infinite spiritual energy for use at the right time and moment to smite evil and establish the supremacy of the good. In this age of slogans and conferences and lectures when mankind is behaving very much like the ineffectual railway engine, where is the One who would not talk but act, who would once again manifest the Devi Durga in us and by subduing evil in the world set the human-house in order? Where is that Being who has stored infinite divine energy to conquer the Asura for us as did Avatar Rama in the past? Avatar Meher Baba is that Silent storehouse of Infinite Divine power and how fortunate we are that while the whole world is falling at His feet by and by, realizing His Avataric status, He is right amidst us in India, His favourite home from ages! He is observing 'Mouna' for the last 43 years and declares that when He breaks His Silence, He will utter the 'WORD' hearing which the forces of evil will recede and the forces of good will be restored to their rightful position, When He does so, He

will be the twentieth-century Ram who knows the art of arousing Durga, the Divine Mother, in the hearts of humanity and protect the religious and the righteous from the threatening hands of the Asura..... And let us hope that that Day is not distant!

AVATAR MEHER BABA
ANDHRA CENTER KAKINADA

AN APPRECIATION AND APPEAL

We heartily congratulate our esteemed brother Sri Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen, Editor of "Divya Vani" and his enthusiastic collaborators for their splendid work in editing and publishing "Divya Vani". The get up of each issue is really splendid—every page of the same is found to be attractive and replenished with the great spiritual wisdom of our beloved Baba. There is so much encomium paid for its contents from several quarters. It is trying to make a steady progress with the blessings of our beloved Baba. I earnestly request all Andhras to give their full whole-hearted support for its continuance for a long time to come. May this publication be a shining light to all lovers of God in many parts of the world. We earnestly recommend every Baba lover and every Baba Centre to subscribe for this journal with all love and sacrifice.

With the blessings and love of Baba,

18-10-1967

Yours lovingly & brotherly,
Sd, T. Dhanapathi Rao
President
Avatar Meher Baba Andhra
Centre

AVATAR MEHER BABA
AND HIS FORTY-TWO YEARS OF SILENCE

(Continued from page 16)

In spite of all this activity, Meher Baba has consistently maintained, that His work is neither to teach nor to found a new religion, but to awaken the sleeping soul of man to a higher state of consciousness of man's Real Self, which is God.

He is therefore committed to no 'ism' whether of religion or of politics. He has pointed out that while He appreciates all 'isms' for the many good things they seek to achieve, Truth, while equally including them, transcends all of them and leaves no room for separative divisions, which are all equally false. For the unity of life is integral and indivisible, and it will remain unassailable and inviolable, in spite of all conceivable ideological differences.

Meher Baba says:—

"I am not come to establish any cult, society or organization; nor even to establish a new religion. The religion that I shall give teaches the Knowledge of the One behind the many. The book that I shall make people read is the book of the heart that holds the key to the mystery of life. I shall bring about a happy blending of the head and the heart. I shall revitalize all religions and cults, and bring them together like beads on one string.

"Though religion has come into existence to liberate man from all narrowness, it can itself become a cage when not understood properly. All the world religions proclaim the same eternal and universal Truth; yet, human weakness has a tendency to carve out some limiting narrow loyalty which closes its gates upon the shoreless and unbounded ocean of love or divinity. It is not the essentials of religions, but addiction merely to their outer

forms, which has tended to divide man from man, thus thwarting the very purpose of the great founders of the world religions.

"Religion is for man, not man for religion. If religion does not help man to emancipate his soul from the illusory bondage and realize God, it has no useful purpose. It is time then for religion to go and for God to come. The religion that I impart to one and all is love for God, which is the Truth of all religions. Religion like worship, must be from the heart.

"If, instead of performing ceremonies and rituals mechanically as age-old customs, people were to serve their fellow beings with the selflessness of love, taking God to be equally residing in one and all, and that, to be serving others they are serving God, God's work will have been fulfilled.

"If, instead of erecting Churches, Fire-Temples, Mandirs and Mosques, people were to establish the house of God in their hearts for their Beloved God, God's work will have been done.

"There are many religions, temples and many religious practices and prayers which you yourselves may know, and the people following them, but God appears indifferent to those prayers or does not hear them for the reason, that they are not of the heart."

What is so impressive about Baba, as His disciples and followers call Him, is the LOVE, which radiates from Him and permeates through all of His activities. It is through the power of Love, which is utterly selfless, that He awakens in those who come to Him a new, deeper and far more beautiful understanding of life whose purpose He says, is that the individual should realize the Godhood inherent in himself.

Baba says, "Pure love is matchless in majesty; it has no parallel in power, and there is no darkness it cannot dispel. It is the undying flame that has set all life aglow, yet it must be kindled and rekindled in the abysmal darkness of selfish thoughts, selfish words and selfish deeds."

The highest aspect of love which surpasses love itself, is that of complete surrender to the will of the Beloved. This means complete obedience to His wishes regardless of the cost. The Perfect Masters are always immersed in the joy of the union with God and can never be snared in the mayas of the illusory universe. They do not ordinarily pay any attention to the universe, other than to divert the attention of humanity from the shadow to the substance. Therefore, surrenderance to a Perfect Master, or Avatar, is actually surrenderance to God. We must therefore renounce everything to Him to such an extent, that we eventually renounce even renunciation. Baba states, "Love is a gift from God to man, obedience is a gift from Master to man, and surrender is a gift from man to Master. The one who loves, is the lover of the Beloved, one who obeys is the beloved of the Beloved, and one who surrenders all—body, mind and all else—has no existence, other than that of the Beloved, who alone exists for him. Therefore, greater than love is obedience, and greater than obedience is surrender, yet all three can be summed up in one phrase, LOVE DIVINE.

Meher Baba became silent on 10th July 1925, three and a half years after realising Himself, when He was thirty one years old. He then used a pencil and slate or paper for communication; in another eighteen months, on 2nd January 1927, He ceased to write.

At first, He employed gestures, but soon took to the use of an alphabet board in Roman lettering. The board was a ready method of communication, making conversation with Him easy. He pointed to the letters and used

a variety of signs and gestures. Normally, the board would be 'read' by one of the mandali when He received visitors, or addressed groups of people or meetings. This continued for more than twenty-nine years, until on 7th October 1954, He discarded the board. Thereafter, He communicated by means of gestures with which those around Him became familiar. The interpretation of these gestures by some of the mandali is remarkably well done. When statements of great importance have to be made, the alphabet is spoken and Baba indicates the letters to make up the words He wants.

Silence has been practiced throughout the ages. 'Be still and know that I am God', said the Psalmist. 'He who knows does not speak', said Lao-tze. When Buddha was asked to state the duty of a disciple, He took the golden flower and gazed on it in silence; He was silent when questioned about the nature of Reality and Nirvana. For thirty-two years the life of Jesus is shrouded in silence and to what extent He practiced silence during those years is unknown; we do know that afterwards He was often in silence and when questioned by Pilate about the nature of Truth, said nothing.

Just before Baba gave up the use of the alphabet board, in the autumn of 1954, He seems to have spoken more about His Silence than at any other time. He said:—

"God has been everlastingly working in silence, unobserved, unheard, except by those who experience His Infinite Silence. If My Silence cannot speak, of what avail would be speeches made by the tongue?

"The very moment when He thinks My speaking should be heard universally, God, will make Me break My Silence.

"If you were to ask Me, why I do not speak, I would say I am not silent, and that I speak more eloquently through gestures and the alphabet board.

"If you were to ask Me why I do not talk, I would say, mostly for three reasons. Firstly, I feel that through you all I am talking eternally. Secondly, to relieve the boredom of talking incessantly through your forms, I keep silence in My personal physical form. And thirdly, because all talk in itself is idle talk. Lectures, messages, statements, discourses of any kind, spiritual or otherwise, imparted through utterances or writings, are just idle talk when not acted upon or lived up to.

"If you were to ask Me when I will break My Silence, I would say, when I feel like uttering the only real Word that was spoken in the beginningless beginning, as that Word alone is worth uttering. The time for the breaking of My outward silence to utter that Word is very near."

Those who have been in His presence know that Baba communicates through His Silence. What proceeds from Him is beyond words, does not need words, could not be contained in them. The inaudible sound is from heart to heart: silence that penetrates mind and heart. Silence is not only a matter of non-speaking, but silence of the desires, passions, urgings and conflicts of body and mind. In those who practice it, silence brings about calmness and harmony in the body, making it a ready instrument: it is complete self-possession.

In the Universal Message which He gave on one of His Silence Anniversaries, Meher Baba says:

"I have come not to teach but to awaken. Understand therefore that I lay down no precepts.

"Throughout eternity, I have laid down principles and precepts, but mankind has ignored them. Man's

inability to live God's words makes the Avatar's teaching a mockery. Instead of practicing the compassion He taught, man has waged crusades in His name. Instead of living the humility, purity and truth of His words, man has given way to hatred, greed and violence.

"Because man has been deaf to the principles and precepts laid down by God in the past, in this present Avataric form I observe Silence. You have asked for and been given enough words—it is now time to live them. To get nearer to God, you have to get further and further away from "I", "my", "me" and "mine". You have not to renounce any thing but your own self. It is as simple as that, though found to be almost impossible. It is possible for you to renounce your limited self by My Grace. I have come to release that Grace.

"I repeat, I lay down no precepts. When I release the tide of Truth which I have come to give, men's daily lives will be the living precept. The words I have not spoken will come to life in them.

"I veil Myself from man by his own curtain of ignorance, and manifest My glory to a few. My present Avataric form is the last incarnation of this cycle of time, hence My manifestation will be the greatest. When I break My Silence, the impact of My Love will be universal, and all life in creation will know, feel and receive of it. It will help every individual to break himself free from his own bondage in his own way. I am the Divine Beloved who loves you more than you can ever love yourself. The breaking of My Silence will help you to help yourself in knowing your real Self.

"All this world confusion and chaos was inevitable and no one is to blame. What had to happen has happened; and what has to happen will happen. There was and is no way out except through My coming in your

midst. I had to come, and I have come. I am the Ancient One."

Sometime ago, someone asked, "Why does not Meher Baba break His self-imposed Silence and preach in the market-place? Baba answered: "Every great change must be carefully timed. How else would it be with the greatest revolution in the history of the world—the revolution in the mind of man? The time to preach in the market-place will come—only after the world has been humbled and purified by a carnage greater than the world has yet seen."

The present world chaos is the beginning of spiritual manifestation. To illustrate: If a man develops a cataract in his eye, the cataract raises a curtain over his vision and he cannot see properly. The only remedy is to remove the curtain, which means an operation by an eye specialist. But not before the doctor sees that the cataract is ripe enough for the operation, otherwise, he allows it to grow ripe. Similarly, the present chaotic condition of the world is due to materialism, which has developed self-interest and greed in mankind, raising a curtain which obstructs spiritual vision and development. It has grown so bad now as to create chaos all over the world, a clear indication that the cataract is quite ripe and ready for the operation. The operation over, the disease of ignorance, greed and lust will be removed, and the spiritual vision of the world will once again be restored... The Doctor-Master (Specialist) is ready for the operation, awaiting only the ripening of the cataract.

Baba says that the time is soon coming to give mankind a universal spiritual belief which shall serve all races of people and all countries. He further adds: "I shall break My Silence and deliver My Message only when there is chaos and confusion everywhere, for then, I shall be most needed; when the world is rocking in

upheavals earthquakes floods and volcanic eruptions, when both the East and the West are aflame with war. Truly the whole world must suffer, for the whole world must be redeemed. Be assured that I shall not leave My spiritual work undone. There will be a long era of unique peace, a time of world tranquility. Disarmament will then no longer be a matter of mere talk, but an actual fact. Racial and communal strife will cease, sectarian hatred between religious organisations will come to an end. I shall travel throughout the world and the nations will be eager to see Me. My spiritual message will reach every land, every town, every village... Universal Brotherhood, peace among men, sympathy for the poor and downtrodden, love of God—I shall promote these things... MY WORD can only echo the old spiritual Truths, but it is My Mystic Power that will bring a new element into the world's life... Once I publicly announce Myself as a Messiah, nothing will be able to withstand My Power.

"The effective force of this Word in individuals and their reaction to It will be in accordance with the magnitude and receptivity of each individual mind.

"My Word of Words will touch the hearts of all mankind and spontaneously this Divine touch will instil in man the feeling of oneness of all fellow-beings. This feeling will supersede the tendency of separateness and rule over the hearts of all, driving away hatred, jealousy and greed that breed suffering; and happiness will reign.

"Although I take birth for all mankind, fortunate are those who love Me while I am still on earth... It is more important for people to come to know Me at present, than after I manifest as the AVATAR of the Age... Baba showers His benedictions silently on suffering humanity. Blessed are those who have recognised in MEHER BABA, GOD IN HUMAN FORM."

SIT STILL

Maud Kennedy, U.K.

Sit still each day
And think about Baba,
The Father of us all.
When we think of Baba,
Everything else dwindles,
Dwindles into nothingness,
Our busy life is nothing,
He is everything.

The immensity of His Love,
Humility and Power,
The length of His Silence,
The breadth of His understanding,
The depth of His suffering,
The joy of His humour.
Everything else is nothing.
O the quiet Friend,
He is everything.

EXTRACTS FROM FOUR PUBLICATIONS

*(Continued from page 8)****The Everything and the Nothing****By Meher Baba**

"I am God—God the Beyond and God in human form. I know all that happens and will happen. Whatever happens does not happen without My Will. Knowingly I allow things to happen in their natural course." Page 42

"This will be the victory over Maya, when ignorance will be effaced in the Glory of God's Manifestation through Me." Page 65

"Start learning to love God by beginning to love those whom you cannot. You will find that by serving others, you are serving yourself. The more you remember others with kindness and generosity, the less you remember yourself; and when you completely forget yourself, you find Me as the Source of all Love." Page 73

"God has come again and again in various Forms, has spoken again and again in different words and different languages the Same One Truth—but how many are there—that live up to it? **God's Truth cannot be ignored.** Because men do ignore It a tremendous adverse reaction is produced, and the world finds itself in a cauldron of suffering through hate, conflicting ideologies, and war, and nature's rebellion in the form of floods, famines, earthquakes and other disasters. Ultimately, when the tide of suffering is at its flood, God manifests anew in human form to guide mankind to the destruction of its self-created evil, and re-establish it in the Way of Truth."

* By Courtesy of Meher House Publications, Australia.

"My Silence and the imminent breaking of My Silence is to save mankind from the monumental forces of ignorance, and to fulfil the Divine Plan of Universal Unity." Pages 74-75

"I was Rama, I was Krishna, I was this One, I was that One, and now I am Meher Baba. In this form of flesh and blood, I am that same Ancient One, who alone is eternally worshipped and ignored, ever remembered and forgotten.

"I am that Ancient One, whose past is worshipped and remembered, whose present is ignored and forgotten and whose future (Advent) is anticipated with great fervour and longing." Page 77

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SPARKS OF THE TRUTH from Dissertations of MEHER BABA: Version by Dr. Chakradhar D. Deshmukh, M.A., Ph.D. (London), Nagpur. Published by R. P. Pankhraj, Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba Jabalpur Centre, Matru Chhaya, Wright Town, Jabalpur (M. P.).

This is a very valuable book released in commemoration of the 42nd Silence Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba. It contains altogether 20 inspiring dissertations based on Beloved Baba's explanations on the Eternal Truth, delivered by Him from time to time to His disciples at Meherabad during Baba's Great seclusion in July, 1949. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh has rendered them in his unique and lucid language and style, which, we are sure, will help all the readers to understand and assimilate the spiritual Truth. Some of the vital spiritual topics discussed in this book are—The Ocean of Truth; Creeds and the Inner Path; The Work of the Divine Hierarchy; From Suffering to Peace; The Meaning of Life; True Spirituality, etc., and the Spark from any one of them can ignite Divine Love in a soul longing for Truth.

Copies of the above book can be had from Shri R. P. Pankhraj, Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba Jabalpur Centre, Matru Chhaya, Wright Town, P. O. Jabalpur, (M. P.)

(Price : Rs. 3-00 (Including Postage))

MEHER BABA: VIGNETTES (Biography in Pictures): In commemoration of Avatar Meher Baba's 74th Birthday, The Glow Publications, Dehra Dun, (U.P.) has released a very beautiful booklet, which contains complete life-sketch of Beloved Baba with all significant messages of the Master. Each page is adorned with beautiful photographs on excellent art paper, and altogether there are about 25 photographs in the booklet.

It is a very useful and attractive booklet, which every Baba-lover would like to have it. Copies can be had from Naosherwan K. Nalavala, Editor, "GLOW" 36 Lytton Road, Dehra Dun, U. P., India. Price: Rs. 1-30.

News In Brief

CALCUTTA: At Calcutta, three special meetings were arranged during the month of Sep '67. One of the meetings was held in the premises of Punjab Seva Samiti, when Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy gave a very inspiring speech about Beloved Baba. Dr. Hira Lall Chopra and Sri Lala Ram also spoke on the occasion. In another meeting, held in Jail Officers' quarters, Dum Dum, Gora Bazar, Sri P. G. Nandi and Sri K. Bagchi spoke in Bengali and Dr. Moorthy in English. In a special message sent for this meeting, Sri Adi K. Irani states: "The supreme message of Avatar Meher Baba is His Presence on this earth in flesh and blood. During His life time on earth He gears up, by His inner work, the entire machinery of the spiritual world to a pitch of revolutionary activity with its concomitant effect on earth. To subdue the evil in triumph of the good and then to show both as equally important or unimportant, equally necessary or unnecessary for man's experience on his forward march to the realization of the Reality.

"Avatar Meher Baba's next best message to the world is to love Him and obey Him. We may or may not get direct occasions to obey Him; but love Him we can always do. Love Him to the exclusion of everything else without the least neglect of the fulfilment of all duties and responsibilities of life ... "

The third meeting was held in Budhan Shaw St., Gora Bazar, and was addressed by Sri W. D. Kain, Dr. Hira Lall Chopra and Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy. On this occasion,

Smt. Prabha Kain unveiled Baba's photograph and gave a nice, inspiring speech full of devotion for Baba.

AVATAR MEHER BABA NAGPUR CENTRE: In Nagpur Durga Puja Exhibition held at the Bengali High School from 3rd to 12th Oct '67, the Centre arranged a stall well decorated with Baba's pictures, Messages, etc. All the available books, journals and pictures of Beloved Baba were displayed at the stall. Sri B. N. Saoji, Editor of 'The Chavata' brought out two booklets 'The Nava Manache Slok' and 'Avatar Meher Baba' in Marathi for this occasion. There was a record number of visitors to the extent of 3 lakhs to the Exhibition and almost all of them paid a visit to the Baba stall. The entire arrangements were made possible by the sole munificence of Smt. Indutai Naik, a sincere devotee of Baba, and Sri B. N. Saoji, who in spite of the sudden and serious illness of his wife considered it a great privilege to be present at the stall throughout the above period, when a unique opportunity was provided to Baba lovers to spread His Name and Message.

Dr. C. D. Deshmukh undertook Meher Silence Anniversary lecture tours and covered various parts of Vidarbha in Maharashtra giving several talks at schools, colleges, Baba Centres and other public institutions on the Life, and Messages of Avatar Meher Baba. During his talks, Dr. Deshmukh said, "We can never consider that any Teaching, howsoever comprehensive, can ever be a real substitute for the Living Presence of the Incarnation. The world must not only speedily open itself with full receptivity to the priceless Teaching of Avatar Meher Baba and become recipient of His direct dispensation by welcoming the advent and permanently enthroning Him in the heart, during His lifetime. Meher Baba does not give dry words or theories, but new Eternal Life, which it is ours to inherit..." During his tour, he also inaugurated new Meher Baba Centres at Ballarshaha, Pandharkawada, Pusad, Digras and Wardha.

AVATAR MEHER BABA JABALPUR CENTRE: In commemoration of the 42nd Silence Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba, Sri Jogdand arranged a public meeting in the Central Railway Quarters on 7th Oct '67 under the presidentship of Sri Girija Nandan Dube, Principal, Jabalpur Vidyapeeth. In a very inspiring speech, he convinced both the man of intellect and the man of faith that Meher Baba who is Love Personified has come to fulfil the vital need of our times. Sri R. P. Pankhraj and Sri Rajnikant Upadhyaya spoke on Beloved Baba's Avatarhood and the significance of His Silence.

On 27th Oct '67, a special gathering was held in the Centre (Raja Sagar's residence). After bhajans sung by Meera Pankhraj, Kumari Lata Limaye, Sri A. K. Hazra and Sri Pendor, Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, M. P. and Dr. C. D. Deshmukh addressed the gathering. The next day a public meeting was arranged at the City Bengali Club Hall, which was presided over by Sri Girija Nandan Dube. Sri T. K. Ramanujam introduced Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen, Dr. C. D. Deshmukh and Sri A. R. Abdulla, the speakers for the day to the audience. Dr. Deshmukh speaking on 'The Divine Silence of the Avatar' said that His Silence is not negative but positive, not passive but dynamic and active conveying on all planes much more than what can ever be conveyed by volumes of words. Swamiji speaking on Baba's life and His Silence said that Baba even in His apparent silence functions both as the central receiving station as well as the broadcasting and controlling centre of the whole universe. He further added that we should tune ourselves with Baba and be ever ready to receive His Word of words, when He manifests Himself by breaking His unique Silence. Sri A. R. Abdulla also spoke on Baba as God in human form, who has come to rescue the world from utter destruction. On this occasion, Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen released the book "Sparks of the Truth from Dissertations of Meher Baba",

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

On 29th evening, Swamiji addressed Baba lovers gathered at the Centre and explained how one should love Beloved Baba by doing His work of spreading His Name and Message. The next day, at a special function arranged at the residence of Sri Jogdand, Dr. Deshmukh gave a talk in Marathi and said that constant thinking of Baba with love is the highest 'Tapasya' since Meher Baba is the Avatar—the Ancient One, whose Grace is ever flowing equally on all.

AVATAR MEHER BABA GUNTUR CENTRE: Besides the usual Weekly gatherings on every Sunday morning, special public meetings are being conducted from 1st Oct '67 on Sunday evenings and also on other occasions at different places with a view to spread the Message of Truth and Love of Beloved Baba not only in Guntur Town, but also in the neighbouring towns and villages.

AVATAR MEHER BABA CHALLAPALLI CENTRE: The Poornima Sammelan of the Centre was arranged on 17th Oct '67 at the residence of Sri T. Balarama Krishnayya on a grand scale, in which more than 100 persons participated. On 19th, a special programme was also held at the residence of Sri U. Anjaneyulu.

AVATAR MEHER BABA CHITTOOR CENTRE: On the occasion of the 'Deepavali' festival, a special meeting was arranged at the Centre. Sri Vasili Venkata Lakshmi Narsimha Rao, M.A., Head of the Telugu Dept., Government College spoke on 'The elimination of ego', with apt quotations from scriptures and various other books relating to different schools of thought. During his interesting talk, he also referred to Baba's discourses on the above subject.

(Continued from 2nd cover page)

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