

**DIVYA VANI**  
**Volume 1 Number 2**  
**10<sup>th</sup> March 1964**

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the "Meher Vihar Trust"

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Bi-Monthly: 2nd Issue

10th March 1964

BABA'S BIRTHDAY SPECIAL

# DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)



"Love others, make others happy, serve others even  
at discomfort to yourself: this is to Love Me."

—*Meher Baba.*

*Editorial Office at:*

**"MEHER VIHAR"**

Volume 1 }  
Number 2 }

3-6-417 Post Office Street,  
Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-29  
A. P. India

{ Price:  
{ Rs. 1-50



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**2nd Issue:**

**10th March '64**

# **D I V Y A V A N I**

(DIVINE VOICE)

AN ENGLISH BI-MONTHLY

Devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His Work

**Editor:**

**SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN**



*Editorial Office at :*

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## CONTENTS

Beloved Baba's 70th Birthday Message	...	1
No Darshan of Baba This Year	...	2
Editorial	...	3
Cradle Song		
By Francis Brabazon	...	7
Seventieth Birthday of Avatar Meher Baba		
By Adi K. Irani	...	9
The Love Song		
By Irwin (Luck)	...	12
All Women's Day at Meherazad		
By a Baba-Lover	...	18
News From Meherazad		
(From one of the Mandali)	...	30
What does Meher Baba mean by "Love me... hold on to my Daaman"		
By A.C.S. Chari	...	38
A Prayer		
By Debavrata	...	46
Baba and His Mystery		
By Kavi Yogi Maharshi Shuddhananda Bharati	...	47
God and Man		
By Dr. Sankara Sree Rama Rao	...	52
The 70th Birthday of Avatar Meher Baba		
By Justice Himansu Kumar Bose	...	53

'God Speaks' From Seclusion		
By A. K. Hazra	...	57
An Account of the Visit to Avatar Meher Baba at Guruprasad - Poona		
By Dr. H. P. Bharucha	...	58
My Recent Meeting With Meher Baba		
By Dr. Subodh Chandra Roy	...	66
<b>News and Notes:</b>		
Beloved Baba's 70th Birthday Celebrations:		
(i) Ahmednagar	...	71
(ii) Delhi	...	74
(iii) Bombay	...	80
(iv) Poona	...	82
(v) Calcutta and Santragachi	...	82
(vi) Koni	...	83
(vii) Chattarpur	...	83
(viii) Andhra	...	84
(ix) Pakistan	...	92
Sardar Saigal and Dr. Moorty Tour in Madhyapradesh	...	93

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## BELOVED BABA'S 70th BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

Beloved Baba is pleased to give the following Message for His 70th Birthday on 25th February 1964:

The aim of life is to love God.

The goal of life is to become one with God.

The surest and quickest way to achieve this goal is to hold on to my daaman by loving me more and more.

I have suffered much and will have to suffer much more till I break my Silence.

I give my Love to my lovers.

- Meher Baba

### *SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR 70th BIRTHDAY PUBLICATION*

*Throughout the ages men have been deeply involved in the struggle for peace and happiness. It is this struggle that lands them into chaos and misery. If men were only to become conscious of the fact that peace and happiness are not to be fought for but to be sought for within oneself, they would abandon their fighting and be at peace with themselves and the world.*

*I have come not to teach, but to awaken - to awaken men to that peace and happiness which cannot be obtained through struggle; neither can it be bargained about, nor borrowed, nor bestowed, for it is inherent in all.*

-MEHER BABA

## No Darshan Of Baba This Year

**Life Circular No. 59**

**Issued on 1-3-64**

Avatar Meher Baba directs me to send. out to all His lovers the following message from Him:

"I will be in Poona from 1st April to the end of June, 1964. For reasons of my own, I will NOT give darshan to anyone this year. I will be going to Poona for relaxation and I want to be left completely undisturbed. Therefore, no one should visit Poona this summer with a view to seeing me.

"No one should approach me or seek permission to approach me. Neither should anyone write to me or cable or telegraph me during my Poona stay and for the rest of the year; but in case of emergency a cable or telegram is permitted.

"A number of you who have been looking forward keenly to seeing me in Poona this year may be upset at not being allowed to see me; but I have previously told you that you should hold fast to my daaman under all circumstances—and not seeing me is one of the circumstances.

"This year will be the climax of my suffering; but 1965 will be a glorious year for me and for my lovers."

- Meher Baba

Avatar Meher Baba wishes His lovers to pass on the information contained in this Circular to all concerned; so as to help Him remain completely undisturbed during this year.

Adi K. Irani

Editorial:

## Beloved Baba Is 70 Years Young

We deem it our special fortune to have been able to publish this issue as "Baba's Birthday Special" on the happy occasion of the world-wide celebrations of the 70th Birthday of our Beloved Baba. It is too presumptuous to say anything in terms of time and space about the Ancient One. But perhaps, it may be consistent with our human conception of the Avatar of the Age, to say that He is 70 years young, for 70 summers have passed since Baba, appeared in this human form as we the common mortals could perceive Him. Baba has defined Himself as the One beyond all forms and as One beyond all human conception. Out of His unlimited Compassion, the Highest of the High has chosen to bestow on us, a ray of the joy of His Divine Personality and a glimpse of His infinite Love by taking this human form. He thus provided us with a chance to lift ourselves to higher levels of consciousness by His blessings and with opportunities of His darshan, sparshan and sahasas and thus finally lead us to the beatitude of eternal peace and happiness. Granting us this special fortune, Beloved Baba always reminds us that we have to be alert and strive to hold fast to His daaman, while He is amongst us in this human form, as the Avatar of the Age, lest we may lose the opportunity for life. He has been pleased to give us not only the easiest and the simplest way but also the surest and the quickest one to achieve the goal. He has granted us many an opportunity to serve Him and work for His Cause and also blessed us with the unique experience of His Divine

Presence, so that we may purify ourselves in thought, word and deed.

On this happy occasion of His 70th Birthday, Beloved Baba has been pleased to give us an all comprehensive message, 'leaving nothing for us to ask of Him but His Grace in loving Him more and more'. He has shown us the way as to how our lives should be embodied with the real 'Power of Love' rather than, the 'love of power' so as to achieve His Grace.

We are now happy to note that all Baba-Centres all over the world are ablaze with Baba's Love and are celebrating His 70th Birthday with utmost mirth and joy, for he has granted us the liberty this year, unlike last-year. News has been received from all over India and Pakistan about the gorgeous functions conducted by the Baba-lovers at various places, thus creating opportunities to the people to hear and know about Beloved Baba and His Blissful Messages of Love and Truth. We do hope and we are sure that our beloved brothers and sisters abroad, also must have celebrated Baba's Birthday in a befitting way. At this juncture, we take liberty to make an appeal to our Western brothers and sisters to favour us with the privilege of having the happy news of their activities in Baba's Work abroad, absolutely with a spirit of mutual fraternity and loving appreciation. In this connection, we offer our heartiest congratulations to those concerned, who are reported to have been taking active part to hold a stall in the ensuing World Fair at New York, for the display and distribution of Baba's Literature and photos and thus help the dissemination of Beloved Baba's Message to the present-day world, beset with conflagration and unrest, in spite of its scientific and material achievements.

We note that this enthusiasm of all Baba-lovers has been marked with a feeling of sudden depression,

since news has been received from Ahmednagar that Beloved Baba would not be granting us 'Darshan' this year in Poona, as was expected, during His summer stay there and that He wishes to remain undisturbed throughout the year 1964.

At this stage, we, as His lovers with some understanding of His technique and His ways of work in seclusion, shall have to feel and share His suffering by keeping up to our promises to devote ourselves heart and soul to His work in spreading His Name and Message. It may not be out of place to remind ourselves here, about Baba's words that He is the pivot of the Universe and that the full pressure of the universal upheaval will have to be borne by Him and that therefore His suffering would be so finitely overwhelming that the **Word** of words will escape from out of His Silence. We were also warned that we should not let any circumstances or situations shake our grip of His daaman and that He shall not come out of His seclusion till He breaks His Silence. We were told many a time vividly that the measure of love for Him will be tested, not by Him, but by the phase of humiliation itself. Baba said that blessed will be those amongst us who will hang on to His daaman to the last, emerging triumphantly in the Divine Glory of His Love. Baba also said, "The breaking of My silence will reveal to man the universal Oneness of God, which will bring about the universal brotherhood of man."

We feel that the moment of this universal crisis of which Baba has been telling us all the while, is fast approaching and the trend of events in the present day world seem to support the same. Beloved Baba's message for His 70th Birthday states that He will have to suffer much more till He breaks His Silence and His decision in not granting us the privilege of His darshan this year really explains itself and makes it more clear than ever that the gravity of the

situation is precipitating the crisis. Hence, naturally it goes with out saying that Baba-lovers, who are earnest in this matter shall have no alternative but to merge themselves in His Work, heart and soul, day and night and prove themselves worthy of His Love and Grace to be bestowed on them.

On this happy occasion, Beloved Baba has once again blessed us specially with His Love and thus heartens us to tighten our girdles at work and completely merge ourselves in His Divine Service forthwith. In fact, when we do His Work, not only His darshan but even His Divine Presence is ever assured to us, as His Lovers at work. We, therefore, take this opportunity to once again humbly submit to all our brothers and sisters, to be alert at this juncture and strive to keep on the flame of Baba's Love aglow and spread Baba's Name and His message like wild-fire to every nook and corner of the world, so as to help ourselves and help all humanity to save itself from complete annihilation and avoid the catastrophe by catching firmly His daaman. May Beloved Baba be with us and guide our destiny helping us to hold fast to His daaman, more firmly than ever and unto the last. Jai Baba!

## **Cradle Song \***

*By Francis Brabazon*

The great sun that makes all things grow so green;  
Whose lovely light in the flowers is seen,  
Has gone to his rest; it is time for you to  
Sleep, little one, while Meher watches o'er you.

Sleep, little one, in the quiet of love,  
Sleep, sweet one; fanned by the wings of a dove;  
Meher Baba, Bliss, Knowledge and Power  
Holds and enfolds you till the waking hour.

All things are asleep and now falls the dew  
Bathing the earth, making diamonds for you  
Which in the morning will hang on the grass:  
So sleep, little one, for the night will soon pass.

Sleep, little one, in the quiet .....

Tomorrow again the dear sun will rise,  
Lighting the world, giving light to our eyes;  
Sleep, till then, sweet one in Meher's care,  
Growing, in His love, for Him strong and fair.

Sleep, little one, in the quiet .....

---

*\* By kind courtesy of the author, from "Let us the People Sing"*

# DIVYA VANI

(An English Bi-Monthly)

## A Request To Our Subscribers Abroad

We hope, that our subscribers abroad have noted our announcement converting the Quarterly into a Bi-monthly from 10th of January, 1964 and that the annual subscription has been consequently enhanced.

It is, therefore, requested that our subscribers abroad may do please note the following:

(1) **Annual Subscription:**

For those living in U.S. A. — \$ 4-00 (inclusive of  
Postal charges by sea only.)

" " in England and Australia — £ 1-10 do do.

*N.B:*—If copies are to be sent by Air Mail, the Annual subscriptions will be *double the amounts* mentioned above.

(2) Those who have already paid their annual subscriptions for the year for the Quarterly "Divya Vani" will have to pay an extra amount of \$ 2.75 or £ 1.00 only, as per the aforesaid rates for the Bi-monthly, thus making up the total of \$ 4-00 or £ 1-10 as the case may be and complete their new year's subscriptions for the year 1964.

(3) The amounts may kindly be remitted to us early through: Mr. Fred Winterfeldt, 200 East, 66th Street, New York-21, N.Y. U.S.A., or Mr. Bill Lepage, Meher House, Kalianna Crescent, Beacon Hill, (N.S.W.) Australia, or Mr. Douglas H. Eve, 78, Grosvenor Ave., Crshalton, Surrey, England (U.K.) from the respective Countries.

It is our earnest request, that our revered brothers and sisters abroad, will kindly extend their loving co-operation to our new venture by remitting their annual subscription early as per information given above and oblige.

Himayatnagar, **Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen**  
HYDERABAD-29 *Editor: DIVYA VANI*  
(A. P., India)



# Seventieth Birthday of Avatar Meher Baba

**25th February, 1964**

*By Adi K. Irani*

Time is long but life is short. Mind is fast but heart is slow. Anger is high and patience low. Action is strong but morals weak. There is an abundance of thinking but a sad lack of thoughtfulness. What we mostly do is for the immediate gain; what we mostly feel is eventually for self and what we invariably see is on the surface. We are hardly able to either rise above our nature or go deep into it. As a result, all our experiences in thought, feeling and action become either one sided or superficial.

This is what we call our natural life. Whatever we think, feel and do, we take it as best for us and also for others because we consider it as truth.

This so-called natural life is formed into a habitual living. Such a trend of living has come to us from our distant past and it is very difficult to get over it in the present or near future. Perhaps the distant future of many a re-incarnating life would not be enough for us to get over it. We may put in all our effort, we may put in all our strength and for a time find ourselves induced into a state of abandonment of our nature but the reaction soon sets in and we are thrown back into the vortex of the same old living. The release can only come from the Perfect Master or the Avatar.

Today is the birthday of our Beloved Avatar Meher Baba. He is the personification of God. He is the one for whom the protagonists of most of the existing religions are waiting to come. He has come but they know not He is the One who was expected. They know not He is the Ancient

One. They know not He is the living Avatar of the Age. It is perhaps because He comes in a different body and with a different name. Change of name and of body makes no change in His being the Ancient One.

Beloved Baba is pleased to give this Message on His 70th Birthday, today:

"The aim of life is to love God.

The goal of life is to become one with God.

The surest and quickest way to achieve this goal is to hold on to my daaman by loving me more and more.

I have suffered much and will have to suffer much more till I break my Silence.

I give my Love to my lovers."

Throughout the 40 years of His Avataric work, Baba has been unrestrainedly declaring that Love is the only resource and the last recourse of man for a non-recurring release from the limitation of his own nature which is the root cause of all unhappiness and suffering in the world. The victory that one seeks to gain over the lives and properties of others is to be gained over one's self. This does not amount to the giving up of anything physically and materially. It is the attitude of mind and its application towards everyone and everything that needs to be transformed. It is the dedication of all that we have —good and bad—at the altar of the feet of the Beloved.

To him who is a businessman or a hawker, a clerk or a Governor, a researcher or a student, a king or a beggar—and to all others the alchemy of love can keep him untouched by extreme selfishness and self gain over the normal needs and necessities of others. In all our acts and behaviour the feeling of love, sympathy and consideration of others should be our main incentive.

Love is not very difficult to be understood. It is so deeply ingrained in us that we hardly try to become conscious of it. Love for our mother, child, wife or friend is as easy to feel as the very breath of our life. But there is many a slip between the cup of love and the lip of the lover. All sorts of self distinctions of birth, position, riches, talent and religion obstruct the free flow of love from man to man.

It is difficult for the isolators to grasp the language of the heart Meher Baba speaks. It is more difficult for those unassociated with Baba to understand the height of Baba's spiritual status from where Baba's utterances flow. Therefore His utterances go over their heads or are considered as of little consequence.

There was a surgeon. He was an expert in surgery. He worked very hard for his patients. He worked with a fervour and feeling that silenced many a vociferous and enquiring man and woman going to him as a patient or friend or a relative interested in a patient. The surgeon was known for his less talk and more work. Those who knew him well made him talk less, had faith in him and relied on his work. Those who were new comers pestered him with questions and he gave unwilling answers because he knew what he was doing. Moreover the technical answers he knew if given would go over their heads.

The Silence of Avatar Meher Baba has been an integral part of His life for the benefit of humanity. It is based on the Truth with which He is one. His pronouncements from time to time proceed from the Truth. Time, space and events live in what human mind conceives in ignorance. They have no independent existence compared with the Reality and have no significance except the enormous suffering Avatar Meher Baba bears upon Himself to relieve humanity from their bondage. May His Will prevail.

# The Love Song

*By Irwin (Luck)*

To my dear Ocean of Love,  
My Beloved Ancient One, eternally young in love –  
To my dear Avatar of a million lives of  
tears and sorrows; for lost souls sake –  
Oh dear magic charmer of hearts; only You  
Can create remembrance of the glory of  
love long forgotten.  
You are the whimsical pearl that fulfills destiny –  
Blessed destroyer of remembrance;  
Only your touch can free consciousness  
allowing it to bathe in the smile of adorable Love –  
The joy of being ever, ever infatuated;  
You are the divine adolescent in love with creation,  
adventure of adventures, romance of romances –  
Oh Beautiful God, Baba; Self of myself.  
For whom the game of Romance is just a whim,  
a momentary thrill;  
To break the wonderful monotony of continuous Bliss,  
That the eternal Power should in a flash of whimsy  
humor itself with a dream of weakness –  
Beautiful Lord,  
who having no reason to Be just Is;  
and just is the Love that all souls Love –  
Once I tried looking in me to find You  
so that I could look in You to find what was once me;  
And looking here and there I thought  
wouldn't it be nice if I didn't have to look at all;  
But could just relax into a good conscious sleep and  
come back when the mood strikes, to enjoy some

sleep-walking in the dream worlds of materiality —  
Up in some heaven  
    there is probably some place  
    where some angels are being told today  
    that somewhere  
        there is a greater heaven of toils and troubles  
Where God lives and suffers and  
Where all good angels should go for salvation from  
    the damnation of ages of angelhood.  
But in so doing they will meet in the world of toils  
    and troubles many hell-raisers who have come  
    from the other side for salvation too —  
All come and keep coming to answer the call.  
You are our rare pearl, but to me you are  
    my very own Jewel, who came from seven planes High,  
To a shadow world, seven planes Low,  
Just to say I love you —  
How marvelous that my Beloved loves me so much,  
You do look different from what I thought  
    you would look like.  
How You must have suffered making the journey  
    through the shadow worlds.  
It has altered your appearance,  
But I would recognize you anywhere;  
Your Love is the same, it hasn't changed a bit.  
It is no secret that I love you,  
But we must drop all appearances;  
Either you must find a way to me or I must find  
    a way to you.  
Separation is all right for those who can tolerate it,  
But not being endowed with such strength or  
    weakness, as it may be,  
And being a jealous lover, who must steal away the Ocean  
    with all its sweet nothings while a million come courting,

I take a brave stand, at the gate of your form,  
wearing my rags of ignorance to tell you  
all sorts of stories to make your bright eyes shine;  
That we might at last embrace and become One  
So that our love shall never ebb or flow but always be.  
You are my soul's delight,  
My own brightest light,  
Where can you find another who complains  
so bitterly over our separation?  
Happiness is a secret that escapes me.  
I have searched my heart and know that  
separation is unhappiness.  
What is the use to convince myself I am happy  
when we are separate?  
With love you have permitted me to obey you  
and so draw closer to Yourself.  
In truth I see my disobedience and my helplessness to it  
and fear to rely on this to capture your love.  
I am just a little drop,  
And you are a mighty infinite Ocean.  
My duty towards my family, the nation, the world  
and all other drops is to swallow the Ocean of Love  
before it swallows me.  
That's the Love game.  
If it should be that you swallow me first  
What victory can you claim?  
It is expected that the Big Enormous Ocean can  
swallow little helpless drops.  
But consider!  
What victory will you have won if you do not swallow me,  
Will not those who worship you, hearing of this  
harbor secret despair in their heart of hearts and wonder;  
Is the illimitable Ocean so filled with itself that  
it did not have room for even one more little drop.

If it be that I should fail to swallow the Ocean I love,  
no one will miss me.  
Perhaps souls may say in their heart of hearts;  
too bad, so sad, he tried but couldn't drop his dropness  
And they will turn away and forget the whole mad episode  
Because no one really expects drop-me to  
swallow Ocean—You anyhow.  
If it should be that I do swallow you  
what a victory I shall have won;  
A little drop that swallowed an entire Ocean.  
Feat of feats.  
Where Real Love is concerned what do we care  
about games, and all that nonsense, and  
about who says what.  
That we should be together is all that matters.  
Only time counts.  
It takes time to suffer,  
How much suffering is needed to end suffering?  
How much time is needed to end time?  
For me beset with limitation,  
it is back-breaking to make the journey to you.  
I go at a snail's pace.  
But you have the wings of an eagle  
faster than the seconds of time  
So come quickly my Love.  
My suffering makes you suffer.  
Do not let me make you suffer, I cannot bear it.  
Come quickly my Love,  
Lest I back break my way to you.  
I am weak—now and tire easily  
and you are still not in sight.  
You are worth every ache and pain  
But my feet won't move anymore  
and my love is still much too close to see.  
Why must you make me wait?

Is coming when I least expect it so important?  
Perhaps patience would be a comfort to me,  
    a blessed virtue;  
But I have heard you are fairer than the Virtues;  
    and beyond them all.  
So what do I want with them?  
Virtue may make the bad good and the good gooder  
    but I want none of it.  
I love only you and want nothing to do with  
    anything but you.  
What kind of love is it that my Beloved has for me  
    that must wait on whims and pleasures  
    when I am dying of separation?  
You have said your Love for me is beyond imagination;  
Why is it not strong enough to make you come flying to me  
    when I do not even have the strength to roll my eyes  
    in your direction?  
Are you afraid that I shall burn up or explode  
    if I saw your loveliness?  
Is it the seven veils of nothing that keep you from coming?  
If so, have no fear; it is the pleasure of my love for you  
    that calls.  
Dying would be no sacrifice at all.  
Besides you chide me, is not your sweet nectar of love  
    delicious enough to make me forget all else?  
What care have I if I disintegrate into dust;  
    or explode over the stars.  
I shall never know it.  
Come, dear Love, come;  
Find no more excuses to absent yourself.  
Pretend no more that I am here calling.



**Baba's cabled reply:—**

*"Your love song made me very happy.*

*The love poured from your drop heart*

*has touched the Ocean.*

—Meher Baba"

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**BABA SHUNS PUBLICITY**

"Not only has Avatar Meher Baba resorted to *mauna* (Silence) for the last 36 years but He has been otherwise also hiding Himself. He often goes into seclusion. May be He sits in a cave for a year or so, or shuts Himself in a cabin on a mountain top. It is rarely that He is available for Darshan even to those who are ardently thirsting for it. Not out of vanity but sheer joy of Divine Game (Hide and seek) He does it. Why He does it is better understood through experience and contact with Him. Those who have been to Him are thirsting for nothing else except Him. His Love is contagious. Having been to Him there is no return. But to find one's way to Him is not in the fate of all. Those who are destined, do get it, no power on earth can stop them from going to Him. He appears in dreams to People long before they have heard of Him. He does draw with His love not one, not two but thousands, who happen to come across Him. Those who doubt, let them try. Let the sceptic dare go to Him and return without being won over by Him. Although Baba shuns publicity, those who seek Him do find Him."

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# *All Women's Day at Meherazad*

**23rd December, 1963**

*[By a Baba-Lover]*

Thru' a chink In His rigorous seclusion, we got the happy tidings that an 'All women's day' was to be held at Meherazad, to celebrate the birthday of Mehera—The Woman of all women—on the 23rd of December. The unexpected news sent a thrill through all concerned over here, but the tidings were accompanied by half a dozen 'don'ts' as is quite usual with Baba. We were instructed not to bring our children, or any gift for Mehera etc. As per Baba's orders we were to leave Adi's office at 9.00 a.m. by bus for Meherazad, meet Mehera between 10.00 and 12.00, and then be with Baba from 12.00 to 5.00 p.m.

Nagar railway and bus station staff were quite flabbergasted seeing such large crowds of women coming on the 22nd evening, Adi and the local Baba centre volunteers were on their toes receiving the guests. I am told that the strain of all arrangements at Meherazad was borne by Pendu, Naja and others and at Ahmednagar by the members of Avatar Meher Baba Ahmednagar Centre especially Chagan, Vaman and Rangole. Ahmednagar has no deluxe hotels to lodge such a large number (250) of women, with the result that every available place was filled to twice its normal capacity. The Parsee fire-temple at Nagar, lodged the major number of Parsee lovers. The head priest in the temple was at his wits' end trying to reply to the cheerful crackling crowd. They pulled his leg much too often and he seemed to enjoy it! His generosity welled over and he gave them a sumptuous dinner so that they may rest quietly at

night, but they did not stop their chattering and jabbering till a little after 11.00 p.m.

The head priest was virtually pulled out of his bed at 3.15 a.m. on that cold morning of the 23rd, and before he knew what was happening, there were a dozen women shouting all together that they wanted warm water for their baths. The dazed priest with his clogged brain could not take in the situation and went round to the Kitchen for a cup of tea, but the women buzzed about him like bees and he ultimately gave in and began lighting the boiler. All servants were up and then there was a mad rush for the bathrooms. All were to get ready by 7.00 a.m. instead of 9.00 as Baba wanted everyone early. There were the usual squabbles amongst the women— she takes a long time for her bath and she needs a lot of hot water, and and and! The head priest had got a piping hot breakfast ready by 6.00 a.m. Everyone was ready long before the buses arrived.

The hooting of the buses sent cheers thru' the crowd as each one scrambled into them. Our luggage was loaded on the top of the bus and soon we reached Adi's office. One bus load of women from another hotel had already reached his office. After a few exchanges of hello's, the other bus left for Meherazad. We left soon after them though jealous that they would get a few minutes more with the Beloved. A glorious sun rose on the horizon and its beams playing on the dew covered fields reminded one of the Son of our heavenly Father at Meherazad, playing His divine game in the arena of this world. The cool morning breeze smacked into our faces as our bus sped along the dusty road. We got a glimpse of the big lake—the water supply of Ahmednagar town—near Meherazad and knew that within a few minutes we would be on the private road to Meherazad. Each one of us was craning her neck to have the first glimpse of Baba's bungalow hidden away amongst a cloister

of trees. We spotted the other bus waiting at the gate as Baba had ordered that all should come in together!

Dr. Goher instructed us that Baba and Mehera were seated on the verandah of His bungalow and that we should meet Baba first and then Mehera. We queued up like good children and walked into the 'Garden of Allah' from the gate. Mani, who was in charge of the mike began making announcements—Baba wants you all to forget your worries and meet Him in any way you like for not more than two minutes. He wants you all to be absolutely happy today. We could hardly hear Mani as we were too engrossed looking at Baba. He was seated on a raised chair in His usual pink coat but our faces fell when we saw that His coat hung loosely over His body. His abdomen was no longer prominent and His cheek bones stood out. He looked knocked out with the strain of His universal burden. Mehera was seated on a chair to His right, dressed in a green Kashmiri silk saree with a red border and splashed all over with small flowers, and an orange blouse. She wore a thick golden bangle in-between red bangles. For the first time, I saw red bangles on her delicate wrists. She was looking beautiful and happy. Baba embraced each one and then peculiarly holding each one's skirt or saree or hand passed her on to Mehera. One had to bend low in order to embrace Mehera because of her low seat.

I was at the back of the long queue and a glance at those in front of me made me feel a bit embarrassed as each one was carrying a gift for Mehera. On second thought I remembered that Baba had asked us not to bring any presents for Mehera. I consoled myself with Baba's words ringing in my ears that 'obedience is greater than love'. Although our weaknesses are great, Baba's love is greater. My turn to embrace Baba was soon drawing near. My heart thumped and everything seemed to have vanished for

me but Baba. I was in front of Him. His loving smile and His outstretched arms are the last things I remember. When I got back my thinking power, I found He was hugging and kissing me. A big kiss implanted on one cheek and then on the other, another on my shoulder and so on. The two minutes allotted to each of us seemed to have finished in a few seconds. I straightened up, and He, holding my hand, passed it to Mehera –The Beloved of the Beloved. I embraced Mehera but in a very clumsy manner because of her low seat. She realized the situation and straightened her back and kissed me. As per the instructions given to us on the mike, after embracing Mehera I walked into Baba's sitting room, then His bedroom and then stepped out into the garden once again. Any account of what happens when one embraces Baba is impossible. What each one receives from Him in the silence of His love can only be between the One and the one.

After all had had their embrace and drunk from the sourceless source of love, Baba signalled that He would come and sit in the usual meeting room where the male mandali everyday collect round Him. To see Baba getting up from His chair made my heart cry, for one could see how He suffered from the excruciating pain in His hip. A step forward and He was at the head of the steps. With great effort and with Mehera and Dr. Goher holding Him, He got down the first step. He paused while our hearts stopped beating. Then another step and still another. It was an ordeal for Him and for us watching Him move at the pace of an ant. How much He suffers for us on the physical plane is beyond our conception, leave alone conception of His mental agony. He then walked very slowly thru' the garden with Maharani Shanta Devi and Mehera. Mani was busy with her movie camera and as Baba walked along and the crowd of 250 women behind.

Once in His chair in the meeting room, He again looked cheerful. Seated in front of Him were all of us, while

Mehera was on His right on the floor. Mani was on the mike that seemed to be bad very much that day. Just then lovers from Poona, who had chartered a special bus, arrived. They embraced Baba and Mehera on their arrival. After all were in their seats, Baba asked us if we had slept well, whether we had had breakfast, and whether everyone felt quite fit. Several yes's from the crowd were enough to tell that each one was in the best of spirits.

Baba then asked Lata to sing. He told us that she had been selected from Maharashtra State for an All-India light classical singing competition at Delhi. Baba had asked her to sing His two favourite songs. Lata won the first prize in the age group of 15 to 20. President Radhakrishnan was very pleased with her singing. Lata sang the same two songs and won two embraces from the Beloved. Some other girls then sang a few songs. Subhadra from Poona then sang a new song she had composed for the occasion. It said that as Radha was to Krishna so Mehera is to Meher. Just as people say Radha Krishna, in posterity people will say Mehera Meher. The words of the song were so beautiful, that her voice found an echo in each one's heart. Mehera burst into a flood of tears and so did most of us. Baba very lovingly pulled out His handkerchief and wiped her tears. The love and gentleness behind Baba's actions brought a greater flood of tears to all of us. Would we be ever worthy of that much love from the Beloved? Could we sustain that much love if poured into us or would we explode? Again and again Baba wiped her tears as they coursed down her cheeks and when the song finished, Mehera pulled herself up again. Baba tenderly kissed the handkerchief and gave it to Mehera. I bet, even the masts whom Baba loves so much could not have had such affection from Baba. Mehera is truly the Beloved of the Beloved. For her Baba is her life-breath. For her there is no one in this world but Baba. For her there is no path, Baba is her

path. For her there is no goal. Baba is her goal. For her Baba is everything and everything is Baba.

Baba then asked Viloo, wife of Sarosh Irani of Nagar to tell us her experiences during her recent trip to Nauranga Meherdham. Baba-lovers from Hamirpur district get together to celebrate the anniversary of 'Meherdham' every year on November 25th. They had written to Baba to send someone from Nagar as His representative for the occasion. Baba chose Viloo and asked her to go to Nauranga. When Sarosh learnt about this, he even decided to go with her. Baba explained to Viloo that there would be many harrowing experiences on this trip entailing many discomforts as regards housing, food, and other daily necessities. This did not deter Viloo and she decided she would go with Sarosh.

Just before Sarosh and Viloo left for Nauranga, they came to see Baba at Meherazad. Viloo had been brought up with a silver spoon in her mouth and was once again warned by Baba not to pay heed to the poverty, uncleanness, illiteracy, and manners of the people in Nauranga but to only see the richness of their love for Baba. She was not to expect to find a grand panoply of over-dressed dandies and their underdressed ladies at Nauranga. Baba embraced both of them and said that this embrace of His would reach thousands thru' them. Little did Viloo or Sarosh realize the depth of these words. He also instructed them to leave directly for Nauranga.

They drove off on this transcontinental journey. The climate was wonderful and they had very good accommodations in rest houses en route. The countryside was splashed with beauty—endless panoramas of greenery rippled away in all directions—brilliant flowers bloomed in the fields. Everywhere there was a pervading aroma heavy, fragrant and soothing. They journeyed without any mishap until they were very near their destination when they got a flat

tyre. They set about changing the wheel and it was then that some lovers from Nauranga came along in their car to receive them. One of the party confessed that they had started late and she had prayed to Baba to delay Viloo and Sarosh on the way so that they may be able to receive them at some distance from Nauranga. Her prayers were answered resulting in the flat tyre of Viloo's car!

Viloo was wondering what sort of temporary accommodation had been improvised for them and whether there would be an enclosed bathroom or would she have to have a bath beside a well as is customary with villagers, and whether she would have the luxury of a hole in the ground for a toilet. They reached Nauranga and were accorded a warm welcome. Big deluxe tents had been pitched for them. Was it a dream or a reality? Baba lovers showered their generous hospitality on them. The atmosphere of Baba-love was so exhilarating that Viloo and Sarosh quite forgot themselves. It could rightly be said that love of heaven was let loose on earth. Viloo said that Sarosh always carried his 'portable office' with him everywhere he went, but at Nauranga he never thought of his business nor of his children. Three days were spent in perfect bliss. Sarosh broke down with the love that was poured all round him and would be seen several times a day weeping in some corner.

The last day of their stay was really remarkable. All women, children, and men wanted to embrace Viloo and Sarosh. The very thought of embracing thousands was shocking. Two long queues were formed—Sarosh began embracing the men, while Viloo the women. Viloo said that she rarely wept even on grim occasions when her near relatives had died, but now she also broke down. She forgot her status and her clean clothes and began embracing the slovenly, ill-clad women and children. She did not pay heed to their dishevelled hair-dos and the patina of dirt all over them. Tears rolled down continuously for about four



hours, while she embraced thousands. Sarosh could hardly stand, for he wept and wept and wept. After all had been embraced, Baba's words rang in Viloo's ears that His embrace would be carried to thousands.

After the celebrations at Nauranga were over, they were taken to Meherasthana where Baba had stayed in a small hut on a hill-top and had declared publicly for the first time in 1954 that He was the Avatar of this age. Viloo said that the love surcharged atmosphere at Meherasthana was indescribable. They returned to Nagar from Meherasthana but had all the possible hardships that one could encounter on any car journey—bad weather, engine trouble, tyre trouble, bad accommodations, etc etc. She told Baba jokingly that He had taken them in great comfort on their outward journey because He wanted them to go for His work, but on the return journey He never bothered about them, for His work had been accomplished!

Baba then said, that He would go to His bungalow for a few minutes during which time each one could ease herself. Everyone struggled to their feet though the portlier ones found it difficult to do so quickly. Baba had to be lifted up and the women were not very confident whether they would be able to pick up Baba's chair. Some one suggested that the male mandali be called in but Baba said that the women would have the privilege of lifting Him that day. Baba selected eight women and I was one of them. With difficulty we got Baba into His pick-up chair and all were about to lift it when I suddenly realized that Baba was bare footed and we had forgotten His sandals. A friend of mine and myself picked up Baba's sandals and He cocked up His legs while we put His sandals on. At last we lifted Baba's chair. Arnavaz was one of the eight and she felt terribly nervous that we might jerk Baba's chair and thus cause Him more pain. Baba told her that He was very comfortable and none should worry. We thought Baba

would walk up the steps but He insisted on being carried up the steps. Arnavaz's fears now knew no bounds. Those holding the rear part of the chair raised it up so as to keep Baba's chair horizontal. One after another the steps were climbed very slowly and cautiously. We had at last placed Baba's chair on the verandah. He flung out His arms, and embraced and kissed all eight of us together!

It was during the few minutes that Baba was in His room that I glanced at the 'Garden of Allah' and noticed the care that Mehera had taken of it. The garden was at its rosiest. The superb climate and the colourful surroundings were breath-taking. Baba came out of His room in about 15 minutes. With superhuman effort He once again climbed down the steps and walking a little distance from His house, sat down in the garden. It was lunch time and two rows of tables had been decked with all sorts of food stuffs. On a separate table stood a mammoth cake bearing seven candles of different colours akin to those of His flag and representing the seven planes of consciousness one has to pass thru' to reach the goal. The cake had a thick chocolate icing and on it was written in golden letters, "Happy birthday to dear Mehera the Beloved of the Beloved". All gathered round the tables and cheered while Mehera cut the cake. Now all joined in the chorus, "Happy birthday to you". Mehera brought a piece of cake to Baba, but he refused to eat it. She said that if Baba did not eat it, no one would have lunch. Baba took a small bit of the icing and putting a bit of this in His mouth, gave the rest to Mehera as 'prasad'. Some lucky ones managed to get a bit of this prasad from Mehera.

Everyone was hungry by now as is the innate nature of women and tho' women have sophisticated palates, their square meals could never be more square. The pathological appetites of some, and its gratification, were dramatic memories of the journey. Soft drinks and tea were also served. Many had a helping of both. While all were enjoy-

ing the numerous dishes, Baba sat in His chair looking lovingly as a father at His children. Baba did not eat anything for He has always been a lamentably poor eater.

After lunch, Baba walked back to the meeting room and sat down. Mani announced that those women who had sat near Baba in the morning should take rear seats, while the back benchers should sit near Him. A reshuffling took place and soon all were seated. Two women from Dehradun had brought a marble stone which was to be the foundation stone of their 'Baba Abode' at Dehradun. They carried it to Baba who blessed it by touching it with His hands, and even placed His foot on it. The two women were overwhelmed with joy and would carry the stone back home, where thousands would come to pay homage to it. Never in the annals of history has the Avatar blessed a stone for His own abode!

Soon after this, Baba announced that something terrible was going to happen shortly. All wondered what could happen to disturb the festive atmosphere round Baba. Just when everyone's curiosity had reached its zenith, a man walked into the crowd from behind. Since no men were permitted on that day as Mehera was present, there were several screams from the crowd. They tried to hold the man and push him out but he cried out that he wanted to meet Baba. There was a terrible uproar as each one tried to push the intruder. The bigly built man wearing a white pant with a big yellow patch on it, a black coat, half-rimmed spectacles, and a typical Parsee head gear, pushed his way to Baba. Mehera was flabbergasted and so were the rest. The tempest was at its height when the man tried to make advances towards Mehera, who never touches a man. All thru' this uproar Baba sat placidly smiling at the happenings. It was only then, that the man who had come disclosed himself as Dr. Goher's sister, Keity, who had been toggged up so well as to fool each and everyone. Rano had done the

complete make up and she had indeed done it to perfection. When all realized that it was Keity, the hall resounded with laughter. Baba laughed without producing any sound. The 'Parsee man', after meeting Baba, tried to walk back through the crowd. He would often raise his long black coat to expose the yellow patch on his pants. Baba laughingly kept pointing at the patch. The exit of dear Keity was not quite simple as each one tried to hit her in revenge for the naughty prank she had played.

After the laughter died down and all had resumed their seats, a few bhajans were sung. A little later, there comes Keity again but this time dressed up as a Japanese girl with a small folding fan in her hand. She was dressed perfectly but her size completely outdid the biggest Japanese woman! She came near Baba who asked her to sing a Japanese song. The sounds that emanated from her, doubled up everyone with laughter. Baba was shaking with His warm silent laughter.

Once again the hollering died down and Baba asked some of us to sing. Several girls sang without the accompaniments. Little four year old Mehera then said the Repentance Prayer.

Time flew like anything and all were taken aback when Baba announced at about 3-15 p.m. that it was time to leave. There was a big uproar from all, that Baba was not sticking to His word, as He had given in the circular that the programme would end at 5.00 p.m. We argued and insisted that Baba should call us all once again on His next birthday. In spite of all arguments, Baba put His foot down that all should come to Him now, kiss His hand and then go straight to their respective buses. He also added that we should not touch Mehera while leaving. Just before the queue formed Baba said that each one should leave in the happy mood that all had been for the whole day. Each

one of us came to Baba and kissed His hand. Baba would fondle one occasionally, tap some one on the head, or give a pat on someone's back.

Very soon all were in their buses and it was only then that Eruch and Francis were spotted as they came to say goodbye to us. The buses cranked up and began moving along the private road amongst loud cheers of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai". Each one craned her neck to get a last glimpse of Meherazad, as the buses gathered more speed and came to the main road. Baba had filled each one of us with so much love and had showed so much affection, that I feel that we are really not worthy of it. The import of Baba's work during this day will always remain beyond the domain of intellectual understanding, as anything comprehensible can never even touch the fringe of Reality. When we reached Adi's office at Ahmednagar he was quite surprised to see us so happy and jovial. After a few minutes stop we sped along the road to Poona. We had gathered together in the morning at Meherazad like half starved chicks but we returned Love-stuffed!

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—Editor

## News From Meherazad

(From one of the Mandali)

"The aim of life is to love God.  
The goal of life is to become one with God.  
The surest and quickest way to achieve this goal is  
to hold on to my daaman by loving me more and  
more.  
I have suffered much and will have to suffer much  
more till I break my silence.  
I give my Love to my lovers.

6. *Meher Baba –*"

This is the message beloved Baba has given to His lovers for 25th February 1964, His 70th birthday – a message that is surely for all time, comprehending all messages. May His message be our prayer, leaving nothing for us to ask of Him but His grace in loving Him more. 'I want nothing but to love You more and more, and that is wanting everything', a dear one from California had once said in a letter to Baba. Blessed are the fortunate few who ask for nothing less from the Highest of the High.

For Baba and the family at Meherazad, the Birthday will no doubt be one of the quietest periods of His seclusion; while for His lovers elsewhere it will be an opportunity to express their joy and obeisance to the glory of this Day of days which shall ever stand witness to God's Love for us, when once again He was 'born upon this earth that's thought so fair, that's but the Cross that He must bear'. Meherazad will be as the eye in the centre of the storm of the celebrations expected to blaze at Baba-Centres everywhere this year, unlike last year when Baba did not wish His birthday to be observed.

After Christmas, Meherazad dropped the 'party look' that it wore for Mehera's birthday when a happy crowd of 250 women Baba-lovers spent the day in His beloved sahavas, and resumed its Cinderella appearance. We are made more than ever aware and appreciative of the prevailing quiet atmosphere by the thought of the approaching shift to Poona, when once again Guruprasad will spring to life and vibrate with the songs and throngs of lovers coming for His darshan. We try not to let even the thought of packing for the summer move encroach on our present mood, but we know March is round the corner waiting to shake us out of it. The first half of our winter has been something like an Indian scientific song— now rising to a high pitch, now dropping to an all-down low; but the good steady spell we've been recently having should take the sting out of our summer's dreaded approach. The neem trees are having their autumn, and the winds have a grand time shooing the leaves off from their branches and chasing them all over the grounds till they land up in golden piles against the walls or find refuge in flower beds. And then there is the Sunbird (or humming bird)—I'm sure some of you can't help smiling or frowning at my inability to stay off the subject of birds, but when it is so clearly a part of our life at Meherazad it seems natural to include it. There is an arbour with a shady flower vine between Pendu and Eruch's rooms, and dangling from the tip of a slender twig is the incredible and fascinating nest of a tiny sun bird, right in front of Eruch's door and so low that one's head barely escapes touching it! But quite unmindful of the people going in and out of the room, the little mother sits swinging in her oval pouch of a nest, her head sticking out of the small entrance which is topped by a thatched shade projecting like the visor of a helmet.

Although as a rule Baba does not permit visitors when He is in Meherazad, there have been exceptions that prove the rule. One of them was Mr. Pataskar, His Excellency the

Governor of Madhya Pradesh (India's Central State) who recently inaugurated the Avatar Meher Baba Centre in Raipur; and many heard the Beloved's name over the radio, for the Governor's inaugural speech was relayed by the A.I.R. (All India Radio) Raipur. Mr. Pataskar and his wife expressed their keen desire to have Baba's darshan, and Baba sent word that they could come. And so one morning we found the long approach road that leads to the gate of Meherazad studded with police guards standing stiffly at attention as the governor's car with its convoy drove in. Mr. Pataskar won the hearts of the mandali with his sincerity and unaffected manner, and he was obviously moved when Baba embraced him. When his wife, who is afflicted with arthritis, was carried into the room on a chair and seated before Baba, she cried out "Closer, closer, put me closer to Baba!" She talked to Baba with the confidence of one assured of His love and under-standing, and some of her remarks were very touching. When at parting the Beloved said to them "Remember, I am God in human form", they acknowledged it by bowing with deep reverence. The guards stationed along the road did not miss their share of the blessing either, as their plea for Baba's darshan was granted soon after the procession of cars had left.

Another procession of cars, on another morning, brought a number of military officers stationed at Ahmednagar, with their wives and children. They had heard much about Baba from Sarosh and Viloo\* and entreated them to request Baba to allow them to have His darshan, To complete the group of that morning there was the surprise arrival of General Bhandari and his very charming wife and daughter who were on their way to Delhi where they plan to settle down. This dear family has been growing close to us in

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\* Khan Saheb Sarosh K. Irani and his wife who were hosts to the Western Novemberites when they visited Ahmednagar during their trip to Meherazad.



Baba's Love since their first meeting with the Beloved over two years ago, and their home was among the very few that Baba visited last summer in Poona. Kamla (Mrs. Bhandari) writes from Delhi: "I have not been able to get over the good fortune of having been graced with the Beloved's darshan before our final departure from Poona. You have no idea how this fact sustained us throughout our journey and still does ..... We are now far away from Beloved Baba, but I pray that He ever remains close in our hearts and guides us from within ....." "

Just as the chiming of a clock in the stillness of night magnifies the silence that follows it, so the occasional visits allowed to darshan-seekers have served to emphasize His seclusion rather than disturbing it. Among those who have been to Meherazad were a family from Andhra; a doctor from the Evangeline Booth hospital; a school-master from the village of Pimpalgaon; farmers and labourers from a neighbouring farm; the Collector of Ahmednagar; and some from the U.S.A. —Don Stevens, Stella Kusevich, and Baba's "sailor-boy" Harry Dedolchow. One can never tell when Baba will be in the mood to say 'yes' to allowing some one to visit Him, and when He will say 'no'. But whichever it be, it has been accepted happily by those who love Him enough to be happy in His will, knowing that He knows best. However, there was a letter recently from a Baba-lover in Poona which informed us that there were some who felt that only the rich people were given the permission to visit Him during His seclusion at Meherazad, while the poor were not. Although we know this to be far from true, the Beloved was amused when He heard the letter and remarked, "Howsoever it may appear to be, the recipient of my darshan owes it to his good fortune, be he minister or mendicant. If the rich have been allowed, it is a matter of how rich their connection with me might be, and not their pockets. And the fact cannot be denied that while the so-called rich may bow down to me, I bow down to the poor!"

Dr. Subodh Chandra Roy can certainly be said to be 'rich' in his connection with Baba, for Baba not only granted him permission to visit Him at Meherazad, but showed much concern when he failed to show up on the expected day—which was due to some incredible confusion that found the doctor at Ahmedabad instead of Ahmednagar, a difference of some 500 miles! But when the will is there the way is found, and at last Dr. Roy arrived one morning and received Baba's embrace. This brilliant Indian scholar, who lost his sight at the age of seven, has been teaching at the New School for Social Research in New York since 1948, and first heard of the Beloved from one of His lovers in the U.S.A. The subject of his present tour in India is "Modern Trends in Hinduism", made possible by a Fulbright Research Scholarship, and we learn that he is the first blind scholar to earn this coveted fellowship. Dr. Roy's desire for Baba's darshan grew to determination after his talk with our A.C.S. Chari of Calcutta, and he spoke of his coming visit to Baba at a press conference in Bombay and during his interview over the radio.

This genial scholar was with Baba for nearly three quarters of an hour. The Beloved was in the mood to discourse and answered the doctor's questions. When Dr. Roy asked what Baba's 'darshan' could mean to a person without sight, Baba lovingly drew His hand over the doctor's face and explained "All who come for my darshan are blind, for none can see me as I am. There are very few in the world who can 'see' me, the rest see only illusion. But the contact of touching me or receiving my embrace is a darshan of untold blessing, and so you are blessed." When Baba was asked about the breaking of His silence, He said, "The fact that I have observed silence, is in itself the answer that I must break it. My silence is no vow—I had the urge to observe silence, and I will equally have the urge to break it. An urge is independent of time,

but the time is fast approaching when I will have the urge and break my silence." Dr. Roy spoke of his deep study and findings of the different world religions and invited Baba's comment. The Beloved touched on the two aspects of religion, the ceremonial and the spiritual—i.e. the husk and the substance. Baba said that when man's consciousness begins to involve and he dives deep within, he can rightly assert that he belongs to no religion but that all religions belong to him. To some of the doctor's other questions Baba said he should look for the answers in "God Speaks", and told him to study it thoroughly and absorb it. Dr. Roy said that Baba's teaching was the same truth established through the ages, and Baba smiled and remarked "If it were otherwise, it would not be Truth! Truth is but one, the same and eternal. However, I have not come to teach it but to give it", and He pointed to the metal plate on the wall. Eruch read out the wording of the saying on it: *I have come not to teach but to awaken*. While leaving Meherazad the doctor told the mandali how happy and satisfied he was with this meeting with Baba, and said more than once 'Baba is indeed compassionate!'

That morning's topic of darshan made us recall the message Baba had given ten years ago, when we were in Dehra Dun after we returned from our visit to the beautiful Baba-Centre in Myrtle Beach, U.S.A. Dehra Dun is a town at the foot of the Himalayas, near Haridwar and Rishikesh, where we have stayed for long periods in the past during the 'gypsy' phase of our life when we travelled to many parts of India with the Beloved. To be given darshan, commonly means to be granted a meeting. To have darshan of, literally means 'to have a sight or vision of', and in Rishikesh and Haridwar (where Rishis and sadhus abound) it is not unusual to greet a friend with: 'I haven't had your darshan for quite sometime!' Devotionally speaking, to take darshan is to place one's head on the feet of the adored or

revered object. What *real* darshan means, Baba has explained in the following message given by Him at the public darshan in Dehra Dun, on 1st November 1953:

"I am happy to be in your midst.

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

"But to have my real darshan is not easy.

"To see me at close quarters, to do obeisance to me, to offer me fruits and flowers, to bow down to me and then to return to your homes can never mean that you have had my darshan.

"Having seen me with your eyes you have still not seen me as I am. You have not had even a glimpse of my true Being in spite of your having gone through the convention of so called 'darshan'.

"To have my real darshan is to find me.

"The way to find me is to find your abode in me.

"And the only one and sure way to find your abode in me is to love me.

"To love me as I love you, you must become the recipient of my grace. Only my grace can bestow the gift of divine Love.

"To receive my grace, you must obey me whole-heartedly with the firm foundation of unshakable faith in me.

"And you can only obey me spontaneously as I want when you completely surrender yourselves to me, so that my wish becomes your law and my love sustains your being. "Age after age, many aspire for such a surrender, but only very few really attempt to surrender themselves to me completely as I want.

"He who succeeds, ultimately not only finds me but becomes me and realizes the goal of life.

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

"I give my blessings to you all."

The seed of His blessing must bear fruit when the time ripens; and since that last visit of Baba, more and more families in Debra Dun have grown wholly devoted to His cause, carrying the pollen of His Love from heart to heart. A long cherished dream of the lovers has been to build a Baba-Centre there, graced by a replica of the Beloved's form in marble. Now with land and money donated by the dear Bal Kishans, a family more recently awakened to His Love, the dream has come true; and on 23rd March of this year, the Avatar Meher Baba Dehra Dun Centre, will be declared open. Baba has appointed Sarosh and Villoo to inaugurate the Centre, and lovers from different parts of India will be there to participate in that feast of His Love and witness yet another expression of the love of His lovers.

The date finalised by Baba for our move to Poona, is the 1st of April. Baba has declared that He will not see people in the month of April. In May His lovers will be given the opportunity for His darshan at Guruprasad, during fixed hours on fixed days as decided by Him. From this we conclude that June will not be a darshan month either. We expect to return to Meherazad at the end of June. Please remember therefore, during the three months (April, May, June) to address your cables: *MEHERBABA, GURUPRASAD, 24 BUNDROAD, POONA.*

As there will be little to report in the way of news (and little time in which to report it) till after May, the next family letter will probably be going out in June. This one comes to you much sooner than expected, because of the Birthday message it carries to you from the Beloved. Baba wishes me to add that He is happy with the love of His dear Western family, received through the flood of Christmas cables from groups and individuals everywhere, and He sends His Love to you each.

# What Does Meher Baba Mean

## By "Love me ... hold on to my Daaman"

*By A. C. S. Chari, Calcutta*

The foregoing words of Meher Baba have to be clearly understood by us. Let us take one of the Upanishads, which may be helpful.

Each of the four Vedas (the Rig, the Sama, the Yajur and the Atharva) is divided into two parts: the first is made up mainly of hymns, instructions regarding rites and ceremonies, rules of conduct, etc., the second part consists of Upanishads which concern esoteric Knowledge—Knowledge of the Godhead which is Truth. The Upanishads are not in the form of what we in modern days call Philosophical treatises, but they are in the form of short notes and aphorisms by Self-realized sages and seers and in the form of dialogues between '*shishyas*' (disciples or pupils) and the '*gurus*' (Masters or teachers). It is said that over 300 Upanishads once existed; but 108 are still extant, of which ten are considered the principal ones. The *Mundaka Upanishad* is one of them and it belongs to the Atharva Veda; it consists of 64 verses. The root word "Munda" means "to shave" (implying that he who benefits by this Upanishad is shaved or liberated from ignorance or error). They are in the Sanskrit language and have been also later rendered in other languages, including English.

Some of the verses of the Mundaka Upanishad are so pregnant with meaning and they can be compared with what the modern Avatar Meher Baba has expressed by His gestures or the alphabet board, in the English language.

The commencing Invocation in the Mundaka Upanishad is a powerful "life-affirmation". The view that some people put forward that the Upanishads generally advocate a negative withdrawal from life and rejection from life, is erroneous. After the Invocation, there is a spiritual genealogy tracing esoteric knowledge from its primeval source down to Angiras—a Self-realised Seer. A great householder, quite in affluent circumstances and with numerous family ties, not satisfied with what he got from life, (by name Shaunaka), approaches Angiras and asks:

"O! Venerable One, what is that by knowing which everything becomes known?" (1-1-3)

This is the most fundamental question of every true seeker who wishes fulfilment of his inner potentialities. Here again, it is often assumed that Wisdom and Esoteric Knowledge are only for *sanyasins*, ascetics and aged or retired people. This is a wrong assumption; it is open to all whatever be one's age, sex, caste, race and avocation in life, to seek higher knowledge.

The integral knowledge cannot be imparted merely by scriptures and treatises; books and lectures. It is a realization, an experience (*anubhava*). In this modern age, our Avatar Meher Baba has come to *awaken it* in each of us, in fact, it is going to be on a mass-scale for those who are prepared and who are alert.

In answer to Shaunaka's question, Angiras propounds the theory of two types of knowledge: the higher and the lower (*para* and *apara*). Significantly enough, in the lower knowledge are included the four Vedas, the six Vedangas—phonetics, rituals, grammar, etymology, metre and astronomy. This, incidentally, is a courageous independence of thought. Angiras calls the Supreme Knowledge as higher knowledge—that by which the Indestructible, Imperishable and Eternal is known.

What is this Ultimate Reality, the Absolute? It cannot be expressed or described in words, because it is something that far transcends the intellect. Nevertheless, ever since humanity began its long journey (God to man—and then, the return journey: man to God), those Great Ones have tried to express Truth in words. This Mundaka Upanishad contains some beautiful verses, which when translated in English, run:

"That which is invisible and unseizable, without origin or attributes, without eye, hands or feet, eternal, all-pervading, subtlest of the subtle, imperishable, whom realized sages behold as the source of all". (I-1-6).

"Fire is His head, the sun and moon His eyes, the quarters His ears, the revealed Vedas His voice, the wind His breath, the universe His heart, the earth His foot-stool: He verily is the inner soul of all beings".

(II-1-4).

The Imperishable Reality is indeed difficult to express and explain. Much more so, is the process of Creation. Nevertheless, here is an attempt of description by similes:

"As the spider sends forth and draws in, its thread, as herbs spring from the face of the earth, as hair grows on the body and head of a living man, so does the universe emerge from the immutable". (I-1-7).

"This is the Truth: as from a blazing fire thousands of sparks fly forth essentially akin to the fire, so, O dear one, do various living souls emanate from the Imperishable and unto Him return again". (II-1-1).

After elucidating the lower and the higher knowledge, Angiras also explains that the rewards of ritual sacrifice are ephemeral and transitory. It does not, however, mean rejection of works. But, works have to be performed with



a full realization of their inner meaning; action must be rooted in the contemplation of the "Brahman". The Upanishads emphasise that mere material prosperity is not the supreme goal of mankind.

"But frail indeed are the rafts of sacrifice, all the eighteen forms, which are said to be inferior karma. Fools who rejoice in them as the highest good, fall again and again into the world of age and death. Dwelling in ignorance but considering themselves wise, conceited and puffed up with vain scholarship, they stumble about like blind men led by the blind". (I-2-8).

While we must engage ourselves with courage and vigour in the *karma bhumi* (field of action) that is life, or everyday life, we must at the same time constantly try to transcend material forms and. to achieve a higher spiritual equilibrium. Life is not to be shunned; that would be cowardice. Life is to be lived fully, but transcended into the greater and wider spiritual life.

So far, for the First Chapter of the Mundaka Upanishad. Its Second Chapter contains in its first section ten verses which affirm the overriding fact that everything which exists springs from the One Undifferentiated Brahman, life and mind, the senses, and the elements, the Vedas and sacrifices, the Gods and the demi-Gods, men and beasts, herbs and cereals, oceans and mountains, chastity and austerity, faith and truth— all these flow from the One Immutable Reality.

"The Spirit itself is all that exists: He is works, and He is austerity, supreme and immortal. O dear one, he who realizes Him hidden in the secret cave of the heart cuts asunder even here in this world the knot of ignorance". (II-1-10).

The reader will look at the emphasis upon liberation here and now, in this very life—if we are able to raise ourselves to the required level which Meher Baba wants us to.

Liberation does not mean cessation from works. It means that the binding force of works no longer operates. The process whereby the limited individual soul merges itself in the Great Ocean of Reality, and also the necessity for creative action on the part of the aspirant, are dramatically presented below:

"Take up the bow of the Upanishad, that mighty weapon, and set to it the arrow sharpened by devotion. Then, having drawn it back with the mind directed entirely to the contemplation of the Supreme, strike that target, O dear one, which is the Imperishable. *AUM* is the bow, the soul is the arrow and Brahman is the target. That must be pierced with unswerving attention; then the soul is absorbed into the Eternal and becomes one with *IT*, even as an arrow is lost in its target". (II-2-3, 4).

"Meditate on the *Self* as *AUM*; happy be your passage to the other shore beyond the darkness" (II-2-6).

The bridge to immortality (*amritasyaisha setu*) is there for all of us to cross. Each one has to cross it for himself or herself. What is required is the necessary aspiration, devotion and unflinching courage. The Grace of Meher Baba is implied. Grace and self-effort are so subtly dependent on each other, and it is difficult to surmise which is first and which is next.

"All this is the immortal Brahman, naught else; Brahman is in front and behind, to the right and to the left, below and above; it stretches everywhere. Verily, all this is Brahman alone, all this magnificent universe."  
(II-2-11)

When Avatar Meher Baba says: "Me," "My daaman", "I am not born", 'I am the Ancient One', "I am the Highest of the High" etc. it goes without saying that it is *not* the

mere physical form of the now seventy-years' old Mr. M. S. Irani; but that the words "Me", "I", "(Baba)" should be equated to Brahman, or the Indestructible Immortal Ultimate Supreme, or the Highest Self or Oversoul, All of Baba's utterances, including the Universal Prayer daily repeated by us (as dictated by Baba) and our contact with Baba can help us, only if they are contemplated upon as aforesaid. Otherwise, we remain and shall continue to remain the same as before, not a bit better. We shall lose the immense benefit of Meher Baba's contact if we fritter away time and energy and thoughts in seeking His contact and blessings only for tiding over the various problems of our life on this earth.

The third and the last Chapter of the Mundaka Upanishad describes the Jeevatma and the Paramatma as two birds dwelling upon the same tree, one which eats the sweet fruit of the tree, while the other looks on as a witness. When the individual soul realises the identity of his companion, who is really his own inner self, he at once shakes off his limitations and becomes identified with IT.

Then follow in the Mundaka Upanishad the memorable Verses about *Truth*, from one of which our (India's) national emblem is taken: "*Satyam eva jayate*" (Truth alone triumphs). In the broadest sense, "Truth" means the Sovereignty of Brahman ("Meher Baba" or "Baba"), which is both immanent and transcendental:

"Brahman shines forth vast, self-luminous, unthinkable, subtler than the subtle: very far is He beyond what is farthest, and yet He is here very close to us. Verily, He is seen here itself, hidden in the sacred cave of the heart".  
(III-1-7)

How is this Self to be known? What are the prerequisites for "Self-Knowledge"?

"The Self cannot be attained by mere knowledge, nor by intellectual power, nor by much learning of

scriptures. Only by him whom It chooses can It be won; to him the Self reveals Its own nature. This Self cannot be attained by one without strength, nor by carelessness, nor by aimless austerity: but when a man of knowledge strives by these means, then his Self enters into the abode of Brahman".  
(III-2-3, 4)

Look at the emphatic affirmations: "Only by him whom It chooses can It be won"..... "Cannot be attained by one without strength, nor by carelessness..." Compare Meher Baba's repeated utterances that the spiritual quest is no weak-kneed wishy-washy undertaking. True, true, It is a matter of His Grace. But, Grace and worthiness are so subtly dependent on each other, as already explained. Its goal is the highest destiny of man and therefore, the quest involves supreme acts of faith, and devotion, accompanied by unshakable will-power and unflinching courage. This is what Meher Baba means by: "Love Me more and more", "Hold on to My Daaman".

For ordinary qualifications, for earning livelihood, say, as a doctor, or engineer, professor, or a lawyer, do we not spend nearly twenty to twenty-five years for the requisite qualification and do we not thereafter engage ourselves in study and practice for being more efficient in our avocations of mundane life? Yet, when it comes to the spiritual quest for the Highest of the High, can it just be had by a sort of push-button magic? Are we to just have an embrace or mere kiss or mere darshan or receive '*Prasad*' (a sugar candy) from the Highest of the High, and to return home to the usual unchanged life? Should the Avatar who is the personification of this Supremest Brahman (the Silence) let loose his tongue, when you and I who have been in contact with Him for years and months in this incarnation are unprepared and make no effort and show no change in our outlook in every day life? These are matters to be seriously pondered over, and urgently too, because this is an Avataric Age in which

those human beings living, have a unique good fortune and opportunity. Indeed, we are very rich and very fortunate in receiving His love-Blessings. Nothing can be attained until and unless the proper and full price is paid for it here and now, in current cash, (not post-dated cheques) in one form or other. After all, what is the price? Meher Baba has repeatedly declared – "*Love*", which means love of the neighbour, acts of love, selflessness, self-sacrifice. Acts of love will take care of themselves, words of love will equally take care of themselves, if we take care, on our part, of *thoughts of Love*. The price asked for in turn, also enriches us!!

Incidentally, we have no means of measuring—we can only infer or surmise—how far each one of us, (may be, an old soul in a young body, or a young soul in an old body), has already travelled on this Path in quest of Truth—the return journey of man to God.

The closing message of the Mundaka Upanishad is:

"As the flowing rivers disappear into the ocean, casting off their name and form, even so the knower, freed from the bondage of name and form, attains the supreme divinity, the Highest of the High" (III-2-8 ).

Let every devotee of Avatar Meher Baba realise constantly that Baba wants us to "Lose all, all", "Surrender all". This means "practice" (*abhyasa*) trying to be strong in body and mind, dynamic in intellect and spirit and ever alert. Note, Baba is *not* here *to teach*. He is here *to awaken*. Devotees of Meher Baba have plenty of opportunities for such "practice", here and now; no matter what each man's daily life is. His Grace and Love is, ever present to help the sincere aspirant who is honest to himself. This sort of "intensified" course, both theoretical and practical, which Baba gives to his lovers who are willing to obey Him and

the part which Baba also plays as "the ruthless but compassionate surgeon"—are there, ever guiding us in our journey. How soon and how quick we shall get to the end of "the journey", depends on us.

The Masters require only that each shall do *his best* and, above all, that each shall strive in reality to feel himself one with his fellow-being.

*[I express my profound gratitude to H. H. Dr. Karan Singh, Sadar-i-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, for his thought-provoking and inspiring lecture delivered recently at Benares on the Message of the Mundaka Upanishad, which I had the good fortune to listen to, and from which I have drawn some of the quotation (translations in English) extracted above].*

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## A Prayer

*By Debavrata*

O Thou Supreme Reality!  
Infuse into my being  
Thy Love and Peace,  
Strength and Serenity.  
Life's sorrows and trials  
Are but waning thrills –  
Just the pangs  
Of a new birth  
Into a sphere higher  
And higher.

# Baba and His Mystery

*By Kavi Yogi Maharshi Shuddhananda Bharati*

(Lecture delivered at the 1st Anniversary of

'Mehersthan' Kovvur on 28-2-64)

## GLORY

Glory to Thee, O Light of Lights  
Glory to Thee, O Heart of hearts  
Glory to Thee, O Cosmic Soul  
That awakens the Self in All.  
Glory to Thee, O Silent Word  
The Word of Sacred Words  
Glory to Thee, O Love that is  
The life of all that lives.  
Glory to Thee, O Steady Flame  
That kindles the lamp of hope  
Glory to Thy form and name  
O Power that is our Prop.

Jai Baba!

Lovers of Avatar Meher Baba! I feel happy to breathe again the salubrious air of Mehersthan, cradled in the flute voice of sacred Godavary. We have gathered here to invoke Baba and His presence. Baba is not that rose coat nor the rosy face and human frame. Just as this light is not the glass bubble nor the lingston. It is the current which is aflame inside the bulb. One silent current is light in the bulb, air in the fan, heat in the heater, sound in the bell, song in the radio. The silent current actuates all these many apparatuses. Even so, a pure silent power which is known as the Atman enables so many functions of our being. It thinks in the brain, acts in the limbs, throbs in

the heart. Even so Baba is a subtle silent cosmic energy that moves the world mechanism for a sequestered corner.

That Divine Consciousness has descended into a form assuming a sweet name. We adopt the name *Baba* as our mantra. But there are several Babas. What is the significance of this name *Baba*? As I meditated in the sanctum of Mehersthan a meaning is revealed to me: *Baba* has an extrinsic as well as intrinsic sense. "*Beloved*" of All—this is the extrinsic sense. Beloved of all that brings Beatitude to Aspiring Atmans is the intrinsic sense. I have extensively described in the Silent Splendour, how I came in contact with Baba and how He attracted and possessed me. From 1924 this mystic personality guided me. I have a nostalgia for the Godavary—bank and I flew to Rajahmundry from Japan to preside over a conference. There I received the Call of Baba and He embraced me at Tadepalligudem and gave me the hope of a bright future. My pilgrim Soul found its fulfilment and my search was over, as I received His mystic touch. Again He sent His car to bring me, as I was delivering my presidential address in the Parliament of Religions at Rishikesh and revealed to me my real mission in life. He took a promise from me to go with Him to Europe. But by His blessings I was called to all the European countries as a poet in the English and French languages.

While I was in Leningrad, I was invited to the Eastern Institute where I spoke about the Gita, whose essence is perfect surrender of the ego-personality to the Silent Witness in the heart. They were curious about the Silent Witness which is the real actor in all beings. A talk about silence ensued and I referred to Meher Baba as the Silent Master and showed the book written by Alexander Markey. The Russian savants were attracted to the Silent Splendour. Baba adopted silence not for any sadhana. He has no need for yoga or meditation. For, He is Himself the Ancient



One. He. says, "I am not this body that you see. It is only a coat I put on when I visit you. I am infinite consciousness. Think of me. I am with you."

Faith is a rare force; faith moves hills; faith works cosmic wonders; faith cures diseases. A lover is known by his faith. When faith fails life fails. Faith is a friend of love and love is the soul of Truth. The fundamental Truth is that one Divine Force pervades all and manifests itself in the multi-coloured universe. Without the knowledge of this basic Oneness, people quarrel in the name of castes, religions and sectarian labels.

Mr. Murti of Ramachandrapuram organised Baba's festival in brilliant colours. Thousands of colour bulbs decorated the festive pandal. It was, as if we were living under a new heaven of multi-coloured stars. Each bulb seemed like the eye of Baba. But the bulbs were proud of their individual colours just like megalomaniac religionists. The Red bulb boasted of its beauty that attracted eyes. The Yellow bulb said "O Red, I am golden; I can purchase your beauty with my gold". The Green bulb said "Shut up. I'm leaf green. I give nourishment to all. What can beauty or gold do without my substance". The Blue bulb ranted of its Royal colour saying, "I am sky-blue. I rule over all. Green will starve and die without me. Gold will be of no use without my mercy". The White rose up and said, "I am Sun-bright. I contain all colours. I am the source of all colours. Words came to blows and there was a big agitation, when the main switch was off and all was dark. "O Red, where is your beauty; O Yellow, where is your gold" cried I in vain. "The current is gone. We are dead," they replied. "So, your life entirely depends upon the Silent Current which is the Light. and Energy of your being", said I, and they all saluted the Silent Current. "O Life of lives, Light of lights, Thee we love, and to Thee we surrender!". Even so each human being must feel that he

or she is because an Atmic current runs through his nerves as life.

People demand me, "Does Baba work miracles? What is then the evidence of His Divinity?" They see cheap necromancies displayed by some charmers. There was a tantric who surprised people by getting fruits from the void. He gave me, one day after puja, an orange by waving his hand in the air. I sent a man with 4 annas and got from the shop two oranges. "I am sorry", I told him, "you have wasted a life time for this two annas miracle." Baba's miracles are like the miracles of God in Nature, which none else can do. The sun rises, the sky rains, green earth puts forth flowers and fruits— life throbs in the heart—are these not miracles? Is not the ethereal sky a miracle, from which elements came and sustain the world of beings? Baba says, "I do not play miracles. I do not raise the dead. But the one miracle I would perform is to make man dead to himself. To find me you must lose yourself."

But we witnessed His great miracle during the East-West gathering in Guruprasad. As I was sitting at His feet, I meditated upon the Yellow Peril that was expanding its bloody hands to Assam. The thought force worked. A paper correspondent demanded Baba "Will India win the border war?" Baba said "I am in India. So, victory must be with India."

Two days after this oracle, China declared voluntary cease-fire and withdrew her troops and there is not a single shot here or there since then. By Baba's blessings India was saved. Is this not a miracle, far greater than petty magic and mesmerism!

Some think that Baba is a Zoroastrian and hence he does not allow Vedic ways of worship? To them, I say, Baba is more Vedic than many Vedic worthies, who make Veda a gramophonic repetition. The Vedas say, God is beyond

thought and word. He is a pure, conscious force in the heart. They are great who realise God as such in the heart, Vedas do not allow idols or ceremonies. Vedic saints adored God by inner communal prayers. The fire and the Sun were adopted as the two symbols of God. Then wherefore came thousands of idols and symbols and rituals and ceremonies that waste the time and entail so many expensive vanities, creating divided camps in One World and One Humanity? God does not come by bell-ringing nor flattery. God is realised in silent inner communion. Baba has adopted the method of worship that is easy for all humanity. How many tins of ghee were wasted on fire in the name of Ashtagrahams in India? How much money is wasted in ceremonials and how much human energy in mutual quarrels? Baba has shown a path by which all humanity can reach peace and inner bliss, peacefully and blissfully.

See this Mehersthan and the eight messages of Baba written on its walls; See Koduri Krishna Rao's transformation. Eight years ago, one lakh of rupees would never have easily come out of his iron safe. Koduri is a kshatriya by nature, a vaisya in business, a worker (I won't call sudra) by service and Baba has made him a brahmin by Thyaga.

The Vedas say, "Not by wealth or children nor great deeds; it is only by Thyaga that one attains the freedom of Bliss." Baba is a symbol of Thyaga and he makes his lovers Thyagis. You see saints living in palaces, going in palanquins, on elephants, sitting on golden thrones and living in luxury. See Baba and his lovers. He has one rose coat, lives in a hut, eats rice and dhal. Adi, a princely devotee dedicated all his wealth to Baba and lives now on a petty allowance of Rs. 80/-. Is this not thyaga?

Enough. Baba is the highest ideal of an Avatar the like of which humanity has never seen, since the world was created, 4000 billions of years ago; since man came upon the earth 200 centuries ago.

Jai Baba!

# God and Man

*By Dr. Sankara Sree Rama Rao.*

Thou art my strength  
I am my weakness  
Thou art my light  
I am my darkness  
Thou art the tree  
I am thy fruit  
Thou art the flower  
I am thy bud  
Thou art the ocean  
I am the river  
Thou art the father  
I am thy son  
Thou art my lord  
I am thy beloved  
Thou art the sun  
I am the spark  
Thou art the whole  
I am the part  
Thou art my God  
I am the man

—And, by thy grace —  
Weakness becomes strength  
Darkness becomes light  
Fruit begets the tree  
Bud becomes flower  
River becomes ocean  
And son the father  
Beloved becomes lord  
Spark becomes sun  
Part becomes whole  
And Man becomes God.

# The 70th Birthday of Avatar Meher Baba

By the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Himansu Kumar Bose,  
Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

[Text of Speech delivered on Tuesday, 25th February,  
1964, at 7 p.m. Also relayed by All India Radio,  
Calcutta Station]

[ Recorded by Sri A. C. S. Chari ]

This is the 70th birthday of one of the greatest Saints and Perfect Masters (Sadgurus) of modern India, Meherwan Sheriar Irani, better known as "*Meher Baba*", who is not so widely known in Bengal, but who is revered and accepted as Incarnation of God by millions of people in Northern Southern and Western India and also in the West.

He was born on 25th February, 1894 in Poona of Parsi parents following the Zoroastrian religion. At the age of 19, while still in College, he came into contact with Hazrat Baba Jan, a Muhammadan lady and Perfect Master, who by imprinting a kiss on his forehead awakened him to God-realisation. For months, he remained unconscious of the world immersed in the supreme bliss of such realisation; Then, his world-consciousness was restored by another Perfect Master — Upasani Maharaj of Western India—who hailed him as an Avatar and made him aware of his great mission in the world.

This mission is "*the awakening*" of humanity. He has said that he has come not to teach, but to awaken. He does not want to found a new religion or sect. He advises everybody to follow his own religion but not in a mechanical

manner. He teaches that religion like worship must be from the heart. He has come to awaken us to the true religion of humanity and to help us to realise our destiny, viz., God-consciousness. His ways are unique and mysterious.

On 10th July, 1925, he adopted silence and has since maintained an unbroken silence, communicating at first through an alphabet board and then through gestures only. But, he does not lead a retired or secluded life on that account. In spite of his silence, he has built schools, hospitals and Ashrams in different parts of India and has himself ministered to the sick and the afflicted. He travels incessantly and has criss-crossed the whole of India in trains, cars, bullock-carts and on foot and has visited Europe, America, Australia, Persia, China and other places several times.

One of his most remarkable achievements has been his work with the "Masts", the seemingly mad men but really God-intoxicated souls, who are completely oblivious of their bodies and who are to be found in all parts of India. He has contacted more than 2000 such souls, finding them out from remote places, and has helped them in their spiritual quest. According to Meher Baba, these souls are doing immense spiritual work for the uplift of humanity and some of them are Chargemen of God in their respective localities. Through this work, Meher Baba has intended to give a tremendous spiritual push all over India for the purpose of his great mission.

This mission he fulfils by "*awakening*" all whom he meets, to *Love*. He is an embodiment and incarnation of Divine Love and one cannot but feel an ennobling influence when brought in his presence. Though he does not speak, he meets vast numbers of men everywhere he goes, and thrills and ennoble them by his smile, his touch, his gestures and last of all, his embrace. Every body who bows down to him

gets this loving embrace. People come to him with their tales of woe and get comforted. He is not a saint soaring in ethereal heights oblivious of human sufferings. He awakens people to *love* by coming down to their level, by sharing their joys and sorrows and by radiating an atmosphere of Divine Love all around him. He calls his devotees, followers and lovers and asks them to *love him more and more*. In his global tours, he has contacted and awakened and drawn to him numerous souls in Europe, America and Australia some of whom have devoted their lives to his cause and have dedicated all their properties for his mission. In fact, all the major publications by and about Meher Baba are English and American.

In November, 1962, Meher Baba held a meeting of his Eastern and Western lovers at Poona which was attended by hundreds of his Western lovers and about three thousand of his Eastern-lovers. Besides, tens of thousands came for his *darshan*.

Meher Baba's message is the message of Love and Service. He has said that if instead of mechanically performing ceremonies and rituals sanctioned by religion, people serve their fellow-beings taking God to be equally residing in one and all and knowing that by serving others they are serving Him, his mission will have been fulfilled.

"Love others, make others happy, serve others even at discomfort to yourself: this is to love Me," he has said.

He suffers for our sufferings and at critical moments in the world situation he goes into long periods of retirement and fast. He has accepted suffering upon himself to mitigate human suffering.

The world is on the brink of a precipice and humanity is threatened with destruction by nuclear weapons. Meher Baba has given us a message of hope and pointed out the way of deliverance:—

"Humanity", he has declared, "is not going to be saved by any material power—nuclear or otherwise. It can be saved only through divine intervention. God has never failed humanity in its dark and critical periods. The greatest danger to man today is not from any natural catastrophe but from himself.....Today, the urgent need of mankind is not sects or organised religions, but *Love*. Divine Love will conquer hate and fear..... I have come to awaken in man this Divine Love. It will restore to him the unfathomable richness of his own eternal being and will solve all his problems".

He has hinted at breaking his silence in the near future and has said that the *Word* that he will then utter will touch the heart of everybody and the impact of his Love will be felt universally.

His 70th birthday is being celebrated all over the world today, the 25th February, by his lovers; and here is his Birthday message:

"The aim of life is to love God.

The goal of life is to become one with God.

The surest and quickest way to achieve this goal is to hold on to My "*daaman*" —by loving Me more and more.

I have suffered much and will have to suffer much more till I break My silence.

I give my Love to My lovers."



# 'God Speaks' From Seclusion

*By A. K. Hazra*

Unseen in the wide world,  
God, whose,  
Children we are—  
Is busy at His Work.

He is busy over the patterns,  
That are innumerable—as  
The waves of the Universe would be—  
Patterns within patterns,  
As waves within the waves of sea—  
And he alone is  
The true Historian of the world,  
Being its Creator.

So when you read His 'God Speaks'—  
You hear in it the Voice of Him,  
Who being your Father tells you  
In all frankness—the way  
You were born and brought up  
In course of His courtship  
With 'Imagination'—  
And you hear too, how—  
He, at last disenchanted  
Strives to redeem Himself,  
In you—and how, unmentioned,  
Because of short-sight—in the pages of world-history,  
He is busy in reclaiming bit by bit,  
The bits of His Soul,  
Unseen, in the wide, wide world.

# An Account of The Visit to Avatar Meher Baba At Guruprasad – Poona.

*By Dr. H.P. Bharucha, Navsari*

(Continued from January 1964 issue of 'Divya Vani')

## **25th May, 1963:**

In the morning Baba said that He was in no mood to meet anyone, as the burden of His Universal work was tremendous.

A Baba lover came in and said that since a week he had been thinking that he should not come to Baba; for, he felt that Baba was a hoax. Baba replied, "The time for breaking My Silence is very near. It is during this time that there are great chances of My daaman slipping from your hands. Maya will try to take you away from Me. What does it matter if I am a hoax? I am everything—the Highest of the High as well as the lowest. But do not stop coming here, even if you feel that I am a hoax. Do not go hunting for other Masters or Saints." Baba finally said, "The whole world is a hoax, not I."

A lover from Hyderabad had come to see Baba. He had helped the Mandali to construct a small room on a hill, where Baba had stayed for some time. After Baba left this place, he used to keep Baba's photo in that room and pray to Him. He developed great faith and love for Baba. One day he had a sudden stroke of hemiplegia—paralysis of one arm, one leg, and his face. He could not move. His condition was serious, yet he refused to take any medicines or injections. He would keep a glass of water before Baba's picture and pray to Baba. He would then drink the water as medicine. His faith in Baba was so great that he was cured and had come to see Baba. Baba asked him to lift his legs and arms which he did with considerable ease!

A girl who had appeared for an examination in medicine came to see Baba. He asked her how she had fared. She replied, "Not to my satisfaction, Baba". Baba said, "Didn't you cheat?" She said, "No". Baba then told us that when He was a school boy, He had always to cheat in arithmetic to get through His examinations!

Mr. X had come to see Baba for the first time. He was a mild schizophrenic and had had to give up his medical studies halfway. He had been given treatment with many drugs including shock therapy. Baba asked him what trouble he had. He replied that he had not slept well for the last fourteen years and at night had very conflicting thoughts and his brain functioned at top speed particularly at nights. Baba prescribed him some tablets for one month. After he came out of the hall, he told me that he had taken these tablets before, to no effect. I told him that it was not so important what tablets Baba prescribed. What was more important was that Baba—God—was prescribing them. Baba may give a pinch of dust and that may work miracles; He obeyed Baba and took the tablets that night. Next morning when he came to see Baba, he was asked if he had slept well. He replied, "Baba, in the last fourteen years this was the first night that I slept soundly!"

It seems that last year the baby girl of one of the keepers at Guruprasad had died and the mother had entreated Baba to grant her the boon of another child. Baba had promised, He would. The mother delivered a baby girl about a fortnight ago, but the doctors at Poona are at their wits end trying to keep the child alive. The baby has been shifted from one hospital to another thrice! Sometimes she is much better and sometimes she is about to pass away. The mother again entreated Baba to keep her baby alive. Baba said that He does not use His powers and so could do nothing in the matter, but He asked the Mandali to phone Kekobad (one of the Mandali at Meherazad) and ask

him to beseech God with his prayers to keep the baby alive. Baba said, "When Kekobad prays earnestly, the baby feels better; as soon as he dozes off, the baby's condition deteriorates. Kekobad's request to God to keep the baby alive is nothing but his request to Me to keep the baby alive." Baba asked Dr. K. whether the baby would survive or not. She said, "If your Grace is on the baby, it will live." Baba replied, "If My Grace is there, the baby will become One with God!"

Just then a beautiful Siamese cat came into the hall and climbed on to Baba's lap. Baba said that the cat belonged to some people staying in the bungalow near by Guruprasad. Since a few days it had come into Guruprasad and would not return to its home in spite of frantic attempts by the owner, It wanted Baba's company all the time. Baba said, "Any animal that comes in contact with the Avatar's body, gets a human body in its next birth."

Baba then said that He had explained yesterday about the different types of Qutubs (Perfect Masters). He again mentioned: "in short, Qutubs are of three types— Qalandar, Khwaja, and Ghaus. A Qalandar or a Khwaja or a Ghaus, is not a Qutub, but a Qutub can behave like a Qalandar or Khwaja or Ghaus. The Qalandar type of Qutub is usually naked and never stays for long in any place. Totapuri, the Master of Ramkrishna Paramhans belonged to this type. Usually a Qutub does not move from his place. The Khwaja type stays at one place. Upasani Maharaj and Babajan belonged to this type. The Ghaus type can separate all limbs of his body and reunite them at his will. If any mortal tries to see him in that state he loses his eyesight. Baba said, "Sai Baba was of the Ghaus type. He used to keep a night watchman who had strict instructions not to look at him after he went to sleep. One day the watchman's curiosity got the better of him and he peeped in, and lost his sight at once". He continued, "After I left Sakori, I used to

stay in a small hut in Poona very near to where Ferguson College now stands. During the day, people would come to be with Me and go away at dusk. I had a night watchman called Arjoon who was a tough fellow. I had ordered him to sit outside the hut and not enter it under any circumstances. One night, while on duty, he saw a huge awesome figure. Overcome with fright he rushed into My hut. He disobeyed My order. Arjoon began to lose weight from that day, wasting away until he finally passed away."

Baba then said, that though He was talking to us, He was doing His internal work simultaneously. He said that just as we breathe and at the same time do all other things, He does His work though engaged in talk with us. Just as breathing was natural and one did not have to exert for it, similarly His internal work was natural. But He said, that when He was doing some special work, He wanted no disturbance at all.

A girl called Mehera, about four years old, was sitting near Baba. He called her and asked her to say the Master's Prayer. Mehera boldly repeated the prayer in English correctly, much to the surprise of all. A few bhajans were sung and then all joined in Baba's Arti.

Baba said, "In the world today there is pain, suffering, and a gloomy depressive atmosphere everywhere. In the coming nine months it will become worse. Everyone will get desperate. As soon as I return to Meherazad this depressive atmosphere will begin to increase. Just as a pregnant woman has to undergo all sorts of trouble during her pregnancy, which becomes worse during labour, so there will be suffering for nine months and it will reach its zenith when I break My Silence after nine months. Once the delivery is over, both mother and baby feel relieved."

Baba then told us about a funny incident that had happened when He had visited England for the first time.

He said it was winter when He and the Mandali reached there. It was bitterly cold and the Mandali were given warm clothing and blankets, and some of them even slept with their shoes on! An English devotee of Baba who had made the arrangements, did not give Baba any of these amenities as he thought the Baba did not feel the cold as He was God! Baba said the nights were bitterly cold and He had only a sheet to cover Himself with. Once His English lover thought of taking a film of Baba in the morning, all had woolen coats and gloves on, while Baba had only His sadra on, in that bitter cold. And, to crown it all, He had to keep smiling so that His lovers did not feel that He was suffering due to the cold. He could not even cough or sneeze, as God cannot possibly get a cold! He was given only a slice of bread and butter, while the Mandali were given solid meals, as His English lovers then thought that God does not need food! Later Baba told them that when God descends in human form, He has all the limitations of the human form. If He were a Mast, He would not have felt the cold.

At 10.30 A.M. Baba asked one lover to sing His Arti in Bengali; after which all were asked to disperse, except the Mandali and a few others. We collected in the side room and began to play Larisk. Just then a man who had paralysis of his left leg and arm for six years, came for Baba's darshan, He told Baba he had taken treatment of all sorts, yet he was unable to move his paralysed limbs well. He had developed contractures. Baba asked him to repeat His name with full faith and love, and to do exercises every day un-assisted. If he did this, Baba said, he would be absolutely alright in six months.

After lunch there was no special programme. Baba played 'Larisk', and some of the lovers told amusing stories. At 3.30 p.m. Baba left us.

**26th May, 1963:**

I arrived at 7.20 a.m. Baba said that He had been with the Mandali since 6.30 a.m. He again told the lover who had lost faith in Baba and thought Him a hoax, "Judas grew up with Christ and yet betrayed Him in the end. Peter, who was the apostle of Christ, also denied Jesus; so why worry if you get such thoughts about Me? Stick to Me and do not leave My daaman till at least the 1st of January. Do not go to any saint. Come here daily for fifteen days and your mind will be free of all such thoughts."

A famous neuro-surgeon of Bombay, came to see Baba; Baba had him lifted up the steps on a chair as he had recently developed heart trouble. Soon after his arrival, Baba came into the main hall and a lover sang Indian classical music for about twenty minutes. After him Mr. M. Y. Mohan of Bombay sang gazals which Baba enjoyed very much. After that we sang the Arti and then all who were leaving on that day embraced Baba. After lunch, Baba sat on the verandah while His lovers sat around Him. The hall was completely vacated as Baba was to distribute trophies to several cricket teams of the Poona District Cricket Association. Baba had consented last week to preside over this function, at Guruprasad, The local papers had given a good write-up regarding this. One of the papers said, "History will be made next Sunday when a Saintly Personality will take an active and in fact the most important part in a sports function .....

The different teams collected in the assembly hall by about 1.45 p.m. Many local invitees had also come. Baba sat in His usual seat. All trophies and certificates were arranged on a table to His left. Press reporters and photographers got busy. Baba said, "This is the first time I have taken part in such a function. There are two reasons for it. The first, that I was born in Poona – Maharashtra. The other, from My childhood I have been very fond of

cricket. Spiritually, I am the Universal Being. I always like to watch cricket matches, but people do not allow Me to do so in peace! Once I was invited by the Mayor of Ahmednagar to witness a good match. It was one of the Ranji Trophy matches. When I reached there, the mayor was waiting for Me with a garland and behind him was his whole retinue who had My darshan one after another. People began to crowd around Me and finally I had to leave without having seen the match."

At 2.00 p.m. Mr. Pulsulay, the Honorary Secretary, garlanded Baba. He introduced to Baba the members of the executive committee. In his speech, the secretary said that the winners will not only receive the trophies, but also the blessings of Avatar Meher Baba. He said that this function had been held in the afternoon. The usual annual report of the Association was not read out.

After Mr. Pulsulay's speech, Baba distributed Cups, Shields, and Merit Certificates to the skippers of the different teams. Baba's message to the cricketers was then read out by Eruch:—

I am happy to present these trophies today. When I was a boy at school and college I played cricket. Now I play My Divine Universal Game which includes cricket, and so I am still fond of that game.

It is good to excel in whatever one takes up, so long as with excellence there is a feeling of humility; for this leads to love of God, and to love God as He should be loved is the best excellence.

I give you My blessing that one day each of you may have this love.

Baba then gave a special message. He said, "Play cricket for the sake of playing the game. Don't think of victory or defeat, but like a real sportsman give pleasure to



the spectators. If you play with all your heart to make the spectators happy, it is a great work done by you. But if you play with the thought of not getting out, you will make the spectators unhappy and will have wasted their money. I give My blessings so that you may play the game for itself. Once when I was a student at St. Vincent's School, we had a match with New High School. I was a good wicket keeper as well as a good batsman. In the match, I was the opening batsman. I came back from the field not out, while My whole team was out, but I had scored only 33 runs. When I came back to the pavillion, all the boys hooted at Me. I did play steadily, but the spectators were unhappy. So play the game in such a way that the spectators feel happy."

A few bhajans were sung, followed by Baba's Arti, after which the cricketeers dispersed. Baba lovers again filled the assembly hall and heard the great singer Mr. Deshpande till 4.30 p.m. Those who had not embraced Baba that day came to Him for a parting embrace after the programme was over.

—(To be continued)

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## Errata

In "Divya Vani" issue dated 10th January, 1964, please make the following corrections:

1. Page 56, lines 1 and 5. Read 'Dhyan' as 'Dnyan'.
2. Page 57, line 19. Read the last word 'Silence' as 'Science.'
3. Page 57, line 23. Read the last word 'Silence' as 'Science.'

# My Recent Meeting With Meher Baba

**Extempore Speech by Dr. Subodh Chandra Roy, M.A., LL.B.,  
Ph.D. (from U.S.A.) now in Calcutta on Tuesday,  
25th February, 1964.**

*(Recorded by Sri A. C. S. Chari)*

It is a great inspiration to be here and participate in the 70th Birthday Celebrations of Meher Baba. I should have spoken in Bengali. Not that I cannot; I can. But having been in United States, I lost touch and I am at a loss to find a few words in Bengali. Anyhow, after my talk in English, I shall say a few words in Bengali also.

First, let me correct the impression about me. I am not blind from birth. I lost sight at seven years. I remember the things I saw till I was seven years. There is, however, a compensation, as we always have compensation for every loss under the Divine Law. Those whom I remember are very young and fresh. I remember seeing my mother very young and beautiful.

Now about my experiences with that Great Prophet Avatar Meher Baba. Unfortunately, I did not hear his name when I was in Calcutta and was teaching here before I went to America. Pursuit of a religious and spiritual life was my hobby from my youth. Whenever any religious man came, I used to absent myself from my classes and went and met and even spoke to such Yogis and Mahatmas. Then, the struggle for life came and I went to America. I sought throughout my life great opportunities of meeting people

who are religious and those interested in the subtle aspects of Religions and Spirituality.

The Fullbright Research Scholarship of U.S.A. is an important scholarship and I have come to India, taking short leave of my lectureship in U.S.A. and to spend nine months here in India on the subject I was interested in from my boyhood.

In U.S.A., I met two ladies who were disciples of Meher Baba. I was glad to find these foreigners had religious benefit from India. But there was an embarrassment for me to know about an Indian Prophet from Americans. Somehow, I was most probably destined to meet Meher Baba.

Mr. Shanti Ghosh and Mr. Chari came and brought me their greetings and gave me some books by and about Meher Baba. I read some, but not all of them yet.

During the past few weeks, I visited many Ashrams and scholars and those who are supposed to have experiences of Religion or spiritualism. I have recently toured extensively covering nearly 10,000 miles in Northern and Southern India and have met people of religious persuasions.

I originally decided to go to Meher Baba in November, 1963. I wrote to Adi K. Irani, Baba's Secretary. In the meantime, Mr. Chari cleared the way and helped me. Meher Baba does not nowadays grant interviews. I thought I would try. In my life, I have had many "No"s. But, "No"s have never stopped me. My mother became sick and hence I put off to December 1963. Then again, I cancelled the trip. Often, I thought this meeting with Meher Baba would not come off. Finally, I went in January, 1964. I wrote to Adi K. Irani and I did not get a reply at once and hence I was feeling diffident. I finished my visit to Delhi and met the Dalai Lama of Tibet in the Dharmasala there.

There was another trick of destiny nullifying my plans. I had never visited Ahmednagar. I thought Ahmednagar must be near Ahmedabad. I connected Ahmednagar with Ahmedabad. This shows the impact of sound on those who do not see. On the train from Delhi to Ahmedabad, I discussed with my fellow-passengers and they told me I took the wrong train and that I should go to Bombay and thence, to Ahmednagar. I did not have the religious power to stop the train and take it to Bombay. I wired to Adi K. Irani, With all these mistakes and delays, I felt almost certain that the meeting with Meher Baba would be cancelled.

Adi asked me to come on 20th January, 1964. In the meantime, I got ill and there was again another cancellation. I felt that this meeting with Baba would be cancelled ultimately. Nonetheless, I picked up courage and hope and finally I called at Poona and took a train to Ahmednagar on 20th January night and arrived at Ahmednagar on the morning of 21st January, 1964. Mr. Adi K. Irani, a very kind man, met me at the station and took me to his office and then gave me breakfast. Meher Baba had the power of precognition. On my return, I was planning to spend two hours at Poona and speak to Dilip Roy (at Poona). The appointment with Meher Baba was at 10 a.m. But Adi K. Irani told me that Meher Baba wanted to see me at 9 a.m. (one hour earlier) and hence I was glad and that I was saving one hour to see Dilip Roy in Poona, after Ahmednagar.

I was taken to Meher Baba by Adi K. Irani in his car— a place called Pimpalgaon or Meher-azad where Meher Baba stays nearly nine miles from Adi K. Irani's office. I had the most unique experience of all my life. I found Meher Baba sitting and six or seven gentlemen sitting near him. One was from Australia Mr. Francis Brabazon. I was taken to meet Meher Baba. He embraced me so completely with so much kindness and affection and kissed me two or three times, I was very happy and also much embarrassed as I have never

been kissed by a man. It was so gracious of Meher Baba to have embraced me and kissed me with such kindness and affection.

I put him many questions and he answered all of them. One of the questions which I asked him was "How would you interpret me a blind man seeing you, a great person, and you seeing a blind man while the blind man does not (I do not) see you?" He replied by gestures and his interpreter interpreted, "All people who come to see me are blind."

The little report which has come in the recent "Family letter" (dated 7th February, 1964) is very well written and you must have all read it, but in the brief space, I believe it was not possible to tell everything that transpired. I will tell you a few things which are not there.

Another of the questions I asked Meher Baba was about His teachings, "How should I characterize your teachings? To what philosophy or religion is it closest to?" Meher Baba answered by gestures and I heard his interpreter:

"My teachings are not like any religion or philosophy. If you are looking to anything for close similarity, it would be a sort of synthesis of Sufism, Zoroastrianism and Vedantism."

As a professor in America, I teach the subject of comparative religion. I teach all these three religions and Sufism also as part of Islamism. I was very glad to hear this reply of Meher Baba.

Another Question I put was, "How are you going to convey your gestures when you feel tired or get impatient?"

Meher Baba took my hands into his and 'showed' me his gestures. I felt his gestures by touch.

I asked him whether he was impatient at my questions; and his interpreter answered "Not yet."

Another question of mine to Meher Baba was: "I lost one day in my life by going to Ahmedabad by mistake instead of coming to Ahmednagar and how am I to make it up?" Meher Baba's answer was "Time has no real existence in Eternity."

Let me briefly say: Meher Baba's love is really very genuine and very great. He showed me what really life should embody, that is, about the "power of love" as opposed to "love of power." Most of us have experienced "love of power", but very few of us have experienced the "power of love."

After meeting Meher Baba, I concluded for myself and this is my last message which I propose to broadcast: Here is Meher Baba a person who embodied, practised and inspired many of us with the "power of love". I am very grateful for this interview I had with him. I will cherish it throughout my life. When I come to write my book (which I shall soon do under the auspices of this Fullbright Research Scholarship on "Modern Trends in Hinduism" naturally, there will be an important place for Meher Baba there. I will in that book present Meher Baba philosophically and also reveal the complexity of the philosophical questions I put to him and the answers he conveyed to me by his gestures and interpreted by his interpreter.

*(Thereafter Dr. S. C. Roy spoke in Bengali, the substance of the above speech in English).*

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\* N. B:

Avatar Meher Baba instructed Dr. S. C. Roy to fully read the Book "GOD SPEAKS" and absorb it as much as possible. Baba also sent to Dr. Roy two big charts which accompany the book "GOD SPEAKS" as His love gifts to Dr. Roy.

## **News and Notes**

### **Baba's 70th Birthday Celebrations at Ahmednagar**

Unlike last year (1963) when Baba had decided and given out that His Birthday should not be celebrated that year by His Centres and lovers personally, He was pleased to permit the celebration this year on a scale befitting the occasion and within the means of the Centres and lovers concerned. Accordingly, His Ahmednagar Centre observed this Birthday, if not sumptuously, at least simply and with the utmost enthusiasm and sincerity.

As usual, the Centre Hall and compound of "Khushroo Quarters" presented a festive appearance with all the decorations and, at 4.30 A.M. on 25th Feb. 1964 when a goodly number of lovers were gathered in the Centre-Hall, Baba's 'Jaya' was called three times and the Shehnai blown to announce the birth time. This was followed by the recitation of Parvardigar and Repentance Prayers and the Prayer to hold fast to His daaman. Then Arti was sung. The gathering then came out of the Hall in the compound to watch the display of fire-works for about 15 minutes which all enjoyed with great delight, returning to the Hall to hear bhajan-singing from 5 to 6 A.M. by the Ahmednagar Bhajan Party. Those present numbered about 250.

At 6 A.M. Shri R. M. Dhakephalkar, Pleader, took the microphone and began his eloquent, racy and juicy oration in Marathi. His delivery was about 500 words per minute and what one could gather from the torrent of words rushing and gushing forth from his mouth was that he was tracing Baba's Life Story, beginning with Mr. Mundegar,

His grand-father who too, like His father Sheriarji was more or less a recluse and a seeker. Baba's father Sheriarji laboured in vain to reach the Ultimate by leading a wandering and most austere life; and he turned to family life on the exhortation of his dear ones when he was given to understand in a dream that what he sought for would be got by his son (Baba) to be born to him. Dhakephalkar then touched on Sheriarji's marriage with Shirinmai and compared the 'miracles' that took place at the time of the birth of previous Avatars with the one narrated to him by no less than Baba's father Sheriarji himself about his (Sheriarji's) seeing a rainbow circle and white circles revolving around the head of small Merwan (Baba) when he went to see him in the hospital after his birth.

The speaker then read out Baba's Birthday Message especially sent out beforehand this time to all Meher Centres in India and elsewhere and dilated on adhering to Him through thick and thin. He also read out Baba's urgent post-card contents distributed among group-heads and workers that He would not be giving darshan this year in Poona, and that He wished to remain undisturbed throughout 1964.

Before ending his speech, Shri Dhake delivered himself of his special Marathi composition in praise of Baba, the Ancient One, the Avatar of this Age, which Baba had heard when Dhake had read it before Him in Meherazad in September 1963 and which had pleased Baba much at the touching way in which Dhake had poured out his heart in praise and glory of his Beloved.

Adi then spoke in Marathi about holding fast to Baba's daaman and about Baba's constant repetition of it and reminder to His lovers about it which instead of minimising its significance, on the contrary, enhanced it.



Then some bhajans were sung and at 7 A.M. the gathering had their morning tea and prasad. There was hardly any recess as the pass-holders to lunch very soon began sitting down for the meal (mostly those having duties to attend to) provided by the Centre and served this time to those families from among whom one or more members are attending regularly the weekly Centre-meetings every Saturday evening. The lunch service continued till about 4.30 P.M., as almost 700 persons were served.

At 9-30 p.m. Mrs. Nalini Vable, the musician daughter of the India-renowned Shri Bal Gandharva, who had specially come from Poona, gave her classical singing for an hour. Adi then spoke in English on Baba's Avatarhood and read out his printed article of tribute to Avatar Meher Baba prepared for the Birthday by him. Mrs. Sanjeevanibai Dhakephalkar translated it in Marathi as also Adi's speech, The singing was resumed at 11 P.M. and lasted well into the night. Some invitees who were also music fans were to be seen in the audience including Govt. officers and other civilians.

It was a simple, sincere and very happy observance of the Avatar's Birthday by the Ahmednagar lovers, almost all of whom had their labour of love put in to make it a success. None lagged behind in the particular task he or she had undertaken but on the other hand, vied with one another to show the best result. This was borne out by the expression of thanks by Shri Rangole, the Secretary of the Centre, when the following Saturday (29th Feb) in the Centre's meeting he eulogised the selfless way and zeal with which everyone had given of his best by sticking to his duty till the end of the programme.

The Centre authorities this time hit upon the idea of sending individual Birthday greetings to beloved Baba, who is at Meherazad some nine miles away from Ahmednagar,

and with that purpose nearly all the lovers in their own loving way, by painting, picturing or writing in colours, conveyed their loving greetings to Baba. They were most gratified when they received His acknowledgement which impressed greatly most of the new comers, especially when we have no hope of His darshan this year.

### **Delhi Centre:**

At Delhi the 70th Birthday of Baba, styled as "Meher Jayanti Saptah" was celebrated for 7 days, commencing from the 20th Feb., 64. Grand functions were held at seven different places of the Capital of India. Bhajans, Sankeertans, poetic recitals and spiritual discourses formed the daily features at all these functions.

The celebrations commenced with the function at 'Meher Bhavan' Baljeet Nagar on the 20th February, 64. Shri W. D. Kain, in his inaugural address, spoke about the teachings of Baba, while Shrimati Krishna gave a brief life-sketch of Baba. Shri Tekchand worked very hard to make the function a great success. On the 21st, a meeting was held at Satyanagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi. Shri Saigal, M.P., inaugurated the function. Shri T. N. Dhar and Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy spoke and impressed the public with their speeches. Shri P. N. Ganju and family spared no pains to make the function a grand success. The meeting on 22nd, was held in the spacious lawns of the official residence of Major Harichand at 34, Mahadev Road, New Delhi. Dr. Moorthy gave an inspiring speech with quotations from Darshanas, Upanishads, Gita and the various writings of Swami Vivekananda, Shri Aurobindo etc., to bring home to the public the mission of Baba and his Avatarhood.

On the 23rd, the meeting was held at 9 A.M. at the New Delhi Centre, located in the President's Estate. The day was fine; the cold spell had gone. The gardener has made a very fine garland of the sweet flowers and Baba's

presence was felt by one and all. General and Mrs. Bhandari also took part in the happy function. Dr. Moorthy referred to some of the very interesting incidents in his life while addressing the audience, explaining how his doubts vanished like mist before the sun, when he approached Beloved Baba.

On the 24th February, 1964, a Press Conference was held at Wenger's Restaurant, Connaught Place which was addressed by Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy on the eve of Baba's Birth-day. The President of the All India Journalist's Association along with other journalists in Delhi, including correspondents of the Statesman, the Patriot, the Times of India, Hindusthan Samachar and others attended the conference. The fact of special importance on the occasion was that a Senior Representative of the All India Radio, Delhi (News Division) who also attended the Press Conference was very curious to know how Avatar Meher Baba would conduct his conversation while in silence for the past 39 years. Several interesting questions were put to Dr. Moorthy by the different correspondents on Baba's Life, Philosophy, Teachings and Avatar-hood. Hand-outs and other important literature containing the 70th Birthday message of Meher Baba as well as Shri Adi K. Irani's speech which were specially printed for the occasion were distributed at the Press Conference. The talk given by Dr. Moorthy covering the answers to the queries raised by the Press Representatives was so convincing and effective, particularly on the minds of the Representatives of A.I.R. and Hindusthan Samachar that they expressed their eagerness and inclination to have Baba's Darshan soon. Dr. Moorthy further declared at the Press Conference that Meher Baba is neither a Saint nor a Mahatma, is neither a Sadhu nor a Sanyasi, is neither a Prophet nor a Preacher but that He is the Ancient One who is the same Rama, Krishna, Christ, Buddha, Zoroaster and Mohammad in *ONE*.

One of the correspondents wanted to know whether the Avatar was a bachelor or married person to which Dr. Moorty gave his ready reply with a sense of humour that Avatar Meher Baba, though a Bachelor-God, yet has innumerable children all over the world. Pointing out to himself and others present at the Conference, Dr. Moorty said, "We are all His children and He loves us most."

All India Radio representative raised many a query regarding the long silence of Baba, and wanted to know as to when Baba's silence would come to an end. To this query Dr. Moorty gave a soul-thrilling answer describing Baba's silence as God's silence and stated that Baba would break His silence after 9 months, which had already commenced from July, 1963. Immediately after this answer several curious questions were shot at the speaker and all such queries were answered to the satisfaction of those who raised them. Lastly Dr. Moorty, openly declared that Baba would not give Darshan at Poona in the coming month of May and that it is the wish of Baba that He would not like to be disturbed throughout the year 1964 during His strange spiritual seclusion. This pronouncement caused a sudden up-set in the hearts of the audience.

The Press Conference was organised by Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, Member of Parliament on behalf of Avatar Meher Baba Delhi Centre. Dr. Hukumat Rai Kapail and Sri Wasudev Kain along with Shri Kishan Prasad and Lalit Prasad, attended the Conference.

After the Press Conference, a meeting was held at C-225 Defence Colony, where Shrimati Kusum Mohkam Singh started the function with Bhajans sung by the ladies, in praise of Baba.

On the 25th February, 1964, the Birthday of Avatar Meher Baba, the City of Delhi appeared to have been

resounding with the name of Meher Baba and His Message of Life and Truth. Just at dawn when it was about 3 a.m. a very solemn and sublime function took place at the President's Estate (Avatar Meher Baba Delhi Centre) where Baba's Arti and Bhajans were sung.

In the evening, a grand colourful function was held at the Constitution Club, to celebrate the 70th Birthday of Meher Baba, the Avatar of the Age. The whole hall of the Constitution Club was fully packed and among the audience were Sri M. S. Aney, Ex-Governor of Bihar, Dr. B. Gopala Reddy (Former Minister of Information and Broad-casting) Shri Shyamlal Shroff, Former Minister of Kashmir, Prof. M. Royak of Columbia University, and Sri Kajrolkar, M.P. Besides, several prominent personalities of the City representing various leading institutions of the Capital as well as those from embassy also graced the occasion.

The function started with devotional music by Radio artistes Shri Man Mohan Pahari and Party and Qawali by Ragi Nizami of Delhi.

After reciting Parvardgar Prayer, Shri Amar Singh Saigal read out the following message from the President of India:

"I am happy to know that the 70th Birthday Anniversary of Shri Meher Baba is being celebrated in Delhi. I send my best wishes on the occasion and hope that his teachings will continue to inspire a large number of people in our country".

Shri M. Thirumala Rao M.P. and Ex-Lt Governor then gave his welcome speech. He told the audience that Meher Baba is one of those Avatars who have shed lustre on mankind all over the universe. He added that we should love God without any selfish end and that love we learn at the feet of Baba. Sardar Hukum Singh, Speaker of Lok Sabha then rose up amidst loud cheers to inaugurate the

function. He expressed that he was very happy to inaugurate the Birthday celebrations of Baba. Shri Hukum Singh addressed Baba as "*The Buzurg*" and giving quotation from Nanak, he held the teachings of Baba as representing the loftiest ideal that could ever be conceived. He dealt with the subject of Religion in a broad way and described Baba as the One who has come to restore the status of that Religion. He added that religion is creating division, discord ... these days. Customs and rituals have enveloped real Religion. Customs may be different but Spiritualism is one. He said that he very much appreciated the Sayings of Meher Baba as incorporated in "*Seventy Flowers*". He also read out certain extracts from this Pamphlet particularly those about Religion. He ended his speech humbly, by saying "I have learnt if not told you anything."

Shri Wasudev Kain, General Secretary of the Avatar Meher Baba Centre Delhi then delivered the printed speech of Shri Adi K. Irani. Thereafter, Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, M.A., Ph. D., spoke for 45 minutes in Hindi giving quotations from the Vedas, the Upanishads and the writings of Shankaracharya in order to describe the 'living silence of soul' which Avatar Meher Baba is manifesting in a most wonderful way as the unique method of Universal contact at heart's level, A brief biography of Baba covering the Divine significance of the 5 perfect Masters who jointly inaugurated the Avatarhood of Baba also formed the topic of Dr, Moorthy's speech. He quoted several important sayings of Baba on religion, culture, silence, Godhood, Love and Truth and explained the meaning of the same in a very lucid style. He declared, "Baba is the Silent Shri Krishna of modern times, Baba is the most perfect Universal Incarnation of Love in Silence—the Silence that speaks to all hearts and souls simultaneously with much more effect and force than millions and billions of tongues put together." In a bold language Dr. Moorthy also declared that Baba is the

Trinity of the Three Yogas i.e., *Karma-Bhakti-Gyana*. During the course of his talk he said that Avatar Meher Baba is the living encyclopaedia of all spiritual experiences in life comprising the united whole of the essentials of all the great religions of the world. Lastly he described Baba's Love as God's love to man in which all are equal, irrespective of caste, colour, creed, sex, or religion or intellectual denomination. In his self-coined words, Dr. Moorty summed up the philosophy of Baba in three words, (1) Ekantavas, (2) Upavas & (3) Sahavas.

Shri D. Sanjeevayya, Union Minister for Labour and Employment, who was presiding over the function then delivered his short, sweet and dignified speech. He said, "In the past ages, Avatars or Incarnations came to be accepted after their bodies had been dropped but to-day in our present age, the Avatar is accepted during his own life time." He further said that the vibrations sent by the good thoughts and teachings of Meher Baba benefit all.

After the vote of thanks by Shri W. D. Kain, Ragi Nizami of Delhi starting with his qawali "Bandgi jab tak hai jab tak zindgi" entertained the audience with his melodious gazals, in a most enchanting manner and kept them spell-bound.

The last important item of the programme, for which Mrs. Kusam Mohkam Singh had planned and rehearsed very elaborately was Arti to Baba. She had spent the entire day bedecking the stage where Baba's most charming photo in gold frame with multi-coloured electric lights had been placed, tastefully decorated with varieties of flowers. The special feature in performing the Arti was that as the 70 candles were lit, from behind the screen walked in, 7 ladies dressed in 7 different colours of sarees forming a rainbow and holding discs containing little white flames and sang the Arti—Meher Man Arti swikaro!"

The whole function at the Constitution Club was covered by the A.I.R. Delhi and thanks to the Director General Shri Bhatt, and the other Directors of A.I.R., the programme was rolled into a Radio report and was relayed over the A.I.R. Delhi at 10 p.m. on the same night.

On the last day of the Meher Jayanthi Week observed here i.e. 26th February, a special function was held at Sarojini Nagar where several hundreds of people gathered to participate in the celebrations. Bhajans, Keertans and Kawalis in addition to the speeches delivered by Sri Amar Singh Saigal and Shri T. N. Dhar added glamour to glory. The Chief Secretary of Bharat Sevak Samaj Shri Chakradhari Agarwal was present on the occasion as the distinguished guest. Dr. Hakumat Rai Kapil and his wife greeted the guests as they reached the place. Shri Amar Singh Saigal inaugurated the function. While declaring that Meher Baba is the Avatar of the Age he exhorted the audience to love Baba and follow His teachings. Here Dr. Moorty spoke for more than one hour on "*The aspect of Babe's Avataric Silence*," drawing a distinct line of demarcation between Baba's dynamic silence and the many different ordinary types of silences. Shri T. N. Dhar also addressed the gathering. During this function the qawals— Mahmud Nizami and party entertained the audience with melodious songs.

After Arti and distribution of Prasad, the week-long Birth-day celebrations of Avatar Meher Baba in Delhi came to a close.

It appeared on the last day of the celebrations that the whole atmosphere of Delhi was saturated with the sweet fragrance of Baba's Love for one and all and that too, spread through *His Silence – The Silence of God*.

### **Bombay:**

**2nd Anniversary of Meher Hall:** The Programme for the 2nd Anniversary of Meher Hall commenced at 9 a.m.



on Tuesday, the 25th February which coincided with Beloved Baba's 70th Birthday. Although it was a working day, many Baba-lovers attended. Beloved Baba's Message to his lovers, viz., My Love Blessings to all my lovers gathered in My love for Birthday celebrations, was read out. Bhajans and speeches befitting the occasion were made. 70 poor people were fed. The programme ended with Arti and prasad at 11 a.m.

**70th Birthday Celebrations:** The programme commenced at 5-30 P.M. with devotional songs by Bombay Centre Bhajan Mandali. From 6 to 6-30 P.M. Shri Dharamsy Raja gave a musical programme. Thereafter speeches were made by various speakers, Shri Mangaldas Pakvasa, Ex-Governor of M.P., Bombay and Mysore, presiding. After the prayer of Parvardgar, Shri Adi K. Irani's speech was read out. Dr. Deshmukh of Nagpur who specially attended the meeting gave an interesting discourse on Baba's Avtarhood and His manifestation at this critical juncture. Prof. Ram Panjwani of Jai Hind College give his masterly speech in his usual impressive style giving an account of his first interview some years ago and his subsequent interviews thereafter and the unforgettable impression created on his mind by Baba's Silence and love.

Shri Pakvasa in his presidential speech exhorted the audience to follow Meher Baba and to put into practice what He says and live a life as He lives; less of speeches and more of work. At the time of garlanding the President, he requested to be allowed to garland Baba's photo with his own hands and to place the bouquet at His feet. This reverential act of the President, Ex-Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Bombay and Mysore was loudly applauded by the audience. After the speeches, the audience was entertained by All India renowned Ventriloquist Shri Narayanswami. A few more songs by Dharamsy Raja and the screening of Baba Film and reciting of Arti, the programme came to an end at about

8-45 P.M. The Hall was filled to its capacity and many new admirers were to be seen.

**Poona:**

The seventieth birthday of Avatar Meher Baba was celebrated on 25th February '64 with enthusiasm by the students of St. Mira's College for Girls.

In his address, Principal J. P. Vaswani said:—"Shri Meher Baba is an awakener of Humanity. This God-man of the twentieth century works in and through silence. In his life is a beautiful blend of the spirit of communion with that of compassion. The truly spiritual life, he urges, must be expressed in every little detail of daily life. For him, therefore, to live is to love—and serve the poor and broken ones, the forsaken and forlorn."

"To draw near him", Principal Vaswani added, "is to feel that his life is rich in the purity of the lotus, the freshness of the mountain-stream, the boundless joy of the ocean waves. The foundation of such a life is union with God giving ourselves entirely to Him that He may live and work in us. Seated in the heart within is He, the real Sadguru, the Master of all masters. If through His grace, our conceit is cured, our minds and hearts are purified of the illusion of the ego, the sense of I-ness, we too will find that within us shines the Face of the Beloved, pure and fair beyond comparison."

**Calcutta and Santragachi:**

The 70th Birthday celebrations of Beloved Baba commenced with a special programme at "Sree Meher Mandir" Railway Colony, Santragachi from 6 P.M. on the 24th Feb., 64, with akhanda keertan, namajapa etc., which continued till 5 a.m. on the 25th Feb '64; when prayers, pooja and discourses were conducted. In the evening, a public meeting was held at "Sree Meher Centre" 86/11 A. Harish Mukharjee Road, Bose Park, Bhovanipore, Calcutta-25.

Dr. Subhodh Chandra Roy (from U.S.A.) spoke on "My recent meeting with Meher Baba." The celebrations were continued on a grand scale at both the above places at different timings till 27th.

**Koni:**

At the residence of Sri V. Ramarao, Baba's 70th Birthday celebrations were held with the active cooperation of several trainees and other lovers of Baba.

**Chattarpur:**

On the 3rd March, 1964 a meeting was arranged in the local Gurdwara at 9 a.m. and Shri Amar Singh Saigal who specially came here from Delhi, addressed the audience about Avatarhood of Baba, comparing the teachings of Guru Nanak. The public was much delighted. At 3 p.m. another meeting was arranged by the Political Society of Maharaj Degree College, Chattarpur. Here Shri Hari Ram Mishra, Principal presided over the function.

Another public meeting was arranged in Town Hall under the Presidentship of Shri Hari Ram Mishra, Principal. This meeting was organised by the Vishwa Dharma Society. Baba's portrait was decorated by 70 coloured bulbs. After the Qawalis, the meeting began at 10-15 P.M. Shri Amar Singh Saigal spoke about the Avatarhood of Baba, giving illustrations from the life of Ramakrishna Parmahans, Gita, Guru Granth Sahib and Qoran Sharif, saying that Mohammad Sahib had sent many Sufis, etc. but he has never said that He will not come. Muslim brothers call Him as Mohammad, Christians as Christ, Hindus as Krishna and Sikhs as Guru Nanak. Brother A. M. Khan who spoke next, quoted a verse from Qoran Sharif and said that Baba is the Ancient One and He is the Avatar of the Age. He also gave illustrations as to how Baba loves children, how he embraces all irrespective

of class, creed or religion. Sri Hari Ram Mishra concluded the function with thunderous ovation, when he compared Baba's statement, "I am the Avatar, I am the Ancient One" with Lord Krishna's declaration in the Gita. After this, A. M. Khan's two daughters and Shri Sahling Ram Sharma, Public Prosecutor for Mahoba sang the Arti. There was an audience of about 5000 at this meeting. After distribution of Prashad, Hafiz Jamal and Party from Kanpur started their Qawali at 12 midnight and finished at 6.30 A.M. (the following morning). Shri Habib Nizami of Maldaha also assisted him.

## **Beloved Baba's Birthday Celebrations in Andhra**

Avatar Meher Baba's 70th Birthday was celebrated in Andhra Pradesh in all towns and cities and many villages too, with enthusiasm and devotion. Prominent among those where programmes were conducted on an elaborate scale, marked with special attractions, are given hereunder:

### **Hyderabad:**

Under the auspices of 'Meher Vihar' (Hyderabad) the celebrations were conducted from 10th Feb. to 25th Feb '64. On the 10th evening at 6 P.M. a huge gathering of Baba lovers was held and the inauguration of the Telugu monthly journal 'Meher Jyoti' was done by Sri M. R. Apparao M.A., Minister for Social Welfare and Excise, Andhra Pradesh, Sri N. V. Krishnamacharyulu., M.A., LL.B., presided. Beloved Baba's Special Message for the occasion was received with joy and the celebrations were followed by Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen, the Founder-Secretary, who conducted a

lecture tour throughout Andhra. Public meetings and gatherings of Baba-lovers were held daily at Masulipatam, Eluru, Palakol, Nidadavol, Ramchandrapuram, Kakinada and Rajahmundry from 11th February to 17th February, respectively. On 19th Feb., 21st and 22nd Feb. functions were arranged at Bapatla, Narasaraopet and Vijayawada, respectively.

On 23rd Feb. the function took place at Avatar Meher Baba, Secunderabad Centre (T/1 Mudfort), the residence of Sri N. S. Prakasa Rao, from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M. Dr. M. V. Krishna Rao, (Director, Medical College, Kakinada) presided.

On the 24th Feb. a special gathering of ladies was arranged at Vijayanagar Colony in the premises of Mahila Mandali by Mrs. N. Rajeswara Rao and at 6 P.M. a special programme was arranged at Avatar Meher Baba Jambagh Centre, by Sri M. V. Subba Rao, Advocate and Sri Muthanapalli Venkateswarlu of Narsaraopet presided. Baba film show was screened.

On the 25th Feb. the function was celebrated at the abode 'Meher Vihar' itself with great enthusiasm and eclat. The function started at 4-30 A.M. and Baba archana exactly at 5 A.M. was inaugurated by Mrs. and Mr. M. R. Apparao (Andhra Minister) the Honorary President of 'Meher Vihar' and Baba Flag was hoisted by him at 7 a.m. Almost all Baba lovers of the twin cities took part. Mrs. N. Rajeswara Rao and Sri B. Rajani Kanta Rao entertained the audience with their sweet music .

Poor feeding was done at Mr. Rajeswara Rao's residence from 12 noon to 2 p.m. on a large scale. In the evening, a public meeting was held at 'Meher Vihar' at 6 p.m. and Sri M. R. Apparao presided. He spoke about Baba's Avatarhood and his special Message (The All India

Radio, Hyderabad relayed the important items of the programme and his speech in the News item at 7-45 P. M.)

Sri S. S. Jayarao, Asst. Secretary for Revenue, Govt. of Andhra, spoke about Baba and his Mast Work. Sri V. V. Narayana Rao I.A.S (Retd) spoke about the Silent Manifestation of the Divinity and the Call of the Silent Master. Messrs. Swami Satya Prakash and B. Bapiraju spoke about "Sadgurus and the Avatar" and "Beloved Baba's early life and His message" respectively. The function came to a close with the film show of some events in Baba's life and cheers of Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai! M/s. R. S. Prakasa Rao, N. S. Prakasa Rao and L. Venkayya took active interest in organising the celebrations.

### **Vijayawada:**

Avatar Meher Baba Vijayawada Centre undertook to have the celebrations for 21 days and with functions at different places in the city, starting from the 25th Feb. 1964.

On 25th Feb. the function was celebrated at the Centre (the residence of Sri Majeti Ramamohana Rao) starting with Prabhat Pheri at 3.00 A.M. and Meher Parayana and Baba Arati at 5.00 A.M. Sri P. Subba Rao hoisted Baba-flag and Sri Maddi Sudershanam of Guntur inaugurated the function. Sri G. V. Seshawataram, B.Sc (Hons) spoke on the occasion, (A.I.R. relayed some important items of the programme in the evening News item). Poor feeding was done in Sri Kanyaka Parameswari choultry. A huge procession with Baba's Cut-out picture was arranged at 6-00 P.M. from Sri Majeti's residence, on 26th Feb. On 27th Feb. the function was arranged at the residence of Sri K. Poornachandra Rao when Sri A. Laxminarayana spoke.

On 28th, the function was arranged at Sri G. Venkata Ratnam's residence and Sri G. Kanakiah Naidu addressed the gathering. On 29th, Sri K. Suryarao arranged the function

and Swami Satyaprakash spoke about Baba and his breaking of Silence. On 2nd March the function was arranged by Messrs. Y. Manikyala Rao, Raghavulu and Durga Rao in the premises of Masonic Lodge. Yogi Suddhananda Bharathi and Paramasiva Swamiji addressed the gathering. Sri A. Lakshminarayana also spoke. On 3rd March the function took place at Sri Chinta Sarvarao's residence. Miss. John MacLpin of Australia was present and spoke a few words. Sri K. Narayana Rao of Eluru addressed the gathering. On 4th March function was arranged at the residence of Sri Ch. Rama Rao. Messrs. A. G. Krishnamurti and S. Rama Rao spoke and on 5th March the function took place at Sri G. Kankiah Naidu's house. Messrs. N. Dharmarao Naidu of Rajahmundry and S. Rama Rao addressed the gathering.

*(Report awaited for other days)*

#### **Inauguration of new centre at Guntur:**

On Sunday the 1st March at 7 a.m. Avatar Meher Baba Guntur Centre was inaugurated by Sri E. Lakshminadha Rao (Principal, Bhimavaram College) in the premises of "Meher Paints" Chandramouli Nagar, Guntur. The elite of the city took part by special invitations and Sri G. Subbaramayya Naidu P. A. to Collector, Guntur hoisted Baba flag. Messrs. Amarendra and Swami Satyaprakash addressed the gathering. In the evening a public meeting was held in the premises of Hindu High School at 6-30 p.m. and Sri M. V. G. Sastri, B.E., Executive Engineer, Zilla Parishad presided. Messrs. E. Lakshminadha Rao, Seshavataram and Amarendra addressed the huge gathering. The function was got up by Sri N. V. Ramanayya, the Proprietor of 'Meher Paints' Guntur, who has made adequate arrangements with love and devotion for Baba.

Beloved Baba's 70th Birthday was also celebrated on the 25th February 1964 at the residence at Sri D. Sri Rama-

murthy, Guntur. M/s. Narasaraaju, B. Prabhakara Rao took keen interest.

**Kovvur:**

At 'Mehersthan' Kovvur, Beloved Baba's birth-day celebrations were conducted by Shri Koduri Krishnarao and other lovers of Baba with enthusiasm and grandeur. The function was arranged for 3 days from the 25th February. There was a huge procession arranged on the 25th evening in which Miss J. McIpin, an Australian Baba-lover, who has come specially for the occasion also took part. On 25th night, Burra Katha Party of Shri Balabhaskararaju and on 26th, Shri Suryanarayana Bhagavatar, and on 27th, the Masulipatam Party gave entertainments. On 28th, the 1st anniversary of Mehersthan was celebrated with equal enthusiasm and devotion. Shri Ch. Sreeramamurthy of Palakole laid Foundation-stone for the guest house and poor feeding was done on a large scale by Shri Koduri Krishnarao. In the evening, a huge public meeting took place. Shri Swami Satyaprakash Udaseen presided and Yogi Suddhananda Bharathi inaugurated the function. Miss J. McIpin spoke how she was drawn towards Baba, through study of Mr. Francis Brabazon's writings and also her experiences. Messrs. S. Ramarao and P. Ramalingeswararao also spoke about Baba and His message. Adequate arrangements for lodging and boarding were made by Brother Koduri. The function came to a close with the Dance Drama "Meher Leela" performed from 9 to 12 p.m. by Eluru Party.

**Rajahmundry:**

At Rajahmundry, Baba's Birthday function was celebrated on the 25th February with love and enthusiasm. Messrs. N. Dharma Rao, M. V. Subbarao, K. Satyanarayana, E. L. Bhagiratha Rao and other lovers of Baba have arranged special programmes for children, in Market Aided Elementary School, National Middle School, Nivedita



Kishore Vihar School, Kandukuri Veeresalingam State-Aided Care-Home and Bala Vignana Mandir. Portraits of Beloved Baba were unveiled in those places and sweets were distributed to children. A special feast was arranged for the inmates of Leper Home, Sick Home and Children's Home run by Gautami Jeeva Karunya Sangham. Huge procession with Baba's portrait decorated beautifully on a jeep car was taken out through prominent streets of the Town, terminating at Municipal Council Hall, where a Public Meeting was held. Shri T. R. Deenadayal, M.A., L.T., presided and Messrs. M. Anna Reddy, Dr. D. Ramakrishniah, E. L. Bhagirathi Rao and N. Dharma Rao addressed the gathering.

Beloved Baba was pleased to send His Blessings by wire, which runs thus:

"Rajahmundry Birth-day programme for school children for lepers and for poor made me happy. My love to all my lovers in Rajahmundry — *Meher Baba*".

**Ramachandrapuram:**

Beloved Baba's birthday was celebrated here for 5 days from 25th February '64 with great enthusiasm and splendour. Electrical lighting and decoration of the pandal in the local Agasteswara Temple was a speciality that had attracted thousands of people. Prominent among those who took active interest in organising these celebrations were Messrs. N. S. Murthy, Y. Ramachandrarao, P. Hanumantharao, M. Umamaheswararao, (President of the Local centre) G. Satyanarayana and Dr. B. Appalaswami Naidu. Sri S. Ayyanna, (Secretary, Local Meher Centre) and his special band of workers deserve special mention. A band of 20 A. C. C. boys from Kapileswarapuram High School helped the organisers to maintain order during the functions. Among the distinguished speakers who addressed meetings were Messrs. Yogi Suddhananda Bharathi of Madras,

T. Ramadas of Kakinada, Swami Karunyananda of Rajahmundry, L. D. Bhajpai of Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh), Shri B. V. S. Pathrudu, M.A., of Andhra University, Waltair, E. Lakshminadharao of Bhimavaram, N. Dharmarao of Rajahmundry and Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen of Hyderabad. Hari Katha (Life history of Baba) by Shri G. Suryanarayana Bhagavata on 25th February; "Meher Leela" (Dance Drama) by Eluru troupe on the 26th night; and the Film-show of "East-West Gathering" of November 1962 at Poona, on the 27th night were some of the interesting programmes arranged for the entertainment of the public.

The Kaleru Bhajan Party and Shri P. Umamaheswara Rao of Masulipatam and the local Bhajan Party also entertained the audience with Baba-Sankeerthan. Shri Bala Gopala Bhaskararaju and Party of Tadepalligudem gave an interesting "Burra Katha" recital on the Life and Teachings of Baba for about 2½ hours from 10 P.M. on the 27th night.

A procession with Baba's cut-out picture on a beautifully decorated car was arranged on 28th night. The lighting arrangements and fire-works have added splendour to the grand procession of the night. Here, special mention need be made about the munificent help rendered by Shri Satyanarayana, M.L.C., of Rayavaram, who was responsible for electrical decorations done for the celebrations.

The excellent arrangements made for poor feeding of more than 1500 on the 29th after-noon also need special mention and the motherly care and attention bestowed by Srimathi N. V. Lakshmibayamma (mother of Shri N. S. Murthy) deserves Beloved Baba's special blessings.

### **Kakinada:**

Beloved Baba's 70th Birthday Celebrations were conducted on a vast scale at Kakinada. Dr. T. Dhanapathi Rao,

and I. V. Seshagiri Rao, President and Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre and Y. V. Narasimha Rao and E. Sathi Raju, President and Secretary of Kakinada Centre took leading part. Bros. V. Venkayya Naidu, P. Ramakrishna, P. Narayana Rao, N. Nageswara Rao, P. Vishnu Rao, R. Venkata Rao and other Baba-lovers have actively cooperated to make the function a success. The work done by M/s. S. Venkata Rao and Party and P. Bhaskara Rao and Party was immense. The function was celebrated for five days.

The first day function was celebrated at the residence of Sri I. V. Seshagiri Rao, where the Office of the A.M.B. Andhra Centre is located and a procession was arranged with a cut-out picture of Baba, beautifully decorated covering the main streets of the City. Baba's photo slides were exhibited in all the Cinema Houses in the City. Play cards and posters were displayed. Thousands of hand-bills were distributed announcing the programme for the celebrations.

The main functions of the evenings were arranged in "Surya kala Mandir" specially decorated for the purpose. Prominent among those speakers, who addressed the evening gatherings were M/s. T. K. B. Sastri (President of the Local Theosophical Society), Dr. T. Dhanapathi Rao, Yogi Suddhanda Bharati, L. D. Baj Pai, (Kharsia, Madhya Pradesh) P. Venkata Narayana, S. Rama Rao and B. S. Patrudu. Prominent among those that have given musical entertainments during these days of the function were Kalakshetra troupe of Eluru who gave the dance recital of "Meher Leela"; and Meher Dass Burra Katha Party of Ramachandrapuram. Baba film was shown on some of the evenings.

#### **Mehernagar : Kakinada:**

Bro. M. Sivaram Gandhi (Babji) has arranged a 14-days programme at his "Meher Mandir" and Sri M. Buchilingappa Sastri has given discourses on "God Speaks"

in Telugu on every evening. Thousands of villagers took part every day in the functions. On the 14th day (9-3-64) a public meeting was held and Sri P. Venkatanarayana presided. Bros N. Dharmarao and Dr. T. Dhanapati Rao addressed the gathering. Sri Sastriji was duly honoured on the occasion. Burra Katha party of Ramachandrapuram entertained the audience.

Beloved Baba's 70th Birthday Celebrations were conducted on a wide scale with grace, devotion and fervour at Masulipatam, Narasaraopet, Bapatla, Palakol, Yadavole, Munamarru and other places in Andhra and details of information are awaited.

### **Celebrations in Pakistan**

#### **Karachi:**

Beloved Baba's 70th Birthday was celebrated with eclat and devotion at Karachi by Baba-lovers of the City. A huge public meeting was held at the Theosophical Hall on the 25th evening and Mr. Halim Alavi, Ex-mayor of Karachi presided on the occasion. Dr. H. P. Bharucha of Navasari (Gujarat) inaugurated the function after a qawali programme. He spoke about Love, Baba's Silence, and about obedience and surrender to Beloved Baba, the Divine Awakener. The hall was packed to the full. This programme was unique in the sense that Muslims too attended the function, besides numerous Parsees. East-West Sahavas films were shown.

Two more talks by Dr. Bharucha were arranged in Karachi, specially for the Parsee families and another for the students in particular.

#### **Lahore:**

After the Karachi programme, Dr. Bharucha left for Lahore. He gave a talk there on Universal Brotherhood at the local University, in the Department of Islamic

studies: Copies of "God Speaks" and "Listen Humanity" were presented by him to the Library. He also addressed a gathering of the Parsee community at Lahore.

**Quetta:**

Dr. Bharucha left Lahore for Quetta, where a gathering of Parsee families was arranged. He gave them a talk about Beloved Baba and His Message of Love. A Muslim family too attended the gathering.

Besides these, group talks were also held at Karachi, Lahore and Quetta. Baba film was also shown at the said places.

**Sardar Saigal and Dr. Moorty Tour Madhya Pradesh**

In commemoration of 39th year of silence of Avatar Meher Baba, Sri Amar Singh Saigal, M.P., accompanied by Dr. G. S. N. Moorty, has made an extensive tour in Madhya Pradesh. A few details of the functions are given hereunder:—

**6. M. B. Raipur Centre:**

To commemorate Baba's 39th year of silence, a special function was arranged on 1-12-63; and Shri H. V. Pataskar, Governor of Madhya Pradesh inaugurated the same. His Excellency, while reiterating the necessity for spiritual upliftment of man-kind, along with material progress, emphasised on the significance of the Silence of Meher Baba, who has come to awaken Universal Love and Brotherhood. Dr C. D. Deshmukh, M.A., Ph.D., who presided over the function, spoke on the divine working of Avatar Meher Baba. Dr. G. S. N. Moorty addressed the gathering, giving very interesting details about Baba's Avatarhood and His Divine Mission in the world. The function came to a close with vote of thanks by Shri G. N. Mishra, Hon. Secretary of the Centre.

**Indore:**

On the 27th Dec. '63, Dr. G. S. N. Moorty addressed a public meeting held under the presidentship of Shri

Mathuralal Sharma, President, District Congress Committee. Dr. Moorthy gave a very interesting speech, in the course of which he interpreted Baba's teachings in three words, Viz., Sahavas, Upavas and Ekantavas. The audience were very much impressed with his fine exposition of Beloved Baba's sayings.

### **Ujjain:**

A meeting was arranged in Madhava College on 28th Dec. '63 at 5-30 P.M. Dr. S. N. L. Srivastava presided. There was great appreciation of Dr. Moorthy's exposition of Baba's Messages.

In the evening, a public meeting was arranged and Shri Satya Narayan Joshi presided on the occasion. Shri Saigal spoke about the five Perfect Masters and their working for Baba's advent as the Avatar of the Age. Dr. Moorthy explained to the gathering at length the philosophy of Baba and His Avatarhood.

### **Bhopal:**

The party reached Bhopal on the 29th, where a special function was held under the auspices of the World Union Spiritual Centre. Shri Subbiaya, the General Manager, Hindustan Electricals Ltd., presided over the function.

On the 30th, a ladies meeting was specially arranged in the local stadium, which was packed to its capacity. In the evening, a public meeting was also held and the Mayor of Bhopal presided over it.

During their stay in Bhopal, Mr. Saigal and Dr. Moorthy had a long talk with Shri D. P. Mishra, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, about Baba and His teachings. Shri Mishra expressed his desire to have Baba's darshan.

### **Gwalior:**

At Gwalior, the meeting was arranged by Shri Ram-Roop Tewari, advocate, in Sanatana Dharma Auditorium.

The gathering consisted mostly of the intelligentsia of the place. Dr. Moorty spoke for more than an hour on the various aspects of Baba's Silence and His Avatarhood and exhorted the public to love Baba.

**A.M.B. Jabalpur Centre:**

Shri Saigal, accompanied by Dr. Moorty reached Jabalpur on 1st January '64. Besides two public meetings held on 1st and 2nd, in two different places of the city, Dr. Moorty also addressed a gathering of about 1500 students and staff of Hitkarini Educational Institution. Shri Saigal in his inaugural speech spoke about the Avatarhood of Baba and told the audience that he has seen Guru Nanak in Him. He said that the slogan of bringing in the national integration will materialise only when we love every religion, irrespective of their outward differences in rituals and ceremonies. Shri Saigal who is a prominent Congress-worker for over 43 years, further said, that to have success in every walk of life and even in political life, one must have spirituality at its basis.

In the course of his very inspiring speech, Dr. Moorty said that Meher Baba is the befitting Avatar of the scientific and civilised age. This age is all the more talkative, and to balance this the Avatar of the age is observing Silence. He said that His Silence is not the dead silence of the grave but that it is the Dynamic Silence, the Creative Silence, the Divine Silence. He went on to say, "It is neither the sadhana of the sadhak, nor the vrata, a vow of a yogi. It is God's Silence, which has been working silently since eternity. The sun, the moon, the stars etc., also work in silence only."

Dr. Moorty also said, "Baba wants us to love Him. By loving Him, He means that we must want, what He wants us to want and should not insist on wanting Him to want what we want. This is possible only when one completely surrenders to Him. Then we can obey Him 100%. Unless the obedience is 100% and most spontaneous and not the

castor-oil obedience we would not be able to win over His Grace which is inevitable to breed the Divine Love in one's heart. That is why Baba insists on our trying to obey Him 100%. This trying leads to His Grace which awakens Love for Him in our hearts. Any amount of book knowledge or yoga practices cannot inculcate His Divine Love. It has to be caught from *one* who has it, who is the Ocean of Love. It is through our intense and continuous longing and out of our love for Him that we will be able to catch hold of His daaman, which otherwise (by our distraction due to attractions of the worldly illusion) would slip away from our grip any moment." Baba has repeatedly said, 'Love Me,' since this alone is the key to the solution of all the present day problems; as Lord Krishna advised Arjuna, "Sarva dharman parityajya, mamekam sharanam vraja" when he found the latter in a confused state of mind after listening to expositions on Gnyana yoga, Karma yoga and Bhakti yoga".

**Drug:**

After addressing the meeting at Raipur and Mahasumand, the party reached Drug on the 5th Jan., where a public meeting was held under the presidentship of Dr. Roy.

**A.M.B. Koni Centre:**

To celebrate the 39th year of Baba's Silence, a public meeting was held on the 17th Jan. '64 under the presidentship of Shri A. S. Saigal and Dr. Moorty was the main speaker.

**Ambikapur:**

Shri Amar Singh Saigal and party reached this place on the 18th. They were invited to the local Gurudwara and a Saroha was presented to all of them, by the sikhs of the place. In the evening, a meeting was held at Geeta Bhavan. Shri Ganesh Prashad Tewari, Dist., and Session Judge, inaugurated the function. Shri Saigal and Dr. Moorty addressed the gathering, in which most of the elite of the City took part.



On the 20th another meeting was arranged at the residence of Dr. Satya Narayana Tripathi and A.M.B. Ambikapur Centre was established, as a result of the keen interest evinced by the local Baba-lovers.

**Kasmi:**

On the 19th Jan. '64 the party reached Kasmi, where Shri Rameswar Ganesh Ji Gahira Gura, the head of the Adivasis, with more than 10,000 people received them and a big meeting was held at Milan Mandir.

On the 28th Shri Amar Singh Saigal met Sant Vinobhaji and gave him some literature on Baba and requested him to go through them: When the former called on Shri Vinobhaji on the 29th at Sargaon, as desired by him, Shri Bhavaji said: "You have taken the proper path about spiritualism."

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**Avatar Meher Baba's Special Message  
to Some Western Groups of Lovers  
on 25th February, 1964:**

*"Although I take birth for all mankind,  
fortunate are those who love Me while I am  
still on earth. —Meher Baba."*

Statement about ownership and other particulars about newspaper (DIVYA VANI) to be published in the first issue every year after last day of February.

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(See Rule 8)

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I, Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date 10-3-1964      (Sd.)      Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen  
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*Beloved Baba's 70th Birthday Celebrations at Karachi (Pakistan);  
Mr. Hatim Alvi addressing the audience and Dr. H. P. Bharucha seated.*



*Beloved Baba's 70th Birthday Celebrations at Karachi (Pakistan).*

Register of Editorial Alterations for the Online Edition of  
*Divya Vani* (ser. 2) vol. 1, no. 2

Print Edition Text	Online Edition Text	Page Number	Paragraph No.	Line Number
vearious	various	4	3	6
finnitely	finitely	5	2	9
week	weak	9	1	3
experience	experiences	9	1	8
couldn't	couldn't	15	1	4
contageous	contagious	17	2	10
ones	one's	17	2	11
dont's	don'ts	18	1	6
wits and	wits' end	18	2	12
embarrassed	embarrassed	20	3	2
alloted	allotted	21	1	5
eht	the	22	1	1
coustomary	customary	24	2	4
brithday	birthday	26	2	17
Meherazed	Meherazad	29	2	15
amont	amount	29	3	1
Boothe	Booth	33	2	6
dewlling	dwelling	43	2	3
breath	breathe	47	2	1
ni	in	47	2	12
Marki	Markey	48	3	7
magalo-maniac	megalo-maniac	49	3	6
gramaphonic	gramophonic	50	5	4
uHmanity	Humanity	56	1	1
Did'nt	Didn't	59	1	3
wollen	woolen	62	1	9
Jaunary	January	68	2	1
Junuary	January	68	2	5
Ad	Adi	68	2	12

querries	queries	75	2	19
querries	queries	76	2	8
Mehtar	Meher	76	3	3
religon	religion	78	1	9
phamplet	pamphlet	78	1	13
evel	level	78	2	8
Anniversay	Anniversary	80	5	2
Bomby	Bombay	81	3	7
Masuli- patnam	Masulipatam	85	1	2
Sudhananda	Suddhananda	87	1	4
hava	have	88	3	4
demarkation	demarcation	89	2	15
Madhy	Madhya	90	1	2
munificent	munificent	90	3	5
Shavas	Sahavas	92	3	11
Moorthy	Moorty	93	4	hdg
Tourn	Tour	93	4	hdg
intelligentia	intelligentsia	95	1	1
wordly	worldly	96	1	10
Vonobhaji	Vinobhaji	97	3	1