

DIVYA VANI
Volume 1 Number 4
10th July 1964

A periodical Publication of
the "Meher Vihar Trust"

An Avatar Meher Baba Trust eBook
June 2018

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Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust
Ahmednagar, India

Source and short publication history:

Divya Vani = Divine voice.

Quarterly, v.1, no. 1 (July 1961), v. 3. no. 2 (Oct. 1963): bimonthly, v. 1. no. 1 (Jan. 1964), v. 2 no. 3 (May 1965): monthly. v. 1. no. 1I (July 1965), v. 12, no. 6 (June 1976): bimonthly, v. 1. no. 1 (Aug. 1976), v.14. no. 1 (Jan. 1978): quarterly, v. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 1979), Kakinada : Avatar Meher Baba Mission. 1961- v. : ill.. ports. Subtitle: An English monthly devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His work (varies). Issues for July - Oct. 1961 in English or Telugu.

Editor: Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen.

Place of publication varies.

Publisher varies: S. P. Udaseen (1961-1965): S.P. Udaseen on behalf of the Meher Vihar Trust (1965-1969): Meher Vihar Trust (1970-Apr. 1974).

Ceased publication?

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Bi-Monthly: 4th Issue

10th July 1964

Baba's Silence Day Special Issue

DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)



"Seek not to possess any thing but to surrender every thing..."

—*Meher Baba.*

Editorial Office at:

Phone: 36233

"MEHER VIHAR"

Grams: "VIHARMEHER"

3-6-417 Post Office Street,

Volume 1 }

Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-29

{ Price:

Number 4 }

(A. P. India)

{ Rs. 1-50



Beloved Baba in ecstatic mood as Dr. C. D. Deshmukh approaches Him with a request to touch the Bronze-Bust, on the occasion of His opening of "Poona Centre Avatar Meher Baba Hall" on 1st May '64.

4th Issue:

10th July '64

Silence Day Special Issue

DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)

AN ENGLISH BI-MONTHLY

Devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His Work

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Beloved Baba's Message

*for the occasion of the 39th anniversary of
His Silence falling on 10th July 1964.*

"No Messages about Love and Truth can draw the seeker even nearer to the Real Experience of them; but the breaking of My Silence will shatter the seeker's hard crust of ignorance and reveal to him their true meaning."

-MEHER BABA-

Life Circular No. 60

Issued on 21st June, 1964.

On the 10th of July 1964, the 39th Anniversary of His Silence, **Avatar Meher Baba** wishes all who love and obey Him and all who would want to do so, to observe complete Silence for 24 hours beginning from midnight of the 9th of July to midnight of the 10th of July, in accordance with the local time.

Those who, for practical reasons, find that it is not possible to observe Silence for the 24 hours on Friday, the 10th of July 1964, should instead observe complete fast for twelve hours on that day, from 8-00 a.m. to 8-00 p.m. During this fast nothing must be consumed - not even water. Those who are fasting for the 12 hours on July 10th, should also observe partial fast in the morning from 6-00 a.m. to 8-00 a.m. by taking only one cup of tea or coffee (with or without milk), before beginning their complete fast at 8-00 a.m.

Baba sends His Love and Blessing to each one of His lovers for the Silence Day.

Brother Adi's Letter:

Dear Brother/Sister,

I reproduce hereunder the sense of the contents of a letter of 30th May 1964, I received from our enthusiastic and vigorous Baba lover and worker Shri Amar Singh Saigal, M.P., 169 North Avenue, New Delhi.

You learnt from the recent Family letter and from reports published in 'Divya Vani' and 'Meher Pukar' that the way the 70th Birthday of Avatar Meher Baba was celebrated in a number of important towns of India, not only delighted the hearts of Baba lovers all over the country, but did not escape notice of Baba, in spite of His strict seclusion. All this was made possible by the untiring efforts of some of Baba lovers who place the Avatar's work much higher than personal considerations.

There is something exceptional about how some of Baba lovers do the work. Those of Baba Group, Karachi, in spite of the grave risk involved, managed to celebrate undauntedly the Avatar's Birthday in Karachi, in a most unusual manner, and later had the Arati "Meher Mana Arati Swikaro" of Avatar Meher Baba relayed by Radio Pakistan.

The purpose of sending out this letter is to see that Baba lovers all over become possessed of a determination to fight their way, overcoming self-consciousness and timidity and spread Baba's messages with open mind and heart. This is necessary at a crucial period when the time of His Manifestation is near.

Baba is in seclusion and does not grant darshan; but this should give us a greater incentive to act vigorously, to do His work bigger and better. Let us become instrumental in enlightening the world with Baba's message of love, truth and honesty and also, that He suffers for the world universally inwardly, and that they may learn to suffer for others by treading the path of love, truth and honesty. They are indeed lucky, who, during the lifetime of the Avatar, act as His instruments to spread His name and message. They would leave for posterity a lesson of unflinching loyalty and love for truth and honesty. They would in fact be honoured as being responsible to hold aloft the torch of Light and Love in face of the thickening clouds of darkness, disease, discord and defeat.

May Baba's Name act as your beacon light on the path of Truth, as you proceed whole heartedly.

ADI K. IRANI
Secretary & Disciple
Avatar Meher Baba

Editorial:

The Silence Anniversary Message of Avatar Meher Baba

We are indeed thrice-blessed that Beloved Baba has in spite of His present seclusion, during this year, has out of His great Compassion released a special Message, on the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of His unfathomable and divine Silence. The full Message has appeared verbatim in this journal. Experiencing the reality of Love and Truth is different from an intellectual conception of them. We cannot get anywhere nearer their reality through just theorisation, howsoever elaborate. The thirsty man needs not descriptions of water but water itself. And our Beloved has come to quench our thirst for the waters of Eternal Life.

His Silence as well as the breaking of Silence have this single purpose viz. to bring awakening and divine fulfilment to our groping age. But we have covered ourselves up with crusts of self-accumulated ignorance. We offer ego-resistances to the outpourings of Life, which issue out of His infinite Being. We remain unilluminated and unenlivened, in spite of the numberless spiritual messages, vouchsafed to us throughout the history of humanity. The Divine Beloved is ever seeking to descend into our hearts. We are unable to receive Him. We cling to our own separative stupidities, jealousies, rivalries and pursuits of the illusion and lock Him out.

However, the 39 years of the dynamic Silence of Avatar Meher Baba has worked out the Miracle, which

no messages could ever have achieved. It has imperceptibly percolated like a healing balm into the depths of our souls. The East, and the West, the rich and the poor, men and women; the good and the bad and all extremes and opposites have all been reconciled into an integrated unity at His feet. The whole world is waiting to receive new shape and meaning at the hands of Beloved Baba. He is the Master Architect and Life-giver of the universe.

Avatar Meher Baba's Silence has to be heard through the inner silence of our own minds and hearts. But we find them inevitably operating like chatter-boxes, goaded by sanskaric momentum. Therefore, Beloved Baba has to break His Silence in order to reveal to us the true meaning of Love and Truth. That moment, He has often assured us, is not far off. Let us hearken to His Silence with all alertness! And let us also be ready to hear and respond to His Word, when it comes to us from His divine heights!

—*Dr. C. D. Deshmukh*

Avatar Meher Baba's 39th Silence Anniversary

10th July, 1964

by Adi K. Irani

Meherbaba is a word. The word is a name. The name is of that Being who is Reality. His Silence is the supreme aspect of His Reality. It is not a mere withdrawal from expression of words. It is not silencing of mind. It is not clogging of emotions. It is the source of all activity of thought and energy. It is the power of creation, the joy of life and the substance of all-pervading existence of things and beings.

What we see of Meher Baba's Silence is that He does not utter words by mouth. What we feel of His Silence is the peacefulness of His physical presence. What we think of His Silence is our imagination of the height of His consciousness. Beyond apprehension of our seeing, feeling and imagining, we do not know what His Silence really is. Before we could know what His Silence is, let us try to know who He is.

He is the substance of everything and every being in all aspects of their existence and function. Such a Being in all His Infinity, Luminosity, Power and Knowledge comes down from His transcendent abode and gets, as it were, "bottled up" in the limitedness of a human form. His life focalizes the Infinitude of God in the material world, and bridges the path of man leading to God.

The Avatar by His descent, lays the new highway from Man to God. In its very laying, He creates a unique opportunity for man to be drawn towards the way of life

He directs. One has to accept Him to accept the way of life He shows. Those who accept Him, create no resistance for themselves. Those who are seized of a rigid and mechanical adherence to the past, cannot exceed their habit. They refuse to be moved until a catastrophic change shakes them out from their slumber.

History has taught repeated lessons of how man defied the Avatars of the past during their lifetime and later surrendered to their Divine Will and Mercy; and yet history repeats itself by man repeating his error. But the oft-repeated hints given by Meher Baba portends of a different possibility of circumstances. During His Manifestation He will be accepted as the Avatar of the age by a large section of humanity of the world.

The living Avatar does not change the texture of faith in man for God, but re-affirms it in the set-up of new civilisation and culture. He is the same Ancient One taking different forms at different times and places like Zoroaster, Rama, Krishna, Moses, Christ, Buddha and Mohammed.

His activity is formulated by the impact of world events that are planned by His Will. Between the planning and its execution, He hardly intervenes, except during grave crisis. Such intervention does not take place either to neutralize or much less to negativate the working out of the Divine Plan, but to fulfil it. Being immensely Compassionate, He gets the entire plan worked out in a manner comparatively least suffering to humanity and without the least diminution to its good effect.

Supposing the Divine Plan ordained two men to undergo car accidents at different times and places. There is an intervention by the Avatar in one case. The moment he is seriously hurt in the accident, an ambulance happens to pass by, picks him up and he is treated by one

of the best surgeons. He comes out of the hospital normal and healthy in a short time. The other man who gets into an equally serious accident and is unfortunate not to have the Avatar's intervention, suffers delay and detention and comes out of the hospital after a long time, not completely recovered from the after effects of the accident. Not that the Avatar intervenes in every individual case. This is just an example of how on a universal scale things are worked out by the intervention of the living Avatar favourably for man.

The all-pervading Silence that is personified in Meher Baba is activated by His living presence on earth. It is the descent from the formless God into the form of man. It is the ageless age of life and the deathless birth of His Being.

History will bear out the fact that with the colossal weapons of destruction discovered by the scientists, the Silence of Meher Baba borne upon itself, the shocks of the repeated urges of the men in material power, to devastate the earth to gain a shameless supremacy over the lives and properties of others. This He does by a vicarious self-suffering in the silence of His Being, who is Avatar Meher Baba. May His reign of love, peace, and plenty shield the heart and mind of man from hatred, greed and selfishness. May He continue to Bless the world ever!

Let Not Baba Break 'The Brake of Silence'

By Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, M.A., Ph. D.

There appears to be an increasing worry prevailing in the minds of several lovers, devotees, followers and even the critics of Avatar Meher Baba about HIS 'promised' breaking of Silence at this juncture, as it is about to enter its 40th year of unbroken continuity.

During my recent All India Tour also, I have been asked at each and every place I visited, by a curious section of sadhaks to let them know whether Baba would be really breaking His Silence as promised by Him or not; and the climax of all is that I am at the same time, asked to clarify the reason as to why Baba thus carries on a 'bluff'—firstly by giving a definite date and time of breaking The Silence and secondly, breaking the 'promise' when the appointed date and time arrives.

Well, there may be a thousand reasons for God who is beyond 'reasoning' to explain this. Yet, from what I have thought on this most common question confronting many lovers of Baba, I shall endeavour to give an answer to this 'unanswerable query', which I wonder, may win the appreciation of all true spiritual aspirants.

I do feel, **Breaking of Baba's Silence** will have a very dynamic effect on the universal mind. The sound produced by the waves of His wonderful Silence may not indeed allow us to listen to the **Silent Voice of God**—at the time of Avataric Manifestation, when Lord Meher shall break His long Silence in every **Heart**. Who knows

that the '**Word**' of words will be uttered by **Him** at a certain unusual vibrational range and the **Same** shall simultaneously spread the perfume of Peace in the inner regions of 'mind' and saturate the entire atmosphere of the earth with the fragrance of fraternity. The 'tongue' of the Avatar may not seem to be speaking a word and the ears of His lovers may not hear **It**. Still, the '**Original Word**' is bound to be released by **God** in His Divine Silence and **That** can be heard by all alike, irrespective of geographical distances, provided, as Baba has already said, we are able to "**Shut the ears of mind and open the ears of heart**".

Moreover, the breaking of Baba's Silence may have some esoteric significance in the spiritual history of man's becoming God—the finale of human evolution. This may even mean a psychic process of self-unfoldment.

If, instead of 'breaking Silence' Baba is breaking His promise of 'breaking silence', that then shall indicate that the '**B r a k e**' is still necessary, in order to save 'humanity' from the uncontrollable 'speed' of destruction. Grammatically, let me spell the word as '**Brake**' though phonetically, it sounds as 'break', and with this new magic of spelling, it can be seen that Baba's **Silence** is a kind of "**Brake**", working in a perfectly sound condition, which, when applied, shall definitely check the speed of destruction.

Take for instance, a steam engine, a motor car, a cycle or any vehicle that we drive. But, we always take care to see that the 'brake' is alright in good condition. Otherwise, we know, we are liable to meet with accidents. Similarly, in a mad world of noise, the speed-intoxicated man must see that the break is not broken and that it is in good working condition, so that this **Brake of Silence** can control 'speed' and avoid accidents on the **Road to Realisation of God**.

Therefore, I say with stronger emphasis that Baba's **Silence** is a sound-**Brake**, the use of which is still a secret to the modern scientist. Baba alone knows the modus operandi of such a **Divine 'Brake' of Silence**. Why should I foolishly presume that Baba is going to **break** the **Brake**: because, when the **Brake** is broken and **His Silence** does not function, the world which is in constant motion, is surely got to face a grave danger of destruction. Unless the **Brake** is applied in time, by the Avatar of our Age, the whole machinery of creation may collapse. I, therefore, personally wish "let not Baba break the **Brake of Silence**!"

As far as His present **Seclusion** is concerned, I feel it is the best period when a thorough overhaul of the said **Brake of Silence** is perhaps conducted by **Him**.

Hence, the question of 'breaking promise' by the **Highest of the High**, does not arise at all. However, in the same context, it can be understood that the world, which is produced in His Maya, is nothing but a big bluff of **Reality**. All 'illusion' is bluff and this planet is a part of that grand illusion that is sustained in the shadow of God. So, if we want to exist on this earth as we do now, the world must go on in **His Silent Maya**, for which God should be requested to carry on the 'bluff'—an eternal game of the **Ancient One**.

With this end in view, I pray the Almighty Avatar to continue His present **Silence**, instead of 'breaking' IT and the currency of the same may well be extended for at least 700 years, which may be annually renewed on the 10th of July **The Great Silence Day**.

* The Journey

By Francis Brabazon

I know where I'm going,
And you may come along too
If your heart is knowing
Much, much more than you do.

If you will never regret
And remain staunch and true,
If you will keep the secret
Of what your heart tells you.

We will ride a goat
That's faster than an airplane
To ends of earth remote - -
Yet where we are remain.

We'll see streams in deserts flowing
For many and many a mile,
And lovely flowers in dust growing
Because of Someone's smile.

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

The journey is a long one - -
From here to the most distant star:
And it's finished right now - -
For love is where you are.

You don't have to go any further
To find your heart's bright cheer - -
For love is Meher Baba,
And He's not There but Here.

And oh, He is so bonny,
And oh, He is so fine:
Who loves Him not is a ninny,
And though has eyes is blind.

He is so very bonny,
So winsome - - that one sigh
Of mine for Him has broken
My heart: oh, I would die.

Echo of Silence

(A collection of Sayings of Avatar Meher Baba)*

*When from the depths of his heart, man desires something more real than material power, the wave of destruction will recede. Thence peace will come, joy will come, light will come.

*The breaking of My silence—the signal of My public manifestation—is not far off. I bring the greatest treasure which it is possible for man to receive—a treasure which includes all other treasures, which will endure for ever, which increases when shared by others. Be ready to receive it.

*I am not limited by this form. I use it like a garment to make Myself visible to you; and I communicate with you. Don't try to understand Me, My depth is unfathomable. Just love Me. I eternally enjoy the Christ-state (*Aham Brahmasmi-state*) of consciousness, and when I speak I shall manifest My true Self; besides giving a general push to the whole world, I shall lead all those who come to Me toward light and truth.

*I intend, when I speak, to reveal the ONE Supreme Self which is in all. This accomplished, the idea of the self as a limited, separate entity will disappear, and with it will vanish self-interest. Co-operation will replace competition, certainty will replace fear, generosity will replace greed. Exploitation will disappear. The benefits that shall accrue to different nations and countries when I bring about the spiritual upheaval will be largely deter-

mined by the amount of energy each possesses. The greater the energy—however misapplied—the greater the response.

*When (the God-man) speaks, Truth is more powerfully manifested than when He uses either sight or touch to convey it. For that reason Avatars usually observe a period of silence lasting for several years, breaking it to speak only when they wish to manifest the Divine Will and world-wide transformation of consciousness then takes place.

*I am never silent. I speak eternally. The voice that is heard deep within the soul is My voice ... the voice of inspiration, of intuition, of guidance. Through those who are receptive to this voice, I speak.

*My outward silence is no spiritual exercise. It has been undertaken and maintained solely for the good of others.

*Things that are real are always given and received in silence.

*God has been everlastingly working in silence, unobserved, unheard, except by those who experience His Infinite Silence.

*People have asked Me when I would break My silence. I, in turn asked them, "If My silence cannot speak, of what avail would be speeches made by the tongue?" When God thinks My speaking would be heard universally, He will make Me break My silence. However, silence or no silence, he who would deeply ponder over the Truth which I declare, shall eventually be initiated into the Life Eternal.

*Time, implying a beginning and an end, like space, has no existence in the eternity of God. For us here, time does exist, and the present is fast approaching a junction that is the end of an old and the beginning of a new cycle.

The time is thus almost ripe for a fresh Universal Divine Manifestation that will infuse new vitality in the body of the old and time-worn truths.

*Although political, economic and sex problems are not directly connected with the Divine Theme, the moment God speaks, all problems, all over the world, will by themselves get solved and adjusted.

*This much I can say now, that soon God will make Me break My silence and then it will mean God manifesting Himself; and within a short period, humiliation and glorification will come and then will follow My violent physical death. I will come back again after 700 years; this I can say now.

*Before the end of this year, God will make Me sing the first original Song, and those who love Me will be lost in that song and find Me to be in every one. When I break My silence, the greatest miracle of times will happen. Be worthy to receive the Divine Grace- and for that be prepared to receive that Grace now.

*Although I appear to be silent, I speak through you all. I am ever silent and everlastingly speaking, but the time has arrived when soon I will break this apparent silence and then those who love Me will see My Real Self.

*I feel very happy to hear music. It reminds Me of the first Song that was sung ages ago, and that Song produced this phenomena called the Universe. God will make Me soon break My silence and that first original Song will be sung again, and the world will realize that God alone is real and that everyone of us is eternally one with God.

*When I say that My Manifestation is connected with the breaking of My silence, people should not expect an outpouring of verbosity. I will utter the Word of words

that will irresistibly impart to those who are ready the 'I-am God', '*Anal Haq*' or '*Aham Brahma-Asmi*' state.

*My mission is to utter this word of Truth which will pierce the mind of world and go to its very heart. It will convey the simple Truth in its utter and indefinable simplicity. It will mark the moment of fulfilment of the Divine Life. It will throw open new gates to Eternity. It will bring new hope to despairing humanity.

*The word that I will speak will go to the world as *from God, not as from a philosopher; it will go straight to its heart*. With the dawn of the realisation of the Unity of all life, hatred and dissension will come to an end. There will be unfaltering love and unfailing understanding and men shall be united in an inviolable brotherhood based on the realised Oneness of God.

*The moment I break My silence and utter that Original Word, the first and last miracle of "Baba" in this life will be performed. It will be such a miracle as I never have performed. When I perform that miracle, I won't raise the dead; but I will make those who live for the world dead to the world and live in God. I won't give sight to the blind, but will make people blind to illusion and make them see God as Reality.

*I must break My silence soon. When I do, all who have come into contact with Me will have *some glimpse of Me*. Some will see a little of it, some a little more and some still more. It will be as when the "power-house" is switched on; wherever bulbs are connected to it, there will be light. From the bulbs that are of small candlepower, the light will be dim; from those that are of high candle-power, the light will be bright. If the bulb is fused there will be no light at all. I perform no miracles, but when I break My silence, the first and the last miracle will be performed. The time for the "power-house" to be

switched on is so near that the only thing that will *count now is love*.

*Remember, that although I do not perform miracles, I will give anything to *whosoever asks from the bottom of his heart*. But this I tell you, too—that the one who asks for My love will be the chosen one. The time is very near when I will break My silence, and then, within a short period, all will happen, My humiliation, My glorification, My manifestation and My dropping this body. All this will happen soon and in a short period. So, from this moment, love Me more and more.

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

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

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

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

*I have come to sow the seed of love in your hearts so that in spite of all superficial diversity, which your life in illusion must experience and endure, the feeling of oneness through love is brought about amongst all the nations, creeds, sects and castes of the world. In order to bring this about, I am preparing to break My silence. When I break My silence it will not be to fill your ears with spiritual lectures. I shall speak only One word, and this Word will penetrate the hearts of all men and make even the so-called sinner feel that he is meant to be a saint, while the saint will know that God is in the sinner as much as He is in himself.

*Ages and ages ago, I did perform one great miracle and the whole of this illusion of creation came from Me. I will perform another such miracle at the time when I break My silence. That will be My first and last miracle in My present incarnation. Expect no other miracle from Me.

*The time is rapidly approaching when a tidal wave will rise in the Ocean of Grace. Then the usual process by which the water in the rivers flows into the oceans *will be reversed* and the ocean water *will rush through the river-beds*. Be prepared to receive this overflow of Grace.

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

*Throughout eternity I have laid down principles and precepts, but mankind has ignored them. Man's inability to live God's words makes the Avatar's teaching a mockery. Instead of practising the compassion He taught, man has waged crusades in His name. Instead of living the humility, purity and truth of His words, man has given way to hatred, greed and violence.

*Because man has been deaf to the principles and precepts laid down by God in the past, in this present Avataric Form I observe Silence. You have asked for and

been given enough words—it is now time to live them. To get nearer and nearer to God you have to get further and further away from "I", "My", "Me" and "Mine". *You have not to renounce anything but your own self. It is as simple as that though found to be almost impossible. It is possible for you to renounce your limited self by My Grace. I have come to release that Grace.*

*Come prepared to receive not so much of My words but of My Silence.

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

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

*All this world confusion and chaos was inevitable and no one is to blame. What had to happen has happened; and what has to happen will happen. There was and is no way out except through My coming in your midst. I had to come, and I have come. I am the Ancient One.

*Through endless time God's greatest gift is continuously given in silence. But when mankind becomes completely *deaf to the thunder of His silence*, God incarnates as Man. The Unlimited assumes the Limited, to shake Maya-drugged humanity to a consciousness of its true

destiny and to give a spiritual push to the world by His physical Presence on earth. *He uses the Body for His universal work, to be discarded in final sacrifice as soon as it has served its purpose.*

*God has come again and again in various Forms, has spoken again and again in different words and different languages the same one Truth—but how many are there that live up to it? Instead of making Truth the vital breath of his life, man compromises by making over and over again a mechanical religion of it,—as a handy staff to lean on in times of adversity, as a soothing balm for his conscience or as a tradition to be followed in the footsteps of the past. Man's inability to live God's words, makes them a mockery. How many Christians follow Christ's teaching to "turn the other cheek or to love thy neighbour as thyself?" How many Muslims follow Mohammed's precept to "hold God above everything else?" How many Hindus "bear the torch of righteousness at all cost?" How many Buddhists live the "Life of pure compassion expounded by Buddha?" How many Zoroastrians "think truly, speak truly, act truly?". God's Truth cannot be ignored; and thus by mankind's ignorance and weakness a tremendous adverse reaction is produced—and the world finds itself in a cauldron of suffering through wars, hate, conflicting ideologies, and nature's rebellion in the form of floods, famines, earthquakes, and other disasters. Ultimately when the apex is reached, God manifests anew in human form to guide mankind to the destruction of its self-created evil, that it may be re-established in the Divine truth. My Silence and the imminent breaking of My Silence is to save mankind from the monumental forces of ignorance, and to fulfil the divine Plan of universal unity. The breaking of Silence will reveal to man the universal oneness of God, which will bring about the universal brotherhood of man. *My Silence had to be. The breaking of My Silence has to be—soon.*

*My Humiliation, and My Glorification:

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

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

*Drown all sound in My silence, if you would hear My Word of words.

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

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

*I want you to remain absorbed as much as possible in thinking of Me during My Seclusion of six months, when circumstances will be so created during this period that they will try to drift you away from Me. This is the reason why I have repeatedly stressed, while at Guruprascd, that the time has come when I want you all to *cling to My 'daaman' with both hands*—in case the grip of one hand is lost, your other hand will serve in good stead.

Hold fast to My daaman.

*My Silence must break. There is no escape for it. I shall not lay down My body until I have given the WORD to the world.

**Of My own I shall not break My silence; Universal Crisis will make Me do so. When the Crisis reaches its absolute culmination, it will make Me utter the WORD at that moment. Circumstances are converging and fast gathering momentum towards precipitating the right moment, which will come completely unawares—at any time, any hour, any day. That Moment is not far away.*

*As I am the PIVOT of the Universe, the full pressure of the universal upheaval will bear on Me, and correspondingly My suffering will be so infinitely overwhelming that the WORD will escape from out of the Silence.

Remain completely resigned to My WILL, and do not let any circumstance or situation shake your grip from My 'daaman', I shall not come out of My Seclusion until I break My Silence. The Divine Moment for My giving the WORD is not far off.

"DIVYA VANI"

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-EDITOR

The Silence That Speaks

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

On this day, the 10th July, 1964 full thirty nine years will be completed, since Avatar Meher Baba has commenced His unique and significant silence. It is worthwhile for us to ponder over its tremendous significance. Our age is addicted to words. So much so, that more often than not, we find that we have spoken out long before our thought has been completed. And we strangely persuade ourselves to believe that the leaking vessel will be full of the waters of life. The psycho-physical energy which should go into understanding the eternal truth, gets dissipated in the flinging of slogans and the brandishing of phrases, leaving the heart empty as ever. The movement of the mind-heart gets tied to the outgoing psycho-chemical nervous discharges through the speech centres in the motor areas like the high-tempered steed, whose feet are tied with each other, the life process of knowing-feeling gets retarded at every step, if during the process of understanding, there is an unavoidable compulsion towards self communication through words. The result is helpless confusion within and disastrous chaos outside.

It is as if all the steam in the engine had managed to escape through the whistle, leaving no reserve for driving the train. The only radical cure for our age would lie in prolonged and universal silence for each and all. But to get this done is an impossible feat, requiring as it does profound understanding on the part of all. It seems to me that the Inscrutable Silence of our Beloved Avatar Meher vicariously and representatively fulfills this supreme need of our distracted age.

In fact, Avatar Meher Baba has himself once said, "I observe silence, because I am tired of talking through you all". The unique, unparalleled and uninterrupted silence of Beloved Baba has continued over 39 years. It is an adequate balancing counterpart for the endless chattering and gossip that drains the energy of our age. It is not a silence of just one man against the meaningless voices of the multitude. It is the silence of the Avatar, whose life, in its universal aspect, pulsates through all beings in all kingdoms and worlds. The counterpoise is a complete set up for His Avataric working.

The unique silence of Avatar Meher Baba started on 10th July, 1925 (without the pomp or fuss of little minds) for reasons spiritual, in order to lead the world on to peace through impending world conflagrations and tribulation. In the beginning, He used a slate and a pencil to have his 'say'. But in 1927, these were replaced by His famous Alphabet Board. He spelt out His words by His quickly moving fingers or spelling out the printed alphabets on this board. His profound discourses and messages given through this board are among world's most inspiring literature. The facility with which He operated the board was also amazingly effective not only for the much needed detailed attention to the daily routine of His life as the spiritual Master of innumerable lucky ones, but also for His conscious sharing of His divine life with the Mandali members. But from 7th October 1954, He also gave up for ever the use of the Alphabet Board, relying only on gestures and signals for self communication. And this gesture language turned out to be even a more potent medium for His Avataric expression. His 'God speaks', 'Listen Humanity', 'Beams' and 'Every Thing and Nothing' are immortal.

Meher lovers are occasionally vouchsafed the unique Darshans and companionship of the Master of Silence,

who imparts not merely words, but a new life impulse, quietly but irresistibly lifting all from the separative ego-life to the indivisible Life Eternal. The silence of Avatar Meher Baba is an unchallengeable affirmation of the Truth that refuses to be encaged by the wisest of words. What many fail to achieve through long drawn haranguing at the top of their voices, Beloved Baba's Avataric Silence accomplishes in a few seconds. If this spiritual Alchemy of Baba's silent companionship is not *miracle*, we may be sure that there is no such thing as a miracle in the whole world. Avatar Meher's silence illumines the mind without stifling it, nourishes the soul without stupefying it and enlivens the heart without overpowering it. His eloquent silence gives a divine call to the inmost being of man, asking him to inherit His own divinity, through the unarguing but invincible wisdom of undying love. His silence shall be heard even in the midst of bursting nuclear bombs. He is not only the Avatar of our Age, but the Eternal Recurrent Avatar.

In July 1949, all Meher lovers of the East and the West had the privilege to share with Beloved Baba complete unbroken silence during the entire month, by His order. Such privilege of participation in His silence has since been repeated on some anniversaries of the silence day, which is July 10th. Beloved Baba's silence stirs the very depths of the soul, bringing tidings from the inscrutable yonder, at once comforting our age and piercing it with a divine restlessness that seeks the abiding peace of Eternity. Posterity will be engrossed in deciphering the full import of each gesture-communication of Beloved Baba. But it is our special privilege to allow our hearts to throb with the Illimitable Life, which He brings for us. All that we have to do is to summon sufficient courage to break through self-created resistances. In the unruffled silence, God has been playing with His intimate ones His eternal game, from the beginningless to the end-

less. And to see the same God in human form playing with us, His dear ones, is a Mystery of mysteries, too true to need any props from the limping intellect of man. If His silence is so meaningful and sweet, how much more so will be the breaking of His silence, when He utters the Word of words.

In November 1962, Baba gave His unique Darshan Sahavas to His Eastern and Western lovers at Poona in Guruprasad, where in the last few years, He vouchsafed darshans during summers. These were unforgettable contacts.

Let us learn at the feet of the Avatar with faith and receptivity. Learning implies much more than desire to learn, requiring a willingness and sometimes even an effort to unlearn many things, to which we get attached in our ignorance. The Master teaches us—How to live. But we may miss His great Truth, if we do not have the humility to receive it, without offering the resistances of our ego-phantasies. Truth can neither be imparted nor received except in the tranquility of silence and in the profoundness of pure love.

Can there be any plan for creating this subtle commodity of clear love, which equally defies coercion and temptation? We may well put aside all anxious worries on this score. The divine love of the Most High, which is eternally sustaining each and all, is now right in our midst in full Incarnation in the form of Avatar Meher Baba. But we must summon readiness to hearken to his eloquent silence. This will require on our part greater attention and concentration than what is necessary for understanding spoken words or even for reading between the expressed lines of prose or poem. It will also require silence on the part of our own minds, which like habitual chatter boxes, are prone to meet the revealed Truth of

the Avatar, with their own ill-understood or half-baked theories.

Enticing and inviting, Avatar Meher Baba's thundering Silence gives a rude awakening to the confused spirit of our age. It brings to the bar of our own Judgement the erring learned ones, the high browed priests and the struggling, toiling and groping hydra-headed multitude, chiding them, consoling them, inviting them and drawing them by His invisible pure love into the sanctuary of His all-encompassing Peace and Bliss of the undivided Life Eternal.

DIVYA VANI

(An English Bi-monthly)

To Our Inland Subscribers:

Single Copy: Excluding Postage	Rs. 1-50
Annual Subscription: Including Postage	Rs. 8-00

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- E D I T O R.

Awake O' My Soul

By P. G. Nandi, Jabalpur

Awake, awake, O my soul!

From the age-old deepest slumber;

Arise, arise, O my soul!

From the depth of abyss sombre;

Hark, hark, no more dark,

The Sun is up in blazing splendour;

Look, look, in every nook,

Life in dance in joy and wonder;

Yonder, here, every where,

Feel the touch of Master Awakener;

Alas! alas! hapless soul!

Would you be yet in dreamy corner?

Enter, enter, O my Master,

Enter in my heart's chamber;

Help, help O my Self,

Help the soul break his slumber;

Shower, shower, Beloved Master,

Shower Thy Grace over, over;

Break, break, break asunder,

Break the spell of Maya for ever!

The Reason For Changing the Outlook of My Worldly Life

By Jal S. Irani (Baba's brother)

I was born in the salubrious climate, under a Lucky Star, in Poona, then called The Queen of the Deccan, on the 15th September, 1902 in an illustrious and God-fearing family.

The eldest brother was Jamshed, then Merwan (Baba), then sister Freny, Shirdaz, Jehangir, myself, Behram, Adi and sister Mani. We were in good circumstances having a flourishing business, which brought us decent profits in those good old days.

I lost my eldest sister Freny and two brothers, named Shirdaz and Jehangir, when I was quite young.

My brothers Jamshed, Merwan (Baba) and myself were schooling in St. Vincent's High School in Poona, but I was in the Primary Class. My brother Jamshed and Baba were devoted to each other and rarely parted company. Even in those early days, we had an inborn love and regard for Merwan to whom we were drawn by some mystic power of love and affection.

On leaving school, I joined my father Sheriarji in his flourishing business. In 1923 while Merwan was passing on his cycle, he was called by Hazarat Babajan who was then aged 110 years. Merwan alighted from his cycle and went to her. Babajan then got up from the rest of the company and looked into Merwan's eyes and kissed him on the forehead and made him realize that He is the Avatar of the Age. Thus He was separated from us.

Since that time, Merwan (Baba) used to occasionally come to our house and dine with us. He would tell us that He was the incarnation of God; but I used to tell Him that He was nothing more than the most loving brother in the family. He often scolded me and tried to persuade me to join Him in His Spiritual Life. He even asked that I should renounce everything—even my flourishing business, home and wealth and be associated with Him permanently. I would not consent to this request of His and tell Him that I would not believe Him as being the Incarnation of God or anything else.

Then one day, He came suddenly with one of His close friends and followers and told me that if I really loved Him and prepared to obey Him implicitly, I should put a piece of burning red-hot charcoal on the palm of my right hand. I was so overcome by some blind egoism unknown to me even to this day, that I agreed. Then Baba went into the kitchen and brought a big piece of live red-hot coal in some utensil, which He put on the palm of my right hand. I did not feel any burning or pain in the least, but the smell of the burning flesh brought my mother running from the other room. When she saw that it was the smell of the burning flesh of my right hand, she was shocked and dumb-founded. She scolded Merwan (Baba) and made Him take the fire off the palm, which was still burning and had stuck to the flesh and had to be taken off with force by some instrument by Merwan (Baba). Immediately this was done, I fainted and was rushed to the hospital unconscious.

In the Sassoon Hospital Baba used to visit me. As I regained my senses, I started feeling the agonizing and unbearable pain. I was in hospital for a month and often used to wonder why I had allowed Merwan (Baba) to put the burning hot live coal on my palm. As a consequence of this the palm of my right hand was burnt and disfigured,

and I wonder how it was that I did not feel the pain in the least, when the burning fire was consuming my flesh. I cannot explain it even to this day. After a month's treatment, I was brought home. Baba came to see me at home and praised me for my strength, courage and will in undergoing the awful pain for his sake.

He then embraced me and asked me whether I had decided to renounce the world, its pomp and pleasures. After deep meditation, I told Baba that I was prepared to carry out His Will and follow Him.

In 1918, Meher Baba started humanitarian work. He gave instructions to me and a few other followers and together we used to help Him in His work. This was the beginning of Baba manifesting Himself in carrying out the duties of an Avatar.

Baba by this time had quite a few of His close followers, including myself and so we walked on from Poona to Bombay to spread out His Message of Love.

I toured with Baba from the very beginning on most of His missions, for many years, to different parts of the world and we were joined by several others who followed Him closely.

I hope to write down all my experiences and the miracles which I have witnessed, so as to enlighten the masses.

My father Sheriarji passed away in April 1932, so did my mother leave for her heavenly home in February 1943. My eldest brother, Jamshed loved Baba very much and he too breathed his last with Baba's name on his lips. My father Sheriarji had an intense love for Merwan and had no doubt that he was born for greater spiritual advancement, that would in years to come, take him to His Creator.

In 1924, Baba wrote an account of His Spiritual Experiences at Meherabad Hill (which was formerly a dry water tank). Sitting in one of the empty tanks, He has written messages which contain hitherto unknown Spiritual Secrets. These Secrets have not been published but have been closely guarded.

I was the only one present on the Hill to give Baba the food, water and writing material, which He called for. Baba then severely ordered me not to allow any one to approach this Hill, till He had finished the work of writing. It is hoped that these Secrets will be divulged to the world at some auspicious time later.

"A Siddhi-Purusha (Perfect Man) is like an archaeologist who removes the dust and lays open an old well which has been covered up by ages of disuse. The *Avatara*, on the other hand, is like an engineer who sinks a new well in a place where there was no water before. Great Men give salvation to those only who have the waters of piety hidden in themselves, but the *Avatara* saves him too whose heart is devoid of love and dry as a desert."

—Robert Crosbie (Founder: United Lodge
of Theosophists)

DUST UNTO DAWN

By Dr. H. P. Bharucha, Navsari

The general dissatisfaction, the strife and uncertainty that is everywhere, shows that the ideal of material perfection is an empty dream. The increased material well-being of people which science has brought about should have produced contentment and satisfaction. On the contrary there is widespread distrust and misery. Man is restless with the restlessness of modern life and unless he returns to his native poise and repose from the harrowing atmosphere of our present day life, he will have to pass thru' years of anxiety, fear and uncertainty. Man's soul is in the vicious grip of forces that stifle its very existence. Man is chasing phantoms of power, beauty, wealth, and knowledge. Man's individual life has become hollow and false within, built upon false values of life. In the quest of happiness he invites more misery and loses whatever little happiness he has. He lives a hectic and restless life, suffering from a sense of discontent and ennui.

Man in his search for happiness has trodden many paths which have allured him with promise of profit and even given him short-lived peace and confidence. All these paths he has discovered again and again to be blind alleys, each one leading to a new question and a new wall of difficulty, the whole labyrinthine maze clearly bringing him back again and again to the same starting point. Many are seeking solutions to man's present problems. Unless man realises his own Self, he cannot have supreme peace, eternal satisfaction and immortality. The many doubts and questions which Self gathers are a result of

the one great question, "Who am I?" The sheaths in which the 'I' is enwrapped are many—I am miserable, I am rich, I am poor, I am black, I am an Indian, I am an American, etc. These are incidents in the continuity of the 'I'. They are ever passing and varying. The 'I' remains the same. The house, the town, the country, the earth, the solar system in which 'I' lives, are all changing momentarily; but 'I' feels persistently unchanged through all these changes. This 'I' is unlimited by space and time; it is immortal. This 'I' or Self might be defined as the individualised Absolute. The totality of these individual Absolutes makes up the universal or truly complete Absolute. Since the infinite Absolute cannot be the second part of the finite self, the apparent existence of the finite is false. Thus the Self must be equal to and cannot be less than the complete Absolute. Man can truly be called the microcosm which is the epitome of the macrocosm.

When man realizes the Self in him, he experiences his own Self in all other beings and things. He now feels the basic 'unity' of all creation and knows that peace can never be found in an unreconciled and conflicting 'many'. For him who sees the Oneness, there is no sorrow, no despondency. He sees that all Selves rise and fall endlessly in unlimited time and space. Realizing the Self in him he cognizes the Self-God in all, and loving all Selves as himself, desiring their welfare as his own, he lives for their happiness. Men shall then be united in an inviolable brotherhood based on the realized Oneness of God. Man is already part of One life, and as such, brotherhood is not something that is to be brought into existence by laborious efforts, but is a fact that has only to be recognised. This feeling of oneness of all Selves will then supersede the idea of separateness and rule over the hearts of all, driving away hatred, jealousy and greed, that breed

suffering, and happiness will reign. Nations should cease dividing mankind into national, racial, and religious groups. The idea of separate nations has made life miserable and intolerable. Nations have now to learn to think of mankind as a whole, as one human family. What is needed is a move towards the unity of the world, and to solder the world into unity by man realizing his own Self to be the same as the Selves in all.

A world-wide spiritual renaissance is therefore the only solution to the problem of finding lasting peace and happiness for mankind. It alone is capable of hitting at the root of all troubles. It is not possible to realize human brotherhood merely by appealing to high ideals or to a sense of duty. It cannot be attained through organizations however efficient or by conferences and meetings. Something more than that is essential to release human consciousness from the clutches of selfishness and greed. The world can be saved only through divine intervention. God has never failed humanity in its dark and critical periods. All religions are looking for the second coming, but the One cannot come with a label. Man is living today in the hope of the advent in the fulness of time of a Saviour or Messiah, who will fill the earth with goodness and inaugurate the kingdom of Righteousness, He has come! Harken, O humanity, to his call penetrating the thick dark clouds of ignorance enveloping this earth. Age after age he comes to rekindle the torch of Love and Truth regardless of the doubts or convictions people may have for Him. This divine call—'Come all unto Me' is little heeded at first; because it is muffled in His humility; yet it grows in strength, until it reverberates in countless hearts as the voice of reality.

Meher Baba, the silent Messiah of the day has given the divine call. Men in their ignorance resist His knowledge; in their helplessness defy His power; in their misery

they ignore His bliss; in their blindness they deny His light. Though silent for the past four decades, His silence continues to speak without words, while we continue to speak in words about His silence. We cannot hear His silence because, we have not yet tuned our hearts' ears to be able to hear Him. Only when we still the ceaseless babbling of our mind can we hear Him in the silence of our hearts. Today the urgent need of man is love. Meher Baba has come not to teach but to awaken Divine Love, which will help man to realize his own Self, and thus establish the feeling of oneness in all fellow beings. The religion of the primitive man was the religion of fear. Meher Baba awakens in mankind the sublime religion of love. Love is the greatest cohesive factor to cement all apparent differences in different religions. Religions seem to be many in their outward form, but in their inner sublime, spiritual nature, all religions are One. What differences appear on the surface, are the non-essentials of religions.

The general form of worship is the same in all religions i.e. prayer. Prayer is not a formalized routine of words, a refuge for the weak, or a petition for material things. It is meaningless to pray every morning and to then live like a barbarian the rest of the day. Prayer is a spontaneous appreciation of the Divine Beloved and in its highest form it leaves no room for the illusory duality of the lover and the Beloved. But this prayer can be as it should be, when a spark of Divine Love has been kindled in the abysmal darkness of selfish thoughts, selfish words and selfish deeds, through love itself. Meher Baba has come to release this love and when He breaks His silence, there shall be a tidal wave in the ocean of Love. The way of love is not free from sacrifices. Man must be prepared to gain it at the cost of his life and the ridicule of the whole world. The path of love is for the brave.

It is like diving deep into a sea of fire. All suffering then becomes your labour of love to unveil your own Self. The true lover of God is neither on this earth nor in heaven. He is like dust floating in the air searching for the Beloved. In love there can be no room for complaints to the Beloved. When the lover complains, "Had the arrow of your love pierced me thru' and thru', it would have relieved me of my suffering", he has not yet resigned to the will of the Beloved. Even to long for suffering in love is not resignation to His will. Your heart must love so that even your mind is not aware of it.

Of all the high roads to man's divine destination—Self realization—the easiest lies thru' the Messiah or Perfect Master. Unflinching love and obedience to the Messiah makes the path clear and safe. Obedience is greater than love, if it is 100% obedience. Hafiz, the Perfect Master of Iran, had said, "Befitting a fortunate slave, carry out every command of the Master without any question of why and what". The ego mind grumbles, 'why should I obey someone?' But, the bondage to the Master alone can give eternal freedom. The obedience must be cheerful with love and not for show, when it becomes worse than no obedience.

Higher than love and obedience is surrender to the Messiah or Perfect Master. To surrender is to seek His wish and pleasure. To surrender is to become nothing, like dust. Dust has no thought of its own whether it is trampled upon or suspended in air or water. It is all one and the same to it. In obedience there is the feeling that one has obeyed, but in surrender even this feeling does not exist. In fact, he does not exist by himself or for himself. Like the smithy's bellows he breathes, but not by himself or for himself. He has not only resigned to his Beloved's will, but he has no will of his own. He has no separate existence by himself. He has no thought of his surrender.

He is oblivious of his obliviousness. He does not expect acceptance of his surrender from the Master. Surrender does not imply a flight into some transcendent sphere beyond life or from the world, nor does it mean a negation of life or other worldliness. Surrender should not be mistaken for inactivity. When the self (ego) is absent, one achieves inaction in one's every action. The only way to live a life of absolute inaction is to completely surrender to a Messiah, so that one dies to oneself entirely and lives for the Beloved without even the thought that one is living for Him. One has no thought of self at all. "One who loves, is the lover of the Beloved. One who obeys is the beloved of the Beloved". One who surrenders body, mind and all else, has no existence other than that of the Beloved, who alone exists in him. Thus becoming dust at the feet of the Messiah is like becoming nothing, and when one becomes absolutely nothing, one gains everything. The only easy way to realize our Self and to know that it is the same Self in all, thereby achieving Universal Peace and Brotherhood, is to become like dust. The only way to Everything is by becoming nothing.

Becoming dust at the feet of Meher Baba shall lead unto the dawn of a New Humanity. Humanity will attain a new mode of being and life thru' the free interplay of love from heart to heart. It will free mankind from the tyranny of dead forms. It will shed all illusions and get established in the Truth. Love and surrender to Meher Baba will make men feel and experience that all men are united with each other by virtue of their all being equally the expression of One Life. All over the world, humanity has broken itself into narrow groups based upon the superficial and false differences of caste, creed, race, nationality, religion or culture; and since these groups have been long accustomed to separative distrust and fear, they

have contempt or hostility towards each other. Meher Baba shall cement all these differences by making man realize his true Self. He shall make the world know that God not only exists, but that He alone exists, Infinitely and Eternally. His divine touch shall instill in man the feeling of oneness of all fellow beings. This feeling will supersede the tendency of separateness.

Meher Baba is the way. He is the goal. As a man seeking for the value of happiness, may toil for days and nights thru' a maze of mountain ranges and come at last to a dead wall of rock and find himself despairing, until a sudden casual push may move aside a bush, or a stone, and disclose a gate thru' which he may rush to the top of the highest peak, wondering how he had failed to see it all this while, and may behold spread clear and still before him, the panorama of the scenes of his toilsome journey on the one side, and the scenes of the happy vale of scenting flowers and fruits and crystal waters on the other, such is the finding of this great summation. All the problems that bewildered him before, now receive easy solution. The breaking of Meher Baba's silence and the release of love and grace shall similarly throw open the gates to Eternity. In moments of complete despair, when the world is seized with tension all around, it is really cheering to discover that Meher Baba shall revive mankind from madness to sanity, from gloom to happiness, from chaos to order, from darkness to light. Meher Baba is the new hope of despairing humanity.

ERRATA

In "DIVYA VANI" 3rd issue, dated 10th May, 1964, page 38, para 3 and line 6, kindly read—

"The Avatar contacts the man on the fourth plane ..."
as "The Avatar never contacts the man on the fourth plane ..."
"

Glimpses from Guruprasad

(From one of the Mandali)

Guruprasad, Poona:

17th June '64.

We have been here over eleven weeks, but the novelty of our experience of a silent Guruprasad has not worn off. The Beloved's family in the East and West have been wonderfully faithful in observing His wish not to disturb Him this year, and we can imagine how difficult this must be for them. For the many who are in Poona, to be so near Him and yet not to see Him must surely be like being in paradise blindfolded. There have however been darshan seekers, mostly individuals who had not seen beloved Baba before, coming from hundreds of miles for a glimpse of Him; and as a rule Baba remains "not at home" to visitors coming for His darshan. While we enjoy the comfort of Guruprasad as a home, visions of next year rise before us, floating on fond hopes and speculations woven from hints dropped by Baba that next summer He might make Himself available for darshan to all. And so we live in anticipation of the future and contentment of the present.

It is good to see beloved Baba relaxing, at least outwardly, and to see the course of His health maintaining a somewhat steadier pace than we usually expect, although the pain in His hip-joint has been steady too. In the mornings and afternoons Baba sits in the smaller hall with the Men mandali, and the group around Him grows bigger by a handful on week-ends when a few of

His close family are privileged to be with Him. While Baba is at the dining table with us for breakfast, we can see the fountain in the garden pond with the flash of pink bougenvalia behind it; and Baba often notices the doves and mynas and hawks that come to drink from the basin of the fountain and bathe in it. Just as breakfast is over, four tots troop in—the eldest being a boy of five and the youngest a girl, eighteen months old, who sometimes toddles in clutching some rose petals in her hand to place before Baba on the table, that she can barely manage to reach. These young visitors, children of the caretaker and manager of Guruprasad Bungalow, sit every morning on the steps waiting to be called in to Baba, solemnly greet Him and receive His prasad of sweets. The toddler wants to be the first to get the prasad and often gives the sweet back to Baba for Him to unwrap it for her, which He does. Sometimes she brings her doll with her and gives it to Baba to play with.

Another "baby" is the Siamese tomcat that adopted us last summer, seeming to come from nowhere and making itself completely at home in Guruprasad for the rest of our stay here. We kept searching for its owner, and the family that owned the cat kept searching for it. At last its charming mistress Mrs. Dolly Dedee traced her lost treasure to Guruprasad and found the greatest Treasure of all, Baba. She kept coming again at every opportunity last year for His darshan and is now one of His large family. She expressed her happiness at the cat's refusal to leave Guruprasad. 'How fortunate it is' she said, 'And how fortunate I am to have found Baba through my pet!' The cat, which by now has acquired a dozen nicknames, is with us again this summer; and although it is petted and fed and spoilt more than ever, its adoration for Baba stands out above everything. We see it sitting expectantly outside beloved Baba's room,

and is the first to enter, when the door is opened. It loves to rub its head on His feet, for all the world, as though it were taking His darshan! When Baba is sitting on the chair, He will often bend down to pet it, and sometimes it will stand up and place its paws on His lap for one more caress. Whenever it meows the Beloved is convinced it is hungry, and have us give it a fresh bowl of milk, despite our united assurance that it just had a good feed! We have often heard the expression "a lucky cat" - now we know one.

This year too, we have known someone to have found Baba after losing a dear one—but in this case it was through a terrible personal tragedy. Keki Billimoria is a young man, whose wife and lovely daughter (only child) were among those drowned in a motor-launch disaster at Bombay last, when the family were on their way to the Elephanta Caves with friends to enjoy a Sunday picnic. He is son-in-law to Jal Dorabjee of Edward Hotel in Poona, a man of fine qualities, whose many acts of unselfish service and unswerving faith in Baba have endeared him and his dear wife and family to us, ever since we have known them. Beloved Baba's love for Jal Dorabjee was apparent, when He made an exception to His own rule and called him and his wife after the double tragedy, which deprived them of their only daughter and grand-daughter. The solace and strength they received from His Love helps them carry their burden of emptiness with a braveness of spirit and a resignation to God's Will, that is poignant and fills us with deep admiration. Knowing, that only Baba could calm his son-in-law's anguish of mind after the sudden loss of wife and daughter, Jal Dorabjee was happy when Keki expressed his desire to see Baba—and again the Beloved made an exception. Before leaving, the young man told Baba, how his wife (who had come for Baba's

darshan last year) had tried to persuade him to come too, saying 'I cannot express in words what you will get from Baba, but just sit for a few moments at His feet and you will know'—and still he did not come. He told Baba 'Now I have come, and I know what she meant. I will ever be grateful to her for this, but am filled with remorse that I did not come to you, when she was alive. When he left, it was with a braver heart, a calmer mind and a deeper resignation, something of which he tried to express in a touching letter, he wrote to Baba.

We hear from others how they were first awakened to Beloved Baba, through what seemed amazing coincidences or by merest chance, or through dreams. Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, who has been touring extensively for a year in many parts of India, giving lectures to people on Baba and winning over many in His Love, told us this delightful and profound experience of how a couple of vegetables brought a close friend of his to Baba. Dr. Moorthy's friend did not believe in Baba, despite the Doctor's continual efforts to convince him of Baba's Avatarhood. Then one day, as Dr. Moorthy and the friend were going to dinner at someone's home, and the conversation inevitably turned to Baba, the friend impulsively cried out, "If your Meher Baba really is what He says He is, then let the main dishes at our dinner this evening be bhendi (okra) and baingen (egg-plant). I will consider that convincing proof! Dr. Moorthy was dismayed at this challenge, not only because his friend's attitude towards an approach to Baba did not seem right, but because the vegetables were not right either—both these vegetables were out of season and not available in the market! By the time they reached their destinations, the topic was apparently forgotten. When their host led them to the dining room, they found the table set in Indian fashion with the prepared dishes laid out on the table and covered with a cloth. When the cloth was removed, the eyes of Dr. Moorthy and

his friend were riveted in amazement and wonder on the dishes uncovered—the main vegetables in the central dishes were okra and egg-plant! Needless to say the friend is a firm Baba-follower since then—what all the eloquence of Dr. Moorty had failed to do, two inanimate objects were chosen to be His silent instruments to awaken a heart.

The following happened in Iran. The 'peesh Imam' (Mohammedan priest, who leads the prayers) in Teheran had a dream, in which, a voice told him that the eagerly awaited Imam Mehdi (the Saheb-e-Zaman, or Avatar) is now on earth, and he would find Him at a certain house in Teheran. In his dream, he was guided to this house which he saw clearly before him in vivid detail. In the morning, the priest went in search of the house, found it, and knocked. To the man who opened the door, he said 'I have come to see Hazrat Saheb-e-Zaman'. He was asked to enter; and when he related his dream to the householder (Asfandiar Vesali) and his wife, tears flowed down their cheeks; for they were lovers of Baba. Asfandiar Vesali came to see Baba at Poona in 1963, and was one of the Meher Ashram boys at Meherabad 34 years ago. His house that the priest was guided to, in the dream, serves as the Avatar Meher Baba Centre in Teheran, where weekly meetings are held in Baba's Love.

There was yet another surprise for Baba's Centre in Teheran. One morning, one of the Baba-lovers went to the bazaar to buy bread, and seeing by-standers reading "Raushan-Fekr" (a leading weekly magazine of Teheran) he glanced at it and was astonished to find two full pages devoted to Beloved Baba with His photos and messages! Having no money with him to buy a copy, he ran for home and sent his son to get a copy while he informed the others about it. Soon after, the French magazine "Teheran Journal" also produced the articles in

French along with photos of the Beloved and some of His group there. This is how it came about: One day a Baba-lover took some Persian books on Baba to the office of "Raushan-Fekr", and returned with a promise from the co-editor that he would look into them and show them to the Editor. Some days later, when the Baba-group had congregated for their weekly meeting at the Centre, there was the unexpected arrival of the Editor and staff of "Raushan-Fekr". They seemed much impressed with all that they saw and heard, and at the end of the meeting asked questions and requested for more books and photos of Baba. When leaving, the Editor demanded "Why did you not inform us about Meher Baba before?"!

Shantadevi, our gracious Maharani, was the only one called by Baba to visit Guruprasad this summer for any five days during our stay here. She chose the month of April, staying in Poona for about a week and coming every afternoon to pay her respects to Baba and have His beloved sahasas. She was not present when Baba opened the A.M.B.P.C. Hall on 1st May, but Eruch wrote to her a detailed account of the function from which I quote parts that will help you to form a mind picture of the occasion:

When Baba arrived at the Hall, it was surprising to find a large crowd of lovers of Baba from Poona awaiting His arrival. The invitations were extended to about 200 persons, but the invitees also brought their families and the number swelled to almost 700 men, women and children! The Hall was well decorated and all the arrangements seen to with great care by the lovers there—some of them had worked round the clock for a week to complete every detail. The actual programme was very simple. Baba was garlanded at the entrance by the Chairman of the A.M.B.P.C. Trust, and then escorted by the Trustees into the Hall after He had cut the seven-coloured ribbons

and unlocked the entrance door. When Baba was seated in the specially made sofa-chair on the dais, the crowd was permitted to enter the Hall and sit down in a very orderly fashion. When the Hall was entirely full, with the lovers facing their Beloved God in person, some children played a very prominent part in welcoming and entertaining Baba. They sang and danced pieces prepared solely for the occasion, and also recited the Prayers and sang the Arti. Baba appeared touched by the devotion of His dear ones there, and permitted each one to approach Him despite His previous ruling, that none should do so. He was profusely garlanded by many who had brought garlands with them, and each of the gathering received His physical touch in the shape of a pat, a caress or an embrace. At the end of the programme, He was conducted to an adjoining room which is reserved for Him, where He may relax before and after such programmes. There Baba drank some fresh cocoanut water, and the mandali with Him were served a light snack. The morning's programme had lasted two hours, and Baba returned to Guruprasad at 11 o'clock. Beloved Baba has told the Trustees that He will give darshan at the A.M.B.P.C. Hall just once more, on 1st May 1965, after which He will resume His darshan programmes as usual at Guruprasad.

India has emerged from its official mourning for the death of its Prime Minister, but in the hearts of the people the mourning continues. In the death of Jawaharlal Nehru, not only has India lost a beloved friend and a brilliant leader who was dedicated heart and soul to its people, but the world has lost an unrivalled champion for peace. In a letter to Wasdeo Kain (of The President's Estate, who is secretary of the Avatar Meher Baba Centre in Delhi), Eruch writes:

Beloved Baba remarked that with the passing away of Panditji, India has lost its first Prime

Minister who also ranked first in dedicated service to India that he loved so dearly. Baba said that Jawaharlal Nehru was matchless as a statesman and India will have to wait another 700 years to find another jewel like him; he can be said to have been a Karma Yogi. It would be good if he has read at least some portion of "God Speaks" presented to him by Sardar Amar Singh Saigal (M.P.). Baba added, "Only when I come again, during my next Advent on earth, will there be another like Jawaharlal."

The above comments from beloved Baba were broadcast in part by All India Radio, Delhi, on 5th June in all the regional languages.

We will be leaving for Meherazad (Ahmednagar) at the end of this month, and shall have unpacked and settled down to the old familiar routine of Meherazad life in time for the observance of beloved Baba's 39th silence anniversary. I am giving here the circular that Adi is sending out to all in the East, so that it is sure to reach you dear ones in the West, well in time to observe it as wished by Baba:

On the 10th of July 1964, the 39th Anniversary of His Silence, Avatar Meher Baba wishes all who love and obey Him and all who would want to do so, to observe complete Silence for 24 hours beginning from midnight of the 9th of July to midnight of the 10th of July, in accordance with the local time.

Those who, for practical reasons, find that it is not possible to observe silence for the 24 hours on Friday, the 10th of July 1964, should *instead* observe complete fast for twelve hours on that day, from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. During this

Meher Center on the Lakes (U. S. A.)***

Take off your shoes, who enter here—
The Master trod this ground last year
Behold those trees which arch o'erhead,
They from His Form, the sunlight shed.
And that small hut just by the mall
Was his, in which He welcomed all.
And none too great and none too small
 but who responded to His call;
And thus received His charge of Love
Sent quivering thru' them from above.

'Twas the son of Man, as prophecied, come to us from on High
From clouds of Glory, came He down, descending from the skies

Approach yon path with reverence,
It leads right to His door.
Beyond that bridge and up the hill—
Lies Baba's house! kept ready still.
And to the right, 'neath that long cover
Were the banquet tables, set for His lovers.
That winding path down thru' the trees—
It takes you to the Meeting place—
The place where dancers pleased their King,
And buffoons made Him laugh with glee;
While earnest lovers by the score
With bated breath received His lore—
And promised to obey.

(Continued from page 43)

fast nothing must be consumed, not even water. Those who are fasting for the 12 hours on July 10th, should also observe partial fast in the morning from 6 00 a.m. to 8 00 a.m. by taking only one cup of tea or coffee (with or without milk), before beginning their complete fast at 8.00 a.m. Baba sends His Love and Blessing to each one of His lovers for the Silence Day.

For 'twas the Son of God, as prophecied, like lightning 'cross the skies,
Coming in all His Glory; a delight to every one.

Still further yet along that path
One comes out to the sea
Wherein the Master washed His feet,
Just like in Galilee.
And because of this 'tis said by some
That storm, nor strife, nor bomb, nor war
Shall ever touch this lovely shore.
For this is Holy Ground, you see;
The "Ancient One" walked here.
Tho' He "never came, and never went",
He'll always here abide.
And so we come, we longing ones,
To be here at His side.
Thus in the hearts of all who know
This place will be a shrine,
Since each who for his God did sigh,
Found here, "The Highest of the High!"

—Leland H. DeLong—

*** This was written by Mr. Leland De Long (of Lake Wales, Florida, U.S.A.) in 1958-59, after being at Myrtle Beach with Beloved MEHER BABA, during the 'Sahavas' of 1958 at that place. It brings back memories to those who had the unique pleasure and good fortune of being with Baba then. It describes what the De Long's family always feels about that beautiful and blessed place, now so lovingly and thoughtfully cared for, by dear sisters Mrs. Patterson, Kitty Davy and others. To those, who have the chance and luck of visiting there, it would be a unique privilege of several lives (incarnations) and they would be taking "their empty vessels and have them filled up there". Meher Baba has said that that place will one day be a SHRINE and a place of PILGRIMAGE. Shall some of us, who may incarnate again, be able to remember and recognise this at that time!

(Adapted from letter of Sister Mrs. Hilda De Long, by A.C.S. Chari.)

An Account of the Visit to Avatar Meher Baba

At Guruprasad – Poona

By Dr. H.P. Bharucha, Navsari

(Continued from May 1964 issue of "Divya Vani")

8th June 1963:

Baba was in the assembly hall by 7.45 a.m. and gave darshan to more new-comers. He said that He had explained many things during the last four days. He then asked us, if we had slept well last night. One of us said that she could not sleep because she had a headache. Baba replied, "Remember Me and all headaches will disappear." Another woman said that she could not sleep as she was constantly thinking of Baba. Baba said, "if you do not get sleep for this reason, then it is good."

One lover's luggage was stolen, while he was coming to Poona from Bombay. He lost practically all the clothes that he had and also some money. To him Baba said, "It's good that you have no family or you would have lost that also. If you had got lost it would have been good. If you don't brood over the loss of your belongings, then it is something you have achieved."

A woman, who had been composing poems about Baba since a long time, was asked to sing, by Baba, She had longed for this opportunity, and all her poems were on the theme that she should be called by Baba to rest at His feet for ever. She sang very well, with fervent love; tears rolled down her cheeks. When she finished singing, she fell at Baba's feet and wept. Baba gestured to one

of us to help her to rise and then she returned to her seat. Baba told—she is M.A. in philosophy. Baba then asked Lata to sing. At 9 a.m. a radio artiste played for about half an hour on Shehnai.

Baba then talked of one Mr. X. who had come for an interview with Him and told Baba all his experiences, that he felt he had, of the path. Baba said, "The man had a mental breakdown four years back for which he had consulted a doctor. The next day after this, he came to me for the first time and embraced Me. During the eight days that followed this embrace, he said, he had complete peace and tranquility of mind and also inner experiences like hearing celestial music, smelling unearthly scents, seeing circles, colours, and lights. He has been telling and discussing these experiences with others. He felt that he was very near the Goal. I told him not to discuss these experiences, as they have no significance and are illusory. I gave him instructions to get up at 3.00 a.m as was his usual practice for meditation, but to remember Me before beginning meditation." Baba continued, "Had I not exhorted him, he would have been an addition to the present-day hypocrite saints. Getting enamoured of such experience is rawness on the Path. Love for God is something quite different. In Love there is no compromise. Either you love God or you don't. Hafiz says, in the school of God and in the company of the Perfect Master, try, try, and try again so that one day you also become perfect. Wash your hands off the coppery existence, so that one day you get the alchemy of Love and become gold. Hafiz adds that to even think of being united with God is sheer madness because it is almost impossible: but if you must persist in your madness, then become the dust at the feet of a Perfect Master, for only then it may be possible."

Lata again sang a gazal. Baba explained a few lines of the song. He said, "On the inner journeys, there are

seven planes of consciousness and every plane has its Mukam and Manzil (abode and station)."

The lover says, "I am making effort to make my heart pure, but I do not expect any reward."

The lover feels that all life is meaningless, and now the fear of death has also gone away. In love, there is no fear.

For those who are earnest, the Path and the Goal become the same. Therefore, go on trying. Baba added, "Hafiz consoles the lover that if all efforts fail in bringing him to the Beloved, the lover should leave everything to the Beloved's will."

Adi then sang a gazal. Baba explained:

"Those who step into the domain of love think that they have reached the destination. God only knows what a foolish thought it is. Hafiz says that when first he placed his feet on the beach, he thought that he had already got the pearl; but little did he know that he would have to face the waves, the storms and whirlpools, and that he would have to dive deep into the Ocean before getting the Pearl.

"The lover says, He has grown so much in love that he quenches his thirst by thirst itself!

"Hafiz says that you yourself are the curtain between yourself and God. Remove yourself and you will realize God. This is as difficult as sleeping soundly and yet remaining fully conscious. This impossibility becomes a possibility by Baba's Nazar (Grace).

"On the slightest indication or hint from his Beloved, the lover gives all that he possesses in this world and the next. The only thing he considers his own is his love for his Beloved."

After this, Harry Kenmore was asked to recite the Parvardigar and the Repentance prayers. Baba then went into the side room and talked to the Mandali for a short while. Later, Baba continued the explanation of the gazal, Adi had sung:

"The true lover has no interest in places and things of this world. For' him, each breath that he draws reveals to him a new world.

"Only those eyes which have intense longing for the Sight of the Beloved, can have some idea of the secret of that intoxication, which the Beloved's eyes impart.

"One who is not advanced on the Path and gives tall talks on wine and jar, cannot fathom the knowledge of the Master who knows from the beginningless beginning the secrets of the Wine and the Jar of Wine.

"Those who are raw in love, do not know of the pain they give to their Beloved. That love which gives the slightest bit of burden to the Beloved is not love."

Baba then went to His room while the Mandali had lunch. He returned at 12.40 p.m. to be with the Mandali and a few of us. Some more lovers from Andhra had just arrived and so they embraced Baba. The number grew so big that Baba had to shift to the assembly hall. Adi and Lata sang the same gazal they had sung in the morning. One of the lovers from Andhra also sang in Telugu. A lover spokesman from Andhra invited Baba to visit Andhra. Baba said, "I know I love the Andhraites very much, but I cannot promise a visit. If I go anywhere, I will go to Andhra."

A tape received from New York from Louis Agostini was played. He gave several talks interspersed by Indian music. After it had finished, Baba said, "In 'God Speaks', I have explained about the sun representing the Vidnayan Bhumi, the region near it as the Mana or Mental Bhu-

mika, the region still further away from it as the Prana or Subtle Bhumika, while this gross world being farthest from it as the Anna Bhumika. But I have not mentioned therein that the Anna Bhumika has two states: the first, Ignorance; and, the second, Intellectual Conviction. The 'sun' sheds its rays all over. On the Mana Bhumika, the rays are very powerful. On the Prana Bhumika, they are mild, while on the Anna Bhumika, they are milder. Some take the advantage of the 'sun' and bask in its sunshine on the Anna Bhumika, while others out of ignorance stay under a roof and do not take advantage of the 'sun'. Basking in the sunshine on the Anna Bhumika is called 'Ilme Yakin' i.e. Intellectual Conviction. The state of Qutubiyat, though on the Anna Bhumika, has its place in the 'sun' itself, for it is one with the 'sun'. My consciousness is on all Planes or Bhumikas simultaneously. Jigar says that the other name for Love is annihilation, so do not seek life in Love. Do not seek life in the rays of the sun, but become the sun itself."

Baba then began talking about His five Perfect Masters. He said, "Two of them were Hindus and two were Muslims, while Sai Baba was both Hindu and Muslim. At night, Sai Baba would rest on seven *folds* of cloth supplied by his followers from time to time for making robes for Sai Baba to wear. Before leaving the mosque and going to the Chavdi (night resting place), Sai Baba would wave his hand seven times in the air as if blessing someone. If anyone called Babajan, 'Mai' (mother), she would get very angry and say she was not a woman! She would constantly go on stroking her arms, as if brushing off something. This gesture of hers had great significance."

Baba then related a funny incident. Once, when He was in seclusion on a hill-top in Kashmir, Gustadji and Chanji served as watch-keepers. Chanji was equipped with a penknife and Gustadji with his silence! A small

lantern placed on an empty kerosine tin served to break the pitch darkness. Tigers abounded in this place. One night, Chanji happened to doze off and his leg kicked the kerosine tin. The lamp and tin fell down and made a big noise. Both the watchkeepers were frightened to death, thinking that a tiger had pounced upon them! Baba said that these two watchmen reminded Him of the time when He was Krishna. He had four companions then, one was a stutterer, the other was lame, the third squint-eyed and the fourth was deaf. At 3-00 p.m., Arti was sung and then all dispersed.

9th June 1963:

Baba was in the assembly hall at 7-30 a.m. After darshan, an artiste played on a Sitar which Baba liked very much. Then Mr. Mohan 'Saigal' sang gazals. Baba would explain off and on:

The lover tells the Beloved, "While passing by, if you would just cast a glance at me, my destiny would be changed."

The lover whose heart has stopped in the pangs of separation says to his Beloved, "Oh my merciful Beloved, you have come too late."

Don't look with revulsion on one, who is mad in love with God. It is his love that makes his Beloved appear in all glory.

The lover complains to the Beloved, "I have been hearing since ages that you are very glorious, but my eyes have not yet seen your Glory. So my complaint is not with my ears, but with my eyes."

The lover further says, "There is no defect in your heart but one, and that is that you are indifferent to my love."

In another line the lover says, 'If it was in my fortune to become one with you, it would be unfortunate, for then

I would merge in You and would no more have the sweetness of pain in longing for You."

The lover in his agony cries out, "If your arrow of Love had pierced my heart through and through, it would have relieved me of my suffering."

The lover says, "To die once is easy. But I die and live for you every moment.

At last my heart became so restless that my Beloved had to respond."

The lover in his heart of hearts knows, that the Beloved will not meet him and so he says, "I know you will not fulfil Your promise, but Your promise to meet me tomorrow makes me so happy that I feel I have already met You."

Jigar says that when he put his heart at the feet of the Beloved, his restlessness of ages came to an end.

At 11.00 a.m. the Arti was sung and then all dispersed for lunch. Baba was in the assembly hall again at 12.20 p.m. After Lata sang for a short while, a 'Sitar' solo followed. Then Shanker and Shamboo, the Quawals from Bombay sang before Baba for three hours in the afternoon. Baba gave His handkerchief to each of the Quawal party. This was followed by Arti at about 5.00 p.m. After the Arti, each one filed past Baba with folded hands. Baba retired at 5.30 p.m.

15th June 1963:

At 7-00 a.m. Sri M. R. Appa Rao, Minister for Excise and Social Welfare, Andhra Pradesh, arrived. Baba had specially permitted him and his wife to do His Pada Puja (washing and anointing His feet). Both of them anointed Baba's feet with honey, milk, curds, perfume etc. They then washed His feet with eu-de-cologne and lastly with

rose water. They offered Baba tea, of which He sipped a little and then returned it to them as His prasad.

Baba then came into the assembly hall where long queues of people stood for His darshan. Madhusudan sang some bhajans while the people were taking darshan. Baba then asked Lata to sing a gazal. Another girl gave a dance performance. Baba was very pleased with it, particularly when she danced standing on the rim of a brass platter.

A quawal then sang for about an hour and a half. Baba enjoyed the gazals and gave him His handkerchief. At 10-50 a.m. Arti was sung and all were asked to disperse.

Baba then came into the side room to be with the Mandali. He said that the nine months to follow were very crucial from the point of view of His work. He warned us that under no circumstances should we let go His daaman. There was no special programme in the afternoon. Baba retired, at 3-00 p.m.

16th June 1963:

In the morning at 6-45 a.m., Baba came into the Mandali's room. He asked me to hold fast to His daaman during the coming nine months. He then asked the Mandali to say the following: "Oh God, help us all to hold on to Baba's daaman till the very end."

Baba embraced two cricketers who had come from Bombay, and said that He was very happy to see them. He then came into the assembly hall. Long queues of lovers waited for His darshan. While they were taking darshan, Madhusudan and others were singing bhajans. At 8-30 a.m. Baba asked Dr. Harry Kenmore to say the Parvardigar Prayer.

There came in, about a dozen Gujarati women for Baba's darshan led by one, who is revered as a saint and

has a large following in Gujarat. They asked Baba if they could be given the privilege of singing one bhajan. Baba permitted them. They sang in perfect rhythm and all other lovers joined in. Even Baba began to tap on His chair in tune with the bhajan. After this, there was a dance performance by the four year old daughter of one of the Poona Baba-lovers. Baba asked his brother Behram to take a movie film of the girl. Baba's brother was kept quite busy with his camera today.

At about 9-30 a.m., Sri Vithal Shinde, a famous All-India Radio artiste from Bombay came for Baba's darshan, and sang a number of gazals. He had a very melodious voice and Baba enjoyed his singing very much. On hearing a particular gazal, Baba said, "In spite of the prevailing prohibition enforced by the Government of Maharashtra, many people drink. There is no prohibition regarding 'drinking' the Wine of Divine Love, yet rarely does one drink that Wine!"

A Parsee priest, a lover of Baba, had come to see Baba. Baba asked him to sing one bhajan. It was quite queer to see a Parsee priest, most of whom are so engrossed in ritualistic ceremonies, singing a bhajan whose theme was that only Ram (God Incarnate) existed and there was nothing but Him. At 10.30 a.m. Baba's Arti was sung and all dispersed.

Baba was in the side room at 11.00 a.m. and met five Parsee cricketers from Bombay. Two of them were Nari Contractor and Polly Umrigar. Baba talked to them about His school days when He used to play cricket. Baba said to them, "To know Me as I am is very difficult. I am Infinite within. I experience this continuously. A rare One experiences this." Baba then told Nari, the Indian skipper, that He often wished to witness good cricket matches, but people would not allow Him to do so in peace. Nari invited Baba to Bombay

and said that he would make all arrangements for Baba to see a match undisturbed. Baba said, "For nine months I shall be at Meherazad and will want to remain undisturbed. I may remain for many days without food and water. When I break My Silence after nine months, the world will come to Me, for they shall then know, who I am. But there is no charm in coming to Me after I break My Silence. Blessed are they who come to Me now."

Baba then remarked, "Truth cannot be hidden. If there is no Truth, no amount of words or show can help Baba's Divinity. If Baba is not Baba, of what use it would be, if so many came to Him!"

Baba again returned to the side room at 11.50 a.m. He asked one lover from Navsari to sing. She had sung before Baba many years ago. At 12.20 p.m. Baba came into the assembly hall. Long queues of people awaited His darshan. This was the last day of Baba's darshan and so there was a huge crowd. Madhusudan sang a few bhajans. A Parsee girl of about three came to Baba for darshan, He asked her to recite the Parvardigar Prayer on the mike. Quite bravely, she sat facing the audience and said the Prayer.

Sri Kohiyar of Mahabaleshwar, an old lover, came for Baba's darshan. Baba asked him to chant a Zoroastrian prayer. He said the prayer in such a heart touching way, that though many could not understand it it brought tears to their eyes.

Sri Madhusudan then sang a new song he had composed on Guruprasad. He had the song framed. and presented it to Baba, who gave it to Maharani Shanta Devi. Baba then asked Madhusudan to sing the song, the theme of which was that we should all hold on to Baba's daaman till the end.

Sri Vithal Shinde, who had sung in the morning, sang a few more gazals. Sri Golvalkar then played the finale tune—Bhairavi. Practically everyone in the hall had tears in their eyes. After him, Madhusudan sang a parting song. The hearts that had not yet melted into tears, did so now in Baba's love. Dr. Harry Kenmore was asked to say the Repentance Prayer which was followed by the Arti. Those who had not yet had Baba's darshan that day, came to Him for the last darshan. Baba left the hall at 5.15 p.m. and all lovers departed with a mixed feeling of pain and joy in their hearts—the pain of separation, and the joy of having just had Baba's sahavas.

Thus ended the darshan programmes of this summer. Lovers from all over India had come to have a glimpse of their Beloved Baba and, to bask in the sunshine of His Love. Their love had sustained them throughout their weekly journeys on over-crowded trains. They found their heaven in Baba. The peace they got from His sahavas will give them strength to resume their roles in life and to do His work. True love can best be recognized by the fact that it thrives under circumstances which would blast anything else to pieces.

The hustle and bustle at Guruprasad ended on 30th June, when Baba left for Meherazad. Baba, at Meherazad, sits silently suffering His "crucifixion" for the sake of humanity. He showers His benediction silently on suffering humanity. Blessed are they who have recognized in Meher Baba, God in human form.

Meher Baba the Avatar Of the Age

By M. Sarala Devi Subba Rao, B.A.

Out of His Infinite Compassion, the Lord has descended on earth in human form and He is the Avatar Meher Baba. While Perfect Masters live on earth at all times guiding divine destiny, the advent of God amongst men as God-Man is in fulfilment of His age old declaration. Lord Krishna said in Geeta—

"Paritranya saadhunaam
Vinas aya cha duskrtam
Dharma samstha panarthaya
Sambhavami yuge yuge."

As we are in the midst of hate and fear, despair and frustration, it is beyond doubt that the Lord has come once again for the establishment of righteousness. The Avatar is right in the midst of us. This time He has come not to lay down any new precepts nor to start a new religion. He has come 'not to teach, but to awaken'. He will fill our hearts with divine love and awaken our souls.

Baba says, "I am the Ancient One come to redeem the modern world..... My advent is not to destroy illusion; because illusion as it is, is absolutely nothing. I come to make you become aware of the nothingness of illusion."

As Ruth White (an American devotee of Meher Baba, who by the very first sight of Baba's picture was spiritually charged with the divine love of Baba) in her book 'Wisdom of Meher Baba', says "One of the many great gifts that Meher Baba bestows on those who really

love him enough to follow his discipline, is that of developing in us rare intuitional attributes. He not only "changes" us. He also "charges" us with a spiritual voltage. Those receiving it become transmitters more or less and are able, even without words, to convey it to others. However small or great our ability may be, this Spiritual Push that He gives starts us sometimes in a new breath-taking direction that awakens faculties, that have remained dormant such as inner cognition."

A yogi, however great he may be and even capable of performing miracles, can not in any way help mankind in the spiritual world. Even so a Mast (who is a God-intoxicated soul) cannot bestow much spiritual benefit on others. However a Sadguru has got the authority of conferring spiritual benefit on others. Whereas an Avatar (who is Sadguru of Sadgurus and the Highest of the High) who incarnates for the spiritual benefit of humanity, by His grace can turn a 'Nara' into 'Narayana' within the twinkling of an eye.

Here is Meher Baba declared by Sadguru Sai Baba as 'Parvardigar'. Sadguru Baba Jan proclaimed Him as the Lord of the Universe and the one who would create a great sensation in the world and do immense good to humanity. Sadguru Upasni Maharaj affirmed Meher Baba as the Avatar. Through Meher Baba's selfless life, His Infinite Love for one and all, His dynamic Silence, and His unequivocal pronounce-ment about Himself, we have a certainty that He is the Avatar.

It is a stupendous fact that Meher Baba is observing continuous silence since 10th July, 1925. If we were to peep into the history of the previous Avatars, we could find that they withdrew themselves from the world and went into seclusion to observe silence, of course for a shorter duration, when compared with the present Avatar. The silence of Avatar Meher Baba is unique in the sense that it is no spiritual exercise. It has been undertaken and maintained solely, for the good of the

others. It is said in the Upanishads that the ideal preceptor is one who does not speak—His life speaks—His presence speaks. Baba says, "I am never silent. I speak eternally. The voice that is heard deep within the soul is My voice ... the voice of inspiration, of intuition, of guidance; through those who are receptive to this voice, I speak."

Baba's silence did not in any measure preclude Him from making tours to several remote places putting himself to considerable hardship, to render spiritual help to thousands of people in India and other foreign countries. It did not also deter the free flow of His divine Love and Blessings, which he lavishes on all—saint and sinner alike. His 'Message of Silence' teaches us to develop the latent powers in us. It is silence—silence not merely of the tongue, but silence of the mind, which alone can reflect Truth and help us to realise the ideal. However as He Himself said, His real gift to mankind is through His Silence, which appeals to the inmost being and the divinity of everyone and awakens him to the one reality of God as eternal Truth and the inviolable unity of all life.

The next characteristic and significant mission of His Life is 'His Message of Love'. This is neither emotional nor sentimental outburst. Baba says, "I belong to no religion. Every religion belongs to me. My personal religion is my being the Ancient Infinite One and the religion I impart to all is Love for God, which is the Truth of all religions." To love God in the most practical way is to love our fellow beings. If we feel for others in the same way as we feel for our own dear ones, we love God. Baba says that His Love for you is greater than your love for yourself. He declares Himself to be the Lord of Love and the slave of those who really love Him.

News and Notes

Delhi:

Avatar Meher Baba Delhi Centre celebrated Poornima Sammelan on 26th May (Buddha Poornima) 1964 at 169, North Avenue in the spacious lawn of Shri Amar Singh Saigal's residence. The function started at 6-15 P.M. with the Lord's Invocation - Jai Meher Baba, followed by a devotional song by Shri P. D. Camte, Music Master. A couple of songs in praise of Avatar Meher Baba by Shri Tek Chand and Shri Jhompi Ram then came on the loudspeaker. Shri N. S. Kajrolkar, M. P. gave a nice musical recital at the special request by Baba lovers. The Ladies Bhajan Mandali also sang a number of Qawalis, addressed all to dear Baba.

By 7 P.M. there was a large gathering consisting of all Baba lovers in Delhi, prominent citizens, representatives of some important business and commercial firms, Members of Parliament, etc. with their families. Shri Amar Singh Saigal, M. P. then offered the Parvardigar Prayer in his sonorous voice. It was very significant that Beloved Baba sent the following special message for the Sammelan, which Major Hari Chand telephoned from Poona.

"Give My Love to all those gathered there today in my Sammelan".

Shri W D. Kain who addressed the gathering said, that every time the Avatar came, the world did not pay heed to his sayings. They would not even recognise Him. This happened in the time of Rama and Krishna and in the time of other Avatars. The Ravana or Demon of False

Ego or Self-Pride sitting in the heart of each of us did not allow us to recognise this Avatar of Compassion and Love, whom Sai Baba addressed as Parvardigar, Upasani Maharaj declared as Avatar and so many saints and sadhus recognised as their Prabhu or God. We wish to share the knowledge or conviction with other people that the Avatar, whom humanity has been anxiously awaiting has come. Should anyone still have some doubt, they could go in 1965, and have a glimpse of Meher Avatar.

Shrimati Hakumat Rai addressing next, spoke eloquently about 'Love' as mentioned in the teachings of Baba and asked them to love Baba. She laid stress on Baba's words— **"Love me more and more - hold fast to my daaman."**

Shri T. N. Dar said that the saint and the so called sinner are equal before Baba. Quoting from Gita, he said that it is not possible for ordinary human beings to recognise the Avatar, who is veiled by His own Maya, unless the grace of the Master or Avatar's own compassion is there.

Shri Amar Singh Saigal, summing up the proceedings said, "How could Ramakrishna Paramahansa declare that he was Rama and that he was Krishna, unless he had those attributes! He had the authority. When Meher Baba declared that He is the Avatar of the Age, there can be no two opinions about it. We have known it—we have felt it—so why should we not declare Meher Baba as the Avatar." While referring to the teachings of Buddha, Jesus Christ and Prophet Mohammed, he said that in these days when so much was talked about National Integration, the teachings of Avatar Meher Baba would alone give the right direction. He also referred to that fortunate moment in his life, when an oil-painting of Avatar Meher Baba attracted him in a Railway colony and made him pine for His darshan for three years.

After the Arti and distribution of 'prasad' (packets of sweets) the function came to a close at about 8-45 P.M. The audience, which was spell bound, appeared not to be anxious to depart; for they tarried and enquired about dear Baba and expressed their love and eagerness to meet Him.

Barisha (South Calcutta): As a result of loving efforts made by Sri. A. C. S. Chari, Calcutta and Sri Santi Ghose of Avatar Meher Baba Santragachi Centre, an informal group of Baba lovers has grown up at Barisha. Periodical meetings are being arranged by Sri Sudin Chandra Matilal and Sri Kabiraj Nagendra Nath Sen and Baba literature is being distributed to the earnest seekers of Truth for spreading the name and message of Beloved Baba.

A.M.B. Kakinada Centre: The Poornima Conventional meeting of the Centre was held on 26-6 64 at 6 P.M. at the residence of Sri M. V. Subba Rao, who spared no efforts to make the necessary arrangements. A large gathering of many enlightened and distinguished persons of the town was present on the occasion. The function commenced with the recitation of 'Parvardigar' and 'Repentance' prayers. Dr. T. Dhanapathi Rao, while addressing the gathering explained the special significance of Poornima congregational prayers. He said that even as the moon shines brightest on the day, Baba's love flows in abundance to all His devotees. Baba-lovers all around the world hold special meetings at that particular hour on Poornima day and the combined prayers of thousands of souls will be more effective in invoking the blessings and grace of Baba. Then Sri P. V. L. Narsimham gave a brief speech on 'The ten states of God'. Sri. B. Appa Rao and party entertained the audience with their soul-stirring bhajans. And finally the meeting came to a close with the recitation of Arti and distribution of 'prasad'.

Secunderabad: Under the auspices of 'Meher Vihar,' Hyderabad, a public meeting was held at Kummari-

guda on 21st June, under the presidentship of Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastry of Nidadavol. Sri R. S. Prakash Rao, Sri N. S. Prakash Rao, Swami Satyaprakash Udaseen and Sri B. Bapiraju addressed the audience, who were very much impressed with the life and teachings of Baba. They expressed their sincere desire to gather more frequently and also love Baba. After the Arti, the function closed at 11 P.M.

Hyderabad: On 23rd June, a gathering of Baba lovers was held at the residence of Sri R. S. Prakash Rao Working President of 'Meher Vihar'. Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastry gave at length a talk about his contact with Baba and some of his experiences. Swami Satyaprakash Udaseen proposed vote of thanks.

Cannore (Kerala State): Sri C. T. Kuttikrishnan, Joint Secretary, Kerala Theosophical Federation arranged a meeting on 7-6-64 in the local Theosophical Society Lodge. Dr. M. Anandan of Calicut, addressed the gathering about the life and teachings of Beloved Baba, laying particular stress about His Avatarhood.

39th Anniversary Celebration of Avatar Meher Baba's Silence:

HYDERABAD:

Under the auspices of "Meher Vihar", the 39th anniversary of Beloved Baba's unique silence was celebrated in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad for 9 days beginning with 2nd July, 1964. In this connection, Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, M.A., Ph.D., Retired Professor of Philosophy, Nagpur, who has been here on special invitation, was kind enough to address the various meetings held at different places.

The celebrations commenced with a gathering of Baba-lovers at 'Meher Vihar' on 2nd July, 1964. Sri M. R. Appa Rao, Minister for Excise and Cultural

Affairs, Andhra and Hon. President, 'Meher Vihar' while welcoming Dr. C. D. Deshmukh on behalf of 'Meher Vihar' introduced him to the gathering as the Messenger of Baba. Dr. Deshmukh in his talk, while referring to Hyderabad City said, that this is one of the most important spiritual places in the country. Baba had stayed here a number of times and had remarked that there were more number of masts (God-intoxicated souls) here than in any other place. He also said that irrespective of the number of Baba-lovers, now present, Hyderabad is already charged with the divine love and energy of Baba. While God is there in human form, let us accept Him as the Highest of the High, without any hesitation or prejudice to know, what He is, and taste the eternal waters He is bringing to us.

After the talk was over, Sri. B. Lakshminarayana, Advocate, placed some questions about Baba's love and our surrenderance to Him etc., which were answered most convincingly by Dr. Deshmukh.

On 3rd July, there was a gathering of Baba-lovers at Secunderabad Centre, in the residence of Sri N. S. Prakasa Rao. Dr. Deshmukh, in his address remarked that we are very fortunate indeed to be in the fold of Meher Baba, who is not only the Avatar of the Age, but the Avatar of all the Ages. He further remarked that Baba is not realised as God to everyone, since He veils Himself behind our ignorance. Baba has not created any obstruction. It is our own making. He narrated a very interesting story of a Kazi, who wanted to see Satan, who was considered to be responsible for all the wars, conflicts, etc., in the world. As he was all the while thinking about Satan, it appeared before him one night in the form of a buffalo. No sooner he saw it, he held it with one horn and slapped it on its face. At that very moment, he woke up and found that he was slapping his own cheek. So, the Kazi realised

that Satan, the personification of ignorance was within himself and not away from him. Dr. Deshmukh concluded by saying that to remove the veil of ignorance, all we have to do is to love Baba more and more.

On 4th instant, a public meeting was held in the Vivek Vardhini College Hall. Sri. M. Thirumala Rao, M. P., presided on the occasion. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh addressing the huge gathering said that just as Bhagwan Sri Krishna has given us 'Gita', Baba has given "God Speaks". However Baba is Love Incarnate, who has come for one and all, saint as well as the sinner. One Sri Surya Rao, while narrating his personal experience in 1956, said that without any hesitation, Baba is the Avatar of the Age, who has come to redeem us.

Swami Sathyaprakash, summing up the proceedings explained to the audience the significance of Baba's silence and His Avatarhood. In the end, Baba's film was screened in the fully packed hall of the college.

On 5th instant, a public meeting was held at Pratapgirji Kothi, under the presidentship of Sri M. R. Appa Rao, Andhra Minister. Besides Dr. Deshmukh, Swami Sathyaprakash Udaseen and Sri R. S. Prakasa Rao also spoke about Baba's life and His unique silence.

The next day i.e. 6th July, the meeting was held at Balaji Bhavan, under the presidentship of Sri M. R. Appa Rao. Dr. Deshmukh remarked in his address, that all the scriptures are sacred and we need them, when the Lord is not there. Now, the Avatar is with us in the form of Meher Baba, who is the Beloved of all. Though He is silent for the last 39 years, His silence has spoken to the sincere seekers of Truth. In 'Gita' Sri Krishna says that God is beyond all forms and His abode is beyond even the sun, moon, etc. But at the same time, He is within our hearts. If we cannot realise Him in our hearts, we can-

not realise Him anywhere. Baba is not only *Yogeshwara*, but *Yogishwara*. He is Sri Krishna Himself. The devotees can and do experience Him as their '*Ishtadaiva*'. To understand Avatar, we should give up our traditional ideas about him, as the Avatar is beyond all rules and regulations. He is the Lord of the Universe. He is Truth Himself and Truth is beyond all laws. He is also beyond all religions. Baba says that Love is His religion. In the end, Dr. Deshmukh exhorted all Baba-lovers to always think of Him and deserve His Grace by serving His cause. The meeting concluded with the film-show of Baba's tour in Andhra and His Sahavas in Ahmednagar.

On 7th instant, another public meeting was held at Kummerguda (Sec'bad), in the premises of Tadbund Hanuman temple. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh addressed the gathering in English, which was rendered into Telugu by Swami Sathya-prakash Udaseen. Dr. Deshmukh said that Baba is undoubtedly the Avatar of the Age. Because Baba is the Avatar of that one God, we must accept Him as the only Avatar. To understand Him, one must love Him. Since He is the Beloved of all, if our minds are free from all doubts, love for Him comes in our hearts spontaneously without any Herculean effort. After Arti, Baba's film was screened.

On 8th instant, there was a gathering of Baba lovers at Panjagutta, in the residence of Sri Y. Sreenivasarao. Dr. Deshmukh stated that Beloved Baba has no barriers separating Himself from us. He referred to the various incidents, when Baba bathed the lepers and masts and even cleaned their latrines and also how he personally served the poor and needy. Baba does all this in a mysterious way. The various activities of Baba are only symbolic of His inner work. As usual, Swami Sathya Prakash Udaseen translated the speech into Telugu. Be-

sides Sri M. R. Appa Rao, a good number of senior Govt. officers also attended the meeting.

Besides a separate function for ladies, held at Mahila Mandali Hall at Mallepally on 9th July, a special public meeting was also arranged at 'Ravindra Bharathi', under the Presidentship of Sri M. R. Appa Rao, Minister for Excise and Cultural Affairs, which was attended by the elite of the City.

In his presidential speech, Sri Appa Rao spoke about the Avatarhood of Baba and his unflinching faith in Him. He also said that Baba loves us more than anyone else and to receive this love, we have just to open our hearts to Him.

Then Dr. Deshmukh addressed the huge gathering about Baba and the significance of His unique silence. He also referred to Baba's humility. Baba, while bowing down sees Himself in all. Baba's silence can be compared to Sri Krishna's flute. Gopis, who have heard and immersed themselves in the music of Sri Krishna's flute could realise Him, without any penances, unlike great Rishis and munis, The following message received from Brother Eruch was also read, at the meeting by Swami Sathya-prakashji:

"I had received from you a printed copy of the programmes and I had read it over to Beloved Baba and He had expressed His satisfaction... Beloved Baba wants to convey it to you and His loved ones who are active in His cause in Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Beloved Baba wants you to convey His love and blessings to our dear brother Appa Rao and his family. Baba is pleased to hear that Sri Appa Rao is the host of Dr. Deshmukh, during his stay in Hyderabad."

After vote of thanks by Sri R. S. Prakasa Rao, Baba's film was screened.

Sri M. S. R. Gandhi (Babjee) of Kakinada, who arrived here on special invitation on 4th instant, attended all the meetings and entertained the audience with his songs with great devotion.

As instructed by Beloved Baba, the 10th July was observed as Silence Day by the Baba-lovers in "Meher Vihar".

On 11th instant, a special function was arranged by Sri M. R. Appa Rao, Minister, at his residence. Among the distinguished invitees were Chief Justice P. Chandra Reddy and his family, Chief Minister Brahmananda Reddy and his family, Srimathi Durgabai Deshmukh, Sri A. Nageswara Rao, film actor, Sri D. Madhusudana Rao, film producer, Raja Dhonderaj Bahadur, Sri D. V. Krishna Sastry, the great Andhra poet and others. A farewell function at "Meher Vihar" on the 12th morning was also arranged for Dr. Deshmukh who is expected to leave for Nagpur on the 12th night.

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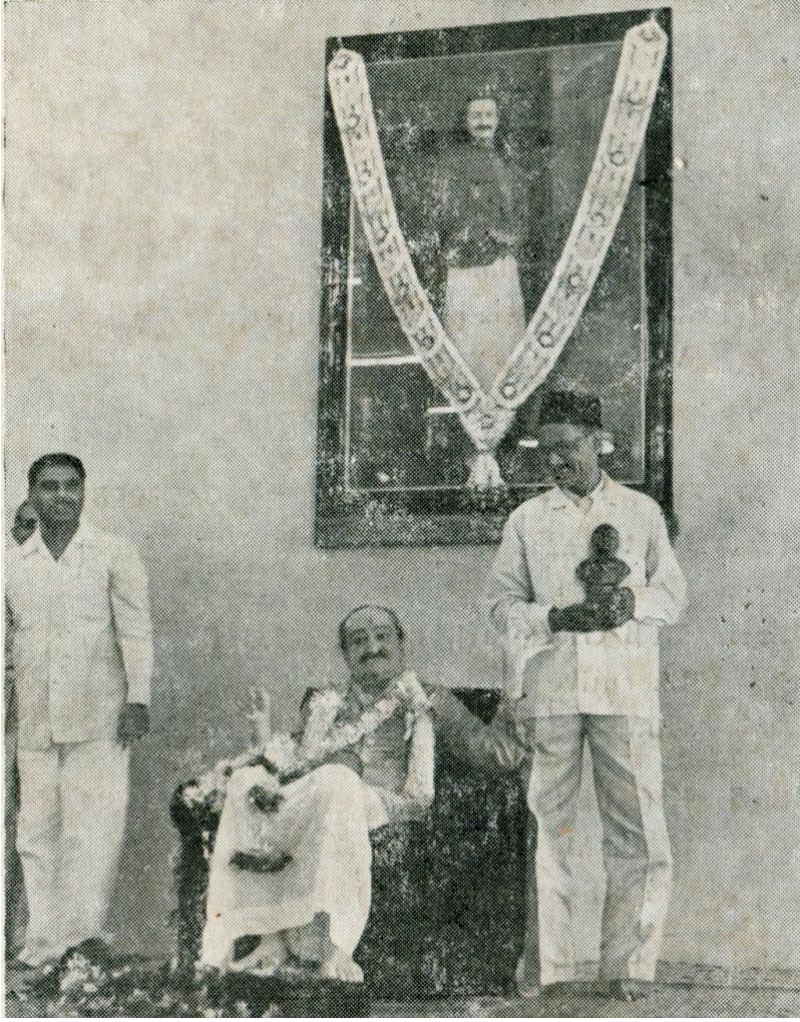
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Dr. C. D. Deshmukh holds the Bronze-Bust of Beloved Baba, who graced it by His touch on the occasion of His opening "Poona Centre Avatar Meher Baba Hall" on the 1st May 1964.

Register of Editorial Alterations for the Online Edition of
Divya Vani (ser. 2) vol. 1, no. 4

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Gramatically	Grammatically	5	3	4
pefinitely	definitely	5	3	8
dessension	dissension	12	3	4
cantact	contact	12	5	2
supercede	supersede	13	6	4
psent	present	14	6	2
makind	mankind	16	2	25
from	form	17	5	7
no	not	18	4	4
additonal	additional	18	5	5
words	worlds	20	1	9
silenc	silence	22	1	5
implicetly	implicitly	26	2	2
Gurprasad	Guruprasad	37	2	11
so	to	38	2	21
availabe	available	39	2	20
my	may	47	2	28
in	"In	49	7	3
hem	them	51	1	6
Mandli's	Mandali's	53	5	2
witnees	witness	54	4	8
excercise	exercise	58	4	8
Budha	Buddha	60	1	2
shares	share	61	1	5
Budha	Buddha	61	4	8
Calutta	Calcutta	62	2	2
tehchings	teachings	63	1	5
hurclean	Herculean	66	2	11
farewel	farewell	68	3	8

