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May 1965

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BI-MONTHLY

DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)

Devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His Work

Volume 2

Number 3



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EDITOR:
SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

May 1965

D I V Y A V A N I

(DIVINE VOICE)

AN ENGLISH BI-MONTHLY

Devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His Work

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THE MESSAGE OF OUR BELOVED
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40th
ANNIVERSARY OF HIS SILENCE

"On the 10th of July 1965, the 40th 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 Saturday, the 10th of July 1965 should instead observe complete fast for 12 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, before beginning their complete fast at 8-00 a.m.

Baba sends His Love Blessing to each one of His lovers for the Silence Day,"

*(From Family - letter
dated 15-6-1965)*



AVATAR MEHER BABA AT GURUPRASAD

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S DARSHAN MESSAGES

All these years I used to embrace you, My lovers, and bow down to your love for Me. Now I cannot embrace you, so I allow you to bow down to My Love for you.

* * * *

This time of your being with Me, I do not intend giving you a lot of words to exercise your minds. I want your minds to sleep so that your hearts may awaken in My Love.

You have had enough of words, I have had enough of words. It is not through words that I give what I have to give. In the silence of your perfect surrender, My Love which is always silent can flow to you—to be yours always to keep and to share with those who seek Me.

When the Word of My Love breaks out of its silence and speaks in your hearts, telling you who I really am, you will know that that is the Real Word you have been always longing to hear.

* * * *

I am happy to see you all; and I am touched that many of you have come from distant parts at no small sacrifice to be in My presence for a few hours.

Devotees spend their lifetime savings and even risk life itself in pilgrimages to bow down before God in forms sanctified by tradition. And their rewards are according to tradition.

But you have journeyed to bow down before God who has taken human form because of Love. And your reward will be according to love.

Editorial:

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BELOVED BABA'S DARSHAN

It is a great historical fact that Meher Baba, the Avatar of the Age, was pleased to give 'Darshan' to His Eastern-lovers at Poona from the 1st to 6th of May 1965, a short report of which has appeared in this issue elsewhere, for the benefit of our dear readers. Now it is almost decided that the Westerners too will have the splendid opportunity during the end of December 1965, most likely from 23rd December onwards at Ahmednagar. In spite of the fact that His Universal Work had increased many fold and His Universal Suffering too increased proportionately and was telling greatly upon His physical health, Beloved Baba in His Infinite Compassion gave permission for the Darshan programmes. However, He said, "What could be more glorious than My suffering for all humanity!" It now remains as ever that He alone suffers for all humanity most gloriously, while humanity including all of us, witness the same most ignominiously, whether we are conscious of it or not. It is, therefore, our bounden duty particularly of those whom He draws near to have that consciousness and to understand the significance of His Divine utterances and share His suffering at this critical period of our own existence just when the breaking of His Silence and His final manifestation are imminent.. In fact, we owe a duty to our Compassionate Father, who has come down to our level to help us out from the catastrophic mess of human arrogance and colossal ignorance, to be at His service to the best of our abilities and with utmost sincerity of purpose. If this be our aim, we have no doubt in our mind that it will be much easier for one to understand the significance of Beloved Baba's Darshan.

On the occasion of His Darshan programme, Beloved Baba made it clear in one of His messages that He wanted us to allow our minds to sleep so that our hearts may awaken in

His Love. Explaining about the futility of words, He said that it is not through words that He gives, what He wants to give. His Love which is always Silent can flow to us only in the silence of our perfect surrender and then only will His Love be with us to experience and also to share with those who seek Him. He assured us that when the WORD of His Love breaks out of its Silence and speaks in our hearts telling us who He really IS, we will know that that is the Real Word we have been always longing for to hear.

This unique message, we hope, has a clue for us to grasp the significance of our Beloved Baba's Darshan, as His mystic utterances are always made to explain as to how we should approach Him to be the recipients of all that which He gives us spontaneously at the opportune time and also that which we deserve to receive out of His Loving Grace. We therefore now submit to our dear readers and all Baba-Lovers to bear in their minds that we must always avail the opportunities given by Baba, so as to gain in experience and be the recipients of His Loving Grace. Those who could be present on this occasion and share the Love-blessings of Beloved Baba along with others are very fortunate, but more blessed are those who had some experience of the Divine Bliss which they could draw in their silence from our Silent Master during this period of His Darshan days, for as He has said in His message, it was only when He gives that one can take from Him, otherwise NOT. As His Loving Grace will flow out of His Silence only in the silence of our perfect surrender, it is only for those who seek Him in silence and with perfect surrender unto Him, that this opportunity could best be availed of, and for others it is certainly NOT.

Beloved Baba explained in one another message that was read out during this happy occasion, how devotees who spend their lifetime savings and even risk life itself in pilgrimages to bow down before God in forms sanctified by tradition, also have their rewards which will be according to tradition. But, He said that those who have come for His Darshan have journeyed to bow down before God who has taken human form because of Love and hence He made it clear that their reward will also be according to love. As the reward will be accord-

ing to one's own love for Him, it is closely related to one's own understanding about Baba as God in human form. It is therefore our humble request to all our dear brothers and sisters of Baba-family, to grasp the real significance of "Baba's Darshan" in this perspective which alone can help us in our endeavour to seek His Loving Grace.

Baba says that Love needs His Grace and that trying leads to Grace. He also says that it is impossible to love Him as He ought to be loved but that it is easier to surrender to Him than to love Him. He makes it clear also that for spontaneous surrender the heart must, so to speak, be worn on one's sleeve, and that one must be ever ready to place one's neck under the ever sharp knife of the command of the Beloved, and that the head should figuratively be detached in order that it might be completely surrendered at the Master's Feet. He says that obedience should be so complete that one's concern with it makes one as much awake to possibilities as it makes one deaf to impossibilities. Hence let us pray unto Him, the Highest of the High, the God in human form, the Avatar of the Age, our Beloved and Compassionate Father, Meher Baba, that may we deserve His Loving Grace and our surrender to Him or our love for Him may be out of His Love for us and that we be His chosen tools to serve His Cause and share His suffering and His Love for humanity for which He has chosen to take this human form and is now amongst us as our Beloved Lord and our Silent Master! May He Bless us all as ever! JAI BABA!

Dr. H. P. Bharucha's Appeal to all Baba-lovers:

Dr. Bharucha intends to publish second volume of "Meher Baba, the Compassionate Father". He requests all Baba-lovers to kindly send their experiences and enable him to compile the next volume. All manuscripts may be addressed to Dr. H. P. Bharucha, Cosmic Meher Centre, Kutar Street, Navsari, Gujrat State, so as to reach him by 15th July, 1965.

DIVYA VANI

(An English Monthly Dedicated to
Avatar Meher Baba and His Work)

A HAPPY ANNOUNCEMENT

We are happy to recall to the memory of our dear readers that it was on the 10th July 1961, that "Divya Vani" was first inaugurated as a bi-lingual (Telugu & English) Quarterly and by Beloved Baba's blessings it was regularly published as such till the end of October 1963. It was from January 1964 that "Divya Vani" was made a Bi-monthly and was regularly issued every two months. However the September & November issues had to be combined due to unavoidable reasons. In the year 1965, the January and March numbers were duly issued and this happens to be the May issue.

With the coming of July 1965, "Divya Vani" will be completing four years and will enter fifth year in its humble and dedicated service to Beloved Baba and His Work. We are happy to express our humble and grateful thanks to all those who have contributed for the success of this tiny instrument, "Divya Vani" voicing forth His Divine Message of Love and Truth, with loving dedication and complete surrender unto Him. It is our humble privilege to have enjoyed the loving cooperation of all members of "Baba-family", both the Easterners and the Westerners alike and also of the close members of Baba's Mandali at Ahmednagar and Meherazad.

And now on the eve of the fifth year, we humbly take this opportunity with Beloved Baba's Love-blessing to declare that "DIVYA VANI" will be hereafter i.e., from July 1965, an English Monthly Journal, ardently dedicated to Beloved Baba and His Work more than ever. We request our dear readers and subscribers to kindly note that there will be no more changes in either its periodicity or size (1/8th demy) and that

the annual subscription will be Rs. 12-00 for Inland subscribers and \$ 6-00 for those in U.S.A, and £ 2-00 for those in England or Australia (both inclusive of Postage by Sea). The amounts for Life-Membership remain the same as Rs. 200-00, \$. 100 and £ 40-00 for those in India, U.S.A., and in England & Australia respectively.

We are sure that this change will be most welcome, as it has been done to ensure more effective and regular service and to furnish our dear sisters and brothers with latest news of the several activities of Baba Centres here and abroad.

May it please our readers and well-wishers to extend to us their hearty co-operation and help to make our earnest endeavour a glorious success. May Beloved Baba bless us to deserve His Love and Grace and to serve His Cause in absolute dedication unto Him! May "DIVYA VANI" be His chosen voice to spread His Message of Love and Truth to every nook and corner of the Universe ever and more! Jai Baba!

"Meher Vihar"
10th May, 1965

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN
Editor: "DIVYA VANI"

"You will not be saved by accepting any theological dogmas or by regarding a Prophet who lived hundreds or thousands of years ago as the only God-incarnate, as the only genuine Saviour, as the last real Messenger of God. If you want to be saved, conquer your mind, lead a pure life, renounce low desires, and follow One who has realized God and in whom you have sound faith." —MEHER BABA

***THE STRANGER**

By Francis Brabazon

I woke early one morning, and the morning was fair,
And quickly I dressed me, with a scarf for my hair;
And lightly I set out while none were astir
Across the flowered paddocks though I did not know *where*,

Gaily I wandered on, my own whim but my guide,
Till I came to a creek which I lay down beside.
The day was my lover, I was his fair bride,
Together we wandered o'er the whole world so wide.

We wandered together just as free as the breeze
And visited countries far over the seas ...
Till one day, midst laughter and gay pleasantries
I thought of my Homeland, its wide skies and tall trees.

I woke from my dreaming and its flattering lies,
And there stood a Stranger smiling into my eyes.
He was neither so young nor so old as time buys,
But he seemed eternal and as pure as the skies.

He spoke no word to me but his silence did greet
My innermost longing dear God one day to meet;
He spoke no word to me but my joy was complete;
And the trees all bent down and kissed his shining feet.

Now my tears fall as rain as my memory brings
His dear Face before me, and my heart ever sings
And leaps in love toward him as a hare lightly springs,
And his Silence sounds in me like deep musical strings.

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

D I V Y A V A N I

(An English Monthly)

To our Subscribers Abroad

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Those who donate \$. 12 or £. 4 every year are deemed to be our helpers and they shall be supplied with a copy each of "Divya Vani" Monthly, published during the year, post free and cost free (by Sea).

Life Members:

Those of the *Donors* who pay at a time as their Love-contribution \$. 100 or £. 40 shall be deemed as Life-members and they are entitled for one copy each, cost free and post free (by Sea).

If the copies of the publications are to be sent by Air Mail, the Extra Postage that may be required will have to be sent in advance every year.

Kindly note that the amounts may be remitted to us through either: Mr. Fred Winterfeldt, 200 East, 66th Street, New York-21, N. Y. U.S.A.; or Mr. Bill Lepage, Meher House, Kalianna Crescent, Beacon Hill, (N. S. W., Australia); or Mr. Douglas H. Eve, 73 Grosvenor Ave, Carshalton, Surrey, (England- U.K.) from the respective countries.

—*Editor*

Glimpses from Guruprasad

(from one of the Mandali)

GURUPRASAD, POONA

14th - 21st April 1965

Greetings to you from the heart of Guruprasad, which throbs once again with the presence of beloved Baba.

We left Meherazad on the morning of 30th March, reaching Poona long before noon. Baba's car did not stop at any of the usual Baba-halts at Ahmednagar and on the way, but groups of His lovers could be seen standing by the wayside, bowing silently as the car sped by or waving god-speed to God, or crying out: Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai! (Hail! Avatar Meher Baba). Among the very few privileged to receive Baba on arrival at Guruprasad, was our Siamese cat of the nine names, who ran to Him with loud welcoming meows; and later when Baba came over from the mandali's hall in His little wheeled chair, the cat was seated on His lap, looking demurely up at us from its place of honour.

"Will it-won't it-will it-won't it" seemed synonymous with the heartbeats of Baba's eastern lovers as the month of March drew nearer and magnified their hopes & fears of whether or no they would see their Beloved this May. Baba has given the final nod, making the darshan a certainty, even though the length of its time has been shortened from 15 days to 6 days. On March 7, a circular was issued from the Ahmednagar office by Adi from which I quote:

"Avatar Meher Baba directs me to let all His lovers (Easterners) know that He will give Darshan in Poona for only six days, from 1st May to 6th May 1965, despite His very weak health.

"Baba says that His universal work has increased many-fold and His universal suffering has also increased proportionately, and this is now telling greatly upon His physical health. But Baba also says, 'This Body will not drop till one year after

I break my silence. What could be more glorious than My suffering for all humanity!

"Besides the continuous pain in His hip-joint and His inability to walk freely, He has had since the last many months pain in the cervical spine, i.e. in the nape of the neck and extending down to the shoulders. Of late the pain has become intense.

"The point of view of the doctors who have been attending Baba recently, is that He should NOT give Darshan at all in May. Notwithstanding their opinion, Baba wants to give His Darshan to His lovers. And so the doctors have urged Baba to at least restrict the days and hours of darshan, and not to allow His lovers to approach Him too closely in order to avoid any jerky movement to His neck caused inadvertently."

Of the six days of darshan, the first day will be at the A.M.B. Poona Centre Hall, from 8 to 11 in the morning. The following five days will be in the grounds of Guruprasad, at the site where the East-West gathering was held in November 1962, under a similar (but more rain-proof!) 'pandal' erected to hold the large East-gathering. The dais for beloved Baba too will be in the same place as then, but smaller in size as the lovers will not be receiving His embrace or garlanding Him. It will in fact be a 'darshan' in the literal sense, for Baba has permitted His lovers to bow down on His feet. As a rule this has been forbidden at Baba's express wish, and over the years at different gatherings, big and small, we have known the mandali go hoarse from repeatedly calling out "Please do NOT bow down—do NOT touch His feet", though not often succeeding in stemming the flow of this spontaneous expression of homage on the part of the Indian lovers. For this May darshan Baba does not only condone it, He fully permits it. As stated in the circular: "During the Darshan hours, none should seek to have Baba's embrace or to touch Him except His feet. Those who bring garlands should be content to place them at His feet. This time Baba will permit all to bow down on His feet during the opportunity given to His lovers on any of the 6 days." The last direction in the circular reads: "Baba wishes His lovers, when they approach Him, to receive in silence the Love which He will give them through His Silence."

At the time of writing this, the Beloved's cervical pain continues. Like His compassion, His suffering is beyond all understanding. Dr. Ram Ginde* of Bombay, a man of fine spiritual qualities and one of the top-most neuro-surgeons of India who is utterly devoted to Baba, has for some time been treating Him for this painful cervical condition, with all the skill and love he possesses. When, on one of his recurrent visits to Meherazad, Dr. Ginde expressed his distress and surprise at the stubbornness of the pain, Beloved Baba patted him lovingly on the arm and said "Don't worry. It is all by My will. I alone know the cause of My pain, and it will go away after July. All the same I want you to go on doing your best to lessen it", (adding after a while) "and I will do my best to increase it"! And of course the Mandali could not help saying "We hope you win, Doctor!" If Baba allows him to "win" even to the extent of affording some percentage of relief it will be because of Dr. Ginde's love and whole-hearted service, for the doctor realizes as we do that this pain is an outward reflection of His unseen burden. Baba has told the mandali more than once, "It is but the (yoke of) universal suffering round my neck"—and indeed, the surgical collar that He wears seems to us painfully symbolical of this fact. I am reading that tremendous book, "The Nazarene" by Sholem Asche, and was struck by the aptness of a passage in it that refers to the suffering of the Messiah: "He takes all sorrows on himself of his own will. It is within his choice to refuse to bear them, for all the power is in his hand. But he will not use it; he will bow his neck to the yoke, even as the Prophet has written of him". Thus spoke the disciples of Jesus Christ among themselves, even before His crucifixion on the cross. And we are reminded of Baba's own words to Dr. Harry Kenmore at Guruprasad last summer: "I carry the universal burden, and I suffer physically, mentally and spiritually. My physical suffering is seen by those around me. My mental suffering is intense, infinite. As for my spiritual suffering, it is ad infinitum. When I break My silence, it will be the end of suffering."

About the December sahasas for His Western lovers, Baba wants me to say that it will take place. The details

* pronounced Ginday (the 'g' as in good).

concerning dates, and the place where the sahasras will be held (whether in Bombay or Ahmednagar) will be sent to you later from Meherazad. Beloved Baba also wants me to add that He was touched by the love that came from you all in the Birthday cables, and He sends His Love & Blessing to you each. The Birthday greetings from His little ones twinkled brightest in the heavens of Baba's Love. A colour-splashed drawing by five year old Terry Hassan of California, seemed to capture His entire creation ranged round a central universal heart. Her mother's letter explained: "I asked Terry to draw a picture of all the things she thought Baba was. She did, and said 'Baba is more than the sun, stars, flowers, rainbow, but I can't draw them all.' Then she looked at me and said 'Baba is a HEART really!' She knows so much at 5 years, more than I do." It is not of course that we have so much to learn, but so much to unlearn before we can know Him with the clear vision of a child's love!

To the Meherazad family, Baba's Birthday was a day of simple rejoicing; but it could not be called a "quiet" day, for the echoes of the intense activities at Baba-Centres everywhere kept it vibrantly humming. As Eruch said in his letter to Maharani Shantadevi "The month of February has been a very busy month as usual, but this year the rush of cables, telegrams, phone-calls and letters received and answered, was too great and kept us breathlessly occupied. The Baba-birthday celebrations have been on a very, very grand scale at most of the Avatar Meher Baba Centres, while Beloved Baba remained aloof from any celebration in the seclusion of Meherazad, bearing upon Himself the suffering of humanity." To give even an outline of all the different activities at all the different places that were launched in the Beloved's Cause, is not possible in the space of a letter. And, my problem in trying to report just this or that activity is similar to that of the Indian housewife whose kitchen shelf is stacked too high with cooking utensils—if she tries to take down a particular lid or vessel, the whole pile may topple on her! However, I can begin safely with the one nearest to us, by telling you of Begum Akhtar's unexpected visit with Baba at Meherazad on the Birthday morn.

(Continued on Page 47)

Beloved Baba's Darshan Programme at Poona – India

Those who had an opportunity to participate in Beloved Baba's Darshan Programme, specially arranged for the Eastern-lovers at Poona from 1st to 6th of May 1965, are very fortunate and those who could receive in their silence, what Beloved Baba was pleased to give in His Unique Silence, during this period of His out-pouring love and over-flowing Divine Grace are indeed more blessed, for none can receive His Love without His Grace. And to try to give a panorama of the entire "Meher Leela" of those blessed days may be next to impossibility, since such an experience can never be adequately expressed in words however much one may wish to do so. Hence, it is now our honest attempt to give a short narrative of one's own impressions for the benefit of those that could not avail of this unique opportunity and share such an experience. We request the indulgence of our readers to be pleased to bear with us and go through it with similar feelings of joy and with loving memories of their own experiences of similar nature.

We now proceed with our short report of the grand function and the gorgeous arrangements made at Poona for this happy occasion of Beloved Baba's Darshan Programme. Those who had gone through the Life-circular No. 61 dated 7th March 1965, issued by Shri Adi K. Irani, Disciple & Secretary of Beloved Baba and published in our previous issue of "Divya Vani", are well aware of the condition of Beloved Baba's health in those days and particularly about the continuous pain in His hip-joint and His inability to walk freely. In spite of all these and many more inconveniences, compassionate as He is, Beloved Baba not only gave His kind permission for the Darshan Programme much against the advice of the doctors but also announced that He would allow all His lovers to bow down to His Lotus Feet, though He could not allow Himself to be garlanded around His neck. This indeed was a great opportunity and

in fact a special boon so benevolently granted to His lovers on this unique occasion. When this news reached every nook and corner of India and elsewhere in the East, thousands of lovers of Baba were eagerly awaiting for the day to have their hearts' desire fulfilled by His Grace.

As early as on 30th March, Beloved Baba and the select few of His Mandali arrived at Poona and "Guruprasad" was once again aglow with His Divine Presence. Bro. K. K. Ramakrishnan, the chosen Secretary of Avatar Meher Baba Poona Centre, with his matchless zeal and drive, undaunted courage and deep dedication for Baba-work, has taken charge of the work at hand along with his loving companions like Bro. Bavsar and others who were at his command to attend to the arrangements for reception and accommodation for the "Beloved's guests". By His loving Grace and inspiring guidance every thing required was at hand and despite their pre-occupations and professional duties, Bro. Ramakrishnan and his colleagues took much pains to turn to account every hour and every ounce of their energy that could be spared by them and it was really a Baba-miracle, how things were so quickly managed and in no time adequate arrangements were made for all the thousands of Baba-lovers that were drawn by His Love to Poona, once again after a lapse of two years. By 30th April, every arrangement was complete and about a thousand from Hamirpur area, under the able leadership of Brothers K. N. Nigam and Pukar and about two thousand from Andhra Pradesh, guided by the different group-heads of the prominent centres of Andhra like Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Guntur etc., and the twin Cities of Hyderabad. and Secunderabad were there and Poona in the midst of buzzing activity was once again blooming with Baba-love, filling the whole atmosphere with mutual greetings of fraternity and equality and love. Baba lovers from Kovvur, Masulipatam, Vijayawada and Guntur arrived by special Railway bogies arranged for the purpose, while from Hamirpur, Hyderabad, Kotikeswaram and Kopparru they arrived by special tourist buses and indeed the procession of those buses to and from Guruprasad had no doubt added beauty to the festivity of the glorious function and has drawn many a time the attention of the camera-men.

All the available school and hostel buildings, dharmashalas, kalyan-mandirs, etc., in addition to the lodging and boarding houses in the city were filled with Baba-lovers, whether they be from Dehra Dun or Delhi, Kanpur or Calcutta, Bilaspur or Bombay, Kharagpur or Jabbalpur, Nagpur or Navsari, Kashmir or Karachi or the like, who have come with their families and children to lay down their heads at the Lotus Feet of the Silent Master and to receive to their heart's content and share with their brothers and sisters, the Divine Love and Bliss on this unique festive occasion of their Beloved's Darshan. Special accommodation was provided for those who gave previous intimation and the general influx was met with the usual hospitality of the Poona Hotels and Restaurants, including that of the Railway authorities. The enterprising zeal and loving dedication of Bro. Gulabdas N. Panchal of Bombay Centre has expressed itself in providing lodging and boarding for a few hundreds of lovers and among those who have made their own arrangements with some resourcefulness of their own and with the kind co-operation of the Poona Centre, were Hyderabad, Hamirpur, Vijayawada, Masulipatam and Guntur groups. It is a fact that this time in accordance with the directions in Bro. Adi's Life Circular mentioned above, most of the people who attended the function had either made their own arrangements or felt satisfied with minimum comfort to share the maximum love-manifestation of Beloved Baba.

The 1st of May 1965 will in fact remain a unique day in the history of Poona and its active Baba-Centre, for this was the day on which Baba has chosen to give His 1st day's Darshan in the Poona Centre Hall. The love's labour and deep dedication of those who were responsible for this newly built "Baba-Hall" were amply rewarded. Beloved Baba graced the occasion with an enchanting beauty and His Divine Personality filled the whole city of Poona and its vicinity with such manifestation of His Divine Love that the whole area, flooded with His lovers, old and young, men and women of all castes and climes, communities and religions, was electrified as it were. It was exactly at 8 a.m. when He arrived in His special car at the Poona Centre and was greeted with loud cries of "Avatar

Meher Baba ki Jai" resounding in the skies, as He was taken in and also when He adorned His special seat on the dais. As He waved His fingers in the air blessing the audience, the whole atmosphere was surcharged with the currents of Divine Love gushing on into the very core of the hearts of those assembled there. All the faces bloomed with lustrous eyes as a twinkle from His eye had switched on, as it were, establishing direct contact with the Power-house of Divine Love of the Ancient One in human form and the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba.

After prayer, Bro. K. K. Ramakrishnan read out an address of hearty welcome to Beloved Baba, on behalf of the Poona Centre and Baba's reply was read by Bro. Eruch adding the melody of his voice to the out-pouring Divine Love of our Silent Master, the Highest of the High and as usual the translations also were read out there after.

On the dais were also seen the inspiring personalities like Bro. Adi K. Irani, the choicest Disciple and Secretary of Beloved Baba and Bro. Eruch, the ever-active and apt interpreter of Baba's silent gestures, while the simple, silent and serene revered Baba-poet, Bro. Francis Brabazon added poetic inspiration to the beauty of the whole vicinity. Smt. & Sri Sarosh K. Irani, Dr. H. P. Bharucha, Sri Balnatu and others were also there busy and moving about on the scene of activity, while Bro. K. K. Ramakrishnan and his band of workers were sparing no pains to see that order and tranquility inside and around the hall was maintained and the programme of the day was gone through in letter and spirit.

The gorgeous function of the day came to a close promptly at 11 a.m. when Arti was sung and Baba left the hall for Guruprasad, in His car amidst roaring cries of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai".

On 2nd May, the Darshan programme commenced exactly at 9 a.m. in the specially erected pandal behind the main building of "Guruprasad" 24, Bund Garden Road, Poona-1. When Beloved Baba entered from behind the glimmering green curtains on the specially decorated dais, every eye of the multitude was drawn to His most simple but supremely exquisite

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My Life With Avatar Meher Baba

by Adi K. Irani

(Continued from March, 1965 issue)

Poona Zhopdi:

At the far end of the Fergusson College Road in Poona, Baba liked the site of an open ground about one thousand yards away from the road and inwards into the field and there a small cottage was built for him to stay. When it was ready, Baba stayed there most time of the day and night and only paid occasional visits to Kasha Peth, which was situated on one side of the river and the hut or zhopdi, as it was called, on the other side. There was Bhamburda Causeway crossing of the river joining Kasba Peth and the way further to the zhopdi. Baba used to have about a dozen companions near him during the day, and at night only Baily was there, but later Arjun was made to join.

I had become progressively obedient to Baba and I did nothing that he said he did not like me to do, except that I could not pay much attention to my study of the First Year Arts, in spite of his occasional admonitions. Again as wished by him, I paid visits to the zhopdi every evening and used to spend there the whole day on every Sunday. Gulmai occasionally came to Poona and was seen passing the whole day in the company of Meher Baba. My brother Rustom and my cousin too were occasional visitors. Here I saw Padri (Faredun N. Driver) at times, sitting with other companions of Meher Baba. There were some new outside visitors also, having a peep or darshan or a brief halt at the zhopdi.

Once there were a few Irani Zoroastrian men, having come over there out of mischievous curiosity. Before they could approach Baba and ask him some questionable questions, one of them unguardedly fell into a ditch nearby and all of them were shocked into silence. With casual inquiries as of strangers, in justification of their visit, they departed with unexpressed embarrassment. I fail to remember full details.

His Person & Inner Work:

Meher Baba, during the early life, after severance of his personal (normally apprehended) communion with Upasni Maharaj at the end of seven years of the spiritual 'coming down' journey from God to Man, looked so very different from what he looked during the subsequent periods of the changing phases of his inner work spread over four decades, that I could have hardly believed at that time what the future change would be like. Apart from the physical change, the inner change caused by inner work revealed in his outward activity and adopting a particular way of life for himself and in concern with others individually and collectively was of more ocular significance.

He was fair, but looked tanned under the immediate force of having to contain the fire of absoluteness of God in the limitedness of human body. His nature was sharp, quick, forthright and vibrant. His eyes were penetrating and aglow with divine fire. His body was lean and wiry but strong and active. There was an air of deep drunkenness of spirit—the intoxication which was ever conscious and flashed out in the lightning words of knowledge and wisdom and acts of a deep, affectionate and tender love. The selflessness that pervaded his doings and words was simple and unsophisticated. Inwardly, he seemed to live in God as God for God's work and outwardly lived as man for all men except for himself. His inner work, as we call it, had just begun to appear. It was the Avataric work which none can fathom but few can imagine. I was hardly aware of such a thing; until some months later, the repeated symptoms revealed in his outward movements became so obvious that there was nothing else to relate, except an immensely purposeful burning of a volcanic motive inside occasionally throwing out variegated colours of altruistic temper and turmoil. This is not what a casual observer is capable of or is expected to grasp. The gravity or the authenticity of experience is likely to go over his head, unless he is either a patient observer, a true seeker or the one whose fortune gets him into the orbit of Meher Baba's love or work.

It is like a deafening noise and unrest that accompanies the working of a huge machinery that proves its worth by turning out material of great human benefit—that its clangs and

its cataclysmic noise is made to be absorbed by a most delicate instrument with utmost sensitivity like a human brain or mind. What of the noise created by the entire creation of God, of which one is fully conscious and purposefully exposed to its sight and sound—the creation filled with innumerable heavenly bodies in its dinning, whirling spinning sound with its earth, water, air and fire going round and round and its ever-buzzing life of birth, death and sustenance. This experience that seems to have originated during the coming-down journey of Meher Baba's contact with Upasni Maharaj and gradually settled down during the post contact period, should have given away to the assuming of the full charge of his Avataric work by himself.

Small Dream:

In my growing contact with Meher Baba, I felt all the time getting nearer to him, or rather he coming nearer to me, occupying most of my spare moments by day with his thoughts and his love. During nights there was a constant feeling of him at heart proved by the fact that whenever I was partially or fully awake, the thought of him came first accompanied by a longing to go and stay near him.

This reminds me of a dream which I had, though of a hazy background, but too impressive as to yet remain in memory as fresh as I saw it in 1922. It was Sadashiv Patel's house or the adjoining house in Kasha Peth, where on the terrace, I saw Baba moving about for a while and I following him in my vision and in the thought of my love for him.

Romance and its Severance:

During my college life, I could not escape a romantic encounter with a girl of my religion, however much my mother tried to keep me out of it. But thanks to the protecting hand of Meher Baba's Love, it did not in the least involve me in any of the bodily contacts from which a man sometimes finds himself unable to extricate. My mother once complained to Upasni Maharaj. When he questioned me as to how I would like to give up the growing intimacy with the girl, I simply refused. Later the affair went through Gulmai to the ears of Meher Baba and he decided my future with a wonderful handling of the matter. He had the girl called over to Sadashiv Patel's house through my mother Gulmai. Baba

sat on the ground on the first floor of the house. In front of him were made to sit the girl and Gulmai. On the right hand side, I was asked to take my seat, but with my back facing Gulmai and the girl. Baba told her that I belonged to him and even my mother had no claim on me. She should try to forget me completely. He knew that any idea of a future alliance with me was not possible and even if imposed would turn out to be unhappy. The girl was very much distressed and could not help expressing her sorrow in tears. But when Baba convinced her of the extreme unhappiness that would result in case the idea is not abandoned, she gradually reconciled to the situation. It is not uncommon that a young man in love with a young girl is prepared to hazard any hurdle in life to bring about the fulfilment of his desire to marry. But what has taken place with me was very much uncommon. Because of Baba's love for me and my love for him, I did not in the least feel for having to give up a very small love in comparison. I always loved my mother most in my family, but I experienced that it has taken a secondary place and later on became insignificant. To compare Baba's love with that of any other became almost inconceivable for me and I was as much happy as Gulmai to see that the severance of all relationship with the girl eventually resulted in the happiness to all concerned, including the parents of the girl who, on their part, were found to be unwilling for the match.

Mother of the Girl:

The mother of this same girl once just happened to go to Baba at the zhopdi to see him. She had a rich husband, but the riches did not give her all the happiness. She was worried about her daughter—the same girl, as her father would not agree her to be taken to Iran (Persia). With the proposal to have her desire fulfilled she went to Meher Baba. Baba responded to her request and said that he would see her wish fulfilled and when it did, she should come once and sweep the inside floor of Baba's zhopdi. She agreed. On her return from Iran, somehow she did not bother to keep her promise. She did not go and clean the zhopdi. Later it came to my notice that because of some other unhappy incident pertaining to her daughter—she became almost insane and could not look after herself. Not because she broke her promise given to Baba

that according to me, she had to suffer the state of mental derangement for a number of months, but the suffering which she was destined to bear could have been avoided had she taken care to carry out Baba's advice, which she preferred to seek on her own. Baba tried to help her, but she could not receive his help.

Implicit Obedience:

For moving about locally, Baba hardly used a vehicle. Only from town to town, did he travel in the train in a third class carriage. From Fergusson College zhopdi to Sadashiv Patel's house, or the house of Arjun in Kasba Peth, or to his parents' house in the Poona Cantt., Baba always walked. Many a time I accompanied him with the other disciples and I found these short journeys very significant. Short discourses were given verbally by Baba, which centered round the great necessity of implicit obedience to the Perfect Master, without whose grace the conscious experience of oneness with God was not possible. The great training in unquestioning obedience was given in simple words on these occasions. It was as if a child was baited into the "snare" of his love and the man in the child found his reason growing sharp and active at the same time, but ever placed at the feet of the Beloved. Baba never discouraged questioning or even doubting, but always subjected them to the bidding of the questioner exalting the richness of love and its position far above that of the intellect.

Sun-hat:

Once I was walking with Baba and a few others with the sun-hat on my head, to which I was an addict. I could hardly expose my head to the sun even for some seconds without the fear of getting a sun-stroke. It was the best cork hat that I had bought, then valued at Rs. 30.00, when a cheap hat was available for Rs. 4.00, or 5.00. As we were passing by a thickly grown thorny cactus hedge called "livadung" (the species which is extinct in Maharashtra today) on the right side of the road leading to Bhamburda Causeway, Baba in a peremptory expectation of my obedience to him suddenly ordered me to throw away the hat in the midst of the cactus hedge. Overcoming a passing flash of a momentous anxiety of being depri-

ved of a useful and expensive hat, I promptly lifted it overhead and quickly flung it over the top of the hedge into the thick of the cactus and heaved a sigh of relief for having proved equal to the moment in obedience. Baba expressed satisfaction and we continued the walk.

Hot Cocoa:

The cooking entrusted to Bapu, the simple man of a Brahmin family, proved unsuccessful. He was ill-versed in making good tea or cocoa, much less food, except unsalted pasty rice and dal insoluble in gravy. I felt distressed to find the same old inconvenience continued in the matter of giving good meals to Meher Baba, but I could be of little use. On one sunday morning, I decided to offer Baba a good drink of cocoa. On the previous day I purchased a thermos bottle for Rs. 6.00 and before leaving the college for the zhopdi I prepared the drink, thermosful in pure milk and carried the thermos on cycle. While getting down from the cycle near the zhopdi and lifting the thermos off the cycle to take it to Baba, the thermos dashed against the bar and broke and the liquid began dripping out. Baba admonished me for bringing the cocoa and spending for the new thermos without asking him and warned that in future I should not spend anything for him without asking him. However, he permitted the liquid to be strained through a clean white cloth and drank a part of it, thus easing my dual anxiety of displeasing him and giving him some drink of hot cocoa.

Momentary Gaze:

Once, while walking with Baba and two other companions on an early morning from zhopdi to Meher Baba's parents' house in the Cantonment, we arrived at the back side of Dorabji's shop, where Baba suddenly stopped and began gazing at something with head slightly tilted downwards with no apparent object to look at. Some seconds passed by and Baba retracing from the gaze resumed walking and remarked that he was looking at the sight of living bodies getting born and die in quick succession. I did not venture to ask anything more about it and neither was he disposed to say anything more.

Broken Promise:

I had a fellow student in Deccan College. We both lived in the same room in the hostel. In fact we had been together in the School also. I took him to Baba a few times and he willingly used to accompany me, when I asked him. However on a Sunday morning, he refused because those were the preparation days for the First Year Arts examination and he thought it wise not to waste the day by being with me the whole day near Baba. In fact on one of the previous visits, like me he had promised that he would be near Baba the whole day every Sunday. I reminded him of the promise, but to no effect.

In spite of Baba's admonitions, I had failed to study during the whole year and during the fortnight preceding the examination, I set myself diligently to the task. I had little hope of passing. When the result was declared, my fellow student came running to me and said that my name was listed with those who had passed. I asked him about himself and he said that he had failed. I could not believe it, until I verified his statement. In fact he had studied much more than I did but I remembered now that he had broken his promise to Baba.

Sudden Call:

One early morning, I was surprised to find the presence of Baily in the college compound. Apparently he had come to see me but I knew not why at that hour, when he was supposed to be near Baba. Baily said that he stayed near Baba all the time and served him, and he was surprised to find that the first thing on early rising, Baba remembered me and asked him to call me. Overjoyed at this I quickly went with him to Baba and stayed with him the whole day, though it was not Sunday.

Baidul's Initiation:

Gustadji and Beheramji, later called Buasaheb (not Baba's brother) were old companions of Baba. Gustadji was often in the company of Baba in the Sadashiv Patel's house and also in Arjun's house. Beheramji was a very frequent visitor. Dr. Ghani and Ramjoo paid occasional visits and so also Sayyedsab. Sayyedsab also was an equally old associate of Baba. However

one who joined the group as a result of his meeting Baba for the first time in Sadashiv Patel's house in 1922.

I could play 'Sitar' (a 7 metal-string Indian musical instrument) and used to give accompaniment to Baba when he sang and played the drum. One morning Baba was busy talking to some one on the second floor of Sadashiv's house. I was sitting on the first floor, leaning against a pillar and playing Sitar. Baidul came in search of Baba, moving up and down in Kasba Peth, trying to locate the house where Baba stayed. He spotted the house and slowly climbing the stairs, approached me mistaking me for Baba. Before I could ask him any question, he bowed down to me. I became very nervous and raised his head with my hands and informed him to wait till Baba came down from the second floor. On Baba's arrival, Baidul took Baba's darshan by bowing down on his feet and since then began paying frequent visits and later became a very hard and strenuous worker to trace down, look after, bring to and fro the Masts or God-intoxicated men during most of the period of this special phase of Baba's work.

Journey on foot:

Baba had nearly 40 of his devotees collected at Poona. They were asked to visit Babajan's open abode which she always occupied under a tree in the Poona Cantt. at one end of the street that joins Main Street and Connaught Market Road in front of the Anglo-Urdu High School where, after her passing away, her tomb was built. Some of them in turns and some together sat near Hazarat Babajan for quite a while till past mid-night. After this, all were asked to meet at Sadashiv Patel's house on the first floor before launching on the memorable journey on foot from Poona to Bombay in May 1922.

This was, according to us, a very significant parting of Meher Baba from Babajan. This was the second phase of Baba's work, the first being his stay in Sadashiv Patel's house and the zhopdi. The personal communion with Babajan as normally apprehended seemed to have ended and so all the devotees gathered there were made to give a parting obeisance to Hazarat Babajan. I could hardly realise then the import of

such a parting, until later I saw that all Baba's inner universal working had an expression in his outer movements, the 'outer' depending on the 'inner' for gravity, change, urgency or immediacy. Contact with Upasni Maharaj had ended and now with Babajan has also ceased.

Very early morning, all the devotees gathered near Baba at Sadashiv's house and before beginning the journey, Baba decided to give them a small breakfast. He chose Dr. Ghani and me to go to a small restaurant nearby and bring a plate of cream and bread and a cup of tea for each one. When the man in the restaurant began to prepare this, I felt hungry and enticed to eat but dared not do it on my own initiative. I asked Ghani and he gave his assent. When we reached Sadashiv's house with the consignment carried by servants, we were late and Baba at once asked us the cause for the delay. I admitted to have taken the breakfast myself first, but on Ghani's consent. Ghani said that I did it on my own. Baba became 'furious' and this was the first lesson I got from him. With a violent impact of his hand, I was shaken to the depth of my ego. The mind, though convinced of the cause justifying the rap I received, revolted, but the heart was too full with his love and at once silenced the mind. The number of blows I have had in my life at his chastising hands ever cherished in me a sweet reforming memory of my weaknesses. It would take any intellectual a fund of experience and contact with the Perfect Master to realise that every act of his is a blessing in experience and not a fantasy. This was brought home to me in a short time in a most natural manner. No amount of reading, meditation or prayer could have instilled this understanding in me. The only natural inhibition I felt was depression of mind for some time with the consequent effect of the bond of love and obedience becoming firm and strong.

(to be continued)

THE FLOWER OF CONTEMPLATION

by Mrs, Adah Francis Shifrin, U. S. A.

One's thoughts may take "wing" and go in many directions to visualise the gifts our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon His children. All of His creation contains the universal breath of His life, nothing still, everything moving with eternal balance and harmony. No matter where we look, the Glory of His touch is ever present.

We think of a seed planted in the earth as the beginning of creation for that plant. This is only the material aspect involved. The seed itself had to come into existence. Latent within the seed, there had to be the pre-planned design for colour, size, shape, texture, aroma and the finer quality that is intangible. One must marvel at the invisible pattern and plan for only one of these little capsules of life; let alone the billions of variations that adorn our earth. Truly, only a Master Creator could conceive and deliver unto us this treasure that man seems to take for granted. Walt Whitman wrote that man looks in wonder at the pea in the pod. Yes, we must admit that the plant world is a vast beautiful kingdom within itself, which man is actually dependent upon for his physical survival.

If we were to study this one phase of life upon this planet we would have to come to the conclusion that this one little "whim" of God is beyond human comprehension and that one little seed in the plant world holds the mystery within, placed there, by the unseen Power and Intelligence Supreme.

What then of the living seed of man who questions the Almighty Power that created him? He too is God's seed and the ultimate in all His creation. God in His Infinite planning set in motion His Divine pattern of life through the successive states of stone, metals, worms, fish, birds and animals. Man has finally evolved to human form and waits to receive the consciousness of the soul's unlimited self and for the soul to know itself as indivisible, eternal and infinite.

God's beautiful dream that brought the cosmos into being. His whole divine plan was for this very purpose, that man shall find his way to the God-Head from whence he came.

How fitting it is that a loving Father should help His children. In a sense we are the flowers that bloom in His universal garden and as we become more perfect and beautiful in His eyes, so does His garden, the earth, become more perfect and beautiful.

Here on this planet is one of God's gardens, where we shall bloom according to His Divine Will.

Since this is the Spring-time of creation the time for new planting, how natural that God should choose His most precious seed—One like unto Himself and plant it upon the earth so that the pollen of His love may be carried far and wide throughout the world to awaken the Divine Love, which will touch all souls. This beautiful Flower of God is the Avatar who has come in different times and different places since the world began. He was the Messiah of Truth as in Krishna, Buddha, Christ and now He is the Flower of all that is.

His earthly name is Meher Baba.

Was there ever a flower so fair? His beauty and radiance is the light itself that touches everything that lives. See the leaf glistening and dancing in the sun, is it not as though it were His compassionate smile—the softness of the breeze, a light caress of His thoughts? The movements of His fingers are like the ripples on His ocean of love while He moves tides in and out, the tides of our lives who love and surrender their all to Him. In the changing sunsets one can sense the color of His complexion. The glow that spreads across the sky is a small part of His magnificence. Are not His eyes like the souls of babies still unborn in the embrace of the infinite? No wonder His look must be the delight of the angels. Each part of His Beloved Form so like man, yet so unlike man, for truly His complete Glory is hidden from the human eye. Only the eye Divine could see Meher Baba as He really is. Let us give thanks that we are born on earth at this time, when the living God has come again for our liberation. Beloved Meher Baba has taken form on this earth to plant the seed of love in each heart to bring about the awakening of man to self-realization. There is

no greater treasure than Divine Love bestowed by the Grace of the Master.

Let us take the word "love" and see what man thinks of it. The word in its most limited aspect can mean ardent affection or a strong liking or interest. This one little word "love" is the most powerful in the human language and is the stimuli for all man's desires. Human love in its most limited state which exists in the material world, binds man. Divine Love in its most limitless state frees him.

Often we express throughout our lives the limited love for things that we think are important to our happiness. It might be for food, clothing, houses, jewels, money, places, self, family and on and on through numerous expressions of desires. Sooner or later we will suddenly realize that all these possessions are transitory. We come to the realization that we were unconsciously seeking something else. When we reached this point we begin to ponder and consider that there must be much more to man's destiny than what we have experienced through this limited "love". This could bring one to the crossroad of one's life. We must look beyond ourselves and ask our Creator to show us the way. Man may have had many incarnations before he has arrived to even question. To question is to search and to search is to find, if one is determined.

It is in the heart of the "seeker" that God looks for fertile ground to sow the Divine seed of His Love. To be the recipient of this great blessing is not just for the asking. It is the gift of the Master. Only through His Grace does this "Love of Loves" comes to the heart that is ready to receive it, Though the seed may be latent in one's heart for a long time, it will surely take root and start unfolding the Truth that will flower into the ultimate of one's self.

To make the heart ready for the planting, one has much to do even after the spiritual path is sighted. Knowing the way intellectually is not enough. Setting one's mind on the austerity of a religion or disciplining one's self in any inward or outward expression is limiting. There must be a release of everything that binds, even one's thoughts and habits might hinder the progress.

The seed of Divine Love can only be sown when the heart is cleansed of all impurities. Selfishness must go and selflessness must come. One must find courage to sacrifice everything at all costs for the happiness of God. Our Divine Father wishes us to be loving and compassionate towards all of His other beings. Are not we all one in His eyes? How pleased He must be when a loving child wishes only to do His work with no thought of self. Sacrificing one self for another's happiness and well-being may sound difficult, but truly those who seem most content are the ones too busy helping others to think of themselves. Those concentrating on "I, my, mine" are unhappy and find much to complain about. These are the hearts too full of the "debris of self" to leave room for the seed of love.

One must have the courage to want to do away with this "debris of self" with all the will power.

It is never too late! Beside one's own loving actions and efforts in daily life, we can show God our love by surrendering to God's personal manifestation—the Perfect Master. Could anything be more wonderful than to be able to offer all that one "Is" to Him? The Beloved Master is the King of Love. Who could know more or do more to help us cleanse our hearts than He?

When we come to the Beloved Baba with all that we are, our good and our lesser good, we are like a child who takes a parent's hand and feels safely guided to a destination. Though we may not know the way, the Beloved does. Though we do not know our true selves, the Beloved does. Though we do not know our past, present or future, the Beloved does!

We have only to obey, surrender and love Him. It is our ignorance that causes Him to suffer and still our Beloved compassionately tells us, "Do not worry". He calls to us saying, "Come all unto me".

Age after age, the living God comes when the earth is in the grip of fear, disruptions and chaos. Though only a few may know of Him at first, the flowering of His love in these hearts shall spread the pollen far and wide. From heart to heart, God's garden of Love shall bloom over the face of the earth, changing everything.

It is in the awakened heart that the flower will bloom. The essence and sweetness of this love shall penetrate every phase of man's life. When the world has experienced this love we shall step into a whole new change of consciousness. Humanity will enter a new phase of existence. Man's whole purpose will be based on true brotherly love. He will know that God dwells within him. His every day life and thoughts will be a Divine expression. The spiritual light will begin to penetrate where it has not been able to reach because of the denseness of man's gross attachments.

Though words bind true expression in the limitations of language, great poets have tried to write about Divine love for ages. Could these be the vanguards of future men and will this be part of the common heritage for all men? The Divine light that flowered in their hearts shall be in ours too. What we read and marvel at, in the talents of others shall one day be the expression flowing freely in every man's mind, All the great achievements that are coming through man are from a Supreme Source.

Can one possibly imagine man capable of doing any great work without Divine guidance? The inspiration and the plan is from the unseen power of God. His light is ever ready to touch the awakened heart. The expression then takes form in creativity. The wonders that are being formulated in the Supreme Mind are far beyond what we know today. The greater the love, the greater the creativity.

Every painter who created a masterpiece was the recipient of some degree of illumination.

Singers with fine voices may also have been touched through inspiration in the same way.

The saints seem content to experience God's love with inner expression. The outer expression is seen in their reverence.

The masts in India are so intoxicated with God that they are content to be completely lost in Bliss.

From this, we see that it is beyond human comprehension to know the degree of love which the individual heart might receive through the Grace of God. We know that if we can

give the ultimate in love, we will receive the ultimate of Divine love; the God-Realisation that only a Master can bestow. This is the final goal of the Spiritual path. This is the flower God wishes to nurture in our hearts.

Ah dear Father! is it that you wish for your flowers of love to be of many varieties with different colour, texture and aroma; yet are we not all dear to You in the same way? The scent of the rose is no sweeter to you than the lily. Those of us who may not have any aroma at all are still beautiful to behold and so You love all of us in spite of our weaknesses.

Why are we, who are in the flesh compared, here, to the flower? It is because our time spent here on earth seems just as brief. We no sooner bloom than our petals fall to earth. Not for long though, for, our seed shall enter the earth and bloom again. Let our happiness be in the beauty of our love which we bring to the Master. Let our stay upon the earth bring joy to those who are around us. It is the out pouring of this love that attracts the eternal light of God. Just as the sun nourishes all that lives, so does the eternal light nourish one's spiritual self. The seed God plants awakens slowly to a "drop" of this eternal light and begins to grow. As the flower begins to unfold, more and more Divine light is attracted to it.

Time, as we know it in the gross world, has no value in God's eyes. He is infinitely patient and waits ages for us, just to reach the point of awakening to our purpose in the world of forms. When this knowledge is reached, even though we are still very limited in what the gross consciousness can understand, this is a time to rejoice. We can know that it is the turning point in the many lives we have lived. Somehow we intuitively know that a battle of the gross world is being won. Now we can start acting upon the inner promptings to guide us. This inner guidance is God's silent way of directing His love to us. We do not need a written word nor a spoken word to know His wishes. Once we completely surrender ourselves to Him, the inner knowledge that He will guide us through everything comes to us. With this resignation comes a tremendous feeling of freedom. One feels less and less attachment to the gross forms, which were formerly invisible shackles. Slowly impressions change. What seemed important and pressing becomes

completely obsolete. The new self can almost stand aside and look at the old self. What a comedy of errors the old self appears to be and how unimportant in relation to the over-all pattern of life!

This new and shining self looks in, rather than out upon the world. It were as though one had been living in a "huge bubble" and suddenly walked through it. You step through, then turn about to look inside at all that you left behind which is going on within the "bubble". One might say "Where am I now?". But who should care when God brought you there and in His time you shall experience and know this too. As long as it is God's wish that you be placed upon this earth, this acceptance is enough for you to know and to be content with, He will guide you back to Him, from whence you came. When a new little bundle of life is born and cries and cries, it is not for food but for the arms of the Infinite unconsciously longed for.

All our lives we are unconsciously crying out for that union. It is the destiny of every soul to achieve this and so no one need despair, no matter who or what they may be.

There are those who are extremely blessed to know God's manifestation on earth. It is Beloved Baba's will that others too shall come to Him, so that he can put an end to their ignorance. He will draw to Him all those who are ready and they shall begin to know through living experience the true meaning of "love".

All that could be written here would fall very short of explaining how Baba touches the heart with His infinite Love. It is the eternal light of the whole cosmos. None of the senses, no matter how beautiful or satisfying to the mind, can express the beauty of the "seeing within", the expanding joy going out from one's self. What is this undiscovered world within us? It is the Divine Love that has not yet bloomed. It is the seed beginning to feel the glimmer, the touch of life. How can one even imagine the flowering of the ultimate in God's love. Even the little trickle of light is so great compared to the darkness in the ignorance of the gross consciousness.

One day the mind's eye shall start to look within. The looking without becomes less and less interesting. Why, oh, why did we take so long to find so simple a way to start answering the question of "Why are we here?" We have spent all our time looking without, searching with the physical eye. All the time, we ourselves are the world that has to be discovered. The answer lies deep within the heart and soul. All of us have been groping in the darkness for a way to the light. The only one who can bestow the experience of Truth through love is Avatar. He is the Way and the Light! Baba has told His lovers that the High Road to experience Him is through loving Him as He wishes to be loved. We have no way to comprehend in our limited minds the true meaning and extent of this love. Since power of thought is where our greatest strength lies, it is our only direct means of making a start. Our thoughts begin to go out. We are striving to reach God in our minds and so we are learning to meditate. Let us not allow our thoughts to drift about, but let them take wing and go directly to our Beloved. Do you think, He does not know and receive your thoughts? In His infinite state there is nothing that is not known to Him. Time and space mean nothing to the Ancient One, who is here just for you. His Light goes out like the rays of the sun touching all, who are ready. This is Baba's miraculous gift, He touches one's heart with Love Divine. It is the awakening to Truth.

— (to be continued)

PRIDE

BEWARE OF PRIDE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT IS
HYDRA-HEADED, BUT BECAUSE IT IS DECEPTIVE, SO
DECEPTIVE IT IS THAT MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IT PUTS
ON THE APPAREL OF HUMILITY,

—MEHER BABA

BUBBLES

by Kemali

God created the ocean deep, and then to complicate it more, He fashioned each drop an entity with energy at its core.

The drop never sees the ocean for it looks into the air and makes its bubbles fly around as though it did not care.

Some long, some thin, some short and fat and some all bulging round; some wiggling into funny shape they happily rebound.

Then, there are lazy drops; these float about just carried with the tide. The others quickly hurry past, they have no time to glide.

Some gay. Some sad, but these weighed down as though a tear remain to hold them back from freedom which they would now attain;

These bubbles are a trouble, even though they are demure, they keep their thoughts locked up inside they feel so insecure.

Now, if you are a clever drop and change your shape each day, then you are trying from within to elevate your way.

We must expand our eagerness to know how to abide, and look to God to bless us and sweep us in His tide.

If we could feel the ocean is our home, without a key, then would we see the drop we are and not a bubble be.

All drops reflect in colours, none ever are akin; yet know not they transparent are to God who sees within.

Should an opaque drop come along it is because its way has led it through dense passages from which it had to stray –

These bring their troubles with them and, floating with the tide
God in His mercy holds them still closer to His side.

One day a dreadful storm arose upon the rocky coast; the drops
came pelting one by one, their lives were almost lost.

The bubbles burst and lay in wrecks, they were beyond repair.
Now was the time for drops to show their eagerness to care;

When all was o'er the sun arose and, smiling from the skies,
"Do you not know your blessings", said "although they are
disguised?"

Because you 'hit the rocks' your consciousness must glean that
God did send this storm to rouse you from your dream.

The Ocean, your Master Infinite, as Love in each drop remains;
rejoice that you are fortunate and that He you sustains.

Awake! Arise and know that you can of real service be, as 'only
a drop' has saved a life from dying misery."

Now when you see the ocean in waves upon the shore; these
waves are saints with bowing heads who worship and adore.

Lord Baba, God, the One in all; and in the Ocean we, the drops,
return as to our home throughout Eternity.

IS THERE HOPE FOR HUMANITY?

by Irene Conybeare

(Author of "Civilisation or Chaos?" and "In Quest of Truth")

Thousands of words are written to diagnose the malady afflicting homo sapiens, but who can give the answer? We must look below the surface, into the inner truths and inner realities, into the laws which govern man and the universe.

If there is any way to save sick humanity, will not a change of heart, a push in spiritual consciousness be necessary? Do we believe in Omnipotence, for no human agency can help us in a disaster of unlimited dimensions. These are paralysing questions. But all thoughtful people are aware that the world crisis is deepening and chaos and confusion is spreading.

Born in a rationalistic Oxford family, I was not inter-ested in religion. But the sadness and horror of the First World War, and the loss of so many young and brilliant comrades, cast a shadow over my life. My father and some of his colleagues thought that our civilisation was doomed because man's intellectual equipment was outstripping his moral and spiritual development. They felt in fact that unless some form of spiritual compensation could be found, our civilisation could not last.

I began to search for the spiritual compensation, would it not have to be some form of divine intervention? The more I learned the less I knew, as one horizon after another opened up to my astonished and enquiring gaze.

One day in 1934. I was walking along a quiet street in a suburb of London, when suddenly a voice, loud and clear, spoke in my ear. It said "THIS IS NOT REALITY!" Startled I turned round, but nobody was there! Dismissing the incident as a hallucination, I thought no more about it, till many years after I discovered that Sadguru Meher Baba had been staying in the house which I had passed at the time I heard the voice! His teaching is that life is vain, transitory and

illusory. A little later, sitting quietly at home, I became aware of what can only be described as a divine afflatus. Warm rays seemed to be pouring down, embracing and enveloping. The Love of Heaven? Was there an angel in the room?

In the summer of 1936, I was staying in a little village, high up in the Swiss Alps. I had gone for a long walk up the mountain side, a winding path through tall pine trees, and I was meditating, for the first time on the Nature of God? I asked—What was God? They say He is all around us?

Here on reaching an open glade, I noticed a peculiar silence, not a leaf stirred, not a flower nodded; I stood listening, and in the distance, a faint sound seemed to come from afar. It sounded like the Pipes of Pan, or was it Krishna's flute? The music grew and swelled. The air was vibrating with heavenly chords, the only music on earth faintly resembling it, was Wagner in his most ecstatic moments. Chords of celestial harmonies, an angelic orchestra, deep rolling notes of a cosmic organ, high wind instruments, tones of colour and beauty, unsurpassed. Standing rapt, caught up in a mystic vortex of harmonies, in a bliss entrancing and divine. This was the answer, that God is HARMONY!

Later I learnt that this initiation is called "The Music of the Spheres". According to Socrates, on the upper surface of each circle there is a siren going round with it, humming a single note, and these together form one great harmony. Our planet is a musical instrument and it is for man to feel the Divine Pattern, or Rhythm, which is dependent on the vibrational quality and power of tone, which is again dependent on the mind of man. It is said that when man is out of tune with Nature, Nature herself reacts, as we see today with the unusual increase of storms and terrestrial catastrophes. Man lacks harmony within and without, and our planet has become a very discordant orchestra, with each member playing a different tune!

In 1937, I had a dream. We were standing outside our home, looking up into the blue sky above the London Park, far away up in the air, was an enormous angry-looking storm cloud, massed in cumulative waves. Out of it pointed the long black muzzles of four great guns; two to the East and two to

the West. Then a voice spoke... "GOD IS ANGRY! HE HAS BEEN BLASPHEMED! HE IS NOW GOING TO SPEAK!"

Considerably perturbed, the following night on falling asleep, I prayed for another dream, which would tell me what was going to happen.

This time I found myself walking along the bank of a wide and peaceful river. The landscape was at rest and all seemed tranquil, some people walking about unconcernedly. Then suddenly the atmosphere changed. On turning around, I saw something gleaming white, far down the reach of the river. It was the white crest of a huge tidal wave advancing very slowly up the river. In time it would flood all the ground which spread out in a flat expanse to the far horizon—the plains of civilisation. As I searched for a means of escape, I noticed that my path wound away across the plain to a pyramid-shaped hill which stood out plainly. I woke up shouting—"We must all make for that hill, and I must warn the people!"

The second World War came, and while waiting for the Blitz, I met in London, a stranger who explained, amongst other things, that there was a certain man in India, known as Sadguru Meher Baba, also called the Silent Saint, because he did not speak and had declared that he would not break his Silence till the New Dispensation came into being.

As I walked home across the Park, which was empty and deserted for the children had already been evacuated, I wondered, and my inherent scepticism made me very doubtful. When suddenly, again I became aware of the divine afflatus, a warm glow which seemed to have descended from the air, I do not know, but it was the Love of God, that Love which has to change humanity. For only Divine Love can make a better-balanced humanity, more capable of coping with its problems than today. Do we not need divine intervention, a New Dispensation to save the world? Must there not be a descent of the Christ-consciousness, a new awakening of the Spirit, to replenish and regenerate our poor, tired, tortured earth? Thus the Word would again be made Flesh!

Later I went to India, and on arriving at the Retreat where Meher Baba lived, I saw the pyramid-shaped hill of my dream!

The Master's message to the world is, that the tidal wave of destruction has to rise still higher, before man will heed God, for the world is witnessing an acute conflict between the Forces of Light and the Forces of Darkness. He states that the disease of selfishness in mankind will need a cure, which is not only universal in its application, but is drastic in its nature. Now that humanity is thrown into continuous bloody conflicts, it is through immense anguish experiencing the utter instability and futility of life which is based on purely material conceptions. When man has sunk so low that he can sink no lower, when his intellectual powers and scientific pride are humbled in the dust—only then will he repent and cry out to God for help.

The promised intervention will come, a miraculous outpouring of Divine Love will deluge humanity, flooding every corner of the heart, giving rise to a tremendous and universal upliftment, which will affect every man in proportion to his spiritual development. This will be the Awakening of the Heart Chakra on a cosmic scale. Thus the New Age will be born and the New Humanity will come to exist once through the release of Love in measureless abundance, and this release of Love will inspire such a change in consciousness, as will enable the repentant and chastened peoples to come together. Only then will be remnants of the nations be able to lay the foundations for a real brotherhood, in which caste, colour and creed will play no part. This will be The Golden Age!

LOVE FOR GOD

WHEN ONE REMAINS FULLY AND COMPLETELY
RESIGNED TO THE DIVINE WILL OF GOD, ALL
SERVICE, SACRIFICE, SOLITUDE, SEEKING AND
SURRENDERANCE MERELY SYMBOLISE ONE'S LOVE
FOR GOD. —MEHER BABA

**Horoscope of Meherwan Sheriar Irani,
Known as Avatar Meher Baba**

by Beheram Perozeshab Bharoocha
(Scholar Avasta-Pahalvi; Astrologer & Palmist)
(With the Courtesy of Jal S. Irani, brother of Baba)

Dear Readers, after prolonged calculation and thought, I have cast this horoscope with the sole object of testifying to the exalted spiritual status of Avatar Meher Baba, who is believed by his followers all over the world as a Divine Incarnation.

"Kar-e-pakan az Kayas-e-khud magir
Garche manad der naveshtan Sher O Shir".

The translation of this Persian couplet is: Do not assess the actions of holy persons from thy angle of vision; even though the words *Sher* and *Shir* have a close resemblance in sound and appearance, yet the first means "lion" and the second means "milk".

I may say the same regarding Avatar Meher Baba and his life; and in order to establish the claim of his being one of the greatest spiritual leaders of mankind I have written the following from the unimpeachable standpoint of Astrology, thereby proving conclusively his undeniable spiritual status. What Meher Baba says is not on behalf of his Father in Heaven. His "Maun" (Silence) is of immense spiritual significance. He is not one who can be easily understood by the present-day world, drowned as it is in the ocean of rank materialism. He has at times been assailed and severely criticised by people in their ignorance or jealousy; but he has remained unscathed, for there is a great divine force working behind him and he is destined to give the word of God to mankind. Hence, those who speak ill of him can do no harm to him, but are likely to invite spiritual harm upon themselves.

Like Lord Zoroaster, Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Lord Buddha, Lord Jesus and Lord Mohammed, world recognized prophets in the annals of humanity, Avatar Meher Baba stresses on Truth, which is the great invincible force emanating

from the immortal, divine and glorious Body of God, who is the Creator of the visible and invisible worlds and of the immeasurable vast dominions and planes of the Universes. Truth alone vanquishes and prevails upon falsehood and evil. Avatar Meher Baba has said that he has come to sow the seed of love in the heart of mankind, so that mankind may seek the Truth for itself and tread the path to salvation and glory which is its heritage. I can say with great emphasis and conviction that Avatar Meher Baba is an embodiment of Love, Truth and Compassion, He can without hesitation or the shadow of doubt be placed among the ranks of the great Saviours and Redeemers who have blessed this earth from time to time throughout the ages, to the immense benefit of humanity.

The following is the birth-chart of Avatar Meher Baba, who was born at 5-14 a.m., local time after midnight, on Sunday the 25th February 1894, in Poona. (See the next page for the Chart)

Avatar Meher Baba's birth is said to have been in Poona, at 5-14 a.m. local time, on Sunday the 25th of February 1894. This corresponds, with 15 ½ degree of the Sayan i.e., English Zodiacal Sign Aquarius rising on his Lagna i.e., Ascendant.

Symbolical descriptions of the said degree.

"Charubel" and "La Volasfera" who were great seers divines, clairvoyants and Astrologers have described the said degree as under Symbol: "A beacon light on a high rock." Description: One with great intuition. Those having this degree should pay strict attention to those impressions which the world calls foolish, but which show the Divinity speaking through humanity. (By Charubel). Another symbol and description. Symbol: "A smith's forge and bellows." Description: This symbol is related to the one who will show considerable aspiration in things of a spiritual nature and will be instrumental in awakening in the breast of man a belief in things supernormal, by fanning the spark of faith into a flame of conviction and consuming desire. His profession will be allied to the useful arts; and his walk in life, although simple and devoid of ostentation, will nevertheless be of singular service to humanity. Great in soul and of immense aspiration, he will prove a veritable "*Vulcan*". It is a degree of inspiration. (By La Volasfera). The above descriptions will be found on page 40 & on page 121 of

be more than profoundly convinced that the same applies to Avatar Meher Baba without the shadow of a doubt.

*Good and bad aspects in the birth-chart of
Avatar Meher Baba according to the
Sayan system of Astrology*

According to the Sayan, i.e., the English method of Astrology, Avatar Meher Baba was born with the 15 ½ degree of the English Zodiacal sign Aquarius on his Lagna i.e., Ascendant. At the time of his birth (5-14 a.m. B. T. after midnight, of Sunday the 25th February 1894), his Sayan Sun was in the 7th degree 25 minutes and 7 seconds of the Sign Pisces; Mercury in the 25th degree and 28 minutes of the Sign Pisces; Rahu i.e., the Dragon's head was in the 12th degree and 13 minutes of the sign Aries; Jupiter was in the 24th degree and 17 minutes of the sign Taurus (which gives great power of eloquence and clarity of thought); Neptune was in the 10th degree and 46 minutes of the sign Gemini; Saturn, Part of Fortune and Ketu i.e., the Dragon's tail were respectively in the 24th degree and 42nd minutes: 28th degree and 34 minutes and 12th degree and 13 minutes of the sign Libra; Moon and Herschel were respectively in the 20th degree and 28th minutes and 15th degree and 19 minutes of the sign Scorpio; Mars was in the 8th degree and 38 minutes of the sign Capricorn; and last but not least Venus was in the 22nd degree and 20 minutes in the sign Aquarius.

Aspects in the birth-chart of Avatar Meher Baba

(1) Venus square Jupiter. (2) Mercury sextile Jupiter. (3) Mars· sesquiquadrate Jupiter. (4) Sun sesquiquadrate Saturn. (5) Venus trine Saturn and Part of Fortune, and Semi-sextile Mercury, (6) Moon conjunction Herschel (which gives great intuition). (7) Moon trine Mercury, opposition Jupiter and Square Venus. Out of the foregoing eleven aspects eight are good and three bad.

What are the influences of the above aspects?

On account of (1) Mercury sextile Jupiter, he is just, honest, scrupulous and level-headed. On account of (2) Venus trine Saturn, trine Part of Fortune and. semi-sextile Mercury, he is a generous hearted, benevolent, large-minded, chaste, erudite, honoured, admired and highly respected person. On

account of (3) Moon conjunction Hirschel, opposition Jupiter and trine Mercury, he is imbued and endowed with divine intuition, psychic powers of a superior order and keen faculty of perception co-mingled with superior and clear mental vision. Moreover, he is a person of admirable intellectual calibre with virtues of forbearance, fortitude, patience and toleration. His heart is continually over bubbling with feelings of benevolence, charity and all-embracing love for mankind and the entire creation of God. He generally remains in tune (en rapport) with the Creator of the Universe who is indissolubly interwoven with every atom of the visible and the invisible worlds. He has no hatred even towards his detractors, slanderers and enemies. His teachings and beliefs are consistent, link-to-link, systematic, cogent and a coherent whole. He never vacillates or equivocates in his sermons or discussions. He possesses powers of clairvoyance, clairaudience and psychometry. The above statements of mine are amply corroborated by the symbolical descriptions of "Charubel" and "La Volasfera" mentioned in the beginning of this article.

*What does the Niryan, i.e., Indian method of Astrology,
say about the indisputable spiritual greatness of
Avatar Meher Baba?*

According to Niryan i.e., Indian method of Astrology, Avatar Meher Baba was born at 5-14 A.M., L. T., after midnight, on Sunday the 25th of February 1894 in Poona. According to Hindu calendar it was Mag Mas, Vad Pax, Tithi 6th Vikram Samvat 1950. According to Zoroastrian calendar Parsi day of birth was Kadmi Tishtar Tir and Mah Meher in the Yazdagardi Era of 1263. According to Mohammedan calendar the day of birth was 18th of the month Shaban and Hijri Era was 1311 and the Saka Era of King Shalivahan was 1815. In the Indian birth chart of Avatar Meher Baba 24th degree of the Niryan Zodiacal sign Capricorn was rising on the Ascendant; and the Planet Shukra i.e., Venus is in the 1st house, Surya i.e., Sun is in the 2nd house in the sign Aquarius, Buddha and Rahu i.e., Mercury and the Dragon's head are in the 3rd house in the sign Pisces; Guru i.e., Jupiter is in the 5th house in the sign Taurus; Ketu i.e., Dragon's tail is in the 9th house in the sign Virgo; Chandra and Shani i.e., Moon and Saturn are in the 10th house

in the sign Libra; Mangal i.e., Mars in the 12th house in the sign Sagittarius and Pars Fortuna is in conjunction with Saturn in the 10th house.

Some powerful Yogas i.e., configurations formed in the Niryan i.e., Indian birth-chart of Avatar Meher Baba.

According to Indian Astrology: (1) Avatar Meher Baba is born with his Jupiter lord of the 3rd house posited in the 5th house. This position is called "Kul Dipak Yoga" and such a person becomes philanthropic and benevolent. (2) From the Ascendant of Avatar Meher Baba, Shani i.e., Saturn is in the 10th i.e., Father's house; Guru i.e., Jupiter is in the 5th i.e., Santan's house or in the Trikona; Mangal i.e., Mars is in the 12th house. A person born in such a yoga remains in tune with Para Brahma i.e., God and it is called "Tadrup Yoga". (3) Guru i.e., Jupiter being placed in the 5th house i.e., in the house of Shukra i.e., Venus. Such a person is considered to have been born with "Kala Nidhi Yoga" and he cultivates best virtues and possesses horses, armies, elephants, becomes a supporter of people and rich and like a king. He is worshipped and honoured by wealthy persons, and is untouched by disease, fear and enmity. The above Indian birth-chart of Avatar Meher Baba and the planetary positions formed therein, have been examined with great nicety and precision by astrologer Ganapatishankar Narharishankar Bhatt of Navsari and testified by such astrologers as Nanabhai Manishankar and Shankar Rao Ramchandra. And I, Behram Perozeshah Bharoocha testify and declare from my own study and standpoint that the Indian birth-chart given above is correct and indisputably reliable and true.

Mahadosha Antardasha operating upon the destiny of Avatar Meher Baba at present

Avatar Meher Baba is born with his Indian Moon in the 8th degree 19 minutes and 46 seconds of the constellation "Vishakha"; so, according to Ashtotari system of Astrology he is born in the Mahadasha of Mangal the period whereof is 8 years. Out of that period 7 years and 3 months had been enjoyed by the soul of Avatar Meher Baba in the heaven above and in his mother's womb, and the remaining 9 months had

been enjoyed by him after his birth; and thereafter he enjoyed. the Mahadashas of Buddha, Shani, Guru and Rahu up to 58 years and 9 months. The period operating upon his destiny at present is the Mahadasha of Shukra and the Antardasha of Buddha and that will remain in force up to 71 years 9 months and 5 days of his life i.e., up to 5th December 1965. This is a good period because both the planets are lords of the 10th and the 9th houses. Thereafter, the Mahadasha of Shukra and the Antardasha of Shani, Guru and Rahu will continue to influence his destiny; and that all will be finished after the 79 years and 9 months of his life will be over. During the above remaining period of the Antardasha of Shani, Guru and Rahu, the periods of Shani and Rahu will be unfavourable for him in so far as his health disposition and serenity of mind are concerned; and he will remain exasperated and disturbed. He is likely to suffer a little from kidney and gas trouble as well as from some complaints of heart and colds. Moreover, Shani of Gochar i. e., of transit, is at present passing over his radical Sun i.e., Surya and it will remain in force up to 9th of April 1966. This transit of Saturn over his radical Sun is likely to cause some anxiety about his health. After the whole Mahadasha of Shukra is over, the Mahadasha of 6 years of Surya i.e., Sun is not good all-round, because Surya is the lord of his 8th house and posited upon his right shank in the 2nd house. May God spare Avatar Meher Baba for the spiritual, mental and moral upliftment of humanity of the modern times.

(to be continued)

BABA SAYS:

EVOLUTION FROM THE ELECTRON TO THE HUMAN FORM, ALL SUBSEQUENT REINCARNATIONS; AND ALL EXPERIENCES IN THE GROSS, SUBTLE AND MIND SPHERES ARE BUT DIFFERENT MEDIA FOR THE SOUL (ATMAN) TO REALISE ITS ORIGINAL UNCHANGEABLE, INFINITE AND FORMLESS EXISTENCE.

(Glimpses from Guruprasad — Continued from Page 12)

Part of the magnificent celebrations arranged by the Ahmednagar Centre, was a singing program by this great singer on 25th night. And on that morning she came to Meherazad and sang some special ghazals to Baba—it was her personal offering of love to Him which He called His "best birthday present"! Tired as she was after the long train journey, and the strenuous weeks of constant singing engagements at various places, Begum sang as superbly as ever. When Baba told her that her voice was matchless, she said "It is all your grace Baba, there is nothing else." Baba showed concern for her tired health and told her to take good rest that afternoon. Her tear-filled reply was "My rest is only at Your feet!"

Giving food and clothing and service to the needy in His compassionate Name has by now become an established feature of nearly all the Baba-Birthday programs. This year it was an occasion for the Masulipatam Centre (in Andhra Pradesh) to inaugurate the "Avatar Meher Baba Free Dispensary", its expenses and services being contributed by His lovers there. Sending His Love & Blessing for the opening of the dispensary, Beloved Baba said "Feed Me and clothe Me and tend Me in the poor". The month-end report of the dispensary's running showed that over fifteen hundred men, women & children, were able to receive its medical service; and although this is but a mite compared to India's agonizingly needy masses, it is mighty in being an expression of Baba's Love, a channel of His blessing to the sick. The doctor in charge is a Baba-lover who gives his free time in serving at the dispensary, both mornings and evenings; and even the recent death of his wife did not keep him absent from his voluntary post. As the doctor explained, his staying away could not have pleased his wife, for it would have been a disservice to the Avatar's cause!

A great and novel idea was conceived and carried out by His Vijayawada lovers: an Exhibition depicting Baba's life and work, arranged in a big hall in the centre of the city, open to the public. Sarosh & Viloo, conveyors of Baba's Love during their recent visit to Andhra State, spoke of it ecstatically. They said it was not just the accomplishment of the idea that they were impressed with, but the beautifully effected arrangement

and artistic workmanship. Harmoniously grouped were series of pictures, photograph albums and portraits of Beloved Baba showing different phases of His life and activities, as well as Baba-books and literature and enlarged replicas of the Charts appearing in "God Speaks". One section of the hall held perfect models of Meherabad Hill, the Tomb, Dhuni, and Meherasthan. Displayed among the many articles personally associated with Baba, were His used 'sadra' (white robe), coat, sandals, alphabet-board, cushion, the cricket bat & ball and the marbles He had played with. Large paintings showing Baba washing the leper, feeding the poor, and seated among His lovers, were cut out and arranged tableau-fashion, giving a startlingly realistic effect. Sarosh-Villoo said that everywhere they went in Vijayawada they were confronted with pictures of Beloved Baba, appearing on huge posters printed in com-memoration of His Birthday and put up at all the public places and thoroughfares. At the end of the detailed account of their unforgettable Andhra tour, Sarosh smilingly remarked that it would not be surprising if in time Andhra Pradesh came to be known as "Meher Pradesh"!

It is gratifying to see how those who steer the country's progress are being awakened more and more to Beloved Baba and to the crying need for His message of Love and Truth. This year too, a number of leaders and distinguished people took part in celebrating Baba's Birthday on 25th February. Notes gathered from Eruch's file, give some idea of this:

In Delhi: Shri Subramaniam (Union Minister for Food and Agriculture), inaugurated the function; Shri Karnath, M.P., was the speaker; and Shri Humayun Kabir (Minister for Petroleum & Chemicals) presided. There were other speakers for the occasion, including members of Parliament. The program was broadcast from AIR Delhi the same night.

In Bombay: The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Shri T. Bharade, presided at the grand function held in Sundarbai Hall from 6.00 to 9.00 p.m.

In Bangalore: Shri Vaikunta Baliga, the Speaker of Mysore Legislative Assembly presided.

In Hyderabad: Barrister Das was specially invited from Calcutta to preside over the eminent gathering in which Shri

M. R. Appa Rao, Minister for Excise, Prohibition and Cultural Affairs played a very prominent part. The Chief Ministers of the States of Andhra and Mysore were to have presided over the functions in Hyderabad and Bangalore, but they had to attend an urgent conference at Delhi on the National Language.

Baba's Eastern lovers, wherever they were gathered in His Love on His Birthday, received from Him the following message:

ALL TALK ABOUT THE PATH AND THE GOAL IS
AS A LANTERN CARRIED BY A BLIND MAN. A
BLIND MAN NEEDS A STAFF IN HIS HAND. THE
SEEKER NEEDS HIS HAND IN GOD-MAN'S.

—MEHER BABA

"I say unto you that he who believes in Me shall have everlasting life." This message from the Ancient One, who alone has the authority to give it to mankind throughout the ages, is resurrected again in the ancient land of Jerusalem. Rising from the dust-covered centuries of the past into the spring-fresh present, it has blossomed in a book in Hebrew entitled MEHER BABA SAYS. The first of its kind, this great little book is published in Jerusalem by Carrie Ben Shammai, one who has been blessed to carry the flame of Baba's Love into the heart of Israel. It contains a number of Baba's discourses, compiled and translated into Hebrew by her husband Mr. M. H. Ben Shammai, an eminent scholar who has translated a number of literary works. The cable from Beloved Baba to dear Carrie, said: The book "Meher Baba Says" has made me very happy. I send my Love Blessing to you and to your husband and to all my lovers in Israel.

The approaching footsteps of May are heard & felt in the many movements around us, as preparations for the May Darshan are being speeded up. The compound of Guruprasad is a hive of workmen putting up poles & canvas for the darshan pandal (awning), working on the erection of the dais, planning the arrangement for thousands of chairs, for loud-speakers and other details. All available accommodation within practical distance of Guruprasad, appears to have been reserved by Baba-lovers from out-stations far in advance— hotels, inns, school

premises and 'karyalayas" (halls rented out for weddings and auspicious functions) which will serve as dormitories of darshanners. By the end of March, Baba-lovers approaching hotel managers for room reservations, were told regretfully that they were fully booked up by "Meher Baba's party"! Two thousand of them, from various parts of India and from Pakistan, Iran & Aden, have been able to ensure for themselves some arrangement or the other for the stay in Poona; while efforts continue frantically to meet further requests pouring in. The lovers from Andhra & Hamirpur coming in groups of hundreds, are working out their problem of mass-conveyance by reserving train-bogies and chartering buses. And perhaps by the time this letter reaches you, they will all have converged, from all points in the East, at the feet of The One who is the centre of their lives, whose love is the sole reality of their existence. May they receive in full, the Love which the Beloved will give them through His silence.

Beloved Baba's Darshan Programme at Poona - India

(Continued from Page 16)

personality in His usual white attire of loving beauty and alluring spirituality, amidst thundering cries of "Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai" resounding the skies from the thousands that stood in the pandal in utter devotion and over-powering joy with folded hands raised above their heads. With a twinkle of His eye, Beloved Baba moved the hearts of all those present there and actually tears of joy rolled down their cheeks. When Baba moved His fingers bidding them all to resume their seats, order prevailed in no time and everybody was gazing at Him with utmost attention and loving regard, anticipating at heart His message and Blessing on this ever memorable and happy occasion.

The artistic decorations and the colourful display of the flower-pots and the green groves around the elevated dais were indeed so remarkable in their natural beauty that Beloved Baba appeared in His seat exactly as Lord Krishna of yore in the

realms of the beauties of Brindavan. The day's programme began with "The Master's Prayer" by Dr. Harry L. Kenmore, special guest of Baba on this occasion, recited in his thundering voice, driving deep into the hearts of the audience the spirit of every syllable therein. Soon after followed the melodious voice of Bro. Eruch showering the nectar of beloved Baba's special messages for the happy occasion. His utterances were really in musical symphony with the throbs of the hearts moving every one to tears of ecstatic joy. The Divine Presence of the Avatar of the Age was felt by one and all and the loving grace in abundance and the bewitching beauty added real experience to those who could receive something more than ordinary happiness and satisfaction in the depths of their hearts. Those were the really blessed souls of this unique occasion.

Then it was announced that Beloved Baba wished to give priority to His dear Andhra lovers who were asked to form into "Q" and proceed to the altar to bow down at His lotus feet one after the other and that none should come a second time. The next chance, it was announced would be that of Hamirpur lovers on the next day and then others were to follow. However those who were to leave Poona on the same day were given priority and on this day the "Q" took most of the time and only a few of the Andhras could have Baba's Darshan and the rest were asked to keep off for the next-day. At 11 A.M. Arti was sung and it was sight for angels to see how Beloved Baba with His charming divine beauty left the whole pandal aglow with His Love manifestation, thus providing to every heart the rarest opportunity to quench the thirst with the nectar of His everlasting Love Divine.

On 3rd May, the 3rd day of the Darshan programme started with the usual reading of Beloved Baba's special messages and as no special discourses were given by Baba this time, Madhusudhan and party and other bhajan groups from Andhra and other places were allowed to entertain the audience all along. This day a special announcement regarding the "Q" of lovers of Andhra was made and they were called district after district. But preference was again given to those who would leave Poona that day and this "Q" proved to be endless. It had to be stopped after an hour and allow the Andhra groups to proceed

for darshan. In fact Beloved Baba came to the dais about half an hour early this day but the programme closed as usual by 11 A.M.

On the 4th also, Beloved Baba came earlier than expected and gave darshan to His lovers from Andhra. The Darshan programme was continued this day in the after noon also for about an hour. And on the 5th day the Hamirpur group was given the full chance, morning and evening, since Baba had promised that every one will be given Darshan that day and none need feel disappointed.

The 6th of May was the last day of the programme and every one was too anxious to have his last glimpse of Baba and also have the experience of Baba's love in his own way. This day Baba appeared to have been too much strained. On every day, while the programme was proceeding, out of love for those who were far away from the dais, Beloved Baba used to stand up, now and then, so that His lovers could have His Darshan even from that distance; for in fact there were about 4000 chairs provided and all were not only full but many of the men and women had to stand at the back of these chairs. It was more crowded than at the time of East-West gathering and more particularly on this last day of the function.

This day also the "Q" of the Darshanarthis was too long and it appeared to be never ending. People were found to be coming, twice and thrice in spite of Baba's warning, that it will be against His wish to do so. But however, the "Q" continued till about 10-30 A.M. and when suddenly Madhusudan and his Party were asked to sing Arti, the entire audience were taken by surprise and every one was too anxious to share Beloved Baba's Love-manifestation on the last occasion of this glorious function, for no one knows when Baba will give the next opportunity for such a Darshan. The thrill of the moment was such that no other thought but that of Baba and no other feeling but that of His Love could occupy the hearts of the lovers that stood before the Silent Master with folded hands raised above their heads and every individual was fully engrossed in filling the cup of his heart with the nectar of His Love Divine.

Beloved Baba's loving personality with added beauty and serenity at the time of Arti appeared to one and all as that of absolute Divinity in the human form and the real "Darshan" one could have on this unique occasion was ever lasting but the experiences, of course, differed from one another and were in accordance with their receptivity and in proportion to His Grace that was bestowed upon them. But one thing was certain that when Beloved Baba's chair with wheels was drawn back into the inner chambers of "Guruprasad" while He was facing His lovers before Him and was waving His fingers blessing them all, the wheel of Love turned every heart drawing tears that rolled down the cheeks with mixed feelings of joy and pangs of separation in the midst of wild cries of "Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai", until all left the pandal rather unwillingly and slowly.

In the afternoon, it was the good fortune of a few groups as from Guntur and Hyderabad (Meher Vihar), to whom Beloved Baba was kind enough to allow them to have a group photo with Baba sitting in their midst. And few more were granted special darshan too. May it be that such parting memories are always sad but be it a certainty that every one took Baba with him preserving His Love in the temple of their hearts to keep it for ever. May Beloved Baba bless all the "Darshanarthi" with His ever lasting Love and happy memories of the experiences they had enjoyed in His presence.
O.O.C.

ALL I GIVE IS GOD

You say you want God-realization. It is all superficial. I want to warn all who approach Me that they should not expect health, wealth, wife or children from Me. I tell you that those who have associated with Me through love have suffered complete material pain. History records this. All I give is God. I want only Love.

—MEHER BABA

H A M I R P U R M E L A

by Dr. H. P. Bharucha

When our car with Sri Dhakephalkar, Smt. Sanjivani Dhakephalkar, Sri Pukar and myself reached Hamirpur on 14th November 1964, about 100 Baba-lovers who had been waiting, received us in a grand style—a brass band was played at its loudest, crackers were fired, rockets flew towards the sky, and Sri Mukhtar Saheb, our host, with tears of joy in his eyes, embraced me.

15th November, 1964:

This was the inauguration day of the 'mela' to celebrate the 12th anniversary of Baba's first visit to Hamirpur. Early in the morning, our host took us round the dak bungalow, where Baba had resided when He had come for the first time to Hamirpur in 1952. He also showed us the ground on which Baba had given darshan.

Sri Mukhtar Saheb told us: "When Baba arrived in 1952 I was convalescing after a long illness. I could not go to receive Baba, but at noon, I took His lunch to the dak bungalow. Baba soon sent me back and asked me to rest. After I came back to my house, a messenger came from Baba. He said that Baba had ordered that neither my family nor I should go to the public darshan in the afternoon. I got a shock at first; but, the messenger continued that Baba would Himself come to my house to give darshan. Baba came to my house in the afternoon and we were simply overjoyed. Baba told me that I should not take medicine from any doctor, and if I should fall ill, I should inform Him and He would direct me for the necessary line of treatment. Since that day, I have not fallen ill!"

We went to the site of the 'mela'. All Baba-lovers had already gathered there to hoist Baba's flag. After prayer by Rustom Kaka and party, Smt. S. Dhakephalkar hoisted Baba's flag amongst loud cheers of 'Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai'. She

then gave a short account of the inner meaning of the seven-coloured flag of Baba. After Parvardigar Prayer and few bhajans I gave a short speech. The gist of it was: "In the eyes of one who is God-realized, this universe is a big 'mela', in which he alone exists, for he does not see anyone but himself in all selves. We were celebrating this 'mela', which is a 'mela' inside the big 'mela' of this universe. In this small 'mela', we should talk about Baba, sing His praise, and be completely engrossed in Him, so that we may transcend this small 'mela' and have the darshan of the Reality." With this, the 'Meher Mela' was declared open. Later on Sri Kishanchand of Bombay inaugurated the Meher Baba exhibition, where articles belonging to Baba, such as clothes, bats, balls, etc. were displayed. A very interesting thing was noticed in this exhibition. Baba-lovers had arranged a gunny sacking in the form of the Himalayan peaks, and coloured it white to represent snow. On top of this was hung Baba's photo. Surprisingly, on one part of the white-washed, gunny bag, Baba's face could be clearly seen in the folds of the cloth. No one had painted it there, nor had the cloth been so arranged as to resemble Baba's face!

In the afternoon was held 'Asprushyata Nivarak Sammelan', under the presidentship of Sri Chaturbhuj Pathak, former Minister and President, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Madhya Pradesh. Bro. Keshav Narayan Nigam, the backbone of Baba-lovers in Hamirpur district, opened the session. He said that Baba had started the movement for upliftment of Harijans even before Mahatma Gandhi did. Sri Dhake then related how Baba would clean the latrines of the Harijan boys in the ashram and how He would bathe them, and fondle them like He did the other boys.

In the evening some of us went for a walk to the river Betwa. Baba had specially got His bed sheet washed in its waters, when He visited Hamirpur in 1952.

The night session began at 8 p.m. Sri Rajnikant of Jabalpur and Sri Abdul Majid Khan of Chhatarpur addressed the gathering. Sri Khan who spoke with tremendous fervour and conviction moved many hearts. After Khan's speech, bhajans were sung by Smt. Rajni Mistry, followed by Sri M. Y. Mohan Saigal. Baba films were also shown that night. There

was a packed audience of 3000 or more and the programme lasted till 1 a.m.

16th November, 1964:

All of us gathered at 8.30 a.m. and sang Baba's arti. A few bhajans were also sung by Sri M. Y. Mohan. Sri K. Nigam then introduced all out-station Baba-lovers to the audience. During the introduction he once said, "Meher Baba loves all alike. If you feel that He loves one more than the other, it is because of your own sanskars (impressions)." Another time he said, "Meher Baba's big miracle is that His lovers stick to Him in spite of all hardships they have to face in life." Once he added, "Mohammed had 12 apostles. Each one of them thought at the time of the Prophet's death that he would become the Charge man. Just before Mohammed left His body, He took out His garment and giving it to His apostles, said that they should go and give it to a certain man sitting under a tree, in a particular street. The giving of the garment, meant passing His powers to the recipient. The 12 apostles found a man exactly at the spot Mohammed had indicated. They gave him the garment. On enquiry, they found that this man had never seen Mohammed during his life time." Sri Nigam thereby surmised that the Avatar's love is alike for all, and He knows who is most worthy of His Grace. After each Baba lover had been introduced, there was a short programme of folk dances and then the meeting adjourned.

In the afternoon, from 2 p.m, a procession was to go round the town of Hamirpur, singing Meher Baba's name. There was great excitement from 1 p.m. Finally, when the procession did start, it was half a mile long. Hamirpur had never seen such a colossal procession. It was headed by an elephant, bearing Baba's photo on top of it. This was followed by Baba-lovers and a jeep with microphones. 'Meher Baba Ki Jai', and other slogans were shouted all along the way, aided by the microphone. Then followed the folk dancers and then 1500 scouts, each batch carrying its own school banner. These were followed by a palanquin carrying Baba's photo. This was carried for some time by men but later, by women Baba-lovers. Behind the palanquin were women, singing Baba's name and

bhajans. Behind them followed a brass band that nearly made us deaf. We followed the band shouting and singing Baba's name and bhajans. Behind us was a decorated car and a huge picture of Baba was balanced on its hood. Behind the car were again hundreds of men. These were followed by 'tongas' carrying Baba-lovers, who could not walk, but yet wanted to participate in the procession. As this mass of humanity (about 3000) moved along the narrow streets of Hamirpur, all those slumbering in their homes and shops came out and lined the streets. The medley of noise produced by singing, shouting, slogans on the microphone, and the brass band, could have reached the ears of those buried thousands of years ago in the dusty soil of Hamirpur. The procession circled around and reached its starting point at about 5 p.m.

During the night session starting at 7 p.m., Baba's films were shown to a very huge gathering. The shamiana was so full of men, women and children that it seemed it would split at its sides. From 10 p.m. there was 'Mushaira' under the presidentship of Dr. Syed Nawab Hussain, M.A., Ph.D., in which more than 20 poets participated. This lasted till 3-15 a.m., and the entire audience were intoxicated with Baba's love.

17th November, 1964:

The morning session began with arti at 9 a.m., one hour behind schedule: Sri K. N. Nigam made us all hold our ears for being late. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh then sang a bhajan. Then Sri M. Y. Mohan followed by 'Baccha bhajan party', and Ahmednagar bhajan party entertained the audience with bhajans and devotional songs on Baba.

In the afternoon was held a 'Ladies meeting' from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., presided over by Smt. Dhake, Baba's lady representative. I did not attend this meeting, as I had to address the students at two schools in Hamirpur. However, I am told that in the meeting, besides prayers and bhajans by various parties, Smt. S. Dhake, Smt. Krishna Kapil, Smt. Prakashvati Sharma, and Km. Sushila Deorukhkar addressed the gathering.

After dinner, the night session began with a few bhajans, followed by a gathering of Hindi poets from different parts of

the country. It continued till the early hours of the morning.

During the day, two Baba-lovers had told me some interesting incidents, which I now insert here. Mr. X said that about a month back, there was a big theft of jewellery worth Rs. 60,000 and Rs. 40,000 cash in his father-in-law's house. It seems the father-in-law did not believe in Baba. The aged man considered that the banks were not safe, and so he had this big sum of money in his house. He was now a broken man. Mr. X, being a Baba-lover informed Baba about the theft, and in his heart felt sure that the jewellery would be recovered, because he had left a silver locket containing Baba's photo in the jewellery box. This had also been taken away. Mr. X tried to explain to his father-in-law that Baba was the personification of compassion and asked him to have faith in Baba. He assured the old man that the jewellery would be found. At last the old man said that if he got back his jewellery, he would donate Rs. 5,000 in Baba's cause! Baba replied that the police should be informed and an enquiry made. The police recovered all the jewellery, but the cash of Rs. 40,000 could not be traced.

Mr. Y. said that when he was in Nasik in 1933, he was told that Meher Baba was at that time in Nasik. He casually went to see Baba, who gave him a glass of milk to drink. Some years later, when Mr. Y. came to Sakori to see Upasni Maharaj, the latter asked Y. if he had drunk milk! Mr. Y. not connecting this question to the milk Meher Baba had given him some years ago, said, "No." Only later on, when Mr. Y. came into Baba's loving fold, did he realise the significance of Upasni Maharaj's words.

18th November, 1964:

Exactly 12 years back, on this day, Meher Baba had set foot on the soil of Hamirpur, where thousands now adore Him as the Avatar of the Age. At 8-00 a.m., Baba's arti was sung. The Ahmednagar party then sang some bhajans. Baba-lovers in Hamirpur have bought a huge plot of land which is going to be called "Meher Puri" (full of Meher). It was on this plot that the present 'mela' took place. The foundation stone of 'Meher Puri' was to be laid on this day. A big pit had been dug for

this purpose. Baba had sent two stones from His hill at Meherazad, which he had touched and blessed. I got into the pit and having laid these two stones on the ground, I put some cement on them. Then taking several bricks, I laid them around the stones and again put some more cement. The whole thing was then levelled up. All this took a couple of minutes, while cheers of 'Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai' resounded and the brass band added colour to the occasion. 'Prasad', and a Baba-picture were now to be distributed. I was seated on a stage with Smt. Dhakephalkar to my left. A very long queue of all the scouts, girl guides, and Baba lovers was formed. They came one after another, bowed near Baba's photo on my right, took prasad of candy from me, took a Baba picture from Smt. Dhake seated on my left, and then taking a small sweet from a Baba lover of Kanpur seated on the left of Smt. Dhake, departed. This unending queue went on for two and a half hours. The whole programme wound up at 11-30 a.m.

The afternoon session started at 2-20 with arti. Bro. Pukar, the spinal cord of Hamirpur lovers, (Sri Nigam being the spinal column) then spoke. His heart poured out the love that had been amassed in him by Baba. He said that people in Hamirpur district were very poor, but they were rich in Baba's love. They did not mind even sacrificing their children's food, if money was needed for Baba's work. He appealed to me to tell Baba that His lovers in Hamirpur were pining for His darshan; that the lovers did not have money to go to Poona for darshan; and that I should request Baba on their behalf to come to Hamirpur and give darshan. His speech drew great applause from the audience and during the speech when he broke down in tears, many in the audience also did.

Baba had sent a special photo of His for Meher Puri. Sri Kishenchand of Bombay now unveiled it.

During my speech, I told all the lovers gathered there about my recent visit to Baba on the 6th of November. This visit cannot be summarized in a few words, but the main purpose of the trip was that Baba embraced me, and asked me to carry that embrace on His behalf to the thousands collected at Hamirpur.

After my speech, Sri Keshav Narayan Nigam recited the Meher Chalisa. This was the first time that he recited it without the physical presence of Meher Baba. Sardar Amarsingh Saigal, while stressing that Baba is the Avatar of the age said in his speech that we should neither ask for Baba's darshan, nor should Baba give us darshan, for we were not worthy of the same.

After a few bhajans sung by Sri M. Y. Mohan and by Sri Amardan of Hamirpur and arti the meeting concluded at 5 p.m.

The night session started at 8-15 with arti. Sri A. M. Khan and Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy addressed the gathering. At nearly 10-30 p.m., the famous artiste, Begum Akhtar arrived. She had sung before Baba several times and Baba had enjoyed her singing very much. She sang for an hour and then went for a cup of tea. The tea seemed to have worked a miracle in her, for she was at her best after it. Her programme concluded at 2-15 a.m.

19th November, 1964:

This was the last day of the 'mela'. At 8-15 a.m., after arti the Ahmednagar bhajan party sang five songs composed specially for the occasion by Sri Bhau Kalchuri, one of the 'mandali' at Meherazad. This was followed by a Baba-workers' meeting. In his presidential speech, Sardar Saigal said, "One should become dust at the feet of Baba-lovers, only then can one become dust at Baba's feet."

Sri Dhakephalkar in his speech related an incident from the life of Buddha. He said, "Two lovers of Buddha told Him that they wished to go out into the world to spread His message. Buddha asked them what they would do if people got angry with them. They said that they would feel happy that they were only the recipients of peoples wrath and that they had not been beaten. Buddha then said, "Suppose you are beaten." They replied that they would feel happy that they were only beaten and not cut into pieces. Buddha again said, "Suppose you are cut into pieces." They replied that they would be very happy if they were to give up their lives in His service. Sri Dhake-

phalkar inferred from this that all Baba workers should be prepared to sacrifice their all, including their lives in Baba's Work. Smt. Krishna Kapil of Delhi then said that women also had a great scope in doing Baba's Work and appealed that every woman must assist her husband in Baba's Work. Smt. Prakashvathi from Dehradun and Smt. Dhakephalkar also addressed the gathering.

Finally at the end of the workers meeting, the following telegram received from Baba and addressed to Bros. Pukar, Keshav Narayan Nigam and Sripathi Sahai was read out:

"I KNOW HOW THE THREE OF YOU AND MY OTHER DEAR LOVERS AND WORKERS HAVE WORKED CEASELESSLY TO MAKE MEHERPURI MELA AT HAMIRPUR A MEMORABLE CONFLUENCE OF MEHER LOVERS WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF CASTE AND CREED AND CLASS. THE LOVE OF ALL MY LOVERS HAS TOUCHED ME AND MADE ME HAPPY. I SEND MY LOVE AND BLESSINGS TO YOU TO ALL WORKERS AND TO ALL LOVERS GATHERED IN MY NAME AND LOVE FOR MEHERPURI MELA.

—MEHER BABA"

In the after noon session starting at 2-30, Baba-lovers from Hamirpur district were introduced to us by Sri Keshav Narayan Nigam. While introducing some lovers from the village Ichhaura, he said, that they had cut a road for several miles through woods and fields in order to bring Baba to their village in February 1954. I then gave my presidential address in which I suggested the manner as to how Baba Work should be done, stressing that as workers we should not place ourselves in front of Baba's Work, i.e., inflate our ego by doing His Work. I ended by saying that parting was always bitter, but Baba had always said that if we should cry, we should cry within, so that the fire of His Love consumes our very being without anyone knowing it. Arti was finally sung. As I had to leave at once, there was a rush to embrace me, and I did embrace many in a short while. As it was getting late, I began embracing two or even three at a time. Finally I climbed on the jeep waiting for me in the midst of loud cheers of 'Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai' as the jeep moved along, slowly.

My Experiences with Avatar Meher Baba*

by Hon. Major Khan Saheb Sarosh K. Irani.

It was in 1920 that I was returning from Panchagani to Ahmednagar after giving my examination. On the way I had to pass through Poona. There I received a letter to take my aunt from Poona. We were to go by Madras Mail which was to leave Poona Station after mid-night. My aunt however told me that we should start earlier, as she had to meet someone on the way. We went in a tonga which passed through the Fergusson College Road, where Meher Baba was in a jhopdi. Asking me to stay in the tonga, she went inside the jhopdi. From inside the tonga I noticed a group of people sitting there with little fire burning and one of them was playing dholak and singing gazal. Later on Baba asked my aunt as to who was sitting in the tonga. She said: "Don't worry, he is my nephew coming from Panchagani." Baba told her, "You call him; I have got much work to be done by him, later on." So I went to Him and sat near Him. He patted me on my head and then on the back and asked me what I was doing. He then asked, "what do you want to do for the future?" I said, "Of course, I have to pass Matric and go to College and then do as to what is destined in my future." He asked me to give up education and everything and go unto Him. Being young in heart, young in spirit and young in age, I immediately accepted it and to-day I am His disciple. He patted me and said, "I would like to make you King"; and to-day I am a King. This is how I contacted my beloved Baba.

Now, I will relate one incident or 'chamatkar' performed by Baba. There are always many instances, which we may call Baba 'Chamatkar' or miracle. Baba used to say, "I don't perform any 'chamatkar'. It is the individual faith and the individual love that makes it and you call it 'chamatkar,'" Baba was very fond of newspapers and my brother (Sri Adi)

* From the Presidential speech delivered on 23-2-1965, on the occasion of the 71st Birthday celebrations of Avatar Meher Baba at "Meher Vihar" Hyderabad.

used to give Him, 'Times of India' and read for Him. When Japan entered the Second World War and there was panic everywhere in India, Baba once took us round for a discussion as to what will happen in the future. After a heated discussion, I said: "Baba, why should you worry in Ahmednagar. Japan is not going to Ahmednagar and throw bombs." Baba said, "Bomb will be thrown in Ahmednagar and it will be in your compound." We thought that it was a joke and just forgot that incident for the next 5-6 months. In 1942, there was 'Quit India Movement' throughout the country and it was 25th December. My cinema hall office and Baba Centre, all these were in one big compound. On that Christmas Night, we were screening an English picture in the cinema. During the second show the audience was about 1200 British soldiers and about 230 British officers. After the interval there was a big explosion, and at that very moment in the compound the soldiers and officers were moving about and I was closest to the explosion. 12 soldiers were completely blown out and some lost limbs and some were injured; my brother-in-law had an injury on his head. Immediately, my memory went to that conference of Baba, when He said that the bomb will be thrown and it will be thrown in my compound. It was not a Japanese bomb but a hand-grenade thrown by the Congress people. It was another miracle that though I was nearest to the explosion, nothing happened to me. Out of many, this is only one incident in my life with Baba.

Now, let me tell you about my present visit to Hyderabad: On many an occasion, I visited Hyderabad on a purpose of its own which was ever so different to the present one. This visit to Hyderabad along with my wife has its significance for us, we hardly can put in words. Deep down within us is a joy and satisfaction that is incomparable to any other happiness we experienced when we are away from Meher Baba, except the kind that has been experienced by us on two previous occasions of our visits to Nauranga and Dehra Dun.

Where there is remembrance of Meher, there is mercy. Where there is remembrance of Baba there is protection. Meher Baba is the embodiment of both these. Compassion and

grace flow from Him in an inexhaustible stream of love all the time. One who cares to receive it, should open his heart to its blessings.

One can remember Meher Baba always and love Him by himself. This in itself is a way to love Him more and more and keep open to His love, thereby purifying his inner nature. To protect his inner nature from being contaminated by outer circumstances one needs occasionally to have outward feed of love. This can be had from a mass and collective manifestation of Baba love evoked and expressed by Baba lovers coming together in numbers at different Baba functions.

This is the purpose of our present coming together here. This has been the purpose for people coming together all over the world at different Meher Centres, homes and ashrams. To invite to our hearts the flood tide Baba's Love is a unique opportunity. It comes during the life of the Avatar. It has come during the time of the living Avatar of the age—Meher Baba.

We are all fortunate. All those who are not here could be fortunate also, if by listening to the report of this Congregation they would be drawn and drenched in the nectar of Baba's Love.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, is there anything else more ennobling and excelling in life than pure unselfish love? After all in the final analysis of the purpose and happiness of life everybody works, suffers, enjoys and lives for love. Here we are by the all-abounding wish and will of Meher Baba come together and experience the heightening effect of Baba's love that carries us away and beyond the binding effect of a life of selfishness.

Hyderabad and Secunderabad, the twin cities of Andhra Pradesh were blessed by the presence of Avatar Meher Baba a few times before, where He stayed for a number of days. These are the places where intense inner spiritual work was done by Baba with nearly a score of Masts or God- intoxicated persons. I am happy to find that Swami Satyaprakash Udaseen having done Baba work at a few other places in Andhra, eventually settled down in Hyderabad and Secunderabad as his venue,

editing "Divya Vani", an English Bi-monthly, solely devoted to the Cause of Avatar Meher Baba and other Telugu Journals. I congratulate him for his work including that of opening Meher Vihar, a house of Baba activity.

After his transfer to Secunderabad, Sri N.S. Prakash Rao opened a Meher Centre in Secunderabad and I congratulate him for his patience and perseverance to continue Baba Work in Secunderabad.

I congratulate the Hon. Minister Shri M. R. Appa Rao, Sri R. S. Prakash Rao and Shri L. Venkayya for taking keen interest in Baba work here giving co-operation in the effort and labour of Swami Satyaprakash. With the co-operation of Shri M. R. Appa Rao, I am sure the Love and Message of Baba will be spread deep into every hearth and home of these twin cities and their suburbs.

It is a tribute to the imaginative planning of Swami Satyaprakash to have first introduced a continuous 61 days Baba programmes and in reverence to the 71st Birthday of Baba on 25th February, to have introduced again 71 days programme—the last day ending on Baba's Birthday.

In the presence of all of you Baba lovers, my wife and I admit that we have not been versed in the dialectics of spirituality but I daresay we have been appreciatively immersed in the fundamentals of Baba's practical revelations of love and service which we have and give to the best of our capacity. Despite the timely usefulness of spiritual dialectics which is unappreciative to our nature, we have felt all along a deep affinity and oneness to Baba's love so divine and yet so human. Herein lies the gigantic status of Meher Baba's spirituality to prove Himself to be the King of human hearts and yet a slave of the love of His lovers. Were it not for the grace of His contact from our early life we would have been until now stuck into the quagmire of the ceremonies of religion and never risen to the thought of God's Love in the beyond and yet in human form.

Dear brothers and sisters, let me tell you being a very practical man in business and in civic work, that the more time you are able to snatch away from your daily routine and devote

it to Baba work, the more you will be able to lay to your credit, a balance, for your happiness here and hereafter. Hyderabad and Secunderabad, the twin cities with their suburbs offer you a comparatively vast field and no effort, small or big, made to awaken Baba's love in human hearts will be lost. It will add to yourself a fresh laurel of enlightenment and love.

May Avatar Meher Baba bless, increasingly more, the lovers and workers of Meher Baba and also those who are today just on-lookers but have the capacity to shine out tomorrow, as better and greater lovers of Meher Baba and His Work. Jai Baba.

D I V Y A V A N I

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NEWS IN BRIEF:

71st Birthday Celebrations of Avatar Meher Baba

Avatar Meher Baba's 71st Birthday was a very significant day for all the Baba-lovers and the Birthday celebrations have been on a very unprecedented scale at most of the Baba Centres. This is only a brief report prepared on the basis of information received from various places in the country.

Delhi:

Avatar Meher Baba Delhi Centre celebrated Beloved Baba's 71st birth anniversary from 15th Feb' to 1st March '65, by holding meetings everyday in different places. During the first four days, programmes were held in the rural areas and suburbs of Delhi. Jungpura, Kashmere Gate, Nizamuddin Basti, Defence Colony, Baljit Nagar & Sarojini Nagar, are some of the places in the Capital City, where public meetings were held in the evenings. The meetings usually started with devotional music, sankeertan, etc. by ladies, then Parvardigar Prayer and the Prayer of Repentance and finally speeches regarding Baba's life and teachings. Sarvasri W. D. Kain, T. N. Dar, M. Tirumal Rao, Amar Singh Saigal and Dr. C. D. Deshmukh and Smt. Krishna—were the main speakers at the meetings. At the meeting held in Sarojini Nagar on 24th, Sri Mehmood Nizami and party gave an enchanting 'qwali' programme, which immersed the audience in Baba's love. In fact, the devotional music by ladies at the commencement of the programmes everyday, surcharged the entire atmosphere with Baba's mystical presence as it were, so as to prepare the audience to receive Baba in their hearts. As usual the meetings ended with Arti to Baba and distribution of 'prasad' to His devotees.

The main birthday function was held with utmost solemnity on 25th at the Community Hall, Panchkuin Road, New Delhi. The programme started at 5 P.M. with devotional

songs composed for the occasion by Pandit Shiv Dutt, followed by a 'qwali' by the Ladies Bhajan Mandali. After the recitation of Prayers by Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, M.P., Sri M. Tirumaia Rao, M. P., welcomed the gathering. Sri C. Subramaniam, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture inaugurating the function said, "I feel so fortunate in associating myself with this function, which is being held to celebrate Meher Baba's birthday all over the world." He further added that in order to bring harmony between spiritualism and materialism, which is so very essential, we have to approach such great Souls for guidance. Speaking next, Dr. C. D Deshmukh, said, "Meher Baba is the Avatar not only of the present age, but the Avatar for all the ages." This was followed by a speech by Professor Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals. He said, "God loves those who love His beings; and this is what I have learnt from Baba's teachings." His speech was received with great applause.

Sri H. V. Kamath, M. P, soon after the sankirtan delivered a very forceful and moving address. He narrated the events that led him to Baba's darshan and the strong impression it made on his mind. He said that he anxiously looked forward to the day, when Baba in His Grace would give the Word of words to humanity and restore it to its real state. Beloved Baba's messages sent for the occasion were read and explained in Hindi by Sri W. D. Kain. In the end, Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy in his very impressive speech, said that though people from all walks of life go to Baba, with numerous questions, as Baba says, "There is only One Original Question: 'Who am I?' and there is One Original Answer to it—'I am God' and hence all other questions and answers are false. After the speeches were over, 71 candles were lit. With Arti and distribution of. prasad, the function closed at 9 p.m. The same night at 10 p.m., the ALL INDIA RADIO relayed the evenings programme, which was recorded earlier, to the great joy and gratification of one and all.

Dehra Dun:

Avatar Meher Baba's 71st birthday was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm in Clement Town, Dehra Dun, on 25th Feb '65, in a well decorated hall. The programme

started with enchanting bhajans, sung by the Unit Bhajan Mandali. Kumari Bhattacharjee recited the Prayers. Flt. Lt. R. K. Khurana spoke on the significance of the occasion. Group Captain M. M. Sakhare explained in detail about the Avatarhood of Baba and His teachings, which was received by the audience in pin-drop silence. Sri J. Prasad and Smt. Narawale also spoke on Baba's message of Universal Brotherhood and Love. With Arti by seven ladies carrying lighted 'diyas' and distribution of prasad, the meeting came to a close.

Lucknow:

Avatar Meher Baba Lucknow Centre celebrated Baba's 71st birthday at a well-attended meeting on 15th evening. Baba's birthday and other messages were read and explained, followed by a speech on the significance of Baba's Silence and His seclusion. During the day, about 125 poor people were given food with the name of Beloved Baba.

Raipur:

Baba's 71st birthday celebrations organised by the Raipur Centre, commenced with bhajan on 24th Feb' at 9-30 p.m., which continued till 5 a.m., on the next day. The Bhajan Mandalis of Kelkar Badi and Ramji Maharaj were among the 60 persons, who participated whole-heartedly in the night-long bhajan programme. On 25th, about 400 children were given food at Janki Ram Mandir. In the evening, a special function for ladies was arranged at the residence of Sri T. S. Naidu.

Bangalore:

Sri. N. Dharma Rao, B.E., Retd. Highways Engineer of Rajahmundry, organised beloved Baba's 71st birthday celebrations on 25th February, at Ravindra Kala Kshetra, Bangalore, on a very grand scale. On special request, Dr. H. P. Bharucha from Navsari, Sri I. C. Mallikarjuna Rao from Nidadavole attended and addressed the meeting. Shri Vaikunta Baliga, Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha, Mysore State, who presided over the meeting, thanked the organisers and said that it was a great privilege to believe Baba as God. The meeting was well attended by more than 500 people. Earlier Shri Gokuldas and his aged mother, an ardent Baba devotee rendered some songs

in praise of Baba in Karnatic style, which surcharged the entire atmosphere with Baba's Love.

No efforts were spared to give wide publicity to the celebrations throughout the City, through all the local newspapers, wall posters and also personal contacts with as many prominent persons as possible. Before the public meeting in the evening, Sri N. Dharma Rao and few other Baba-lovers visited Byramangala, which is 22 miles from Bangalore and where Baba laid the foundation stone for Universal Spiritual Centre and spent some time at the spot. Besides, Baba's portrait was unveiled in the B.S.S. Health Centre by Dr. Bharucha and food grains were distributed to some poor persons. Some 1000 booklets in English and 2000 in Kannada containing Baba's life sketch and His messages were got printed for distribution. Sri P. Rajeshwar Rao, Regional Research Officer, Bharat Sevak Samaj and a new Baba devotee gave his full and hearty cooperation to Sri N. Dharma Rao, which has very commendable. Sri Dharma Rao received Baba's Love Blessing by telegram, which reads:

"YOUR DEEP LOVE FOR ME MADE BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION BANGALORE GRAND SUCCESS.
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY'S LOVE MAKES ME
VERY HAPPY. MY LOVE BLESSING TO YOU
AND N. S. MOORTY AND ALL FAMILY. YOU ALL
BE HAPPY IN MY FAMILY.

—MEHER BABA"

Avatar Meher Baba Ahmednagar Centre:

The usual morning function on the birth-day was held in the Centre Hall from 5 to 7 a.m. After bhajan, Shri Dhakephalkar addressing the gathering in Marathi explained the significance of the day and later Shri Pukar in a very homely and conversational manner exhorted them that in the midst of the existing chaos in the world, remembrance and love for God is the only way out. The same night, a public meeting was arranged at Gandhi Maidan, which was attended by about 7000 persons belonging to all religions and classes. The special feature of the programme was music recital by famous gazal singer Begum Akhtar from Lucknow. Singing in a deep remembrance

of Baba, she filled the hearts of the entire audience with His Love. Shri Pukar addressed the gathering on "Meher Baba and His Message." He narrated the events in his own life, which changed him from an unbeliever in God to a believer in God-personified Meher Baba. The programme continued till the early hours of the next morning. On 27th night, a Kavi Sammelan in Hindi was held in the Centre's Hall, in which more than a dozen poets recited verses composed by them on Baba. Sri Adi K. Irani read an article about Baba specially written for this occasion. Later Sri V. R. Talasikar, Dist. & Sessions Judge introduced Smt. Padmavathi Gokhale, who gave a recital of classical music, which was very much appreciated.

Avatar Meher Baba Jabalpur Centre:

The birth-day celebrations of Beloved Baba at Jabalpur were held between 24th Feb' and 11th April, 1965. The celebrations commenced with bhajans on the night of 24th at the Centre's Hall, lasting till 5 a.m. on 25th. After prayers and reading of messages, the brochure 'God-Man' was released. In the evening, a public meeting was arranged in the City Bengali Club under the presidentship of Shri Girijanandan Dube, Principal of Jabalpur Vidyapeeth. He said that when God in human form is present in our midst, the best thing to get at the Truth would be to surrender to Him, instead of wasting our time and energy in reading various scriptures or doing spiritual gymnastics. About 800 people heard his very interesting and lucid address in rapt silence. Bros. R. L. Sharma and R. K. Upadhyaya also addressed the gathering. Sri Shastri, a reputed Sanskrit scholar recited verses specially composed by him. The programme concluded with the play 'Vishwas' written by Bhau Kalchuri, M.A., and enacted by Rampur Baba-lovers.

On 28th evening, Rampur Baba lovers arranged a special meeting in the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board Colony, which was a grand success. Sarvashri T. K. Ramanujam. R. L. Sharma and P. G. Nandi addressed the gathering on Baba's life and His message of Love and Truth. The one-act play 'Vishwas' was staged for the second time. At the meeting held on 13th at the residence of Sri T. K. Ramanujam in a specially erected shamiana, Dr. C. D. Deshmukh addressed on "The aim of Life" to a

selected audience of about 150. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh also addressed the meeting held the next day at the residence of Shri Arun Kumar Deb.

Avatar Meher Baba Bombay Centre:

In Bombay, Baba's 71st birthday was celebrated in a most unprecedented manner by arranging 71 programmes in the city and the suburbs commencing from 17th Dec, 64, to acquaint the people with the advent of the Avatar of the age in the form of Meher Baba and with His Message of Truth and Love. The Bhajan Mandali of the Centre led by Shri Kishore A. Mistry and Shri G. N. Panchal, besides several other Baba devotees spared no effort to make these functions successful. Almost all the programmes held at different places, commenced with Bhajans by the Centre's Bhajan Mandali, followed by speeches, and then bhajans and Arti. After observing silence for a few minutes, the programme came to an end with the distribution of prasad, Baba's literature and photos. Among the various speakers, who addressed these programmes were Shri Amar Singh Saigal, Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, Dr. H. P. Bharucha, Shri Ervad Framroz Panthaki, Shri K. V. Nene, Shri A.R. Abdullah and Shri Eruch Patel. Besides, Shri K.A. Mistry also used to speak in all the functions, on various aspects of Baba's life and His teachings.

The function held at the Victoria Memorial School for the Blind, attended by all the students needs special mention. After the usual bhajans, Shri K. A. Mistry explained the message, Beloved Baba gave during His visit to the Institution for the Blind at Poona on 11th April, 1959. Baba said, "All those who do not see God are blind. The only thing worth seeing is God..." The last song "Jaya Meher..." was sung in chorus by all the blind students, who felt extremely happy to receive the love message of Beloved Baba.

On the last day, i.e., 25th Feb '65, there was a gathering of Baba lovers at "Meher Hall" at 5 a.m. After Arti and bhajans, Shri S. R. Siganporia read out Baba's special Message and in a brief speech explained the significance of the day. In the evening, a public meeting was held at the Sunderbai Hall, under the presidentship of Shri Trimbak S. Bharde, Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. He explained that

the elimination of ego in us is the real message of Baba Shri Siganporia; Shri K. A. Mistry also addressed the meeting. In the end Prof. Ram Panjwani and party entertained the audience with their devotional songs. Earlier, the pupils of Mangat Kalash had also performed, devotional dance items, which were greatly appreciated by the audience.

Nagpur:

At Nagpur, the celebrations were inaugurated on 21st, February, 65 at Meher Niwas, by Sant Gulab Baba and were continued at different places up to 1st March 1965. The public meeting on 24th, was presided over by the Mayor, Shri Babulalji Takkamore, who spoke about Baba's message of 'Love' and 'Tolerance'. The meeting on 25th was held under the presidentship of Dr. S. M. Khatib, Principal, Science College, Nagpur. Smt. Sanjivani Dhakephalkar of Ahmednagar who was the main speaker at both these meetings, exhorted every one to imbibe Baba's messages of love-divine, servitude and honesty, so as to invoke Baba's unfailing Grace. Shri K. N. Narayan Rao, Dy. Accountant General, Nagpur also addressed the meeting.

Saugor:

At Saugor, Baba's birthday celebrations were held on 8th March, 1965 at Saugor University, and presided over by Justice Bhatt. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh addressed the meeting. He also addressed another meeting at the Basic Training College on 10th instant. At this place, Avatar Meher Baba Centre is being organised by Shri Vasantrao Halwe.

Amravati:

Beloved Baba's 71st birthday was celebrated here on 23rd February 65. The meeting arranged by Dr. V. G. Kher in Deeparchan Hall, was attended by about 500 persons. The programme commenced with bhajans by Sri Manohar Kaslikar, Professor in Music, Vidarbha Mahavidyalaya. Prof. Akolkar in his presidential speech, explained in his own way the significance of Baba's Silence. Later, Smt. Sanjeevinitai Dhakephalkar who was the Chief Guest, spoke on the life and message of Baba. On 25th, was arranged a Kirtan programme by the celebrated kirtankar, Shri Karandikar from Barsi at Meher Centre.

Among the audience was a saint, Shri Narayan Guru, who has a large following in this region.

Kanpur:

Sarvashri Ghanshyamdas Saraswat, Sitaram, and Shali-gram Sharma and other devotees arranged Beloved Baba's birthday celebrations in Kanpur on a very grand scale from 1st to 3rd March '65. All the prominent Baba lovers were specially invited to participate in the celebrations. Yogi Shuddhananda Bharathi, Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, Sardar Amar-singh Saigal, M. P., Swami Satyaprakash Udaseen & Sri Keshav Narayan Nigam, Sri Pukar were among the many prominent Baba-lovers, who graced the occasion. A huge pandal was erected with an equally huge dais very well decorated with Baba's photos and thousands are reported to have attended the various functions held almost throughout the day, and heard about Baba's life and His Messages of Love and Truth. It was the first of its kind in Kanpur, which is a prominent industrial centre in the country.

Sambalpur (Orissa):

Shri V.P. Jha arranged Baba's birthday celebrations at Meher House commencing from the night of the 24th Feb '65. Bhajans and songs in praise of Beloved Baba were sung throughout the night and Arti was given at 5 a.m. on 25th. About 100 persons participated in the celebrations. A large number of small booklets containing Baba's life sketch and some messages were distributed.

Calicut:

Beloved Baba's 71st birthday was celebrated at the local Sai Baba Mission Bhajan Mandir on 25th Feb '65. The meeting arranged by Dr. M. Anandan was addressed by Shri U.K. Kunhi Rama Poduval, a reputed Sanskrit scholar and Shri P. Chandrasekhara Menon, the local sub-judge. A special feature of the celebrations was Baba's archana performed with the recitation of 108 names of Baba, the God-Man, specially composed for the occasion by Shri Poduval.

Bhavnagar:

Shri D. J. Oomrigar, arranged Baba's birthday celebrations at his residence on 25th Feb '65. About 140 persons participated in the function. Baba's messages rendered into Gujarati by Shri Oomrigar and also his speech were well received by the audience. These have also been reported in the local Gujarati papers.

MEHER PUBLICATIONS

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ocular	ocular	18	1	12
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