

DIVYA VANI
Volume 3 Number 3
September 1967

A periodical Publication of
the "Meher Vihar Trust"

An Avatar Meher Baba Trust eBook
June 2018

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Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust
Ahmednagar, India

Source and short publication history:

Divya Vani = Divine voice.

Quarterly, v.1, no. 1 (July 1961), v. 3. no. 2 (Oct. 1963): bimonthly, v. 1. no. 1 (Jan. 1964), v. 2 no. 3 (May 1965): monthly. v. 1. no. 11 (July 1965), v. 12, no. 6 (June 1976): bimonthly, v. 1. no. 1 (Aug. 1976), v.14. no. 1 (Jan. 1978): quarterly, v. 1, no. 1 (Jan. 1979), Kakinada : Avatar Meher Baba Mission. 1961- v. : ill.. ports.

Subtitle: An English monthly devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His work (varies).

Issues for July - Oct. 1961 in English or Telugu.

Editor: Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen.

Place of publication varies.

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

Ceased publication?

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Monthly:

25th September 1967

DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)

Editor:

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

Phone: 3 6 2 3 3

"The Meher Vihar Trust" Grams: "MEHERVIHAR"

3-6-441, 5th Street,

Volume 3]

Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-29

[**Price:**

Number 3]

(A. P., India)

[**Re. 1-00**

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(Continued on 3rd cover page)

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25th SEPTEMBER 1967

DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)

AN ENGLISH MONTHLY

Devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His Work

Editor :

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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Grams: "MEHERVIHAR"

THE MEHER VIHAR TRUST

3-6-441, 5th Street,
Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-29
(A. P., India)

Volume 3]

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Annual Subscription:

Rs. 12-00

Single Copy: Re. 1-00

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AVATAR MEHER BABA
The Love – Incarnate

GOD AND RELIGION*

By Meher Baba

The organised religions of the world often fail to express the real Vision of those who have been the Fountain-head of Inspiration for their very coming into existence. *Dogmas and beliefs, rituals and ceremonies, can never be the essence of the true spiritual life.* They are generally not only superficial and ineffective, but positively harmful and misleading. Often, they not only feed the ego of the priest-class, but also serve as an instrument for the exploitation of the credulous. When religion has become merely a matter of external rituals and ceremonies, it has become a cage for the soul. Nor does it help very far to change one religion to another; *it is like going from one cage to another.* If religion does not help man to emancipate the soul from spiritual bondage and realize God, it has no useful purpose to serve. Then it is time that *religion should go to make room for God.*

I am, therefore, not interested in founding a new religion. The world is already divided by numberless sects, based upon dogmas and beliefs. *I have not come to give another cage for man, but to impart to the world the illimitable Truth.* The world needs awakening and not mere verbal instruction; it needs the freedom and the amplitude of Divine Life, and not the superficiality of mechanised and pompous forms; it needs Love, and not the display of power. The world-task ahead of me is

* *"This Message was read out by Honourable Justice Dr. M. B. Niyogi at the Nagpur Gorakshan Compound congregation held on 11-11-44.*

particularly creative. Essentially, we are all one. I am greater than none of you in the soul-sense and, really speaking, none of you have to receive divinity from me—the divinity that is externally existing equally in us all; but what I have to give is the knowledge and the experience of the oneness of us all.

Out of the agonising travail and suffering of the present times, the New Enlightened Humanity has to be born. Man shall be weaned away from the allurements of the ego-life; *he shall come into full inheritance of his own divinity* and know himself to be none other than the Supreme God Himself; and his heart shall be unlocked so as to release *the Dynamic Love Divine*. Divine Love knows no decay, fear or corruption, because it is illumined by the understanding that all life is One. *Let those who are alive to the real values hearken to this call of mine;* they will have an ample share in bringing into existence *the New Era of Truth and Love*. I give my blessings to all.

Baba says:

"The God-Man neither thinks nor desires. Through Him, the Divine Will flows inevitably into perfect manifestation, passing directly from the spiritual body which, in the ordinary human being, is undeveloped into physical expression. For Him, the super-conscious is the normal state of consciousness. From Him there flows continuously infinite love and wisdom, infinite joy and peace and power.

THE RACE

By Maud Kennedy, U. K..

I saw a grey cloud, quite
small and alone, being blown
along by the wind, as if it
was trying to keep pace,
but was left behind.

I immediately thought,
that is the lonely ego
in the race for life;
imagining it is quite,
separate and strong by
itself.

It is no use to itself, it can
do nothing alone. It must
race on, blown helplessly
by the wind, until it
reaches the great cloud
— a Perfect Master,
then it will merge with
the mighty one and
receive all the strength,
powers and glory of the
great cloud, no longer
small and lonely;
it can now combine with
others to drop life-giving
rain upon the earth

_____.

READERS' OPINIONS

May I congratulate you for the wonderful efforts in spreading Baba's Name and Messages and other relevant stories in such an enjoyable format. ..

Mr. Allan Y. Cohen, Ph.D., U. S. A.

* * * * *

Thank you for your wonderful magazine 'Divya Vani'... All of the news of Baba and Baba lovers is food for the soul.

Mr. John Conrad Krchniak, U.S. A.

* * * * *

I look forward to receiving 'Divya Vani' and thank you for all the work you do to spread Beloved Baba's Love and Teaching.

Mrs. Elsie M. Smart, Australia

* * * * *

I am regularly receiving 'Divya Vani', which is most interesting.....

Mr. T. S. Chowdhary, Uganda

* * * * *

Thank you for this wonderful publication. It brings us so many informative and delightful stories to add to our picture of our Beloved Baba. I wish you continued success.

Mr. Ted Hamady, U. S. A.

* * * * *

I think 'Divya Vani' is excellent and you are doing a splendid work for Baba.

Miss. Delia de Leon, U. K.

* * * * *

Let me say here how beautifully written and how interesting I find your magazine.

Mrs. May Bondy, U. S. A.

Life Circular No. 66

Issued on 1st October 1967

Avatar Meher Baba wishes all His lovers to know that His Seclusion will not end on 21st November this year, but will continue until the 25th of February 1968.

Meher Baba says that the fate of the universe hangs on His Seclusion, and the redemption of mankind depends upon His Manifestation, and He wants to remain absolutely undisturbed; and so under no circumstances should anyone try to see Him unless He Himself calls anyone specially for work, or until He Himself announces that He will give darshan to His lovers.

It should carefully be noted that the restriction on correspondence continues. Baba will not attend to any correspondence, including cables and wires. Also, none should write to me or to members of the resident Mandali regarding their personal affairs or the affairs of others.

After 25th February 1968, Baba will announce when He will see His lovers. Meanwhile, no one should come of his own accord to see Him—but should await Baba's own announcement.

Meher Publications
King's Road
Ahmednagar (M. S.)
India.

Adi K. Irani
Disciple & Secretary
Avatar Meher Baba

NOTE:

Avatar Meher Baba lovingly permits all His lovers to celebrate His 74th Birthday on 25th February 1968 at the Meher Baba Centres or otherwise publicly. Those who wish to celebrate Baba's Birthday should do so without expecting another intimation. As His 74th Birthday coincides with His coming out of seclusion, it should be an occasion of great rejoicing.

The Avatar is Here, Now

By Michael Evans, U. S. A.

Twelve thousand miles from the city of the angles
God fondles a lamb
With love, as He did
two thousand years from now.
And here we stand,
not with patience, but fear that we won't come to Him,
for He won't see us for awhile.

But we are afraid only,
When we let our souls be held by our own hands,
For they clutch the mind and heart ignorantly, ruthlessly,
and smash them together, splattering in the agony of
separateness.

And we stand here,
whimpering, wondering—where, when
can He be found?
But don't we know He is closer, yet farther, than
the man Baba?

That there is no place to go to come to Him?
And that His Day of Darshan
brings peace only to those
Who awaken that morning with eyes divine?
and don't we know to stick our feet in our mouths,
to see that our ego-games are only our playing them?

Oh Parvardigar! since we know not where we stand,
make us footless so we can come to Thee.
Oh Beloved! since we know not to not know,
make us headless so we can see Thee.
Oh Lord! since we crush our souls between greed and hate,
make us dust so we can lie at Thy feet,
and nevermore go astray from Thee.

News From Meherazad

from one of the Mandali

1st September 1967

Greetings to you in Baba's Love, from your Meherazad family.

Our sojourn at Guruprasad concluded in the manner it had begun—with beloved Baba taking a brisk walk on its verandah. But whereas the walk on our first morning was witnessed by the few, who were with Him, on the last two days at Guruprasad the witnesses were many more—men, women and children of the intimate group of Baba-lovers in Poona, whom Baba had allowed to come **just to see Him walk**. They stood in rows along both sides of the entire verandah; women and children on 1st July, men on the 2nd morning. Smiling and radiant Baba emerged from His room and walked through the rows of His lovers, striding past them in the 'twinkling of an eye', filling their hearts with wonder and joy. They, who had never expected to see Baba walk as in the old days, could not help calling it 'a miracle'! When Baba heard of this, He said it was not a miracle; what His lovers had witnessed was the fulfilment of His words, for He had said "I will walk as before". Baba added that the time is near ripening when we will witness the fulfilment of all that He has said, for nothing can be fruitless that comes from Him. As He had told us years ago: "Whatever I have said must and will come true, My words can never be in vain. When it appears otherwise it is due to your ignorance and lack of patience." Even as He had said

some two thousand years ago: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

We left Poona on the morning of 2nd July, reaching Meherazad well before noon. To return to Meherazad is to be greeted with twin emotions—not identical. One emotion says "Look what we missed!" The other says "Look what we escaped!" The first one is on feeling anew the incomparable atmosphere and quiet beauty of Meherazad which is Home to us. The other is on seeing around us the scars left by a ravaging summer, and realizing anew the invaluable function of Guruprasad which is Haven to us during the hottest months. Among the Meherazad trees that died this April from the shrivelling blast of a heat-wave, were three of the seven 'mastwala' mango trees which stood as tender reminders of a Mast's gift of mangoes to Baba. Baba had sucked the mangoes and had the stones planted. That many other trees survived despite our well-water being down to saucer level, the Pimpalgaon lake bone dry, and Ahmednagar's water situation as substantial as a ghost in day time, was due to desperate salvage attempts by Padri—he cares for Meherazad in our absence. Then a month later, at a spot just a few feet away from the stricken mango trees lining the field, there came forth water; clear soft water from a depth of 83 feet, water that transfused life into the animal and vegetable kingdom of Meherazad—the Bore-Well project, carried out as directed by Baba, was a sweet success! This striking of precious water here seemed an omen for plenty of it all round, as the widespread rains in July showed. After years we experienced the delight of a real monsoon and the unfamiliar emotion of longing for the sun! In several other parts of India the blessing poured down too bountifully, submerging places, putting rivers in spate, pushing Poona onto front pages of national papers as she barely escaped another flood like the one she had in 1961. By mid-August it looked as though the rainfall had spent itself

out, and its feeble efforts since then have renewed the farmers' anxiety. Meanwhile, the Meherazad garden and landscape wear a contented smile. No more is the earth around us naked, it is dressed in a hundred shades of green. From the window of His room Baba likes to see the colourful patch of garden where the robins play hopscotch, and the east hills whose crusty features have softened with a veil of grass that turns to velvet in the evening light.

Morning and afternoon Beloved Baba goes over to the Mandali's hall, and is with His men (mandali) for a number of hours. The hours that His mandali spend daily in His company, follow the lines of a pattern drawn up by Baba in minutest detail. The sameness of the daily procedure continues for quite some time, until it appears to set and harden. Then unexpectedly the expected happens: suddenly Baba declares some major change or specific variation in the settled routine, precisely as He finds it necessary for the next stage of His Work. The last time when this happened was about three weeks after we returned from Poona. One morning Baba announced to us that from the 21st of July to the 21st of November, He would be in much stricter seclusion. He said the Time for His manifestation was drawing very close, and proportionately His universal work was greatly intensified and had to be carried out without disturbance. He told us that He would not attend to any correspondence during these four months, and that none must visit Meherazad unless, when on His own, He calls anyone for His work. Accordingly, we do not read correspondence to Him; nor does anyone visit here without being called. Apart from these two variations, the rest of the Meherazad activities go on as usual.

Baba has also announced that He will step out of seclusion one morning before November, **for three hours only**. He will do this in order to wash the feet of

twenty-one lepers, men and women, who will be brought from Ahmednagar to Meherazad for this purpose. After washing their feet and bowing down to them, the Beloved will give to each one of them some wearing-apparel or material that will serve to clothe the recipient's body. And with this tangible 'prasad' will be the unseen gift of the Avatar's blessing, His unbounded Love that heals all pain of ignorance, that melts away sanskaras of lifetimes—the Gift from the Only Giver, given in silence. Many a time Baba has bathed the lepers—"beautiful souls in ugly cages" as He once said of them—and bowed down to them. This time it will be from His Seclusion. Baba has not yet fixed the day. His coming out for this work with the lepers will not mean the end of His seclusion. It will mean only a 'stepping out' for the duration of three hours, after which He will resume His strict seclusion.

Only those who have been directed to make arrangements for this leper-work are to be present at Meherazad on the day. However, an exception has been made for certain individuals who are concerned with the completing of a film being made by Louis van Gasteren, a film-maker of Holland. In response to Louis van Gasteren's earnest request to film Baba, Baba has granted him permission to be present during the three hours when He will step out of seclusion, and to film Baba during His work with the lepers.

From Mr. van Gasteren's letter to Adi we get an idea of the uncommon theme of this 35mm colour film he is making: "Nema Aviona Za Zagreb", which he expects to show throughout the world. It is a film which does not confine itself to a story, but reveals glimpses of the poignancy of human experiences, of joy and sorrow, birth and death, of things happening on both sides of the globe—on which is Meher Baba, The Avatar. Mr. van Gasteren writes: "The appearance of the

Avatar in my film is more than functional, it is necessary, to give all the other happenings and sequences the final and right dimension. Now you will understand how happy I am with the Avatar's permission."

This making of a film with Baba to be seen round the world, is an endeavour initiated by Baba's brother Jal, who has worked hard towards it for a long time pleading for Baba's permission again and again. The reward of Jal's endeavour is in sight, for at last the Beloved has given His permission for such a filming. Louis van Gasteren, in concluding his letter to Adi, spoke of the impact that the Avatar's Message had on him. He wrote, "I tell you frankly that the first time I heard of Baba, the line HE LOVES YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN EVER LOVE YOURSELF struck me, struck me through the New York cab driver Irwin Luck, struck me since Robert Dreyfuss entered my house with Baba's photograph. It became a line used many times a day within the circle of my friends."

"MEHER BABA IS LOVE". These words are a constant experience in the lives of His lovers. It is a line that has become His lovers' life line. It is now also the title of a Book that has been recently published, a book for children from 4 to 100 years of age, a book whose every word and picture goes to show just that: Meher Baba Is Love! Its pages are filled with beautiful pictures: Baba with children, Baba with animals, Baba with birds, Baba and Mehera with the calves that years later accompanied us in the New Life. It has enchanting colour drawings of animals, birds, trees, flowers, insects, fish, who confide to each other the secret of Baba's Love! Every line is alight with love and twinkles with humour. "Meher Baba Is Love"* is the result of team work by

* Please note that the price of the book is \$ 2.00, and may be ordered through group-heads or directly from Mrs. Ann Forbes, 3340 N.W. 99th St., Miami, Florida 33147, U.S.A.

members of the Baba-Family in Miami (Florida, U.S.A.)—sharing idea, labour, expense, as they share the love of Meher Baba; who is Love. It fills the long-felt need for a book that His little ones will understand, that ALL His children will love. The first copy reached Meherazad before the stricter Seclusion began, and Baba's cable to Adah Shifrin said: "Your book 'Meher Baba Is Love' has made Me very happy, your labour of love has touched Me. It will delight children, young and old and draw them closer to Me. I send My Love and Blessing to you Shifrins, Sargeants, Bondys, Forbes, and all who helped bring the book out."

Milestones are for the travellers, not for the Way. Another 10th July milestone tells us we have come to the 42nd year of beloved Baba's Silence—His immeasurable Silence which we measure by the distance our time-vehicle has crossed. And as we travel, we are joined by more and more companions who have heard of the Way and realize it as the One they had been wandering through many a by lane in search of. They in turn call out to others who might hear and heed them. And Baba tells us that whatever we would do to proclaim His Message to others we should do it now; that the Time for the breaking of His Silence is fast approaching, and when He gives The Word there will not be the need for His lovers to give His Message to the world—the breaking of His Silence will proclaim to the world the manifestation of God on earth.

Till we come to the moment, when He releases The Word that will shatter our deafness, our voices are raised to speak of His Silence that all may hear us. And when among us there are voices that the people recognize and flock to listen to, our hearts are gladdened. Such voices were heard at a number of places this year, at public meetings held by Avatar Meher Baba Centres to mark the 42nd anniversary of the Beloved's Silence.

In Bombay the meeting was presided over by its Sheriff, Mr. H. H. Ismail, J. P. In Calcutta it was Mr. Justice P. B. Mukherji, senior Judge of the Calcutta High Court, who presided. His speech, a fine treatise on 'The Eloquence of Silence' has been printed in booklet form by Chari.* The meeting at Dacca, capital of East Pakistan, was presided over by Mr. Justice S. M. Murshed, Chief Justice of the High Court of East Pakistan. His speech appeared in full in the 'Morning News', Dacca's standard paper, which reported the function under the heading "Glowing Tributes to Meher Baba". Adi and Dolly Arjani, who arranged the program, reported: "The Hall was packed to capacity, comprising all communities." Similarly worded was the telegram from Minoo Kharas: "...audience comprising all communities including Catholic nuns." He was referring to the well attended meeting held in Karachi, presided over by Mr. B. S. Rustomjee, Ex-Principal of the Parsee Boys School.

The Vice President of India, Shri V. V. Giri, inaugurated the function held in the capital of India—at the Community Hall in New Delhi on 9th July. The form of Shri Giri's address was as unique as it was apt to the Occasion he was honouring—he inaugurated the program in silence! Going up to Beloved Baba's portrait, he garlanded it with reverence. The audience packed the hall, with the overflow filling the verandah. They listened with absorbed interest to the speakers: to Shri C. M. Poonacha, Minister for Railways, who was chairman; to Dr. M. Channa Reddy, Minister for Steel, Mines and Metals, who was guest of honour; to Shri Thirumala Rao, M. P.; and to Shri Amar Singh Saigal, M. P., who recited the Master's Prayer. Wasdeo Kain said in his report: "The inauguration was done in silence by the Vice-

* Free copies can be had from Shri A.C.S. Chari, Advocate; Komala Vilas, 73 Rashbehari Ave., Calcutta-26, India.

President garlanding the picture of dear Baba. Dr. Channa Reddy, Shri Poonacha and Shri Thirumala Rao spoke very well; the audience was impressed by their talks, and loudly cheered when Baba's message and Love Blessings were conveyed to them. The hall rang with Jai, Jai, of Avatar Meher Baba."*

Magnificent was the program held at Bahadurgarh (Haryana), about 15 miles from Delhi, arranged by T. D. Verma and other Baba-lovers in Delhi. Although held in August, it marked the completion of forty-two years of Baba's Silence. Part of the program was a remarkable procession of some seven to eight thousand people through the main roads of Bahadurgarh. The function was inaugurated by Shri V. K. R. V. Rao, Minister for Transport and Shipping, and attended by a huge gathering. The most unexpected and welcome guest at the function was the sun! This sunny day was the first break in the torrential rainfall that for days lashed Delhi and its neighbourhood, breaching roads and bridges, and provoking the Jumna river to roaring heights of danger. Due to the rains, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shri K. K. Shah, was held up and could not make it to Bahadurgarh to participate as intended. Those managing the program were deeply anxious over its success in the face of the rain's fury. But deeper was their faith that said "It is all in Beloved Baba's hands—we have done our best, He will do the rest." Beloved Baba responded—His smile was reflected in the sun that shone over Bahadurgarh and blessed their efforts to success. All India Radio, reporting on highlights of the week 'Around the Capital' spoke of the program, and relayed part of Shri V. K. R. V. Rao's splendid speech and of a Baba bhajan sung by the women group.

* Shri W. D. Kain's full reports of the Delhi and Bahadurgarh programs appear in "DIVYA VAN!", the English monthly Baba-magazine printed in India. Address: The Meher Vihar Trust, 3-6-441, 5th St., Himayatnagar, Hyderabad (A.P.), India.

As a ship crossing the vast ocean, the Time has been coming steadily nearer and is now near enough to be visible, a dot on the horizon. We cannot define its shape, we cannot fathom its speed, but we can clearly see it approach in the Light of Baba's words given us in the past. Of the many things Baba said, was: "As the time for my Manifestation draws close it will draw in more people to me, and my Message will go out to more and more people and spread round the world. Among the many who will recognize my Divinity, will be leaders and prominent personalities who will join my followers in publicly declaring my Message of Love and Truth." All this we see coming to pass, gathering speed and momentum day by day, place by place. His lovers are taking His Message to every field of opportunity, for the breath of His Love to blow on it and carry it far and wide. Fast multiplying are opportunities in the field of radio and television, and these brain-products of Science are communicating with growing frequency the Heart-message of God to men. Take these instances:

In a three months' report on Baba-work in the San Francisco Bay area, carried out among the great youth-force of America, Allan Cohen lists no less than four radio interviews and five television shows! Rick Chapman, or Moochewala (his Indian name meaning 'one with a moustache'), since his return to the United States from India in May, has been ceaselessly busy "telling the Americans about the Truth which Baba alone is", often through radio and television interview. Reporting his activities, Rick wrote from various places. I quote from some of his letters that illustrate how the air waves are carrying word of The Avatar and spreading it to masses. His report from Denver says:

"Dear Beloved Baba, What a night last night was! From midnight until six in the morning, your Moochewala was talking to Denver people over the radio about

The Only One—which, as only You know, is You! This kind of radio program is called a 'talk show', where the radio broadcaster, sometimes with a guest, talks about some current topic or issue over the air. After talking for an hour or so, the broadcaster will invite telephone calls from the listeners, so that they can discuss the topic with the broadcaster or with the guest. These telephone calls are part of the radio program and are broadcast over the air as they take place. Every kind of person called in after hearing me talk about You—from narrowly orthodox Christians to people genuinely interested in discovering about You. It was a challenge to try to answer each person in a way understandable to him, and a great joy to have so much time to talk freely about my secret Beloved."

(Later). "In these past few weeks in Denver, I have had the chance to appear on four radio programs and to talk with a number of people individually. There is not more than a handful of actual lovers in this area that I know about, but many persons have become interested in reading and finding out more about the living God in human form."

Rick writes about Boston: "One night I was on a 'talk show' in Boston—a program on which Allan had previously appeared—and on the whim of the broadcaster (inspired by the Whim of the Avatar!) he called up Allan in Berkeley and had him participate in the show for almost an hour by long distance telephone! Two other radio interviews took place in Boston. The necessity of using the 'hot topic' of LSD as a channel for talking about You had almost completely vanished—the interviewer urged me to tell about You at length. Finally, part of an hour-long television show was filmed while the key personality in the show asked me questions about You."

(Later). "Since I last wrote You in New York, You have stirred up a real storm of action. After returning to New York from Myrtle Beach, Chapel Hill and Hampton, I had a half-hour radio interview discussing You and Your views on LSD. I was told that the interview, which was taped, would not be broadcast until July, but the station played it that very night (May 19) and the following morning... This unexpected broadcast was perfectly timed, since many people who heard the program came to the public talk which was arranged two days later in the heart of New York's bohemia..."

New York also scooped a nation-wide Air triumph through the "Society for Avatar Meher Baba", who produced and broadcast a half hour program marking the forty-second anniversary of Baba's Silence. The broadcast was relayed over eight stations in the U. S. A., filling all Baba-lovers who heard it with joy. A number of them expressed it in their letters, describing the program as "wonderful", "splendid", saying "we would like to hear it again and again." Directed by Harry Kenmore and Annarosa Karrasch, it was a concerted production, unique in the fact that a number of Baba-lovers from different parts of U. S. A. joined their voices to it. Each of them spoke for 2 to 3 minutes about Baba, and their tape-recorded talks were played between the Commentator's superb prelude and the finale of Harry's recital of 'Meher Baba's Universal Message'. It was thrilling to hear their voices in the hall at Meherazad, when the tape of the program sent by Harry was played before Baba on the morning of 10th July.

All the more heartwarming because it was unexpected, was a radio program in Paris which carried the Beloved's Name to the people of France. Anita Vieillard, one of the very early group of His lovers, wrote to Mehera in a recent letter from Paris: "Dearest Mehera, you will all be pleased to know that I spoke on the French Radio.

They gave 3 programs during 3 weeks. It was all on India, with some French ambassadors, philosophers, etc. talking. In the interview I spoke on Baba. They found my talk so interesting that they opened the talks with my interview being the first! You can imagine what a joy it was for me! It is the first time I spoke on the Radio. I was questioned on India, for the talks were all connected with India. Krishnamurti also spoke in French, he came last. I can't give you all the names of the people as I don't know them; they all have to do with culture and spiritual search. I was questioned on my being in India. I spoke on our Baba. I also spoke of the incredible atmosphere one felt during the 'arti' with Baba standing in our midst. I hope I was able to give a bit of all the wonders He has given us all!"

But if this first opening in French reserve has been such a happy surprise, what has been happening in 'the Land of the Southern Cross' is astounding. A few months ago Baba called Bill LePage from Australia for a two weeks' stay at Meherazad. Soon after his return he found that every wall that had prevented him from spreading Baba's Message now had a door which opened to the sound of His Name! One contact he made, a hard-headed young journalist, Mike Agostini, led to the first radio and T.V. interviews in Australia on beloved Baba. In a letter dated 19th June, Bill wrote: "The possibilities coming from the contact are already staggering. He (Mike) not only has newspaper contacts but also T.V. and radio ones. He has already approached A.B.C. and said to the national show, 'I have a sane, rational, normal man who says that God is on earth now', and the producer has expressed interest and asked for the submission of definite details for an interview between Mike and myself. He also approached newspapers, again with good reception, and has planned a lengthy radio interview with me after the T.V. show."

All this happened within the space of a month. On the front page of "The Australian" (a daily national newspaper) dated July 6, 1967, this intimation appeared under the prominent heading of "THE MAN WHO SAYS HE IS GOD": "Meher Baba says he is God. And, although he works no miracles and has lived for more than 70 years in relative obscurity, millions of people around the world believe him. This extraordinary man and one of his leading Australian disciples are described by M. G. Agostini in 'The Australian' on Saturday." The article appeared as announced, followed by letters from other Australian Baba lovers in later issues. Then on 17th July, Bill wrote:

"Beloved Baba, You and I appeared on television last night in a program shown throughout Australia! It was not for long Baba, but at least two photos of You were shown and I was interviewed for about 10 minutes. (I took the photos on the chance that I could show them. and the T.V. people were keen on the idea). I wasn't nervous, a bit anxious to do a good job, and very happy that You were going to be seen and talked about. I didn't really have a feeling of happiness with the radio interviews, I think I was too anxious about doing You justice, but they were satisfactory and I had relaxed by the time of the T.V. interview. I did not watch the T.V. program, but the family said it was very good. I am writing this in the office, and a few moments ago rang a company where the telephonist knows me. As soon as I spoke to her she said, 'Oh! I saw you on T.V.' She was with her family. and they all were most interested. This is an example of what has been happening since the article appeared in the newspapers, and since the radio interviews. Businessmen have rung me, neighbours are talking about it, there have been letters and phone-calls to the newspaper and radio stations; friends of friends have been talking about the interview—even though they did not know me. I am amazed at the number of people

who listen to the radio, and who listen to interviews. After the T.V. interview, the interviewer who is one of Australia's best-known interviewers, asked me to speak on one of his radio programs, which I am doing next Wednesday—he asked me without prompting. Two business-men who rang me said they found the interview excellent, hoped there would be many more of them, and one of them has asked me to his home to meet some of his friends. Another T.V. interview will be done shortly, but the date has not been decided. It appears all round that something really has started in making You known here, but now I must give thought to making 'the something started' grow."

Now Bill is occupied in plans to keep alive the interest that this recent publicity has aroused, fanning it vigorously with whatever comes to hand, knowing Baba will do the rest. I like the way Bill put it, in his letter to Baba: "I am determined not to let this opportunity for publicity die away, and also to be more provocative in my interviews. You have given me teeth, and with Your 'go ahead' message. I am prepared and very willing to nip the ankles of fellow Australians until they are thoroughly aware of You"!

A country where awareness of Baba has been brought to people from all over the world, is Canada. It has done this within the last few months, in its role of host to the world while celebrating the 100th year of its nationhood. It continues to do so, through Montreal's EXPO 67, the colossal International Exhibition where the height of man's ingenuity and skill have been challenged and met, where the art and culture of over sixty countries is housed and displayed. Its spectacular array of pavilions are as members of the world-family gathered round the Montreal table, where the fare is rich in thought and vision, where the exchange of ideas and inspiration is brilliant.

And what the Indian pavilion has to offer among its ancient and modern contribution, to palates unfamiliar with the simple ingredients of Truth, is a taste of the highest purpose of man's existence. In its literary section it has books on and by Meher Baba, reportedly the only books on spirituality so far seen at the pavilion—they are displayed in a separate compartment of the rotating glass case where books are accommodated. On its Information counter it has "Meher Baba's Universal Message", in large quantities that are replenished daily, for thousands of copies are taken by visitors to the pavilion every day. These Universal Message folders are given free, in Baba's Love. Another touch of Baba's Love: the space given to Baba-material was given free—not a cent was charged, when space was being rented at \$ 100 per square foot! Catherine Draper, who has laboured most over this project, wrote from Montreal: "So far 'Meher Baba's Universal Message' is the only free pamphlet I have seen offered at the pavilion. This fact plus the superb location gives the appearance of an endorsement on the part of the India Government. Mr. K.S. Luthra (India's representative at the India pavilion) chose to have them placed on the Information Desk instead of with the books. This is truly a coup-de-grace, for every person who enters the pavilion files past the Information desk. Mr. Luthra told me the public is picking up the Universal Message at the rate of 10,000 per week. I phoned Kitty (Myrtle Beach) for another shipment immediately..." The shipment was soon exhausted, and a reprint rushed under way. Catherine writes: "Kitty may have told you that they raised funds for us to have another 100,000 copies of the Message printed here in Montreal. And 25,000 of these have already been taken! I don't yet know the exact number which the Kashoutys shipped here, but estimate there were 50,000. Expo-goers have taken all of these, plus 10,000 French ones we had, plus the 25,000 mentioned above. Thus, at the Fair's half-way mark, about 85,000 of the Universal Message have been taken."

For His followers in Canada, this Baba-blessed opportunity given to their country is a dream come true, a prayer answered. "It is beyond my wildest dream" writes Catherine Draper. Stella DuFresne writes: "I prayed to Baba for all the years I know Him to help my natal country Canada—now I can say that He has answered my prayer, by having His Universal Message at the Expo..."

Meher Baba's Universal Message at the Expo—a drop of Reality in an ocean of illusory grandeur, the Drop that swallows the ocean reaches out to all creation, and declares:

"I veil myself from man by his own curtain of ignorance, and manifest my Glory to a few. My present Avatic Form is the last Incarnation of this cycle of time, hence my Manifestation will be the greatest. When I break my Silence the impact of my Love will be universal and all life in creation will know, feel and receive of it."

DIVYA VANI

(An English Monthly)

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—*Editor & Publisher*

THE SEARCH FOR GOD*

By Amy A. Arjani, East Pakistan

Most people do not even suspect the existence of God. Others, through early upbringing or the influence of tradition, belong to some faith and acquire belief in God's existence from education and their surroundings: their faith keeps them bound to rituals, ceremonies or formal beliefs but rarely brings about a radical change in their lives. There are others, philosophically minded, who have an inclination to believe in the existence of God, either because of their own speculations or because of the assertions of others; for them, God is a probable hypothesis or an intellectual idea. They do not, however, know God from personal knowledge, and God is not to them an object of intense desire.

A genuine aspirant to the knowledge of God is not content with spiritual information based on hearsay, neither is he satisfied with inferential knowledge. He searches for direct knowledge.

God either exists or does not exist: if he exists, search for him is justified; even if he does not exist, there is nothing to lose by seeking him. But man does not usually turn to the search for God as a voluntary and joyous enterprise; he has to be driven to this search by a disillusionment about worldly things from which he cannot detach his mind. Ordinarily, man is engrossed in activities concerning the material world, and lives through its

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

experiences of joys and sorrows without suspecting the existence of a deeper Reality; he aims at the pleasures of the senses and avoids suffering. "Eat, drink and be merry" is his philosophy. But he cannot entirely avoid suffering, and even when he succeeds in having pleasures, he becomes satiated. While he thus goes through the daily round of experiences, there arise occasions when he asks himself, "What is the end of this?" Such an occasion may present itself in some happening for which he is not mentally prepared; it may be disappointment in some confident expectations, or an important change in his situation demanding radical re-adjustment and the giving up of cherished habits. Usually, such occasions arise from the frustration of some deep craving of which he is possessed, If that craving has no chance of being satisfied, the psyche receives a shock that may cause it no longer to accept the life that hitherto has been lived without question.

Under such circumstances a person may be driven to despair. Desperateness can only work destruction. But the desperateness of a thoughtful person under similar circumstances is altogether different because the energy released is intelligently harnessed and directed towards a purpose. In the moment of such divine desperateness, a man may take the important decision of discovering the aim of life. There thus comes into his life the search for lasting values. Henceforth, the question that refuses to be silenced is, "What does my life lead to?"

When the psychic energy of man is centred upon finding the goal of life, he is using the power of desperateness creatively. He is no longer content with the fleeting things of this life and is sceptical about the values he has so far accepted. His desire is to find the Truth at any cost and he does not rest satisfied with anything short of it. Divine desperateness, is the beginning of spiritual awakening because it gives rise to the aspiration for God-Realization. In the moment of divine desperateness, when everything

seems to give way a man may decide to take any risk for realizing the possible significance of his life. This man turns to God.

Since there is no obvious access to this hidden reality, he looks upon his experiences as a possible avenue to an explanation, and thus goes back to those experiences with the purpose of gathering light upon them. He tries to fathom its spiritual significance: he is not concerned merely with what it is but with what it means in relation to this hidden goal. And this revaluation of experience results in gaining an insight which could not have come to him before. Revaluation of experience amounts to the acquisition of wisdom, and each addition to spiritual wisdom brings about a modification of the general attitude to life.

With the clear and tranquil vision of the real nature and worth of life, he realizes that God, whom he has been seeking, is no stranger. He is the Reality itself—the Reality in which he had his being, and with which he is identified. The spiritual journey does not consist in gaining what a person did not have, but in the dissipation of ignorance concerning himself and life, and the growth of understanding which begins with spiritual awakening. To find God is to come to one's own self.

To arrive at self-knowledge is to arrive at God-Realization. God-Realization is different from all other states of consciousness because they are experienced through the medium of the individual mind, whereas God-consciousness is not dependent upon the individual mind. To know the self as it is, consciousness has to be freed from the limitation of the individual mind. In other words, the individual mind has to disappear while consciousness is retained.

The limited mind is the soil in which the ego is rooted, and the ego perpetuates ignorance through the many

illusions in which it is caught. The ego prevents the manifestation of infinite knowledge already latent in the soul, and is the most formidable obstacle in the attainment of God.

The ego is the centre of human activity, and the attempts of the ego to secure its own extinction may be compared with the attempt of a man to stand on his own shoulders. Just as the eye cannot see itself, the ego is unable to end its own existence. The vanishing of the ego is conditioned by the melting away of the limited mind which is its seat.

God-Realization is the emancipation of consciousness from the limitations of the mind. When the individual mind is dissolved, the related universe vanishes, and consciousness is no longer tied to it. Consciousness then becomes unclouded and is illumined by the Infinite Reality.

The Infinite Reality in the God-realized soul has the knowledge of its own Infinity; but such knowledge does not belong to the unrealized soul, still subject to the illusion of the universe. If God-Realization were not a personal attainment, the entire universe would come to an end as soon as one man attained God-Realization. This does not happen, because God-Realization is a personal state of consciousness belonging to the one who has transcended the domain of the mind. Others continue to remain in bondage, and can attain it only by freeing their consciousness from the burden of the ego and the limitations of the individual mind. Thus God-Realization has a direct significance only for the one who has emerged from the time-process.

After the attainment of God-Realization, the soul discovers that it has always been the Infinite Reality, and that its looking upon itself as finite during the period of evolution and spiritual advancement was an illusion.

The soul also finds that the infinite knowledge and bliss that it enjoys have been latent in the Infinite Reality from the beginning of time and that it became manifest at the moment of realization. Thus the God-Realized person does not become different from what he was before realization. He remains what he was, the difference that realization makes in him is that while previously he did not consciously know his true nature, he now knows it. He knows that he has never been anything other than what he now knows himself to be, and that he has been through a process of self-discovery.

The world of shadows is at an end and the curtain of illusion is for ever drawn. The distress of the pursuits of limited consciousness is replaced by the tranquility and bliss of truth-consciousness and the restlessness of temporal existence is swallowed up in the peace of eternity.

APPEAL TO OUR DEAR SUBSCRIBERS

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

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

Editor and Publisher
'Divya Vani'

THE CHURNING OF THE MILKY OCEAN OF LIFE

(A peep into the Avataric Work in relation
to the present day happenings in the world)

By K. K. Ramakrishnan, Poona

Some years ago the world appeared to be divided into two warring forces, suspicious of each other. Efforts were then made to form what is called a Third Force to save the world from another deadly war. The outcome of these efforts was the birth of a confederation of some nations of the world pledged to peace and resolved to coexist with other nations despite different political systems, cultures and ideologies.

Now, when we look at the world scene, we still find that the world has been divided as never before. Powerful nations of different ideologies in their effort to influence other nations, split many other nations into innumerable factions. This in turn resulted in different countries having internal disturbances which gave room for external intervention and partial domination of powerful nations over warring countries. Thus we see clashes continue to occur in various parts of the world. Self-interest and egoistic arrogance appear to plunge the world soon into another terrible war, the consequence of which is too terrible even to imagine. With the weapons of destruction, man has in his armoury, and with the greed, hatred and suspicion man has in his mind, mankind appears to be heading for total annihilation.

Man seems to be enslaved by greed, fear and hatred. Large masses of people are exploited for the benefit of the few, who claim to be serving the nation and sacrificing for the welfare of the people. A state of discontentment prevails everywhere. All around we find agitation and unrest. Violence is the language of social demands. Lust for power, and love for ignoble pleasures of life predominate the minds of most of the people. Corruption has spread throughout the social order. Immorality has increased in every walk of life. With all the intellectual progress man claims to have made, he behaves more like a beast. With all the scientific inventions and technological know-how a majority of mankind leads a miserable existence. If one observes the conditions of life prevailing all the world over, and what goes on around humanity, thought arises in one's mind as to what is the role of God in the affairs of human life on this earth. Orthodox people tell us that it is because man has forgotten God that he finds himself in such a plight. Philosophers and elders with the wisdom of their experience in life, assert that it is because man had discarded the spiritual and ethical values of life that he finds himself in hot waters.

Now, the question that arises in my mind is, what is the role of the Avatar in the affairs of this world, particularly so, when He is here in flesh and blood? What is He doing? What is He doing when the world is in chaos and humanity is suffering? Meher Baba has been telling us that He is God in human form—a claim that has been accepted by most of the Sufis, Vedantists, Theosophists and thousands of people of various religious beliefs and those without religions from all walks of life, all the world over. I have been seeing with wonder thousands from all over the world coming to Meher Baba, year after year, for the last 12 years, to be in His presence even for a few minutes, whenever He permits. Yes, Meher Baba has been telling us that He has come to

redeem the modern world. He has been also telling us that He has come to save mankind from its suffering. And He has been in this world for the last 73 years. He has been actively engrossed in His mission for the last 45 years and has travelled all the world over. And yet in spite of His presence here, redeeming the modern world, relieving the suffering of mankind, man seems to be suffering more than ever before! Today, every man or woman on this earth suffers in one way or the other physically, mentally and spiritually. Except for those who seek to forget themselves momentarily in excitement that gives a passing pleasure, others invariably suffer continually. In the so-called over-developed, materially affluent western nations, many, I am told, commit suicide or drug themselves till they find themselves in a mental hospital and the number of such persons is on the increase.

We have very little to cat. Few have healthy homes to live in. Millions are without wage-earning employment and suffer from various ailments. Under the prevailing conditions what is the Avatar doing? And where is He?

We, who follow Him, know that He is frequently in strict seclusion. He has been in strict seclusion for the last two years and from the latest information that leaks out of that 'out of bounds for all' place is that He will continue to be in seclusion till the end of 1967, and He wishes that no one should go to Him, no one should seek to see Him, and that He should be left completely undisturbed. And we are told that whenever He is in seclusion He works intensely for the spiritual emancipation of mankind. We do not know what it means and what exactly He does. I doubt if even those who are fortunate to be around Him know anything more than we do on this subject. We all know He is doing His universal work.

Being a bit inquisitive by nature, my mind has been

working with speed for quite a long time. Being the one, endeavouring to love and serve Him, the one, who has been telling others that Meher Baba is God, and that He is the only hope for man, I have been deeply anxious to know, and my own conditions of life compelled me to seek for an answer. Every one has his problems and I too have mine, and life is but an effort to find solution to one's problems, problems one faces from without and from within.

Recently when I was about to start on a tour of the South, I was dissuaded by some of my loving friends, both local and from Andhra, because of the disturbing conditions prevailing in that part of the country at that time. And they were right, for I have seen that practically every district I have travelled in Andhra was under 144 I.P.C. during my tour. And it was during that tour that I had an answer suggested to my mind, which I have expressed at various places in Andhra, when I was asked to speak. So, I shall share with you these thoughts expressed during my tour in the South.

To understand the Avataric work of redeeming mankind and of relieving their suffering, by Himself bearing the burden of universal suffering, in relation to the prevailing conditions of life, in its right perspective one has first to understand the true aspiration of every man.

With all the differences we have in society, in the name of culture, race and religion, colour, caste and creed, nationalities and ideologies, there is something which is inherent in every human being, which is common to all, in which we find unity in diversity, and in which there is an inalienable oneness. What is that one thing common to all mankind?

If we search our hearts and analyse our aspirations, the first and foremost urge in all is to live. No one

wants to die. Even when a man driven by frustration wants to commit suicide, the moment he takes the fatal step he strives hard to save himself. It is not that man just wants to live. Then people live in jails. Slaves too live. Man wants to live in freedom and in happiness. All of us experience freedom and happiness some time or the other and in one form or the other. But what everyone wants is to make this experience everlasting; endless joy in life eternal is the aspiration of every man on this earth.

Now, let us try to understand what is commonly called 'God'. In our scriptures God is said to be SATCHIT-ANANDA. SAT means that which exists at all times, that which has neither beginning nor end. CHIT means knowledge. Knowledge of what? Knowledge of one's self being infinite and eternal existence. And in that knowledge of one's self being infinite and eternal existence, one experiences unending joy. Thus we find that the aspiration of everyone is exactly to be what is said to be God. In other words, everyone aspires to become God. Meher Baba says, 'Godhood is the birthright of every man.' In the book, 'God Speaks', He has given to the world, He explains for the intellectual conviction of every seeker, as to how life is a process of God becoming man and man becoming God, and that God is not some one sitting like a tyrant in the heaven of human imagination.

Immortality is thus the inborn and inherent aspiration of everyone. And all our efforts, conscious or unconscious, are but our attempts to attain that state. When the effort is conscious it is spiritual life, when unconscious it is worldly life. It is the ignorance of the aim and purpose of life that makes all differences in human efforts leading to confusion and chaos in society and ultimately to wars and untold suffering. Now, let us have a look into the endeavours man makes to establish a life of lasting happiness for all.

When some nations try to expand the area of their influence in the world with their way of life through various kinds of aids and enforcements. they honestly believe that a life of lasting happiness on this earth for man can be attained through their way of life alone. Similarly, when some other nations try to infiltrate their ideology pertaining to social economy, which will distribute world's wealth equitably, into other countries of the world, they too are under a firm conviction, that a life of lasting happiness on this earth for man can be attained through that ideology alone.

When leaders of various political parties who guide the destinies of various countries of the world, pollute the minds of the present generation with sweet sounding slogans of never to be fulfilled hopes, dividing the society into innumerable factions, they all honestly believe that they strive for the salvation of the people. When two neighbouring states or countries fight for a few villages this side or that side of the border, while professing for unity, peace and prosperity of all people in the world, they are convinced that they are working for the welfare of mankind. When spiritual aspirants (whose only occupation in life ever has been to seek for truth or realisation of God and then to spiritually help the society) march through the streets raising slogans and inciting violence and attempting self-immolation, they too believe that that was the only way to attain a life of lasting happiness on this earth. When a Spiritual Head, fasts for the welfare of animals and birds in a particular country, unmindful of the millions of cattle slaughtered all over the world, and of the millions of men and women whose life is more miserable than the lives of these cattle that are being led to the slaughter-houses, he too believes that he has done the highest spiritual service to society. And when students in schools and colleges agitate to compel their teachers to behave according to their youthful whims, they too

are convinced that they are going to usher in a life of lasting happiness for themselves and for their elders.

In all these happenings in the world, far and near, and around us, I see the redeeming process of Avataric work. that is being silently carried out by Meher Baba behind the veil of His very strict seclusion at Meherazad. In order to appreciate the value of this work and its relation to the present day world happenings discussed above, let us take the help of our Puranas, which is an inexhaustible source of mythological stories. These mythological stories, from their very name suggest that they are not to be taken literally, but to be treated as a form or method of education adopted by the ancient Rishis, out of their compassion for mankind, to impart the highest spiritual truths to the ordinary masses, whose intellectual capacity was limited. They are to be studied with a view to understand the spiritual theme, they symbolically seek to convey. The story relates to the churning of the Milky Ocean by the Devas and Asuras.

Now, who are these devas and asuras? Where is the milky ocean? Why had they churned the milky ocean? And what was the outcome of the churning of this milky ocean? When we calmly seek for an answer to these questions posed above, we will have an insight into the Avataric work and will be able to appreciate the events taking place around us.

First of all, devas and asuras were not some strange beings inhabiting some other worlds. They were men like us in this world—like people of various races inhabiting various countries on this vast earth. When noble qualities, such as love, tolerance, compassion, kindness and charity, are predominantly manifest in the mind of man he commands reverence and is addressed to by others as a deva, because he expresses divine qualities in life. When, on the other hand, lust, greed, hatred and selfish

tendencies become predominantly manifest in the mind of man, he becomes repulsive and is called a wicked man: in other words an asura.

The milky ocean is the ocean of life. Why had they churned the ocean? We are told, the devas and the asuras churned the ocean in order to find nectar. And what is this nectar? We are told that nectar is a thing, which when taken, makes man immortal. Thus, it was immortality, the devas and the asuras, like everyone on this earth now, sought for. Both the devas and the asuras, seeking for 'unending existence' churned the ocean of life, with the mountain 'Mandara' as a churner and the snake 'Vasuki' as a rope. The mountain 'Mandara' represents the ego that holds the mind and the snake 'Vasuki' represents the 'Kundalini' that helps the functioning of the mind through the physiological brain. And we read further in the story, when the churning went on, many things—good and bad—came out of the milky ocean. And when they were about to reach the stock of nectar, there came out a large quantity of poison; horrified at the sight of which both the devas and asuras prayed to the Lord of all Lords. And Shiva, the Avatar of that age, swallowed the poison and saved mankind of that time, as a result of which his neck became blue due to the poison that got stuck up there and hence we call him 'Neelakantha'.

Here we come to know of the rule of God in the affairs of mankind. There is a divine law governing the laws of this universe and laws of creation and created beings. Nothing happens unless God Wills. The Will of God governs all laws. Avatar is God and His descent on earth as man is precipitated by the divine law through the five Perfect Masters of the cycle and when He is on the earth, He lives and works within that law.

The human body, the Avatar assumes, is the universal body (Viswaroop). Just as a human body contains within it an infinite number of cells, which take forms,

exist and absorb into it, all beings and things have their source and sustenance in the body of the Avatar. (How strange it sounds and unimaginable it appears! But it is true). The mind of the Avatar is the universal mind, in which the mind of every man and woman is an indivisible drop. He is like the pivot of the universe and everyone and everything is equidistant from Him. While in human form on this earth He can at will enter the various planes of consciousness and states and stages of existence, in order to effect spiritual transformation. While He wills, it is the assertion of the universal Ego, which has its repercussions in the ego of the individualised being. When He wills a shake up of His own mind it shakes the mental stuff of the entire mankind. Mind, that veils the reality of man as God, is nothing but the accumulated impressions (known as sanskaras in spiritual terms), just as dust accumulates and covers the feet of a traveller on a dusty road. Impressions or sanskaras, accumulation of which forms the mind, when expressed become thoughts. And as thoughts are desires of various kinds they have to be expressed, experienced and exhausted in order to experience the joy of unending existence, just as the traveller has to wipe or wash the dust off in order to be able to see his feet. There are good impressions (sanskaras) and bad impressions too. Both are to be expressed, experienced and exhausted, before the Self in man could manifest as Reality God. When desires are fulfilled, man feels happy and when not fulfilled, he agitates and becomes violent. All the agitations and unrest around us today, the chaos and confusion that confound mankind all over are but expressions of unfulfilled desires in the minds of mankind, shaken to the bottom. The mental stuff of mankind is stirred by the Will of God, Who is here as Man (Avatar Meher Baba) and what we see all around is its resultant effect. And why does He do it? To redeem mankind. Avatar is God, our Compassionate Father who comes to reclaim His children on the earth.

The purpose of the Avataric Advent is to awaken man from his age old slumber in illusion; to help him see his real self as God. The mind that veils this vision of Truth has to be removed and the process of removing the mind is completed by causing it to express and exhaust itself. To throw away something one holds dear to oneself, he must be made to know, feel and experience its worthlessness or harmfulness. The present phase of Avataric work is to help man face the fact of his own life. He brings out the good and bad embedded in the mind of mankind, so that it can discard the bad and hold on to the good. He brings out the dirty side or the negative tendencies of man and makes them repulsive to him so that man may love the beautiful or the positive tendencies in him.

During our tour in the South, we have noticed people living by the rivers excrete over the banks, (a habit common in other parts of India too), which makes the otherwise beautiful river-banks very dirty and unhygienic and one has often to draw out the kerchief to cover one's nose to ward off the offensive smell. But, we forget that we carry that offensive stuff in our belly, before we excrete. When it comes out it becomes repulsive to us and we close our nostrils to ward off the offensive smell and wash our hands when we happen to touch it. But to maintain our physical health we must necessarily throw out the waste from our system.

Lust, greed, jealousy, hatred, etc., these negative tendencies harmful to the spiritual health of man, are carried within our mind at all times. Only when they are expressed, they become repulsive and we feel horrified and shun them. The mythological story of 'Churning the Milky Ocean' symbolically seeks to convey the Avataric work of annihilating the mind of man that veils his vision of truth. Today, we see, that an average man is awakened to admit that the society has degraded morally, culturally

and spiritually. Besides there is an increasing awareness in the minds of enlightened leaders of our society that a spiritual awakening is essential to save mankind from its present predicament. Everyone talks of love, truth, service, selflessness and sacrifice.

The quick strides man has made in the field of science and the powers he has acquired in recent times are the good things that came out of the mind of man, and if applied creatively in humility for the cause of mankind, they can not only make life happier on this earth, but can also help man towards his goal of spiritual enlightenment. But under the influence of illusion submitting to selfish interest and egoistic arrogance, man misapplies the power and knowledge that he has. Hence Meher Baba says, "Whether men soar to outer space or dive to the bottom of the deepest ocean they will find themselves as they are, unchanged, because they will not have forgotten themselves nor remembered to exercise the charity of forgiveness."

According to Bhagwad Gita, the purpose of the Avatatic Advent is VINASAYA CHA DUSHKRUTAM; PARITRANAYA SADHOONAM; DHARMA SAMSTHAPANARTHAM: Destroying the wicked means removing the illusion of separative tendencies that are predominant in the minds of mankind. Protection of the good means preserving the positive (noble) tendencies inherent in the mind of man. Establishing 'Dharma' means awakening mankind to the eternal truth of 'unity of all life' and 'oneness of universal existence' and inspiring it to live a life of love for one and all by sowing the seeds of love in every heart and helping man to see God as the indweller of every heart. If we carefully observe the life and activities of Avatar Meher Baba during the last 45 years, we will realise that the purpose of the Avatatic work, conveyed to us through the Gita, has been to a great extent fulfilled.

Meher Baba's work in silence and behind the veil of His strict seclusion now has great significance for the spiritual emancipation of mankind. And how He bears the burden of universal suffering we have no means to understand. Yet we have had occasions to know—He suffers for mankind, suffers for His children, who are dearer to Him than they are to themselves. I remember in 1965, when the preparations for Darshan to the Easterners were in progress and just one week before the actual date, Dr. Ram Ginde from Bombay insisted that Baba should not give darshan nor do anything that might give the slightest jerk to His neck, as according to his medical vision it would make Him paralytic the rest of His life. Such was the condition of His neck at that time. Of course Beloved Baba gave His darshan to the thousands who came from all over India and from other countries. Supported by the infinite bliss of Godhood He experiences, He could bear the burden of universal suffering. To give relief to His neck Baba used to wear a collar in those days. This reminded me of the neck of Lord Shiva, which according to the Puranas was coloured by the poison he swallowed that came out of the milky ocean churned by the devas and the asuras. Poison represents the suffering of the mankind and swallowing the poison means the suffering of the Avatar for the sake of mankind. Avatar's physical suffering lessens the intensity of the suffering of mankind.

Time appears to be nearing for the manifestation of the Avatar when the world will come to know Him. And the suffering of mankind today is a prelude to that event. Conditions of life in this world will still deteriorate to such an extent that man will take the name of God, as the only hope and refuge and then will be the time the Avatar will manifest and give the 'Word'.

During the difficult days of the agitation in Andhra, many of His lovers appealed to Him for protection from the then prevailing dangers around. Through a letter

brother Eruch wrote to them in reply, Beloved Baba gave them consolation in a loving message, that He was with them and that they should not worry. But in that letter He gave them an indication of what is awaited. He said in that letter, "...when what is yet to happen will appear before you, these happenings will seem insignificant." This clearly shows that as the director of the drama of this universe He knows what is happening now and what will happen tomorrow.

Fortunate are all beings on this earth today, because God walks on this earth today. Fortunate are those who have heard His Name, for His Name will find a place in their hearts. Fortunate are those who have seen even a photo of Him, for their eyes have seen the form of God. Blessed are those who met Him physically, for they have seen God, a fortune that comes to mankind only once in a cycle of time. But most blessed are those who love Him and serve Him losing themselves in that love and service, for they will live in Him eternally and find themselves in God.

May Beloved Baba bless us all to hold fast to His daaman!

NOTICE:

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

	Rs. p.
Rings with stones complete	3 00 each
Loose stones only	1-00 "
Neck stone lockets	1-50 "
Badges with different photos	1-50 "
Small Plastic lockets	0-60 "
Locketts of superior quality and very attractive	15-00 "

The True Story of "My Child"

By a Baba-lover, Hyderabad.

This is the true story of an "Amara Jeevi", to whose parents Beloved Baba has sent the following messages.

20-7-67: "REMAIN RESIGNED TO MY DIVINE WILL
AND REMEMBER ME WHOLEHEARTEDLY.
'X' IS BLESSED.

—MEHER BABA"

22-7-67: "BE BRAVE. 'X' IS BLESSED TO HAVE
COME TO BABA. —ERUCH."

In an ordinary family a female child was born. Her birth was pronounced by the sound of church bells at 5 A.M. Doctors and Sisters called her a lucky baby. She was loved by one and all—her sisters, brothers and relatives, as she was born after the demise of a female child in that family. And everybody was calling her as sister and not by her name 'X'. During her childhood, while she just started walking, one night she was found missing from her mother's bed in the first floor of the building and could be found after a few hours of hectic search as she herself came out from a dark lumber room in the ground floor. But no one knew the mystery except her father who predicted that she was not an ordinary child. She used to be called as God's Child.

By the time she grew up and was of school-going age, she went along with her parents to Ahmednagar, where she came into the fold of Beloved Baba, who, once kissed her and said, "MY CHILD". None attached any

importance, but the girl gradually started singing Beloved Baba's songs and was drawn very close to HIM.

As an ordinary girl, she was up to the mark in her studies, but she was not showing much interest in worldly activities as is usual with other children. However, her father, knowing her simplicity and the happening of unusual incidents in her childhood, used to address her with respect.

Domestically the child was very serviceable at home, but being youngest, some of her brothers and sisters used to call her by names for which, she never complained but bore everything patiently within. She used to worry about domestic problems as if everything was on her head. She used to show much concern in financial problems and very rarely used to ask for money for her expenses.

She had to move along with her parents from Ahmednagar, but she was regularly attending weekly gatherings. Often she used to say to her colleagues that because of their stay at Ahmednagar, they came to know about God.

On a few occasions, she had Darshan of Beloved Baba while at Ahmednagar and believed Him to be God even though she may not have comprehended the meaning of 'God'. As she once heard that to repeat Baba's name thrice daily, that is when getting up from the bed, at noon 12 O'clock and at bed time when going to sleep is all that matters, she implicitly followed it herself and even used to remind other members of the family everyday at 12 O'clock to say Baba, Baba, etc.

After she completed her secondary education, she joined the college. On account of the domestic work she had to attend to, she used to fall ill frequently, but

never used to complain to her parents. Being over-burdened with work, she got fever on 11-7-67 which touched normal on 15-7-67. On 16th, she took diet but by evening she again had 104° temperature. The doctor took necessary precautions to diagnose the fever which was rising in the evenings. However suddenly on 19th afternoon, she had something like fits and phlegm was accumulating in her throat, and she was not able to spit it out. On the advice of the doctor she was admitted into the hospital at 9 P.M. and a telegram was sent to Beloved Baba. He sent a message on 20th which however reached the parents on 22nd. At the same time, it is evident that before Beloved Baba went into strict seclusion from 21-7-67 (prohibiting even telegrams), He asked Eruch to send the second telegram on 22nd since 'X' is coming to HIM on 21st as seen from the second telegram from Bro. Eruch. In the meanwhile, 'X' breathed her last on 21st at 12 noon. How gracious is beloved Baba to the parents of 'X' who received His message after 21st, from which date He entered into His strict seclusion.

How blessed is 'X' to join HIM on such an important and auspicious day as if to be with Him in His universal work.

Thus 'X' remains an 'Amara Jeevi', not only for her parents, brothers, sisters and relatives, but also to all those who know her and remember her and wish to emulate her.

This is in a nutshell the story about 'X'; but in her life there were more heart touching incidents for which her parents, brothers and sisters have to feel immensely grateful to Baba (proud in worldly sense) to have placed such a girl in their midst. 'X' went into silence from noon on 19th July (she observed silence on 10-7-67) and

finally merged into Beloved Baba's Silence at 12 noon on 21-7-67 (Vyasa Poornima). From 19th noon to 21st noon, she was almost fasting (but for the medicine) as a means of purification. Such is the miracle, and such is the beauty of the blessed soul of an innocent child but deep and steadfast in love for Baba.

A Humble Request

May we request you, to contribute to our "Building Fund and Printing Works Special Donation" Scheme, and associate yourself with the task of establishment of a permanent abode of humble and dedicated workers of Meher Baba, the Avatar of the Age, in the historical city of Hyderabad, sanctified by Beloved Baba by His many visits and stay during His Mast-Work and also during the Mano-Nash period. In order to enable one and all, whether rich or poor, the system of issue of tickets of various denominations, viz., Rs. 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 500 and 1000 has been adopted. Those who desire to send their love-contributions may kindly do so by *Postal Money Orders or Bank Cheques on Andhra Bank Ltd., or State Bank of India, (Hyderabad-A. P., India)* to the undersigned and oblige.

With loving regards,

Yours fraternally,

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN
Managing Trustee, The Meher Vihar Trust,
3-6-441, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-29,
A. P., India

Bahadurgarh Creates History in Baba's Work

From W. D. Kain, New Delhi.

Deep down from His Strict Seclusion, Avatar Meher Baba had the following message flashed through Shri Eruch Jessawala:

"Only a few fortunate ones are blessed by the Avatar to come forward to bear witness to His presence among mankind... Professor V. K. R. V. Rao Shri T. D Verma Ji, Shri Amar Singh Saigal, Shri Wasdev Kain, Shrimati Kusum, Kain, Kapil, Aggarwal, Mukherjee and men, women, children of Delhi, Bahadurgarh and its neighbourhood have the love and blessings of Avatar Meher Baba for they have come forward and assembled in Bahadurgarh on August 20th to speak and hear about the love of Avatar Meher Baba and to mark completion of forty-two years of His continuous Silence..."

The occasion was a Special Function organised at Bahadurgarh (Haryana), just a few miles from the border of the Union territory of Delhi—to celebrate the 42nd Silence Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba on Sunday 10th Aug '67 on a grand scale. To organise a public function, befitting the grandeur of the Highest of the High had been engaging the attention of Shri T. D. Verma, a Baba lover at Bahadurgarh, for several months. Consequently in collaboration with the Baba lovers in Delhi he continued to make untiring efforts to bring about a meeting of the townsfolk and the villagers, the elite and the laity, the old and young, men and women—all steeped in Baba

Love—and what was expected to be a big meeting turned out to be a Meher Mela, an Avatar Festival. Never had such an enthusiasm been noticed in this part of the country in the matter of a spiritual gathering, nor had so many people from far and near assembled to pay tributes and offerings of their love to One, whom they had never seen, yet had yearned to love at close quarters in the innermost recesses of their hearts.

Bahadurgarh—the sub town, which shines like a morning star in the suburban firmament of the Capital of India, was humming with activity on the 19th and 20th August, when telegraphic wires between Ahmednagar and Delhi were tingling with the Beloved Baba's message of Love. On the 19th evening, some of the Baba lovers from Delhi paid a visit to Bahadurgarh and witnessed the face-lifting operations going on in the town. The Municipal Committee was busy, the Mahabir Mandir Committee was busy, the Reception Committee of the Avatar Meher Baba Function was busy. All this spirited the business community into gainful activity. They decorated their shops, prepared sweets and brought out heaps of fruits and toys and balloons so that the bazaar presented a festival look on the morning of 20th August. In Delhi the restlessness was equally great. As train after train brought a Baba lover from one City or the other to participate in the function, telephonic enquiries about transport arrangements came pouring in like monsoon showers. Shrimati Prakashvati came from Dehra Dun just when we were holding the Sunday morning meeting of the Avatar Meher Baba Centre at Delhi. Shortly afterwards came Shri P. D. Nigam "Pukar", Shri Sita Ram and his son from Kanpur and Shri Moti Lal Nigam from Sultanpur, Shri M. M. Aggarwal from Agra. Shrimati Rama Devi came from Mokimpur with her family. Telegraphic messages of good wishes for the success of the function continued coming in from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bilaspur, Calcutta, Hamirpur, Allahabad and several other places.

At 3-30 P.M., a tourist bus flying seven colour flag of Avatar Meher Baba, with Baba's life-size picture placed on the top—and bearing Avatar Meher Baba marks on both sides left for Bahadurgarh carrying Baba lovers from Delhi and out-stations. The passengers continued singing Baba bhajans en route and whenever they stopped at railway crossings amidst rows of cars, taxis, buses, scooters, cycles, they shouted "Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai" thereby sending thrills of delight into the hearts of passers-by. A fleet of cars then followed at short intervals adding to the already assembled elite at Bahadurgarh and to the delight of Reception Committee at that end. As they entered the Haryana territory they had to slow down to receive the ovation at every village stop on the roadside. Some of the people were seen wondering where all these people were going. Others more informed answered their queries and asked them to join the procession—the feast of love—at Bahadurgarh. They walked fast and ran as one car after the other passed by their homes or hamlets. As we neared Bahadurgarh, we saw huge crowds already gathered on both sides of the road. The Haryana Police in Khaki presented a smart turn-out and the local Volunteer Corps was also in full array.

The procession started at 5-30 p.m. It was headed by a life-size coloured picture of Avatar Meher Baba placed in a bullock cart, in front of which sat the Meher Singing Group chanting Bhajans devoted to Baba. Seven coloured flags of Baba fluttered here and there. Then followed another cart carrying the local Bhajan Mandali. As the procession passed through the magnificent welcome arch put up by the City Committee, the President of the Mahabir Mandir Committee, garlanded Baba's picture. The entire route had been decorated with multi-coloured buntings, banners painted with Baba Sayings and floral welcome arches. Hundreds of people—men, women and children lined the Main Bazaar and threw rose petals at Baba's feet as the procession passed by. As the procession reached

near the residential area, the crowd had swelled to well over six to eight thousands all shouting Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai. As they approached the Mahabir Mandir Street, where a beautiful scenario-cum-floral welcome arch had been put up, Baba's picture was taken off the bullock cart and carried on shoulders by Baba lovers amidst Jai Jaikar of Baba, right on to the specially constructed platform in the Mahabir Mandir.

The meeting started at 6 P.M. On the dais was Baba's picture, profusely garlanded and canopied in silk. In front on one side sat the Meher Singing Group and on the other were the speakers. As devotional music was commenced, men, women and children took their seats in the respective enclosures. Shortly afterwards Shri P. D. Nigam "Pukar" delivered his speech on the life and teachings of Avatar Meher Baba. He told the audience that when the "world fails to find the way to peace and real happiness, Divine Power comes to help them. Who else could bring peace unto the world, who would lead suffering humanity towards happiness, towards comfort, towards eternal bliss. So the Avatar comes. He is right now amongst you." He then narrated in brief the life story of Avatar Meher Baba, throwing light on His parentage, His childhood, His contact with the five Perfect Masters—Hazrat Baba Jan, Taj-ud-Din Baba, Narayan Maharaj, Sai Baba and Upasani Maharaj. He hinted on the spiritual and Mast Work of Baba. Proceeding further he mentioned about Baba's Silence. This Silence, he said, was meant to awaken the world towards realization of pure life, selfless service and true love. "Baba's Message" he said "is universal and so is His language Universal—the language of gestures. He has come to establish the Law of Love, the Kingdom of Truth, and the realm of spiritual integrity." He entreated the audience, which had by now swelled to over 4000, to wake up as Baba was about to break His Silence, when He would speak the Word of Words, the primal Word, which brought about

the manifestation of creation. The utterance of the same Word would now bring about the manifestation of the Avatar. The whole world will experience His Divine Love, except those unfortunate ones who plan to do away with the very existence of the Avatar.

Shrimati Kusum, Kain, Kapil, Aggarwal and Mukherjee then presented a programme of devotional music commencing with "Meher Ekam, Meher Nityam, Meher Satyam, Sundaram". The climax reached when they gave out the tune "Aa giya Avatar ho, Aa giya Avatar". In spite of all persuasion by the Volunteer Corps, the ladies rushed on to the stage crying Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai, throwing rose petals and jasmine garlands before Baba's picture. It seemed Baba's life-size picture had turned into life-like and those who had come for His "Darshan" could not contain themselves fascinated as they were by the spiritual aura of His portrait:

Shama par lage hain duniya ke pahre
Par marne ki jin ko hasrat hai, voh parvane aur
kahan jayen.

Shri T. D. Verma, President of the Reception Committee, then read out a Welcome Address, during the course of which he said: "We all welcome you on this occasion, which is the first of its kind in Bahadurgarh. This function will go down into the annals of this City as being unique. Along with it will be remembered your names as the ones who came to us as representatives of Avatar Meher Baba, from far and near."

At 7 P.M., Professor V. K. R. V. Rao, Minister of Transport and Shipping, Government of India, rose to garland Baba's picture. In his inaugural address the learned speaker said, "It is my good fortune to come here in this function. I have been hearing about Avatar Meher Baba, but have had no chance to see Him. I have got an oppor-

tunity for the first time to address such a large gathering of His devotees. That all of you have come here, shows that Avatar Meher Baba has His love for you. People expect that He should speak. But He does not. He has been Silent for 42 years. He is known all over the world and people all over the world are devoted to Him. Does Silence give that Power? I ask. What is His Silence going to do for humanity? The answer is in the Gita. In His Sermon on Yoga of Sovereignty in the Lord's Song, Krishna says that He is Mouna—Silence." He described Avatar Meher Baba as Mouni Avatar, who had that inherent Power to undertake such a long Silence. Stressing on the significance of Silence, he exhorted the audience to follow the teachings of Avatar Meher Baba. As he concluded, Shri T. D. Verma presented him a framed photograph of Baba. Professor V. K. R. V. Rao then presented four framed pictures of Baba to the President and members of the Reception Committee and the Secretary of the Mahabir Mandir Committee, on behalf of the Avatar Meher Baba Delhi Centre.

Sardar Amar Sing Saigal, M.P., recited the Parvardigar Prayer. This was followed by a telegraphic message received from Meherazad and read out by Shri T. D. Verma, conveying Baba's love blessings to those present. "Bolo Bolo Meher Bolo Bhai" was then sung by the Meher Singing Group amidst pin drop silence.

Group Captain M. M. Sakhare spoke on the Unique Silence of Avatar Meher Baba. In a brief but very lucid interpretation he explained the significance of silence, how Baba had been observing it continuously since 10th July 1925 to awaken humanity to the need for universal brotherhood. He told the audience that the entire Creation had emanated in Silence from one Om-Point and the world would get permanent peace when Baba spoke the Word of Words. A Qawaali "Dar peh Meher ke jake pagle kiya hai mangta" followed this speech.

Shri W. D. Kain then recited the Repentance Prayer. Summing up the proceedings on behalf of the president, Shri M. M. Aggarwal said, "Baba does His own Universal Work and in order to do that He has to endure untold suffering. We should therefore hold on to His Daaman. This alone would be instrumental in lessening His burden of suffering. We shall also thereby overcome the present difficulties in this age of chaos and conflict. The Scriptures had all along foretold the coming of the Incarnation of God. He has already come. But we should be able to recognize Him." Quoting from Ramayana, he said, "Avatar comes bound by the love of His devotees. So has Meher Baba come. Fortunate are the citizens of Bahadurgarh who have organised such a grand function, the like of which has never been witnessed in the North."

The Arti was then sung at 8-20 p.m. A special Film Show comprising of religious pictures was then released by the Social & Cultural Audio-Visual Society of New Delhi, in the name of Avatar Meher Baba. As Prasad was being distributed, dinner was laid for all the lovers of Baba and others who had come from far and near.

The All India Radio, which had recorded the proceedings, relayed the programme at 10-40 P.M. from the Delhi Station on Tuesday the 22nd August 1967, thereby making it possible for millions of Baba lovers and admirers all over the country to partake of this sumptuous feast of Baba's Love.

BELOVED AVATAR MEHER BABA "THE MIGHTY SOUND MAGICIAN"

from SHEELA DEWAN, B. A., ROORKEE

The Avatar Meher Baba Centre, Roorkee (U.P.) was inaugurated in June 1967 with Beloved Baba's love-blessings. The Centre is now located at No. 10-A, Civil Lines, Roorkee, the residence of the late Dr. Ram Narain, my father; and I am its servant at present.

To our dear and revered elder brother A. C. S. Chari, Advocate (Calcutta) goes the credit of taking the initiative and enthusing this infant Centre with all guidance, help and encouragement.

The first public function was arranged at the Centre on Sunday 30th July, 1967. A good number of Baba-lovers of Dehra Dun (U.P.) graciously undertook in the forenoon of that day a special trip to visit this infant Centre and to enthuse it with "Sankirtan" and speeches, for nearly five hours. The local people of Roorkee assembled in large numbers and it was a special gathering in which the majority were ladies. It made us all feel that Roorkee and Dehra Dun Baba-Centres were parts of each other, and that all Baba-lovers, wherever they be and whoever they be, form one family, or one Universal brotherhood sisterhood.

The impressive "Sankirtan" led by our Sister Prakashwathi and her talented associates was a memorable success. It flourished in a manner quite amazing and undreamt of before. It was held in the hall which had in the past been surcharged with spirituality in my father's life time with prayers and "sankirtans". In the space of a

few hours, Sister Prakashwathi dramatically focussed the consciousness of the audience on Baba. The love she and her associates have for Beloved Baba is unique and she showed how one should stand firmly and courageously before the whole world with the conviction that **Meher Baba is God in human form living amidst us**. Her "Kirtan" spurted up fountains of joy, here and there catching sparks of Light.

What was more marvellous was that in the midst of all this music, Baba Himself was the rapturous "Mighty Sound Magician of Limitless Sea", waving some mysterious magic wand and enabling everyone of the gathering to throw the searchlight upon our inner selves. He fills the plot in such a manner that we could not but exclaim how greatly it is all planned! That Mighty Hero—"Sound Magician"—made us all feel united as one in HIS LOVE. It was Baba alone—and none else—who moulded a new type of Love on a magnificent scale and elevated the gathering to ecstatic heights.

The wonderful large-size picture of Meher Baba installed at the Roorkee Centre was originally in 1965 the gift of Meelan Photo Studio, Poona, to the Calcutta Baba-lovers, surcharged by Beloved Baba's magnetic touch and thereafter, enriched by the unbroken currents of intense Baba-love and devotion of Baba-lovers of Calcutta for over two years (1965 - 1967) and gifted to the Roorkee Baba Centre. The gathering felt spell-bound at worshipping God Meher Baba who was **living** in this picture and they felt that Baba personally was giving them guidance, concentration, clear understanding, parental support and spiritual satisfaction. Amidst the celestial music of the "Sankirtan"-party, and the Light that shone out brightly, the said Baba's picture was also a flower blooming in the hearts of each and everyone of the audience. The lovely radiance was such that one is impelled to share it with others—one cannot keep it all hidden within, or to oneself.

The effect of the "Sankirtan" became all the more tremendous, because of the fine and impressive speeches made by seasoned Baba-lovers and workers, viz. Brothers Kishan Singh, Balkishan and others. The recitation of "Meher Chalisa" by another seasoned Baba-lover touched everybody's heart. Brother Kishan Singh's speech was masterly in which philosophy, logic and Divine Love were finely blended. It was also full of interesting facts about Baba. Immense gratitude is felt for the love of our beloved Raja Saheb Sahanpur and Rani Saheba Sahanpur who organised the trip and attendance of lovers from Dehra Dun for the function. His thrilling speech on the Avatarhood of Baba interspersed with the charming recitations of his own poetic compositions as homage to "THE HIGHEST OF THE HIGH" elevated the entire audience to a very high level of consciousness. The audience including the children maintained throughout pin drop silence.

The celebration was concluded with flower-offering and singing of Arti by child Meher Kamal and distribution of "prasad" by Brother Balkishan.

The whole atmosphere of that day's gathering was wrought up into some beautiful morality and can be stated thus: A spray could not tremble in the breeze; a leaf could not rustle in the ground; a diamond could not patter in the stream; a fragrance could not exhale from the humble violet, nor a rose unfold its rosy tints to the morning Sun—IT WAS ALL BELOVED MEHER BABA!!!

A lady in the audience—a spiritually advanced soul—saw my late father Dr. Ram Narain appearing and offering a bunch of roses on that occasion before Beloved Baba's feet. This was a great miracle, since he was in his lifetime such a lover of flowers that he felt pain if anyone plucked flowers and he would not allow anybody

to pluck flowers even for offering to God. (He passed away on 25th June 1966 without having physical darshan of Baba.)

Though my sisters and I have not so far had the good fortune of Baba's physical "darshan", we have experienced His Love and Grace and miraculous workings in our family. He is now our Path-Maker who paves the way of our life. By Brother A. C. S. Chari's suggestion, I have joyfully undertaken to do Baba's work in this Roorkee Centre. Beloved Baba would help me to fulfil my bounden duty in this effort, I put everything in Baba's hands and I work my head off and He would not fail to help me. I take pleasure and pride in being given an opportunity to share Baba-love, to participate in Baba-work and to learn from Baba-lovers; and these keep me and my sisters warmhearted and cheerful.

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NEWS LETTER

From Evelyn Blackshaw, California, U.S. A.

August 28, 1967

Up here at Filis' for the monthly Baba meeting on Sunday last. A huge success. About 25 people, all of them young. Rick Chapman was here and spoke to them, Allen Cohen was busy elsewhere taping the interview (also for Baba).

Things are speeding up at such a pace, my middle-aged head is whirling! These wonderful young men are really getting things going. Baba-love Ki Jai!

Nicky Lamprino somehow made the connections and the two boys have been on radio interviews and will be on T.V. Tuesday night. I feel as if Baba has suddenly turned the "Juice" on and everything is lighting up.

Filis and I stayed up until 2 A.M. listening to Rick on one program where people phone in and talk. After he spoke quite a number of people phoned in to ask questions.

Tonight is the Tuesday of the T.V. program and Filis and I and Elsie will stay up again and watch it.

Filis is speaking to a group at the YMCA tonight early, showing her slides and talking about Baba.

I am overwhelmed with awe and amazement at what is going on. Filis is right, us oldsters are stuck in our ways, it takes the young people to get things going.

There was a wonderful young Spanish, rather Apache Indian singer here on Sunday, and as Rick had played the wonderful Bhajans from India, this boy sang a number of songs in Spanish and dedicated them to Baba, all songs of love, so beautiful. I hope Baba dear heard them.

(Continued from 2nd cover page)

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