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**September 1969**

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**Monthly:**

**September 1969**

**Baba Lovers' and Workers' Convention  
Special Issue**

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

**( DIVINE VOICE )**

*Editor:*

**SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN**

**"The Meher Vihar Trust"**

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SEPTEMBER 1969

# D I V Y A   V A N I

( DIVINE VOICE )

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Devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His Work

*E d i t o r :*

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# CONTENTS

	PAGE
1. Editorial	1
2. News from Meherazad	9
3. Messages for the All-India Convention of Baba-Lovers and Workers	29
The 6th Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust, Rajahmundry	36
The All-India Convention of Meher Baba Lovers and Workers - Resolutions Adopted and Passed unanimously	52
Names Suggested, in the First Instance, of the Governing Body	57
Universal Centre – Bro. Eruch's Letter to Bro. Adi	59



AVATAR MEHER BABA

*Editorial:*

## **AN APPEAL FOR A REALISTIC APPROACH**

The Great Event of dropping of His body by our Beloved Baba, The Avatar of the Age, took place on the 31st of January 1969. It is nearly past eight months since then and many more events in sequence have followed up after that, as the wheel of time rolled on with unending speed and unnoticed Divine purpose. Before He dropped His body, our Compassionate Father has given us ample time and enough of warnings to us all, His Lovers and Workers, out of His Love for us. We could not take proper heed of them and keep ourselves ready to do our duty then and thereafter. It has stunned many of us and many disbelieved the news at the outset, though gradually they could know the fact and feel disappointed and depressed. Some could not recover from the shock as yet. Because of our wishful thinking, we could not at all anticipate His sudden departure so soon from us physically and we feel bewildered and bereaved, not knowing what to do thereafter. Even though we were told by Him, that He was undergoing crucifixion every moment of His life for the sake of us, the humanity, out of our ignorant attachment for His physical body and out of our selfish possessive-love, we were craving even unto the last moment, for His earthly presence so as to give us the benefit of His Divine Company at our level of



human experience and understanding. He spoke to us many a time of the hovering of the 'dark cloud' and told us in unequivocal terms that the time was fast approaching. He warned us of our complacency and alerted us about the need to prepare for our selves, to receive His Grace by keeping our hold firmly on His 'Daaman' He has affirmed, in time and out of time, that He is God in human form and that He may remove this coat which he wore so that we can identify Him, when it is time for Him to leave us and go. At "Guru Prasad" during His Darshan period, as long ago as in 1962, He declared us as majors and no more mere children and asked us to be prepared to manage our own affairs, for the time for Him to go was fast approaching. He has assured us many a time, that His permanent Abode is within our own hearts and the need for us to find Him Really is, to search within and NOT in the outer world of illusion. He has trained us to be away physically from Him and yet be near Him by thinking constantly about Him, while He extended His seclusion, time and on, with promises of His Real Darshan—"somewhere, some time and some how." He declared openly and in clear terms that He completed His Work 100 percent satisfactorily to Himself and that He is tired of this illusion game. He told us that the period of His seclusion was over and that it is time for His 'Exclusion' and that the time for 'Inclusion' is soon to come. He prepared us all, to possible extent, to keep us aloof. Thereafter, we found Him stepping out of seclusion and gradually excluding Himself from all other activities and from us all, including the near and dear Mandali, quickly receding and with-drawing himself into Himself, in a

most miraculous way, not being noticed even by the nearest and dearest of the Mandali and finally dropped out of our hands, but remained more firmly in our hearts, because He loved us more than we could ever love Him and out of His Compassion for us who feel orphaned, at this critical and confused state of stupefied inaction.

After the Great Event, it was announced by Brother Adi Irani, the chosen disciple and Secretary of Beloved Baba communicating to all Baba-lovers and workers all over the world, that "Avatar Meher Baba dropped His Physical body at twelve noon on 31st January at Meherazad TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE HEARTS of all His lovers ..." This was followed up by His Unique Darshan for seven days, continually at Meherabad-tomb. It was a miracle of miracles, how His Divine Presence was felt by one and all of His lovers who were drawn there from all corners of the world and were given the opportunity to have His last physical Darshan. It was astonishing how Beloved Baba's body remained for those seven days without losing its rosy luster and the brilliance of His face with its charm of an inimitable smile as ever; but His Compassion for us could make any thing possible, more so has it given entire satisfaction to the hearts of those who were longing more for His physical proximity, like the child who could not part with its doll. He gave us the opportunity to share the Nectar of His Divine Love with the rest of His Family, who could reach there during this memorable week. It miraculously demonstrated to our very eyes, how very fortunate were those earnest souls who had come all the way to pay their last homage to the garment of our Beloved Lord, least

caring for the long distances they had to travel, undertaking such expensive journeys, bearing many an inconvenience through out.

Before long, another opportunity within a period of three months was granted by our Beloved Master. It was announced by Him six months prior to this, that He would give His Darshan to all His Lovers old and new, at 'Guru Prasad' Poona, for two months, from 10th April to 10th June and accordingly invitations were issued under His instructions. He told us that this 'Darshan' would be "Darshan of Darshans", a "Real Darshan" to His Lovers, new and old—to His lovers alone and NOT to the public. He assured us that only His lovers would be attending and not others. Soon after the Great Event, He did not allow us any respite, nor time for other diversions, but every one was engaged with preparations for this Real 'Darshan,' a Darshan of the Avatar of the Age, who was pleased to extend an invitation before leaving His body but fulfilled the same after that "Event". Never in the annals of history, or of Puranic periods has ever such a thing happened and this is indeed something Great that has never happened. It was indeed the greatest of fortunes for those who shared the Love-feast, so benevolently granted to all the real seekers of His Real "Darshan" and whose hearts were so thirsty for the Nectar of His Love which could quench their longings, More than any thing, it was another miracle, how hundreds of Westerners and Easterners, mostly those of new youngsters were drawn there, knowing full well that Beloved Baba had dropped His body. For many of them, it was the first visit to Baba and to "Guruprasad" too. It was an experience beyond words, how during this period of two long months "Guruprasad" and its vicinities

were so much surcharged with Beloved's Love, that the of the echoes of the hearts of the lovers are still reverberating in the ears of the People of Poona, as Sister Mani has aptly described in her last Family Letter. True it is perhaps, that the new lovers of the Western Groups had the greatest part in this Love-game of our Beloved Lord, for their hearts could be so receptive and their minds are so open indeed.

It will be very much interesting to go through the latest Family Letter which Sister Mani has been pleased to issue and indeed it is as fascinating as it is realistic. This appears elsewhere in this issue for the benefit of our dear readers, who may be pleased to share its melodies and memories of head and heart, with an earnestness of deep-rooted longing to imbibe His elevating love and inspiring introspection. It can be noted from the reports, from various parts of the world—and mostly abroad, that Beloved Baba's Manifestation has started and everywhere people have been recognising the God-Man's Love for humanity and its impact on them. His Work is being carried on miraculously all over, while we are yet in a state of insipid perplexity, getting into infinite inactivity, leaving every thing to Baba, for He alone DOES His Work. This is indeed wonderful and surely He does NOT wait for us to do His Work. But the question will be where are we? and whither are we drifting?— from melancholy to moroseness, and from sorrowfulness to sluggishness, shifting the burden of our responsibility and postponing our duty to eternity. We are afraid, that what ever be our contacts of life and love with our Beloved Master, if the present state of affairs is allowed to stay, it may be too late when we realise that we have drifted from His Way of Life and it may be too late to find our grip over His "Daaman" slipped away. The trust reposed by our Beloved in us, for

doing His Work and our promises to Him of our Dedication and Surrender, will find a different meaning and it will be that people who are awaiting for our guidance and direction have to go their way, what ever be our interpretations of Real Work and our responsibilities therein. We therefore, with due regards to all big and small, veterans and new comers into the Baba-fold, take liberty to make an appeal to have a realistic approach to the present problems of Baba-Work and stick on to our duty in spreading His Message of Love and Truth and to take a decisive step with courage and get into active field so as to carry the banner of our Beloved Master to all corners of the world and to spread His Name and Message like wild fire, throughout the World.

Now, at this critical juncture, it occurred to a few workers that it was their ardent duty to gather those who feel alike and agree to put their efforts together in the field of Baba-work, with the common object of self-purification and earnest endeavour for an united effort in the Cause of Beloved Baba and strive to live the life of One United Baba-family, so as to infuse confidence in themselves and in others who may long to co-operate with them, out of love for Baba and His way of life. With this humble but decisive view, they have ventured to call for a Convention of Baba-lovers and workers, so as to discuss and formulate the future course of action in the field of Baba-work, in the East or in the West. Invitations and letters for suggestions were duly issued on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust at Rajahmundry (A.P. India) to as many as possible. We are happy that Bro. Adi K. Irani, the chosen Disciple and former Secretary of Avatar Meher

Baba has been kind enough to preside and inaugurate the Convention which took place on the 24th and 25th of August last. It is gratifying to note that many prominent lovers and workers from all over India have been good enough to participate in the deliberations of this unique Convention, while some have sent in their good wishes and valuable suggestions, which were very useful to take final decisions in this Convention. We are glad to note that a few of the Westerners also have sent their good-wishes and kind suggestions. A full report of the whole proceedings along with the resolutions passed unanimously in the Convention is published elsewhere in this issue for the benefit of our dear readers to have a comprehensive view of the whole picture and to be useful for their own guidance in their future course of action.

The urgent need for the immediate formation of a Universal Centre is felt unanimously, to work earnestly for bringing about closeness among the groups and centres that are functioning in the Cause of the Avatar, through out the world, so that harmony and good-will may continue to prevail and proper guidance and help needed may be awarded. It is a matter of gratification that Bro. Adi. K. Irani has been chosen unanimously by the Convention as the Secretary-General of this AVATAR MEHER BABA UNIVERSAL CENTRE and a representative Governing Body was also chosen from prominent lovers all over the world, so as to help the Secretary General in his arduous work. It was also felt necessary that this Association shall be Registered in due course and its Head Quarters shall be at AHMEDNAGAR, India.

All this amounts to setting up of a new organisation of Lovers and Workers of Beloved Baba, for it is found necessary

NOW, after the dropping of His body by Beloved Baba, without appointing any sort of a successor or a guide for the future course of action in the field of Baba-work and its coordinated effort therefore. There may be some, who genuinely feel not interested in the formation of this type of organisation, but it is for those who earnestly feel its necessity that have to come together under the auspices of this Universal Centre and work with sincerity, humility and unity. We fervently hope that serious thought and proper attention will be given by all Baba-lovers and workers, every where, to this appeal of ours and active support will be accorded to, in every way, to strengthen this institution, which stands for mutual coordination and understanding for developing unity of action and purity of love, so as to make Baba-family a living truth, which becomes the basis for the New Humanity.

We earnestly pray that Beloved Baba be pleased to bestow on us the courage and strength of mind and heart to act up to our ideals and work for His Cause in all sincerity and humility. We beseech every lover and worker in Baba's Cause to add their love and lead this endeavour to a success in working for the Cause of our Beloved Master, which is dear to us all, so as to keep our hold firm on His "Daaman" till the last breath of our lives. May He be ever with us in our hearts to keep them pure and simple, so as to fill them with the Nectar of His Love Divine and bless us all to be worthy children of our Compassionate Parent, Meher Baba !

Jai ! Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai ! !

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# NEWS FROM MEHERAZAD

FROM MANI

26th August 1969

JAI BABA to you from all your brothers and sisters at Meherazad. We returned from Poona on July 1, as we have done each year with Baba. And I am writing to you dear ones, as I have been doing each time on our return, but I find it is not the same. To write an account of what has most occupied our days and hearts, means to make a word picture of the indescribable Darshan—and what word colours can paint that Master-piece, what can I recount that you yourselves have not experienced or shared from personal accounts? At best I can make it a chat, a thinking aloud, a reminiscing on behalf of dear Mehera, all men and women Mandali, lovers, workers, volunteers—each of us who was privileged to share with many of you the Beloved's darshan given on His terms, at the time and place appointed by Him: Guruprasad, Poona, from 10th April to 10th June 1969. It goes out to every one of you who was at the Darshan in heart, for not all could be present in person. Some could not make it due to binding commitments or ill health or lack of funds; some sacrificed their coming so as to make it possible for others—these too have deeply shared in the Darshan. And some had planned to come and could have come, but missed their appointment with God—this too is surely His Will.

You who came, honouring God-Man's invitation, accepting His terms without knowing what they were, not



expecting anything or not knowing what to expect, you received more than you could contain. That which you received, we saw it flow over from your eyes reflecting His beloved image. We heard it flow over from your lips making His Name resound wherever you went. In buses, on your way to Baba places, at railway stations, at aerodromes, wherever you started from and wherever you got down, your cries of AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI rang out His victory! Never had Poona such plentiful showers of His Name, never had such numbers of visitors from foreign lands poured into its hotels at a time—and in the middle of summer too, when foreign residents usually leave to seek the cool air of hill-stations! Your call of 'Jai Baba' wherever and whenever you greeted a lover, on or across the streets and in shops or hotels, was so familiar to hotel staff and taxi drivers and shop keepers and railway porters that they refer to you as the JAI BABAS. To the glorious history of Guruprasad you added a unique chapter. It made its gracious owner, Maharani Shantadevi who never missed a darshan held there in the past, remark to Mehera at parting: "Baba did not let His lovers down. This was indeed a Darshan of Darshans!"

From the first day, when over 200 of you came from the west coast of U.S.A., you set the tone and tempo that made the Darshan months an unbroken symphony. Morning after morning when you arrived to keep your date with God, our hearts thrilled to see the long line of buses and cars bringing you through the gates and down the driveway of Guruprasad amidst your thunderous cries of AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI! Sweet music of His Name that pierced our hearts every time we heard it, that soaked into the very walls and lofty ceiling of Guruprasad Hall which you filled each day. That His Presence was so powerfully felt by you and us, that our Beloved gave so much of Himself during those two months, remains an experience that only His Silence can contain. Shallow word-platters cannot

hold it. Just as one of you said in your letter after Darshan, "I am striving to write the unwritable; because it is not possible to say what Love I was the receiver of".

Nor is it possible for the receivers to fully realize it, not yet. Parched tree-beds thirsting for water, you were filled with His grace-rain and sparkled in the sunshine of His Darshan. And your hearts said in wonder and in fear "This cannot be true! Oh, will it last?" On the surface it cannot last, if it is to be lasting. The water is for the roots. It must soak deep into the earth to reach the heart of the tree, for its beauty to be made known to all men by the strength of its limbs and the richness of its leaves, by the fragrance of its flowers and the sweetness of its fruits. For this the Divine Gardener prepares the beds. He labours to make the hardened earth receptive, hoeing it thoroughly with the prongs of His Compassion. It hurts at the time and we cry out in pain. but He suffers it for our sakes, He allows us to endure it in the knowledge that nothing endures except His Love.

Men, Women, Children, you represented His family in miniature; a model that He created for building of the World Baba Family. You came from many lands across oceans; you came by charter flights, group flights independently, by ship, over land, and hitch-hiking. Blessed is every country whence His lovers came from and returned to, even when it was a single lover. Our record file shows the overseas countries and the numbers of lovers coming from them, as follows:

U.S.A. : 562, Australia: 47, England: 17, France: 4, Switzerland : 2, Germany : 2, Lebanon : 2, Israel : 1, Hawaii: 3, Hong Kong: 1, Taiwan: 1, So. Korea: 1, Philippines : 2, Africa : 3, Iran : 10, Pakistan : 37. TOTAL : 695. (Men : 349, Women : 320, Children : 26.)

Rivers and streams answering the Ocean's call, you crossed much rough ground and rocky obstacles to bring yourselves to Him. For many of you an impassable mountain was the problem of money, as few could afford the expense of such a distant journey. You scrimped and save and toiled arduously; you borrowed, to work harder on your return and repay the loans; you sold whatever you possibly or impossibly could, sometimes the very means of your livelihood! You came to Poona to return straight home. Your trip to the Ancient One promised no glamour of India's ancient features. You did not come to see such wondrous things as the Taj Mahal or the Golden Temple or the Himalayas—the wonder of Baba's Love engulfed them all. Your sight was trained on Guruprasad where your Beloved was awaiting you, as He said He would be. Your sightseeing was Baba-places in Poona, Meherazad, Meherabad, Ahmednagar. You denied yourselves many a shopping temptation in order to spend more on books and photos and lockets of Baba, and to contribute towards the Avatar Meher Baba Trust (Ahmednagar). You learnt and sang Baba-bhajans. To sing out His Message in more and more forms of music, you took with you so many Indian instruments—sitar, tabla, dholak, bells, flutes—that the music shops in Poona ran out of stock, and one owner said he did four years' business in two months! Over sixty sitars accompanied the 156 lovers on the last charter flight; and when a volunteer expressed concern over the problem of space, the answer was "There's always room for more music!"

Beloved Baba told you not to bring Him gifts. The time for toy-gifts was over, now nothing less than the gift of your self would do for the Highest of the High. Being rich in His Love, you brought Him the offering that He had gifted to you. You brought Him your heart filled with His Name, pouring it out to Him in song and poetry, touching His heart that He opened for you, bathing His

feet with your tears of love, winning His smile with your performances. You entertained Him superbly with plays of spiritual content and wondrous humour, with musical concerts and puppet shows, with delightful skits and jokes. We heard many instruments play *Begin the Beguine*, many voices sing the *Arti* in English.\* You brought all kinds of instruments with you to regale Him with music: guitar, violin, banjo, flute, recorder, trombone, saxophone. Although there was not much room for words in your hearts and ours, how beautifully you spoke of His Love in the language of music, the language that helps to make His Silence heard!

We thank our Beloved for His gift of the Family.  
We bow down to His Love for you.  
We bow down to your love for Him.

At this banquet which the Beloved had spread for the Family homecoming, He surprised us with all manner of gifts. At His table we saw the perfect merging of all shades of religion and colour. To see his Family contain equally as many Christians as Jews, to see His beauty shine equally from a dark or fair face, was to see the oneness of Baba's Love which never asks for uniformity—it asks only for unity. Over and over Baba had said that this *Darshan* was to be only for His lovers, old and new. It was not for strangers. So it was in fact, as it was figuratively. The lovers appeared to have no room in their hearts for any 'strangers' that had been there before. These strangers that our Beloved shies from, got drowned in a drop of His wine. At His table we witnessed the miracle of words coming to life. 'Family' became a reality; 'Darshan' an experience. We of the Mandali who had taken part in many a darshan without being part of it, we found ourselves having His darshan a thousand times over—receiving it with each lover who knelt before the Chair on

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\* Composed by Henry S. Mindlin (U.S.A.)

which God's man-form had sat to receive thousands in the past, with each dear head that bowed in adoration or obeisance at the feet of the Unseen Beloved. In you younger ones, His "Boys and Girls" who formed the main body of this gathering, in you we heard the first strains of His 'New Life' song. From His Ocean you brought to us a breath of the New Humanity which will awaken a dead world to His Life. You who carried His Message from heart to heart and land to land, who did not see His Man-form because of your complete obedience to His command to wait till He called, of you Baba often spoke with the glowing pride of a Father and the touching love of a Mother. By making Baba's pleasure your treasure, you made Him say of you: "They who sacrifice their longing to obedience of my word, they will receive the more." To us it seems that already you received more, else you would not be the stalwart Message-bearers. He chose you to be and come for your first darshan of Him after He dropped the Form you had waited to see! "All merciful and eternally benevolent", our Beloved is indeed as bountiful as He is beautiful.

This Darshan was "darshan of darshans" as much for the eighty percent who had not seen or embraced the God-Man's form, as it was for the rest of you who had done so. Heart-language made this glowingly evident, tongue-language attested to it. We overheard a twelve year old girl who was here for her first darshan, happy eyes shining through a veil of tears, telling herself in an intense whisper "Am I glad I came, Oh boy am I glad!!" A young couple said to us at parting "Baba has dipped us in such divine colours, we will never be the same again!" And an old-timer, a doctor who came with his family from the U.S.A., remarked more than once "Had I not come, it would have been the saddest mistake of my life!" Again and again we heard the joyous refrain, in different words, from different lips, in the voice of the 'new' and the 'old'. Though most

of you were of the New Age, many ages from 7 to 99 were represented. There were a number of children and there would have been more if Baba had not restricted their age to 7. Actually however, there were more—but not visibly. By far the youngest of all, these invisible lovers came in their mothers' wombs—and each group was blessed with several of them. The oldest among you was Baba's courageous "soldier" from Myrtle Beach Centre, Ruth White who celebrated her 100th birthday a few days after the Darshan! We salute you dear Ruth in beloved Baba's Love, loyally you have served the Cause of your Master. A hundred times JAI BABA to you!

Addressing you all on your arrival in Guruprasad, Francis faithfully expressed the Mandali's feelings when he spoke these lines:

"Who but the Beloved of Beloveds, could speak his Word silently in your hearts and make you come from across the world to take his darshan, to bow down to him in your hearts? Such a thing has never happened before. I have been at Mass-darshans where tens of thousands came and bowed down to his Man-form. But to come thousands of miles to bow down to him in one's own heart, that is of an entirely different order of devotion.

"Why was beloved Baba given you people this extraordinary privilege? Because he required a few to do what the many, what everyone, must eventually do: journey across the world of illusion to take darshan of him in their hearts. What a Beloved is our Beloved; what a mighty Beloved."

You had the Beloved's darshan. And you had His sahavas, seated for hours before Him in Guruprasad, communing with Him in silence and in speech. Often you crowded the Hall, yet you were never a crowd to us. It

was not a sea of faces we saw, but so many shining drops in His Ocean. Every face we dearly remember, and every name we know, but were not always able to put the right two together! This makes us wish we had asked you each to leave with us a photograph of yourself (a spare passport picture perhaps), to cherish along with Darshan thoughts and feelings that you left for us in the Pink Book—so called because of its Pink sheets that have captured some of your heart-rays from His Love-sun. In the privacy of an unoccupied hour, one or the other of the mandali opens it and basks in the warmth of these rays which melt the illusion of separation and reveal His abiding presence. Where reams could not express the Darshan your lines have done it, and I'm tempted to steal some for this letter. But it's impossible to choose from so much beauty, so I've picked these few passages some-what at random (quoting without giving names):

To say we received Baba's Love is the least we can say. I can't imagine any of us, the new lovers, even those fortunate ones who had been with Baba before, having any idea what Baba's Darshan would be like. It was enough to drown even the best swimmer!

The memory of the past five days will live with me for the next 700 years!

I really feel that now I actually know that Meher Baba is love. To travel half way round this gross globe to be with you Baba, has filled my heart with love of you Beloved Baba and the Mandali and the whole world.

Dear Baba, thank you for showing your true self, that of love. Without your physical form, all I can see is your Love. Before visiting you in Poona it was all words, now it is living Baba, not just talking Baba.

Baba said He would be very strong during Darshan. His weight of Love and mercy descended on me,

shattering in a short time the wall I built around my soul.  
He loves us very much.

By His grace through many lives I am once again at my Blessed Master's feet, caressed by His touch, breathing the roses of His presence. His perfume is everywhere. Never did I suspect that Baba, not in his physical form, would have such a tremendous impact on me!

You my Meher Baba, are *truly* Love itself.

This Darshan has made me feel Baba as I have never felt Him before. His Love, His Glory, His suffering and Bliss, His Humour, and more; but most of all His Love. We return with a most precious treasure to be shared with those who could not come, that they too may have Meher Baba's Darshan in their own hearts.

At Darshan I began to feel the Beloved's personal special humanness, through all of you. Before He was overpoweringly God and Christ; now He is infinitely more, being our beautiful Baba, the man, our friend. Every day He is more God, more a 'mighty Beloved'... .. and every day more Man, more specially Meher Baba. I remember on the third day of Darshan, Baba was so close and full of love that every time I heard His Name or saw His picture I just cried, it was so incredible—for He is the only One, the only one in my life, and He has come and let us know of Him .....

Beloved Baba, my Truth and Beauty, ..... We came thinking to say Farewell, but found ourselves saying Hail! for there You were shining from every radiant face.....

I have received all I had expected; moreover, I received more and more as, through all the wonderful experiences, I grew more and more. In fact I see no end in sight to the growing and receiving!



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You Beloved Baba, for fulfilling Your great promise: 'sometime, somewhere, somehow'... It is one's heart that recognizes the Divine Beloved and not the mind. There is nothing to figure out; only to experience. Divine Love is Divine Humour. Meher Baba is greater than God.

We had to come here to know that God is EVERY-WHERE—Avatar Meher Baba ki jai!

Meher Baba has kept His promise; he has given me more than I have asked for. Meher Baba has given me a deep inner conviction that he is God, and a feeling of contented peace that has made it possible to fulfil his command: Don't worry. My concept of Avatar Meher Baba: Baba is all that he claims to be. In the measurable future the universe will bow to him as the Deliverer from the world of dreams.

He is called Avatar and God of which I do not know. But if God was to come to Earth for his children I think BABA would fit the bill. If BABA is God, then God must be quite a guy..... Meher is Compassion. BABA is CHRIST, MOHAMMED, BUDDHA. ZOROASTER, RAMA, KRISHNA. But most of all, he is Baba. Baba is a person who will take one by the hand and lead him to his very own self.

Beloved Baba's universal work is totally beyond me. But the effect of His working, awakening of the Heart, is already evident in the conviction of many many young people who have had no physical contact with Him. This magnificent Darsan of Beloved Baba's revealed the beginnings of His only real miracle.

Dear Beloved One, ..... I visited your side in your Meherabad tomb and in your immortal Guruprasad, not in grief or sorrow that you chose to leave me

behind but in love and adoration that I have been loved by the God of Gods in earth-life. I will wait for you dear Baba. I will wait for union with you the Great Love in human form and beyond all forms. You are the only one worthy of love. I offer myself to you. Come dear Lord when your sweet will wishes.

On the pink sheets and in your letters that followed, you also express such dear praise for all that you received from us at this Darshan. And it makes us wonder if you will ever know what we received from you! What it meant to us to be with you in the Beloved's overwhelming presence—to see Him in your eyes, to embrace Him in your arms, to mingle our love's tears and laughter with yours, to welcome Him in you! You brought Baba with you and He was already here to receive you, you took Him with you and He is as ever with us—such is the profound God—humour that makes life's joke bearable. We remember teasing you for taking so much of Baba with you, telling some of you at parting "Isn't it lucky Baba is the Ocean, or we'd have little left of Him to hold to us!"

A heartful of Ocean is a tremendous thing to carry, and with it one carries a responsibility as big. When beloved Baba told you to go back after Darshan without sight-seeing on the way, He entrusted you with taking His Love as direct as possible to the shores it was destined for. "Use us Baba, use us in whatever way you use us" one of you said in a poem to Him. Using you as precious receptacles to carry His Love to various specific points, Baba was sending out His 'Prasad' to the world in general. That prasad which is as inexhaustible as it is invisible, He gave to you to have and to hold and to share—to give to whomever you can, wherever you are. That you are doing your part, true to the trust the Beloved has reposed in all His lovers, is clear in letters received after Darshan.

And that He always helps you to do it even does it Himself without your knowing, is clear in lines such as these (from different lovers):

"It is incredible how souls who are previously uncon-scious of Baba or unready to hear of Him, have opened up since our return from the unparalleled Darshan!"

" There is now a readiness to hear of the Beloved, a desire to know more about Him, that is beyond belief.

"Baba is having people jump out of the woodwork seeking information about His Avatarhood!"

"It is amazing how beloved Baba is opening doors, and wonderful how He often works without even using anyone!"

"Day by day His lovers grow in strength and number here."

So hungry were our hearts for Baba's nearness, that the Darshan fare we feasted on for a solid two months did not tire us. Daily we savoured the diverse forms of heart-worship offered to Him: in the mornings by His lovers from the West, in the after-noons by His lovers from the East. Only the forms varied, the substance of course was the same. Love cannot be different when the Beloved is the same One and Only.

Although countwise the Eastern darshanees were at times disappointing, lovewise they often added up so high that small pools of lovers appeared as big lakes—such as the groups from Kanpur, Dehra Dun, Nizamabad, Gujerat. The lovers from Hamirpur district and Andhra state made us realize once more why Baba spoke of them with such love, calling them His "heart and head." They filled and overfilled Guruprasad on appointed days. They came by special train, and they came crammed in special buses that carried Baba's picture and Name on the outside and His

seven-coloured flag on top. The women brought their little ones with them, including babies just a month old. The children's voices were loudest when Baba-bhajans were sung, and babes in arms sometimes joined in with their gusty cries. At one time even a bark joined in, for an Andhraite lover had brought along her pet dog, a pretty white pomeranian, "for Baba's darsan!"

The five hundred lovers that were to come by special train from Guntur district (state of Andhra) for darshan on 21st May, could not do so because of floods that breached rail tracks, broke down bridges, and made roads impassable for weeks. Finally about sixty of them managed to make it by bus on 10th June, the last day of Darshan. It seemed ironical that some from nearby places failed to come, while these lovers who were ready to travel such a greater distance were hindered by a whim of Nature—or so it seemed. The lovers of Guntur accepted it as the whim of their Beloved, His Will that rules their lives and they bowed to it.

The Eastern lovers entertained Baba invariably with songs, sometimes accompanying them with solo dances. Men danced with great fervour, intoxicated with the music of His Name. Women who by tradition would veil their faces, unveiled and danced gently for the Beloved. Groups of Indian lovers coming from many parts of India, sang the Beloved's praise and victory in many languages: Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Sanskrit, Persian, Urdu, Telugu. We had never before heard Baba's JAI sung in such a fascinating variety of compositions. It mattered little if one didn't understand the language, the theme of the songs was His Name and His Jai. The entire wording of a song, sung in a catchy tune, was simply 'Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai.', Another composition, born of His lovers in the north, was a conversation piece, a question-and-answer exchange between speaker and audience. A solo voice asking, and a stentorian chorus replying, it runs something like this:

"Who is the Avatar of the Age?" : "MEHER BABA"

"Who is the Protector of the poor  
and the weak?" : "MEHER BABA"

"Who is the Lord of the universe?" : "MEHER BABA"

"Who is the Beloved of our hearts?" : "MEHER BABA"

### AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI !!!

In November when Baba casually remarked to His mandali "In March you all march to Poona", it appeared no more than a delightful pun. Much later, when we asked ourselves whether Baba would want us to go to Guruprasad as usual, we realized that He had provided us with the answer. So on March 30 we 'marched' to Poona, our minds bare of expectation, our hearts a desert. Three months later when we left Poona, the desert had changed to a dazzling expanse of flowers which had sprung up in the merciful downpour of His Darshan—it had been a time of Spring for His many lovers, and we had shared in the miracle. Returning from Poona we saw its reflection in the earth around us: in the rain-saturated fields; in the newly born pasture; in the replenished wells; in the grass-covered Seclusion Hill where sheep graze; in the blossoming garden of Meherazad; in the waters of Pimpalgaon Lake reservoir overflowing its bank—a thing that had not happened since November of 1962 when the East-West gathering took place. And most of all we saw it in the transformation on Meherabad Hill: its sun-scorched surface is now a mantle of cool green, its trees and bushes which looked like spiky brooms are now dressed in rich brocade of leaf and flower. This resurrection seems to speak to us of the Beloved's life-giving grace which His children are to receive. This year's bounteous rain seems to symbolize the Beloved's bounty which is to flow into mankind's parched heart.

Now, back at Meherazad, I speak only for the Meherazad family. And first of all we want to say to you: All that has come to us in your letters, letters so filled with Love of Baba, so full of dear concern for our well-being, has gone deep into our hearts that hold you very close. That you have expected no letter in reply, at times even requesting us not to reply, is a measure of your love and understanding which makes us better aware of the depth of our relationship as Baba-Family. Not that we haven't always replied; the dove of Baba's Love has carried many a message to you on wings of silence! It is only the pen that is lazy or too heavy to lift. Moreover, time has not slackened its pressure. Baba is keeping us busy as ever—busy with household duties, and busiest with different aspects of work related directly to him. His holding the reins as tightly as ever, is one of the things which most reveals His presence. He reveals it in so many ways, And the more the Beloved's presence is revealed, the more we miss Him!

Beloved Baba's presence fills each part and particle of Meherazad. Every room where He sat or slept in, every piece of furniture that He used, every article of clothing that He wore, the paths and ground that He walked on, the trees and flowers that He admired, the birds that He inquired after in dear concern, the Hill where He sat in seclusion, the books that He enjoyed having read out, the records of songs which He liked to listen to on the old gramophone each object unveils His beloved presence. So it is not that we grieve for His absence from us, but for our separation from His form—the exquisite garment which wrapped our hearts so fully that we desired nothing else. God-realization was not our concern. Striving to realize God's Love expressed through the garment worn and suffered for His creation, was enough to occupy lifetimes. Since He has put aside His garment, we realize it more and more. His every act of grace and compassion that is

recalled, every form of His suffering that is remembered adds a little to our realizing it. Our growing realization of His Love is a large part of our pain of separation. Baba referred to His beloved Mehera as His 'Radha' and at times when her tears flow for Baba, her Lord Krishna, I remind her that this separation is but another tune played on His divine flute, for her life to dance to it as perfectly as it had done to the sweet music of His physical presence.

To have what one wants, is to have everything. To us, being with Baba was everything—and we had it. Staying with God and sharing His humanness was such completeness for us that it has left nothing besides to want for. We're not looking for any happenings to manifest. We are simply waiting—waiting for His Will to manifest in whatever forms He may choose, that we might keep on carrying it out with our imperfect obedience and His perfect grace. Many of you dear ones are doing this without having to wait, for you have not depended solely on His personal directions as we have. Seeing your service and obedience to your Beloved, independent of a sight or touch of the garment which clothed His Godhood, makes us realize that you have received from Him something which we lack—something we envy. We will have to labour to acquire that which He gave to you so freely, since He has 'taken the doll out of our hands, and now we face the Ocean.'<sup>\*</sup>

As Eruch puts it: 'The God-Man has dropped the mask that He had put on to play His Divine Game, so that He can be seen as He really is. But only by His Grace can we see Him as He really is, and only true surrender to His Will can accomplish this.'

For this His lovers have to keep their sight unfogged by a breath of doubt, keep it focussed on His Reality

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<sup>\*</sup> from poem to Baba by Craig San Roque (England)

without distraction from the antics of the mind. On several occasions last year, while seated with His men mandali in Meherazad hall, Baba quoted this line from Sant Tukaram: "Be still and remain a witness to whatever that happens." It means to leave all to our Beloved, in perfect stillness of faith. One who turns his head in every direction, looking for answers to questions that crowd into the mind, is missing the answer that comes from His Silence. The Beloved's humiliation does not lie in the fact that He has not broken His Silence as we understood it, but in the tragedy that we have not understood it. The Avatar's eternal humiliation is that His word falls on a deaf world, which receives the reverberations of its utterance a long time after from the few who have picked it up. Just as the harvest of a crop is for the many and the toilers in the field are few, so His glorification is shared by the masses and His humiliation is witnessed by a few. And like the toilers who see the crop's glory hidden in their toil, blessed are the few who see, in His humiliation, the glorification which is to come!

So much has been said of the Silence of Meher Baba. And so much has been written of what Baba said about His Silence, that I don't remember whether this statement, made by Baba a number of years ago, has appeared in print.

The statement was prompted by the remark of a visitor who said something about silence being golden. Baba said:

"I am silent. My Silence is not merely an observing of silence. My Silence has a purpose behind it. When I break it, all will know. The breaking of my Silence will be as forceful as thousands of atom bombs exploding together."

In October of 1968 Baba said that before His manifestation some three of His intimate Mandali will pass



away. The first one turned out to be dear Kaka, and the second is Dr. William Donkin. We called him Don, short for Donkin because when one of us first asked his name he replied "Donkin". That was exactly thirty years ago, when this young and brilliant English medic left his family and country to stay with Meher Baba "till the end" as he said at the time—and as he has said many a time since, when-ever Baba suggested that he was free to return to England at any time he wished. On the 9th of this month, Don passed away of a heart attack.

It was as sudden as it was unexpected. On Wednesday he had tea with Dr. Harry Kenmore, one of Baba's intimate mandali who has come to stay for a month at Meherazad according to Baba's order given to him last November. On Saturday Baba took His dear disciple Don to Him, gathered him up swiftly and gently to His God-Heart where His loved ones belong. Don's body lies buried at lower Meherabad, nearby the graves of Baba's stalwart disciple Gustadji and the great mast Ali Shah—an honour befitting one who gave his all to The One who was his all in all.

In the world of Baba-lovers Dr. William Donkin is remembered best as author of that profound treatise, *THE WAYFARERS*—the rare gem unearthed by Don's painstaking labour and shaped by his perfection-seeking mind. Among our many dear remembrances of Don, dearest is his unwavering fidelity to His Master whom he served 'to the end', sticking by Baba through the roughest years of our life with Baba. Don was the only Western disciple chosen to accompany Baba in the New Life as one of His 'Companions'. And now Don has started out on his true new Life. To the Mandali it means the loss of a very dear brother.

Another very close and dear lover whom the Beloved has taken to Him, is Dr. Ben Hayman of Texas, U.S.A. Baba referred to Him as His "Big Ben", because of his

big love for Baba. But Ben never 'chimed out' his love, it was as silent as it was big, expressing itself in tremendous services rendered silently to the Beloved. He never missed a visit to beloved Baba, either in Myrtle Beach or in India, and he was present also at the Eastern Darshan held in Poona at Guruprasad in 1965. Ben shared many smiles and jokes with Baba—his gentle humour served as an added link between him and his Master. When seated before Baba among a gathering of lovers, his eyes would sometimes appear half closed—and immediately Baba would snap His beautiful fingers, to say teasingly, "Wake up Ben! don't fall asleep!" Now that dear Big Ben is asleep to us, he is awake to the Beloved for all time.

In the last part of January beloved Baba repeatedly told us: "Simply do as I say, whatever it may be, for I know what I am doing." On the 31st, (January 1969), Baba had one of the men mandali bring into His bedroom the big board on which His favourite saying of Hafiz is printed in Persian and English. For years this board hung on the wall of the Mandali's hall, and Baba often made Aloha read the saying to lovers who visited Meherazad. And so it is this saying of Hafiz which was our Beloved's message for us on the last day:

BEFITTING A FORTUNATE SLAVE CARRY OUT EVERY  
COMMAND OF THE MASTER WITHOUT  
ANY QUESTION OF WHY AND WHAT.  
ABOUT WHAT YOU HEAR FROM THE MASTER NEVER  
SAY IT IS WRONG BECAUSE MY DEAR THE FAULT  
LIES IN YOUR OWN INCAPACITY TO  
UNDERSTAND HIM.  
I AM SLAVE OF MY MASTER WHO HAS RELEASED ME  
FROM IGNORANCE; WHATEVER MY MASTER DOES  
IS FOR THE HIGHEST BENEFIT TO ALL  
CONCERNED.

—HAFIZ —

As the 'Time' drew nearer, beloved Baba warned His lovers more often: "Hold on to my daaman—do not let it slip away under any circumstance." Now, when the daaman appears invisible, is the time to hold on as never before. Now, the "umbrella" has begun to revolve, and time will spin it faster and faster. Drops that are settled on its surface, clinging to the glossy material of promises, are bound to shake off. Drops that surrender their selfness get soaked into the heart of the substance and become part of the fabric. This is what is really meant by holding on to Baba's daaman: to get so absorbed in it that there is nothing of one's self left to hold on with; to live so completely as He wills that one lives as His Will. And what else is there worthy of being lived, when one lives for Baba, for God?

How often has Baba stated: "I AM GOD. Remember that!" For His lovers, to remember Baba is to remember that. But they find that their compassionate Beloved still gives them a reminder now and then, in different shapes of events that happen in their daily lives. Sometimes a reminder is heard from the lips of a baby. A lover in Vijayawada (Andhra State) testifies to this in his letter of March 12, 1969.

My youngest daughter aged 2 years and 3 months, suddenly got up from sleep at about 1-15 in the night of March 10, and five times uttered clearly:

"Meher Baba is God,"

JAI MEHER BABA - THE ANCIENT ONE - THE  
HIGHEST OF THE HIGH!

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI !!!

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## MESSAGES FOR THE ALL INDIA CONVENTION OF BABA-LOVERS and WORKERS.

**MEHERAZAD GOOD WISHES**

"Meherazad"

BRO. ERUCH JESSAWALA WRITES

August 8, 1966

*My dear Swamiji,*

I received your loving letter of August 1st and I shared it with all concerned.

All of the Baba-Family in Meherazad send their good wishes for a very successful Lovers'-Workers' Convention that is going to be held while celebrating the 6th Anniversary of The Meher Vihar Trust on 24th and 25th August. May Beloved Avatar Meher Baba's Love-Blessing surcharge the hearts of all His lovers and workers who will be gathered there in His Name to adopt and decide the future Course of Action in the Field of Baba-Work. Rajahmundry is the place where Beloved Baba sat with His Lovers and workers through out the night and gave to them His Message of "What Baba Means by Real Work."

You ask us, dear brother, to give our suggestions at the Subjects Committee of the Convention. We have no fresh suggestions to give, for Beloved Baba has given ample material to His Workers to ponder upon. One very important thing He would want all His lovers and workers to strive for, and that is to work earnestly for bringing about closeness among all the groups and centres functioning in the Cause of the Avatar, so that harmony

and good will continue to prevail. Nothing displeased Beloved Baba more than discord and ill-feelings among His Lovers and workers, which generated unhealthy competition among them in the Name of doing His Work. Therefore, to please our Beloved Baba all of us must strive to sink our differences into the Ocean of His Love, and get together firmly resolved to do the Sacred work of Spreading His Message of Love and Truth with all honesty, humility and love. May Beloved Baba help us all to bring this about soon so that we are able to march ahead faster and more firmly carrying His banner of "The Message of the Avatar" in all corners of the world.....

Sisters Mehera and Mani send their "Jai Baba!" to you and to all brothers and sisters gathered in the love of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba to Celebrate the sixth Anniversary of Meher Vihar Trust.

### YOGI SHUDDHANANDA BHARATIJI:

*Prosper Baba Lovers,*

It is by Baba's Grace that the 'Meher Vihar' has been reestablished at Rajahmundry, the cultural Centre of the Andhra Desh. I am happy to see your programme for the inauguration of the Baba Vihar there. Let it be a dynamic centripetal force of our beloved Avatar.

Baba has shed his body to be the Soul of our souls. He was often telling us that he would leave the body and come again. He left the body and not his *real body* the heart of the devotees. Baba is a Power beyond bodies and buildings. He is like the electronic force and we must be His turbines and dynamos to spread His message of love and Service.

*Andhra is THE KENDRA of Baba's Avataric Radiance.* Let the 'Meher Vihar' grow from more to more and spread the Evangel of Baba all over the country and

let the 'Divya Vani' ring in a new Era in the life of the Meher Mission. Please convey my love and regards to Sri Adi. K. Irani and Staya Prakashji and all devotees, to Dr. Danapati Rao, Murthi and all – Prosper All, by Baba's Grace.

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

Dear brother Adi, Swami Satya Prakash and all Baba lovers and workers,

I wish this Convention held on the 6th Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust a grand success. Swami Satya Prakash has been doing selfless Baba work since long. May Baba bless him with a long life and strength to carry on the work in Baba's cause, This convention is meant to discuss and formulate the future course of action in the field of Baba work. May I take the liberty of putting before you my humble views on this subject.

Meher Baba has told us so much about His work and no worker can forget the one and only memorable meeting Baba held at Rajahmundry in March 1954 regarding His work. This meeting shall serve as a beacon light to all workers in posterity, giving them strength and courage to carry on His work. *Rajahmundry has been immortalised by this meeting.*

Baba has said, "I know definitely I love Andhra; and the people of Andhra have expressed their love in a way as to touch my heart. I feel very happy". Let us workers of Andhra continue to make Baba feel happy working selflessly, trying to sacrifice everything in His cause, and by loving Him more and more and waiting to lay down our lives at His command.

**Bro. A. C. S. Chari, Calcutta:**

It is significant that Rajahmundry happens to be the Place of CONVENTION. If I may venture to suggest, let

us recall the historic night 1st / 2nd March 1954, when Baba kept awake the whole night and gave a bit of advice and instruction to us all so called WORKERS at this sacred place (RAJAHMUNDY). It should be treated as our TEXT (BIBLE) to dwell upon, and guide us.

With these well embedded in our hearts, let us TRY OUR BEST. What Baba said was an IDEAL and it may not be possible to reach that IDEAL all at once, but we can TRY and if each one does so, that will go a long way. Further, this is an opportunity to render service in this SCHOOL OF LIFE, where 'human birth' has been given to each of us in the DIVINE PLAN and where the chance of serving BABA and Humanity in the LOVE AND GUIDANCE OF BABA has been given to each one of us.

Our best wishes to you and our prayers for the success of your work, especially the CONVENTION.

Bro. E. Lakshminadha Rao, Tenali:

..... I may suggest that we may dwell on Beloved Baba's address at Rajahmundry on how we are to set about to propagate the truths Baba expounded.

Bro. (Dr.) C. D. Deshmukh, Nagpur:

..... "Please give to our dear Bro. Adi K. Irani congratulations and felicitations, on my behalf as well as our Avatar Meher Spiritual Academy for having the honour and privilege to guide the deliberations of this momentous conference as its president. You are all making history and I can feel from here the pulsation of the new throbbing life of the enterprise. Myself and all Nagpur Baba-lovers send our JAI BABA Love Greetings to all participants and confident wishes of success, which, take it from me, stands assured, because of the Great Divine PRESENCE and Life-giving Love-blessings of our Beloved Avatar MEHER BABA HIMSELF!

Bro. Abdul Majid Khan, Balaghat (M. P.):

Due to medical treatment, it is not possible to join Rajahmundry functions, which, however, I wish them great success.

Bro. (Dr.) G. S. N. MOORTHY, Kharagpur:

"... I am happy that you have summoned the Convention at the right time when the right person (Sri Adi) is invited to inaugurate. It is high time that we must plunge into the Field of Baba-Work with the limited love we have for THE ETERNAL AVATAR."

"The dynamic way in which you are working in the Divine Cause of Avatar Meher Baba is quite unique. May His Blessings be ever on thee! With profound sentiments of love and regards to self and Bro. Dharma Rao and all Baba-lovers and inmates of the Meher Vihar Trust.

Bro. SORABJI SINGANPORIA, Bombay:

"My congratulations to you on sixth Anniversary of Meher Vihar Trust. Wish you and organisers success. My respectful pranam to you, organisers and Baba Lovers gathered at Convention."

Bro. L. VENKAYYA, Warrangal:

"... We wish we could participate in these functions, when Bro. Adiji and many other prominent Baba lovers will grace the occasion. But due to unavoidable circumstances, we will not be able to attend the function. With Beloved Baba's Love and Blessings, we wish the function a great success."

Bro. K. K. RAMA KRISHNAN, Poona:

"Your loving letter of 8th to hand. I am incapable of expressing my inner feelings. After Beloved Baba's physical withdrawal from amongst us, you are the first person I know of, who have given thought to the subject of 'the future programme of work' for the Cause of the Avatar. You have clothed your thought in the form of a



Convention of Baba-lovers and Workers, which will be inaugurated and presided by the one who was closest to Beloved Baba and most of the stalwarts in the field of Baba-work will be there to give shape and beauty of form to your thought—a concrete form to your conception of what is called "BABA WORK NOW". How I wish I could be there amongst such august assembly of dedicated workers for the Cause of the Avatar and draw inspiration and strength to sustain my own effort for the very Cause!

Wishing you all success ! ...

Meher Baba lovers and workers of Poona send their love greetings to you and to all those who assemble in His Love and Service at the Convention on the 24th and 25th. We wish and pray for the success of your efforts for His dear Cause. Convey our love and respects to Bro. Adi. "

Bro. N. V. RAMANAYYA, "Meherkrupa" Vijaya-wada:

May Beloved Baba shower His Blessings on all participating the Celebrations.

Bro. V. V. NARAYANA RAO, Hyderabad:

"I wish the functions all success, at Rajahmundry,"

Bro. KISAN SINGH, Dehra Dun:

"Your proposal to hold a Convention of Baba Lovers and Workers so as to discuss and formulate the future course of action in the field of Baba-work is absolutely essential and I shall be grateful if you would kindly apprise us of the arrangements agreed to be undertaken, in this connection in due course."

Bro. R. P. PUNKHRAJ, & GIRIJANANDAN DUBEY, Jabalpur:

"Wish function Grand Success."

Bro. D. S. HANSPAL, Raipur:

"Wishing the function every success."

Bro. P. CHANDRAMOULESWARAO, Vijayawada:

"... I thank you for having arranged such convention which is essential at this juncture. It is a right decision taken at a right time, to chalk out our future programme in Baba-work"

Sister FREINY NALAVALA, Dehra Dun:

"Let the mission of Beloved Meher Baba to awaken the individual, the fire of Divine Love, penetrate each heart! Let construction and usefulness of the Humanity established by Him be in His Lovers' hands."

Sister RUTH RINGER, New York:

"Many thanks for your loving letter of August 6th, plus the Invitation and the programme you so kindly sent me for the 6th Anniversary of your Meher Vihar Trust on 24th and 25th. I wish I could participate in your beautifully, lovingly arranged BABA LOVERS and WORKERS Convention. As you so rightly said I shall be with you in BABA SPIRIT and my heartiest good wishes that many new ones should also participate and hear about our Beloved Baba. After having met you I realized even more what Beloved Baba meant by saying of the profound love of His Andhra Lovers and by His Grace, hope to witness at once if He wills it so.

(Suggestions for consideration were sent by Bros. W.D. Kain, Amarsingh Saigal, K. K. Ramakrishnan, H. P. Bharucha, A. C. S. Chari, Salig Ram Sharma, C. D. Deshmukh, T. V. S. Prasad, G. S. N. Moorthy, L. Venkayya, and many prominent lovers and workers from throughout India and many who participated in the deliberations for which we express deep gratitude for the kind help rendered by them all in finalising the proceedings of the convention..... S.S.P.)

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# **The 6th Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust**

Rajahmundry-3, (Andhra Pradesh-India.)

It may be recalled that The Head Quarters of the Meher Vihar Trust has been shifted permanently from Hyderabad to Rajahmundry from the 1st of April 1969, The resolution to this effect was taken by the Board of Trustees on the 28th of January 1969, just three days prior to Beloved Baba's dropping of his physical body. Some major changes have been effected in this regard so as to give the Trust a new orientation and a new scope for the progressive activities in the field of Baba Work. The Founder-President and Managing Trustee, Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen having retired from this Office nominated Bro. N. Dharma Rao, B.E., (Retd. Divisional Engineer of Rajahmundry) who is a veteran Worker and a great lover of Beloved Baba as Swamiji's successor and the Head Quarters of the "Trust" was shifted accordingly to Rajahmundry with all its activities, Viz., the Printing Press, and the publication of DIVYA VANI (English Monthly), The Telugu Monthly MEHER JYOTI, later on has to be shifted along with other publications. Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen continues to be the Hon. Editor, Publisher and Printer of all the publications of the "Trust" and also as its Chief-Sanchalak being the 1st Member of the Abode of its Workers who dedicated their lives to Beloved Baba and His Cause with complete faith and absolute surrender. It



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Danavaipeta, Rajahmundry-3, A.P., India.  
“ MEHERASHRAM ” Inaugurated by BRO. ADI K. IRANI  
on 25th of August 1969.



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is perhaps Beloved. Baba's wish to have a new orientation this way. The New Place, Rajahmundry has its historic back ground in the field of Baba-Work. The dropping of His body followed up His Darshan Programme at Guru Prasad, Poona added a new fillip to the otherwise damped feelings of Baba-lovers and workers but none could completely recover from the shock and painful experience of separation so suddenly and unexpectedly over taken all the members of Baba-family through out the world. But it has given an unexpectedly new way of life creating fraternity among the easterners and westerners and also lovers new and old, forgetting their prejudices. Mutual affinity and longing for closeness in life and understanding prevailed, though it has not taken any shape as yet. The 62 days Baba-darshan programme at Guru-Prasad had its own impact on the life and activity of every lover and worker through out the world and the Divine Presence along with the physical absence of our Parent has really created a real longing in the hearts of every one for each other being the impact of His Divine Love so benevolently showered by our Compassionate Parent during that period of mental depression and vacuum created by His Physical absence. But soon after this period of 62 days active participation in the Divine Love-game of hide and seek of our Beloved, one has turned his search of Him inwardly having missed Him out-wardly and the result was that every lover of His has been on a new venture of finding Him lest one miss Him forever. This is opportune time when the 6th Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust has to be Celebrated at its New place, Rajahmundry. And now follow the new trend of events as Beloved Baba seems to have willed and His Graceful Blessings give shape to them according to His wishes.

The time for the fulfilment of the hearts desire of Baba-lovers has come, perhaps, and great events in the new chapter of Baba-work has begun, as it were. The humble

desire of a few ardent lovers met during the Poona Darshan programme took shape in the event of the 6th Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust. Bro. Adi K. Irani was requested to preside over the Celebrations of the Trust on August 24th and 25th, 1969 at Rajahmundry and in this connection the Convention of Baba-lovers, a dream of the solitary worker who needs guidance and help in the wilderness of Baba-work has taken shape and Bro. Adi K. Irani, the disciple and Ex-secretary of Avatar Meher Baba, the closest of His Associates has kindly agreed to inaugurate the Convention, the final shape of which none has anticipated as our Beloved Lord would alone know all about it. Bro. Adiji left Ahmednagar in response to the call of the Meher Vihar Trust, on the 15th of August 1969. He visited Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Mandapeta, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam and reached Kakinada by 21st August. On the 23rd Morning he left Kakinada and completing his short visits of places like Kotipalli, Ramachandrapuram, Chelluru, Mandapeta and Alamuru reached Rajahmundry by 23rd noon at about 3 P.M. for Presiding over the Subjects Committee Meeting of the All India Baba Lovers and Workers Convention. Bro. T. S. Kutumba Sastri, the chairman of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust of Ahmednagar, which was created by our Beloved Baba just 10 years ago has also accompanied him all through his tour which he undertook by car. Dr. T. Dhanapathi Rao Naidu, the Grand old Man of Andhra and the President, Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre has followed him from Kakinada. By this time many of the prominent Lovers of Baba and veteran workers in His Field of Work like Bros. Amar Singh Saigal, M.P., Delhi, Shalig Ram Sharma of Allahabad, N. Bhimasankaram of Hyderabad, A. C. S. Chari of Calcutta, Y S. Rao of Nagpur, S. Suryanarayana and Mrs. & Mr. K. M. Gandhi of Visakhapatnam. B. Venkateswarlu, G. S. N. Murty, Kharagpur, Smt. P. Jagadamba, M. S. R. Gandhi (Babji) group of Kakinada, K. V. Suryanarayana of Kotipalli,

B. Dayakaram, Anakapalli, K. S. R. Lakshmanaswamy, Suryanarayana Raju, T. V. S. Prasad, Putchakayala Veeraju of Mandapeta and many others from several places beside the local lovers and workers have gathered at the "Nalam's Choultry", Innispeta, Rajahmundry.

The function started at about 5 P.M. after recital of Parvardigar Prayer and Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen spoke words of welcome to the guests. He explained to the gathering now called Subjects Committee of the All India Baba-lovers, and Workers Convention the purpose for which they were called upon to gather and read out the Messages and suggestions sent by other Lovers and workers from different parts. Bro. Adi K. Irani spoke about the need of united action and firm resolve to adhere to Baba's Daaman more firmly Now than ever. After every prominent lover expressed his views about the need of the hour in the field of Baba work and after feeling that the consensus of opinion is for having One Universal Centre for whole of the World and that Bro. Adi K. Irani should be in its charge and continue guiding all other Centres as he was hitherto doing as Beloved Baba's Secretary, Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen has read out some draft resolutions to be placed before the Convention of Baba Lovers and Workers for its deliberations and final acceptance. Bros. A. C. S. Chari, Shalig Ram Sharma and Swamiji were deputed to finalise the drafts and place them for consideration next day.

On the 24th August 1969, Sunday, the 1st days Celebrations of the 6th Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust were commenced early morning by 8 A.M. with Hoisting of Baba-flag by Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, M.P., Delhi (as Bro. K. K. Ramakrishnan of Poona could not come). Then till 9 A.M. Bro. M. S. R. Gandhi and Party of Kakinada gave Baba-Sankeertan in Telugu. By this time many more of the Prominent lovers of Baba and Veteran Workers in



His field of work like Bros. N. V. Ramaniah of Guntur Centre, P. D. Pukar, Meherpuri, Hamirpur Dt. (U. P.), Chinta Sarvarao and others from Vijayawada, Saladi Sreeramamurti of Palakol, Sangiah Naidu of Bhimavaram, P.A.S. Narayana of Narasannapeta, A. V. K. Hanumantharao of Srikakulam, Dr. K. Venkatarao of Bobbili, J. Suryanarayana Murti of Hamsavaram, Edita Sathiraju of Kakinada, N. Mangaraju of Tamilnad Centre, Madras, K. A. Bhaskara Rao of Secunderabad, Ch. Veeranna of Hyderabad, S. Linga Reddi of Warrangal, M. B. H. Sarma of Khammam, P. N. Nayak of Cuttack and many others from several places in A.P., gathered at the function. At 9-00 A.M. Bro. N. Bhimasankaram of Hyderabad read out Master's Prayer in English after which Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen the Chief Sanchalak and Editor, Divya Vani, gave Welcome address to all Baba-Lovers and workers and requested Bro. Adi K. Irani to Preside and Inaugurate the "Meher Darbar" on this happy occasion, of coming together after more than six months period of Beloved Baba's dropping of His body.

**Bro. Shri Adi K. Irani**, in his inaugural address expressed his joy to see them all who have come from long distances bearing many inconveniences. He said that it is proof of Avatar's Love for them all and invoked His Blessings to all those participants of this "Darbar" of the Highest of the High on our own level.

He spoke thus: "His real Darbar is different. It is for many reasons Avatar comes down once for 700 – 1400 years. Whatever is planned in the real Darbar of Avatar Meher Baba, it comes to fruit-fulness in this darbar, It is from the inspiration of that Darbar that we are thinking to do some thing. Baba said that he has come not to displace anything. He is every where. He is as much in organisation or inorganisation. It is not that we should not do, when we can do, practically, to spread His Message. His work is multisided, multifeeling and multi-loving. We

can catch hold of Him at any time, any where, in any way. Any thing done unitedly, whole heartedly, always is effective. Baba never expected to be uniform in our thinking. He wished harmony in our hearts, in spite of seeming differences, we should have unity and harmony. Baba never went into details of giving instruction to do His Work. He left it to His Lovers. It was to give us much opportunity to do it effectively. To do it in such a way is not so easy. But it is not impractical. It depends upon the elements of love, selflessness and detachment we put in. We should not insert our desires into it. I do not be called a Baba-lover if I give instructions for doing work, only because I am the Secretary of Avatar Meher Baba. If I say myself to be the Secretary and that I am unselfish, it does not do anything. All Baba-lovers come together and if we adhere to fundamentals, at least the workers, then they are really aware of their position. They are detached from selfishness. By saying this I do not expect that all workers should become God-realized over night. It is not at all my idea..... Baba says that jealousy is another form of love, provided spite is not there. Competition in Baba's Love until it does not hurt others, is desirable. These are the great truths, Baba most practically wanted most practically to put in our lives. Detachment is the key for anything, excepting your love for Baba. Drown all your attachments in to the greatest attachment, you create for His Love. It is really not difficult if we really resolve firmly for it. I do bother much for my work rather than for my position. I am supposed to do Baba's Work, not for my position. We should not do Baba's Work for positions. I heard that after Baba left His Physical body, some left Baba. It is that they are who loved His declarations but not Him. Should I love Him for His declarations, for His Messages, or since all the world is following Him? NO. I should Love Him for Himself. Responsible persons shall be far above the positions. Our love for Baba should be such that work is instantaneously done. If this be the principle, such Conventions will be successful."

Then Bro. Adi unveiled a Book-let of Poems called "Avatar Meher Baba Stavam – Part I" written by Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen and published by the Meher Vihar Trust, dedicated as token of love to Beloved Baba on the event of dropping His physical body.

Then Bro. Adi explained about the objects of Avatar Meher Baba Trust created by Beloved Baba about ten years back. He introduced Bro. T. S. Kutumbasastry as its Chairman and explained its schemes of development of the tombs and the maintenance of the 41 beneficiaries etc. and appealed for liberal contributions, to be sent to the Chairman by cash, by Cheques, drafts, M. O.'s, etc., collectively or individually. Bro. Amar Singh Saigal donated on this occasion Rs. 500/-; 200/- and 250/- to Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Ahmednagar; The Meher Vihar Trust, Rajahmundry; and Bro. Parameswari Dayal Nigam (PUKAR) for his Meher Puri Work respectively. Sri Jupudi Venkateswara Rao contributed Rs. 116/- to the Baba Trust and many others followed it up according to their capacities, from Re. 1/- to 50/-.

Then Messages were read over by Bro. N. Dharma Rao, Managing Trustee of the Meher Vihar Trust, Rajahmundry, from Bros. Eruch – Meherazad, Yogi Suddhanada Bharatiji – Madras, Bal Natu – Kurudwadi, C. D. Deshmukh, Nagpur, K. K. Ramakrishnan – Poona, Dr. H. P. Bharucha – Navsari, Mrs. Freni Nalavala – Bro. Kisan Singh – Dehra Dun and others.

Then some prominent lovers are requested to speak.

**Bro. A. C. Chari spoke thus:**

"Baba said: 'you have to spread my message now only. There will not be any necessity for it after some time.' Hence some lovers infer that spreading of Baba's Message is not necessary hereafter. We Baba-lovers can radiate Baba's love. Therefore, we should continue Baba's work.

Then there is the question if it is necessary to have an organisation hereafter. We have to consider whether individual or collective work is beneficial. Baba has often said, "you have to drown your separative tendencies and work together. On Baba are depending many families, They have to be looked after by Baba-lovers. It is an opportunity given by Beloved Baba to us to contribute to the Trust according to our might. We, whatever we may be, should consider to donate to the Trust and keep the link with Baba."

**Bro. Pukarii then spoke:** "Baba said that we are all one in the sense that we all came from one Source. Baba did His Universal Work and we have to share it. Though Baba was giving us hints, we could not know that He would leave His body so soon. Two days before the dropping of Baba's body my mind was not working normally. I will try to explain it. Two days before Baba's dropping His body, I could not attend to my correspondence and other normal work. In the mean while, a great thing is going to happen. People used to ask what is that great thing? What is greater than Baba to us? We used to think that the great thing should be related with Baba. Among Workers' Convention a worker asked whether Baba would drop His body without breaking His Silence. I replied that when He can do any thing, He can do this also. When there is a tree there is a fruit also. When the fruit ripened, it automatically drops. We prepared our ears to hear the Word that Baba utters. But Baba has reminded us so many times, that the word He is going to utter cannot be heard by external ears. He said 'to hear My Word, drown all the words in My Silence.' Baba has given His final declaration in the year 1954. I will try to take you there. Baba has mentioned about the destruction of  $\frac{3}{4}$  ths of the world and His dropping of His body. We were filled with sorrow and many lovers wept. After Darbar was over, I was crying embracing a pillar. Baba called me and

asked me why I was crying. I asked Him that I should die before He dropped His body. Then Baba stretched my hand and put His hand in mine and said "Yes." I was very happy over this. Later, His health reports were worrying me much. I got doubt if He would drop His Body before I drop mine. It was 30th January '69, There was a case running in the Court regarding Meher Puri. At 11 O'clock I was worried over it. At that time I saw my wife took her bath and was reciting 'Meher Chalisa' with tears in her eyes. I told her that I was fortunate to have such a devoted wife. Then I doubted if I was myself discharging my duties with such a devotion and if I am loving Baba as she did. I have mentioned about my state of mind in every letter I have written thereafter. I received the Family Letter just then and attended a Baba lovers' gathering in which I spoke clearing many doubts of others. Just then my son brought the news that Baba dropped His body. Those who were there with me could not believe it; I told them that any thing is possible with Baba. I recalled to my mind that Baba promised me in 1954 that I will die before He dropped His body. Then immediately rushed to Meherabad and found Baba's body lying down in the tomb and asked within myself, 'Baba! how is it; why it has happened like this? Has my Beloved thought that I am unfit to be taken with Him? I may be weak but you are all powerful. Then how could you leave me and go?' Thereafter, when I read my diary which was written in His presence, I found some thing that has answered my doubts. At that time I was a moving chair for Baba, He used to ride over me. Dr. Harry Kenmore came in those days to give medical treatment to Beloved Baba. I was to take him for a walk. Then there was heavy rain and so I brought him on my shoulders back home so that his feet may not get wet. Rano told Baba about this incident. Baba told me: "My sitting on your back is different. Why did you carry a heavy man like Dr. Kenmore? From this you may get heart attack." Really I got heart attack, Then Baba told

me: "I want to Keep you till manifestation. Why have you brought this heart attack now itself? You have to see the manifestation. I do not fulfil your wants but I do fulfil your needs." All this I found in Poona when I was verifying my diary of 1959. So, then itself Baba told me that I should see His manifestation. Now Baba-lovers are thinking that Baba did not break His Silence and they ask why did He not Keep His promise. But He has already expressed what is going to happen."

Then the house adjourned after Arati.

At 3 P.M. sharp the All India Baba Lovers and Workers Convention commenced, and Babji Party and other groups sang Baba-Sankeertan and entertained Baba. At 4-15 P.M. Amer Singh Saigal recited Master's Prayer in Hindi. Bro. N. Dharma Rao read out his *welcome address* to all Lovers and Workers assembled there in Beloved Baba's Name and in His Love as follows:—

Dear and Esteemed Bro. Adiji, Pujya Swamiji and dear brothers and sisters,

I extend to you all a sincere and wholehearted welcome to this Convention for the very deep love you have shown to our Beloved Baba and His Cause by going over here from long distances, undergoing inconveniences and hardships.

The purpose for which we have all gathered here is a most important one and the deliberations that will take place here presently, will pave the way for the establishment of a world Organisation based on our pure love towards our Beloved Baba, for spreading His Message of Love and Truth, far and wide and thus steer the way for the establishment of Universal Brotherhood and World-peace.

Our Beloved Lord, Meher Baba, during His untiring and intense working as the Avatar of the Age for over 47 years made several declarations of His Divinity in the most unequivocal terms and the whole world had silently accepted them even without one questioning voice. He has awakened contemporary humanity to a realization of its true spiritual nature, gave liberation to those who are ready and quickened the life of the spirit in His time. He had demonstrated the possibility of a Divine Life for all humanity, of a heavenly life on earth, by the nobility of life supremely lived by Him.

In those who contacted Him, He awakened a love that consumes all selfish desires in the flame of the one desire to SERVE HIM. The truth of this statement is seen by the gathering of Baba-lovers and Workers now in front of us. Hence, a great responsibility rests with us in nourishing the seed of love which BABA had already laid for the New Humanity. As these seeds were laid by BABA through out this entire earth globe, the new organisation which we now intend to formulate should cover the whole world. We are all very fortunate to have Brother Adiji in our midst to guide us in our deliberations. The sacrifices he made, the selfless service he rendered as Secretary and disciple of Avatar Meher Baba for over 47 years, are very well known to us all. Hence, he is most fitted to occupy the highest chair for the said world organisation, which may be termed as "Avatar Meher Baba Universal Centre".

In this connection it is not out of place to point out that President Nixon's recent Asian tour is decidedly a step towards the establishment of world peace. At his Banquet speech on the 1st instant, he said that "Peace must be a creative force, a dynamic process that embraces both the satisfaction of a man's material needs and the fulfilment of his spiritual needs." He further said that "there was true

peace only when the weak were as safe as the strong and the poor could share the benefits with the rich" and concluded by saying "in the final analysis, however, peace is a spiritual condition. All religions pray for it." All these statements are nothing but an echo of our Beloved Baba's utterances for the establishment of World Peace.

As Beloved Baba had repeatedly stated that *His work is our opportunity* and that we cannot know *what Real Love is except through working for Him*, let us all REDEDICATE ourselves to work for Avatar Meher Baba's Cause with honesty and humility.

On behalf of the Meher Vihar Trust and its dedicated workers, we offer ourselves to strive for doing our best to serve His Cause and follow the leadership of our chosen disciple of our Beloved Baba, Brother Adi K. Irani and request him to carry the torch of the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba."

The President of the Convention, Bro. Adi K. Irani delivered the inaugural address. He spoke thus: "Dear Sisters and Brothers! Once a man approached a Perfect Master and asked—'what is the most difficult thing in the world?' He replied that it is human nature.

How are we going to begin our work—conducting of our meetings etc.? Can it be done by an organisational basis, by financial adjustments. Let us not feel shy but find if we have enough capacity of adjustment to work with others. Baba always said: 'In my love give up and in service give in'. Every one of us have love for Meher Baba. That is not enough. One should have the capacity to adjust with others. It is more easily said than done. If our love is really whole-hearted, uttering prayers, remembering Him constantly, not that they are bad, but they are not enough. We should have adjustable mentality. The



out-standing capacity is adjustment. Humility is also just like this, which should come from within. But love for Baba should be supreme. For the fulfilment of this, we should adjust with others. When a situation arises in which we think whether we have to leave Baba or His Work, we should have to humbly adjust with others and carry on the work. Now that Baba is physically absent, we have to adjust more and more. It was not an easy matter even for Baba to get united all the Mandali in the early days. As for Workers and Lovers Convention, others are experienced than myself and they will tell you. The underlying principle is adjustment..... We have not to tell but see the Convention."

Then Bro. A. C. S. Chari read out the Resolutions and placed one after the other for consideration of the members present who were about three hundred and the house was well represented and the delegates came from all over India.

Every Resolution was explained by Bro. Chari, a copy of which is herein published at the end of this report for the benefit of all our readers. After unanimously passing the 1st six resolutions the house adjourned for the day, at 6-00 p.m., after Arati, only to meet on the next morning i.e., on the 25th August '69, as there was a public meeting convened at the same place, this evening at 6-30 P.M.

At 6-30 P.M. the Public Meeting commenced and the place was packed to capacity.

Bro. Amar Singh Saigal recited Master's Prayer after which Bro. Adi K. Irani delivered his presidential address clarifying the fulfilment of all declarations of Beloved Baba and expressed his joy at the response from the public of Rajahmundry even after dropping of Beloved Baba's body.

He spoke at length clarifying all doubts that are shrouding the intellectual mind and appealed for loving Baba than to trying to understand Him, which is the only easy way for approaching Him.

Bro. T. Bulliah, Founder of N. B. Gurukulam, which was sanctified by Beloved Baba's visit twice before, in the year 1953 and '54 and the place of the Historic Midnight gathering of Baba-lovers and Workers, then spoke. He recalled to the minds the events of that great night in a most lucid way and presented to the gathering the meaning of Baba's utterances most impressively.

Bro. K. Linga Raju next spoke and gave out his own experience of Baba's contact as a Divine response to his own inner wish out of His Grace. He appealed to the public to share the Divine lore of His Messages. Bro. G. S. N. Moorthy then spoke in his unique way of presenting Baba's Avatarhood and the way of approach to His loving Grace. Bro. M. R. Appa Rao, Ex-minister of Andhra Pradesh, also spoke. Bro. N. Dharmarao offered Vote of thanks to all Baba Lovers & Workers who attended in large numbers and particularly to those coming from out side Andhra Pradesh and to Adiji and specially to M/s. Nalam Ramalingiah & Bros., for permitting the use of Nalamvari Choultry for the three-day Celebrations and invoked Beloved Baba's Love-Blessings on all those who have participated and helped us to make these functions a success. The Meeting came to a close with Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai! Bro. Y. V. Narasimha Rao was kind enough to have the courtesy to arrange for the Baba-film show of the '1956 Sahawas at Meherabad Hill.'

On the 25th morning the Convention of Baba-Lovers and Workers continued from 9-00 A.M. after Bro. Babji party's Baba-sankeertan. Bro. K. V. Suryanarayana, Kotipalli recited Master's Prayer in Telugu when Bro. Adi K. Irani presided over the deliberations.

Bro. Adiji spoke explaining the necessity of having an Universal Organisation and agreeing to be the Secretary-

General of the same, so as to do his humble effort in the Cause of Baba-Work and to enable the Lovers and Workers to come to closer contacts and work unitedly for His Cause.

Bro. A. C. S. Chari continued his task of proposing the rest of resolutions one after the other and Dr. T. Dhanapathi Rao Naidu, Bro. Shalig Ram Sharma, Parameswari Dayal Nigam (PUKAR), Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy and T. S. Kutumba Sastri spoke on the resolutions, one after the other. Bro. K. Bhaskar Rao of Hyderabad proposed an amendment and spoke explaining the same. Finally Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen as sponsor of the original resolutions on the formation of the Avatar Meher Baba Universal Centre, with Head Quarters at Ahmednagar and Bro. Adi K. Irani as its Secretary General, spoke at length clarifying the need of such a World Organisation after Baba's dropping His Physical body so as to bring all lovers and workers of Beloved Baba more close and work unitedly and live as One Baba-Family. He also emphasised the necessity of choosing Bro. Adi K. Irani as its Secretary-General NOW and thanked Bro. Adiji for accepting to shoulder his responsibility out of His Love for the Avatar so as to fulfil the Trust reposed in us all by our Beloved Master, Meher Baba.

All the resolutions were unanimously passed and after Arati, the Convention came to a close amid cries of Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!

As per programme all the Lovers and Workers gathered at the Meher Vihar Trust Karyalaya, (Danavaipet, Rajahmundry-3) at 3 P.M.

Bro. M. R. Appa Rao hoisted Baba-flag and there was Baba-sankeertan by Bro. Babji and Party. Bro. Adiji joined the party by singing two Urdu Gazals at the request of lovers. Bro. K. M. Gandhi sung the Master's Prayer in Hindi and Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen read out verses in Telugu Welcoming Bro. Adiji and other guests, and

explained in short, the aims and objects of the Meher Vihar Trust. He stated at length the causes for the present shifting of Head Quarters from Hyderabad to Rajahmundry and narrated the history from its inception and gave out the actual work and worth it now stands for, including the printing Press worth about Rs. 25000/- and the value of the Telugu and English Publications, stocks on hand being more than Rs. 35000/-. He recalled the services done through publishing of the English Monthly "DIVYA VANI" and the Telugu Monthly "MEHER JYOTI" in spreading the Name of Beloved Baba and His Message of Truth and Love, and stated that they render their continued service for which the coordination and help of all Baba-lovers and workers is solicited.

He clarified now the need for dedicated service in the Cause of Beloved Baba, more than ever, and explained the objects of the "Meher Ashram" and Meher Sevalal (Meher Order of Service) and requested Bro. Adiji to inaugurate the same. As 1st item of service under the auspices of this Ashram it is proposed to open a "Meher Homeo Free Dispensary" and Dr. A. Rama Murthy has kindly consented to render free services for this Cause. Bro. Adiji has declared open both these.

Bro. Adiji then gave a short talk about the importance of Love and dedication in Baba's Cause as dedicational service, and himself bowed down at the Altar of Baba-padukas. Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen, Bros. N. Dharma Rao, N. Bhimasankaram M. S. R. Gandhi, M. R. Appa Rao, and P. S. Ramakrishna took pledges of rededication at the Lotus Feet of Beloved Baba.

Bro. Adi K. Irani went round the Trust Office acquainting himself with all sections of the work and after Bro. N. Dharma Rao offered vote of thanks, the function came to a close with Arti and cries of Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!

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# THE ALL-INDIA CONVENTION OF MEHER BABA LOVERS AND WORKERS

held at Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh)  
on 24th and 25th August 1969 –  
inaugurated and presided by Brother  
ADI K. IRANI (Ahmednagar)

The following are the Resolutions (as finally adopted and passed unanimously) by the All-India Convention aforesaid:—

## *Resolution No. I :*

This Convention most earnestly and humbly prays to our Beloved MEHER BABA, the Avatar of the Age, who has dropped His physical body on 31st January 1969, to live eternally in the hearts of His lovers everywhere and beseeching Him as our Compassionate Parent to benevolently bestow on us His Love-Blessings to enable us all to surrender to Him and to hold on to His "daaman" and to serve His Cause till the last breath of our lives.

## *Resolution No. II :*

This Convention recalls to the minds of all lovers and Workers of AVATAR MEHER BABA, both past and future, the following Messages of Baba:

- (a) "What He means by real work?" given at Rajahmundry on 1st / 2nd March 1954;
- (b) "Warning from Baba" to His Lovers and Workers assembled in "Guru Prasad" Poona, on 19th May 1957, and later on 2nd June 1957 morning at the Botanical Gardens, Kirkee; and
- (c) the two Messages titled 'My dear Children' and 'My dear Workers' at the East-West Gathering, in November 1962;

and this Convention urges on all Baba-lovers and workers to constantly dwell upon them, so as to guide them now and ever after.

*Resolution No. III:*

Remembering always that our Divine Parent, Meher Baba would ever want all lovers and workers to strive for and work earnestly for bringing about closeness among all the Groups and Centres functioning in His Cause, that harmony and goodwill do continue to prevail, that nothing displeased Beloved Baba more than discord and ill-feelings among His lovers and workers (which generated unhealthy competition among them in the name of doing His work), this Convention firmly resolves that all His lovers and workers shall drown their individual separatist tendencies or differences in the Ocean of Baba's love, and shall get together as One united Baba-family and spread His Universal Message of Love and Truth, with all honesty, humility and love.

*Resolution No. IV:*

This Convention, after full and frank discussion and deep consideration, feels and solemnly affirms that, while there is freedom given to each individual Baba-lover/worker to adopt his/her methods and ways of spreading Meher Baba's name and messages, it would be more beneficial and expedient, and even necessary for the Common Cause

that the talents and resources of all individuals be pooled up and that each person coordinates and cooperates with others in the locality, and works as a Centre or Group.

*Resolution No. V:*

Resolved also that, without disturbing the already existing Centres and Groups, this Convention recommends that, as far as possible, more than one Centre or Group in each town, or village or locality, be avoided. If there be more than one Centre in the same City or locality, they shall work in co-ordination with the main Centre and under the :guidance of a co-ordinating Committee of the Centres of that city or locality.

*Resolution No. VI.*

(MOST IMPORTANT RESOLUTION GIVEN TOP-PRIORITY)

RESOLVED THAT THIS CONVENTION UNANIMOUSLY EMPHASISES ON EACH BABA-LOVER AND HIS/HER FAMILY MEMBERS, TO KEEP A PERMANENT LINK WITH BELOVED BABA BY FULFILLING HIS WISHES DECLARED IN THE REGISTERED TRUST-DOCUMENT DATED 6th APRIL 1959, that is, BY GIVING TOP-PRIORITY TO MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SAID "AVATAR MEHAR BABA TRUST" FUNDS, SYSTEMATICALLY AND REGULARLY.

*Resolution No. VII.*

Resolved that there shall be the UNIVERSAL CENTRE which will be of help to all Lovers and Workers of Beloved Baba in all parts of the world, to infuse mutual love and unity of action as members of One Baba-family (which is a Universal Reality now), that the Headquarters of the said UNIVERSAL CENTRE shall be located at

AHMEDNAGAR (India) and that the UNIVERSAL CENTRE be known as "AVTAR MEHER BABA UNIVERSAL CENTRE".

(A) This Convention further unanimously resolves that the said AVATAR MEHER BABA UNIVERSAL CENTRE be formed and function forthwith, so as to guide and help all Lovers and Workers under the existing set-up, and this Convention hereby unanimously requests and authorises Brother ADI K. IRANI to forthwith undertake this work as the Secretary-General of the said AVATAR MEHER BABA UNIVERSAL CENTRE and have the same registered with requisite objects and Rules and Regulations of the Association and with the help of a GOVERNING BODY representative of all places of the world, and that the following names of such Governing Body are suggested in the first instance, subject to changes later, after registration of the said CENTRE and subject to the Rules and Regulations to be framed.

#### FOR NAMES

See page Nos. 56, 57 and 58.

(B) Resolved unanimously that each centre or Group or individual worker be affiliated to the said AVATAR MEHER BABA UNIVERSAL CENTRE, and be guided by the said Universal Centre in all matters.

(C) Resolved that the Secretary-General of the AVATAR MEHER BABA UNIVERSAL CENTRE—Brother ADI K. IRANI—do requisition the assistance of a smaller 'STEERING COMMITTEE' (who are easily available to him for consultation and discussion) from out of the members of the GOVERNING BODY, and that the decisions of such STEERING COMMITTEE be binding on all Lovers and Workers.



*Resolution No. VIII*

Resolved that, coming under the affiliation of the AVATAR MEHER BABA UNIVERSAL CENTRE, there should be Provincial (State) Centre for each State—which should also be a registered body—and that the District and Local Centres or Groups should be affiliated to the relative State centre, and that all District and Local Centres should as far as possible, try to register themselves; and that the existing registered bodies be affiliated to the said AVATAR MEHER BABA UNIVERSAL CENTRE.

*Vide Resolution No. VII (A) aforesaid.*

**NAMES SUGGESTED, IN THE FIRST  
INSTANCE, of the GOVERNING BODY:**

**SHRI ADI K. IRANI—SECRETARY-GENERAL  
and also TREASURER, and the following:**

**PART 1 (India and Pakistan)**

1. Shri Eruch Jessawala
2. Smt. Mani S. Irani
3. " Dr. Goher
4. Shri A. R. IRANI (Pendur)
5. " Bhau Kalchuri
6. " Khan Saheb Sarosh Irani
7. " Dhake Phalker
8. " Meherjee Karkaria
9. " Jal S. Irani
10. " F. R. Driver (Padri)
11. " Chagan Master
12. " Nana Kher
13. Smt, Susheela Deorakher
14. Shri Nariman Dadachanjee
15. " Rangule
16. " L.B. Thade

17. Smt. Burjor Mehta
18. " Minoo Kharas
19. " Adi Dubash
20. " K. K. Raroakrishnan
21. " R. Sigamporia
22. " Maharani Shanta Devi (of Baroda)
23. Shri Dr. H. P. Bharucha
24. " T. S. Kutumba Sastry
25. " Sardar Amar Singh Saigal
26. " W. D. Kain
27. Smt. KUSUM
28. Shri H. R. KAPIL
29. Shri Balkishen Bakshi
30. " Kishen Singh
31. " Abdul Majeed Khan
32. " Babu Ram Prasad (of Nauranga)
33. " Keshav Narayan Nigam
34. " PUKHAR (Parameshwar Dayal Nigam)
35. " Digamber Gadekhar
36. " Girijanandan Dubey
37. " Abdulla Ramjoo
38. " R. Pankhraj
39. " Dr. C. D. Deshmukh
40. " Shanti Ghosh
41. " B. D. DIXIT (New Delhi-16)
42. " Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy
43. " S. D. Lalit
44. " P. G. NANDI
45. " A. C. S. CHARI
46. " Shalig Ram Sharma
47. " M. R. Appa Rao
48. " N. Dharma Rao
49. " Dr. Thota Dhanapati Rao
50. " Bonala Venkateswarulu
51. " K. Satyanarayana (Publisher: Avatar Meher)
52. " V. V. Narayana Rao
53. " N. V. Ramanayya
54. " Koduri Prasada Rao

55. " G. V. Brahmayya
56. " T. Basavayya
57. " A. V. Prasada Rao
58. " Majety Rama Mohan Rao
59. " N. Bhimasankaram
60. Smt. P. JAGADAMBA
61. Shri R. Suryanarayana (Nizamabad)
62. " K. R. Bhaskara Rao (Secunderabad)
63. Shri Y. V. Narasimha Rao (Kakinada)
64. Shri SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN  
(Rajahmundry)

#### PART II (Other Countries)

1. Dr. Harry Kenmore
2. Mr. ADI S. IRANI (Junior Adi)
3. " Francis Brabazon
4. " William Le Page
5. Miss Phyllis Frederick
6. „ Kitty Davy
7. Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson
8. " Murshida Ivy Duce
9. " Ella and Mr. Fred Winterfeldt
10. Miss Ruth Ringer
11. Mrs. Ruth White
12. Mr. Dana C. Field
13. Mr. Louis and Mrs. Agostini
14. Mr. Darwin and Mrs. Shaw
15. Mrs. Carrie Ben Shammai ,
16. Mr. Don E. Stevens
17. Mr. Rick M. Chapman
18. Mrs. Irene H. Conybeare
19. Dr. Allen Y. Cohen

(Names from Iran and other countries to be included) and others  
to be co-opted by the Secretary-General ADI K. IRANI.

(Sd.) Adi K. Irani,  
25-8-1969.

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# UNIVERSAL CENTRE

\* Bro. ERUCH'S LETTER TO Bro. A D I

Meherazad: 15-9-69.

*My dear Adi,*

All the Resolutions of The All India Convention of Meher Baba Lovers and Workers held at Rajahmundry on the 24th and 25th August have been noted carefully by me and by all concerned at Meherazad from the typed letter you sent me for my perusal; it seems that letter was sent to you from or personally handed over to you at Rajahmundry by Swami Satya Prakash or Shri N. Dharma Rao.

The first few resolutions are in accordance with what Baba personally wished and often emphasised; and if carried out wholeheartedly by individuals and by Groups and by Centres at different places, whether in the East or the West, Baba's Work will flourish, because Baba is all the more everywhere throughout the world!

But the resolutions VII and VIII, (the last two) tend to pave the way for a *Baba-cult and a new religion*! Here is a sign of danger in Baba-work! After all, Baba said that he had not come to establish any new religion. These resolutions will tend to obstruct and prevent a free play of the present freedom in the dissemination of Baba's Message.

The idea of establishing a Universal Centre binding all the Baba-activities in the East and the West under one legal Constitution is bound ultimately to become a cult and eventually a religion, because it will be regulated not by individual feelings of love for One's Beloved Avatar but by the grip of tenets enforced in times to come by the 'elders' of the Universal Centre in the future. (See what has happened to Islam and Christianity, etc.)

To have a registered body and for the body to function within the framework of a Constitution with all its formalities will be an added burden and might conflict with the already established Meher Baba Centres, especially in the U.S.A., U.K., Australia and other countries. Actually, Myrtle Beach Centre (Meher Spiritual Center, Myrtle Beach, S.C.), Sufism Reoriented, and the Society for Avatar Meher Baba, New York, U.S.A., are already registered and world recognized Centres, likewise Centres in U.K., Australia, Pakistan and Iran; so it would be redundant to have a registered Universal Centre in India incorporating already existing registered and world recognised Baba Centres in the East and the West.

Moreover, Easterners and Westerners have a different approach in the spreading of Baba's Message and in the mode of promoting Baba-work; even so, it is fascinating to observe the different ways of approach among Easterners, as well as among Westerners, in their respective locality according to the environmental atmosphere and the types of people contacted! So to have a formal Establishment would not, to my mind, confirm to the individual freedom which Baba gave to His lovers and workers for spreading of His Message.

I think that individual workers and Groups and Centres in the East and West should continue to do their Baba-work unhampered and wholeheartedly fully realizing their sacred responsibility of the trust reposed in them by

Baba, as they did when Baba was physically in our midst. Baba's Love guided them then and Baba's Love will continue to guide them now! I also feel that the existing Group-heads and/or Heads of Baba Centres should continue to shoulder their responsibilities in their own jurisdictions, as they did before and encourage Baba lovers in their efforts to continue spreading Baba's Message and doing Baba-work.

In my opinion, now that Baba's Physical presence is no longer in our midst, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Ahmednagar, formed by Baba represents Baba and should be considered the final authority on matters which need a deciding vote where there is a deadlock concerning Baba-work (as long as lovers of Avatar Meher Baba hold office of trusteeship in the said Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Ahmednagar). As and when there arises any necessity of sending out any circulars for the information of Baba-lovers and workers in the East and the West, you, Adi, should continue to issue them through the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Ahmednagar; and if any of the Group-heads and/or Heads of Baba Centres in the East and the West wish to send reports of Baba work and activities they may continue to do so to you, as they have done before.

The enthusiasm of the organisers of Rajahmundry Convention of lovers and workers of Avatar Meher Baba is appreciated and I consider it very commendable; if it is so ordained by Baba, then it will be! But I personally request you and others concerned not to involve me in the Plan nor include my name in the list of the governing body or the steering committee, etc. Having read this letter, the enclosed points should make it very clear to you why I do not wish to be brought into this project of a Universal Centre.

Mani, Rano, Goher and Pendu having read the letter of the Resolutions passed at Rajahmundry and having

discussed the matter among themselves, have asked me to inform you and concerned that they too do NOT wish to be involved personally in this project. Aloba and Bhau Kalchuri are absent from Meherazad for Baba-work for some weeks and I do not know their mind on this issue. Moreover, we, the Mandali, at Meherazad have been entrusted by Baba with individual duties which we wish to honour unhampered.

Dear Adi, I have thought over all these points very carefully, and what I feel on the subject of the Universal Centre, I have expressed very frankly in this letter. I request you and concerned not to misconstrue my viewpoints as trying to come in the way of the project of Universal Centre in India; but the reason for stating them here is in order to express my feelings on the subject, and to make it clear to all concerned as to why I do NOT wish to be involved in any way whatsoever.

In case you wish to make use of this, my letter, you are free to do so, in order to share with others my viewpoints and those of the Mandali at Meherazad on the subject of the Universal Centre in India, and I hope our dear Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen will publish this letter in Divya Vani.

*Yours lovingly,*  
**(Sd.) Eruch.**

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\* *NOTE:* In this letter of Bro. Eruch, he has expressed his feelings having thought over carefully and made his view clear on his behalf and on behalf of those of the Mandali at Meberazad with regards to the formation of the Avatar Meher Baba Universal Centre with Ahmednagar as its Head Quarters as has been resolved at the Rajahmundry Convention of Baba-lovers and Workers. We are deeply indebted to him for his frank opinions and clarifications and commend the same for sincere consideration of all concerned. We have got high esteem and love for him and

all the resident Mandali who propose to disassociate with this Universal Centre for the reasons expressed in the terms of this letter. But we honestly beg to differ with them and strongly feel that establishing of the Universal Centre as envisaged by the Convention will not only leave the individual or the Groups or Centres to be more free as autonomous bodies to function in their own unique way, but also add to its potentialities by strengthening the activities of each of them, with ties of mutual love by their unity in actively striving together for the common cause which is dear to all and creates the feeling of One Baba-Family, whether we belong to the East or the West. There need be no disturbance to the individualities of persons, or groups, or centres NOW existing, or those that may be formed hereafter. We honestly feel, that Bro. Eruch's apprehensions, though genuine, are not realistic for this will be like the Theosophical Society, a common forum for all the religions but can never become a Separate "Baba-Cult". Any way, this letter of Bro. Eruch, having been received late for Publication in our "Divya Vani" has to be added in the last and we could not meet its arguments in our Editorial. We NOW feel it our duty to open a FORUM for "Baba-lovers" Views on this important Subject in our Divya Vani, October Issue and we hereby invite those who would like to express their views, to do so, addressed to the Editor, by way of short letters, so that others can also share them.

*Editor,*

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—Editor,  
'Divva Vani'

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—Editor & Publisher

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*(Continued from 2nd cover page)*

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rightly	rightly	35	3	6
thoughout	throughout	35	4	5
vetern	veteran	36	1	12
thier	their	37	1	11
least	lest	37	1	26
vetern	veteran	38	1	28
benificial	beneficial	43	1	3
pillor	pillar	43	2	24
lyng	lying	44	1	21
Hare Canmore	Harry Kenmore	44	1	29
assembeled	assembled	45	3	6

decidely	decidedly	46	3	2
courtsy	courtesy	49	3	17
chosng	choosing	50	2	15
AHMED- NAR	AHMED- NAGAR	55	1	1
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tenents	tenets	60	1	6
juridictions	jurisdictions	61	1	5