

DIVYA VANI
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May-June 1972

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MONTHLY

May & June 1972

divya vani

(DIVINE VOICE)



AVATAR MEHER BABA

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EDITOR

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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D I V Y A V A N I
(D I V I N E V O I C E)

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E d i t o r :

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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CONTENTS

	Page
1. Editorial	... 3
2. The Day is Winding by Mukharji	... 5
3. Glimpses by Bal Natu	... 7
4. My Tour in Hamirpur District	... 19
5. Inspiration by Dorothy Levy	... 24
6. Yearning by Mukharji	... 26
7. Children's Corner by Auntie Sree Lata	... 27
8. The Value of marriage and the sanctity of married life	... 29
9. Salvation by Baba Nama Japam by Bro. T. V. S. Prasad	... 30
10. Baba's Message of Love by A Baba-lover	... 33
11. An Appeal to Baba Lovers - Meherpuri	... 36
12. News & Notes	... 38
13. Books Received	... 48



Photo taken on the occasion of the inauguration of
"Meherpuri" by Sri Adi K. Irani.

A Subscription to "DIVYA VANI" is a Love-Contribution to Baba's Cause

To

The Editor,

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Editorial:

OURSELVES

We have made an appeal in the previous issue of Divya Vani about the new venture undertaken by us in the name of Avatar Meher Baba Mission, which has been incorporated as a Public Charitable Trust in August 1971. It is proposed to undertake to establish an abode of workers by name "Meher Ashram" more firmly, for which more dedicated workers are needed at this juncture, for whom the abode offers to provide food, clothing and shelter, if they desire to stay with us in the "Ashram" as co-workers in the Cause of Beloved Baba and in the way we propose to undertake to live from time to time. At present, we feel the need for such dedicated workers who believe in the Avatar-hood of Beloved Baba and we welcome them whole heartedly to join us now. Any other particulars needed may kindly be had from us by writing to us themselves.

We are happy to inform our readers that our trials to establish a "SARANALAYA" in Baba's Name and the Residential School for children by name "Meher Gurukulam" are progressing well and we hope to start the same in a couple of months. It is becoming more difficult now to secure the services of such ardent lovers as would prepare themselves to render loving service to children and undertake to bring them up with care and love as they mostly need. We appeal to those who may be able to spare their time, money and energy for this purpose to be kind enough to render the same, out of their free will, as their love-contribution for this Cause, and extend their helping hand in the way in which Beloved Baba prompts them to do. Our hearty thanks are extended to them all.

At this juncture, we have undertaken to see our Monthly English Magazine, DIVYA VANI is also given proper attention. We regret to inform our brothers and sisters on this occasion that there are only about 200 paying subscribers in India and about 125 in the rest of the world, This is indeed a very small number and to show progress in the present state of things with regards to get-up and quality of paper and printing

is not an easy job under the increasing rates of them all. But yet with absolute faith in Baba and His Lovers, whom we always wish to serve to the best of our ability, we made a venture now to shift to a new place for Printing in a quality Press, so as to make DIVYA VANI more attractive qualitatively. Under the present high rates of paper and printing, it is becoming imperative to reduce the quantity, we mean the number of pages, so as to maintain the same rates of subscription. If the number of Subscribers is increased, then only it will be possible to increase the number of pages. We take this opportunity to appeal to all Baba-lovers to draw their special attention to these facts and be pleased to render all possible help to us so as to strengthen our hands at this critical juncture of our venture, and help us to take a progressive turn in every way in the services we propose to render for the Cause of Beloved Baba, which is dear to us all. We specially appeal to those of our leaders who can extend their good-wishes and to those who can send us good articles on and about Baba Way of Life, so as to educate the public on principles for which we have to strive hard and live, as taught by Beloved Baba. To make Divya Vani a real voice of the Divine, we need the real help of all those who love to live the Life Divine and those who can show others the way by their own example, more than anything else. May our humble appeal in this regard be properly heeded and responded to, is our prayer to our Compassionate Father.

In this short review of ours, we place before our readers a true picture of the circumstances we are placed and the earnest struggle we propose to undertake at this juncture, with absolute surrender to His Will and dedicating ourselves once again to His Cause, reaffirming our faith in His loving Grace to Bless us and make our efforts a success in every way.

Hereafter, we submit that all our activities will be concentrated to work for the progress of "DIVYA VANI" and we now mainly proposed to develop under the auspice of "The Avatar Meher Baba Mission" as sponsored by the Meher Vihar Trust and we are glad to announce here that for all publications of the Meher Vihar Trust, the "MISSION" has been appointed as the Sole-distributors, including "Divya Vani".

We now appeal once again in the name of our Beloved Baba, the Avatar of the Age, to all members of Baba-family, big and small, with folded hands, to render us their whole-hearted support and extend their helping hand to make our efforts a success. We earnestly solicit their hearty cooperation to the extent possible and their good wishes at all times.

May Avatar Meher Baba Bless us all !

Jai ! Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai !!

THE DAY IS WINDING

By U. N. Mukherji
Bilaspur, M. P.

The day is winding away
Everything doth perish – aye
Nothing remain
However you take pain
The seeds shape into saplings
Before extinction they leave seedlings
The seeds again blossom into flowers
to decorate forlorn bowers
Flowers end up themselves as offerings
The cycle continues ken ending
Other Earth holds everything in her breast
Just like the Sound and sense inside the words rest
Both doth perish—leaving behind a trail of tune
Like the flower and pollen giving Honey immune.

Glimpses of the God-Man

MEHER BABA

Visit to Uttar Kashi

1948 — Part II

By Bal Natu

Ordained Mission of The Avatar

As one reads the account of Meher Baba's contacts with the God-intoxicated souls—*masts*, at the outset as well as in retrospect, one comes upon a phase, unmatched in spiritual history. The work seemed so simple in its outward expression, yet in its effect, it was profoundly deep; so visible but abundantly penetrating. Especially in the forties, the work regarding the *masts* was 'the must' in Meher Baba's life; it far outweighed the other phases to which He paid attention. The inner life of the *mast* tendered a mystery and so the channels through which Meher Baba reached his dazed being, were inherently mystical. Undergoing great inconveniences and hardships, He reached the places where they dwelt. With ease of manner and gentle love, that was evident in Him, He carried on the divine work as an ordained Mission that none can take over until the Avatar gets enformed in His next Advent. This happens when humanity feels adrift and is in need of the Star to sail by, in the shoreless sea of Life.

The *masts*, with their mysterious states and peculiar traits, as explained by Meher Baba, are mostly found in India. So, very little is known about them in other countries; if any, it is in the form of distorted interpretations. Why should such God-intoxicated souls be found in India alone? It is a fair question. Instead of attempting to answer it myself, I feel it proper to quote two paragraphs from the book, perhaps the only book on the *masts*, *The Wayfarers*.*

* *The Wayfarers* by William Donkin.

India, Nearest To The "Creation Point"

Dr. Donkin writes, "A person of enquiring mind may wonder whether *masts* may be found in other parts of the world, and if they are not, then why it is that India alone is gifted with such souls. Meher Baba, in explaining this paradox to his disciples, told them once that India was nearest to the "Creation Point", and was, therefore, the most significant country in the world in the realm of spirituality. It was for this reason, He explained, that there were few *masts* outside India, and none in Europe or the Americas, although there were mystics, saints and God-lovers there. He told them, however, that there were a few *masts* in Arabia, a few in Egypt, a very few in Iran (mostly in Meshed and Tabriz), and a very few in Tibet.

"It is, therefore, not surprising that in the western world there are, as far as I am aware, no traditions about these God-intoxicated souls, and that when a westerner is confronted for the first time by the eccentric characteristics of a *mast*, his reaction is, quite possibly, one of incredulity and even abhorrence."

Meher Baba did not feel it necessary to explain much about the subtleties, involved in His work, with the *masts*. Again, there was no rigid method in contacting them except that He expected them to be in good mood at the time of meeting them. Some high *masts* were contacted only once while a few had recurrent Baba-contacts. Sometimes there was a "regional concentration" as was in the case of Hyderabad and Baroda or the states of U. P. and the Punjab. In 1948, it was so in the case of Bombay. He paid a visit to this city in February, 1948 and wished to revisit it in March for contacting the comrades of God—the *masts*.

Masts of The Multifarious City

Immediately after the tripartite phase of forty days, Shri Baba commenced His work with the *masts*, in full swing. He visited Poona on the first day of March, to contact Shastri Kher. This advanced pilgrim chose his residence, in the open space near the vegetable market in the heart of the city. Once, he was a *shastri*, meaning well-versed in the scriptures and his

knowledge attracted crowds of people to him. Later, he discarded the load of learning and the God-Man felt impelled to visit him. From 15th March, 1948 commenced the second series of *mast*-contact in Bombay. The first one to come across was Nur Ahmed Baba, a Pathan in his sixties. He too, like Shastri Kher, was once a religious teacher. All of a sudden he realised the worthlessness of the intellectual approach to God. It was this propitious moment that hit him with the arrow of God love. The impact was so tumultuous that Nur Ahmed began to roam naked in the streets. What a blessedness to get lost in the wonder of that blissful Presence!

Meher Baba referred to such a type of masts as *Ittefaq*i. He explained, "An *Ittefaq*i is a *mast* who, without any love or longing, becomes suddenly, and accidentally, intoxicated by Divine Love. The dominant mood or behaviour of an *ittefaq*i at the very moment of becoming intoxicated, colours all his subsequent behaviour as a *mast*." At the time of contact, Nur Ahmed was at Kurla, a suburb of Bombay and was held in great reverence by his kinsfolk, the Pathans.

In all, Shri Baba contacted eleven *masts* in Bombay. Shan Saheb was an advanced pilgrim. He always preferred to move about, wearing a long black *kafani*. The one located in Bhendi Bazar was a first grade *pan* (betel leaf) chewer, and the red spittle to a large extent had coloured his clothes. He had remarkable eyes. They reflected the blending of the sights of the far-off horizon and the heaven within. The naked Dhuni wala was unmindful of the seasons that passed. All day long he sat by the fire of the *dhuni*. Ahmed was a good *mast*. He was always seen with a sack, gunny cloth around his belly, He had, in his *masti*, given up the rest of the worldly riches. Nur Ali, with rings on all the fingers, was in the habit of constantly murmuring something to himself or to others. At the time of contact Shri Baba seemed to enjoy every bit of his non-sensical talk. It is said that the irrelevant words of *masts*, though rarely, displayed mystical fore-knowledge! Nuruddin swathed in dirt rags, roamed about everywhere in the city and slept anywhere he liked. Another *mast* named Ali Hussein would sit silent at different places, gazing mostly at the blue sky. Thus years

passed by. After contacting these diverse types of *masts*, in the multifarious city of Bombay, Shri Baba returned to Ahmednagar. But within a week. He left the headquarters for an extended tour to visit the eastern and northern parts of India, in search of God-intoxicated, God-communed, and God-absorbed souls.

Calcutta, The Eastern Gate of India

The main target of this tour was to visit Uttar Kashi, in the Himalayan region. Gustadji, Kaka, Baidul, Chhagan and Eruch accompanied Shri Baba. On way to Calcutta, the party halted at Ambikapur (M. P.) where Shri Baba was received with great ovation by Jal Kerawalla. He was holding a high Government post of a Commissioner, at Ambikapur. I had no occasion to have any intimate talk with Jal Kerawalla. But he was the one with whom I wished I had some acquaintance. With his noble face he looked so graceful in person that one could not but grow fond of him. He was one of Meher Baba's endearing disciples. He was also one of the few persons whose residence was visited by Meher Baba even during the *mast* tours. This tour was not an exception and Shri Baba stayed at Ambikapur for a day and even agreed to hold a small *darshan* programme.

On 30th March, '48 Shri Baba was at Calcutta, the eastern gate of India. There He boarded a train for Dacca, the then capital of East Pakistan and now of the Bangla Desh. But as the train reached Rana Ghat, the frontier station, He decided to change the train that brought them back to Howrah (Calcutta). The *mandali* dared not question Shri Baba over this. They knew that they had to play their parts blindfolded with the conviction that the God-Man knew best. This indecisive and restless mood of Shri Baba continued all the more, during His stay in Calcutta, till the first *mast* was contacted.

An Out-of-the-way Condition

By the time, the train brought the Baba-party to Calcutta, it was 7-30 in the evening. Shri Baba consented to stay in a hotel for the night. Eruch knew the place where Shri Baba lodged during the last visit. This time Shri Baba, however, put forward an out-of-the-way condition. He proposed that His room should be at the end of the corridor way and that

there should be a vacant room in between His room and the *mandali's*. The Manager of the hotel was not expected to charge the party for the vacant room. Eruch, one of the *mandali*, was entrusted with this work. To his surprise, in one of the hotels, he found three vacant rooms on the fifth floor. He told the Manager that his elder brother (Baba) was very sick and was in need of a quiet atmosphere. So, the Manager agreed to give accommodation as was requested. Eruch had to spend more than an hour over this 'hotel hunt'. The party arrived at the hotel from the station. The *mandali*, though exhausted felt happy for Shri Baba got the rooms as desired.

By mid-night Shri Baba complained that the banging away at the anvils, in a nearby workshop, caused Him a great disturbance. Eruch, who was the night watch, got down the five flights of stairs and implored the proprietor of the work shop to discontinue the work of clanging, for the sake of his elder brother who was very ill. The proprietor consented to stop that noisy work. After an hour or so, Shri Baba who had a very sharp ear, detected some soft movements in the adjoining room. He told Eruch to enquire of the Manager for his breach of promise. Eruch was told that a respectable couple, unexpectedly arrived at the hotel and as the room was vacant, and the Baba-party was not anyway paying for it, the room was given to them. Eruch on way back, knocked at the door of the new companions, He explained to them about the delicate health of his elder brother (Baba). They agreed to be as noiseless as possible.

Master, The Wisest Of The Wise

Few minutes passed and there was a 'tick tick' on the door of Shri Baba's room. Shri Baba looked irritated and Eruch opened the door. He found the waiter with the ice water! Perhaps, the waiter missed the room and it was meant for the newly arrived couple. Whatever it be, by this time Shri Baba firmly announced to change the hotel. He gestured, "I cannot bear this commotion. We must move on to some quiet hotel." After a certain limit, none from the *mandali*, would argue with Shri Baba. Being convinced of the spiritual burden that Shri Baba bore for humanity, the *mandali* kept quiet and humbled, whatever He did or ordered in His agitated mood. Eruch woke

up the *mandali* resting in the other room and conveyed the decision of changing the hotel. Without raising any objection, all started packing up the bundles of luggage. Gustadji who was observing silence for over two decades began to convey something to Eruch through his gestures. Eruch in exasperation, said, "God bless me! I have to attend to two 'dumb persons'!" Just by this time Shri Baba stepped into the *mandali's* room. Looking at Eruch, He gesticulated, "Am I dumb?" Eruch felt sorry. He apologized and Shri Baba smiled away the remark.

Half asleep and half awake the party got down. At the time of settling the bill, there was some haggling at the counter. The man at the desk wondered at the behaviour of this party, whose members seemed to have come from the noble and respectable families. While loading the luggage in the *tongas* (horse-cabs), the person at the nearby workshop recognized Eruch and said, "You asked me to close the noisy work of moulding the iron. I agreed to it for the sake of your sick brother. Now, you are leaving the hotel at such an odd hour! How wonderful." What else could the *mandali* do than to apologize again and again to appease the person? Perhaps, Shri Baba who was sitting in the back seat enjoyed this joke. Because of the strange condition regarding the vacant room, it was difficult to get the required accommodation and on moved the cabs, from hotel to hotel. At last by 6-30 in the morning the party lodged in one of the hotels. Last night, the *mandali* had no supper, so Shri Baba allowed them to have a fine feast. All felt refreshed. But within two hours, Shri Baba, on one pretext or the other, wished to change the hotel. Why? He had His own reasons, that's all.

This incident is given in details to show that while engaged in His spiritual work, sometimes Meher Baba would be, to all appearances, extremely restless. The *mandali* who would be keeping company with Him had to bear the brunt of His mood, in the form of inconveniences, but in a cheerful spirit. Only after contacting the first *mast* in Calcutta, did Shri Baba's mood begin to show signs of His usual calm and gay nature. Here, I am reminded of the two couplets that Dr. A. G. Munsiff once

explained to me. The lines were in Urdu, The free interpretation of the couplets is as follows: However humiliating it may appear, in the company of the Master, the real life lies in annihilating your ego—the centre of intellectual reactions. Whatever the Master does, do not question His wisdom, He is not mad but the wisest of the Wise. He is that moth (*paravana*), God in human form, through whom, strangely enough the flame (*shamma*), the Light of lights is revealed. Oh, worldly wise, you have no idea of the Life of Love which includes infinite contradictions!

Contacting *Masts* In Calcutta

On 31st March in the morning, the first *mast* contacted was Mastan Shah. He was a rough, tough person with a sun-burnt skin, so common with the *masts*. He would loiter about the locality known as Central Avenue, muttering. The words as they come out from *masts* do not make sense to us. But in the case of some *masts*, they sound like the notes from a deep bell, with pleasing intonations. Shri Baba appeared pleased with this *mast*-contact and there was a marked change in His mood. Ramdas, Samsher Data and Rahim were old and moderate *masts*. It was said about Sufi Saheb, that for a period, over a decade or so, he did not sit or squat but either walked or remained standing. At the time of Shri Baba's contact, however there was a marked change in his outward behaviour. He had preferred to stay in a tiny room where he sat all day.

On 1st April, Shri Baba woke up very early and resumed a *mast* contact at 4 a.m. The next *mast* was Abdur Raheman, a moderate one. He was very fond of cats and dogs. Shaha Jehan was a high *mast* of the fifth plane. He had beside him, heaps of dusty, musty books as good as junk. The room had no windows and the possible ventilation through the door was blocked by a thick curtain. It can well be stated that the life of a *mast* is not the life of stoical suffering or self-denial but of God-reliance. Divine Providence alone protects them. At the end, Shri Baba visited one God-intoxicated soul who was abnormally fond of sweet oil. His body was smeared with oil and his clothes were drenched with it. He drank oil, in ample quantity with the fervour of the sweet drinks. In short, the *mast* looked very filthy. Shri Baba sat alone with him and the

quiet appeal made in silence, had a good response. The *mast* beamed with joy. Shri Baba also looked happy and remarked that it was the best contact in Calcutta. With this meeting Shri Baba's work in that great city and His restless mood too, were over.

Seek God With Intense Longing

By evening, the Baba-party boarded the Doon Express at Calcutta (West Bengal) for Hardwar (U. P.). They reached there on 3rd April, 1948. From there, Shri Baba was to proceed for Uttar Kashi. In the hallowed Himalayas, this sacred place lies, 4,000 feet above the sea level. It stands on the banks of the river Bhagirathi which is later known as the Ganga (Ganges). This centre of pilgrimage, from the days of old, is regarded as the reputed seat of Sanskrit learning. Its religious atmosphere is sanctified by the advanced souls who dwelt there for years. Now-a-days the buses take us right to this place. In 1948, from Tehri Garhwal, the pilgrims had to go on foot or ride on mules to reach Uttar Kashi. Again, the road was very unsafe and unprotected.

At Hardwar, Kaka and Chhagan were entrusted with the work of buying provisions for the journey to Uttar Kashi and back. With Baidul, Gustadji and Eruch Shri Baba set out on the look out of the advanced *sadhus* and the *masts*. As they were moving through the crowded lanes, Shri Baba pointed at an old person in rags, sitting on a wooden platform. He asked Eruch to enquire of this person about the *masts* in Hardwar. Collecting the information, the Baba-party left ahead. Soon, it was noticed that the man in rags was following them. Finding him rather persistent, Shri Baba asked one of the *mandali* to ascertain the reason of his pursuit.

At first the man responded saying, "I am in search of the Master, the Sadguru." In the next breath, directly addressing to Shri Baba with all humbleness he spoke, "I feel you are My Master." He gazed at Shri Baba and waited for His answering look. Shri Baba appeared pleased at his frank remark and the man was overjoyed. He blessed the old man and asked him to love God with intense longing and that Shri Baba would help him. After contacting some *masts* and *sadhus* in the city,

Shri Baba of Himself reopened the topic of the old man and appreciated how silently and deeply he 'wept' for the sight of God. Just then the same person reappeared. Shri Baba called him close and gave him three oranges as His *prasad*. He again advised him, "Seek God within you, with ever increasing love. One day you shall see Him. My blessings." Meher Baba's name was not disclosed to this old man. But Shri Baba's august presence did what was needed.

A Teenager, A Thirst For God

While moving incognito throughout India, Meher Baba had blessed and guided many a sincere soul. Rarely was His identity disclosed. Here is a story of a teenager who had left his home to find a *Sadguru* of his own choice. It was in 1942, the year when Meher Baba travelled over 15,000 miles from Ravalpindi (now in Pakistan) to Tanjore (Tamilnadu), to contact about 200 masters. In June, 1942 He was at Rishikesh which is about ten to fifteen miles away from Hardwar. Shri Baba was then residing with His eastern and western disciples in the bungalow of Rani Singhai, in the area known as Swarga Ashram. It was a sort of a forest ground. In those days, in this particular part there were some huts in which the *sadhus* lived and practised some *sadhana* (discipline). One day while returning to the Bungalow, Eruch noticed a handsome boy lying in one of the dilapidated huts. He was about fourteen years of age. By the way, Eruch remembered Shri Baba's instructions to find out one ideal boy for His contact. Naturally, he requested Shri Baba to visit the hut.

Meher Baba agreed and accompanied Eruch to the hut. He instructed Eruch to enquire of the boy and his intention to be there. The boy who spoke in Hindi told Eruch that he was from Ambala, where his parents resided. Because of the insatiable longing to see God, he felt impelled to leave the house. He decided to live in Swarga Ashram. Eruch asked him if he had a Master. The boy answered, "No. There are many *gurus* who only talk; and the mere words mean nothing. I earnestly desire for a *Sadguru* who *knows* but does not speak." At this Eruch gave him some information about Meher Baba and His silence. The boy said with dignity, "Yes, I have

recently heard about Meher Baba. I also learnt that He is residing some where in the neighbourhood." However, he added, "But Meher Baba is too great to accept me." Just then Shri Baba came forward and it was the most delightful moment in the life of that young boy. There opened up within him a great awareness and the beats of his own heart convinced him of Meher Baba's Godhood. He knew that God was compassionate but now he was surer than ever. When one is sincerely receptive to the will of God, one finds the shower of Grace, pouring upon oneself.

The Four Orders

Meher Baba conveyed through gestures that he was ready to be his Master. But the boy shall never see Him again in His physical form. If he was willing to abide by this condition Shri Baba wished him to obey four more orders for his lifetime. Then shall come a timeless moment, Shri Baba assured, when the boy will find God in his own heart as the Eternal Companion. Without any hesitation whatsoever, the boy happily consented and Shri Baba stipulated the following four orders:

- 1) In your entire lifetime, never touch a woman with the intention of lust.
- 2) Constantly and earnestly crave to realize the Divine Beloved—God.
- 3) Don't touch money; beg for your food.
- 4) Repeat all the time, Om Hari Narayan. (Shri Baba had asked the boy, his choice of repeating the name of God. The boy chose Om Hari Narayan. Shri Baba confirmed this as *Guru-mantra*.)

The meeting was over. Shri Baba smiled and thus assured the boy of His inner help, The teenager too smiled with Him. It was an expression that he would whole-heartedly abide by Shri Baba's orders, to his last breath. Shri Baba left the hut and the boy with all love in his eyes, continued to watch Him as far as his eyes could see, for he was not to see that Beloved Form again. The next day Shri Baba sent the boy a photo medal (with Shri Baba's form engraved on it) and a small booklet

(giving information about Meher Baba's life). A mat was also delivered to him along with some flour to be eaten as Shri Baba's *prasad*. The boy felt overwhelmed to receive these gifts. He continued to live in the woods of Rishikesh, famous for black scorpions and poisonous snakes. But now he was all the more fearless for he had taken refuge in the omnipresent and omniscient God-Man, Meher Baba. Wonderful were the ways of Shri Baba to meet and guide His dear lovers; and after the dropping of his body, they continue to be more incredible and graceful!

Seekers And Pilgrims Of Uttar Kashi

With a very short stay in Hardwar, Meher Baba reached Rishikesh on 4th April, 1948. Nine coolies were engaged to carry the luggage of the party to Uttar Kashi via Tehri Garhwal. It was the last outpost for the bus traffic. Tehri was a town buried in a "hot steamy valley" and the track from Tehri to Uttar Kashi was narrow and rough. It had to be crossed at one's peril. The walk often raised blisters on the toes and in summer, the sun beat on the back. In short, it was a hazardous and wearisome march, but contacting the love-thirsty seekers and pilgrims of Uttar Kashi was the need of the time. On 7th April, '48, the party set out on the journey on foot from Tehri Garhwal. The first stop was in the forest-bungalow at Syansu and the second was in the Kali Kamhaliwala Chetty (*Dharmashala*) at Dharasu. Shri Baba reached Uttar Kashi on 9th April and all made themselves comfortable in the Birla House, a massive *dharmashala*. The 'divine outings' for contacting the pilgrims and *sadhus* commenced the next day.

Falahari Baba was an initiate pilgrim. He subsisted only on fruit, flowers and roots. He wore just a loin cloth, irrespective of the cold weather in winter. Ramdasji, another advanced soul, went a step ahead. All the year round he used to remain naked. He was also observing silence. He lived in a hut, a few miles away but visited Uttar Kashi to collect his daily bread. Gayanand lived in Kailas Ashram. His room was pretty dark but this advanced soul, who was fairly old, spent most of the time reading one book or the other. Shri Baba liked Gayanandji and so paid him a second visit. The old man looked overjoyed and his happiness was redoubled. For

contacting some other seekers, Shri Baba had to tread narrow foot-paths, and move through hills and dales. Among the ten seekers and *sadhus*, contacted at various places, there was a centenarian named Mangalagiri Maharaj. "His back was so bent and his body so thin that when he squatted his head almost touched the feet." This visit of Shri Baba made him feel that his age was amply rewarded and that he was blessed.

Love Gestures Of "Flying Kisses"

A contact with a *mast* from Bengal, who had decided to stay in this far-off place, must needs be mentioned. This God-intoxicated soul, Nirgunanandji, was in his eighties. His face, rather the whole frame, was wrinkled as a walnut. His shabby clothes which seemed unwashed for days, showed signs of long use. In spite of his age, his blithe spirit and energy were admirable. He lived in a small, low room in the Durga Devi temple. Welcoming Shri Baba, the *mast* personally led Him to the room. It was late evening and darkness prevailed in his room. So, Nirgunanandji lit a match and began to have a look at Shri Baba's body—the Light enformed. Beholding the divine lustre of Shri Baba's face, he seemed immensely delighted. Shri Baba too, joined him in his gay mood. Perhaps, for Shri Baba, this was the last and the most pleasing contact of the day.

The next day, by daybreak Shri Baba continued to move about visiting huts and cottages for contacting ardent aspirants and God-mad *masts*. In a nearby village named Tilot, lived Vishnu Datta Digambar. He was an outstanding personality. Shri Baba remarked that he was a *mast*, saint and child rolled in one. May be, as a *mast*, he wore no clothes, as a saint he was observing silence and as a child he would beg for food at any house, but only in the five. He ate with pleasure whatever he received. Shri Baba gestured that he was a *mast* of a very high type. Both seemed extremely happy to meet each other and it was a comfort to be in each other's arms. After the meeting, as Shri Baba departed, the *mast* made very loving gestures of "flying kisses" at Shri Baba. To witness such love signals was a sight unforgettable!

Rich Spiritual Inheritance Of Uttar Kashi

On 12th April, '48, Shri Baba visited a seeker named Ramanandji. He had long ash-daubed hair. Being naked he

was also known as Nanga Baba. The last but not the least meeting was with Devigiri Maharaj. In a way it was the first and the foremost contact of an advanced soul from Uttar Kashi. Because, while journeying by train from Calcutta to Hardwar, Shri Baba pointed out at Benares, at a venerable old person in ochre coloured robes, flanked by two young *sanyasis*. With reference to him Shri Baba remarked, "A very good soul." He then asked Eruch to get the whereabouts of that person. It turned out that he was from Uttar Kashi where he had an Ashram. His name was Devigiri Maharaj and he was on his return journey. Owing to the request of some of his devotees he however, got down from the Doon Express at Ayodhya. But perhaps, as wished by Shri Baba, he returned to his headquarters in time, to receive the blessed and redeeming touch of the Real One, to whom he was whole-heartedly devoted, may be with a different name and in a different form! With the presence of these rare souls like Nirgunanandji, Vishnu Datta, Devigiri Maharaj and a few others, Uttar Kashi maintained the rich spiritual atmosphere.

On 13th April, Shri Baba left Uttar Kashi. By 18th, He reached Agra via Delhi, He halted there for three days. The main motive of course, was to meet *masts* and to feed them with His love. A few seekers too had Shri Baba's heavenly and healing touch. One of the prominent *masts*, was Majzoob Baba. He held himself as the Emperor of Agra. The choice of his residence was by the mental hospital. Shri Baba, however, told the *mandali* that in spite of his nonsensical talk and the seat near the mental asylum, he was a good *mast*. Haji Baba lived in a mosque and was fond of giving away money, whatever he had at hand, to the people. He referred to his room in the mosque as a tavern and to himself as a drunkard. In fact, he meant that the wine he had, was that of love for God. By 22nd April, 1948, Shri Baba returned to Ahmednagar.

While returning from Uttar Kashi, Shri Baba brought with Him a lively, dainty creature. For the succeeding years, it reminded the *mandali* of those thrilling and perilous 'outings' near about Uttar Kashi, in search of earnest seekers and spiritually advanced souls. What was it?

(To be continued)

My Tour in Hamirpur District and BABA'S LOVE FEAST

At the invitation of Shri Parameswari Dayal Nigam (Pukar) of Hamirpur, requesting me to participate in the PREMA - MELA (Lovers Gathering) at Meherpuri, Hamirpur and in the VIRAT - MELA (Universal Gathering) at Meher Dham, Nauranga on 17th, 18th, 19th of November 71 and 25th November 71 respectively, I started on the 14th November 71 night from Hyderabad by Delhi Express. In this pilgrimage, I carried with me the good wishes of lovers of Hyderabad and Secunderabad for the success of the functions. The train reached Jhansi on 15th night at about 9-30 p.m., and to my great joy there joined with me many lovers of Jhansi. We have taken the next passenger train towards Lucknow and got down at Kalpi Railway station by 3 a.m., on 16th. Early in the morning we took the first bus from Kalpi to Hamirpur and reached Meherpuri (Hamirpur) where Pukarji brothers and Sitaram Barfiwala gave us a hearty reception and provided us with good accommodation in a huge mansion at Meherpuri. Lovers poured in, one after another from different places to share the joy and blessings of great function. On 17th morning Brothers Gulabdas Panchal & party from Bombay along with Mrs. Khorshad K. Irani and Brother W. D. Kain of Delhi and Bro. Nafde of Bhopal arrived. Prominent among the local lovers are M/s. Bhavani Prasad and his son Krishna Bhushan, Headmaster of the school, Shri Kesav Narayana Nigam, Sital Prasad, Om Prakash Tripathi, Swamideva Sarma, Ali Bux, and Udith Narayan Sarma, who is the minister of the Uttar Pradesh Government from Hamirpur.

The functions at Hamirpur were arranged to commemorate the First Darshan of Avatar Meher Baba at Hamirpur and to celebrate the first annual function of the unveiling of Baba's statue. The first day functions were well attended by local elite and the public. Baba Sankirtan and gathering of lovers were held on first and second days, very successfully. On the third day a special gathering of lovers and workers was held. I had the good opportunity of addressing the gathering and

Bro. W. D. Kain gave the Hindi translation: The speciality of the occasion was that the whole function was so simple and homely that all lovers present could feel the divine presence of Beloved Baba and the ecstasy of love has, indeed, surpassed the experience that many lovers had on any earlier occasion.

The next day i.e. 20th afternoon, all lovers including the Kanpur group left Hamirpur with mixed feelings of parting sadness and the joyful experiences of beloved Baba's graceful presence.

On the 21st morning, Bro. Pukarji has led us to Ingohta, (the birth place of Bro. Pukarji). Bro. Gulabdas & party from Bombay has also joined us in this trip all along. We have visited the houses of Lakshmanchand Palival and family, Brinda Prasad Nigam and Bhagavati Prasad. It was really an unfathomable joy of homely reception and unsophisticated devotion of the lovers of this holy place once visited by beloved Baba and blessed by his personal contacts. The memories of experiences of the lovers of this village and the privileges enjoyed by them on the occasion of beloved Baba's stay with them are really encouraging and their simplicity in Baba's love and the hospitality accorded by them have made us all feel as one family so endearing to each other.

From here, we have proceeded to Maheva where we met M/s. Mahendra Pal Nigam and Mukund Lal Nigam and enjoyed their hospitality at that holy place. We visited Meher-Astana—the holy place where beloved Baba has revealed his Avatarhood for the first time to the world in 1952 when he was there in great seclusion. The cottage and the holy place on the hillock which was surcharged with the Divine presence of the Avatar of the age, has given us the thrill of life and the experience of loving presence of Baba filling the heart of every one of us with joy and peace. This is the place Bro. Kesav Narayan Nigam. But he was away to Bombay and so we missed him on this occasion. On the way we visited Kabari where Bro. Balbir Singh, has received us. On 22nd night, we reached Rath, where Mrs. & Mr. Gayaprasad Khare and their son Adarsha Bhushan Khare have received us. Their love and devotion to Baba were admirable. We were quite at home with them for the night.

After Breakfast on 23rd morning, our party led by Pukarji reached Nauranga at a distance of 10 miles by 3 p.m. The tractor that has carried us through the uneven places and fields and through dusty storm has given us the experience of ruggedness of country life, but the hearty reception and the loving embraces of Nauranga Brothers has overwhelmed us with joy and so much we enjoyed their shower bath of love. Soon after we had a cool bath, and were served with Tea and refreshments. Elaborate arrangements were made for all the lovers invited for the Virat Mela which was to commence from 25th November '71. Lovers from all over India poured in by that day. Brother Chagan Master came with a troop of half-a-dozen young American lovers from Ahmednagar, carrying with him a special message from Meharazad Mandali for the occasion. Those among the American group of lovers were 1) Gill Alvarado of Sanfrancisco, 2) John Foreman of Weston, 3) Allan Cohen of Westbury, New York, 4) Patrick Larlson of California, 5) Erico Nadel of Yellow Springs, Ohio, 6) Mrs. Anne Paterson of Aspen, Colorado. Among those that have come from Delhi were, Bro. Dixit, Rupchand Sharma, and Dr. R. P. Yadav of Avatar Meher Baba Dispensary, Bhorakalan (Haryana) & Rajanikant from Jabalpur.

The functions commenced on 25th morning with Flag hoisting by Chagan Master. At 8-15 a.m. Exhibition was opened by Bro. Gulabdas. On the first and second days there were Bhajans and Sammelans. Talks were given by Bros. K. N. Nigam Rajanikant and Swami Satyaprakash Udaseen. It will be too long a description for me to get into the details of the three days programmes which were unique in every way, and the several thousands of the villagers that have come from around, men and women, children were the real symbols of love manifestation of Beloved Baba and their hearts throbbing with love and their cheerful faces made the functions ever memorable. The Sankirtans of Baba were done by groups of devotees and music parties. A huge procession was taken out with two elephants carrying the group of westerners who held the decorated portrait of Beloved Baba. On 27th reception was given to Shri Swamiprasad Sinha, Minister for jails and excise, Swami Brahmanda M.P. Presided over the function.

Speeches were given by Swami Satyaprakash Udaseen & Swami Brahmananda besides Swamiprasad Sinha. A great Dinner was served to all lovers at 11 a.m.

Thanks must be given for the organizers for these most successful functions that have inspired many and the love-feast enjoyed all these days was in particular due to the great dedication and devotion of Bro. Babu Ram Prasad and those of his colleagues who have co-operated and shared with him the love of labour of whom mention must be made of: M/s. Hiralal, Madanlal, Siddha Gopal, Janak Singh & Nathuram Sastri. The uniqueness of the function was the camp life, provided by the organisers, its simplicity and universality without distinction of any kind, but with equal attention for necessities of rest and food. The four days of our stay there with the overflowing guests from far and near, with loving attention and exuberant hospitality, was indeed, a love-feast. His Divine presence has pleased every heart that has the fortune to join the functions.

Again on 28th morning our party led by Bro. Pukarji and Chagan Master with the added strength of westerners arrived back at Rath on a tractor again and from there to Bahadurpur on bus where we were received by Chaturbuj Saxena who arranged for our light refreshments. The entire caravan of Meher Pilgrims now got into carts dragged by two Bulls each and travelled on a country track to Byarjio. The procession was taken round the village for two hours and at last it reached the top of a hill where it converted itself into a public gathering. Bro. Chagan Master presided and declared the Meher Ashram there open. Shri Rajanikant and Swami Satya Prakash spoke on the occasion. The Ashram is ideally located in a scenic spot that abounds in natural beauty. There flows a rivulet round the hill. The cool shade of the green trees and the sylvan beauty of the spot make one very pleasant. Bro. Chagan Master is a natural leader, very much respected and loved like a father, by the people of Hamirpur. Bro. Saxena, Hariprasad and Geeta Ram and their colleagues are specially blessed for their choice in setting the Ashram there and their devotion for Baba is unsurpassed, Their hospitality and love that has been showered on the party was, indeed, deeper than can be expressed.

On the morning of 29th lovers and villagers of Byarjio have arranged a grand procession with two elephants and Bhajan parties. Here again Chagan Master and all the American Lovers were made to ride on elephants, holding aloft Baba's portrait and Flag. They have enjoyed the ride with the shouts of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai" which were quickly responded to by the villagers with one voice in unison. The ladies and children have taken this opportunity to garland and give Arati to Baba at every house. So much was the joy that was witnessed that they danced to the tunes of Bhajans in the streets, forgetting other matters. Swami Satyaprakash Udaseen who had selected to walk with the procession rather than to ride on the elephants was subject to a tidal wave of affection from the villagers who had profusely garlanded him and applied tilak on forehead that he looked like a well adorned bride!

It was with a heavy heart, that we took leave of these affectionate people who have flooded us with their love. We left again by Bullock carts to Rath road and again by bus to Rath town.

At this stage there is a sad news to mention. On 25th night Mrs. Gayaprasad Khare passed away taking Baba's name until her last breath. So we visited their house on the evening by which time their eldest son Dr. Brij Bhushan, Residential Medical Officer of Benares University, who had the unique good fortune as Baba and mandali stayed with him as guests during their New Life, was also there. We offered our condolences and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

The party now divided itself into two. Pukarji and Chagan Master with the Western-group went to Maheva and Meher Astana and myself with Bombay group with Shri Panchal reached Hamirpur back at 9 p.m. by a special taxi. On 30th night Pukarji and Chagan Master with their group reached Hamirpur from Meherastana and we had a pretty good time once again with entertainments of Meherpuri-school children in music and art and enjoyed the hospitality of Pukarji and family once again. On the first morning all of us including the Western group were invited to Kanpur by Bro. Sitaram Barfiwala and

we reached there by buses in the afternoon. The reception and hospitality accorded to us by Shri Sitaramji and his family and other co-workers was so sweet and hearty that it was a mixture of Baba-love and Barfi. Special programmes were arranged and Baba Sankirtans were sung. Press conferences were called. Western Brothers and sisters were made to speak about their experiences for two days. We have once again, as one Baba family forgot everything else of the world except eating sweets and taking Baba's love to the brim of our hearts. On this occasion the special attention paid to us all by M/s. Sitaramji, Premkumar Jain, Ramakishore Vajapaye, Raja-kumar Sharma and other members of A. M. B. Kanpur Centre was so great that we were overwhelmed with love and joy and when we have to part and go back to our respective places, we found ourselves unable to move out. The hearty send off accorded to us by the Kanpur group of lovers who saw us off at the Kanpur Railway Station was a rare expression of love. Brother Chagan Master and Western lovers proceeded to Ahmednagar and myself with Pukarji and party reached Jhansi from where I took leave of them with 'Jai Baba' and with parting embraces and love greetings. On the way to Jhansi, by beloved Baba's special blessings, we came in contact with Dr. Suresh Sastri of Jhansi, who is a learned scholar and a lover of God doing a great service to humanity.

By Baba's grace, I had the good opportunity of partaking the love feast and Divine manifestation of Beloved Baba, during the aforesaid functions of Hamirpur District which Baba declared as his heart. May beloved Baba bless us all to have such occasions so as to strengthen our faith and love for the Avatar of the age and hold on to His Daman until the last breath of our lives.

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI

—S. S. P.

INSPIRATION

By Dorothy Levy

All need inspiration—and words to cheer us
In a world of darkness, selfishness and lust.
For, words of inspiration are like a cheery song
That can make a good day better, to help when things
seem wrong.
There is no one that can go beyond God's Love reaching
everywhere
, Anyone can talk to God if going to Him in prayer ...
Dark clouds often hover over us to block our view—
But, Avatar Meher Baba's LIGHT will always shine through...
When we find a place in SILENCE apart—
Where we can meditate, and pray—listening with our heart...
To catch the whisper of God-Love—and to know what it
means
In faith, and trust—aware of the things UNSEEN...
Beloved Baba pours out His Blessings, giving us Beauty
and LOVE without stint ...
With more to come—here in life just a hint...
As, we travel on life's pathways listening to
His DIVINE CALL...
Hopefully, to have learned down through
the centuries—GOD IS ALL ...
Let us try to be more worthy in kindly deeds—
Making His Creation more fruitful—by sowing loving seed ...
Only the wise can grasp, and understand—
The GLORY of GOD-MAN, and the wonders of things
for us He has planned ...
Beloved Baba! May YOUR MESSAGE of LOVE and
TRUTH reach out across the land—
Touching the hearts not yet awakened in YOUR LOVE
to understand—
Words that are so simple, loving and true.
May we all be blessed by YOU to keep sharing
YOUR INFINITE LOVE with others too!

YEARNING

By U. N. Mukherji

Oh Lord, how long shall I remain
as a toy in thy Hands,
My life is wasted in vain pursuits
in the quicksands.
I am waiting with all hope
at the gate
Inquiring thy address from
everyone I met
My efforts were in vain
implore you once again
Oh Meher, You drifted me into the deep sea
far away from the shores
I beseech you, Oh Meher—tell me
Can I get you on my oars
Thy thoughts bound in the verbiage of words
Oh Meher, Lord of my Lords

Gather only the dust and din
Blow away all my carings
Fasten my raft into Thy Daman
Driving away all my Sanskaras—
Oh Meher, Lord of my Lords.

What hope it brings
In this sweet spring
My chariot is drawn
towards the magnet attraction
The aspirant enjoys the
Bliss and sublimation

The air is surcharged
 with fragrant scent
My mind is escalated
 in rhythmic bent
Your ever widening Mercy
 Engulfs my joy
I get melted like
 an alloy
Nature responded in
 Song celestial
The bugle proclaims
 Your ardent royal
Every heart gets enkindled
 in MEHER'S Name – Oh Lord
So they're lying prostrate
 in salutation – Oh Meher God!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

By Aunty Sreelatha

My dear Children,

In this letter I shall tell you of another of Baba's saying. He says "Be content with your lot, whether rich or poor, happy or miserable, understand that God has designed it for your own good and be resigned to His will".

That is, Baba wants you to be happy always. Even though you are put to trouble don't be disheartened. Don't lose faith in Baba. Think that Baba has willingly put you into that trouble. Perhaps He wants to test your faith in Him—Perhaps He wants to efface some of your 'Sanskaras' through it and thereby wishes to draw you nearer and nearer to God-hood. If you have just that faith that Baba will do everything for your

good only, then you will find that your faith is not baseless. Moreover you will be rewarded too. You will understand this truth well from the following story.

Once there was a rich businessman. He traded in cotton. He had huge godowns filled with cotton. One day as he was sitting in his office, one of his assistants came running to him. He was trembling from head to foot. 'Sir' he cried out 'We received a telegram saying that all our godowns have been burnt to ashes!'

The businessman was a great lover of God. He read the telegram, closed his eyes for a brief moment and said. "May the Lord be praised! Great are his ways!"

So saying he quietly resumed his work as though nothing has happened. The Assistant was dumb-founded. In those days Insurance Companies were not known and a fire meant a loss of millions of rupees.

After an hour or two the Assistant came again. This time his face was wreathed in smiles. He said "Sir, we have just heard from the telegraph office, that the telegram was delivered to us by mistake. It was meant for some one else. Thank God, all our godowns are safe".

Once again the businessman closed his eyes and said "May the Lord be praised. Great are His ways".

This business man may be called an ideal lover of God, who firmly believed that God does everything for our good only. It may not be so easy for all of us to be resigned to God's will. But we can try to be content with our lot. We can try to remember that Baba will not leave us amidst trials and tribulations. We have only to hold fast His 'daaman' and leave the rest to Him.

Trust God, Meher Baba Completely,
And He will solve all difficulties;
Faithfully leave everything to Him
And He will see to everything.

'The Value of Marriage and The Sanctity of Married Life' *

(Extracts from the messages of Avatar Meher Baba)

1. "The Value of Marriage lies in the lessons of mutual adjustment and the sense of unity with the other".
2. "Married life has to be taken as a real spiritual enterprise which is intended to discover what life can be at its best".
3. "If married life is inspired by lofty idealism, it can be raised to a fellowship which not only requires and calls forth increasingly greater sacrifices for each other but actually becomes a medium through which the two souls can offer their mutual love and service to the whole family of humanity. When married life is thus brought into direct line with the "DIVINE PLAN" for the evolution of the individual, it becomes a pure blessing to the children which are the fruit of that marriage, for they get the advantage of imbibing spiritual atmosphere from the very beginning of their earthly career".
4. "God is Infinite Love: It is for the sake of love that the universe sprang into existence and for the sake of love it is kept going. "LIFE AND LOVE ARE INSEPARABLE", love is the undying flame that has set all life aglow. For the celibate as for the married, the path of inner life is the same—the path of love and sacrifice. There is nothing that love cannot achieve and there is nothing that love cannot sacrifice. Pure love is matchless in majesty, it has no parallel in power and there is no darkness it cannot dispel."

* *Collected by :*

Sri Bh. V. Ramana Rao,
B.A., B.Ed.

Salvation By "Baba" Nama Japam

By Bro. T. V, S. Prasad, B. A.

Baba is the Avatar of the age. Avatar is nothing but God who consciously becomes man for the liberation of mankind. He is the Ancient one. When the time demands His descent, the Avatar appears in different forms, under different names, at different times, in different parts of the world to bring a new release of Power, a new awakening of consciousness and a new experience of life for all. Normally at the time of his advent "the Period immediately preceding his manifestation is always one in which humanity suffers from the pangs of the approaching birth. Man seems more than ever enslaved by desire, more than ever driven by greed, held by fear, swept by anger. The strong dominate the weak; the rich oppress the poor. Large masses of people are exploited for the benefit of the few who are in power. The individual who finds no peace or rest seeks to forget himself in excitement. Immorality increases, crime flourishes, religion is ridiculed, corruption is spread throughout the Social order. Class and national hatreds are aroused and fostered. Wars break out. Humanity grows desperate. There seems to be no possibility of stemming the tide of destruction".

A close study of the present times reveals that at any moment the third world war may break out and the destruction of the whole mankind is possible. It is but natural that during the time of the advent of Avatar destruction either totally or partly is warranted. Baba always tells "Before I break my silence or immediately after it, three fourths of the world will be destroyed. I shall speak soon to fulfil all that is shortly to come to pass". So it is clear that a great catastrophe has yet to come to the whole universe. One can easily imagine that the two big powers, Russia and America are developing national hatred to such an extent that they may use the nuclear weapons at any time to sweep the whole mankind on the Earth. These two big Powers are advancing in science only in the aspect of destroying mankind. Experiments after experiments are conducted for destroying the man. The nuclear weapons are

the most threatening and destructive weapons. Of course the destructive weapons are inevitable during the time of every Avataric period. When we go back to the age old Avataric periods, we can easily understand how the destructive weapons were used for bringing a great disaster to life as a whole. If not the nuclear weapons, there must take place something on the earth for the said destruction of the three fourths of the world.

During the time of Avataric periods, when destruction is inevitable on one side, construction is also assured on the other side. In other words construction is as important as destruction during the Avatar's Life on earth. First destruction will take place and then peace, joy and happiness will take place. When the whole universe is ripe for destruction, the Avatar appears and saves His own family even at the cost of His body, mind and life. It is how the world continues to exist. Now it is important to note that when the nuclear weapons are meant to act as destructive weapons, there must be one power to counteract the destructive power. The counteraction would take place only to save one fourth of the world as the destruction of the three fourth of the world declared by Baba is sure to come to pass. In order to counteract the destructive power and to bring a new world order, God has descended into a human form in the name of "Avatar Meher Baba". He knew how best he can save His own family members. Hence one need not think very much on counteracting the destructive power. Counteraction is meant to neutralise or hinder any power which acts. But besides counteraction, what is necessary is to have a new world order in which the men realise the true value of life and live happily with clear understanding that God alone is Real and all else is Illusion.

. There are several High roads to realise God. Namajapa is one of the many high roads. The other high roads are 1) Love for God with intense longing to see Him and to be united with him; 2) to be in constant company with the Saints and lovers of God rendering them wholehearted service; 3) to avoid lust, greed, anger, hatred and the temptation for power, fame and fault finding; 4) to renunciate everyone and everything externally devoting in solitude to fasting, prayer and

meditation; 5) to renunciate internally, carrying out all worldly duties; 6) to do selfless service to humanity without any thought of gain or reward; 7) above all to surrender completely with unwavering faith in Man-God or God-Man in whom God reveals Himself in full Glory with Infinite Power, Unfathomable Knowledge, Inexpressible Bliss and Eternal Existence. During the time of Avatar the Avatar as the Supreme Sadguru occupies the Supreme place as a head of the spiritual hierarchy. The name of the Avatar is so pure that it occupies not only this whole Universe but all universes as well. During the Avataric Period, He knows everything, He does everything, He sees everything and He is everything. If we call Him wholeheartedly with His name, He will appear with His full glory and do anything and everything we need. Name of the Avatar is always efficacious and "Nama" is name of the Avatar and Japa is repetition of the name of the Lord. Uttering the name of the Lord is of 4 ways: 1) repeating the name of the Lord audibly; 2) Repeating the name of the Lord by moving the lips without making any sound; 3) mental repetition of the name of the Lord without moving the lips; 4) repeating the name of the Lord always without making the sound, moving the lips and without making the mind know of it. In order to repeat the name of the Lord, we have to select a musical name in the form of a "mantra" which must be given by a Master to His disciple. It is stated that only when such mantra of a name is given through the mouth of a Sadguru will become fruitful in realising God or desired object. Baba has already given His name to all of us to repeat daily more than fourteen times. Baba's nama-japa may be taken as one of the methods of loving Baba. By nama-japa one knows how to love Baba really even though there are several ways of loving Baba. By loving Baba wholeheartedly one can transcend from Sensation to reason, from reason to intuition and to higher inspiration and ultimately to realisation. One has to cross seven spiritual planes of consciousness through gross, subtle and mental bodies. After realising God, some may give up the body immediately. Some may become Majzub who are not conscious of creation and their bodies but who experience constantly the infinite bliss, Power and knowledge. They cannot use the power for others. Some may become Videha-muktas. But a few will become

Sadgurus. At every age the Sadgurus are five in number. They constantly experience the Infinite Peace, Power and Knowledge and also use all these Powers for the sake of the other men.

When such realisation of God and becoming Sadgurus are expected from the Avatar of the age, it is a minor thing to counteract the destructive nuclear weapons. Even a single Baba lover with a stroke of one single narna-japa wholeheartedly can counteract not only the nuclear weapon but any destructive weapon on the earth. The most important thing is that it is not only to normalise the situation by counteracting the destructive weapons but also to build up a new world order in which one loves the other with a clear-cut feeling of brotherhood realising the spiritual aspect of life. Baba Nama-japa is one of the means to achieve the end.

N.B.: This is the Prize Winning Article, at Baba Premika Sammelan Srirangapatam on 10-12-1961.

Baba's Message of Love

By a Baba Lover

The only God is KNOWLEDGE and the only evil is ignorance. Knowledge of what? Knowledge of God—The Infinite Bliss. One should know that not he that adorns but he that adores makes Divinity.

We, modern men and women, are not in need of sound advice and original ideas but we all want experience. We do not want some one who can help us to think more clearly or even one who can tell us what to do. We want something done; we want, exhibited as a reality, the life that we are deeply conscious. In short, we want not an intellectual demonstration of truth, but the truth itself. We knew what science teaches. We have already astronauts who have circled

the earth travelling through space. We have 50 ton Megaton bombs. We need not know any more. We want the evidence of knowledge (gnosis) put into practice, for we are living all our lives in uncertainty, challenge, fear and peril.

It is here that the need of a Guru is felt or some one with a consciousness greater than ours who can take us a step further. We do not need any more knowledge, except one and that is the knowledge of God or the Ultimate Reality. In that knowledge every thing is contained. We should select such a teacher who has achieved complete self-mastery and has reconciled and transcended the opposites that divide the life of man. He should be child-like yet wise; joyous but profound; humble yet authoritative. The Perfect Masters have that knowledge. The Perfect Master of whom I speak and write has that knowledge. He is AVATAR MEHER BABA. He is a Master of Perfect Masters. He has conscious knowledge of God. Baba says I am the Ancient One, the One Beloved residing in the hearts of all individuals. Undoubtedly I am the Ancient One, I reside in all. Therefore, if you can love all and make them happy and serve them at your own cost and at the cost of your comforts, then that would be loving Me—that is loving Me who is the Beloved residing in every individual heart."

Meher Baba has not come with any new message or to found any new religion. He says "I have come not to teach but to awaken." The gnosis of Meher Baba was never found to be in conflict with any religion or with the teachings of the Perfect Masters the world has already known.

The essence of Shri Avatar Meher Baba's message is LOVE—Love him unreservedly, resign yourself completely and unequivocally to him. By this he does not mean that one should hate others—rather it is exactly the opposite—Love one and all as BABA IS ALL PERVADING. By this one cultivates the habit of LOVE and destroys the habit of hatred, because hatred begets hatred. To love and put it into action one has to sacrifice his own happiness and comforts for the sake of one he loves and not do mere lip-wisdom.

Here the love is of two kinds i.e., sacrificing one's own happiness and comforts for the return of something and the other is spontaneous sacrifice without any expectation of material gains or any return. The latter is more important, as the former contains the POISON of 'SELF'.

The next quest that comes to one's mind is "What happens if I cultivate the habit of love or sacrifice my own happiness for the sake of others." The answer is you get the habit of sacrifice—"Thyaga". One may ask again "Why Thyaga or Vyragya is necessary." It is necessary because Vyragya means free from WANTS and free from wants means the control of the wavering mind. All this practice and trouble is to stabilise the monkey-like mind from inconstancy.

When one thus controls the mind it leads the DEHI (person) to lose ABHIMANA and AHANKARA and forget his 'SELF' and this 'SELFLESS' state is the ripe and right path for the realisation and enjoyment of that INFINITE BLISS. In short the God to be worshipped and the means required for it are within one's self. Shri Baba says "I am one of you, one with you and one in you and we are all One. To realize this oneness, love God wholeheartedly and honestly, sacrificing everything at the altar of this supreme Love and you will realize the Beloved within you."

One must know that before aspiring for that Infinite Bliss one must be worthy of it. We generally say that Mr. so and so is clean like washed rice; in this it is implied that rice becomes acceptable, edible, only after washing it, meaning thereby, that by itself rice is not usable. To bring the rice into edible form, it has to be pounded first, i.e., it has to bear good beating first; having thus brought it in usable form then it has to be washed clean and then cooked; then alone it can be offered as Naivedya. In the same way, a man has to undergo suffering before he becomes qualified for the Grace of God. Shri Baba says "Those who lose their all in Me find their all in Me ever after."

JAI BABA !!

An Appeal To Baba Lovers

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

We are inclined to recall each Baba Lover whether he has known that he should have known about Meherpuri, established under the approval and instructions of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba. It is an abode of Avatar Meher Baba in which he is also present in the form of His life statue in a befitting hall, surrounded by galleries and rooms in three stories. Around this holy place a cosmopolitan colony of Baba lovers from different places is emerging as the embodiment of Meherpuri. A universal educational institution, known as Avatar Meher Baba Vidyadham is being run by Meherpuri for one and all without any distinction. In this very area of Meherpuri it is desired to establish a charitable Avatar Meher Baba Hospital and a Meher library.

Accordingly the scope and purpose of Meherpuri is universal and eternal. It is situated in Hamirpur (U. P.) India. Meher Baba had a significant liking for this place. On His very first arrival to this place on Nov. 18, 1952, while commencing his first open universal Darshan Baba gestured on alphabet board, "The spiritual atmosphere of this place is very high. It was also on this very occasion when Baba while going near the site of present Meherpuri, purposely pointed out this very place to His ardent lover "Pukar", now the Secretary of Avatar Meher Baba Meherpuri centre. Pukar could not follow that gesture at that time, he accordingly told about the standing crop in that field. Baba smiled and Pukar began to think that he has not followed the gesture in the real sense. After twelve years when this land for Meherpuri was selected and purchased, the significance of that gesture was realised and now Meherpuri is evident as a gift of His sight i.e., Nazardan.

Later on once Baba emphasised the importance of Meherpuri to Pukar expressing that Meherpuri had already been constructed under His Divine-plan.

Prior to dropping his physical body, Baba held the last meeting in the second week of Oct. 1968 and Pukar was specifically called to attend this meeting, he had his stay for

three or four days in Meherazad on that occasion. Beloved Baba, first thing which he directed to Pukar was to complete the plan of Meherpuri soon, seeking the help of His lovers. Since then Pukar has put his life at stake to complete the work and made several tours and sincere appeals to seek help from each and every lover from all over the east and west.

Since then more than 3 years have passed, although several lovers have given valuable help and much has been done, still it is a huge task and much more remains to be done.

The lovers can no longer afford to prolong the completion of the scheme of Meherpuri, and they should be anxious to carry out the will of the Beloved soon.

It is therefore an earnest appeal to all the Baba lovers to cooperate in fulfilling this sacred mission and expedite the remittance of their love gifts from the minimum to maximum amount they can afford, in one or more, in monthly or annual installments. Moreover the main point for consideration through this appeal is that each and every lover all over the world should avail this opportunity to contribute his or her share of help to Meherpuri, to any extent possible in cash, kind or service. Lovers capable of rendering services in the fields of education, medical department and spreading the message of love and truth of Avatar Meher Baba, are cordially invited and appealed to be unfailing and prompt in rendering their love gifts soon, so that they may share in the completion work of this Divine plan.

With cosmic love and regards to all lovers,

We are yours,

Sita Ram,	Gulabdas Panchal,	Saligaram Sharma
Banarsi Barfi Bhandar,	88, Tejpai Road	64, Khatriyana
Avatar Meher Baba Centre	Ville Parle East	Manek Chowk
Meston Road, KANPUR.	BOMBAY-57	JHANSI.

Note – The donations etc. may be sent to the following addresses:-

For General Purposes :
Secretary,
Avatar Meher Baba
Meherpuri Centre,
HAMIRPUR, U. P. (India)

For Educational Purposes:
Secretary,
Avatar Meher Baba
Bidyadham, Meherpuri,
HAMIRPUR, U. P. (India).

News & Notes

We herein give the News of some more Centres who have celebrated Beloved Baba's 78th Birthday, but could not be published due to want of space or because of news received too late for publication. No more of this item will be published as we close the same with these.

We request that the Centres or individuals sending any news for publication will kindly see that it is as brief as is possible and is sent early after the event. Too long news items and too late publication will lose the value and taste. Let us hereafter be brief and prompt.

All matter sent for publication shall be typewritten.
—EDITOR.

Avatar Meher Baba's 78th Birthday Celebrations

ANAKAPALLE:

The 78th Birthday celebrations of Avatar Meher Baba were commenced on 10-12-71 at Avatar Meher Baba Centre, Anakapalle. Puja & Sankeerthan was performed on this day from 6-30 A.M. to 8-30 P.M. Br. P. S. R. Swamy narrated some of the Birthday messages of Avatar Meher Baba on this occasion, especially "Birth and Death are natural Phenom-enon and real death is one, when the soul eternally gains birth in the eternal soul." As such, he said that whatever may be the normal permanences of Birthday Celebrations, the real approach is the ever remembrance of the Beloved, with ardent love for Him and internal devotion to gain the real eternal birth in the Divinity. He also prayed that such an ardent and pure love may be showered on all the lovers to lead them to gain the end.

Weekly Sammelans were subsequently performed on every Saturday & Sundays in the Balavihar and Meher Centres respec-

tively and many lovers participated on these occasions. Special sammelans were also performed in the residences of lovers during this period and Sivarathri Night Vigil and Nam Sankirthan, and Bhishma Ekadasi Sammelan were performed in Meher Baba Vihar Centre. A Special feature during this sacred period is the performance of marriage of a silent lover's daughter conducted on 4-2-72. The lover has completely subdued himself to Beloved Baba and his internal love is depicted in keeping Baba's attractive cut-out garlanded and placed in a well decorated Sofa, opposite to the marriage mandapam, and the commencement of the marriage proceedings actually started after his prayers and offering Arathi to Baba. It appeared thrilling and elevated not only to the lovers but to all the visitors. It is felt, Baba is actually witnessing the marriage and showering His Blessings over the couple and the participants. On the next ensuing Sunday, the newly wedded couple performed Puja and Sankirthan in Meher Centre and was attended by their close relations and friends newly attracted by spreading love of Baba.

On 31-1-72 Amarthidhi is performed in the centre with prayers and sankirthan from 11-30 A.M. From 12 noon to 12-15 P.M. Silence is observed followed by Arathi to Baba. In the evening The Young Lovers (boys & girls) performed Puja & Sankirthan from 6-30 to 9-00 P.M. with their innocent hearts and tender love.

The most important function of Baba's birthday is performed in a befitting manner to the lovers hearts' content on 25-2-72.

After offering flower garlands to Beloved Baba, function started at 4-00 A.M., with Nadaswaram rending in the air as if inviting the lovers.

At 4-55 A.M. lovers observed silence for 5 minutes. At 5 A.M., Arathi was performed followed by Puja and Sankirthan followed by distribution of Thirth, Prasadam.

At 6-30 A.M. Br. Boggarapu Somalingam (Chanti) hoisted the 7 coloured flag, the symbol of ascending guide of salvation. Lady lovers sang 'Pathak Geeth' followed by slogans of Avatar

Meher Baba Ki Jai. All the lovers were later served with light refreshments & coffee.

Individual offerings continued in the center throughout the day by several lovers. From 9 to 10-18 A.M. (78 minutes) Nam Sankirthan was performed. Men, women and young lovers (boys & girls) also participated with much devotion. Poor-feeding was started in the center from 12 noon and continued not only till the evening but continued even the next day as elaborate arrangements were made specially for this purpose. At 6-30 P.M. a grand procession was arranged starting from the center. There was melodious Band in front followed by a well decorated Baba's "Chinmudra" cut-out seated in a vehicle. Men and women lovers followed this vehicle and performed Sankirthan and slogans rending in the air. Another vehicle with Baba's full size portrait, seated in a beautifully arranged Hamsa Vahanam. This is followed by a decorated lorry with another beautiful cut-out with commanding and infusing attraction, while the young lovers (boys & girls) occupying the lorry, performed Sankirthan and slogans. As the procession passed through important streets of Anakapalle, several lovers on the way offered flowers, fruits and Arathi to Baba in The HAMSA-VAHANAM. The procession reached the center by 9-30 P.M. Arathi was then performed in the center. As per arrangements specially made, all the lovers dined in the center as Baba's Prasad after their strenuous and devotional activities.

Thus, though the beginning of the 78th Birthday activities appeared not so encouraging, the last day's activities and the unexpected participation of numerous lovers is felt as an example of the exhibition of the internal silent love of the lovers depicting the ever spreading current of love of Beloved Baba.

SRIKAKULAM:

On 26-3-72 a special function was arranged in Srikakulam Centre at 6-00 P.M. in connection with the arrival of Bro. K. K. Ramakrishnan of Poona Centre. K. K. Ramakrishnan spoke on the "Ways of Avatar Meher Baba". Elite of the town participated in the function. Nearly 200 people

have gathered on the occasion. Programme came to an end with Arthi at 9 P.M.

On Monday 27-3-72 a gathering took place among Baba Lovers. Bro. K. K. Ramakrishnan narrated his experiences with Baba. He left at 9-30 A.M. for Anakapalli.

CHALLAPALLI:

This year a novel change was made in organising these celebrations. Instead of for 4 days at the centre-hall, this year the programmes were arranged for nine days from 17th to 25th February, 1977, at the houses of different Baba lovers in the town and a few in the centre-hall. Every night from 7-30 p.m. to 10-00 p.m., large numbers of Baba lovers and others took part enthusiastically in these celebrations. Melodious Bhajan songs in praise of Beloved Baba were sung for about one and half hours, after which several speakers delivered speeches explaining Baba's messages of Love and Truth and how they should be *lived* in daily life as taught by Beloved Baba. Mrs. A. V. R. Seshagiri Rao, M.A., B.Ed., Bh. V. Ramana Rao, B.A., B.Ed., Tummala Balarammayya and Vadapalli Murahari Rao of Potharlanka spoke on the occasion.

The programmes were arranged at the house of Lovers as given below from 7-30 to 10-00 p.m. every day:-

17-2-72 Sri Jalluri Balakoteswara Rao at the centre hall.

18-2-72 Sri Minampati Narasimha Rao (Agricultural department) at his house.

19-2-72 Sri Urimi Kanthayya garu at his residence.

20-2-72 Usual programme at the centre hall.

21-2-72 Sri Bhatta Koteswara Rao, B.E., at his house.

22-2-72 Sri U. V. S. Lakshminarayana at the Kanyaka Parameswari Choultry – (Speaker – Sri V. Murahari Rao).

23-2-72 Sri Chunduri Nageswara Rao at his house. Small prayer books were also distributed.

24-2-72 Sri Potharaju Madhava Rao at the central hall, on Friday at 5-00 a.m.

25-2-72 Harathi to Beloved Baba at the time of His birth—
 Bhajan and Sankeertan (in the centre hall), at 11-00 a.m.
 Message from Sri T. Dhanapathi Rao Naidu, President,
 Andhra Centre read and explained. Poor feeding for about
 1200 people, at 3-00 p.m. Perantam by women lovers of
 Baba. at 8-00 p.m. Grand procession with Baba's portrait in
 gaily decorated Mandir on a tractor with two trailers. In one
 of them were seated Bhajan Mandali Band Music and
 special drum music and dance by experts and medalists, of
 Harijans from Kokkiligadda, Kothapalem near Pagolu and
 Challapalli. These were highly appreciated by the masses
 and people in general. Blessings were received from the
 Chairman and Mandali of Avatar Meher Baba Trust,
 Ahmednagar, through Brother Eruch. Lovers from
 neighbouring villages like Ramudupalem, Mangalapuram,
 Pottimetla etc. took part in the celebrations.

DOWLESWARAM (East Godavari Dt.):

The Avatar Meher Baba Dowleswaram Centre celebrated the 78 Birthday of Beloved Baba from 10-12-71 for 78 days by having the gatherings every day at their Centre and their homes as was convenient. On the 1st day i.e., on 10th December, I, Bro. N. Dharma Rao, B.E., inaugurated the function at their Local Centre. The gatherings were conducted from 5-30 to 6-30 P.M. each day. The Main Function was conducted on the 25th of February '72 at the Centre, sharply by 3-37 A.M. with Nama Japam "Om Meher Baba Jai—Om Prema Jyoti Jai," and continued up to 4-55 A.M. The Nama Japam was done continuously for 78 minutes and silence was observed for 5 minutes and Sri Krishnarjuna Rao, N., Joint Secretary recited "Parwardigar" prayer. Thereafter M/s. Chaganty Subba Rao of Kakinada and M. K Viswanadham of Guntur spoke about Beloved Baba's Avatar-hood. Mr. Viswanadham has unfurled Baba-flag of seven colours, and Mr. M. V. Ramana Murty has explained its importance. About 800 poor were fed at the Centre on the occasion. A public meeting was held in the town at 7-00 P.M. and Sri D. V. Bhadrani of Kotipalli presided. Musical entertainment was given by Ch. V. Subba Rao of A. I. R. and Sri N. Krishnarjuna Rao. The Meeting came to a close

after recital of Repentance Prayer and Arati and distribution of Prasad.

BILASPUR:

Here in Bilaspur, this year, Avatar Meher Baba's Birthday was celebrated by His lovers in a most simple and unostentatious way. No public functions were arranged. In all the lovers' houses, individual families celebrated the advent of his birth at 5 A.M., by prayers, Arati & singing His songs of praise. Prasad was distributed in the neighbourhood with Baba's messages communicated verbally.

We enjoyed His love feasts in two "Lovers Meet", the first on 25th Feb. 72 at 7 P.M. at Meherniwas and second one on 26th Feb. 72 at 7 P.M. at the Residence of Brother Shri P. S. Reddy in Rly. Colony.

All of the Baba lovers were requested to inform others who are eager to know of Avatar's Advent and His Mission of love and Truth, about these functions. It is very heartening to see the response on both the days where people came in large numbers to hear about Beloved Meher Baba.

At Meher Nivas, the residence of Brother Sardar Ham Singh on 25th we all gathered at 7 P.M.

Sant Amal Singh, a disciple of Muni Arjun Singh, Haridwar who was on the Mission of his Guru happened to be the family guest of Brother Ham Singh that day.

The atmosphere was surcharged with Baba's love and those fortunate few who had His Darshan were narrating some anecdotes in a familiar way expressing their happiness & good fortune to have come into His Physical contact. Rama Rao intervening, told the gathering about Baba and said "Those who have not seen His physical form yet are drawn to Him even after the dropping of His physical body are the most fortunate few. Baba will reveal one day to them His real formless form and make them feel His love."

Santji who was listening in rapt attention was requested to speak on the occasion. He paid glowing tributes to the

divinity of Baba and briefly gave a talk on the Soul's journey to merge in over soul (Atma-Parmata milan), He said that will be the real Baba Birth-day for his lovers, when through their efforts of love dedication and service to Baba every one remembers him constantly.

Poems in English by Shri U. N. Mukherji, Meher Chalisa and Bhajana by "Rao Trio" (Youngsters of 14, 12, 10 yrs., Master V. Narayana Rao, V. Ramana Rao, V. Krishna Rao) and Ghazal in Urdu by Shri Chamanlal Chandha, Arati by Rama Rao were the highlights of the function. Sweets and Fruits, the Birthday offerings for Beloved were distributed, amidst loud cheers of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai". Light refreshments were served by Shri Ham Singh; the function ended.

28-2-72 At 7 P.M. we all gathered at the residence of Shri P. S. Reddy in Railway Colony, Sant Shri Amal Singhji spoke on "AVATAR-HOOD". Quoting from Gita, Ramayana, & books Guru Govinda Singhji about "God's Advent on earth" and comparing Baba's Divinity & Avatar-hood as "PURANNAMA" (Highest of High) he described briefly the categories of Avatar as Ananta, Avesha, Namitik Purna (Perfect), and Purnatama (Highest).

Santji said "God taking form as man-limited is to be adored in form (Sakara) and God in His impersonal aspect (Nirakara) need be adored and thought of only when you exhaust all your faculties, then you can just think of the UNLIMITED but be some or all of you who have the faith and love in the Avatar Meher Baba who is God in Form (SAKARA BRAHMA) should adore beloved Baba and live a life as He ordered you to do so.

With recitation of Meherchalisa, Singing of Songs by Rao Brothers and poems in English and Gazals by Shri Sewaklal, reading out some select Messages of Baba in English & Telugu by Brother S. K. Ghosh and Shri Rama Rao, the functions ended after Arati and Prasad was distributed.

CHALLAPALLI:

Some Special Programmes:-

1. 2-3-72 – Thursday – Night from 8 to 10-00 P.M.:– This special programme was arranged at the house of Smt.

Pasupuleti Sitamma garu, an old devotee and Baba-lover, on the occasion of the adoption of her grand son. After melodious Bhajana songs in praise of Beloved Baba, Sri Tummala Balaramayya read out Baba Dandakam and explained the meaning. Many people in the western part of the town took part and made the function a success.

2. 12-3-72 – Sunday:- In our usual Sunday programme from 6-30 to 8-00 P.M., tributes were paid to late Sri Pulavarthi Viswanadhamgaru, B.A., Masulipatam Centre, for his able services in the cause of Beloved Baba, as he passed away on 2-2-1972 from our midst. Prayers were offered to Beloved Baba for peace and blessing to the departed soul.
3. 16-3-72 – Thursday from 8 to 10-00 P.M.: - This pro-gramme was arranged by Sri Bh. V. Ramana Rao, Vice-President of the Centre, on the occasion of the marriage of his 4th daughter. Chy. Sow. Balasita Devi, at the house of Sri Patri Subbarao garu. After sweet Bhajana songs by our Bhajana Mandali in praise of Beloved Baba, prayers were read. On behalf of our Centre, new clothes were presented to two poor musicians of our Centre, Sri Ummiti Subbarao and Smt. B. Syama. Love-blessings from Miss Manija S. Irani, the Chairman of Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Ahmednagar were read out. Sri Bh. V. Ramana Rao spoke of the importance of living a life of pure love, sacrifice and service, which makes one shine and radiate love to others. That is the real work of Baba, as explained by Baba Himself. The function was a grand success, as many people attended and enjoyed the same.
4. 27-3-72 Monday – The visit of Dr. T. Dhanapathirao Naidu garu, and other lovers from Kakinada to Challapalli: After attending the meetings of the General body and Governing body of the Andhra Centre at Masulipatam on 26-3-72, Dr. T. Dhanapathirao Naidu garu, President of Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, Sri B. Venkateswarlu garu, Secretary, Sri K. Satyanarayana garu, Publisher, "Avatar Meher Journal" and Sri Chaganti Subbarao garu, a poet of Baba, were good enough to visit Challapalli, on our invitation. A special programme was arranged from

7-30 to 10-00 P.M. on that day in our centre hall. There was a fairly large gathering of Baba lovers from Challapalli, Ramudupalem, Mangalapuram and other neighbouring villages. After melodious Bhajan songs from our Bhajan Mandali, which were highly appreciated by the visitors, all the four visitors gave fine speeches on their experience with Beloved Baba, especially the wonderful purifying and elevating power of Beloved Baba's name. The visitors appealed to all lovers to contribute their mite to Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Ahmednagar, and to enlist more subscribers for 'Avatar Meher' Telugu Journal. By thus fulfilling Baba's desire to spread His message of Love and Truth, all will be highly benefitted. After the meeting Arathi was offered to Beloved Baba and Prasad was distributed. Sri N. Nagabhushanam, our Secretary, entertained the guests and lovers from outside villages with a fine dinner.

Next morning, on invitation, Dr, T. Dhanapathirao Naidu garu visited the homes of several Baba-lovers of the town and gave Arathi to Beloved Baba after which prasad was distributed.

5. 29-3-72 Wednesday-Poornima (Full-moon day) gathering: This programme was arranged in our Centre hall by Sri N. Nagabhushanam, our Secretary, from 8-00 to 10-00 P.M. as usual.

AVATAR MEHER SPIRITUAL ACADEMY, NAGPUR:

- ‡ Odessy Project of Meher Baba-films is pursued by Luck Brothers with great zeal. We wish them success. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh has made his Baba-films available to this project.
- ‡ Meher Spiritual Academy appreciatively records the valuable services N. Dharma Rao, Chagan Master and Ramlingeshwar Rao, stalwart Lovers of the Beloved Avatar. They have all joined him in eternal peace. Latest one who has joined is our Dear Haldar from Katol Rd. Colony, Nagpur.
- ‡ Among the distinguished guests of Meher Spiritual Academy were Kevin, Anthony, Duncan Guild & Smt, Sou.

Sanjeevanti Tai Dhakephalkar, Smt. Padmashree Kamala-tai Hospet of Matruseva Sangh unveiled the coloured Baba-picture of Jack Small on the occasion of Meher Prayer Cellar Anniversary (2-1-72).

- ‡ Dr. A. N. Deshpande & Dr. C. D. Deshmukh spoke at Dr. Kher's Meher Nivas on Avatar's Birth-Day and Duncan Guild, the Artistic Sage gave English Aarati and Baba Bhagawan Dance. A new Meher Centre was inaugurated on the office of Indian Air Lines, in the hall of Advocate Bobade, civil lines.
- ‡ Dr. Pradnya Devi got married to Shri Balkrishna Tambe and went with him to U.S.A. for further studies (P.O. Box 20337, LUS, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, U.S.A.) Our best wishes of all success to them.
- ‡ Meher Spiritual Academy Meher Calendar 1972 was inaugurated by B. N. Saoji and 'Meher Niwas' of S. L. Lokhande, in Meher Nagar by Dr. C. D. Deshmukh in Jan.
- ‡ Meher Spiritual Academy Tour included visits by Dr. Deshmukh to Beloved Avatar's eternal Shrine at Meherabad on 3rd Amar Tithi, Shirdi Shrine of Shri Sai Nath Maharaj & Sakori shrine of Shri Upasani Maharaj. At Sakori, Dr. Deshmukh gave a Harikirtan in the presence of Sati Godawari Mataji ('Yeshoda Mata' of the Beloved Avatar). Display of Meher-photos & Literature was also arranged in Panch Maha Kunda Yadnya of Smt. Tara Bai Buti, Navaratra Utsawa of Durga Devi, and Maharashtra Yoga Sammelana. It was also a privilege to participate in the installation of Images of Vithal and Rukhmai in Babasaheb Barve's Wardha Temple in the presence of Shri Babasaheb Lambe Maharaj, who gave Bhajans in Meher Academy.
- ‡ Special mention may be made of Preeti Bhoj by Smt. Sumati Tai Deshpande and three Processions as a part of Baba-birthday celebrations, accompanied by Meher Bhajan Mandali, S. Naik, Shri Ram and Lokhawre.

BOOKS RECEIVED: (English Publications):**Avatar Meher Baba's Messages for The New Humanity:**

A beautifully got up book-let of 36 pages on real art paper, specially selected messages and photos artistically arranged and printed, 7-25 "X 9" in size. Contents chosen—The Unity of Life, The New Humanity, Love, God and Religion, The Freedom of Humanity, The Significance of War, Violence and Non-violence, Spiritual Work, Action and Inaction, Message to youth, The Master and the Goal, and The Seven Realities. This is the first publication of the New Company called "NEW HUMANITY BOOKS", 40 Grove Street, ELTHAM, 3095, Phone: 439 6204 – Correspondence to: Box No. 898 G, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001, Victoria, Australia.

The price of the Book is: U.S.A. \$. 2-00, U.K. 90 np. and Special rate for India is Rs. 9-00 less 1/3% discount plus Postage and forwarding costs.

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Publications ready for Sale:

<i>English Publications</i>	<i>Inland</i>	<i>Foreign Sea Mail</i>
1. The New Life of Avatar Meher Baba and His Companions – Calico Binding.	Rs. 9-00	\$ 1.50
2. The Life Circulars of Avatar Meher Baba. (67 Circulars)	Rs. 4-00	\$ 0-75
3. Heed My Call	Rs. 1-25	\$ 0-35
4. <i>Divya Vani</i> – Back Issues (From April 62 to April 72) Each Copy	Rs. 1-25	\$ 0-50

N.B. (i) All the prices are inclusive of Postage by Book Post.

(ii) All Foreign orders to accompany cheques drawn in favour of Meher Vihar Trust.

Telugu Publications: (Excluding Postage) -

1. Batasarulu	(Part I)	Rs. 3-00
2. Avatar Meher Baba	(Part I)	Rs. 3-00
3. Do Do	(Part II)	Rs. 3-00
4. Do Do	(Part III)	Rs. 3-50
5. Do Do	(Part IV)	Rs. 4-00
6. A. M. B. Western Lover's Experiences		Rs. 1-50
7. Meher Sankharavam		Re. 1-00
8. Avatar Meher Baba Sthavan (Part I)		0-25
9. Do Do	(Part II)	0-25



1. I belong to no religion. Every religion belongs to me. My religion is love.
2. I am the divine beloved that loves you more than you can ever love yourself.
3. I am the Lord of Love and Servant of My lover.
4. Let *Principle* in work and *honesty* in life prevail.
5. One penny extracted, in My name, without true basis is dishonesty and will be the cause of *millions of births*.
6. Think well of those who think ill of you.
7. If you truly and in all faith accept your Baba as the Highest of the High, it behooves you to lay down your life at His feet.

Print Edition Text	Online Edition Text	Page Number	Paragraph No.	Line Number
shetler	shelter	3	1	8
imperitive	imperative	4	1	7
extination	extinction	5	3	6
forlon	forlorn	5	3	7
hmbled	humbled	10	3	10
appeased	appease	11	2	11
cotacted	contacted	12	2	1
pary	party	16	2	3
confortable	comfortable	16	2	15
statute	statue	19	2	4
proceded	proceeded	20	4	1
lead	led	21	1	1
unision	unison	23	1	7
desparted	departed	23	3	8
cherry	cheery	25	1	3
rain	vain	26	1	2
rythmic	rhythmic	27	1	2
loose	lose	27	3	2
celebrate	celibate	29	4	5
proceeding	preceding	30	1	8
than	than ever	30	1	10
Shall	I shall	30	2	7
is	in	31	3	8
worldy	worldly	32	1	1
heirarchy	hierarchy	32	1	9
bigets	begets	34	4	7
inconsistancy	inconstancy	35	2	8
pulished	published	38	1	3
narated	narrated	38	4	4
occassion	occasion	38	4	6
approch	approach	38	4	10

occassions	occasions	39	1	1
renting	rending	39	4	2
renting	rending	40	2	12
silience	silence	42	2	11
unostentan- ious	unostentatious	43	2	3
Peoms	Poems	44	2	1
8	&	44	3	3,5
though	thought	44	4	3
distributel	distributed	44	5	5
appelaled	appealed	46	1	9
persued	pursued	46	4	1
photoes	photos	48	1	2