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MONTHLY

JULY 1972

divya vani

(DIVINE VOICE)



AVATAR MEHER BABA

EDITOR
SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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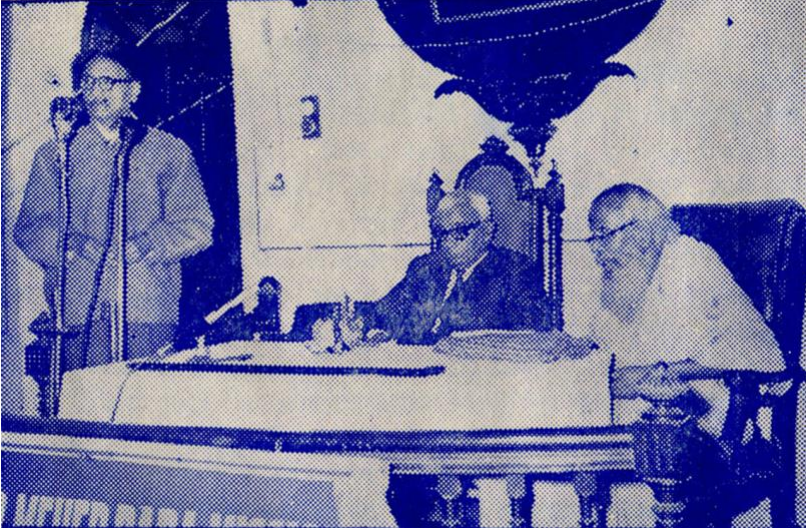
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Inauguration of Avatar Meher Baba Mission by Sri K. Brahmananda Reddy (Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Present Chairman of the Sixth Finance Commission) on 24th August 1971. Swami Satyaprakash Udaseen presided and Dr. C. D. Deshmukh (Director, Meher Spiritual Academy) is seen addressing on the occasion.

Editorial:

THE NEED OF THE 'HOUR' AND OUR DUTY NOW

It is high time that we, all those who call ourselves as Baba lovers and workers, look back to our commitments and repeated promises to Beloved Baba regarding our faith in His Avatar-hood and our unconditional surrender and obedience pledged unto Him and His repeated warnings regarding the danger of our slipping away from His fold and losing hold on His "Daaman." As the Compassionate Father who had poured out His Divine Love to the brim of our hearts, He gave us experiences which not only cannot be forgotten in our lives, but also will be of source of real inspiration for our future guidance in day-to-day life and enable us to have a firm hold on His "Daaman", which, in other words, is to have absolute faith in Him. The life-events and the utterances and teachings of our Beloved, like day-light, place before us the need for pure heart and clear understanding so as to make us good recipients of His Love-Divine and of the vision of Truth which alone will help us to live the life, befitting our association with Him and the Graceful Blessings bestowed by Him on us all. He has asked us not only to carry His Message of Love and Truth to all the corners of the world but also, to live such a life of purity and devotion that others are drawn to Him by our way of life, with mutual amity and understanding. We honestly feel that the time is ripe for us for real introspection in the hearts of each one of us, if we are keeping it up honestly without allowing any trace of hypocrisy. He has warned us many a time that God will tolerate any thing but hypocrisy. Time in and time out we were reminded of His Divinity to be faithfully adhered to and the denial of hypocrisy to be scrupulously adopted at all times. Abundant caution was administered to us in this regard to be aware of this and *now* we feel the need of the hour is to keep ourselves alert in this respect and then our duty will be crystal clear in the field of Baba-work and our way of life, as Baba-lovers.

Baba said, "There can be no arguing with the imperative claims of Divine Love; to deny love is to deny one's own true being; it is self-betrayal and complete extinction, which life is not prepared to accept. Sooner or later, man must look within, ponder deeply and search within his own heart for those factors which hold him down in spiritual thralldom; and sooner or later, he must break asunder the gnawing chains of separative thinking which keeps him away from the immense and limitless life of the spirit to which he is the rightful heir. Then why not sooner, rather than later? Now is the time to cast off the veil of imagined duality and unreservedly surrender to the life of open and undisguised love which is pure and selfless and which knows no fear and needs no apology. All life is one and all divisions are imaginary. Be ye established in this Eternal Truth which I bring."

The need of the hour is, we feel, that this message should hearten us and lead us to live the life which Beloved Baba wanted us to live. Beloved Baba has immortalised this way of life by having lived it Himself as God in human form and spoken about the "Eternal New Life" thus:

"This new life is endless, and even after my physical death it will be kept alive by those who live the life of complete renunciation of falsehood, lies, hatred, anger, greed and lust; and who, to accomplish this, do no lustful actions, do no harm to any one, do no back-biting, do not seek material possessions, or power; who accept no homage, neither covet honour nor shun disgrace, and fear no one and nothing; by those who rely wholly and solely upon God and who love God purely for the sake of loving, and believe in the lovers of God, and in manifestations, and yet do not expect to receive any spiritual or material reward, who do not let go the hand of Truth, and who without being upset by calamities, bravely and whole-heartedly face all hardships with one hundred percent cheerfulness, and give no importance to caste, creed and religious ceremonies."

We do feel that it is high time that Baba-lovers, worth the name, shall endeavour sincerely to live the life thus laid down by our Compassionate father to be lived by us. We wonder to

imagine who else can venture to live the life that was bestowed on us with His Graceful Blessings of close association and loving guidance for years together, if we cannot undertake this? We ask ourselves, if we do not try to undertake this life, will it not amount to betrayal of the "Trust" reposed in us by our Beloved Lord and will it not amount to gradually losing our hold on His Daaman, if we instead take to drift and easy way of life? Will it not be losing the great opportunity given to us by our Compassionate Father, who has awakened us to this consciousness and blessed with the taste of the "Nectar" of His Divine Love and the great heritage of being His children sharing His Divine Blessings, as members of Baba-family?

We therefore beg of all lovers of Beloved Baba to ponder over this and we appeal to them all to take the leap into the Ocean of Baba-life, which cannot be other than "The Eternal New Life" and venture to take the "VOW" now, and endeavour to live the life. We pray that Beloved Baba will give us all strength and courage to bear the turmoils with cheer and bless us with success!

We take this opportunity to announce that we will be holding a seminar of Baba-lovers for three days, on 22nd, 23rd and 24th of August 1972 to formulate proper methods and principles of conduct with a view to dedicate our lives to the "Eternal New Life" as propounded by Beloved Baba and we welcome those that would like to take part and share along with us the views and the way of life thus proposed to be discussed. We welcome any suggestions regarding this matter and also solicit hearty participation of community-life on the happy occasion of the IX Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust and the I Anniversary of the "Avatar Meher Baba Mission". We request that our brothers and sisters of Baba-Family will deem this as our cordial invitation for the said functions and respond wholeheartedly to the best of their ability and send their good-wishes and love-contributions and share with us the Graceful Love-blessings of Beloved Baba.

JAI ! AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI !

Glimpses of the God-Man

MEHER BABA

Meher Baba's Love for Animals

1948 — Part III

—By Bal Natu

Bhuti Joins The Baba-party

On 25th March, 1948, Meher Baba set out from Ahmednagar for the memorable and significant visit to Uttar Kashi, in the Himalayas. He returned to Manmad on 22nd April, 1948 and Adi Sr. drove Him in a car to the headquarters at Ahmednagar. While leaving for the tour, five of the *mandali* accompanied Him. But as the party came back, there was an admirable addition! It was of a black, blinking puppy, lively and light-footed. How did it come to be a party member? In the course of visiting the hilly region of Uttar Kashi, to contact spiritually advanced souls, Shri Baba had to walk for miles, over the narrow foot-paths. A few of the tracks on the high ranges were steep and even perilous. In one of such walks the above mentioned pup was purchased for five rupees from a Bhutani trader. While returning to the Birla House, where the party had resided in Uttar Kashi, Eruch, all the time had to carry this smart but tiny puppy in a sling, over his shoulder.

While getting along a dangerous narrow track, on a high range, the party had to cross over a deep valley. The improvised narrow bridge was made of bamboo sticks. It was hardly a foot wide! At such a risky crossing it was dangerous to have anything uneasy on one's back. So Eruch felt compelled to let loose the pup. The puppy as it followed the party just missed a fall. It somehow clung to the edge of the rock with its little claws. Fortunately, it could be picked up and this lucky "Roly-Poly" continued to be with the Baba-party right up to Ahmednagar. In the journey Shri Baba personally looked after it. It was first named as Gol-Gol. *Gol* in Hindi means round.

It was a floppy, black puppy. Later, it was named Bhuti as it came from a pedigree in Bhutan, a small state to the north of India, in the Himalayan region.

Beautiful Bhuti, A Dutiful Watch-dog

In due course, Bhuti grew into a watch-dog. She had a collar of soft, long black fur. This made her look very graceful. She developed a shapely body and her gait was elegant like that of a dancer. But with all her beauty of form she was a terror to the strangers and intruders trespassing the Meherazad premises. In early fifties, when Shri Baba would go out on the *mast* or *darshan* tours, Bhuti would be the trusted watch at Meherazad and the companion of Kaka Baria, the Manager of the Meherazad Estate. Bhuti had a peculiar way of guarding the estate at night. She would begin the round from the main Meherazad gate, bark loudly for a minute or so. Then with measured strides she would reach the other corner near the well and growl. In this way she would finish the rest of the two corners and then rest for some time, to repeat the rounds. Perhaps, she had evolved her own code of barking! In those days, the farms and the fields around Meherazad were not inhabited as at present. In the day time, few men or cattle would be seen moving about in the fields. However, this part being a semi-forest area, on some nights, a fox or a hyena would be sneaking in the Meherazad compound. Bhuti had fought with and killed more than a score of hyenas. She would lift the dead animal and place it before Kaka's room as a showpiece!

Whenever Shri Baba was away on tour, someone had to report the welfare of the resident *mandali* at Meherazad, including Bhuti. In fact, Bhuti loved Shri Baba very dearly. Her pictures with Meher Baba remind us of those lovely days when she lived and played with the God-Man. It was a perfect companionship. Meher Baba once stated that when God becomes Man to give a spiritual push to mankind, in His Divine status as Avatar, He simultaneously becomes a perfect friend for each and every species in creation.* When Bhuti died she was buried

* God Speaks: Supplement, Avatar and Sadguru.

in the Mehcrazad premises, the place she guarded well and loved deeply. Shri Baba was the first to cast some flowers and earth over her body. Indeed, Bhuti was a blessed soul.

Chum Resigns To The Master's Will

Reference to Bhuti's life in the company of Meher Baba, summons up to memory, Shri Baba's tender affection and sympathetic admiration for the animal world. His love for the pets demonstrated a remarkable aspect of His life. In different periods He had different pets with Him. He had a deer named Lily, a pair of bullocks named Raja and Vazir, a camel named Bhola, monkeys named Lucky and Jhampoo, a Myna bird, a parrot, a peacock named Moti and pigs named Nutty and Guty. He also loved the cows and a water buffalo named Masi. He had a mare named Sheeba, He paid personal attention to the needs and feeding of each animal. His coat pockets that once bulged with letters from His dear ones would overflow with carrots when He visited Sheeba, He once observed, "I love animals; they are a part of my Creation." Nevertheless, it seems that He loved dogs most. He had pairs of dogs named Jingo-Bingo, Raja-Rani and Sunny-Bunny. In the course of narration, I feel enticed to give a short account of His few pets (dogs) who had the fortune to be in His company, prior to 1948.

Chum, as a pup, was brought from a Baba-family at Akbar Press in Ahmednagar. It was the place Shri Baba often visited from the early thirties. He, somehow or other, liked this pup. He very carefully and lovingly brought it up, at times feeding it with His own hands. Soon, it grew up to be a big dog. Shri Baba's arrival at Meherabad was an occasion of great delight to Chum. With his pretty huge frame, he would play with Meher Baba, keeping his forelegs, right on Shri Baba's chest. In short, Chum seemed to be Shri Baba's favourite 'chum'. He was also the trusted watch-dog on the Meherabad Hill.

In August, 1935 Shri Baba returned from Mount Abu, the Ambica Hills in Rajastan, On His arrival He wished to continue His seclusion in the cabin that was specially built on Meherabad Hill. Chum would lie at the door of the cabin and none dare to enter the room and disturb Shri Baba. When the period of

seclusion was over, Shri Baba would visit the kitchen for lunch; Chum used to accompany Him. Even there he would not allow any one to be near Baba. Shri Baba casually remarked that Chum as a watch at the door of the cabin, had an uncommon experience. Shri Baba did not disclose the nature of the experience. However, He told that it had made Chum over-faithful so as not to allow any one to go near Shri Baba. To bring about the necessary change in this attitude, Shri Baba soon had a good excuse. One day, when Meher Baba's sister Mani visited Him, Chum tried to pounce at her. At this Shri Baba got up and gave Chum a light beating with a small stick that lay at hand. All the time, Chum kept his head bent down towards Shri Baba's feet. Perhaps, he was bowing down to Him as an act of confession for the crime committed. It was all in the spirit of complete resignation to the Master's will. Chum's attitude and behaviour vividly brings back to my mind, one of the significant and suggestive discourses given by Meher Baba.

"Stone-stage, Worm-stage, Dog-stage"

Once Meher Baba was asked about the principal mental stages through which His lovers have to pass in order to see Him as He really is. Hearing the question Shri Baba first broke into a gay smile but because of the profundity involved in answering the question, He also looked solemn. With tender radiance that beautified His face and His eyes glowing with benevolent love He conveyed:

"I am the eternal Beloved drawing the infinite number of lovers to Myself, in infinite ways. So, they have the experiences of innumerable types; they have to pass through endless stages. However, for the sake of intellectual understanding these can be broadly divided into the following three stages:

"The first is the 'stone-stage'. One feels unconsciously drawn towards God or the God-Man. Here, the initiative is entirely with me. One feels attracted to me as a particle of iron to the magnet.

"The second is the 'worm-stage'. Herein, the mind constantly wriggles like a worm. The person worships me, yet

sometimes disbelieves me. He adores me; he distrusts me! Doubts and devotion go together. The pull of love, however, prevails in the end. In this phase various types of impressions are executed.

"The third is the 'dog-stage'. The dog has absolute faith in the master. He just moves with his master here, there, anywhere. In a sense, he has no will of his own. He only knows to follow the master without 'ifs and buts'. Once a lover arrives at this stage, he is blessed."

Meher Baba's beloved pet Chum literally demonstrated the third stage mentioned above until the end of his life, when he died of cancer. Befitting the faithfulness he had shown, he was buried on Meherabad Hill. At present we find his little tomb under the banyan tree and by the side of the tomb built in the memory of Meher Baba's intimate ones who dropped their bodies while serving Him as the Eternal Beloved.

Lovable Kippy And Worthy Warrior

Kippy was Elizabeth Patterson's pet Boston terrier. In July, 1937, Meher Baba lived with His eastern and western women *mandali*, in the Villa Caldana at Cannes, on the Riviera in France. During this period Kippy had the privilege to be near Shri Baba for a longer time and have *prasad* at His hands. In November, Shri Baba left Canoes for India, Elizabeth was asked to return to the United States. So, Irene Billo from Switzerland who was to visit India shortly, was given the work of bringing Kippy with her. Later she related that after Meher Baba's departure from the Villa, Kippy got on Shri Baba's seat on the sofa and for three days she rarely left that place! Kippy sorely felt Shri Baba's separation. She was one of Meher Baba's lovable pets.

Warrior, another pet, was a black Alsatian, worth mentioning. In Meher Baba's life, the year 1941 consisted mostly of a long period of seclusion. In August, 1941 He confined Himself in a small room on Meherabad Hill. No one was allowed to enter this room. It had only a small slit through which He would hold out the alphabet board and convey the

instructions to Vishnu who was entrusted with the work of attending to urgent correspondence. In those days only the worthy Warrior was allowed to get into Shri Baba's room and to sit or rest in His physical presence. By the time this phase of strict seclusion was over, Warrior fell sick. In spite of the best of treatment, he died within a week or so. Finding one of the dear disciples, almost in tears for the loss of this favourite pet, Meher Baba conveyed the following to the *mandali*, "Warrior was a fortunate dog. During the phase of strict seclusion, I wanted the company of a faithful soul other than human, in my room. Warrior fulfilled that exigency as was expected of him. Now, his work is over and he is gone. No one should feel sorry for his death; he is fully rewarded. Henceforth, he will not incarnate as an animal but as human." Today we find small tombs of Kippy and Warrior in line with Chum's. More about Shri Baba's love for animals and birds as and when we come upon those events in His subsequent life of all-embracing Love.

"Love Life In All Its Forms"

Some may feel interested in knowing more about Meher Baba's relationship with the animals; so I wish to add a few excerpts from the letters on the subject. In the year 1957, one of Meher Baba's dear followers, from the west wrote to Him about the ill-treatment given to the dogs in India: she also wished to know Meher Baba's attitude towards the animals. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh was asked to reply to these letters. These were based on the few points given by Meher Baba. These replies were read out to Shri Baba in Guru Prasad, Poona before they were mailed to her. Some passages from the replies are given below:

I have noted with much interest and great concern your comments about the general treatment of dogs and other animals in India. I must frankly concede that dogs are not so well looked after in India as they are in the western countries. But it is partly a side effect of the general lowering down of the economical standard of living, in this country. To regard the condition of dogs as indicative of the Indian attitude would

surely be misleading... there is in the heart of Divinity a thought for all that breathes, bird, animal or man. Beloved Baba, in His impersonal aspect is concerned not only with the well-being of man but also with that of all other forms of life.

"According to Him all animals and even plants and trees are an inalienable part of the larger brotherhood to which we belong. As a natural corollary from this, we have to be affectionate and considerate to birds, animals, etc., not out of any sense of duty or even obligation, but out of the spontaneity of recognised values. Thus, according to Beloved Meher Baba, love for animals, or birds would be more than sympathy or considerateness; it is a natural coordinate of acknowledged kinship with them. To deny love to birds or animals is, according to Him, to repress one's own Divinity. Beloved Baba's oft repeated mandate to humanity is, "Love life in all forms. ..."

Meher Baba's Attitude Towards Animals

"I now come to your another important question, "What is Baba's attitude to animals?" Beloved Meher Baba is God and, as such, experiences Himself in all living beings, including birds, animals, vegetables, etc. We cannot adequately raise any question about what is God's attitude to animals. God cannot take up a specific attitude in relation to His creation, because He has Himself become that creation; and since Beloved Meher Baba is an Incarnation of God, there can be no question of His taking up any 'attitude' to any forms of His own being. However, many persons would be interested in knowing how Beloved Baba treats animals. And in this respect, all, who have the opportunity to be with Him, have invariably observed that He loves birds and animals as much as He loves human beings. He often feeds them with His own hands, gets all their ailments attended to by competent doctors, looks after them with the same parental care and love, which we find expressed in relation to those humans who have the good fortune to come within His personal environment. ...

"Having said all this in favour of kindness to animals, I think it might be advisable to sound a note of warning against

the possibility of making an 'ism' out of it. ... From the point of view of evolution, the vegetarian kingdom may be regarded as offering itself for the use of animals and the animal kingdom as offering itself, for the use of mankind. We could not pitch an 'animalism' as against 'humanism'. But this is just to bring out Beloved Meher Baba's dispensation of the only Truth which leaves no room for separative thinking and requires us never to forget the inviolable unity and the inalienable Divinity of Life, in all its forms."

Maharaj, An Animal-mad Mast

By the end of April, 1948 as Meher Baba returned from the tour of the eastern and northern parts of India, He mostly stayed at Ahmednagar, in the month of May, excepting some short visits to Meherabad and Meherazad. In May, 1948 Babadas brought a *mast* from Nagpur to the Ice Factory Bungalow, where the men *mandali* resided. His name was Maharaj. Maharaj means an Emperor. It is also a term used to express respect for a person. People in India generally refer to a *sadhu* as Maharaj. The principal characteristic of this *mast* was his deep love and close sympathy with the animals. Some animals develop strange affection for humans but here was a *mast* who had an unusual fancy for the animals. Maharaj was over eighty years of age. His beard was completely grey but the hair over his head was black. At Nagpur he used to keep around him over two dozens of dogs. After his arrival at Ahmednagar, on the very first day, as he returned from his roaming about the roads, to the bungalow in the Ice Factory, he gathered around him a few cows and half a dozen dogs. Wasn't it incredible? Rather, the animals followed him in response to some inner appeal. The number of animals increased as the days passed by. During his six days stay, Maharaj spent most of his time under a tree, nearby the bungalow. He seemed genuinely happy in the company of animals. His favourite occupation was to feed these dumb souls, with food and fodder, supplied by Shri Baba. Around him lay the buckets of fodder for the cows and plates ready for dogs. Some saucers, with crumbs of bread in them, were seen hanging from the branches. They were meant for birds. The

animals would fondly lie and rest about him, without any reservations.

One bullock showed special affection for Maharaj. William Donkin wrote, "... there was one spirited brown and white bullock that would lick him all over, with his tongue. The *mast* would screw up his eyes when his face was being licked, or would lie supine between the forelegs of the bullock, while the front of his body was licked from head to foot. He seemed, indeed to take pleasure in these abrasive yet loving baths, for while they were in progress, he would lie with his eyes closed and his hands behind his head." Shri Baba remarked that Maharaj was a "freak *mast*" of a high order. He was very cooperative in Shri Baba's spiritual work. As the *mast* did not eat of his own, Shri Baba would daily feed him, with His own hands morsel by morsel. As He fed him, the *mast* would lift his eyes to Shri Baba's and then would hastily look away. On 14th May, 1948 Babadas was asked to take back Maharaj, this animal-mad *mast*, to Nagpur.

A Girl Meets Her Beloved Father

Meher Baba's visit to Uttar Kashi in the month of April, 1948 kept Him away from the headquarters for about a month. During this period, the 'mail' was regularly received at Ahmednagar. As per Shri Baba's standing instructions many of the letters were attended to by the *mandali* concerned. Some letters required Shri Baba's special attention; they were kept aside. The letters of those who had recently heard about Shri Baba and who had written to Him were specially brought to Shri Baba's notice. By way of illustration, here I wish to cite the case of a young girl who heard of Meher Baba in 1948 and how Shri Baba responded to her lovingly to develop the right attitude towards life. In this respect, a few fragments from the letters may somewhat reveal this beautiful relationship.

This girl was residing at Poona. She was of a religious mind. By chance she heard about Meher Baba and was greatly impressed by His mission of awakening, the heart of humanity. She felt deeply drawn to Him and decided to write directly to Him. Of her own accord, she addressed Meher Baba as her

Beloved Father and in her loving letter she requested Him to free her from the fetters that bound her to this *mayavic* world. She also expressed her intense desire to have His darshan. This letter was read out to Shri Baba and He permitted her to see Him in the month of May, 1948, in the Ice Factory Bungalow, in Ahmednagar.

With great joy she came to Ahmednagar to meet her Beloved Father, Baba. With deep feeling of delight, her spirit leapt out to kneel at Shri Baba's feet. She tried to pour out her aspirations and Shri Baba sat silently, His eyes gleaming with light. In the end He gestured, "I know, I know." Shri Baba's compassion drew out of her a fresh quality of faith and with enthusiasm afresh she began to think about and meditate on her Beloved Father, as much as she could. It was a great joy to her. This first contact of the Father set all her pulses throbbing Godward. Clearer became the call that lay smothered within her heart. She developed a great interest in reading the available books by and about Meher Baba. The small book 'Divine Theme' impressed her most with the lucid explanations of the Charts contained therein. On some occasions she began to feel the divine brilliance enveloping the surrounding objects.

She wished to convey her jubilations and exuberance to Shri Baba. In one of her letters she wrote, "Father, I feel the presence of God but how will I *see* Him?" As Shri Baba heard the contents of the letter He seemed pleased and gestured, "A lucky one". After the regular morning meditation, one day as this lucky one rested on her bed, she had a remarkable experience, between sleep and waking. About this she wrote, "Beloved Father, one day in my half-awake state I saw my subtle body going up and up, crossing rivers and jungles. It darted faster than the fastest train. In the beginning, as it was going up my gross body lay on the bed enjoying a delightful breeze. But, as the subtle body continued to soar higher with greater speed, presently my gross body felt that it was going to fall down, from the cot where I was resting. In my attempt to prevent the gross body from falling down I woke up." In reply to this letter, by way of a hint Shri Baba conveyed that it was just the bare beginning of a long, long journey.

Celibacy And Married Life

As she felt more intimate with Father Baba, she asked His counsel on the problem that the girls of her age, with spiritual inclination, have to face. With overflowing love she wrote to Shri Baba, "Is it necessary for a girl to marry when she finds that the marriage is based more on 'money' than pure love? Can she not live alone and lead a pure life, relying on the grace of the Master? Can a girl get self-realization?" In another letter she made a mention about the conflict that caused confusion in her mind. She was prepared to renounce this world if so necessary. She stated, "Dear Baba, sometimes, I get such a strong emotion that I should leave my house and go to some quiet place for meditation. Will it be good? But at the same time I remember your words, "Be in the world but not of it." And I stay back "

After Meher Baba's return from one of His *mast*-tours to Ahmednagar, Adi K. Irani sent replies based on Shri Baba's instructions. He wrote to her, "Baba was happy to note the interrogatives within you.... Baba says that a married life strictly in adherence to one partner in life is not bad; but a single life with the grace of the Master, replete with aspirations Godward is infinitely better. ... Baba told me to inform you that constant remembrance of the One, whom you consider to be your Master, will go a long way towards lessening the mental tension and bringing about peace of mind. He wishes you to know that not by leaving the world and your dear ones, will you be able to progress on the Path. It is only by living in the world and trying to develop as detached an outlook on life as possible that you will gain equipoise and make a real progress. ... Baba desires that you will remember Him always, in good times and bad times and thereby increase your faith in Him which alone will make you impervious to the ups and downs of life Baba sends you His blessings which will impart you strength, patience and courage." Meher Baba's words of advice have brought about a change in outlook, in the lives of His dear ones.

About the problem of sex and the married life, Meher Baba in one of the articles stated*, "Promiscuity in sex gratifi-

* Discourses by Meher Baba.

cation is bound to land the aspirant in the most pitiful and dangerous chaos of ungovernable lust. Sex in marriage is entirely different from sex outside marriage. ... Just as the life of celibacy requires and calls forth the development of many virtues, the married life, in its turn also nourishes the growth of many spiritual qualities of utmost importance. ... The path of perfection is open to the aspirant whether in celibacy or in marriage; and whether he (or she) begins from celibacy or from marriage will depend upon the *sanskaras* and the *karmic* ties of the aspirant. ... It should be borne in mind that the life of freedom is nearer to the life of restraint than to the life of indulgence (though in quality it is essentially different from both)." Meher Baba has come amongst us to quicken this understanding which leads us all to the Life of Freedom, beginningless and endless.

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(To be continued)

A CORRECTION

In "Glimpses" published in Divya Vani, April 1972 issue - Page 26, line 3 - please note that:

The statement, "Baba is BABA; so there is nothing to be said" - is by Feram Workingboxwala and not by Chanji who had dropped his body in August 1944 —EDITOR

PRESENCE OF THE AVATAR

By Maud Kennedy

Giving thought to the presence of the Avatar at this time makes one more and more aware of the joy of being alive in a human body. Growing awareness of everything good and of other people's good is the chief characteristic we notice amongst those who live close in thought to our Beloved Avatar.

We cannot help feeling sad sometimes that so few realise His holy Presence. Repeating His Name helps us to overcome many difficulties of the mind. We long to follow a certain Path which leads to Him—and yet our wayward minds lead us astray. The ego-self not being the true SELF is an illusion, Meher BABA says—so the false self should melt into the landscape, as a false shade, if we walk towards the Beloved.

So that if you tune in each day to Him, and remember Him more and more, then the false ego begins to melt.

It is our love and longing which is *most* real. Prayer can accomplish what nothing else can, except by the Grace of the Master—a constant remembering.

The secret of Meher BABA'S silence is finding THE BELOVED in your heart ever present.

Perhaps that is what our Beloved BABA came for, to make this possible for thousands upon thousands of ordinary folk, with no great qualifications for special spiritual favours. Just people with real LOVE in their hearts. Surely this was His Universal work that He never explained—this and many other things no doubt, that we would never guess.

The LORD has so many ways of talking to us. This is a sort of boon and it is very mysterious how it works. Truth is Infinite, it is in great things and in little things. Because HE lived here in this world *with* us, He could leave behind this strong impression. HE was GOD in human form. "Constant inward contact with the Master ... through identification, repetition of His Name, thinking of Him with love, imaging

HIM, following His instructions, studying His teachings, makes us amenable to the special help which the Master alone can give". -- Meher BABA.

So that each time you come across some words or thoughts or music or movement, colours, forms, etc., which strike a note of harmony within you, you get a feeling "this is it". This is true, Hold it! This is His gift. It could be BABA speaking to us through a child's action or words or an old man's walk or a woman's smile—or it could be picked up from a song, a poem, a dance, a friend's kindness or a phenomenon of nature.

If the Beloved is ever present in your heart then He must reveal Himself to you as you travel through the world—for at every turn you meet Him in something else. It is a question of seeing through illusion to REALITY.

BABA said: "I AM ONE WITH EVERYTHING."

CHILDREN'S CORNER

by Auntie Sreelatha

My dear Children,

In conclusion of my last letter I have told you "Trust God Meher Baba completely and He will solve all difficulties". Faithfully leave everything to Him and He will see to everything. What is meant by "Trust" and "Faith"? Baba once said, "If You have the complete faith that Kalyan had for his Master, in believing it was night although it was day (because his Master said so) then you will know Me". That is Baba wants all of us to obey Him implicitly and do whatever He tells with complete confidence in Him.

The story of Kalyan (Of whom Baba referred) brings out the meaning of a really sound faith in the Master. Kalyan was

one of the disciples of Swami Ramdas. Swami Ramdas was a Perfect Master of his time. He had many disciples but the most favourite among them was Kalyan, Other disciples could not understand why their Master loved Kalyan most. They were biting each others ears about this but dared not question their Master. But the Master, being a spiritual Personality, knew what had been going on. He wanted to teach them a lesson.

He began to pretend as if he were sick and actually on the point of death. He called all his disciples, They all came and stood around him with sorrow-laden faces. The Master pointed them his knee which was hugely swollen, and which was bandaged. He told them that it was a malignant tumour and that there was no chance of his living unless someone sucked out the poison from the wound. But at the same time he told them that whosoever would suck that poison would die immediately. He looked around and asked all of them if anyone was prepared for it. All the disciples hesitated. But not Kalyan. He immediately arose bent down and began to suck from the swelling. To his surprise he was getting a sweet juice from the wound instead of poison! Do you know what the Master had done? He tied a sweet Mango around his knee to test his disciples. Thus Swami Ramdas showed to all other disciples Kalyan's self-denying love for his Master. He was even prepared to die for the sake of his Master.

Baba says that if you love Him just as Kalyan loved his Master, if you do whatever he tells you, then you will certainly be His favourite child. My dear children, if you have implicit faith in Baba He will never desert you. If you have unfaltering love towards Baba He will always love you. If you have undivided loyalty towards Baba, He will always guide you.

So dear Children,
 Put thou thy trust in Baba,
 And in duty's path go on,
 Through thick and thin,
 Through pleasure and pain,
 To His 'daaman' hold on.

Divine Love

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

Whither humanity? Look back to the known history of about 2000 years. Are we really progressing? Surely we are progressing in a way, in making wonderful scientific discoveries and inventing rapid means of communication, thus bringing all countries and nations of the world together more than ever before. But, at the same time, we are progressing in another way, in forging more and more powerful weapons of destruction, so that we can destroy the whole human race and its material prosperity in no time! Human history, in spite of its glorious periods, is full of quarrels, fighting, battles and wars, created by our selfishness, individual, social and national. In this Scientific Age intellect has developed greatly, but man's heart or his inner nature has not yet sufficiently changed, to bring about a happy balance between the head and the heart.

Dr. Albert Einstein says:

"Science without religion is lame
Religion without science is blind."

Science, without a clear understanding of God's creation. and its purpose and the goal of life, as taught in the great religions, is progressing aimlessly and is being misused naturally. On the other hand, Religion, merged in superstitions and traditional rites and ceremonies, has led us to a kind of fanaticism, losing the essence of all religions. Science and religion must go hand in hand. Men have lost the proper sense of values. As Shakespeare says, "O Judgement! Thou art fled to brutish beasts. And men have lost their reason."

As a result, we are faced with chaos and confusion. Students have no respect for the judgment of their elders. Officers have no confidence in their superiors. Labourers and workers have no trust in their Management who gave them employment. All these people in general take recourse to strikes etc., with a number of demands to be satisfied. Honesty is at a low ebb. People are moved by some sort of 'isms' such as

Socialism, Communism etc., expecting solution of their problems which are endless and insoluble by these means. These lead astray. (The law of Action and Reaction goes on relentlessly and justly, correct to a pin point, without which there can be no morality in the world). Too much emphasis is laid on economic and material problems. This is leading us to worship of Mammon instead of God, the Reality.

Man is a bundle of impressions which gives rise to thoughts and opinions. Every one thinks that his or her opinions are correct, and the others' are wrong. So also groups and nations think, and wish to force them on others. One perfect saint has said that the cause of all quarrels is that we are not able to understand each other properly.

Then, is there no remedy for all our ills? Let us not despair. Proper understanding comes with *love*, a quality of soul. Our individual souls are part and parcel of the universal Soul which is everlasting. So Avatar Meher Baba says: "*Think lovingly, speak lovingly and act lovingly*". The truth is that God, to know Himself as universal and everlasting, has apparently become individualised soul in each one of us. By loving God, without any worldly desire, we realise that universal God in us and we become one with Him by this pure *Divine Love*. Then we enjoy our deathless state of everlasting bliss, power and knowledge. That is the goal of life attained by the Perfect Ones. When this *pure* divine love is *awakened* in us by the *grace of God*, we feel and know that we are all *one* and love and serve one another to the best of our ability in *real brotherhood*. The outer differences in our bodies, physical and mental equipments, are only meant to eke out our livelihood in different ways, and are temporary without any permanent value. This real understanding of our *True Self* makes us lead a happy balanced life. As Avatar Meher Baba says: "There will be a happy blending of the head and heart." Love requires some sacrifice but no coercion. "Love and sacrifice go hand in hand like heat and light. But love and coercion can never go together."

"Love is dynamic in action and contagious in effect". Love will never fail. Only firm faith and patience are required.

Therefore, a sort of mental revolution is necessary (i.e.) a revolution in our way of thinking. We must drop off our separative way of thinking about others and finding their faults. In fact, no one except God is free from faults. We must learn to think lovingly that we are all one in Truth, though we appear to be separate for our external business dealings. This is a *most practical thing, living in oneness or living in Truth*. The time has come when we have to think in love, based on one-ness and hundred percent honesty. As this feeling of our love and one-ness in *living* gradually develops, peace, happiness and prosperity will increase and all problems are solved.

This is the only way as taught by our great Avatars or Prophets and Perfect Masters, which will lay a strong and permanent foundation for the future progress of the human race. This is God's plan for humanity.

May the Lord lead us aright by His grace and Infinite Love!

P R A Y E R

—by Mrs. A. Kasturi

Oh! Beloved Baba! Let me be contented with what I have
 Let not my thoughts be tainted with what others have
 Let my tongue utter the sweet words of truth and kindness
 Let not my breath become impure by falsehood or blasphemy
 Let my heart dance with spiritual ecstasy of mystic pleasure
 Let it not sink so low as to enjoy the base trivial leisure
 Let my legs run errands to help the poor and needy
 Let them not be corrupted for the errands of greedy
 Let my hands dutifully perform the deeds of fame and glory
 Let them not be polluted in any acts unholy
 Let my eyes perceive the brightness of Thee everywhere
 Let my mind grasp and attain the basic values of life anywhere
 Let it not be covered with illusory fancies of life
 Let my ears hear the words of goodness and sympathy
 Let them not be echoed with the cruel atrocities of antipathy
 Let my aspirations rise higher to reach heights of magnanimity
 Let me not be inspired to do any work of malignity
 Let me rise from the level of inhuman to human
 Let me reach the God-man from the state of human.

T R E E O F L I F E

When awakened out of darkness into light—
 God IS ALL – God-Man the TREE of LIFE...
 A tree cannot grow separated from its roots—
 Parents can be a living example of His Love and Truth for
youth

We, that have seen God-Man's FACE carved on the tree
 Know, Avatar Meher Baba IS in the heart of all creativity.
 He has the whole wide world in His HANDS ...
 The evolution of soul He alone understands ...
 Our Universal Father - Mother - LIFE - TRUTH and the WAY...
 We learn here from our experiences of yesterday—
 But, Mother Nature just plays her universal role every day...
 In this illusory earth-play, youth dreams and parents make
plans—

The soul wishing to be free, youth making demands
 Travelling—trying to establish roots in other lands—
 Unaware, that running away from others is not to be free
 We can choose our earth-play—but still are a branch of the
Family tree ...

It does not matter how far we go; or what we choose to do—
 Life will go on—in Nature there is nothing new.
 Yes, youth will dream—not aware of the past
 Claiming, they are doing their THING—and free at last ...
 Until, one day things will go wrong—
 Finding themselves alone—and no melody in their song.
 A tree withers, and dies when separated from its roots
 We then discover the lesson of life is not learned from a book.
 The present always follows the past; these our tomorrows—
 From past generations tradition is borrowed.
 We are all just a branch of the Family Tree ...
 It is foolish to think there is a generation gap; trying to escape
is not to be free.

United in love, we are strong and not weak—
 Freedom is by God's Grace—when it is His Love we seek,
 Love is the answer to all prayer—GOD IS LOVE !!!

News & Notes

AVATAR MEHER BABA CHALLAPALLI CENTRE

CHALLAPALLI - Krishna District

Some Special Programmes:

1) 27-4-72 Poornima (Full-moon day) gathering: This programme was arranged at the house of Sri Ummiti Subba Rao, a member of our Bhajana Mandali, from 8 to 10 P.M. After melodious songs in praise of Beloved Baba, Sri Tummala Balaramayya recited the Parvardigar prayer and Repentance prayer with great devotion and emotion, as usual. Then Sri Bh. V. Ramanarao spoke on the advent of the Avatar and how Baba saved and protected His devotees in times of difficulty. It was a grand function attended by about 100 devotees.

2) 14-5-72 Sunday: In our usual Sunday gathering from 6-30 to 8-00 P.M., special prayers were offered for the peace of the departed soul of Sri Urimi Kantayya garu, a very prominent lover of Beloved Baba of this place, who passed away at 8-45 P.M. on 9-5-72. As a mark of respect to his memory, all the shops in the main bazaar were closed spontaneously the next day. He was well-known as a very good man who was always ready to help those in need by all means at his disposal. Tributes were paid to his memory and a resolution was passed and communicated to the members of the bereaved family, praying for Baba's love-blessings on the departed soul and all the members of his family who are all staunch lovers of Baba.

3) 27-5-72 Poornima (Full-moon day) gathering: This fine programme was arranged at the house of Sri Puli Ganga Subbayya garu from 8 to 10 P.M. After sweet songs in praise of Beloved Baba and the usual prayers in English and Telugu, Sri A. V. R. Seshagiri Rao, M.A., B.Ed., spoke on the goal of life, which is the final merging of the individual soul in the universal soul through love and enjoying permanent bliss,

knowledge and power, as taught and realised by the Avatar and Perfect Masters. Sri Bh. V. Ramana Rao read out and explained some messages of Beloved Baba. It was a fairly large gathering and a fine function enjoyed by all.

— N. Nagabhushanam
(Secretary)

JAI BABA !

LONDON NEWSLETTER No. 9

(Issued for May/June 1972)

"I Have Come Not To Teach But To Awaken"

"Through me men go into that blissful place
Of hertes heal and deadly wounds cure;
Through me men come unto the welle of Grace
Where grene and lusty May shall ever endure"

Almond, cherry, pear and apple blossom; ploughed fields of rich brown earth, tender green in the hedgerows; sunshine, warmth in the air, blue in the sky, the bleating and gamboling of newly born lambs in bright green fields. A reawakening to life, a renewal, a reassurance of hope, love; everything to delight the eye and warm the heart of man, making it possible for us to express our delight, gratitude by "singing unto the Lord a new song".

"This is the way to all good aventure;
Be glad, thou reader, and thy sorrow off-caste,
All open am I, pass in and speed thee faste"

"Jai grene and lusty May' when nature makes its salutation to the Highest of The High, The Lord of the Universe, the ever-open heart of Baba's Infinite Knowledge, Understanding, Compassion, Love. Be happy. Don't worry. Jai Baba.

Past Events

That long promised, eagerly-awaited visit from Allan Cohen took place at last on Saturday, 29th April. It's the reason this Newsletter is late. We held it up to wait for him, and it was well worth waiting for. The large group which gathered at the

Centre heard one of the most entertaining—as well as one of the most illuminating—talks we have ever had.

Delia introduced Allan as one of three young men appointed by Baba to a special task, spreading knowledge of the danger of drugs throughout the western world. Allan, who had been associated with Timothy Leary in his drug-taking experiments at Harvard, has been doing this Baba work ever since, speaking and appearing on T.V. all over the U.S., but particularly universities and colleges on the West Coast and California. Many Baba-lovers here remember his appearance on the Malcolm Muggeridge programme in Autumn 1969. He is now, Delia told us, on his way to India, and from there will go to Israel.

Allan took as his subject 'Holding on to Baba's Daaman'. He told us how he first came to Baba through seeing him on a film, at a time when "we were all turning on and getting blasted day after day". That was in 1964. Two years later he abandoned all other work to concentrate on the task Baba had given him, an important part of that task clearly being to help those in bondage to drugs to realise that, so far from bringing illumination, they intensify bondage to illusion. Tom (Hopkinson), thanking Allan for his talk, paid tribute to his blend of humour with profundity, which seemed like a reflection of Baba himself. This gives the clue to another important aspect of the great task Baba has given this gifted young man. We hope to have him back with us for a much longer visit in November.

The B. B. C. I. Programme is presenting on Sunday afternoons a series entitled 'How Can You Be So Sure?', the idea being to have "one young person, with a sure answer, face a small group of contemporaries who regard sure answers with suspicion". 'Our' Pete—Townshend—started off the series by having a sure answer about Baba. Pete, another of Baba's specially chosen young men, who also combines humour with profundity, shares with Allan the capacity to 'communicate' Baba in a unique way. The combination of deep inner conviction with naturalness of manner, supported by an uninhibited and unassuming temperament, was impressive. Because he was not concerned to do himself proud and was concerned to do Baba proud, he brought off both. Incidentally, owing to pressure of work, Pete has had

to resign his position as Vice-Chairman of The Meher Baba Association, though he remains as Chairman of The Meher Baba spiritual League. Since our Chairman, Don, a seemingly indefatigable Baba worker, is at present on a short 'leave of absence' to enable him to concentrate on an expansion of duties, this left a vacancy, and Tom has agreed to carry on in Pete's place for the time being.

At the meeting on Saturday, 18th March, Dorothy (Hopkinson) read out for us the article by Dudley Edwards which appeared recently in 'Divya Vani'. She followed this with a moving interpretation of the article, and spoke of the way in which Baba manifests his presence in our lives. This opened the gates for some present to speak of Baba's help at personal crisis in their lives. At the end of a long and interesting discussion, John (Horder) thanked Dorothy warmly for her talk and the meeting did not end until nearly six o'clock.

For the meeting on 15th April, Joy (Bird) chose as her theme 'The Body Spiritual and Material'. Joy is not only a Baba follower of many years' standing but, as we all know, a Baba worker too. Throughout her talk, she encouraged her audience to join in with their own observations and comments so that a lively discussion resulted. A warm thank you, Joy, from us all.

Delia's Visit to Panama

Between our previous Newsletter and this one, our Vice-President Delia has paid a flying visit to Panama where she has relations. She says: "I was able to give a talk on Baba at my cousin's house. He met Baba in 1932. We hope to have 'Sparks' printed this year to distribute in C. & S. America. It has already been translated into Spanish... I can see the awakening Baba is bringing about everywhere. I attended a Pop Mass on Palm Sunday arranged by some American priests. It was very moving—a packed attendance... There are all sorts of events springing up; Yoga classes have caught on. The Bahais have just built a temple on top of a hill and it will always be illuminated at night. I also heard that Kirpal Singh is staying in Panama on his way to S. America... There is a Theosophical Society; also a Vedanta Society. Apparently, they all think Panama very important

spiritually... It does link the two great oceans... also the two peoples of the Americas and the fact that Baba said he wanted to go to Panama and sent me back (after some previous visit) to arrange it, means he did his work of 'stirring up'...

From all this it would appear that the negativities so apparent in Vietnam, Bangla-Desh, Ulster and elsewhere are being balanced by positives in other parts of the world. Countries have 'sanskaras' as well as individuals.

The following notes have been received from Fred (Marks). In the first one he says "A happy reception was given by Naomi and Mr. Angel at Southend on Sunday, 9th April. I gave a talk on 'Avatar Meher Baba' There were intervals of singing and music by Avril, It was a most happy event attended by the Southend Baba devotees ... Georgina carried out all the arrangements..... "

The second one says—"As the British Newsletter goes overseas I would be happy if you would insert my address and telephone number where I receive Baba lovers."

We are only too happy to make you happy Fred, in such a generous gesture, So - Mr. Fred Marks, 21, Upper Richmond Road, Putney, S. W. 15. Tel: 01-878 4144.

For those of you to whom Fred Marks is, as yet, but a name, Fred is an especially-loved-by-Baba disciple. He has for many years been the custodian of a pair of sandals worn by Baba, which gives an indication of the special love Baba has for him. But more, both of the sandals and Fred in a future issue. It is an interesting story and needs space to do it justice.

The Disc Newspaper

Successor to the Disc Magazine, this is now on sale at the Centre, price - £1.00. There are alas ! only about 200 copies available for this country, so if you want one, get it soon. If you cannot possibly get to the Centre, you can write to Barbara Morice, 2, Cambridge Court, Clevedon Road, East Twickenham, Middx. Enclose £1.00 plus—we suggest to be on the safe side as it is quite a weighty package—25 pence to cover packing and postage.

A Labour of Love

Those of you who visit the Centre regularly will have remarked on its changing appearance. Our Librarian, Michael Ward, is a young man of many creative talents. Displayed on the wall above the new book-cases not only designed but made and installed by him, have appeared a number of enlarged framed photographs of Beloved Baba. They make an impressive show—a worthy tribute to Baba; a tribute to an ardent young man's industry and creativity.

Arrangements for May and June

The Centre will be open at the usual times.

MONDAYS: 3-00 - 6-30 p.m. Don's series of talks. A course on similar lines is held by Don in Paris-5, Gite le Coeur, just off Place St. Michel—on alternate Saturdays at 5 p.m.

SATURDAYS: 3-00 - 5-30 p.m.:

First	in each month	POETRY READINGS
Second	" " "	FILMS OF BABA'S LIFE AND WORK
Third	" " "	MONTHLY GROUP MEETING
Fourth	" " "	THE ARTS.

May we remind you that, as announced in our previous Newsletter, the meeting on 20th May will be an Open Meeting with no speaker? The purpose of this is to give everyone the chance to ask any questions they want about our new form of organisation into the Meher Baba Association and the Meher Baba Spiritual League. So bring along any doubts or queries. Also if you have any ideas for improvements or suggestions for new activities at the Centre—or any offers of Baba work you want to do—now is the time to come forward.

At the meeting on 17th June, Pete Townshend is going to tell us about his visit to India earlier this year. We hear he is preparing something special for this occasion.

An Invitation

Delia asks us to state - Miss Delia de Leon will be 'At Home' on Sunday, June 4th, at 240, Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey

to all Baba lovers who wish to visit Kew Gardens and come in for tea—3 O'clock to 6-30 p.m. Mrs. Molly Eve will be co-hostess.

A Reminder and an Appeal

All Baba work is voluntary. It takes up much of the free time of those who do it. It would make the work of the Accountant and the Treasurer much easier if everyone would remember that, now that we are a limited company, all monies—donations, subscriptions etc. should be sent direct to the Treasurer, Mrs. D. Hopkinson, 6, Marine Parade, Penarth, Glamorgan CF 6 2 BE. Cheques should be made out to The Meher Baba Spiritual League Ltd. and NOT to The Meher Baba Association which has now transferred its funds to The Meher Baba Spiritual League Ltd.

* * *

Copies of the plaster cast of Baba's Hand which hangs in The Centre, are available from Fred (Marks). Obtained from India and purchasable from Delia, are a number of items such as postcards and a miscellany of inexpensive jewellery.

* * *

This Newsletter is issued by the Committee of The Association and sent out six times a year to all known Baba-lovers in Britain. Its purpose is to help us to keep in touch with one another, and to let all know what is going on at our Baba Centre in London. If any Baba-lover wants an extra copy for a friend or to send overseas, he/she can obtain it from the Secretary. And *please*, if you are changing your address, be sure to let the Secretary know. Send a postcard with your new address on to The Centre.

Issued in Baba's Love and Service: Newsletter 10 due out early July

THE MEHER BABA ASSOCIATION

3a, Eccleston Square, LONDON S. W. 1. Tel: 01-834 4212

MISS DELIA DE LEON MR. DON STEVENS MR. TOM HOPKINSON
Vice-President *Chairman* *Vice-Chair.*

MRS. BARBARA AMOS MR. MICHAEL WARD
Hon. Secretary *Librarian*

THE MEHER BABA SPIRITUAL LEAGUE LTD.
 Hon. Treasurer : MRS. D. HOPKINSON

AVATAR MEHER BABA, VISAKHAPATNAM CENTRE

The Secretary of the above Centre informs:

The following have been elected as Office-Bearers for the year 1972-73 at the Annual General Body Meeting held on 4-6-1972 in our Newly-built 'MEHER NILAYAM'.

1. PresidentBro. T. N. Ratho, B.A., LL.B.
2. Vice-President,, K. M. Gandhi
3. Secretary,, N. N. Raju
4. Treasurer,, R. Radha Krishna

and Bros. (1) B. V. S. N., Raju, (2) G. Papa Rao, (3) Y. Venugopala Rao, (4) S. S. Prakasa Rao, (5) N. S. P. R. K. Pantulu, (6) K. Satyanarayana, (7) A. S. Achary were elected as members of the Managing Committee.

SECRETARY'S REPORT for the year 1971-72

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this Annual General Meeting of the Centre.

The annual audited accounts for the year 1971-72 have been presented to you. I should like, with your permission, to take them as read and adopted.

The salient feature, of the activities of the Centre for the year under review, is the construction of Prayer Hall in Shipyard Colony, Visakhapatnam-5.

It may be recalled here that in the Extraordinary General body meeting of the Centre held on 16-1-70 it was resolved that two Prayer Halls, one in Shipyard colony and the other in the town area, be constructed for the benefit of Baba Lovers in the respective areas and to propagate Baba's Message of LOVE in the two wings of the city. It was also resolved that donations raised for their construction be kept under distinct Heads of Accounts as "Shipyard Colony Building Fund" and "Town Building Fund". In accordance with these resolutions, two separate special building Committees were formed and accounts have been separately maintained by the respective committees.

In accordance with another resolution adopted in Extraordinary General Body Meeting held on 6-2-71 a sum of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees two thousand only) was transferred from Town Building Fund to "Meher Nilayam Building Fund" to help construction of Meher Nilayam in the Shipyard Colony.

Construction of "Meher Nilayam" was started on the site measuring about 500 sq. metres allotted by the Hindustan Shipyard on lease basis under the direct supervision of the special committee formed for this purpose which consists of Sarva Shri T. N. Ratho, K. M. Gandhi, N. N. Raju, B. V. S. N. Raju, N. S. P. R. K. Pantulu, S. S. Prakasa Rao with the foundation stone laid on 22nd December 1970 by Shri G. Kannabbai Payakaraopet.

During this year a huge sum of Rs. 6,201.35 had been collected by the special committee with the assistance of a few members from outside the Committee. I am sure the whole General Body will join me to congratulate the special committee for the strenuous efforts exerted in securing such a large amount by their sincere effort to complete the building in the present fashion which few Prayer Halls could assume. A sizable amount was contributed by the local Baba Lovers, Railway Staff and Shipyard Colony Staff.

The details of expenditure of the constructions of the Meher Nilayam as presented by the Special Committee have been incorporated in the General Accounts of the Centre under the special head "Meher Nilayam Building Fund Account". The details of item-wise expenditure, rate schedule etc., are also readily available for the perusal of the members. A close scrutiny of these accounts and schedules of rates would not fail to give a clear picture as to how individual members of the Committee had to exert their good offices to obtain the rock-bottom prices, which kept the total cost of the building as low as Rs. 19,000/- which amount includes material donation to the tune of Rs. 2,314/-.

Shri N. N. Raju by his special efforts could secure building material worth of Rs. 2,314/-. Further due to special interest evinced by him and other members of the Building

Committee, we could save an amount of Rs. 1,000/- which could have been otherwise incurred towards supervision charges and rental charges on bullies and planks required for slab casting. The total sum of Rs. 3,314/- has been capitalised and included in the building cost. For this Bro. N. N. Raju deserves appreciation of the General Body.

For proper appreciation of the detailed working of the cost of the building, it is desirable that the following information is furnished for the information of Hon. Members, although such details are given in the Balance Sheet.

Expenditure incurred in cash	Rs. 16,269.86
Donation of material worth	2,314.00
Donation in service & supervision	<u>1,000.00</u>
	Rs. <u>19,583.86</u>

Meher Nilayam was formally inaugurated on 16th May 1971, under the auspices of Avatar Meher Baba Visakha-patnam Centre by Mrs. Lalitha Balakrishna Shetty. She also inaugurated Meher Tele-Therapy Centre on the same day. Bro. P. D. Pukar released a book "Vyvahikha Jeevitham", a Telugu translation of Meher Baba's book on married life, brought out by Mr. D. V. Satyanarayana, a student of Andhra University Engineering College. Mrs. Shetty said that the gospel of love propagated by Meher Baba, if implemented, would lead to prosperity and peace. Mrs. Shetty was presented with a memento. Bro. T. N. Ratho, Vice-President of Meher Centre, welcomed the gathering. On the same day, the marriage of Chy. Rajya Lakshmi (daughter of Shri K. M. Gandhi) was performed with Chy. Neelakantam in Meher Nilayam. Meher Lovers from all over Andhra Pradesh, Bro. Gulab N. Panchal of Bombay Centre and Bro. P. D. Pukar from Meherpuri attended the function. I am very happy to inform you that the expenses incurred in this connection—inaugural function—were met by Baba Lovers, Shrimati & Shri K. M. Gandhi.

The Third Amarthidhi of Avatar Meher Baba was observed on 31st January 1972 with Sankirtan from 9-00 a.m. to

12 noon followed by silence and prayers. In the evening a meeting and a Children's programme was conducted. The programme concluded at 8-00 p.m. with Aarati after a film show of Baba's Sahavas programme.

Other Activities of the Centre

General weekly gatherings continued as usual. The following journals were maintained on Centre's account.

1. Divya Vani
2. Glow.

Shri C. Bheemasenarao had kindly donated 6 volumes of "Avatar Meher" and 4 volumes of "Divya Vani" journals duly bound.

Birthday Celebrations.

We have celebrated Baba's 78th Birthday celebrations holding Sammelans in the houses of various Baba-lovers. Sankirtan and Bhajans were held in Meher Nilayam and in the house of Bro. G. Papa Rao in Visakhapatnam town from the night of 24-2-72 followed by prayers and Aarati at 5-00 a.m. on 25-2-72.

All inmates of Prema Samaj were served with food in connection with Baba's Birthday celebrations.

A few members are regularly sending their monthly donations through Bro. K. M. Gandhi and some others are sending direct to the Trust for the maintenance and development of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust Estate. I thank Bro. K. M. Gandhi for his sincere efforts in collecting donations from the willing members. This is a good opportunity to all Lovers of Baba to voluntarily contribute their mite for the beloved Baba's cause. I appeal, therefore, to all members to contribute liberally and regularly to the Trust. I feel it better if these donations are collectively sent so that a regular flow of remittance can be ensured. Of course, there should be no objection for any member remitting the amount direct if he/she wishes to do so. All of us should realise that this is our solemn duty imposed by

beloved Baba. I hope that the newly elected Managing Committee would evince better interest in this regard.

Bros. H. P. Bharucha, K. K. Ramakrishna of Poona Centre, Dr. G. S. N. Murthy (Kharagpur), Mokum Singh from New Delhi, E. Lakshminadha Rao of Tenali, Chaganti Subba Rao, Sivudu Siva Rao have visited our Centre during the year and addressed public meetings organised in connection with their visits.

A special folder will be brought out soon giving detailed account of "Meher Nilayam" construction and the various donors with whose help the construction could be completed successfully.

I earnestly request all the members to pay up their subscriptions promptly along with arrears, if due, and help keeping the financial position of the Centre on sound footing.

Never was there a greater need than now for the Lovers to imbibe the qualities of Love propounded by the Avatar of the Age and live the life of Love to the last word as desired by Him. It is the Baba Lover's behaviour and way of life which should serve as a message to his fellow brothers to come into the fold of Baba. Responsibility, therefore, rests on us. We should solemnly resolve to discharge the responsibility. May beloved Baba bless us all and grant us strength to live up to his expectations!

We thank the Hindustan Shipyard Management for allotting 500 sq. metres of land and supply of materials like steel at cost price and for rendering electrical and water facilities, etc.

With a very sad heart I have to add that I may not be having this opportunity of active association with the Centre. Many of you are aware that I was transferred to Berhampur (Orissa). However, I must confess that my having association with this Centre is so great that, wherever I may be, I cannot forget the endearing memories of my stay with you all here. I especially thank my colleagues for their unstinted co-operation in discharging my onerous duties of the Secretary.

JAI BABA

P. V. Ramana Rao,
Secretary.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ending 31st March 1972

Expenditure	Rs. p.	Income	Rs. p.
For Printing & stationery	95-00	By Subscription	192-00
" Postage	18-60	" Special collections for Birthday celebrations etc.	183-00
" Baba's photo	100-00	" Interest	9-37
" Gifts	10-00		
" Poor feeding	135-00		
" Bank charges	2-00		
" Subscription for journal	12-00		
" Excess of income over expenditure	11-77		
	<u>384-37</u>		<u>384-37</u>
Transferred to Balance Sheet			

Balance Sheet as on 31-3-1972

Liabilities	Assets
1. Transferred from Receipts & Payments a/c for the period ending 70-71	1. Meher Nilayam Prayer Hall
	Expenditure 21582-86
	Abatement 1999-00
	<u>19583-86</u>
	19583-86

DIVINE SPARKS

Any worship or obedience to any deity, saint or Master eventually comes to Me for I am the Source.

* * *

Love alone knows how to give without necessarily bargaining for a return.

* * *

God reveals Himself only to that mind which is entirely devoid of egoism and egotism.

* * *

Spiritual understanding is born of the harmony between the mind and the heart.

* * *

The Perfect Master helps the seeker in His own unfathomable ways, which have no parallel with the ways of the world.

* * *

How can you earn God-hood? You can earn livelihood with the sweat of your brow and you can earn God-hood with the blood of your heart.

--MEHER BABA

MEHER VIHAR TRUST

3-6-417, Post Office Street

Himayatnagar, Hyderabad-29, (A. P. India)

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 Sthavam (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 Num- ber	Para- graph No.	Line Num- ber
regard	reward	4	3	11
priciples	principles	5	3	4
fluppy	floppy	7	1	1
magent	magnet	9	4	4
intersted	interested	11	2	1
corrolary	corollary	12	2	3
attented	attended	12	3	15
jubilations	jubilations	15	3	1
quite	quiet	16	1	12
awarness	awareness	18	1	3
destory	destroy	21	1	8
gambolling	gamboling	27	3	3
alloted	allotted	34	2	2