

DIVYA VANI
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10th April 1963

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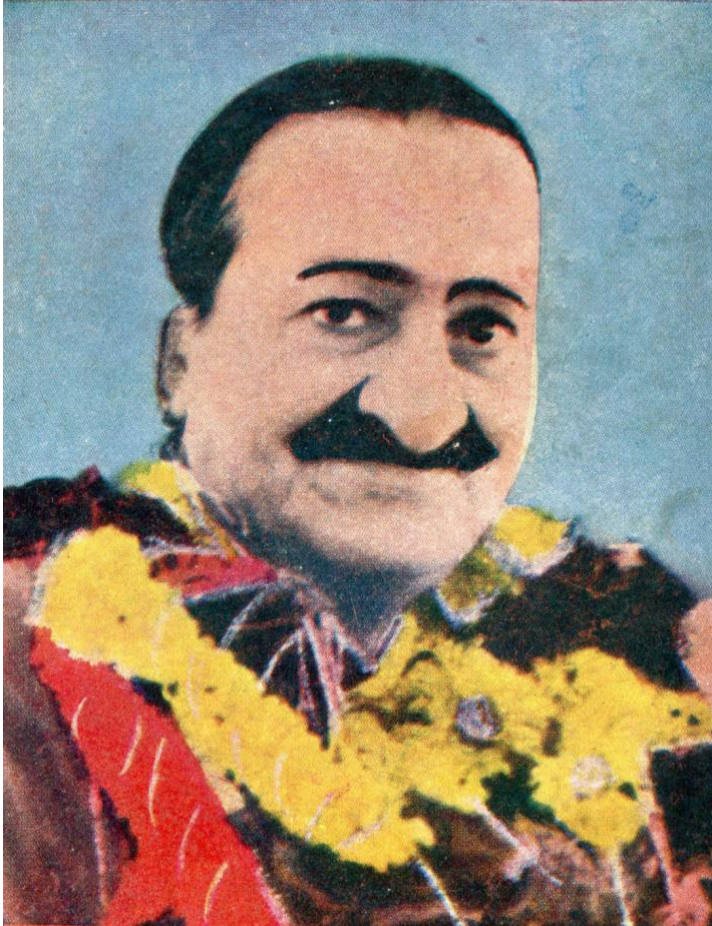
MEHERSTHAN SPECIAL ISSUE

Fourth Quarter

10th April '63

DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)



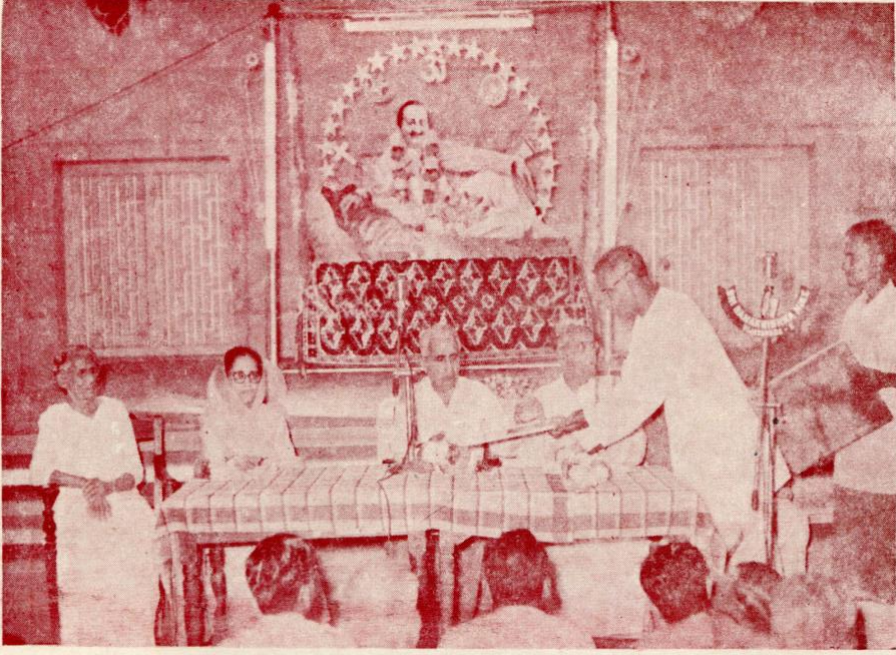
"To find God you must find yourself lost to yourself."

—*Meher Baba.*

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Shri Chinta Sarwa Rao Presenting Address to the Chief Guests,
Shrimati Maharani Shanta Devi and Shri Adi K. Irani at Vijayawada,
on behalf of Vijayawada Centre on 26th February 1963

Mehersthan Special Issue

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10th April, 1963

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(DIVINE VOICE)

AN ENGLISH QUARTERLY
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Beloved Baba's Blessings

Sri & Srimati Koduri Krishnarao

MEHERSTHAN
KOVVUR (A. P.)

Ahmednagar,
27 Feb. 63

You are blessed in your love for me. The love of my lovers gathered in Kovvur for the Opening of Mehersthan on 28th February 1963 has filled Mehersthan with my presence for I abide where my lovers are. I give my blessing to Mehersthan and to all who have made this pilgrimage to Kovvur to welcome me.

—Avatar Meher Baba

*Special Messages of Baba
Displayed on the Walls of*

'MEHERSTHAN' at KOVVUR

On 28th February 1963

Tear the curtain of set ceremonies and rituals and you will find that I am the Worshipped, the Worship and the Worshipper.

* * * *

To clothe simple Worship with the garments of ceremony and ritual is to expose Me to the cold winds of ignorance.

* * * *

To faithfully love God-Man is to truly worship God.

* * * *

To find Me here in Mehersthan search the depth of your heart.

* * * *

Mehersthan has been built for Me with love, but I may only be found here by My lover who brings Me here in his heart.

* * * *

As the heart is, so is the house; as the eye is, so is the Image within the house.

* * * *

The heart of man has always been the ancient temple for the worship of the Ancient One.

* * * *

Nothing can house the Ancient One that does not house love.

—MEHER BABA

Avatar Meher Baba Answers The Question: What Is Wrong With The World Today?

What is wrong with the world today? Such questions are bound to arise in thinking minds, but often the answers given are not completely honest. Diagnosis given and remedies adopted have all been biased and so the situation remains vague and unresolved.

The crux of the matter lies in the correct reinterpretation of the ancient word '*religion*'. The West has very little religion, and whenever one hears of it, it is either subservient to politics or at best an adjunct of material life. The East is suffering from an overdose of religion, and consequently it hankers desperately for a material antidote.

Religion in the West is synonymous with scientific progress, which is distinctive in its manifestation. Religion in the East, and in India in particular, has gone underground and been replaced largely by crude ceremonies, vague rituals and lifeless dogmas. Instead of nourishing the seeds of peace and plenty, this subterranean religion tries to propagate communism, fanaticism, nationalism, and patriotism, which have become bywords associated with leadership and greatness, suffering and sanctity. In short, religion as a living force has become obsolete.

The urgent need of today to resuscitate religion is to dig it out of its narrow, dark vault and let the spirit of man shine out once again in its pristine glory.

The most practical in the world is to be spiritual-minded. It needs no special time, place or circumstance. It is not necessarily concerned with anything out of the ordinary daily routine. It is never too early or too late to be spiritual. It is just a simple question of having the

proper mental attitude towards lasting value, changing circumstance and avoidable eventualities, as well as a healthy sense of the inevitable.

Spirituality is not restricted to, nor can it be restricted by, anyone or anything, anywhere, at any time. It covers all life for all time, and it can easily be achieved through selfless service and that pure love which knows no bondage and seeks no boundary.

A mighty surge of this spirituality is about to sweep over the world. My blessings to you all.

—MEHER BABA

By courtesy of Shri Adi K. Irani, Sole Representative, copyright Avatar Meher Baba.

धन्य है गोदावरी का तीर

दक्षिण से ललकार उठी है, उठो प्रेमियो वीर
चलो रे गोदावरी के तीर ॥ धृ ॥

गोदावरी के तीर बसा है "कोव्वूर" मनहर ग्राम
वहाँ बना है सुन्दर सा एक मेहेर प्रभु का धाम
जमुना वेत्रवती हुवी पावन अब गोदावरी का नीर ॥ १ ॥

इसी नदी के तीर किया था प्रभू रामने वास
इस भूमी पर धिलनी शबरी पाई प्रभू सहवास
सती अहल्या, नाचे वानर, कहकर जय रघुवीर ॥ २ ॥

हृदय खोलकर करो वन्दना बंध रुदी के तोड़ो
वेद अवस्था कुरान बाईबल सब को यहाँ निचोड़ो
अपने हृदय धाम में सींचो, मेहेर प्रेम का नीर ॥ ३ ॥

मेहेर का हर वचन मन्त्र है, वेद मन्त्र से ऊंचा
मेहेर का हिरदय से ध्याना, ये है सांची पूजा
मेहेर में विश्वास धर्म है, अन्य धर्म जंजीर ॥ ४ ॥

ढोंगी संत महंत महात्में जग में हुवे अनेक
सत्य धर्म ईश्वर अरु प्रेम को बात न जाने एक
इन के धोखे में न आओ, रहो मेहेर में स्थीर ॥ ५ ॥

गरज गरज कह दो दुनिया को मेहेर के सन्देश
वही है पूजा वही पुजारी, पूजाई मेहेरेश
मधुसूदन दामन को थामो, वोही हरेंगे पीर ॥ ६ ॥

BLESSED ARE THE BANKS OF THE GODAVARI

The call comes from the South, arise O You lovers!
Let us hasten to the banks of the Godavari. —||

On the banks of the Godavari there stands the flourishing town—KOVVUR. Here is the beautiful house of worship of MEHER. Vetravati and Jamuna have already been sanctified, now is the turn of the Godavari waters.
-|

Shri Ramachandra had His abode on the banks of this Godavari. It is this very land, Shabari had the Divine Company of the LORD; Ahalya was resurrected and the monkeys danced with joy hailing 'Raghuveer'. 2 – ||

Every word of MEHER excels the Vedas and other Scriptures. True worship is to Love MEHER with all heart. Faith in Meher is True Dharma and all else lead to bondage.
3 – ||

Open up your heart and bow down to Him breaking the fetters of rituals. Here is the quint-essence of Veda, Avesta, Quoran and Bible, sprinkle the waters of Meher-Love in the abode of your heart. 4 - ||

There are number of fake saints and sadhus in the world who do not know the true Dharma or teachings of God. Don't fall into their clutches and stir not from the Meher's presence within you. 5 - ||

Proclaim aloud to the world the Messages of MEHER. The Lord who gave us the Gita has once again descended as Meher. Hold firm, OH! MADHUSUDAN! Your grip on Meher's 'Daaman', for He alone is the reliever of all agony. 6 – ||

(Composed on the occasion of opening of Mehersthan-Kovvur on 28th February, 1963.)

**BELOVED BABA'S BRONZE STATUE
AT MEHERSTHAN**



"Tear the curtain of set ceremonies and rituals and you will find
that I am the Worshipped, the Worship and the Worshipper."

—*Meher Baba*

EDITORIAL:

Mehersthan and Its Special Message

'Mehersthan' is the house built at Kovvur, on the Western Bank of the holy river Godavari, Andhra Pradesh (India) for housing Beloved Meher Baba, the embodiment of Love Divine and the Avatar of the Age. It was all a miracle done, so marvellously by the Lord Himself to perpetuate His memory for the benefit of posterity. "It was His love that inspired it and His compassion that permitted it." The perennial flow of the sanctifying waters of the river Godavari and the holy vibrations of the 'Tapasya' of countless sages of yore, lend support to the fact and bear ample testimony to the sacredness of the spot, where the Avatar of the Age has doubly sanctified it, by setting His lotus feet there on a prior occasion, and now by His Divine Presence, manifesting His love for the uplift of humanity.

"The 'ones' blessed to be instrumental, in erecting on this sacred spot, the 'House of Meher' (Mehersthan) and in having a likeness of Baba's Beloved Person moulded in a life-size statue of bronze placed therein, are the dearly devoted Baba-lovers, Koduri Krishna Rao and his wife. Baba declared His wish that His lovers from all over Andhra should gather at Kovvur to be there to welcome Him at 'Mehersthan' on the 28th February, when our dear Shantadevi (the Maharani of Baroda) will open 'Mehersthan' and unveil the statue of Baba, as wished by Him. Lovers of Baba representing His Centres from all over India will also be there at this unique welcome of Baba for Baba says 'I will be present there at

that time, and for all time as those who come to 'Mehersthan' come to see Me and not My 'statue'."* This was the profound proclamation made from Meherazad and every letter of it came to be true to the amazing joy and thrill of the huge mass of humanity who witnessed it and were the recipients of the mysteriously manifested Divine Love on that ever memorable day. The silvery clouds in the high skies and the golden sun-beams of the morning were in solemn symphony with the seven colours of Baba's Flag, duly unfurled by our most venerated Brother Shri Adi K. Irani; the flag proclaimed the Love Message of our Ancient Beloved to all the four corners .of the world in a flash.

It will be a matter of great interest and edification to note the details of the various proceedings of that grand function, and the several events of the day, elsewhere in the other pages of this Special Issue. We humbly beg to draw the special attention of our dear readers to the fact of sharing the Bliss and Joy, to their hearts' content, and the Love so munificently manifested by our Beloved Lord, by His Divine Presence on that happy occasion. The inebriety of the Divine ecstasy was so great that every one danced to the tunes of the prevailing melodious music forgetting themselves completely, as the procession in the evening advanced through the streets of the town, Kovvur, led by the two distinguished emissaries of Beloved Baba, Maharani Saheba and Shri Adi. The latter were amazed to find the fervour and zeal of the young and old that took part in that gala function. The fire-works specially manufactured for the occasion added glory to the gorgeousness and gaiety of the event.

It is most essential for all concerned to pay proper attention to every one of the Eight Special Messages of

* *Vide Meherabad Memories and Melodies Page 14.*

Beloved Baba, so colourfully inscribed on the walls of 'Mehersthan', and to note their real significance in the light of the clarifications made by Bro. Eruch, under directions from Beloved Baba, which are also published prominently elsewhere in this issue.

We do not propose to deal with the messages again here, for they are self-explanatory. Besides, Bro. Eruch's clarification is more than satisfactory from every point of view. We are glad to note that many a Baba-lover with similar doubts would be thus benefited; and the New Message, which the Avatar of the Age has been pleased to stress, with regards to the futility of "set ceremonies and rituals" that have become the curse and bane of the sophisticated minds of the present-day society, is more than ever clarified now on this happy occasion. Many of the misleading notions and illusory contradictions of Divine Worship are cleared up. The worship done through true love for God and expressed spontaneously has been extolled as the Real Worship of Him.

The erroneous notion that *Karma-Kanda* leads to God-Realisation, or *Atma-Sakshatkaram* has no foundation, for it has been clarified to the utmost limits by the Scriptures of yore and "Upanishads" and "Geeta" that *Karma* leads only to the unending chain of births and deaths binding one to Illusion (*Maya*); and that the annihilation of mind and its *Samskaras* (*Mano-NashanaVasana-Kshayam*) is the final state of Bliss or *Moksha* and that who-so-ever wants to be liberated from these bindings of *Karma* and cut off the chain of births and deaths, shall have recourse to only one path and that is *Akarma* (doing no *Karma*). Thus it can be seen beyond doubt that all the ceremonialism is for those that desire to reap the benefits of their *Karma*. (doing good or bad deeds) and thus perpetuate their illusion of life by

being bound over by the chain of births and deaths; but *not in the least* to have Self-Realisation and annihilation of illusion or *Maya*. Such a state of Self-Realisation or God-Realisation can best be had by one, only through the Grace of Divine Love bestowed by the mercy of a Sadguru.

But an extra-ordinary opportunity for the upheaval of humanity is abundantly granted by the advent of the Avatar of the Age. On this occasion, the manifestation of Love Divine will be the unique experience of only those that befit the Grace of the Lord of Love, while the others are apt to miss this opportunity even with their "eyes wide open" as illusion clouds their vision and blurs their minds. It is now that the clarion-call of the Beloved has come to awaken in us the Love Divine; and it is ringing aloud so lovingly out of compassion for us; it is for us now to leave the old rusty paths of 'set ceremonies and rituals' and take to the royal path of imbibing the Love Divine so profusely supplied by Him, and thus free ourselves from the binding chain of births and deaths and attain ultimate Liberation.

Our Beloved Baba, the Highest of the High, says: "Tear the curtain of *set* ceremonies and rituals; you will find that I am the Worshipped, the Worship and the Worshipper." It is to be clearly understood what is meant by the word *set* in the phrase: "Set ceremonies". The futility of adopting ceremonies *set* for some one else, for some other purpose, by an *aspirant* of God-Realisation, has been amply exposed now. It is also to be noted that any ceremony or ritual so prescribed even by a Sadguru to any one, can best help *him* only (and not others) to obtain the results or fruits of that *Karma-Kanda* aspired for.

It is, therefore, now clarified by the Avatar of the Age, that the only way to obtain God-hood is through Love and Love alone, and that all ceremonies or rituals will lead to further accumulation of *Karma* and enhancement of illusion, but can never help the attainment of Reality or Realisation of God-hood. It is also clarified that any spontaneous action or expression of love, like the offering of flowers, and garlands, singing of hymns from the Vedas in praise of the Almighty or from other scriptures like Koran, Bible or those of any other religion, doing of bhajan or giving Arati etc., are not forbidden for His worship, *if they are only done in a spirit of spontaneity* and deep devotion and in a state of Divine ecstasy. Even rolling in dust is sometimes recognised as a form of genuine worship of God! Hence it can be seen that true worship cannot be in any particular form or be a 'set' ceremony alone. It can be done in any form but it shall be one's own spontaneous action of love; no matter whatever shape or form it takes, it should be genuine to the core. The code of worship to be adopted at 'Mehersthan' now gives the lead to us to set aside the babble of ceremonies. May our Beloved Baba's example and code of worship be adopted by one and all, in the spirit it is given!

Thus, 'Mehersthan' stands as a new monument for the practice of the universal religion of mankind and serves us as an abode of Peace, Love and Integration much needed to end the chaotic conflagration of the modern mundane world; it is the meeting-place where all people can freely gather, sit together, silently pray to the Almighty to their hearts' content and directly come into contact with the Lord of their hearts, and obtain Liberation or Salvation or God-Realisation, and be one with their God-head for ever. It really fulfils a long-felt spiritual want. 'Mehersthan' is brought into existence

solely by the abounding Grace and Compassion of our Divine Beloved, Meher Baba, the Avatar of the Age. Hence, it can be duly reckoned as His priceless benefaction and boon granted to humanity.

May Beloved Baba's Love and Grace protect us all and bless us by awakening our hearts and grant us the strength to hold fast to His '*Daaman*' unto the last!

Jai ! Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai !

Review: MEHER VANI

It is with pleasure that we acknowledge the receipt of a copy of 'Meher Vani' which is a collection of about 260 unique and inspired utterances of Avatar Meher Baba on topics like Divinity, Love, Avatar, Silence. These sayings culled from various sources, mostly 'the Awakener' and important books like 'Avatar', 'God Speaks', 'Listen, Humanity'— are brought together for the intelligent perusal of an ardent seeker of Truth.

A short illuminating introduction by Shri Adi K. Irani, and a brief life-sketch of Avatar Meher Baba printed on the blurb, and the special prayer of Baba, greatly enhance the usefulness of the booklet.

The format of the booklet bears a close resemblance to that of the pocket-size books in the series: 'Thus Spake Buddha', 'Thus Spake Ramakrishna' and 'Thus Spake Christ.'

The Publishers, Meher-lovers of Avatar Meher Baba Vijayawada Centre, richly deserve our congratulations for bringing out this neatly got-up handbook on the occasion of the 69th birthday of the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba.

— R. D.



Mehersthan : Front View



[By courtesy of Avatar Meher Baba Vijayawada Centre]

Photo of Baba's cut-out picture taken out in procession at **Mehersthan** on the evening of 28th Feb. 1963

Beloved Baba's Love Manifestation

[A Pilgrim's Infallible Impression: From 'Meher Dham' of Nauranga to 'Mehersthan' of Kovvur]

It is indeed a common desire of equal interest to every Baba-lover to have the good fortune to know and imbibe the best in quality and the most in quantity of the beverage of Baba's Love. This Love is so profusely manifested on all the occasions and at all the various memorable and eventful functions during the years that have rolled by with such tremendous speed, that our mind's eye is some times dazed and our memory blurred. It was on the 26th November 1961 that the two special emissaries of our Beloved Baba, Bro. Adi K. Irani and Shrimati Shanta Devi (Maharani Gaekwad of Baroda) were sent by Baba to Nauranga, of Hamirpur District (Uttar Pradesh, India) and the abode of Meher, "Meher Dham" was opened and the marble statue of Beloved Baba was unveiled. It is exactly after a year and a quarter, on the 28th February '63, Beloved Baba has sent the same emissaries to Kovvur, on the western banks of the river Godavari, in Andhra Pradesh (India) to open another abode of Meher, called 'Mehersthan' and unveil the bronze statue of Beloved Baba.

It is note-worthy that "for reasons of very important universal work" of Avatar Meher Baba and according to His "wishes", Meher Centres in India and elsewhere *did not* have any sort of celebrations on His 69th Birthday, and hence this function had to take place on the 28th February '63 but not on the 25th of February, as it should have been otherwise. It may therefore be noted with joy that the unique occasion for the love manifestation of Beloved Baba, to be witnessed first on a mass scale, was first at Nauranga and the fortune of the

Baba-lovers of Hamirpur gained a priority over that of the Andhras, and to those who have actually witnessed the mass-jubilation and the intensity of Baba-love in every child, man or woman of the whole area around Nauranga, from the poorest to the richest of them, was certainly of a higher voltage and of more spontaneity than the one witnessed elsewhere, whatever be the reasons thereof. The united effort and the unique and hearty surrender in service of Beloved Baba was perhaps responsible for them to score a preference over others. Bro. Nigam's family and Bro. Pukar and their band of other unknown workers and lovers of Beloved Baba, have somehow won a better chance in precedence and preference.

It may be remembered that under instructions from Beloved Baba, the name 'Meher Mandir' was changed to 'Meher Dham' thus removing the age-long association of a mass ceremony attached to a "Mandir" or a "Temple". The special messages that were sent on that occasion through Bro. Adi K. Irani, which were painted on cloth and displayed on the walls of 'Meher Dham' at Nauranga, were the following:

"I belong to no religion. My religion is Love.
Every heart is my Temple.

Although it is in love that you have built this temple of stone, I am only in it, when your heart brings Me here."

"Always remember that ceremonies cover Me but pure worship reveals Me."

Two more messages sent for the Nauranga function were:

"On this particular occasion, I will be amongst you as one of My own lovers."

(Please turn to page 101)

Meherazad Memories and Melodies

[By one of the Women Mandali at Meherazad]

15th February '63

It is a clear bright afternoon, and the owlets are sunning themselves on the branch of a *neem tree*. The feeling of drowsiness at this hour is enhanced by the hypnotic droning of bees and the persistent 'tonk, tonk' of the Coppersmith, a bird so named because of the resemblance of its call to the sound of the smith's hammer at work on his copper pots. The *peepal tree* that towers over the roof of the Mandali's kitchen is shimmering like a chandelier in the sunlight, each glossy leaf glistening like a crystal as it rocks in the soft easterly breeze. The green fields have turned blonde, and we can hear the lilting folksongs of the villagers singing to each other as they toil at their harvesting, among the workers being many a mother with her babe tied to her back in a 'hammock' improvised with a piece of cloth. The little shepherd boys are herding their sheep towards the slopes of Baba's Hill, themselves lazing while the sheep are grazing, or playing marbles with stones they find on the hill-side.

In such an atmosphere at Meherazad, it is difficult to imagine the intrigues and treachery of nations, or the mad mess they are making in their driving greed, pride and fear. And yet we are perhaps made all the more sensitive to the prevailing conditions because of their utter contrast to the values and purpose of life as shown to us by Baba. Conquest is in itself a most worthy aim if, as Baba tells us, it is directed towards conquering one's self instead of setting out to conquer others. But the Beloved also tells us that even to seek to conquer one's self is not for weaklings and falterers!

It is not man alone that shows a fierce fancy for breaking records, Nature has been doing it all over the world this winter. It is said that England and Europe have not experienced such weather since 1881, ringing in the New Year with arctic blizzards and bitter frost. New York was so cold, one Baba-lover wrote, "It is as if we are living in the Ice Age." Ahmednagar had a heavy lash of rain this winter,

a thing that hasn't happened for 80 years and thus earned headlines in the newspapers. Never do we remember longing for sunshine as we did during that watery week, when umbrellas and raincoats were frantically shaken out from their winter slumber in the storage room. The birds seemed puzzled for a while at this temperamental turn of Nature's mood and took shelter more often on the verandah, sometimes five varieties of them (from the tiny tailor-bird to the husky crow) sharing together the bread-crumbs put out for them, and looking delightfully drunken and bedraggled from the heavy soaking. But they recovered soon, and to our amazement we saw many of them taking far more frequent dunks in the bird-bath than ever before. Perhaps this was simply from nervousness, or perhaps from a deeper wisdom than we possess, in the resolve that "what one can't avoid might as well be enjoyed!" This 'madly monsoon' as a friend called it, was followed by a welcome spell of cold; and before starting work in the mornings we would find ourselves drawn irresistibly to the blazing wood fire that is lighted for heating bath-water.

Tea-time at Meherazad is a happy hour for us women, when we sit together at the dining-table with the Beloved; and mingling with snatches of conversation and the tinkle of tea-spoons in cups, is the music from our transistor radio—occasionally accompanied by heavy snores from our old Cocker-spaniel, fast asleep in his corner by Baba's chair. Over the radio we have enjoyed, more than once this winter, songs sung by Vinayakrao Patwardhan, and musical recitals by Madhukar Golvalkar (head of Poona's All India Radio music department) and by Sri Kamat—the artistes that performed for Beloved Baba during the morning Western sessions of the East-West Gathering in November. This would find Baba drumming briskly on the table in rhythm with the music, the response from our brass tea-kettle being a jerky little dance as it would bob up and down with the vibration of the table. Sometimes there is a kavvali program on the air, when favourite Urdu 'ghazals' (Songs composed by the great mystic poets) are sung—they are the expressions of rapture, anguish and longing from a lover's heart for his divine Beloved, and this at times puts Baba in the mood to discourse to us on matters that matter.

One afternoon, He reminisced on Dhondibua the Mast who, when given anything for his material needs, would refuse

it saying "I cannot bear comfort!" He would remain naked in all weather, be it in the blazing sun or piercing cold; and when a shirt or blanket was given to him by someone, he would gently but firmly reject the gift explaining that comfort did not agree with him and he could not bear any contact with it. He would sometimes be seen rolling in the dust. Baba said this was from the agony of love for God that the genuine Masts have. He went on, "You cannot have the slightest idea of what such love means; it is an unbelievable agony that continually burns the lover, so that he is but a living fire! This love is a gift from God, whereas God-realization is attained only by the Grace of the Perfect Master. Even these real men of God, the Masts, do not all gain God-realization—as a matter of fact, out of very many only one gets it! As Hafiz says in reference to God-realization:

'For ages the lovers of God long for and await
What but *one* in a hundred thousand achieves.'

Baba went on to say that this Love such as the Masts have, is *very very* rare, and fortunately therefore it is not necessary for us to possess that in order to attain God—just "obedience" is enough for us; all we have to do is to obey Baba and nothing else will matter. Baba added "It is as easy as that, to attain what is well-nigh impossible to attain!"

There was an unplanned and unexpected feast of a kavvali program for Baba at Meherazad on Sunday the 13th of January, when the great woman kavvali singer, Begum Akhtar, came to see Him. She is that singer whose recorded songs have top priority among the favourites that Baba has us play on occasions. In response to a message sent to her thru Sri Golvalkar, this widely renowned singer was to visit Baba last summer in Poona, but was unable to do so because of her serious illness at the time. When she saw Baba she told Him that from the day she had heard of His call to her she had been craving for His darshan and daily sang a special ghazal before His photo, weeping while she did so. She requested Baba to permit her to sing this ghazal to Him now that she was actually in His presence. Smiling, Baba replied that He would give His permission only on the condition that she gives a performance of four to five hours of her singing at Guruprasad on any one day in April or May. She was delighted at this and accepted the condition most lovingly.

Seated before Baba and a handful of the mandali, she sang this ghazal of her daily 'prayer' to Baba in her superb voice, while tears of love and joy coursed down her cheeks and beloved Baba gave her one of His own handkerchiefs to wipe them with! Baba was so pleased with her singing that she sang three more songs, and it seemed as though along with her tears she poured her heart out to Him in those beautiful ghazals. When Baba said to her " I am the Faqir of faqirs and the Emperor of emperors", she replied "There can not be the least doubt in that". When He hinted at a fee He would like to arrange for her for the special program she would give at Guruprasad, she bowed reverently but said emphatically "I want nothing except Your Love." Blessed is she to have chosen the most priceless of treasures as her fee!

Accompanied by Sri Golvalkar, she brought her daughter with her, and two big garlands of fresh flowers—and although one was for the daughter to offer to Baba, Begum Akhtar was so overcome she put both the garlands round Baba's neck herself! When we told her how happy she had made Baba with her singing, she exclaimed how 'happy- fortunate' she was to have done so. The parting was very moving—she held on to Baba's feet, and with her head on His knee wept quietly for a long time. Patting her bowed head Baba said she was most blessed. Begum Akhtar had come seeking permission at least to take Baba's darshan, and went away with her cup of joy full at having been given the opportunity of singing four ghazals to Him.

On that Sunday there was singing in the afternoon also, according to a program planned beforehand by Baba, when all of the Baba-family from Ahmednagar Centre were called to Meherazad. The artiste was Sri Vatve from Poona, a famous singer of devotional songs who has often sung for Baba at Guruprasad, and who has now acquired the knowledge of singing 'ghazals' since knowing Baba loves that best. It was an intimate and informal gathering, held as usual in "the hall"—a spacious room that once served us as a garage and later as a stable, and which is now the sanctum where the Beloved spends many hours of the day with His mandali. It was not all song—it never is in the Beloved's presence which gives life to the body of any assembly gathered before Him. As He lightens the heavy moments with gentle raillery and

humour and gives weight to the most trivial subject by using it as a starting-point for serious spiritual explanations, the hours are moulded by His Divine Hands into a pitcher in which He pours the breath of His Love, and which each may carry home with him to water the parched moments of separation.

Through hand-gestures, interpreted as usual by Eruch, Baba spoke of love and surrender. He said "The agony of love" is so dear to the lover of God that though it burns him to ashes he will not part with it for anything! Though it may make him an outcast from society, a stranger to sleep, hunger and comfort, he prizes this blissful torture above all things in creation. Only God can implant this divine Love in the human heart." Speaking of surrender, He said "I do not mean the kind of surrender offered by a man who came to Meherabad years ago and said he wished to surrender everything to Me. When I asked what the 'everything' was, he replied "myself, my wife and four children!" This brought a hearty burst of laughter from all present, and Baba's smile showed He was equally enjoying the humour of it. Then Baba continued "God is not fooled by any outward show. He is completely deaf to ceremonial prayers and ringing of church bells and chanting of mantras—He is never taken in by such superficial veneer, never ensnared by such blandishments. Love alone can move Him—Love can conquer Him. Without that, nothing is to any avail."

Touching on the subject of God-realization Baba said "Man realizing God is like a drop of water swallowing the Ocean—no less! When, after the kiss from Babajan I knew that I was the Ocean, I did not want to come back to the ordinary drop consciousness from that Blissful State where I alone was. But despite my resistance the five Perfect Masters kept 'pulling me down' to ordinary consciousness for My destined Manifestation as Avatar; and in the excruciating agony I went thru during this 'tussle', I used to knock my forehead on a stone in my room at home, during the nine months before Upasani Maharaj brought me down to normal consciousness. Much blood has flowed from my head onto that stone which is still in the room as it was then, and which will be worshipped universally in years to come.

To you each dear one of His Western family Beloved Baba sends His Love, and wishes me to say that the letters to Him

(sent after November) have all reached Him, and the love they brought has touched His heart and made Him very happy.

Baba also wishes me to mention about Adele Wolkin from New York, a nurse and a very dear Baba-lover whom He permitted to be in India for three months. During this time she gained nursing experience at a hospital in Bombay where she worked amidst the very poor and needy. Adele was looking whole-heartedly forward to continuing her stay in India so that she could avail herself of opportunities for Baba's darshan whenever possible. However, the Beloved decided that Adele should return to the U.S.A., saying she would serve His purpose best by working there. Being among the fortunate few to whom obedience comes first, Adele bowed to His wish. Baba declared His decision to her when she came to Meherazad at His call, and her placing His wish above the longing of her heart made Him very happy. Adele is now on the high seas, on her way to the U.S.A., and her telegram to Him on leaving India said to the effect "Beloved Baba, I live to obey You"—that is real 'living' indeed!

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." (127th Psalm).

Mehersthan, the house built in Kovvur (Andhra State) for housing beloved Baba in bronze, was surely "built by the Lord", for it was His Love that inspired it and His compassion that permitted it. It stands on the bank of the river Godavari, on the spot where Baba gave His darshan to the people of Andhra during His visit to Kovvur in 1954. The ones blessed to be instrumental in erecting on this sacred spot the "House of Meher" (Mehersthan) and in having a likeness of Baba's Beloved Person moulded in a life-size statue of bronze placed therein, are the dearly devoted Baba-lovers Koduri Krishna Rao and his wife. Baba declared His wish that His lovers from all over Andhra should gather at Kovvur to be there to welcome Him at Mehersthan on 28th February, when our dear Shantadevi (the Maharani of Baroda) will open Mehersthan and unveil the Statue of Baba, as wished by Him. Lovers of Baba representing His Centres from all over India will also be there at this unique welcoming of Baba, for Baba says "I will be present there at the time, and for all time as those who come to Mehersthan come to see Me and not my statue."

Just as Namdev, as a child, brought the statue of Lord. Krishna to life with the intense purity of his love and faith, may all who enter Mehersthan keep alive the Beloved's Presence by living the messages of Love and Truth given by the All-Knowing and All-Compassionate and not just making "words" of them by entombing them in the mind. Indeed all Baba's messages are "words" as long as we make them so by failing to translate His messages into the ordinary actions of our daily lives. Unless we can live His messages, we are as dead soil wherein He has taken pains to plant the seed of Truth. May His Love for us make us worthy soil to receive the blessing of His grace!

I give here the eight messages that Beloved Baba sent to Koduri Krishna Rao, to be put up in bold letters and prominently displayed in *Mehersthan*:

Tear the curtain of set ceremonies and rituals and you will find that I am the Worshipped, the Worship and the Worshipper.

To clothe simple worship with the garments of ceremony and ritual is to expose Me to the cold winds of ignorance.

To faithfully love God-Man is to truly worship God.

To find Me here in Mehersthan, search the depth of your heart.

Mehersthan has been built for Me with love, but I may only be found here by My lover who brings Me here in his heart.

As the heart is, so is the house; as the eye is, so is the Image within the house.

The heart of man has always been the ancient temple for the worship of the Ancient One.

Nothing can house the Ancient One that does not house love.

This letter has crossed the usual boundary of five pages, but I feel indeed glad it has, for the next news bulletin will not be coming till the end of April, from Poona, after we have settled down in Guruprasad for our summer sojourn. We expect to be leaving for Poona at the end of March, so please note that any cable of emergency you may wish to send to Baba during the months of April, May and June should be addressed: MEHERBABA, GURUPRASAD, POONA (India).

I end this letter with love to you each from your family at Meherazad and the lines from a Ghazal that impressed me specially, for the poet puts in song the Beloved's constant counsel to all to 'keep happy and resigned to His Will!'

Hold high your heart,
and your head low at the feet of the Perfect Master
in complete submission to His Will.

Prayer for Baba's Lovers & Mandali

(Dictated by MEHER BABA)

Beloved God! Help us all to love you more and
more, and more and more and still yet more,
till we become worthy of Union with You;
and help us all to hold fast to Baba's *daaman* till the
very end.

Shri P. RAMALINGESHWAR RAO'S
LETTER TO Bro. ADI K. IRANI

P. RAMALINGESHWAR RAO
SRI AUR0BIND0 NIVAS
KOVVUR
19-1-63

My dear Brother Adi,

Pranams to Lotus Feet of Beloved.

For the unveiling of 'Mehersthan' Beloved has favoured *eight Messages* to be inscribed on 'Mehersthan' as well as in the hearts of all Meher-lovers.

Our Andhra Meher Centre met recently at Kovvur. The very first message which had to be translated into Telugu was interpreted in one way while I am under a different view. As this is one of the primary messages, it is my earnest prayer to Beloved Avatar that it should be clarified, as we who are near 'Mehersthan' should ourselves know the correct view what Avatar meant for us. This letter is a faithful question by a beloved of Baba to his sweet Beloved as it should be clarified to one and all.

Baba said:

"Tear the curtain of set ceremonies and rituals and you will find that I am the Worshipped, the Worship and the Worshipper."

It is *mostly* the chief opinion of most of our lovers that *rituals should be totally avoided and that Baba means it so.*

I am totally unable to agree with the above friends of mine. I for myself do not feel that it is the wish and intention of the Avatar.

Holding *the above firm view* some expressed that *no Vedic ceremony* will be followed *for the unveiling ceremony*. I do not know whether it is the order of Baba that *Vedic rites are not necessary* at the installation.

Vedas are the creation of the Avatar Baba Himself. It is in the Vedas that we have to study our religion. The authority of the Vedas, you will agree, is for all time to come, as they are His own creation.

Rituals are the kindergarten of religion. They are absolutely necessary for the world as it is new; only we shall have to give people newer and fresher rituals. I am sure that Baba does not totally advocate the *abolition of rituals*; out of the existing rituals new ones will have to be evolved. There is infinite power of development in everything; that is my honest belief. Baba must clarify and open my intuitive eye as well as of every one.

All along the history of the Hindu Race, there was never any attempt at destruction, *only construction*. The Buddhists — the one sect who wanted to destroy were thrown out of India. Ramanuja, Madhwa and Chaitanya were constructive. The progress of the Hindu Race has been towards the realization of Vedic ideals. Whenever there was any reforming sect or religion which rejected the Vedic ideal, it was thrown out. This was past history.

There are innumerable opinions and innumerable paths leading to God. Baba as Krishna in His Universal Divine Song "Bhagavad Gita" laid the three paths of Jnana, Karma, Bhakthi. Further it is a well-known fact that the knowledge of a worldly person, knowledge of a devotee and the Knowledge of an Incarnation are by no means of the same degree. Also it is an admitted fact that there are different levels in the devotees—superior,

mediocre and inferior. All this has been described in the Gita.

To attain God-Love, at first the company of holy men is needed which awakens Sraddha, faith in God. Then comes 'Nistha' (one-pointed devotion to an ideal). After 'Nistha' comes 'Bhakthi'. Then dawns 'Bhava'. Next 'Maha Bhava'. Lastly 'Prema' or Divine Love. Of course if Grace of an Avatar descends, Love dawns in a flash. *That comes to one in a million.*

When there are so *many paths, stages and levels* amongst devotees, coming from the past, Baba will agree that one cannot be King Janaka all on a sudden. Even Janaka practised much austerity in solitude.

Ramakrishna Paramahansa said that *without having realized God, one cannot give up rituals altogether*, and He too worshipped for a long time.

Of course this is Avataric time when the Avatar floods the entire universe. It is easy to break open the curtain with the Grace of Avatar. I *agree* Mehersthan is built with Baba's Love; one who visits Mehersthan and loves Baba *deeply gets His Grace and strength to tear off the curtain*. When one feels he is one with the Divine the curtain is removed. But that is not the first state to all commonly.

The Eternal Religion, Religion of Rishis advocated all forms of worship. Rishis of old, in spite of their will-power, in order to set an example to others, followed austerities. Baba in "Bhagavad Gita" stated that even 'He' unattached performs 'Karma' to set an example to universe lest there is destruction.

Sloka:- *"Yadyad Acharathi Srestaha"*

Baba fully knows a worldly man cannot be guileless. Hypocrisy is prevalent. Worldly men profess to love

God, but it is not so easy, as Baba stresses often, to love Him.

If we are to advocate that Baba wanted rituals to be destroyed, as some of us most easily concur in the present times—if Baba does not mean it—is it not another crime for us?

Adi will forgive me and my anxiety in penning a long letter. It is not that the Avatar does not know as He knows everything and it is He who made me write and it is He who must lovingly respond and open our intuitive eyes.

As this relates to Mehersthan I ventured to *address my Brother Adi* so that he will be pleased to *read over to Baba* this soul's agony to its 'Oversoul' and clarify me on these points, opening my intuitive eye, as the Avatar is in our midst in flesh and blood to dawn the correct vision and grace with His loving Message to all:

1. Whether rituals are to be totally avoided?
2. Whether in the ensuing opening of Mehersthan Baba does not concur with me that Vedic rites be sung in praise of the Highest in the installation ceremony as was done in the past during incarnation of Sri Rama when He installed "Sri Ramalingeshwara" at Rameshwaram?
3. That Baba should prescribe the procedure in laying the idol, His wish as to how we should all conduct ourselves?
4. That, after installation, how regular conduct of worship is to be done and the manner of daily conduct and its running.

Yours affectionately,
(Sd.) P. RAMALINGESHWAR RAO.

Bro. Eruch's Reply
To Shri P. Ramalingeshwar Rao

"Meherazad" Ahmednagar
1st February, 1963

To
Sri P. Ramalingeshwar Rao
Advocate
Aurobindo Nivas
Kovvur (W. G. Dt. Andhra)

My Dear Brother,

Your letter of 19th January '63 was forwarded to me by dear Brother Adi for being read out to Beloved Baba and for reply to you.

In spite of Baba's ban for a full year on the flow of correspondence to and from Him, and despite His present phase of Seclusion, He permitted me to read out your letter to Him, for it was from one who has endeared himself to Him as "Baba's P. A.!"

Without beating about the bush, I will attempt to answer your queries according to indications as gathered by me from Baba. As a matter of fact, your long letter can be replied in a short sentence by asking you simply to read "Meher Pukar" February - January 1962 issue, pages 27 to 31. However, I will reply to your four points, as requested by you in your letter which on the whole seems based mainly on your questioning one of the eight messages of Beloved Baba that He has given for the opening of *Mehersthan* on 28th February 1963. This message reads as follows:

"Tear the curtain of set ceremonies and rituals and you will find that I am the Worshipped, the Worship and the Worshipper."

(1) Your first query is: Whether rituals are to be totally avoided?

In reply to this query I must tell you, dear brother, that Meher Baba as the Avatar of the age wants you to believe that He does not want the true worship of His lovers to be entwined by rites and ceremonies of 'Yagna' and 'Hom-havan' or any other forms of ritual.

Baba does not want His lovers to ever offer their prayer to Him padded by any sort of formal practice or set customs. Any ceremony on which the rust of past ages of *formal* observance has long since set in should never be entertained in His House of Worship.

Baba has been often stressing that He has come again as the Avatar of this age to cut out clean through the thongs which restrict the voice of true worship to God to the point of strangulation.

Beloved Baba further clarifies that when *love* for God is expressed spontaneously then it is worshipping Him indeed; and such outbursts of true worship can be seen sometimes in the form of an offering of flowers and garlands, in singing hymns and bhajans and Arti, in ecstatic dancing or rolling in dust, etc. etc. When such expressions are spontaneous—*not formal*—and are in praise of the Highest of the High, they constitute true worship of God, for this reaches Him and is acceptable to Him.

But when the mind expresses itself in patterns of *formal* rites and rigid ceremonies it is nothing more than an empty echo of the habit of countless generations, performed automatically without 'heart'. Baba says that such a worship not only does NOT reach Him but

holds the worshipper more firmly in the grip of ignorance.

(2) Your second query is: Whether at the opening of Mehersthan Baba does or does not concur with you that Vedic hymns be sung in praise of the Highest in the Installation ceremony as was done in the past during incarnation of Sri Rama when He installed "Sri Ramalingeshwara" at Rameshwaram?

Before replying to this query I must first draw your attention to the fact that a Statue of Beloved Baba is not to be installed, BUT that Beloved Baba's dear Person embodied in bronze is to be unveiled.

After the unveiling, not only Vedic hymns may be freely sung in praise of the Highest, but also full freedom should then be given to Muslims to recite the Koran in praise of the Highest, to the Christians to sing their hymns in praise of the Highest, to the Zoroastrians to sing their 'Monajats' in praise of the Highest, and to the Harijans to sing their bhajana in praise of the same Highest of the High!

Indeed, Lord Rama may have installed Sri Ramalingeshwara with Vedic rites and singing of hymns, but remember that any action of the Avatar's doing is NEVER the same as our doing that same action. As Baba Himself has often told us, "Do as I tell you, and not as I do!"

Also we should remember that although whatever the Avatar does must be right (since He is God), His actions at a particular time are not necessarily for all time. Further more, in each successive Advent, Avatar has to clear away abuses which have become attached to His former actions even at the cost of apparently denying the validity (at the time) of those actions.

(3) Your third query is: That Baba should prescribe the procedure in laying the Idol; His wish as to how you should all conduct it.

This very question arises from the misleading idea that you will be installing an Idol of Baba! Baba says that His living Person is by itself the real Idol of God and no other idol can replace it—it will be replaced only with His next advent after 700 years! No amount of ceremonies for "Pran-pratishta" can ever breathe life of Baba into any idol! The moment you think of an *idol* of Baba in Mehersthan, you wash away the very foundation of your own faith in Baba, your own love for Baba and your own obedience to Baba's dictates! Only those who fail to feel His Presence anywhere else than in the bronze image of Baba, will find Beloved Baba as a mere statue or idol in Mehersthan.

Lovers of Baba should make Mehersthan the House of True Worship by expression of their pure love for Him, and they should believe that in it is housed the very Presence of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba and not His idol or statue.

The answer in a nut-shell to your third query is that you should believe in the very Presence of Beloved Baba at Mehersthan, and drive away all thoughts of replacing Baba's Presence with installation of an idol of Baba 'sanctified' by Vedic rites.

The bronze statue of Beloved Baba can be of help to perpetuate Baba's Presence in Mehersthan for posterity.

(4) Your fourth query is: That after installation, what should be the daily regular conduct of worship?

In answer to this I must say that this question will never arise if all lovers of Baba enter Mehersthan with the belief that Baba Himself is in it. Your conduct

should be as it is when you are in the presence of your Beloved Baba at Ahmednagar or Poona.

Any lover of Baba who enters Mehersthan is himself the *pujari* of Baba; every lover should have full freedom of expression of love for Baba according to the dictates of his or her heart. Anyone should have a free access to Baba in Mehersthan and be allowed full freedom of expression of love for Baba without any reservations of caste or creed or race. There can be no better form of worship in Mehersthan than repeating Baba's Name and singing in His Praise—and those who cannot sing can read, recall and repeat Baba's Messages and Discourses; can recite "The Master's Prayer" of Parvardigar, and "The Prayer of Repentance", can read aloud the messages of the "Highest of the High" and "Meher Baba's Call"; can listen to Bhajans on Baba, and, above all, spend most of the time sitting quietly in Baba's presence, recalling the incidents and happenings of all the Sahavases and recent East-West Gathering.

In short, there should be no restrictions whatsoever for the conduct of worship in Mehersthan, and love for God should have full scope of expression without any reservation of high or low, rich or poor. The precious Eight Messages given by Beloved Baba for the occasion of the Opening of Mehersthan are by themselves the code of true worship. Nothing that is strictly formal or set or merely customary practice should be adhered to while worshipping in Mehersthan at Kovvur.

However, there should be strict rules framed to maintain discipline, cleanliness and hygienic conditions in and around Mehersthan. Mehersthan should have a watchman to look after the property but no regular and paid *pujaris*, for every lover of Baba is in himself a true *pujari*.

This letter has become very long and I hope that you will feel satisfied with the answers to all your queries. I have tried my best to be faithful to what I have gathered from Beloved Baba's indications given on points raised by you in your letter, and given from time to time in response to such points raised in the past by some other lovers seeking enlightenment from Him who is All-Knowledge and Compassion. Hence, if you had tried, dear brother, you would equally have found answers to your queries in the various literature of Baba in English as well as in Hindi in "Meher Pukar," "Prem Mahima," and "Divya Leela."

Now that you have received this letter, Baba wants you to make the best use of it by sharing the contents with all Baba-lovers in Kovvur and all lovers of Baba in Andhra. Baba also wants you to explain the contents of this letter faithfully to Sri and Srimathi Koduri Krishna Rao.

Beloved Baba sends His love to you and to all His dear ones of your Parivar and wants you to acknowledge this letter.

Yours lovingly,
ERUCH

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* * * *

If you want to know anything of God and to reach God,
Then catch hold of Baba's *daaman* (Garment).
If you care for God and care for Love and if you have the
desire
for Union with God, then the only solution is to catch hold
of Baba.

—MEHER BABA

Shri P. RAMALINGESHWAR RAO'S LETTER
To BRO. ERUCH

God is for those who are not for themselves—

Meher Baba.

MEHERSTHAN

P. Ramalingeshwar Rao
c/o Koduri Krishna Rao
Kovvur (Godavari Bank)
Date 7-2-1963.

Dear Loving Bro. Eruch,

Love to Baba. Your loving letter of 1st February of clarification—which is "Gita" to Universe from "God" Baba—has not only opened my intuitive eye but also of every one in the Universe, making me a tool for it which is nothing but His Play alone.

I was *asked to acknowledge* by Baba the receipt of "Divine Song" of Baba. It is Baba who made this little soul write and Baba who clarified. *We are all blessed.*

This letter has given a *correct perspective of Mehersthan*. How fortunate and blessed we are *daily and constantly to live and breathe Baba's presence, God's Presence! Mehersthan is Kailas, Vaikuntha and everything*. Bro. Krishna Rao is blessed *as well as Baba's P. A. who dreamt of it in his life always*. Really Ramalingeshwar Rao is blessed. A glorious history indeed! Baba made *Andhra Ramayana in which Kovvur is imprinted and we are all made important in God's History!*

As ordered by Baba, I went to Bro. Krishna Rao and *faithfully* explained in Telugu to the couple; and

shared it with *all* profitably as per Baba's orders, as ever.

I write this because Baba ordered me to acknowledge.
May this humble soul be the instrument of Baba to sing His
Divine Flute!

With love of all,

(Sd.) P. RAMALINGESHWAR RAO

Bro. Adi will pardon me for writing on this letterhead,
since we live from now and always in Mehersthan.

Bro. Adi will forward this to Bro. Eruch.

I tell you with My Divine authority
that whoever (anyone and every one) takes My name on his lips
at the time he or she breathes his or her last,
(drops his or her physical body) comes to Me.
Therefore do not forget to remember Me
at the time when you would be breathing your last.

Unless you take My name on your lips,
remember Me from now on constantly
and keep it continuously,
you cannot remember Me and keep My name
on your lips at the time you drop your body (breathe your last).
Even if you take My name once a day, with all your heart and
soul,
it is sufficient. You will thus ultimately come to Me.

—MEHER BABA.

MEHERSTHAN

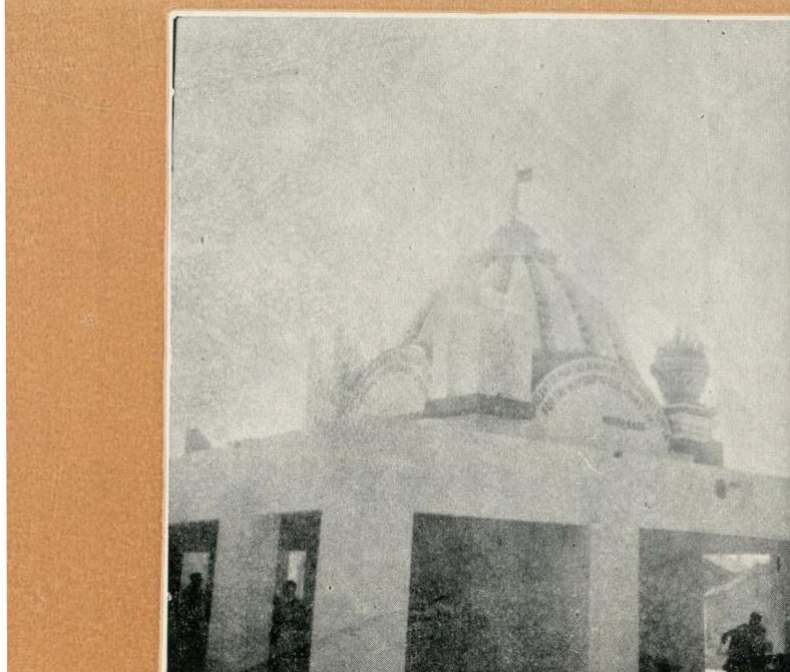
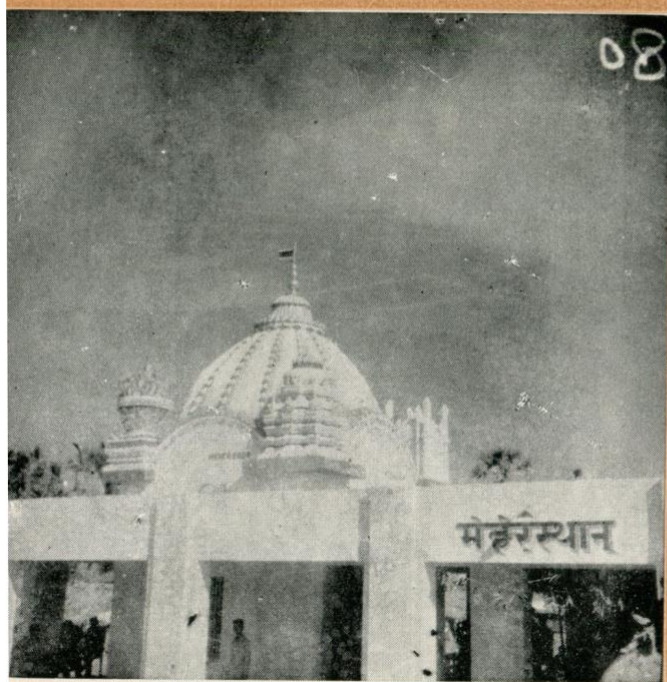


Front View



Dome

DOME — Distant views



ADDRESS GIVEN BY H. H. THE MAHARANI OF
BARODA, Smt. SHANTADEVI GAEKWAR, AT THE

OPENING OF MEHERSTHAN

AT KOVVUR (West Godavari Dist., A. P.),

on the 28th of February 1963

Our Beloved Lord, Meher Baba!

You have asked me to open this House of Yours, *Mehersthan*, at Kovvur today. Mehersthan is Your Abode, for it is Your Compassion that inspired it and Your Love that built it. Sri & Srimathi Koduri Krishna Rao are blessed to have been Your instruments in this expression of Your Love for us.

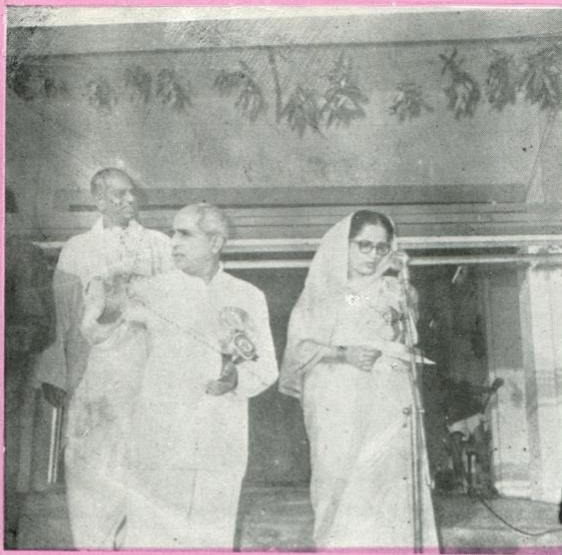
Your true Abode is in our hearts, and until by Your grace we can open the doors within us and see You as You truly are, we content ourselves in opening today the doors of Mehersthan which houses the Image of Your dear Person embodied in bronze, the likeness of You as we see You and worship You preserved for the eyes of posterity.

May all who enter here with faith and an open heart receive Your blessing of Love.

Address given by H. H. Maharani of Baroda,
Smt. Shantadevi Gaekwar on the occasion of
UNVEILING THE STATUE
of Avatar Meher Baba at MEHERSTHAN,
KOVVUR (West Godavari Dist., A. P.)
on the 28th of February 1963

O Ancient One!
Avatar of the Age!
Beloved Meher Baba!

You have asked me to unveil Your Statue today at Mehersthan in Kovvur, and before I do so I humbly and whole-heartedly pray to You to bless us all that we may grow to love You with that Love which will move You to unveil Yourself in our hearts as readily as we now unveil Your Statue.



Maharani Shrimati Shanta Devi delivering
Opening Address at *Mehersthan*.



Chief Guests arriving at *Mehersthan*



Shri T. S. Kutumba Sastri translating
Maharani Saheba's Address into Telugu.



Unveiling of Baba's Statue by
Maharani Saheba in *Mehersthan*



Shri Adi K. Irani
unfurling Baba - Flag



Shri Adi K. Irani addressing the
gathering after unfurling Baba-Flag

UNFURLING OF
BABA FLAG at MEHERSTHAN

KOVVUR (West Godavari Dt., A. P.)

on 28th February, 1963

SPEECH BY Shri ADI K. IRANI

Behold! Baba-lovers, what a change of place is here! The land of Kovvur has become the land-mark of time. The time in its eternal flow of events has taken up this momentous occasion. It re-asserts itself in the potentiality of love and faith in the living God on earth. The self-same God as Zoroaster, as Rama, as Krishna, as Buddha, as Christ and Mohammad has once again come in our life and in our midst as Meher Baba.

There is no period in history such as this when the two opposing forces in nature are at the height of their conflict—the one that is of the past, impregnated with commissions and omissions of man's thoughts and actions, and the other, the functioning of inner work done according to the Will of God to liquidate the past and recast the future. Meher Baba is the personification of God.

The mind of man has grown too weary with the speed of fast thinking about the needs of the flesh. The heart has become too slow to nurse the needs of the spirit. No amount of effort, no amount of patience and suffering seems to take him anywhere near attainment of happiness. Baba is the embodiment of Bliss.

The waters of Godavari flowing past the banks in Kovvur will ever bear testimony to this great event of

the Opening of Mehersthan which houses the statue of the living Avatar of the age.

His Image will serve as the permanent symbol of Love for the spiritual uplift of those who will for ever unite, in spite of their conflicting ideologies, in one common approach to God. It will evoke pure love in human hearts that will bring about sympathetic understanding between man and man, having a far reaching effect in all spheres of their activities like social, political, domestic and economic.

This is the day of the inauguration of a new thought and power which directly relates to human heart, setting at rest age-old ceremonies and rituals that obstruct the free flow of love from man to God. Baba is the embodiment of Truth.

Baba's Love for man is greater than man's love for himself. This cannot but be God's Love for man through God-Man. When human heart opens to receive the Love of God-Man, no other power on earth can bind him, no weakness in life can hold him, no treasure on hand can please him, no darkness in mind can beguile him, no position and power can corrupt him and no fear in action can bend him.

The Banner of Truth that will now be unfurled top-mast at Mehersthan will now herald to humanity—irrespective of birth, position, nationality and religion—that God is One in existence, that man is essentially one in life, and that all practices, sadhanas, prayers, meditation and selfless deeds have one purpose behind them. It is to evoke love in human heart. Meher Baba is the embodiment of Love.

There is nothing but God. God exists everywhere. This is easily said than experienced. On the other hand

our 'experience' is that there is everything but God. God, if ever He is, we have not consciously become one with Him.

The greatest and highest experience in life is to consciously become one with God. The second best experience is to see God in everything. The third in importance is to feel God everywhere and the fourth is to have an unwavering faith in God.

It is better to love God than to only have faith in Him. It is better to have faith in God than not to have faith in Him. It is as good as not having faith in God than to have it all for the purpose of self-gain.

It is better to be wise than clever. It is better to be clever than be a fool. It is better not to be clever than to be selfish. It is better to be openly selfish than hypocritical. The worst kind of hypocrisy is to profess oneself as a saint knowing for certain that he is not.

Tukaram Bua, the renowned Sadguru of Maharashtra, has said:—

"Having long hair and ash-besmeared bodies.

There is many a fraud in variegated guise!

Tukaram says "Let their (dead) conscience get burnt;

It is no sin to thrash them!"

Such saints, maharshis, sai-ees, sadgurus and even avatars have been of late coming up like mushrooms. They have neither the wisdom of living nor the depth of their wits. They are clever, indeed, but not clever enough to see that there is the Ancient One who sees through their mischief and their game. In the event of the universal play in Maya that Baba plays and commands, what puny souls are these to face the searching sight of the Living Avatar that pierces through their

body, mind and soul to keep unconcealed the fraudulent make-up of their deeds?

Today we pray at the feet of Avatar Meher Baba to save the world from confusion and chaos. Let us also alongside pray thus:—

"May these God-blinded souls be blessed by Baba to shed the mechanics of their showy virtue and may those who fall a prey to their tricks be blessed, to be saved from the hypnotics of these dishonestly honest saints."

In presence of the Prem Moorty of Meher, in the precincts of Mehersthan, let us voice "AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI" and then unfurl the flag of Universal Truth.



Views of the Proceedings at *Mehersthan Function*



'Parvardigar' Prayer by
Mrs. Mona Sakhare



Welcome Address by
Shri Koduri Krishna Rao



Dr. T. Dhanapati Rao
President, Avatar Meher Baba Andhra
Centre, reading out Baba's
Eight Special Messages.

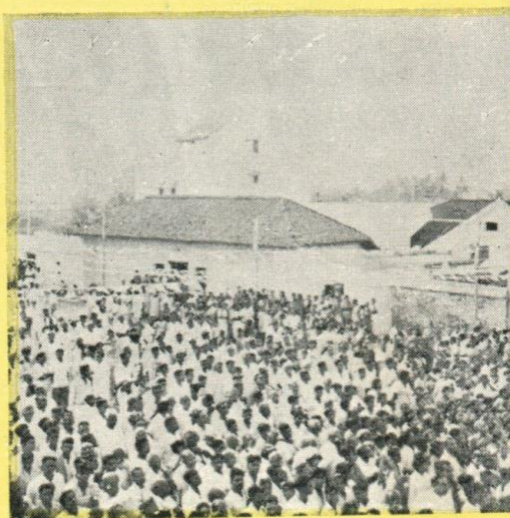
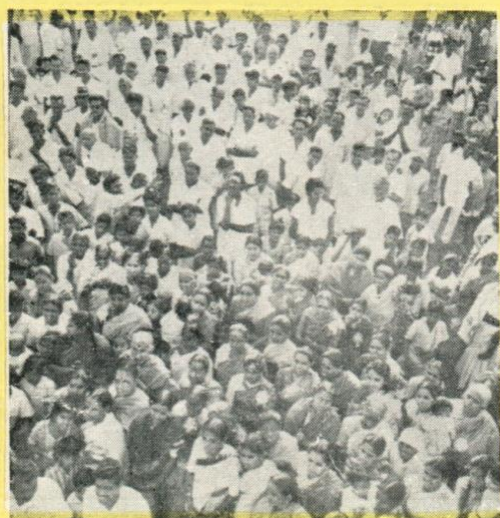


Shri V. V. Narayana Rao,
I. A. S. (Retd.)
Secretary, A.M.B. Andhra Centre, reading
out Telugu translations of
Eight Special Messages.

Views of the Gathering in
Mehersthan Pandal



Baba-lovers seated in front of the *dias*



Audience views

—Inside

Outside—

ADDRESS

Presented by KODURI KRISHNA RAO OF KOVVUR

TO

SRIMATI MAHARANI SAHEBA SHANTADEVI GAEKWAR OF BARODA

AND

SRI ADI K. IRANI

Disciple and Secretary of Avatar Meher Baba

*on the holy occasion of the opening of
'Mehersthan' at Kovvur*

Dear Esteemed Beloved Souls,

How immensely happy we are to meet and receive you both here on this memorable occasion !

Dear Mother, Maharani Saheba! Our joy knows no bounds when we see you here in our midst as the Divine Representative, specially deputed by our Beloved Babajee to open Mehersthan and unveil Baba's bronze statue here at Kovvur.

Dear Matajee ! You have opened our eyes to learn how royalties pale into insignificance before the Divine Transcendental Glory and how these illusory pleasures are cheerfully discarded by one's own inner urge to search for Truth.

You are a great model for pure simplicity, unsophisticated love, enormous sacrifice and whole-hearted surrender which you have wonderfully imbibed through the magic touch of the Avatar's Divine Love.

Dear Adiji ! You are the model of supreme love, whole-hearted sacrifice, great understanding and complete dedication. Through your great spiritual discipline,

unstinted loving service and complete surrender for over forty years to the living Avatar Meher Baba, you richly deserve to occupy the present high place on this terrestrial plane so graciously bestowed on you by our Most Compassionate Master, Who is only the One Worthy of all adoration and praise. How immensely grateful to you are we and all Baba workers in Andhra, for having received your valuable services and wise instructions time and again through Baba's Nazar and Loving guidance in various fields of His Work, whenever we are confronted with unforeseen set-backs!

The present evergrowing exuberance of love, manifesting itself so profusely all over Andhra Pradesh is solely due to your indefatigable efforts to draw us all closer and closer to Baba day after day. All Andhras can never afford to forget your immense debt for all ages to come.

Beloved Souls! Your unique advent to this place at the behest of our Great Master, despite your various avocations and duties, sacrificing your valuable time has really thrilled our hearts beyond all measure. We, therefore, whole-heartedly express our great joy and immense gratitude to our Divine Beloved and accord our warmest welcome to both of you for being sent over here as Divine Representatives to discharge the various loving functions entrusted to you by our Beloved Baba.

This site was selected and the structure was planned by this humble soul and my colleagues on account of its close proximity to the sacred river Godavari, which was already sanctified by the holy visits and penances of many sages and saints and in particular by the great Tapas of Gowtama Maharshi and later by the advent of Sri Chaitanya Prabhu of Bengal. Above all, this place was actually hallowed by the two famous visits of our

Divine Beloved in 1953 and 1954 to the great jubilation of all Andhras. Its sanctity is now further heightened by the opening of "**Mehersthan**" with His Blessed Statue in obedience to the Divine Sanction of our Beloved Baba.

Hence, we feel we are extremely fortunate to be alive to become the recipients of the Divine Grace of the living Avatar and receive His Blessings to erect this huge edifice, Mehersthan.

We, therefore, request you, our most honoured guests, to convey our heartfelt homage to Beloved Baba.

We also place our heads at His Lotus Feet, offer humble pranams as a token of our loving surrender and as a pledge of our loyalty and obedience to His Wish and Will and submit our conjoint and united Love-offering at His Lotus Feet as a mark of our united understanding, love and effort.

All Glory to the Holiest of the Holy, the Highest of the High, the Master of all Masters and the Only One worthy of all worship.

We once again offer our whole-hearted pranams to Baba for His Infinite Mercy and Unbounded Compassion.

Before I close, I take this happy opportunity once again to express my grateful thanks to both of you, on my personal behalf, my family and also on behalf of the Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, for having taken immense trouble to come here to perform this sacred God-ordained duty.

Jai Baba!

Baba's Humble Devotee,
KODURI KRISHNA RAO

Address given by H. H. The Maharani of Baroda,
Smt. Shantadevi Gaekwar,
in reply to the Welcome Address given to her by
SRI KODURI KRISHNA RAO,

after the Opening of Mehersthan and Unveiling the
Statue of Avatar Meher Baba in Kovvur
(West Godavari, A. P.)

on the 28th February 1963

Srimati and Sri Koduri Krishna Rao,
and lovers of Avatar Meher Baba!

I feel so blessed and happy to have made this pilgrimage to Mehersthan. The love for beloved Baba that I feel here overwhelms me, and I very humbly bow down to Baba for making all this possible for me.

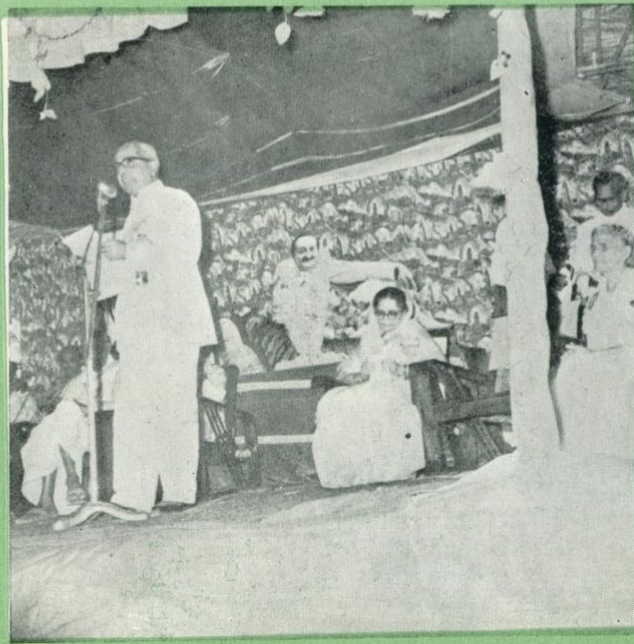
All my life I have been accustomed to hearing people tell me how very honoured they have felt by my presence at their functions and parties. But the joy and love that I experience in the midst of lovers of Beloved Baba, make me sincerely express to you, how greatly honoured I feel to be among you and one of you.

Blessed indeed is the love of our hosts, Srimati and Sri Koduri Krishna Rao! It is their faith and their love for their Beloved Baba that prompted them to preserve in bronze, for this generation and for posterity, His dear Person as we see Him and adore Him. Mehersthan where we are gathered today is the result of their long struggle and devoted determination.

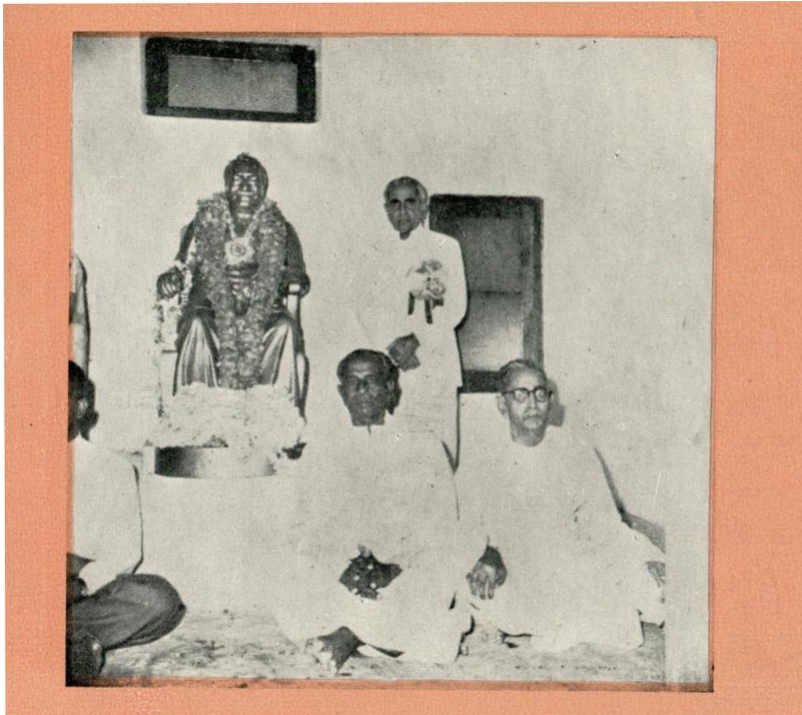
Mehersthan stands on the same spot on the bank of the river Godavari where Baba gave His darshan to the



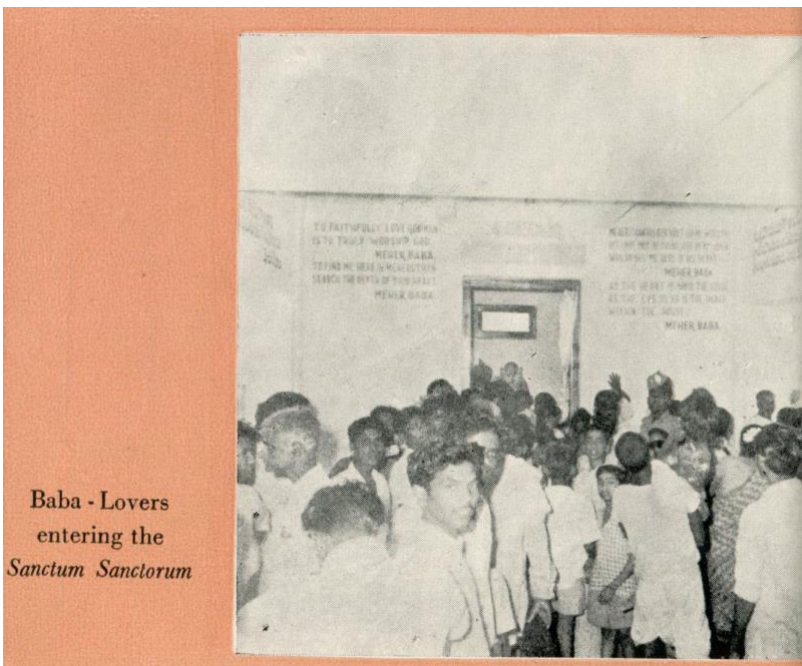
Reply by
Maharani
Shanta Devi



Reply by Adi K. Irani



Shri Adi K. Irani and Shri Kodari Krishna Rao
at Baba's Holy Feet in *Mehersthan*



Baba - Lovers
entering the
Sanctum Sanctorum

people of Andhra during His visit to Kovvur in 1954. Hence the beloved Avatar of the Age has already put here the seal of His physical Presence. And, in opening the doors of Mehersthan on this day of 28th February 1963, I have had the unique honour to perpetuate the sacred memory of that visit by Him.

Mehersthan is built on the firm foundation of LOVE and FAITH, and so it is a house of true Worship. Mehersthan is open to all—rich and poor alike, without any distinction of caste, creed and sect. May the pilgrims to Mehersthan feel the Love and Compassion of the Avatar, and return to their places with His message of Love and Truth in their hearts .

I humbly beseech our Beloved Baba, who is truly in our midst now, to bless us all that we become worthy to give "Sthan" to Him, and Him alone, in our hearts—so that our hearts may become Mehersthans in which, one day, He unveils Himself to us as He really is.

May this Mehersthan, where we are gathered in His Love, serve its purpose to this end!

Jai Avatar Meher Baba!

SPEECH DELIVERED BY
SHRI ADI K. IRANI

on the occasion of the opening of

M E H E R S T H A N

28-2-1963

Sri Koduri Krishna Rao just read an address and for all that he has expressed in his address that relates to me, I really feel highly honoured. But, I would like to express something more about it. All that he has attributed to me personally, I think, is not wholly true. It is true that I did not feel myself worthy of all the words expressed by him for me. There are many disciples of Baba who are, perhaps, much more worthy than I am. Maybe there was some connection or some reason at the back of Baba to have linked me with Andhra lovers. It was a matter of duty, it was a matter of circumstance that I have come in contact and had to maintain the contact with Andhra lovers. Baba's disciples are many indeed. But a few of them were always with me. Whenever a thought of comparison arises in my mind, honestly I tell you, I feel myself very much less in service. I could not say in love. But I feel myself very much less in service than them. I am thankful to Sri Koduri Krishna Rao and all Baba lovers who have assembled here to have given me an occasion to come here and be blessed by your affection. It is a day of great happiness for me to see Baba's love flowing out through the hearts of all those present here, so pure and so exuberant. This gives me great courage and great happiness. I do feel time is not far off when Andhra lovers and the people of Andhra will be amongst those foremost who will be the torch-bearers of the Universal Truth given by Baba.

Baba's love is all-abounding. Baba says: "I am the ocean of love." Yet, every human being has to empty his heart with the impurities of life to allow himself to receive His love. Sometimes an individual comes and asks the question, "Why does Baba not fill the cup of my heart with love?" It is also true. I do feel that Baba is all-powerful to do it. But, the question always arises that he is not the only one in the world. There would be hundreds and thousands of individuals whose hearts may be ready to accommodate and see Baba in a greater measure and may be, the present individual does not know it that many other hearts do receive His Love.

Baba's Love indeed, is all-abounding. His Grace is all-abounding. And one who gives himself an opportunity and chance to receive it, gets it. Time is not short when Baba says: "The whole circumstances will compel me to utter the Word of Words." Time alone will prove who Baba is and what work He has done for the world, in the light of other Avatars. They were not really at such a level appreciated as much, but those given to us by Baba, reveal that even among the different Avatars, this is an exceptional type and in the very life and in the very person of Baba there is going to be manifestation and there is going to be an outflow of love being wholly animated. The whole world and every one, according to his capacity, will be benefited.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEHERSTHAN

By Shri M. M. SAKHARE, Delhi

Our pilgrimage to "Mehersthan" opening ceremony at Kovvur on 28th February, 1963—where Baba-lovers from all over Andhra—nay India, had thronged with such love and devotion for the Father was a memorable occasion. It was like the 'Sahavas', where beloved Meher Baba's presence was so strongly felt and His love flowed, like the river Godavari, flooding all hearts.

Initially, I had not seriously thought of going to Mehersthan as my official work seemed endless and there was no hope of getting any leave. But when I got Brother Eruch's letter asking as many people as possible from each Centre to attend, I started thinking. By Baba's grace at the last moment the work in hand was completed; a few day's leave was secured; rail reservations were made at short notice and we were on our way to Kovvur on 25th February, 1963. As we boarded the train we met a few other lovers from Delhi and Dehra Dun travelling in the same train. A few more joined at Jhansi, Bhopal, Nagpur, Wardha and by the time we got to Vijayawada on 27th morning at 3-30 a.m. there was quite a crowd! At Vijayawada where we had to change our train, we were met by volunteers who conducted us to the other train in which a special compartment was reserved.

After a cup of coffee, we started off with Baba's 'Jai Jaikar' and Bhajans, Every wayside station resounded with "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai." At one of the stations breakfast of 'Idli' and coffee was served in the compartment. Apparently, one of the lovers of Baba had arranged and paid for the same. In that jubilant atmosphere of

Baba talk, bhajans, prayers and Arti, time passed so quickly that one did not feel the 5 hours' journey in that rickety passenger train. At Kovvur a host of volunteers welcomed us and conducted us to our places of stay. A large number of public and private buildings like the local club and school were requisitioned and different groups were accommodated at different places. After a wash we were taken for a sumptuous lunch which reminded us of the 'Priti bhojans' at Baba's Sahavas. The arrangements were simply superb! We take our hats off to Shri Koduri Krishna Rao, the chief host, for the arrangements and thank him for his hospitality.

A warm reception was arranged for the chief guests, Maharani Shanta Devi of Baroda and Brother Adi K. Irani, who arrived by the afternoon train. The platform was packed. As the guests alighted, they were profusely garlanded and there were loving handshakes and hugs all around with loud hailings of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai."

Outside the station they were given a guard of honour by the local scouts and the N.C.C. Army and Naval Cadets. A 21 gun salute (by local 'atom bomb' blasts) was given to the Maharani according to "protocol". Then they were taken in procession led by the boy scouts and N.C.C. platoons. After a little rest and refreshments, they were conducted around Mehersthan. Mehersthan is a grand monument of love of the Andhras for the living Avatar of the Age, Avatar Meher Baba. It is a beautiful structure built on the banks of the sacred river Godavari at a place sanctified by the two visits of Beloved Baba in 1953 and 1954.

On the inside walls of Mehersthan were painted the inimitable Messages of Avatar Meher Baba sent by Him for the occasion.

At six O'clock early on the morning of the 28th February '63 the Maharani Saheba and Brother Adi were taken in procession to Mehersthan with all the fanfare led by the local bands. Mehersthan and its surroundings was one mass of humanity congregated in Baba's love, and one felt at one with the Eternal One in His Love. Mehersthan and the huge pandal by its side were decorated with garlands and brightly coloured buntings. As the guests arrived the whole atmosphere vibrated with hailing of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai." The Maharani Saheba first declared Mehersthan open by cutting Baba's seven coloured ribbons. Then she unveiled the beautiful bronze statue of Beloved Baba after it was installed on the pedestal by seven Baba lovers. Brother Adi unfurled Baba's seven-coloured flag over Mehersthan amidst jubilation and 'Jai Jaikar'. As these proceedings were on, I casually glanced at the distant dais of the decorated pandal. Suddenly for a moment I thought I saw Baba sitting on the dais casting His smile on us, Baba's cut-out portrait was so realistic that I automatically bowed down as I do when I am in front of Baba.

The morning meeting started with the recital of the 'Parvardigar' Prayer. The chief host, Shri Koduri Krishna Rao, then presented a welcome address to Maharani Saheba and Brother Adi. Then following loving speeches, moving poetry and melodious songs in praise of the Highest of the High. Arti was sung by the whole congregation with which the proceedings concluded.

At noon food was served to all the Baba lovers present. The poor were also fed and, in all, it is estimated that 4000 to 5000 people got Baba's prasad.

The afternoon session started with bhajans by various Bhajan Mandalies. Then followed a dance-drama 'Meher Leela' enacted by little children. The most

touching scene in that drama was when one little girl, donning a white close-collar coat, came trotting along imitating Beloved Baba's gestures by various *mudras*. As she came making the silent gestures, tears filled our eyes and air resounded with cries of "Avatar Meher 'Baba Ki Jai." When mere imitation of Baba's gestures by a little girl on the stage-drama, in the universal drama of Baba's Maya, touches the very core of one's heart and invokes so much warmth and love, one can imagine what the slightest glimpse of Baba's reality would do! This incident proved beyond doubt the Divine presence of Beloved Baba at Kovvur.

By 6 p.m. Mehersthan was all aglow with multicoloured fanciful rows of light. It was a glorious sight with the dome glittering with flickering lights. The Crescent, the Cross, Dharmachakra and the Om, and glowing Eternal Fire decorated the four corners of the dome. On one side was an angel in lights continuously showering flowers on the lotus feet of Beloved Baba. Ah! what a sight it was!

At 6-45 p.m. started the memorable procession of Baba's life-size reclining (cut-out) painting which was profusely garlanded. In the glowing light and the intermittent flash of fire-works, it really looked as if Baba was sitting there on the 'rath' (chariot) smiling on us. It was a long procession of torch-lights and gaslights with a number of bands playing music both Eastern and Western. Musicians, trumpeters and buglers were all competing to out-blow one another. Brother Adi and Maharani Saheba, who were following in a car behind, hearing of the joyous jubilations they were missing, got down and mixed with the crowd to enjoy the thrill. In between the long procession were groups of various Centre- Bhajan Mandalies enacting their own drama in ecstatic fervour. In one of the groups we saw Brother Dhakephalkar out-jumping the

youngsters. On Brother Adi's request, I joined in the dance drama, but, with all my military training energy, I just could not keep up with Dhake. Thus the procession finally wended its way back to Mehersthan.

After dinner, which was very welcome, films of the East-West Baba lovers gathering in November were shown. Everytime Beloved Baba appeared on the screen, there were loud greetings of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai." Then the programme of Harikatha, Kirtan by Dr. Deshmukh, bhajans etc. continued through out the night.

On 1st March, in spite of the heavy programmes of the previous day and night, representatives and workers of Avatar Meher Baba Centres all over India assembled in the pandal at 8 a.m. sharp, for the All India Convention of Baba workers. All looked fresh and energetic in Baba's Love. After an introductory talk by Brother Adi, members of various Centres spoke on Baba's work and came out with numerous suggestions. One such bold proposal was from Dr. C. D. Deshmukh for founding a Meher University and holding periodical symposia on Avatar Meher Baba's work and philosophy. Brother Adi gave appropriate directions and answers to all the problematic proposals. In that Convention one saw great zeal and enthusiasm for Baba's work.

By that afternoon, groups of lovers were seen packing and making for the railway station for the return journey, with a song in their hearts and a smile on their lips, after the memorable pilgrimage to the abode of the living God, Avatar Meher Baba. It was a pilgrimage of supreme joy and happiness, when one forgot oneself in one's love for one's Father, and in the thought of the Real Self, Avatar Meher Baba.

J A I B A B A !

My Visit to Mehersthan

28th February 1963

Dr. H. P. BHARUCHA, Navasari

On 25th Feb., I left Navsari all alone for Kovvur. On the 26th afternoon at Wardha station I met Baba-lovers from Delhi and Dehra Dun. On the train Mr Saigol M.P. related to me and to two other co-passengers very vividly, how he had met Baba. He said that he was formerly in Bilaspur. One day he went to a friend's house for tea. There, on the wall was a beautiful picture of Meher Baba. Mr. Saigol was so fascinated by the picture that he could hardly take his eyes away from it. Having enquired from his friend about the picture, he was told about Meher Baba and that He was the Avatar of this age. Mr Saigol earnestly desired to have Baba's darshan. His sincerity was soon rewarded, when he and his friend were called to Poona by Baba for His darshan. Baba asked Mr. Saigol to return on the second day though he had taken leave for seven days. He was asked to go back to Delhi at once. Mr. Saigol willingly obeyed and found to his surprise when he arrived at his office that he had to attend to two very important letters. Had he returned to Delhi after seven days, his work would have suffered tremendously.

We journeyed through the night by the Grand Trunk Express to arrive at Vijayawada at 3-30 A.M. on the 27th February. Here, we were joined by Baba lovers from Hamirpur, Nagpur and Bhopal. We boarded a connecting train for Kovvur. When the train steamed out of the station, we all joined together in cheering aloud "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai." Excepting for a couple of Baba lovers who felt it was better to sleep, all were in a mood to sing. Mr. Sakhare took the lead and all joined in. His

wife Mona, whose love for Baba is beyond words, repeated a poem called 'My true friend'. Baba's arti was also sung by all. At some mid-station we had our breakfast of 'Idli' which is much relished by South Indians.

After breakfast Baba lovers began to talk about their experiences. Mr. Sakhare told us the experience of Mr. Tek Chand. The story brought tears to many eyes. Mr. Tek Chand with a band of 700 men under him was working on the road near the Nefa border during the recent Chinese invasion. Somehow the Chinese cut across and severed all communication between Mr. Tek Chand's men and their base. Mr. Tek Chand came to the rescue of all by telling his men that they had nothing to fear as they had Avatar Meher Baba with them. All men cheered as they had heard much about Baba from Tek Chand. Taking the help of some hill tribesmen, the group of 700 men began trekking back to the base through jungles. It was bitterly cold and all that could be seen all around was snow. With the warmth of Baba's name on their lips and the fire of his love in their hearts, the group walked for seven days and nights, without rest and in bitter cold, on the incredible journey to their base. The hardships they encountered on this journey were breath-taking. Added to this was the constant fear of being spied on by the Chinese. They had to swim across a stream that barred their way as the temporarily erected bridge over it gave way under the weight of four men who tried to cross all at once. They fell in the turbulent stream below but safely swam to the other side! After seven days of trekking, under unsurmountable conditions, they arrived at their base. Not one of the group suffered from frost bite or any chest complications in spite of the cold. At the base, their

arrival was considered a miracle. Their story soon flashed thru the camp. It was their undaunted love and faith in Baba that brought them safely home.

It is beyond the scope of this article to mention the experiences of other Baba lovers. The train was running nearly two hours late. We at last reached Kovvur at 11-15 A. M.—a small station, amid picturesque surroundings. We were taken to a club where we rested a while. Some lovers went to have a bath in the Godavari river which is only a stone's throw away from the club.

After lunch we saw *Mehersthan*—the place where Baba's bronze statue was to be unveiled the next day. Mehersthan consists of a huge hall that is open on three sides, the roof being supported by pillars. On the fourth side is a small room which contains Baba's statue. A huge dome caps this room. The dome is very beautifully decorated and at its four corners are constructed a miniature church, a temple, a mosque and a flame of fire, representing the four main religions of the world.

Shri Adi K. Irani and Maharani Shanta Devi, the two chief guests on this occasion, arrived by the 2 P.M. train. After lunch and a little rest they came to *Mehersthan* at about 4 P.M. All of us then went to the banks of the river Godavari. The landscape was simply bewitching, a setting of spectacular beauty and grandeur! The river, forming a delta over there, was a colossal expanse of slowly flowing water. The slim cocoanut trees in the background added colour to the picture. On the distant opposite bank we could see the big city of Rajahmundry. We got into a steam launch and were soon in midstream. The fresh breeze, and the grandeur of the surroundings almost lulled each one of us into a sort of trance. The joy of it all is indescribable. If the false gross world

could be so fascinating, how much more would be the infinite joy and peace of the soul! When we returned to *Mehersthan* after a long joy-ride, the sun was setting on the river in all its glory and the evening shadows ran across the landscape.

We had dinner at the house of Mr. Koduri Krishna Rao who has spent a fortune in building *Mehersthan*. After dinner there was no particular schedule. We whiled away our time enjoying the luxury of the river breeze, watching a limpid moon glide across the sky. As the starry night advanced we retreated to our rooms. The 'Nagar bhajan mandali and Madhusudhan seemed to be the only people who had not been tired by the strain of the long journey to Kovvur. They got together and sang bhajans till about 11 P.M.

Every one was up early on the 28th of February. After breakfast a huge crowd of about 5000 lovers collected in front of *Mehersthan* waiting anxiously for the arrival of Bro. Adi and Maharani Shanta Devi. They arrived just a few minutes before 7 A.M. Mr. Koduri Krishna Rao received them, and after a brief address, Maharani Shanta Devi cut the seven coloured ribbon tape at the entrance of *Mehersthan* and thus declared *Mehersthan* open. The unveiling of Baba's statue was to take place at 7-32 A.M. exactly to the minute. Amidst loud cheers of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai" and the ear-shattering sounds of crackers, Maharani Shanta Devi unveiled the curtain before Baba's statue. People tried to rush forward to get a glimpse of Baba and to bask in His sunshine but the bandobust arrangements were good and the crowd soon came under control. A huge garland of red roses was put around Baba. The statue is a life-size replica of Baba and will serve as an eternal source of love and inspiration to posterity. It will help to perpetuate Baba's presence in

Mehersthan. After this Shri Adi unfurled the seven-coloured Baba-flag that was mounted on a metal rod about 100 feet high.

People began to go into *Mehersthan* in an orderly fashion and each one greeted Baba in his or her own way. It was very noteworthy that no ritualistic ceremonies were performed. All felt the living presence of Baba and so the usual "*Pran-Pratishta*" ceremony was not performed.

Soon after this, Maharani Shanta Devi, Bro. Adi, Yogi Suddhananda Bharati and Koduri Krishna Rao took their seats on a stage at one end of an awning, In the background was a life-size photo of Baba.

The huge awning gradually began to swell with people as they came and sat on the ground after having Baba's darshan. Maharani Shanta Devi gave a short speech followed by Adi and Koduri Krishna Rao. The speeches were translated into Telugu, the local language, by Shri Ramlingeshwar Rao. There were about a dozen speakers and the programme ended at 1-15 P.M. It was Baba's love that made the audience sit so quietly from 7-45 A.M. to 1-15 P.M. that you could have distinctly heard even a shamrock drop! Surely love is not a constant round of chocolates, flowers and birthday presents!

All went away for lunch so kindly provided by Koduri Krishna Rao. I cannot guess how many thousands of people were fed on that day. We had hardly stretched out our legs after lunch, when the afternoon session of the programme began at 3 P.M. Various musical parties gave performances,

A telegram just then received from Baba was read out. Baba conveyed His Love Blessings to all those who

participated in the Kovvur function. At about 6 P.M., we had a dance performance by young school girls. Decked in different costumes they depicted very gracefully Baba's life. The background music, the accompanying singing, and different coloured lights focussed on the stage, added colour to the performance,

By 6-45 P.M. all performances were over and all got ready for a procession that was to wind round the narrow streets of Kovvur. Baba's picture was placed on a chariot. The whole chariot was prettily decorated. Just before starting the procession, crackers were fired into the dark sky. Rockets one after another sped into space, bursting as they reached their maximum altitude into multicoloured stars. It was a sight, the memory of which could not be forgotten. Just when all were ready to start moving, a torch mounted on a long bamboo pole was ignited. It emanated bright white light of about a million candle power. We thought a mid-night sun had suddenly risen in the horizon. It burnt for about five minutes and the end was fabulously dramatic—a sound like a huge thunder-clap! This loud sound was a signal for all to move. Amidst loud cheers of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai" the immense mass of human heads moved forward slowly. The chariot bearing Baba's photo in all its majesty, had to be not only pulled but also pushed from behind so as to get its wheels rolling on the uneven ground.

A brass band playing at its loudest led the procession. Behind it were Baba lovers singing His name. At each cross-road a new torch was lit drowning the mass of people in white light. Maharani Shanta Devi and Adi were also in the procession. On both sides of the road, men and women carried about hundred lights. The procession went on while crackers pierced the dark

skies. We returned quite exhausted after three hours and our throats were sore, shouting Baba's name.

We hurried through our dinner as a film show was to begin shortly afterwards. The first film was of the East-West 'Sahavas' of November 1962. It was really fun seeing the Westerners rushing every day to get a seat near Baba; then the darshan programmes, the Quawali programme, and finally the last arti. Sweet memories of those memorable days sped thru our minds. The next film was of Baba in *Guruprasad* eating ice-cream, and also his various visits to the city and to Baba lovers' houses. The next film was of Baba in Dehra Dun. The film show terminated at midnight. The crowd of the evening had by now swollen two-fold. There was not an inch of space in which to move about. The huge awning was filled to capacity, The fresh breeze from the river near by, and Baba's love alone kept all awake and conscious!

I left soon after the film show was over though I heard that various bhajan parties sang through out the night till 7 A.M.! Thus there was a continuous programme from 7 A.M. of 28th February to 7 A.M. of 1st March. I also heard that Dr. C. D. Deshmukh performed a *kirtan* in English at about 2 A.M. that lulled all those who were semi-awake into deep sleep!

We were up next morning and waiting for Adi to arrive and begin the All India Baba-Lovers' Convention. Adi arrived at about 8-20 A.M. A group photo of Baba Workers of different Centres was taken. The Convention soon started under the Presidentship of Adi. He asked one worker from each Centre to say a few words as to how Baba-work should be done in India. Each worker gave valuable suggestions. Some of us had to leave the

Convention at about 11 A.M. as our train was expected to arrive at 11-40 A.M.

Thus *Mehersthan*—the abode of Baba, stands there in that small town of Kovvur on the banks of the river Godavari, facing the winds and storms, for aeons to come. Baba's presence in it shall be for all time to come. Let us hope that His lovers shall *not* offer their prayers to Him in this House of Worship padded by any set formal practices or set customs. Let each lover who comes there express his love for Baba spontaneously in anyway he likes. Let *Mehersthan* be open to all irrespective of caste, creed or race. The eight messages of Baba for the occasion of the opening of Mehersthan should not only remain on the walls of Mehersthan, but should be lived by every lover who comes to Mehersthan now or in posterity, to have the darshan of the Avatar of this Age, Meher Baba.

JAI BABA!

JAI MEHERSTHAN!

By I. C. MALLIKARJUNA RAO, Nidadavole

Mehersthan the real abode of Love is in our hearts and in fact, Avatar Meher Baba had established firmly His unique place in the hearts of millions of Andhras long ago. He lives in all of them though they cannot live in Him. We all love Him because He loves us all more than we love ourselves and *Mehersthan* is the outward expression of the manifestation of Baba's love for us rather than our love for Him.

To trace the history of *Mehersthan* we have to look back to June 1952, when two of Baba's emissaries, Eruch and Pendu, came first to Andhra. Dr. T. Dhanapati Rao, "The Grand Old Man" as He is called by our Beloved Baba, was the instrument for this advent. At that time Beloved Baba was in America. On His return to India six persons (K, D, R, M, & two others) were summoned to Ahmednagar, They went, they saw and they brought Meher Baba to Andhra. Again in November 1952, twenty eight people that visited Ahmednagar had the pleasure of Baba's Darshan and Sahavas with Baba for three days to their hearts' content. It was in January 1953 that Beloved Baba set His foot on the soil of Andhra. West Godavari had this historic and unique opportunity of receiving their Beloved Master for the first time.

The above two emissaries were again sent to Andhra in April 1953; and a programme of work was charted out with a few dedicated workers to begin with. It was an Instrument of Instructions. On the 7th September, a lightning flashed out from Dehra Dun, on the Birthday of Zoroaster. A proclamation was issued by Baba with His Divine Authority and it was declared to the

world that 'He is the Highest of the High.' That was the great declaration clarifying His Mission as the Highest of the High, the Purushottam.

In 1954, Baba visited Andhra a second time, when He visited more places, and toured for a longer period. The heart of Andhra was illuminated and more were enlightened during this visit.

After the above declaration, Baba's Universal work became more dynamic and the power-house of Love-energy was at work more vigorously than ever. The manifestation of His Divine Love could be evidenced more clearly through out the world. His clarion call "Come all unto Me" enticed all His lovers for a greater kinship with, and surrender at, the Holy Feet of their Master, Avatar Meher Baba. His love manifestation seemed now looming large on the entire humanity, with a mystic spell about it alluring every seeker of God.

His subsequent Sahavas programmes at Meherabad and Poona helped all His lovers to come closer to Him. "Think more of Me" was His dictum then, "Smarana" and "Manana" draw us more close to the Divine. "Leave not My Daaman"— "Stick to Me at any cost" were the words of warning given by Him to all His lovers. A *chela* once accepted by the Divine Master is never allowed to slip away. The Master seeks the disciple and the disciple holds fast to the Daaman of his Divine Master, until finally he becomes one with the Divine.

The proclamation that He is the Avatar of the Age, the Ancient One and the Eternal Truth, stirred the hearts of His lovers and other aspirants and their faith in Him increased beyond measure and this faith has been sustained ever after by His Love. To love Him is to love God. He says "I have come not to teach but

to awaken." He taught love through His eloquent Silence. The impact of His Love has awakened many a soul indeed! Most of the lovers know the Master's Love by their own experience. But it may be true that not one of us loves him in the way He ought to be loved. He says that none should covet even His Grace, for the law is such that it cannot be sought after, coveted or prayed for. When the disciple is found fit for it, the Divine Grace descends itself as a blessing over Him, and he shall be the recipient of the same. The establishing of *Mehersthan* in Andhra, at Kovvur, is proof positive of the manifestation of His Divine Grace, as such. It is a miracle of miracles done by the Avatar of the Age, and that is the need of the day.

We behold now and the posterity will behold in future the consummation of the love-stream of Meher-lovers of Andhra and elsewhere in the shape of *Mehersthan* at Kovvur on the sanctified banks of Akhanda-Goutami, the sacred place of lore and legend. Though we find here a statue in bronze in the sanctum sanctorum at Kovvur, it is full of Life and will infuse life into all Baba lovers who approach the same with faith and love for Him. It was unveiled to the world on the 28th of February 1963, a memorable day in the future history of humanity, for Baba is in all and all are in Him; He loves all from prince to peasant, and from saint to sinner. Man being essentially divine, Baba's Love helps us all to awaken ourselves and realise the divinity in us, through His divine grace. His creed of love implanted in all of us chosen by Him, will make us fit to be His instruments, for He has come "to lay cables and fix up lamp-posts' which would help to create a new humanity on earth so as to establish heaven on earth. A column of gnostic beings will be haunting the human mind to bring in "Satya Yugam." I am sure that day is

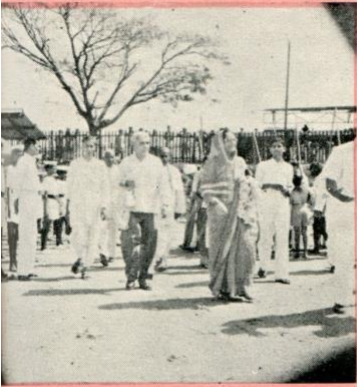
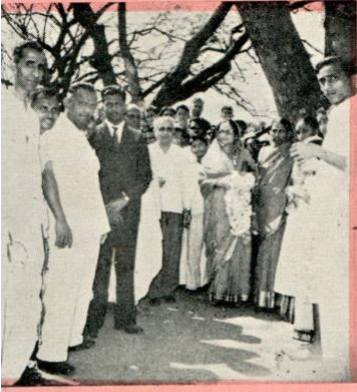
not far off. Let us live to work for that advent in absolute surrender to our Beloved Master, the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba. Brother Koduri Krishna Rao is obviously now a new lamp-post of Baba at Kovvur; *Mehersthan* is the light-house that reveals the dark corners of the globe, shedding light of Love and lustre of Peace to all who look at it with faith in the Divinity and surrender at the Master's Holy Feet.

Let us surrender to the Master's Will and serve His Cause in harmony and love. May our Beloved Lord Meher Baba lead us all and bless us with that Love and Light Divine, keeping us all to hold fast to His Daaman unto the last. Jai Baba! Jai Mehersthan!

When you feel angry or get lustful thoughts, at once remember Me whole-heartedly.

Let My name serve the purpose of a net around you
so that like mosquitoes, the thoughts may keep buzzing
around you,
but they will not be able to 'bite' you.

—*Meher Baba*



Chief Guests, SMT. MAHARANI SHANTA DEVI and SHRI ADI K. IRANI
being received at Kovvur Rly. Station on 27-2-'63.



Laying the Corner-Stone for *Mehersthan* on 25-2-1960 by Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao

MEHERSTHAN AND ITS HISTORY

"Mehersthan" the Abode of Love or the place where the image of the personification of Divine Love, the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba, is kept unveiled from the 28th of February 1963 is the holiest of the holy places that will attract millions of pilgrims of love and stand as a beacon light of Love and lustre of Peace for the happiness of the posterity. To know something of the history of this monumental edifice at Kovvur, on the Western Banks of the Sacred River Godavari in Andhra Pradesh, will, of course, be interesting to one and all and may be inspiring to many lovers of Beloved Baba, who are spread over four corners of the world. Hence we feel it our sacred duty to be very realistic in our approach and faithful to the sentiments of love and divinity it has invoked in the hearts of millions of lovers of our Beloved Baba.

Looking back to the immemorial times of hoary Kovvur, otherwise known as "Goshpada Kshetram" named after the cow incident of the Hindu Puranas, it was ever a celestial home of Rishis and Mahatmas, particularly of the Sage Goutama Maharshi who, it was said, brought down the sacred waters of the river Godavari, after hitting the cow with Kusa-grass and Praying to Lord Siva at Nasika Trayambakam. It was said that Lord Siva granted these three boons to Sage Goutama:

*Rewa Theere Tapah Kuryath;
Danam Dadyath Kurukshetre;
Maranam Jahnvi Thate;
Goutamyaam Theertham Varam.*

(One who does penance here bears the same fruit as done near the banks of River Reva; one who

dies here will have the same Moksha as on the banks of the Sacred Ganges; one who does charity here gets multiplied benefits as done at Kurukshetram.)

On the opposite bank of the river at Kovvur is the Kotilinga-kshetram and the famous temple of Lord Siva where Markandeva "conquered Yama, the Lord of Death and got himself immortalised." The whole vicinity is, in fact, the sanctified abode surrounded by many places of Puranic importance and glories of past history.

Now coming to the present age, it may be recalled that Beloved Baba, the Avatar of the Age, graced the place by His Divine presence, when He visited Kovvur first on 22nd January, 1953 and then on 26th and 27th of February 1954. But even before that, Brothers Eruch and Pendu visited Kovvur in 1952, during their tour in Andhra at that time. Prior to Baba's tour in Andhra, Bros. Alla Sattiraju and P. Ramalingeshwararao were among those special invitees who were called by Baba to stay with Him at Meherabad on the 7th, 8th and 9th of November 1952. Bro. Alla finally got fixed up Kovvur programme of Baba and in January 1953 Baba visited Kovvur during His Andhra tour, when Bro. Koduri Krishna Rao had the fortune of his first contact with Beloved Baba, and Baba visited his abode then.

The idea of starting Meher Centre at Kovvur was thereafter duly approved by Beloved Baba and in His letter dated 15-11-1953 Beloved Baba gave the following Message:

Be true to your duty, I want you to make Me your constant companion. Think of Me more than you

think of your own self. The more you think of Me, the more you will realise My love for you. Your duty is to keep Me constantly with you through out your thought, speech and action.

They do their duty, who sincere in their faith and love, surrender to Me, guided by their implicit belief, in My Divinity as Baba.

They too do their duty, who speak ill of Me, and condemn Me, through their writings, urged by their genuine conviction that Baba is a fraud.

But they are hypocrites who at times, through false emotion, are inclined to believe in Me, and at other times indulge in slanderous gossip concerning Me.

No amount of slander can affect or change Me, nor any amount of admiration or praise enhance and glorify My Divinity.

Baba *is* what He *is*.

I was Baba; I am Baba; and shall for ever more remain Baba.

My Blessings to you all.

— *Meher Baba*

Further, having surcharged Kovvur with His miraculous power of Love Manifestation by His August Presence and this special letter of loving messages, Baba was kind enough to favour Kovvur Centre with another mystic message of love from Mahabaleshwaram dated 9th December 1953 conveyed by Bro. Eruch which says that it now rests with Kovvur lovers to uphold, with unfailing love and sincerity of purpose, principles of real love, true duty and selfless service; and that all lovers, without any show, should set an example to others to fall in line with lovers for the Divine labour of

love. By repeated letters Baba expressed satisfaction in which the work of God is done through Kovvur Centre in 1953.

In a telegram Beloved Baba gave the following message from Mahabaleswar:

"The Lord of Love is slave of His lovers and devoted to His devotees, is My Message to the world from Andhra Meher Centre of Kovvur.

— *Meher Baba*"

Baba's second visit to Kovvur in 1954, so marvellously synchronised with "Siva Sapthaham" observed on the banks of the river Godavari, when Baba, besides visiting and sanctifying the abodes of all His dear lovers in Kovvur, distributed "Prasad" to thousands of people and thus sowed the seeds of His Divine Love with His own hands, so as to blossom forth one day with fragrance of love manifestation sanctifying the humanity for ages to come. Bro. K. K. fed thousands of devotees on that memorable happy occasion. On the 26th of February 1954, Baba stayed aboard a special steamer in the holy waters of the river Godavari and on the next morning i.e., on the 27th February 1954, Baba convened a Special Meeting of His Mandali along with Baba-lovers of Kovvur and others on the sandy island of the Holy Goutami; the historicity of this eventful function is ever memorable. Baba visited the abodes of Bros. P. R. and Ala and blessed them to be shrines of love where Baba lives and His Blessings have soon after become true for, at both these places we find now "Shrine-rooms" in Baba's name. Baba thereafter stressed in His letters to Bros. K. K. and P. R. that greater things were in store for them and soon after his coming out of His Seclusion in 1954 Baba wrote "It becomes impossible for the Lord of Love to forget the love offered by His lovers whether it be small or great, or whether the

lover loved Him once or loves Him always." Thus and in many more ways Baba's Blessings, showered on Kovvur and His lovers and Bro. Koduri, finally culminated in the shaping today of the abode of Baba's Love, "Mehersthan" in its present form, immortalising the lives of those that are responsible directly or indirectly for the Holy Cause.

Presumably forestalling this advent, one Mowna Swami, ordained by Beloved Baba, carried out a fast for 40 days, in a shed specially constructed by Bro. Koduri. repeating Baba's name and living on two cups of milk and two cups of tea supplied by him. Bro. Koduri was one of the chosen seven Andhras to fast, repeating Baba's name on his lips; he completed the same on receiving Baba's wire orders and blessings. It may be recalled with pleasure that the chain of Japa-yagna of "Para-Brahma Paramathma" was done from 20-2-1955 to 30-4-1955 by all lovers of Baba at Kovvur.

Finally Bro. Koduri's devotion and love for Beloved Baba and his tenacious attempts to secure Baba's permission for this Sanctum Sanctorum now called "Mehersthan" were fruitful. When at Meherazad, on the 9th of July 1958, at the time of the Special Gathering of selected workers of Andhra, he succeeded in securing His kind permission, under special instructions that the whole edifice should be done with his own money and that it should be opened for universal worship by all, without any distinction. Thereafter the question of laying the foundation was earnestly taken up. Bros. Koduri Krishnarao and T. S. Kutumba Sastri, as was suggested by Beloved Baba, fixed up the function to take place on the 25th of February 1960, when the Grand Old Man of Andhra, Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao, was instructed to officiate at the function at Kovvur; this was

duly done by him with all devotion and love at His command.

The function synchronised with "Maha Sivarathri Day" and also with Baba's 66th Birthday. Besides this the wonderful site selected by the donor Bro. Koduri and the plan adopted for the purpose, were so befitting the need and the occasion—the same being close to the banks of the River Godavari where the perennial flow of sanctifying waters and the purifying environment and soul-stirring glories of the ancient sages like Goutama Maharshi are the natural treasures of the place so congenial in its setting. It was edifying to note that Shri Chaitanya Prabhu of Bengal, the astounding model of devotion and love, sanctified this place by his visit and paved the way for the advent of the Avatar of the Age, it is gratifying that Baba has chosen the spot for setting His lotus feet and sanctified the same and blessed it with His Divine presence ever there-after, so as to make the old "Gopada-Kshetram" an abode of Love-Divine otherwise known as "Mehersthan".

In a telegraphic message to Bro. Koduri on 2-3-60, Baba said:

"I was with you when you laid the foundation-stone of your Temple of Love.— Baba." How true it is!!

Brothers Sivudu Sivarao and Relangi Apparao came into the net-work of Baba-lovers since Mowna Swami's fast and Bro. A. Venkatappayya, Headmaster, and other Baba lovers of Kovvur too, as the work of Kovvur Centre spread Baba's Love-message like wild fire. It was the singular fortune of Bro. Koduri Krishna Rao and his family to have built "Mehersthan" with Love, to have immortalised themselves in the service of the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba.

All glory to Bro. Koduri Krishna Rao, the munificent sole donor of "Mehersthan" and his life-partner Srimati Ratnamamba and their loving son, Sivaramakrishna and his newly wedded loving wife, to have given the real feast of Silent Splendour of the Loving Master, thus and perpetuated their symbolic love for Beloved Baba, the Avatar of the Age.

Thus the words of the Divine Master came out to be true to the very letter and Beloved Baba really became a "Constant Companion" of His lovers at Kovvur. Baba confirmed the same when in His clarification letter addressed to Shri P. Ramalingeshwara Rao dated 1-2-63, He said: "Lovers of Baba should make *Mehersthan* the House of True Worship by expression of their true love for Him, and they should believe in the very presence of Beloved Baba at *Mehersthan* and we should enter *Mehersthan* with the belief that Baba Himself is in it and that our conduct should be as it is when we are in the presence of our Beloved Baba at Ahmednagar or Poona."

The eight Special Messages of Beloved Baba inscribed on the walls of *Mehersthan* are pregnant with vital meaning. They solve our intricate problems and, as Baba Himself said, they form the true code of our worship of the Divine. A constant meditation on the same brings one nearer to the Absolute, the curtain being removed by Beloved Baba's Blissful Grace and Nazar.

So, we now come to the present story of Mehersthan and the Living presence of the Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba, whose Avatarhood was proclaimed and acclaimed by the galaxy of saints and five Sadgurus Sai Baba, Upasani Maharaj, Hazrat Babajan, Tajuddin Baba and Narayan Maharaj, and it is for the real pilgrims of

love to experience for themselves the glory of the loving presence of the Divine and drink to their hearts' content the Nectar of the Blissful Grace of Beloved Baba, the Silent Dweller of Mehersthan and Loving Master of our Hearts. The rest of the story can best be had from other articles published elsewhere in this journal, the echoes of the loving hearts that had the good fortune to be the recipients of the love manifestation, so profusely shared by one and all on that happy memorable occasion, i.e., on the 28th February 1963, at Mehersthan Kovvur, when the Abode of Baba's Love was duly declared open by the Maharani Saheba, Shanta Devi Gaikwad of Baroda.

Jai Mehersthan-Vihari!
Jai Avatar of the Age!
Jai Meher Baba !

—SSP

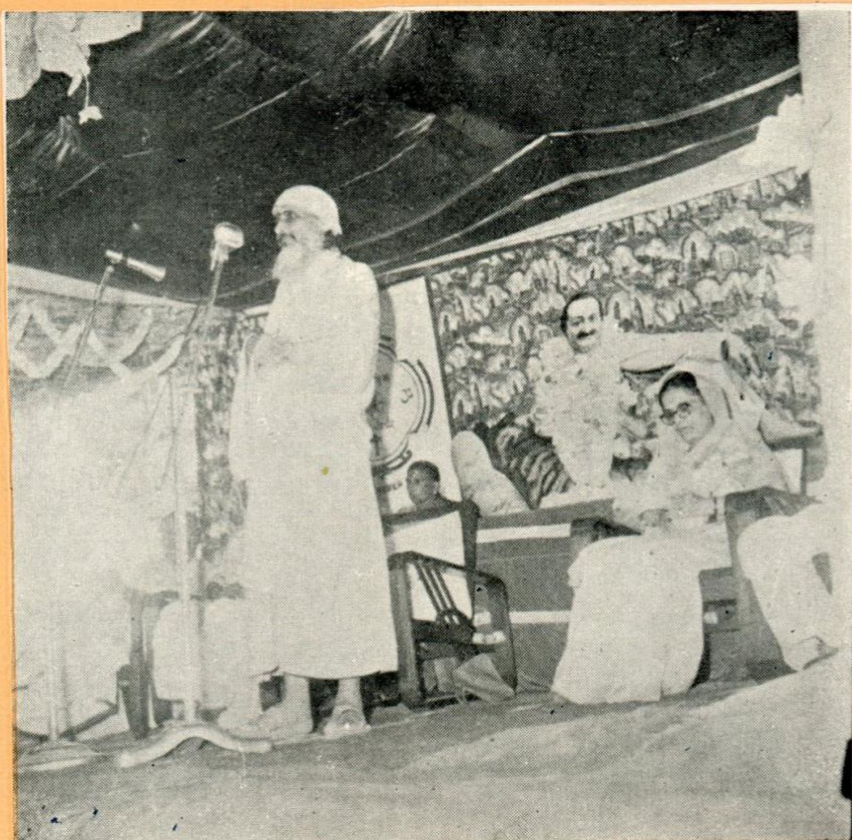


'Nadaswaram' Party
of
Masulipatam

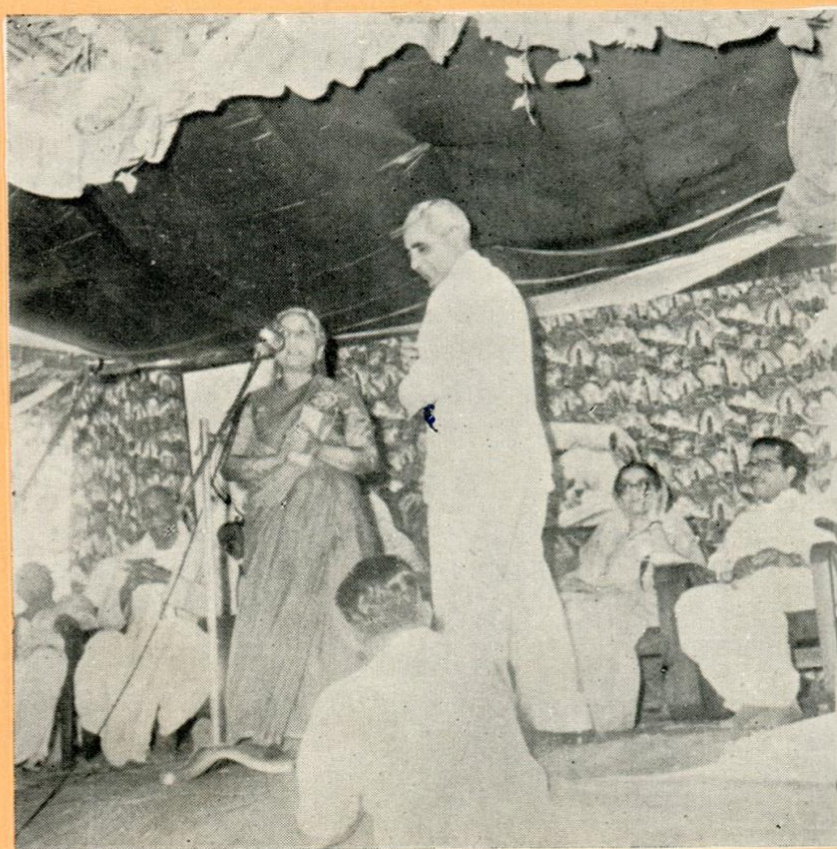


Bhajan' Party of Masulipatam

SPEECHES & ENTERTAINMENTS



Shri Yogi
Shuddhananda
Bharati



BABA IS BABA

Speech by Kavi Yogi Maharshi
Shuddananda Bharati at Mehersthan

Salutations

Salutations to the Ancient One, the Infinite, the Immortal Supreme, the One who has become all the universe of beings and becomings, the Father who protects all creatures so lovingly! Salutations to the Unique One who resides in the heart of all beings as the Soul! Salutations to Baba and Baba lovers! Hari Aum! My Hari Aum!

Glorious Day

A glorious day opens in the life of Baba lovers today and a magnificent chapter in the Book of the Silent Splendour; for the inauguration of this Mehersthan is an achievement in the spiritual history of mankind. No Prophet of men has touched the heart of so many lovers, so silently, all over India and all over the world and nobody to my knowledge had such a magnificent shrine and statue for himself *while alive*. There in Meherabad, Baba had made his tomb decorated with lovely murals by Helen of Switzerland and here you have a living monument of his silent glory represented in a symbolic temple and a symbolic representation of his appearance. All glory to *Sri Koduri Krishna Rao* who has been the instrument of Baba in raising this wonderful edifice of Divine Grace. This monument was raised not for the name and fame of an individual, not by the vanity of wealth and power.

Dedication

Two Telugu verses come to my memory which I shall sing and then explain: "O Lord of my heart, I adore Thee not for worldly fame and name, not for self-glory, not for boons and powers, not to make a fetish of my creed; I adore thee in silence for the joy of Inner communion, for the freedom of at-one-ment and for the peace of conscious union with Thee in my soul. I have no desire for boons and riches. Who brings wealth when one is born and who takes it with him when he leaves the body? The hidden gold is forgotten. None eats gold or silver. A little food for hunger and a shelter to rest the body are enough for men. O Giver, give me the gift of giving all that I am, and have, for Thee in utter surrender! Give me the wisdom to remember Thee always, and in everything and every event of life."

Presence of the Beloved

It is with this spirit of dedication that this Mehersthan has been raised as a field of service to Baba lovers. The statue of Baba was unveiled by the devout *Maharani* and the seven-coloured standard of universal Love was hoisted on the symbolic Tower by Brother *Adi K. Irani* whose life is a dedication to Baba's service. Let us all unite heart and soul to develop this centre as a Power House of Cosmic Energy. The huge gathering of devotees before us is a symbol of Baba's victory. I see Him in all and all in Him. Mehersthan is charged with the dynamism and filled with the Presence of the Beloved of our hearts. It is a poem of beauty, revelling in the rolling allegro of the perennial Godavari. There is no flood in the river to-day but there is a *flood of joy* and delight in the overflowing crowd of Baba-Lovers in Mehersthan.

Sacred Godavari

My fancy is littered with living visions as I stand here breathing the atmosphere of Mother Godavari. My ancestors flourished on her banks near Amalapuram and I have a nostalgia for land cherished by the Godavari. Rama and Sita lived in Panchavati on the banks of the Godavari. Ramadas did *tapasya* there in Nasik. Another Ramadas raised a temple for Rama at Badhrachalam on the bank of the Godavari. My friend Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya started his spiritual politics on the sacred banks of the Godavari. Mahatma Gandhi's movement gained momentum here at Rajahmundry. So a Centre for Baba on the Banks of the sacred Godavari has a special significance for us.

Statue for God-men

But what is the meaning of the statue that we have raised for Baba to-day? Statues are raised for political leaders and heroes and poets. We see in Rajahmundry and all over India statues of Mahatma Gandhi. It shows our reverence to great men. See this piece of paper; ordinary paper you do not set much value on it. Send it to Nasik mint. Rs. 100 is printed on it, then you value the same paper and keep it carefully for your expenses. Suppose a beautiful image of Tirupati Venkatesa is finely printed on it; you frame it and worship it reverentially in your Puja room. Unrealised men are like ordinary paper, learned men are like the currency note and realised God-men are like the picture of Venkatesa adored in sanctums. Suppose there is pure gold with you (free from gold control). You make jewels and they are worn by your wife and daughters who look into the mirror and feel complacent over their beauty. Again, you make the image of Krishna

with the gold; you touch it with reverence and adore it in your Puja room. That is the difference between the statue of a God-man and that of political leaders. The joy of worship flowing from the divine images is like the joy of taking temple *prasad* as distinguished from hotel meals. That is for soul's hunger and this is for stomach's hunger. Baba is not an idolator nor does he advocate ceremonial worship for His form. He is not the body of flesh and bone. He does not want a high pedestal for His seat.

Baba's Humility

I cannot forget an incident in Baba's life evidencing his utter humility. It happened when I was in a *sahavas*. He strode on to the platform and bowed down to all. Then he sat among men and then among women saying "I share my feeling with you of being one with you and one of you." Then he washed the feet of seven poor men and gave them Rs. 51 each and again worshipped them saying "Each one of you is an Avatar of God. I feel happy to bow down to you and place at your feet this *Deva dakshana*, divine offering. I touch money only to give it to the poor. I am with you all in every level. To find me you must lose yourself in my love."

Baba - Love

So the meaning of this statue and this building is cultivation of Baba's love. Love is his image; love is the mantra; love is holy bath and love is offering and love is the *prasad*.

Let us make this centre vibrant with Baba-love. We must keep it vibrant with the Divine presence so that anyone entering the sacred sanctum must feel electrified with love like a bar magnet thrust into an

induction coil. One must feel the thundering Silence of the meditative splendour. The soul must be soaked in psychic love and mind must be dehypnotised from dogmatic creeds and patented 'isms' in which dualities go on hounding each other. The Good Power and Bad Power must be overpowered by God-Power and God-Love. The mellow voice of Pure Conscience must lead the soul like the mystic silent force that leads the stellar bodies high across the night to mingle with the dawn of peace. The conventional man is vainly hugging formal foams tossing above babbling billows and make-believe chicaneries. He must wake up and go deep into silence for bringing out the gems of hidden wisdom. Baba's Silence is such an integrated book of gems. His message is the saving boat of Grace. It can help ashore humanity struggling in the stormy waves of the Time Spirit. Baba speaks the language of the heart which far transcends the language of letters.

Universal Centre

This Mehersthan consecrated to Baba must become a universal institution. Ramakrishna adored Kali at Dhakshineswar and that has become a world centre. He lived at Belur that has become a gigantic centre of the Ramakrishna mission. Sri Aurobindo lived in a house near the sea-shore of Pondicherry. His Presence has expanded into a huge Ashram which the Mother is conducting now. See how Dayalbagh expanded by the meditation of Radhaswami! See how the hut where Ramana Maharshi lived expanded into a big Ashram! How I wish that I meditate here and develop this centre into a universal Prem-Samaj!

Baba has a wonderful and centrifugal and centripetal force. We are celebrating the Centenary of Vivekananda who came to the lime-light of world reco-

gnition on the platform of the Parliament of Religions at Chicago. Vivekananda sought America and with great difficulty got a place in the world fair. But Baba brought not only Chicago but all America, Europe and Australia around the ambit of His aura. The world makes a pilgrimage to his Meherabad. We have witnessed how the East and the West gathered at His feet. Word was a burden before that Silent Presence.

Baba is Baba

Baba is not a miracle-monger. I have seen hundreds of luminaries in the spiritual world, having travelled thrice around the world and many times around India, addressing thousands of listening aspirants. But I have never met a Silent Splendour like Meher Baba. I had the fortune of meeting rare Himalayan Saints, Perfect Masters like Jnana Siddha, Sai Baba, Upasani Maharaj, Narayan Maharaj, Siddharuda Ramana Maharshi, Sri Aurobindo, Gandhiji. I have written books upon them which are popular; each has his individual merit. But Baba is distinguished from all in His ineffable Divinity. *I dare say Baba is Baba.* Baba is incomparable. We cannot compare a 'thriller' novel with the *Gita* or *Ramayana*. There is difference between a news-paper and a Bible and Koran and Zend Avesta and the Vedas.

Is Baba Rama?

Can we compare Baba with Rama and Krishna? Never. Rama married a wife. Both went to the forest Dandakaranya. There the golden deer came; Rama ran after it and shot it. In the mean-time Ravana stole into the hut and carried away Sita. Rama had to wage a bloody war to retrieve Sita.

Our Baba is pure like a crystal. His only wife is

Love. He was never deceived by Maricha, the illusory golden deer. His wife (Love) can never be approached by the arrogant lustful Ravana. Baba does not want war even with Ravana, His Sita is always safe with him and her heart of Divine Love wakes up in every pure heart.

Rama led an army of monkeys to fight Ravana. But Baba has an army of human devotees to fight evil with love.

Is BABA Krishna?

Sri Krishna's life is a series of killing this demon and that. He lived under perils and he faced demons and finished them up playfully. He loved the Gopies and embraced every one of them at the same time; His *rasalila* has made history as well as his help to the Pandavas and Draupati. He created the Mahabharata War and enthused the dejected Arjuna to fight and conquer the enemies. He gave Gita to humanity through Arjuna and that was the immortal contribution of Sri Krishna, for which we adore him. Did Baba do any one of these? Of course he gave and he gives a New Gospel of Love but that he gives not in a battle-field but from the untrammelled peace and calmness of Pimpalgaon. *Human soul is Baba's Arjuna*. The vital battle in the mind of man between good and bad, joy and sorrow, love and hatred is his *Kurukshetra*. He speaks silently, and we receive his Gospel of Love *silently and act on it*. Baba could not be a *Vamana*, the divine dwarf who got three feet of land from *Maha Bali* and crushed the donor with his feet. Baba cannot be the *Nrisimhavatar* who jumped out of a pillar and tore the abdomen of *Hiranya* and killed him to save his son *Prahlada*. Baba is not a *Parasurama* who killed his mother to obey his father. The old Avatars had to

wage war with lethal instruments, be they bow and arrow, chakra, trident or spear. They had to shed the blood of a Titan to save a helpless community. But the modern God-man wages war with Ignorance by the light of eternal Wisdom.

Advent of Baba

Again I maintain *Baba is Baba* and Baba is incomparable. His advent is a mighty import. Mercy is the form of Buddha and Love is the form of Baba and that love speaks in thundering silence of a meditative Splendour. Humanity has been hypnotised by wordy creeds of dogmatists, by the watertight compartment of traditional ritual, ceremonial 'isms' which constrain the free soul to stereotyped frameworks. Baba wants us to come out of this frame-work and allow the soul to flow free from love to love in a perennial stream of consciousness which leads the soul to the supreme realisation of 'I am God'. Baba does silent spade-work here and there for the flow of human consciousness through the channel of love towards the ocean of Bliss Divine. He wants man to live and feel that God lives in him and that God alone Is. Men are making noise in the press and on the conference-platforms. raising parties and 'isms', dividing humanity torn to shreds by castes, religions and schisms. Man has not yet solved the riddle of existence which is becoming more complicated as his intellectual or scientific egoism passing for scientific intellectualism hits planets. From Know-thyself of Socrates to the Thing-in-Itself of Kant, from monism to pluralism, from moralism to rationalism, from hedonism to expansionism, man has created innumerable 'isms' and finds himself in a cul-de-sac after all. Yesterday we witnessed a Nazi *lebunsram* and to-day witness a red vandalism in the yellow peril that has

overshadowed the crowning glory of India—the Himalayas, the abode of holiness.

'I am in India'

Baba told on the day of Chinese aggression "I am in India; and victory shall be with India." The very next week a unilateral cease fire was declared and the Chinese forces retreated from our borders; the Colombo conference met and messengers of Peace began to act. The Silent Presence of Baba in India is our great strength and asset. He is here to free the human soul from the grip of old ignorance of divided mentality. Just as the silent sun radiates helium, Baba silently radiates a *Lovelium* that shall unite all humanity in God.

'Mehertons' of Energy

Atoms bombarding each other release megatons of energy which is the life of the scientific world. Souls in contact with the God in Baba release *Mehertons* of cosmic force which is the life of the spiritual world. Love is the Isonomy of Life and Baba awakens that almighty Love in the heart of men. Power politics envisages a push-button war, a nuclear holocaust which shall end humanity altogether and pulverise this brittle globe into a heap of stinking waste. Science must unite with the Soul, matter must embrace the Spirit, East and West must come together to solve the problems of international life. The ringed sectarian forts and narrow divisions in the human camp must dissolve into a mighty flood of universal love and harmony that shall bring back a millennium of peace and bliss.

A New Avatar

Pessimists ask what is the need for a new Avatar when we have so many back-numbers in the realm of

Avatars? To them we relate a story from the life of Guru Nanak. Saint Nanak visited Ludhiana abounding in various types of make-believe sanyasins, They sent him a cup full of milk connoting that they had no need for him when the place was full of saints. Nanak added a handful of sugar and sent back the cup connoting "I have come as sugar to your milk." So Baba has come with the sweet message of *"Love and Live in God"* and that is the switch of a saving energy that shall destroy all human acrimonies.

I Realise Baba in All

When I read the Gita, I see Baba as my Krishna, when I study the Bible, he comes before me as the Father in Heaven living in my heart. As I study the Zend Avesta, Ahura Mazdan comes before my vision in the flaming of Baba. As I chant the Vedas, Baba says in me "Aum Shanti!" I feel Baba is in me and living as life in my being. His is the law of my life. What ever He says is my Gita and Bible. Do not think that I am a slave of colour and dress. I never bought a dress in my life. I wear the gift of all nations on my body. I wear all the seven colours. The Japanese gave me this jubba, friends in Switzerland gave me this alarum wrist watch which I wear to limit my speech to the time. I possess only Baba's love. If he wants me to take a cup of tea (which I never touched in my life) I shall smell the tea! I live for Baba after seeing sixty-four chosen saints in my life. My road-weary pilgrim soul has found its sanctuary in Baba.

He Appeals to My Soul

Many people put me all sorts of questions but I answer them with a single sentence, "I love Baba with all my heart and he appeals to my soul—ne plus ultra!"

Baba calls himself God, for God has a right to call Himself God. Shankara said 'Aham Brahmasmi' 'Sivoham Soham' and you do not object. But when a realised Avatar says 'I am God' why do you look askance?

One Word

The present man is too critical to listen to old tales. He wants something new. That new Gospel of Love and Harmony is given by the Silent Splendour. The Buddha stood in silence before an audience holding an apple and an orange in his hands. When people pressed for a speech, he said, "I speak silently: This is faith; this is love. Have both and you have all." Buddha taught compassion, Christ taught patient mercy, Gandhi taught Ahimsa, Zoroaster taught goodness; Shankara taught 'Thou art That' and Baba in one word taught God-Love and that sums up all the teachings. Behold the ocean into which all rivers mingle; behold the Aurora into which myriad stars dissolve, behold several tastes mingling in a sweet dish! Salt cannot be eaten as it is; mix it with a salad; then it becomes palatable. Even so mingle love with souls; then life becomes sweet. Reeds are many, music is one; ports are many, the ocean is one; names and forms are many, the soul is one; trees are many, the garden is one; religions are many, the goal is one God; bulbs are many, the light is one; men are many, but mankind is one. One current moves the different mechanisms of life; know that; one light illumines all coloured bulbs; know that. India has a mission and it is to deliver the message 'Ekam Sat' and 'Tat Twam Asi'—Truth is one and Thou art That.

*Speech by Dr. H.P. BHARUCHA on the
occasion of Opening of 'MEHERSTHAN'
on 28-2-'63 at Kovvur*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is a great pleasure and an honour to speak from the dais on a holy day, a day that will be a milestone in our spiritual path. This day will become the land-mark of the future. Why is it so important? It is not because of the opening of MEHERSTHAN, but, because Avatar Meher Baba *has deviated to come here for the first time on tour*. That is the great importance. The importance is not in the statue of bronze material. The importance is that Baba sits there in person and by breath, love and compassion, as He has always done in the past and as He will always do in the future. That is the greatness of to-day, for, Baba is to-day in the human form.

Those who have seen only the statue of bronze there, I feel, have not really gained the bliss of this day. The real bliss of this day is to feel and see Baba sitting there. That is the greatness.

Now, how can we see Baba there? All of us cannot see Baba. Why? Because, we lack in love of Baba. That love has to be reckoned by Baba for us. That love is something quite different from rituals and ceremonies that Baba has already talked about. What is that love? It is that love which moves, sets on fire the person who gets it. That is the sort of love we should have in Baba. *We should turn the gong of that love*. Baba said "such lovers of God are only very few." Therefore, true lovers of God are very very few, and we should all have that form of love and we should burn *in that gong*, in that

SPEECHES & ENTERTAINMENTS (Contd.)



Dr. H. P. Bharucha



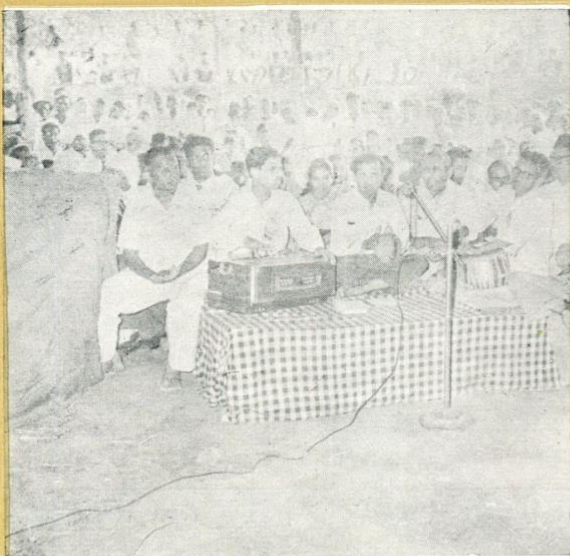
Dr. C. D. Deshmukh



Shri M. Butchilingappa Sastri
(Andhra Poet)



Shri D. V. Krishnaiah,
B. Com. (Hons.)



Madhusudan Party
of Poona



Babji Party of
Kakinada
Singing
‘Oho ! Premika’

fire of love so that we become dust on which Baba *can tumble upon*. That is what we should become.

Well, that greatness is required for that love which we cannot have. Well, there is another way, Baba said, If we haven't got that love, there is another way. The other way of becoming that is to obey implicitly what Baba says. Thus, even if it is 12 O'clock in the noon and the sun is shining and Baba says: "It is 12 midnight", we must accept it. How many of us have followed Baba's instructions and orders? Very very few. Baba said that we are all His Beloved children and He is our only Father, the God, the Lord, the Creator of this Universe. Well, are we really worthy of being His children? If we quarrel among ourselves, we are not worthy of being his children. And this quarrelling for this and that also affects Baba. He has to suffer because of all our quarrelling. Baba has already been burdened by the universal work. So we, as lovers, instead of removing that burden, put upon him extra burden by our claims and petty quarrels! Therefore, if we obey Baba's orders, we will all be able to see Baba in every one of us, wherever we go to see Baba.

The sanctity of Mehersthan is not in its walls of brick and stone. The sanctity is in the spiritual atmosphere created by you lovers here, and by the sanctity of Baba here sitting in the temple. Take it, as Baba said, that Baba is sitting in the temple, and that it is not merely a bronze statue. The bronze statue is beyond a mere symbol of austerity; but, in principle, it is living Baba sitting there. The importance of this day and of Mehersthan is not because of its situation on the banks of the Godavari river. Baba, you remember, at Poona, told thus to one of my friends, who, after having had Baba's darshan, was going to Nasik to have a bath in the Godavari river. Baba said: "I fill you with love

and you go to wash it out in the Godavari river." The importance is that Baba is here in living person and the importance is that Baba visited this place in 1952, 1953 and 1954. Now, Baba stays here till Eternity.

Let us all pray to Baba that we not only see Baba in this temple, but we may see Him everywhere.

Glory be to this Day! Greater glory be not only to these people, but also to all lovers and workers who have worked out this programme and made it a success! And lastly, the greatest glory be to the All-creator, the Lord alone, the Highest of the High, for He is always here!

Jai Baba!

God cannot be discussed
God cannot be theorised
God cannot be argued about
God cannot be explained
God cannot be understood
God can only be lived by losing
 ourselves in Him through love.

— *Meher Baba*

Speech by Sri G. S. N. Moorthy, M.A. Ph.D.
on the occasion of the Opening of
MEHERSTHAN

Our Baba, the Highest of the High, the Person in persons, who speaks with the Tongue of tongues, hailing from Ahmednagar, the City of God, speaks through the languages of Heart and Tone, inspiring the whole humanity with a feeling of Divinity, has to be understood in a way which has been prescribed, for you all will know that Baba is MKMN. You may say he is dumb physically—do you not? But dumb with His design with tongue! and puts afresh with words and nurtures in our mouths. He is a MKMN but he makes us all speak, furnish out oceans of words and speeches. You have heard about Baba having met with accidents and having got fractured; yet he makes us scale up the, the hill of kindness. To such a Lord, I offer my thanks.

Brothers and sisters, it is really a matter of heavenly happiness for me to have been able to come here and be amongst you all at *Mehersthan* on the sacred bank of river Godavari and, perhaps, this is a unique opportunity offered to us by Beloved Baba to face his vast measure of ocean of love. It would not have been possible for me to have been able to come here but for the wish of Beloved Baba which was conveyed to me when my father was attacked with cerebral thrombosis and he has been in a state of coma for the last 20 days. When I wrote to Baba, as per his instructions, Baba sent me a Wire; "No one *dies* with my name on his lips". So, in order to *obey* my Silent Master, that Divine Controller of Humanity, that Divine Beloved Avatar Meher Baba, that I have appeared before you. But, having come here, I found a function got up and that was pertaining

to the unfurling of the flag of seven colours of Baba and that flag was unfurled by ADI, a humble beginning of Anadi, who is MEHER BABA. Baba is ANADI, beginningless, the Ancient One, the Sanathanapurusha. Therefore, he has sent ADI, his humble beginning, the Beginning of Beginnings, before us to perform the unfurling of the Beginningless. No one need be scared about the colours. Why has Baba chosen these seven colours? Why not nine colours? That is a matter which we need not know, but I am going to speak to you on a matter which is very important as Baba has directed me to do so here. When I took my seat here on the dais and looked at the invitation card sent to me, there were nine speakers on the list. I was worried about the fear of the ominous number. I know it is *not*—definitely *not*—Mr. Koduri Krishna Rao who selected these nine persons, but it is Baba. I found for myself that Baba is a Zoroaster. 'Zoroaster' means worldly men that kindle the light that burns eternally. So, Baba is the loving light of the world, and therefore, chose to be called the Avatar of the Age, the living Avatar of the Age. These nine speakers are compared to the nine knots in the Staff—in the Wand which 'Zoroaster' used to carry with Him wherever he used to go. So, we are all the knots who speak here before you.

Baba says: "I am the Father," and, therefore, we are all his children. Baba also says: "I Am the Divine Beloved", and, therefore, we are all His lovers. So, we are lovers of Baba and Baba is the Beloved, the Divine Beloved. So, we are the subject—the subject, graphically I am telling you. In grammar, to complete a sentence—even a simple sentence—a subject, an object and a predicate, all these are necessary. Therefore, we are the subject, the mission is the predicate, Baba is the object and

His dynamic silence is the work of His language. Baba's message of His Avatarhood can be centred in one simple word and that is "LOVE", the love Divine.

You may take the name of Vivekananda and quote all these Yogas, all these books and scriptures; but all these are nothing but dust before that love. So, Baba awakens us, awakens the whole humanity through the agency of his Divine Silent Love. That is a love which enjoys the health of the spirit under the sunshine of the eternal glory. Have we, therefore, got even an ounce of love in our hearts? If so, certainly, we are fit to be called selfless lovers. Let us, therefore, make a search within, on this very auspicious day, on the sacred banks of the river Godavari. There are several devotees, admirers and lovers of Baba who have often asked whether Baba, who is a great promise-breaker, would ever break his promise to break His silence? Recently, in the East-West gathering held at Poona in the month of November 1962, Baba said: "Next year, I am going to break silence. This time I am surely going to break silence." When Baba said like this to the great audience there, all the people burst into a whispering laughter. Every time Baba would say: "I am definitely going to break my silence this day, this month, this year", and, thereby won the Divine reputation of the great promise-breaker, Lord Krishna. But I have my own opinion about His not breaking the silence. You know the world is passing through a great catastrophe of evils and process of destruction to-day. The process of destruction is at a great speed. You also see this in several kinds of things: Rickshaws, motor cars, trains, trams, all go through at a great speed and they have a brake to slow the speed of destruction. So, the brake is applied in order to check the speed and avoid accidents. So, Baba's silence is a

sound-brake in order to check the speed of destruction. This is the wheel of the world which is going through great speed and, therefore, the Avatar of the Age, maintaining his silence, which is Divine Grace, in a sound condition, that is, a sound-brake of silence, has applied the brake. Therefore, it is my opinion that Baba should never break his silence, because, if he breaks his silence, the brake will be broken and, therefore, our speed of destruction will be increased.

The same Ancient One and Sanathana Purusha came in our midst, not to repeat the same thing He repeated in Krishna Avatar. Therefore, I can aptly say that Baba's silence is the running comment of the Universal Reality.

Therefore, there is no need for me to compare between one avatar and another, one Rishi and another, one Mahatma and another, for each is great in his own way; but Baba is the Highest of the High who simultaneously accepts, embraces and complements the rest.

Dr. S. Rama Rao, one of the previous speakers, spoke to you something about ritualism. You have also read in 'DIVYA VANI' (Telugu) the correspondence between Sri Ramalingeshwara Rao, Advocate of Kovvur, and Bro. Eruch. I need not stress any more individually now, nor do I add anything to it. But, Baba sent me a telegram asking me to deal with that subject, that is, the subject of Vedic rites and rituals in this conference here on the occasion of the opening ceremony of MEHERSTHAN as well as the unfurling of Baba's flag. With that I will close my long talk. From the low-lands of the sense-submerged mentality when we ascend to the silence of the Highest of the High, we see a vision of the terrace of the spiritual truth. In the *Vedas*, in the *Upanishads*

and in the *Kavyas*, there are root mantras and statements where the rituals, rites and ceremonies have been given a place of secondary importance, and rituals are not the only means to achieve that glorious end of Godhood.

Therefore, on this very auspicious day, when MEHERSTHAN is opened, and in the presence of our Divine Deity unveiled in the temple, I have my own adoration to offer to the Highest of the High, to be presented to Baba, who represents Satyam, Sivam and Sundaram.

* * * *

WORSHIP OF 'THE HIGHEST OF THE HIGH'

Beloved Lord Meher!
I too shall worship Thee.

KARMA KANDA

I shall build an Abode of Peace in Thy City of Silence.
I shall sit in the Central Hall of Happiness for doing *Thy worship*.
I shall sweep the floor with my 'soul' and keep the door open for all.
I shall surcharge the whole atmosphere with the air of Thy affection.
I shall decorate Thy Throne with all the grandeur of the solar-system.
I shall stitch all the planets into Thy Pillows.
I shall pull-out the Milky Way from the Heavens and spread it on the ground as Thy Carpet.
I shall enter the *Hall of Happiness* after taking a bath in the Sea of Thy Solitude.
I shall preserve the Sacred Flame of *Thy fire* within the Frame-work of East-West-North-South.

I shall bend the beautiful Rainbow over the God's eye-brow
 to reflect all the colours of *Thy light*.
 I shall invoke the Deity of *Thy divine presence*.
 I shall collect myself calmly in front of *Thy Mercy* and
 keenly observe *Thy tranquil* movements.
 I shall pour out all the oceans to wash Thy Holy Feet.
 I shall empty all the rivers to sprinkle rose-water on Thy
 Face.
 I shall break the Himalayas in one blow and grind them into
 Thy sandal-paste.
 I shall fetch the *Moon* and fix it on Thy Forehead as an ever-
 shining '*Tilak*'.
 I shall pluck all the twinkling stars and arrange them nicely
 in *Thy Flower-pot*.
 I shall dissolve all the five elements into *Thy Panch-amritam*.
 I shall drown all the disturbances in the deepest depths of
Thy stillness.
 I shall compose the *Song of my soul's "Longing of Love"* for
The Divine Beloved.
 I shall sing *that Song* in tune with storms and all the clouds
 shall clap.
 I shall call the seasons to play *Thy harmony* and thunders
 shall accompany.
 I shall direct earthquakes to join in chorus and dance with
 me.
 I shall drag all the mountains to fall in line with me and
 prostrate before *Thee—The Highest of the High*.
 I shall produce the *Incense* of all *Scriptures* to perfume the
 entire space with the *Fine fragrance* of *Thy thought*.
 I shall 'act' against 'Maya' as a 'Hero' in the 'Drama' of this
 world, to humour Thee.
 I shall inhale the spirit of *Thy mystic nature* and release the
Cool Breeze of 'Bliss'.

I shall stand on the top-most point of Truth and announce
Thy Ancient Glory, at the Peak of my *Inner voice*.
I shall loudly proclaim *Thy Avatarhood* in the bold language
of *Roaring Water-falls*.
I shall take the *Blue disc* of the *Sky* on my palm and burn the
Sun as a *camphor ball*, to perform *Thy arti*.
I shall distribute the *Prasad* of *Thy Grace* to the whole
mankind.

UPASANA - KANDA

I shall rise above all 'rites and rituals' and thus 'meditate'.
I shall bury the Past, bleach the Present and brighten the
future.
I shall uproot all the trees of un-truth.
I shall shoot the 'mad dog' of 'desire'.
I shall kick away the couples of 'pride and prejudice'.
I shall stab the 'inflated ego' with the sharpest dagger of
detachment.
I shall draw inspiration from the delightful springs of
suffering.
I shall get intoxicated with the 'wine of ecstasy' from the
Fountains of Faith.
I shall dig the 'grave' for death in the land of *Thy eternity*.
I shall surrender all my pleasures at the *Altar of "The pain of
Thy separation"*.
I shall weave all the wild winds of *intellect* into a vast
network of *wisdom*.
I shall smash all superstitions and crush all calamities.
I shall flourish in frustration with nourishing hope.
I shall spin the *'Thread of 'Spirituality'* from the clean
cotton of *Thy cosmic consciousness*.
I shall extract sugar out of sorrows.
I shall convert all tragedies into the *creed of comedies*.
I shall reduce all dangers into dust.
I shall seek solace in life at the bed-side of adversity.

I shall control the terrible traffic of troubles and turmoils.
I shall cut off the head of Hypocrisy.

GNANA – KANDA

I shall remove all the *thorns* on the *path of progress* and
wander in the wood of Thy wonderful Mysteries.
I shall throw all 'doubts' in *Thy 'Dustbin'*.
I shall digest all mis-fortunes.
I shall churn all miseries into the '*Nectar of knowledge*'.
I shall pat on the back of 'woes and worries' and lull them
to sleep.
I shall kill the cobra of 'self-comfort'.
I shall annihilate the whole army of 'agonies'.

VEDANTIC SADHANA

I shall strangle the throat of tortures.
I shall balance between the pairs of all opposites.
I shall soothe the wounds of humiliation by *Thy touch*.
I shall shake hands with insults and injuries.
I shall arrest the rush of my tears and turn them back to the
source to make *no show of suffering*.
I shall refrain from riding on the *blind horse of Science* ever
galloping into unknown distances; but shall rejoice
to saddle '*Science*' with '*Religion*'—*The religion of heart*,
so that the world shall be saved from a '*Heartless*
Science'.
I shall wear the *Crown of Renunciation* studded with the
Brightest jewel of Joy.

MYSTIC SADHANA

I shall hold fast to "*Thy daaman*" till the very end; and I shall
hide my face behind it to suck the *Milk of immortality*
from the breasts of *Thy silent beyond*.
I shall kiss the Rosy cheeks of *Thy rising sun of 'Reality'* with
my parting lips of *Day and Night*.

I shall smoothly suspend 'myself' in the *soft-coils of Thy embrace* and like *Thy own little child*, I shall continue to whisper slowly in *Thine ears* for at least 700 years:

"DARLING! SHALT THOU NOT ACCEPT THIS LIVING GARLAND OF 'ME' ?"

ATMA – VISHWAS

I shall surely survive to see that *time* shall soon reveal *Thy 'supreme reality'*, when *Thou shall utter the only 'WORD'* of words and manifest *Thy Glorious Divinity*.

YOGIC – SADHANA

I shall plunge into *Thy great celestial silence* for *Samadhi*;

AND, THUS MY LORD!

I shall worship thee !

THE SONG

Ever will glorious MEHERSTHAN,
For there resides God in form.

- (1) Those who come to see the form of the Divine Offering
the nectar of love and carry not their selves along
Will get the gift Divine.
- (2) Those who lose their worldly eyes
And wash pure their hearts can in a flash see
The effulgent form of God.
- (3) Those who come with
Hearts naked and minds empty
Will, O Bhau, find the Divine Treasure
in the vacantness.

Speech by Dr. Sankara Sreerama Rao
on the occasion of the Opening of
MEHERSTHAN

Sisters and Brothers,

We have assembled here to take part in a very pleasant function—the opening of a temple dedicated to the Avatar of the Age—the ecstasy of witnessing the ceremony is a unique privilege granted us by the Highest of the High. For this unprecedented function Brother Adi brought us the love blessings of 'Adi Purusha'; Shanta Devi of Baroda brought us the message of Shanti, a veritable blessing for suffering humanity. We hail these two messages of love and peace.

We are today on the bank of the sacred Godavari which lends its name to the two contiguous districts. This great river has its birth in Maharashtra and flows to Andhra to enrich our lands. Meher Baba too was born in Maharashtra and flowed to Andhra with love and compassion to enrich our souls and rouse our latent divinity. At one time this sacred soil paid its homage to Lord Chaitanya with lotus hands of Roy Ramananda. And now is the turn of Shri Koduri Krishna Rao to install Baba's divinity in a well-built temple and thereby deserve the name of Krishnananda. Building a temple is one of the "Sapta Santanams" and the Koduri family has truly added a feather to its cap of gold. Chaitanya and Meher Baba are incarnations of love in its purest form, and Andhra is really fortunate in welcoming them and giving them an abode on this soil.

Baba said that He would be with us today. But where is He? You cannot see Him with the naked eye.

SPEECHES & ENTERTAINMENTS (Contd.)



Shri M. Tirumal Rao, M. P.



Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, M. A., Ph. D.



Dr. S. Sree Rama Rao



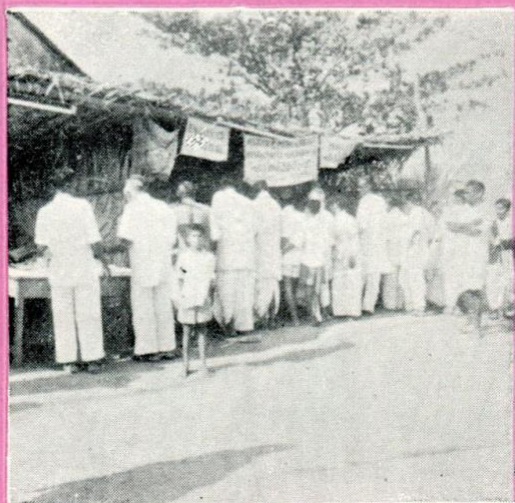
Shri Pydi Lakshmayya, B. A., B. L.



‘Meher Leela’ – Drama
by Eluru Bala Brundam.



A section of the audience



Book-stall



Exhibition

Viswarupam can only be seen by the inner eye, the divine eye. So says Krishna in the 'Gita':

"Tongue cannot speak, mind cannot comprehend, nose cannot smell, eyes cannot see, ears cannot hear, hands cannot touch—such is my Viswarupam" come on, I give you divine vision, see—see now."

That was the night of full moon in 'Sarath Rutu.' On the banks of the Yamuna, Krishna was playing 'Rasa Krida' with sixteen thousand Gopikas, to every Gopika there was a Krishna. He was everywhere though He is only One, the 'Ancient One.' It is therefore quite in order that Baba is with us and within us. Only the loving heart knows it.

Baba's message for the modern world is love—universal love—divine love. The modern world has murdered love and is gloating over the ashes. Baba came to resuscitate and re-establish love in the heart of 'mechanised man'. He says in his message to Mehersthan, "You can see me here only by carrying me in your heart — not otherwise." He is "Anoraniyam", as small as the atom, and so you can certainly carry Him in your heart, though He is also "Mahatho mahiyam", the biggest of the big.

Ritualism without love is like decorating a corpse—"Gopala jira Kardame viharase, vipradhvare lazzase" says "Leelasuka" in *Krishna Karnamrutam*—"Brahmins are burning huge sacrificial fires—why don't you go there? And why on earth you go on loitering round the low huts of Gopikas? Yes, I do understand now; you are amenable to love alone." External paraphernalia take us no where.

"Whatever caste-mark you don, however hoarse you cry out 'Ram-Krishna-Hari' day and night, whatever

time you spend in metaphysical discussions—you are just a corpse without the light of love in your heart".

"Gita-hridayam"

People say I am doing Baba's work. What is Baba's work and what is not? Is it to cry out 'Baba', 'Baba' at the height of your voice, or is it to give food to a hungry man? You want to repair the world—but what about you? If every body sets right his or her defects the world automatically becomes a better place to live in. "Uddharet Atmana atmanam" says the Gita. What wholesome advice to the so-called reformers of the human race!

What is the meaning of Baba's silence? Shut your mouth—do your work. "Hands to work—heart to God" says a Sufi poet. The same gospel is contained in the Gita. "Selfless and unostentatious work"—that is "Swakarmanam Archajya Siddhim Vindathi Manavah." Do your duty—leave the rest to God.

Many religions came and many great men were born in this world from time to time, The nectar of the teachings was turned into blood and tears by their unscrupulous followers. Baba came not to add another religion to the list, but to awaken the divinity in man and to show a synthesis of all religions in the moon-light of love and universal brotherhood. That is the reason why He installed the symbols of five great religions on His would-be tomb at Meherabad.

"The eternal stars shine out as soon as it is dark enough" says Carlyle. "The darkest hour of the night is just before dawn" says Tagore. We are now in the midst of abysmal darkness. Our hearts are engulfed in impenetrable gloom. That is the immediate provocation

for Baba's Avatar of love. He has come to clean the Aegean stables. Let us take part in this great movement with our mouths shut.

"Don't try to understand me," says Baba. "It is impossible for your poor intelligence." "Love me and surrender yourself to me. Do as I say. Don't question."

What a striking resemblance to the "Sarvadharmaparithyajya..." of the Gita. Yes, truth is always the same. Only its form changes from time to time. As is the demand, so is the supply. Not scholarship but wisdom, not fanaticism but synthesis of all religions, not outward ritualism but inner dedication, which are required. This is the core of Baba's life and work. May the divine light dawn on this world and make everybody happy and peaceful!

COUPLETS

- (1) Not in temple not in mosque
Neither in church, nor in house
But in remembrance of Meher
is MEHERSTHAN.
- (2) Ceremonies and rites obscure
The abode of Infinite God;
Renounce these, and shed all hypocrisy
and needless pretence.
- (3) The Pure abide in purity,
The Pure shine bright in Purity.
Where the Eternal Flame is, there
everlastingly is MEHERSTHAN.
- (4) May heart after heart be fed with flow
Of the pure Love and Flame of Meher,
At glorious Kovvur ... that shines
bright with Light of MEHERSTHAN.

MEHER BABA

THE AVATAR OF THE AGE

[Speech by Shri D. V. KRISHNAIAH, B. Com. (Hons.)
on the occasion of the Opening of MEHERSTHAN]

"PARITRANAYA SADHUNAM VINASAYACHA DUSHKRUTHAM
DHARMA SAMSTHAPANARDHAYA SAMBHAVAMI YUGE YUGE."

(Bhagavad Gita)

According to all accepted standards of spiritual learning, the advent of an Avatar of the Supreme Being takes place once in centuries. In the ancient times the Vedic Rishis have chanted that Lord, the Supreme Being, desires to come into the Universe in a human form in order to uplift the mankind and give them a spiritual awakening.

Subsequently, the old Testament, Zoroastrianism and Islam held the ground for a number of centuries and the Supreme Being manifested Himself in the three great and distinguished religions of the world in the shape of Jesus Christ, Zoroaster and Prophet Mohammed and gave spiritual awakening to the people of those times and led them on the path of spiritual progress. In India there was the Avatar of Buddha the Great, whose manifestation completely revolutionised the social fabric of the world and his message reached almost all the countries in the world and it was the greatest bloodless revolution of all times: Lord Buddha gave us the message of non-violence and he influenced people of all climes and times and left a deep impression on the spiritual regeneration of mankind. This was nothing but a termination of the long spiritual evolution from pre-Vedic times down to the

pre-European civilization. Every Avatar has produced master-pieces of his learning and mankind has been benefited as long as it stood by faith and conviction and was prone to a disciplined domestic and social life.

The Industrial Revolution and the emergence of European Civilization, which spread like wild fire in all parts of the world, was a death-knell to the theory and fabric of faith yielding place to the Age of Reason, the age of rationality and the age of enlightened manhood. Hence Lord the Supreme Being had to revolutionise His teaching technique and come into the world again in the human form and deliver His message to the mankind for their spiritual re-awakening.

All the old customs and traditions had been shattered to pieces of superstition by the sword of rational approach and scientific approach of the modern times. In fact, the first onslaught of science proved a disastrous death to religion and it was declared in the 19th century that Science had replaced Religion and that spirituality was more an anachronism than a modern dynamic force. But fortunately in the latter half of the 19th century the developments in Science and Technology revealed the limitations of Scientific thought and learning and the utter helplessness of the human brain to comprehend *the Unlimited, the Beyond Beyond, the Omniscient, and the Ancient One*. This revelation has forced no less a person than Prof. Albert Einstein to declare to the whole world that religion without science was blind, and that science without religion was lame. James Jeans, Eddington, Rutherford, Bertrand Russell and Whitehead have shown in their elaborate scientific enquiries that the universe is unlimited, unexplainable and ununderstandable. In fact, there were universes and universes, stars and stars, galaxies and galaxies and science has come to a

stage where no head and tail could be made of the macro-cosmic investigations. Even in the micro-cosmic universe developments in biological sciences are revealing themselves slowly and steadily, the confounding structure of the nucleus of an atom, the structure of molecules and the composition of the protons and electrons. Thus by the end of the Second World War, Science has fairly admitted its failure in solving the riddle of the Universe.

Even in such dark times the torch of spiritual learning was held aloft in countries like India where Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Vivekananda, Arobindo, Ramana maharshi, Sai Baba and others, who by their marvellous achievements in yoga and para-psychology, demonstrated that on any day spiritual learning was definitely much nearer *the truth* than any materialistic, scientific and rational investigation conducted in any part of the world. But all of them have been Saints, Preachers, Mahatmas, and Perfect Masters. None of them declared to the world that he was the conscious Avatar of the Supreme Being.

The phenomenon of Avatar Meher Baba must be understood in this context. The world to-day is one single indivisible unit. It transcends the limitations of space, time, caste, creed, sect and colour. The world now needs a universal Master who will up-lift all mankind. While the ground was prepared by several Mahatmas in former years it was definitely left to the Lord Almighty to make Himself known as the Avatar in the human form and manifest Himself in this modern world in a modern way. *Avatar Meher Baba is the Ancient One coming in the modern times in the modern way. The striking and powerful mark of the modern Avatar is His magnificent silence.* Baba, however powerful and however learned and however skillful in the art and science of speech He may be,

has deliberately chosen the path of *eloquence through silence*. He has declared that all religions belong to Him and that *He* does not belong to any single religion. Will mankind understand the significance of this utterance at any time and place and will the fanatical followers of sectarian religions understand the significance of universality? I am afraid that it will not. But Baba doesn't stop with this message. He will see that before He breaks His silence and lays down His Avatar, mankind will realise that religion is not the *form* but the *content*, it is not the *convention* but simple adherence to *truth and love*. He will also see that mankind realises that conventional worship, sectarian prejudices, territorial loyalties and individual hero-worship will die out yielding place to the inner soul of religion viz., the development of spiritual progress towards man, better man, rational man, spiritual man, Super-man and *God-Man*. This supra rationality is the very core of the teachings of *Avatar Meher Baba*. This over-riding spiritual manifestation of the divine qualities in pristine purity is the essence of religious living. Therefore, Baba says that He should not be kept in a Temple or a Mosque or a Church or a Mandir but in the hearts of all human beings. In his recent message to Mehersthan, the Supreme God has declared that in order to find Baba in Mehersthan every devotee must search for Him in his own heart. Baba has declared time and again that God is not conditioned by any religious manifestation in any part of the world all along the history of the mankind. He says so powerfully "God appears to him to be what he considers him to be". This is nothing but an echo of the famous 'Gita' saying: "*Ye Yatha Mam Prapadyanthe Tham Thadhaiva Bhajamyaham*." 'Gita' is the only scripture in the whole world, at any rate to my humble knowledge, which declares that religion is Universal and not conditioned by time, place, and person. Baba has declared the same truth in His Dehra Dun message. Baba has denounced spiritual formalities which

have degenerated into hard customs just as Lord Buddha himself had to fight in his own times against the Vedic rituals performed in those days without an understanding of the spiritual significance thereof. Baba respects the sayings of all the Spiritual Masters and Avatars. He himself has declared that all His old sayings in the various Avatars shall be understood in the context of time and place and should not be rigidly and meaning- lessly followed to the letter leaving out the spirit. Baba has, as an Avatar, delivered His message through His silence, and the literature on Baba stands second to none in the literary talent, volume, and quality. But Baba refuses to start a religion of His own. All sincere lovers of God are praying to Baba in different forms. He echoes the famous saying in the Hindu's *Sandhyavandanam*, "*Sarva Deva Namaskaram Kesavam Prathi Gachathi*".

Baba is the Modern of the moderns, the Ancient of the ancients, the Man of men, and the Supreme Being. The more and more we study Him, the more definitely we will realise that He is the Avatar of the Age.

Speech by Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, M. A., Ph. D.,
on the occasion of Opening of
MEHERSTHAN

Friends,

People ask me, what is the miracle which is performed by Avatar Meher Baba so that you have wholeheartedly accepted Him as God Himself? It is true that Avatar Meher Baba is beyond miracles but, at the same time, He has performed many miracles which are beyond the capacity of Saints and Masters. He is performing miracles and is beyond them.

Now, you may ask me which is the miracle that I had seen. I would like to refer to the miracle which you had also seen. One miracle is our Adi K. Irani. In spite of the fact that all his life has been devoted to Baba, he has got such a great humility as to see Baba in everybody. Of course, that is Baba's preaching and it shows the greatness of Beloved Avatar. Another miracle is our Rani Shanta Devi. In spite of her riches and her position, she has become one of the disciples of Meher Baba. Another miracle is our Yogi Suddhananda Bharati. He is so great and very well experienced in great traditions, and yet he has said that Meher Baba is a greater Avatar than any other Avatar who had come to this world yet. I do not wish to set comparison between Avatar and Avatar for all Avatars' ideal is only one. But there is no doubt that this Baba is the same as Sree Krishna and Sree Rama. He has more fully manifested Himself as Meher Baba. So, we have to accept it.

Friends, to-day we are in the times where our minds are divided by different ideologies. In the *Puranas*, we are told that Shankara had swallowed poison in order to relieve humanity of the great anxiety, the great disaster; and I can compare the mutual distress and ill-will between nations to this great *Halahala*, the great poison. He has come to swallow the separativeness of all humanity. He has done it and He can be compared with Lord Shankara just as He can be compared with Lord Krishna himself. Friends, His Silence is thus a most eloquent silence that the world has ever seen. There are types of silence. Baba's Silence is the silence of God Himself. Every one is talking, speaking, but God Himself in the human form as Avatar Meher Baba is silent. Because there is silence, He conveys much more than can be conveyed through any amount of discourses. In the case of Lord Krishna, I have no hesitation in saying that His work *Gita* is far greater than Him. But, Baba's work done through silence is greater still!

J A I B A B A !

BELOVED BABA'S LOVE MANIFESTATION

(Continued from page 8)

"All those who surrender themselves in Love to Me will see and adore and realise the Reality behind My Form."

It is therefore evident that even at the time of Nauranga function, Beloved Baba scrupulously warned His lovers and other public not to be misled by the old ideas of sophisticated formalities of ritualism and ceremonies which cover the Real In-dwelling Spirit of Divine Existence.

With this back-ground of clarified ideas about Divine Worship, the Baba-lover was given another opportunity to partake of a love-feast at Srirangapatam, near Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, whereto Bro. Adi K. Irani and Bro. Jal Bhai came as special messengers from Beloved Baba and filled the whole of the atmosphere with Baba's Love. Every lover was not only fed day and night with delicious puddings but was also made to drink the Divine Nectar of Love to his or her heart's content, fully forgetting all the woes and worries of life during that memorable period! Thus the wonderful manifestation of Baba's Love witnessed at Srirangapatam, on the eve of Baba Premik Sammelan of Andhra held on the 9th and 10th of December 1961, over which Bro. Adi K. Irani presided, was unprecedented and ever memorable in the history of the spiritual reorientation of Andhra.

After the above function, time was allowed to every Baba-lover for self-introspection and a real searching of heart. Every lover was to equip himself with adequate knowledge of the principles, higher responsibilities and duties of life of a dedicated worker of Baba's cause; he was to imbibe purity of thought, intensity of devotion

and sincerity of purpose. Time and again, messages and directions were sent to individuals and to Baba-centres, infusing a large amount of inspiration and courage of conviction in every worker in Baba's fold, for the successful implementation of ideals set before himself in life. One more opportunity and a real chance for every lover of Baba to have self-introspection and to take a final decision on the matter of re-dedicating himself or herself for Baba's cause, with faith absolute and surrender complete, was given by our most compassionate Father, and this was the gathering of all His children from East and West, who were summoned to be under His immediate Divine Presence at 'Guruprasad' Poona (India) in the 1st week of November 1962.

Here and now 'indeed' the real situation was created for every lover of Beloved Baba to enjoy the Nectar of His Love, share the Blissful experience of the Divine Presence, along with other brothers and sisters of His fold. Baba-lovers from East and West assembled under the celestial canopy of our Most Beloved Divine Father, the Highest of the High. The four 'days' period passed away as four 'seconds', but the Divine intoxication was the most common experience of one and all. It was indeed a feast of Divine Love which the angels must have envied, for they poured down torrents of rain, perhaps out of jealousy, which however only added glory to the function!

To those Western brothers and sisters who had the good fortune of knowing the gist of the "Four Journeys" and points of spiritual import explained by Beloved Baba Himself, the unique experience of theirs was indeed a special blessing. While clarifying the 21 points, Beloved Baba finally said: "Complete remembrance of God, honesty in action, making no one unhappy, being the

cause of happiness in others, and no submission to low, selfish, lustful desires, while living a normal life, can lead one to the path of God-Realisation. But, *complete obedience to the God-man brings one directly to God,*" Thus it can be seen how Beloved Baba has not only blessed us on the occasion by giving us direct knowledge of the essential truths of wisdom but also a taste of the Nectar of Love Divine.

Beloved Baba's exhortation to His "Dear Children" and to His "Dear Workers" really showered His Love and Compassion over us all. The messages have to be read again and again and we should respond in a fitting manner to the Divine call for duty and service to humanity, under the colourful banner of the Lord of Love and the Avatar of the Age. What a tremendous opportunity of life for a real seeker, and what an ineffable chance, to be the chosen instrument of Divine Service, to annihilate once for all, all '*Samskaras*' of our unaccountable births and re-births! Oh, Lord! Thy Mercy is inscrutable and Thy ways of Loving Grace are mysterious!

Time was again allowed to the Baba-lovers to muster strength of mind, sanctity of heart and sincerity of purpose; and sufficient time was given to establish unity among themselves and workers of His cause, so as to equip themselves and get into real work, with complete dedication to His work and absolute surrender to Him.

More than a quarter of a year passed by when our compassionate Beloved has again blessed us with another most thrilling opportunity of experiencing His Divine Love; He has invoked in us our full sense of duty and self-awareness of purpose, so that we may earnestly endeavour to surrender completely and re-dedicate

ourselves at the Altar of our Divine Master and pray for His forgiveness for our short-comings and for our laxity in effort. It is high time for heart-searching on the part of every Baba-lover, whether he really deserves so much love and compassion from our Beloved Father and what he should do to deserve it further more. It is also time for one to decide how best one could try to avail oneself of this benevolent opportunity and the manner in which one should respond to His Love. And so, let us ponder over with sincerity on this rarest of opportunities, that has been given to us, out of His immense compassionate love for us. He has come amidst us to awaken us and bless us with Liberty, Love and Peace for ever, if only we care to hear Him, choose to surrender to Him, and finally learn to love Him, in the way He ought to be loved. May He bless us with His abiding Love and Grace !

The unique opportunity of experiencing Baba's Divine Presence was afforded to us again at Kovvur, on the western bank of river Godavari, on the 28th of February 1963, when 'Mehersthan'. the abode of our Beloved Baba, was opened and His bronze statue was unveiled by Shrimati Maharani Shantadevi of Baroda; and Baba's seven-coloured flag was unfurled by Bro. A. K. Irani, the Disciple and Secretary of our Beloved Baba. 'Mehersthan' is a Power-House of His Love from where His all-pervading Love and ever illuminating Light and Knowledge will save all humanity from all the turmoils of life and bless them with universal love and everlasting joy.

Perhaps, it is the Destiny, nay, it is the Divine Blessing of the Avatar of the Age, that those who come in contact with Him and are blessed with opportunities of service in His cause and share the Grace of His Divine

Love, (like the Gopies of Brundavan in the company of Lord Krishna) are doubly blessed; for Baba-lovers who share His Love here and now will also be eternally associated with His Avatar-hood.

The manifestation of Baba's Love on this supreme occasion was very great indeed, and every one forgot all about his food or comfort, status or riches, youth or old age, and was so much intoxicated with the beverage of the Nectar of His Love that he danced to the tunes of melody sung by the other lovers, till all practically left the spot and returned to their respective places, taking Baba with them. Bro. Koduri and his family were really blessed to have been the chosen instruments for the overpowering display of Love Divine in the edifice they had so munificently constructed and dedicated to the loving memory of Baba, aptly calling it 'Mehersthan'.

In conclusion, Brothers and Sisters! the big question remains to be solved if every one of us is competent to *deserve* the blessing of dedicated service to our compassionate Divine Father, Beloved Baba, and be His servants working under His Banner of Love, and hold fast to His "daaman" unto to the last breath of our lives? May Beloved Baba be pleased to forgive us for all our short-comings and bless us all with opportunities of His service, until we merge in Him for ever!

Jai! Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai!

—SSP.

APPENDIX – I

News and Notes:

'MEHERSTHAN' PROGRAMMES AT KOVVUR

At about 2 p.m, on 27-2-'63 the train bringing Sri Adi K. Irani and Maharani Shanta Devi of Baroda arrived at Kovvur Railway Station. Mr. & Mrs. Koduri Krishnarao, his son and daughter-in-law, Dr T. Dhanapathy Rao, Shri V. V. Narayana Rao, Shri I. V. Seshagiri Rao, and Shri R. S. Prakasa Rao, President and Secretaries and Treasurer of Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, respectively, received the Chief Guests and garlanded them. Messrs. N. Dharmarao, N. S. Murthi and a few other important Baba-lovers also were present at the station to receive them. On the platform the special volunteers of Co-operative Department, Rajahmundry, led by Sri M. V. Subbarao and the squad led by Sri K.V. Suryanarayana of Dowlaiswaram, gave a special salute of honour and led the Chief Guests out of the platform. Befitting the arrival of a Maharani, almost take a 21-gun salute, 21 big and highly explosive crackers were fired. Then the boy-scouts took the Maharani and Adi through a special arch to the waiting N.C.C. squad of the local Zilla Parishad High School. The Maharani and Adi then took the salute from the N.C.C. squad who presented arms to them. Afterwards accompanied by band music in a row of cars, the Chief Guests were taken to the Guest House of Chagallu Sugar Factory, Kovvur.

On the 28th morning important guests started arriving. Messrs. S. R. Siganporia, Amar Singh Saigal, M. P., M. Tirumala Rao, M. P., and K. R. Gazwany of Bombay were lodged in the T. B. Ahmednagar and Poona groups and also Dr. H. P. Bharucha and Dr. C. D. Deshmukh were lodged in a guest house of Fertiliser Factory near Mehersthan. Calcutta and Nagpur and Bilaspur groups were lodged in the Girls High

School buildings. Nowranga, Hamirpur and a few other groups from the other states were lodged in the Officer's Club. In all about 150 delegates from outside Andhra attended the function. Wing-Commander Manohar M. Sakhare and his wife, and four important ladies who belong to the Women Mandali of Bombay all stayed in the rooms available in the Sugar Factory guest-house along with Shri Adi and Party. For all delegates outside Andhra, special arrangements were made for their food, tiffin and tea in the house of Shri Koduri Krishnarao.

From Andhra, more than 3000 Baba-lovers attended the function. They were all lodged in the Z. P. High School, Girls Middle School, Sanskrit College, and two guest houses of the Fertilizer factory. Besides, several Andhras stayed with their relatives and friends in the town. In the Zilla Parishad High School, Sri A. Venkatappayya, Headmaster, took the lead and made all arrangements for their comfortable stay. It was a very difficult task and the Headmaster with a band of more than 200 volunteers did all these arrangements very well.

At 6-30 a.m. to the accompaniment of band and Sannai who specially came from Masulipatam, the Chief Guests were brought in a procession in cars from the guest-house to Mehersthan. Special explosive crackers were fired notifying the various events—the departure of the Maharani and Adiji from the Guest-House, their arrival at Mehersthan, the cutting of the seven-coloured ribbon at Mehersthan, unveiling the statue of Baba, and unfurling the seven-coloured flag of Baba.

The procession was an impressive item—first, the full band, and even in front of that, Naubatkhana; after the band, the Kovvur Sannai and then followed the Nadaswaram party of Masulipatam; then several bhajan parties and finally a temple chariot, with the cut-out picture of Baba mounted on it brought by Vijayawada lovers, which heightened the grandeur of the

procession. Behind the chariot, cars carrying Maharani and Adiji and a few Bombay lovers followed. Several fireworks of different nature were fired. In the main market-place, the Maharani and Adiji, and the Bombay party, got out of the cars and walked for a distance. It was more than a mile-long procession.

Very many important and big officials of both West and East Godavari Districts and leading businessmen, land-lords and Baba-lovers in other walks of life, participated in the function.

It was estimated that the attendance at these functions was more than 10,000 in the morning and more than 15,000 in the evening.

—NSM.

Acknowledgement:

A COLOURED PICTURE OF BABA

We are glad to acknowledge the receipt of a coloured picture of Beloved Baba in "Buddha-pose" just received for display and sale on the occasion of the opening of "Mehersthan" at Kovvur, which is very attractive and realistic. We heartily commend its artistic beauty and its utility for prayerful meditation on Beloved Baba by all Baba lovers. Single copy of it can be had for NPs. 50 only, from Shri Kaki Satyanarayanamurty, Seasonal Trading Company, Jai Hind Lodgings, Rajahmundry (Andra Pradesh-India). Other particulars can be had from the publishers.

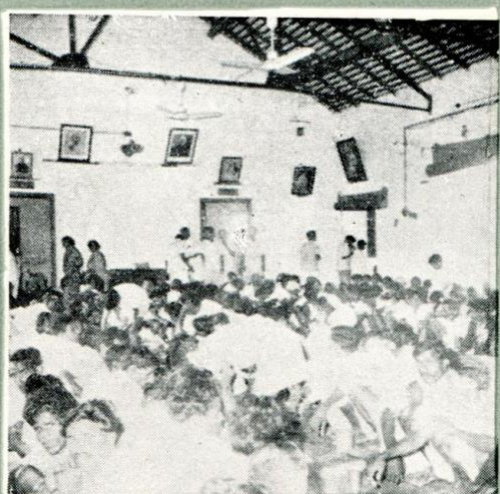
—SSP



Chief Guests' Lodge

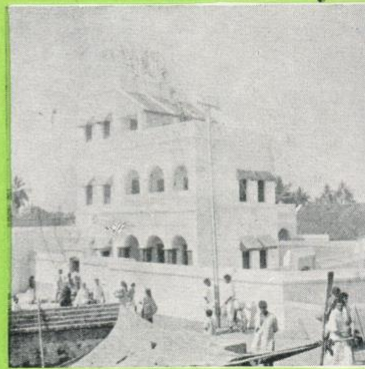


Kovvur High School
Volunteer Corps



Baba-lovers at Dinner in the Kovvur High School

View of Night Procession on 28-2-63



Bro. KODURI'S HOUSE

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

27-2-1963

Receiving the Chief Guests, Maharani Shantadevi Gaekwad of Baroda and Shri Adi K. Irani, Disciple and Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba, and others at the Kovvur Railway Station.

I. Opening of 'Mehersthan':

28-2-1963: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

1. Reading of Address in English at the entrance by Maharani Saheba. followed by reading of the translation in Telugu by Shri T. S. Kutumba Sastri.

2. Cutting of the seven-coloured ribbons by Maharani Saheba and entering 'Mehersthan' ball.

II. Unveiling of Baba – Statue:

1. Reading of Address in English by Maharani Saheba followed by reading of the translation in Telugu by Shri T. S. Kutumba Sastri.

2. Unveiling of Baba-statue in the sanctuary by Maharani Saheba at 7-32 a.m.

III. Unfurling Of Baba-flag (seven-coloured):

1. Reading of Address in English by Shri Adi K. Irani.

2. Unfurling of the flag on 'Mehersthan'.

8 a.m. to 8-30 a.m.

IV. Special songs composed for the occasion sung by Shri Bhaskara Raju and party and the Bhajan Parties of the Meher Centres of Poona and Ahmednagar, and in English by Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, and by Shri Babjee & Party of Kakinada in Telugu.

V. On The Dais:

8-30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

1. Reciting 'Parvardigar' and 'Repentance' prayers in English by Shrimati Mona Sakhare.

2. Reading of Address of Welcome in English to Maharani Saheba and Shri Adi K. Irani by Shri Koduri Krishna Rao.

3. Replies by Maharani Saheba and Shri Adi K. Irani.

4. Reading of the eight Messages in English, from Avatar Meher Baba, by Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao, President, Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, followed by reading of the Telugu translations thereof by Shri V. V. Narayana Rao, Secretary of the Centre.

VI. Speeches By:

Kavi Yogi Maharshi Suddhananda Bharati, Dr. Hoshang P. Bharucha, Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, M. A., Ph.D., Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M. P., Dr. Sankara Sree Rama Rao, Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, M.A., Ph.D., Shri Pydi Lakshmayya, B.A., B.L., (Commissioner, H. R. & C. Endowments, A. P.), Shri Mancham Butchilingappa Sastry (Telugu Verses), Shri D. V. Krishnaiah, (Principal. S. R. R. & C. V. R. Govt. College, Vijayawada.), Shri Bhagavatula Satyanarayana (Telugu Verses), and Shri Achari.

VII. 'Arati' sung by Shri Bhaskara Raju & Party.

VIII. Lunch & Tea/Coffee, Recess: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

IX. (a) Songs by Meher Lovers: 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

(b) Music Concert by Masulipatam Party:
4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

X. Sannai music by (A. I. R.) Artistes of Masulipatam:
5 p.m. to 5-45 p.m.

XI. Dance-Drama 'Meher Leela' by Eluru Party:
5-45 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.

6-45 p.m. to 9 p.m:

- XII. (a) Procession with the cut-out picture of Avatar Meher Baba mounted on the temple chariot well decorated and illuminated.

9 p.m. to 10 p.m:

- (b) Dinner.

10-30 p.m. to 12 midnight:

- XIII. Baba film-show:

- i) "East-West Gathering" at Guruprasad, Poona in November, '62, and the Darshan Programmes.
- ii) Baba's summer-stay at Guruprasad in 1961 etc.

1-3-1963: 12 midnight to 2 a.m.:

- XIV. 'Harikatha' covering Avatar Meher Baba's Life-Sketch, His Work and His Message of Love and Truth by *Hari-katha Ganakokila* (Nightingale) Ammula Viswa-nadha Bhagavatar of Vijayawada.

2 a.m. to 3 a.m.

- XV. 'Meher Kirthan' – Life-Sketch in English: Songs by Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, M.A., Ph.D.

3 a.m. to 5 a.m.

- XVI. Songs and Bhajans by the Bhajan Parties of Meher Centres.

8 a.m. to 12 noon:

- XVII. All India Baba Workers' Convention:

1. 'Parvardigar' prayer by Shrimati Mona Sakhare.

2. (a) Reading of Welcome Address in English presented by the Avatar Maher Baba Andhra Centre, Kakinada, to Shri Adi K. Irani, Disciple and Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba, by Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao, the President of the Centre.

- (b) Welcome to the delegates and lovers by Shri T. S. Kutumba Sastri.

3. Reply and the Opening Speech by Shri Adi K. Irani.

4. Other Speeches by:

Shri Amar Singh Saigal, M. P., Delhi; Wing Commander, Shri Manohar M. Sakhare, Delhi; Dr. Hoshang P. Bharucha Navsari; Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, M. A., Ph. D., Kharagpur; Shri S. R. Siganporia, Bombay; Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, M.A., Ph. D., Nagpur; Shri Pukar, Hamirpur; Shri K. Narayana Rao, Eluru; Shri M. Appala Naidu, Bapatla; Shri Hari Jeevanlal, Delhi; Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen, Kakinada; Shrimati Homa Malati, Poona; Shri Shanti Ghosh, Calcutta; Shri C. V. Balnatu, Poona; Shri Kishore Mistry, Bombay; Shri R. P. Punk Raj., Nagpur; Shri M. R. Dhake Phalkar. Ahmednagar; Shri Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao, Kakinada; Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, M. A., Ph. D. (2nd time).

5. Vote of thanks by Shri V.V. Narayana Rao, Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre.

6. 'Arati' by Shri Babjee & Party, Kakinada.

3 p.m, to 5 p.m:

Introduction of Baba-workers and lovers of Andhra and also the Governing Body Members of the Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, who were presented to Shri Adi K. Irani.

6 p.m. to 6-25 p.m:

Farewell and Departure of Maharani Saheba and Shri Adi K. Irani and party.

—VVN.

APPENDIX – II

News and Notes:

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALL INDIA
CONVENTION OF BABA WORKERS HELD AT
'MEHERSTHAN' KOVVUR
on the 1st March 1963

On the holy occasion of the opening of 'Mehersthan' at Kovvur (Godavari Bank) on the 28th February, 1963, the Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre took an opportunity to hold a Convention of Baba-workers and Lovers of the various Meher-Centres in India.

The Convention was held on 1-3-1963 in the 'Mehersthan' Pandal with the kind permission of Shri Koduri Krishna Rao, Mehersthan, Kovvur. Shri Adi K. Irani, Disciple and Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba, Ahmednagar, presided over the Convention.

The Proceedings commenced at 8-30 a.m. with recitation of 'Parvardigar' prayer by Shrimati Mona Sakhare.

Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao, President, Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, Kakinada, read the Address of Welcome presented to Shri Adi K. Irani by the Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre.

In reply, Bro. Adi. while thanking the Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre for its welcome address, expressed that his ego was a bit tickled and that when he compared his services to Baba with those of others, he paled into insignificance and found himself in a process of self-abnegation. He expressed with a sense of profound simplicity and humility that there was an

inkling of fear in him which made his consciousness feel that the ego had been there. He further stressed that it was the degree of exercising of the ego that concerned us most and that unless Baba gave us His Grace, none could wash off the ego.

Shri T. S. Kutumba Sastry, while welcoming the distinguished delegates from the various Baba-Centres in India, requested them to put forth the difficulties experienced by them in doing Baba-work so as to enable Bro. Adi to have an opportunity to resolve them.

Bro. Adi requested the group-heads of the various Baba-Centres in India, who were present, to explain their difficulties experienced in working and to give suggestions so that details of difficulties might be cleared later. He urged that the ground-work should be exchange of ideas and intimacy of work in the cause of Baba.

The gist of the speeches by the delegates is given below:—

1. Shri Amar Singh Saigal, M. P. (Delhi):

(i) Workers' Circles should be formed at each Baba-Centre. Baba-workers should meet every week at one place for an hour or two; and every worker should have a determination to meet others to speak about Baba, and to enlist new lovers.

(ii) He laid stress on the celebration of Poornima Sammelans, for 'Poornima' is a very auspicious day for the Avatar, who is in flesh and blood amidst us.

(iii) He expressed that Baba is the only Avatar and nobody else. Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa spoke of

three categories of doctors viz.. (a) one who examines, (b) one who writes prescriptions and (c) one who puts the medicine down the throat of the patient. The speaker said that Baba has been the Doctor of doctors, who practises the three in one. This conviction should grow in every worker and lover of Baba in carrying out His work.

President's Remarks:— Shri Saigal has been a very sincere, honest and enthusiastic worker of Baba, and that he is a man of experience and also socially and religiously far above others.

2. Wing Commander Shri Manohar M. Sakhare, (Delhi):

While agreeing with Bro. Saigal, he laid stress on (i) Bhajans in addition to the weekly meetings, (ii) the need for individual workers to arrange a 'get-together', as in Delhi, in various localities of the Centre, which should be done periodically in order to have exchange of ideas about Baba and also to enlist new lovers; and (iii) the need for printing and distribution of suitable pamphlets and leaflets, as prescribed by Shri Adi, in English and regional languages, such as those published by Poona Centre: "Baba on War", "Baba on Peace", "Truth of Religion" and so on.

President's Remarks:—Shri Manohar has been a symbol of Love. He has never been sparing in sacrifice—some intellectual contribution, time and money. The love of Delhi cannot be under-estimated. "Left to myself, I am nothing when compared to them."

3. Dr. Hoshang P. Bharucha, (Navsari):

He spoke on 'How to do Baba-work effectively'. He considers that apart from Bhajans, Burrakatha etc., good work should be done.

(i) Every group-head, who has intimate knowledge of Baba-literature and His Philosophy, should make others, individually in the group, know about Baba intimately. To be a Baba-worker, the pre-requisite should be a perfect knowledge of all about Baba. So, there should be a class held invariably at every weekly gathering in order to train workers. It is, therefore, essential that one lover from each centre should take up this aspect and work on it.

(ii) Baba's Message and Love and Truth should be meticulously practised as that makes one bold and fit for Baba-work.

(iii) All Baba-Centres in India should work in unison and on sound lines. To achieve the objective, exchange of delegates among the Centres should be resorted to for eliciting new ideas and views on the subject. It is also essential that, once a year, a meeting of delegates of all Centres should be held to discuss the varied experiences of the work done during the period.

(iv) Each Centre should keep a proper record of its activities done in every year, which should be sent to Meher Journals for publication, so that an assessment of achievements could be made at the end of each year.

President's Remarks:—Although Dr. Bharucha had only few years of contact with Baba, his love for Baba was very intense. His urge for work has been stronger than his (Adi's). "Such sincerity and urge are not noticed in me and several others."

The President further expressed that after getting all the suggestions, we should put them together, formulate and see how we could put them into practice. "However, one should balance his enthusiasm with a firm conviction."

4. Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, M.A., Ph. D., (Kharagpur):

(i) The message of Beloved Baba given at the East-West Gathering in November, '62 at Guruprasad, Poona, "My Dear Workers", contained the quintessence of all that is needed for workers. Baba's Message of Love and Truth should be spread in the Baba-way. For this purpose, a delegation of Baba-workers, 15 or 20 in number, headed by Bro. Adi should undertake an All India Tour, along with a Bhajan Party and also a translator. This has to be taken up on a missionary basis, and whom to draw up and from which Centres, should be left to Bro Adi.

(ii) Beloved Baba Himself should undertake an All India Tour. He should visit the several spiritual Centres like West Bengal, because to convince a Vedantin is a very difficult task for an ordinary worker.

President's Remarks:— "We are we and Baba is Baba." Though one might put forth one's suggestions, Baba's physical condition would not permit Him to undertake the proposed tour. "Baba has his own views and decisions about men and matters. He is God-Man, in three Infinities—Infinite Knowledge, Infinite Power and Infinite Bliss. Baba has been exercising His Knowledge. We have to convince a person that Baba is Avatar. To explain in a manner which sinks down his heart is a thing to be achieved by us."

5. Shri Shorabji R. Siganporia (Bombay):

(i) Baba-workers should take into their hearts the wishes of Baba. Most of the workers instead of fulfilling Baba's wishes, do not care to fulfill the words of Baba. Every one should practise and carry out what is laid down in the Message, "My Dear Workers" and "My Dear Children" given by Baba at the East-West Gather-

ing at Poona in November, 1962. For example, we have a Meher Hall at Bombay, but rarely do people gather regularly and this attitude should change. He expressed that, he, however, found a unique thing at Mehersthan, i.e., love of Andhras surpassing all things.

(ii) An All India Convention of Baba Workers should be a yearly feature and it should be held at Ahmednagar itself and at no other place, for we get there a chance to meet our Beloved and be benefited thereby. It should be of great importance that a spirit of love should be created and fostered among all Baba-Workers and lovers.

President's Remarks:— (i) Shri Shorabji has done a lot of useful work at Bombay. Every worker should understand properly the human temperament which is always there when the workers meet on a common level and have a close relationship with the centre and attend the weekly and monthly meetings.

(ii) Yearly meeting of all the centres should create a greater understanding among workers. If Baba allows delegates to gather at Ahmednagar, it is all right. But, the places of different centres can be the venue of Convention at different times. However, a Centre's Convention will not by itself solve all the difficulties in the way of Baba-work.

6. Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, M. A., Ph. D., (Nagpur):

(i) Love is essential for Baba-work. Mere enthusiasm is no good. This aspect should be practised in our daily lives and in Baba-work.

(ii) Baba's teachings should be carefully studied and meticulously followed. We should be always respectful to the teachings of our Beloved which are available as dictated by Him in His life-time, whereas those of Christ and the Buddha were written long after they had laid down their physical body.

(iii) A nucleus of Meher University is essential, and it should be started. A beginning should be made either in Poona or Bombay. There should be a symposium or a series of symposia, emphasizing the different aspects of Baba's Teachings and Philosophy. Side by side, there should be a comparative study of different religions so that the intelligentsia might be attracted. All this should be quite apart from giving individual lectures.

President's Remarks:— The University idea is, no doubt, brilliant. Dr. Deshmukh should put down in writing what he really means point by point and present the entire idea in a practical way for enabling us to study it and to consider the whole matter in its perspective.

7. Shri Pukar (Hamirpur):

(i) Question and answer is the best way of propagating Baba's teachings.

(ii) Love needs no propaganda. Every centre is a 'Meher-Kshetra'. Only workers are required to work in love for Baba, with a common understanding and forgetting their differences.

(iii) 'How to work among the poor and suffering?' is the problem.

President's Remarks:— Shri Pukar is a stalwart among Baba-workers. He has deep love for Baba and has enormous energy for work.

Differences of feelings and religion can best be overcome if we come together and work unitedly. A problem is posed as to how to work among the poor and sufferers. This has to be studied deeply by us to find a solution. A common way and set principle to relieve the suffering will not do. Different kinds of suffering should be met in different ways, according to their needs and suitability.

Pukar should put off the question so that we can put it up before Baba, after due deliberation.

8. Shri K. Narayana Rao (Eluru):

(i) Women's gatherings should be created in all Baba-centres and it should be ensured that they visit some house or other every day telling about Baba in order to enlist new Meher lovers.

(ii) Educational institutions should inculcate in young minds thoughts about Baba and train them up in Baba-way.

(iii) Study Circles should be created in all Meher-centres to attract the intelligentsia.

(iv) Dance Drama troupes and 'Burakatha' parties should be trained to spread Baba's Message of Love and Truth, especially among the masses in villages. They also give training to the Intellect and Heart.

(v) Money should never be the criterion for Baba-work. First work should be started and money would flow of its own accord.

(vi) There should be no Constitution for Meher-Centres as it is a creative impediment.

President's Remarks:—"The idea of Women's gatherings is marvellous. I have taken a specific note of this suggestion." Mothers' directions to children will train and bring out prachar work through students. 'Burakatha' has not yielded perceptible results in Northern India. Perhaps, the lovers and workers there are not adepts in that. The dance-drama is really unique. It is a matter of opinion that Constitution hampers work. No Constitution should, however, come in the way of real work. As regards money, whether it is first or last, makes little difference. Money is essential for

every work. And a fund has to be created for the purpose. But, one who has the urge for Baba-work should not throw cold water on the collection of money and work done in a proper way.

9. Shri Appala Naidu (Bapatla):

He has opened a new centre at Bapatla and wants to get doubts cleared at the meetings. Rich persons, teachers and officials should give lectures in the Cause of Baba and spread His Message of Love and Truth. He wants Baba-literature to be sent to him.

President's Remarks:—The Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre will give all co-operation and support to Shri Appala Naidu in his work.

10. Shri Hari Jeevan Lal (Delhi):

(i) Public meetings should be conducted often.

(ii) Baba-photographs and literature should be freely distributed and made available to the public for their benefit, especially those who had no opportunity to have the darshan of Baba.

(iii) One should talk about Avatarhood, not giving much importance to personality.

President's Remarks:- Shri Hari Jeevan Lal is a great worker and an ardent lover. Though individualistic views and work are necessary, there should be always a good adjustment to the general views coming from more than one or two in a Centre.

11. Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen, (Kakinada):

(i) To start with, every worker should answer himself the question whether he is fit and equipped to be a Baba-worker.

(ii) Baba says, He has come not to teach but to awaken. Then, are we fit to preach? So, we must be prepared first to learn to love each other. Let us be silent models of preaching.

(iii) His publications have been spreading Baba-prachar work to the nooks and corners of Andhra.

President's Remarks:—Swamiji is a jewel among Baba-lovers in Andhra. He proved himself worthy of Baba's work. The journals published by him speak about the sincerity of his work.

"I was convinced of his capacity and now I must say that he has 100% love for Baba and His Work."

12. Shrimati Homa Malati (Poona):

She agreed with the Swamiji. She said that one should be a symbol of simplicity with a simple tongue. One should keep both his head and heart balanced.

President's Remarks:—She is simplicity embodied. She is wise enough as a lamb to fight with the wolf when it comes to that.

13. Shri Shanti Gosh (Calcutta):

(i) After coming into contact with Baba, one should take it as his responsibility to spread His Name and Message of Love and Truth. He said something about the work done at Calcutta, succeeding Shri A. V. Raghavulu.

President's Remarks:—He is glad to hear about the views on the work.

14. Shri C. V. Bala Natu (Poona):

(i) Introspection on the part of every Baba-worker and lover is most needed which gradually overcomes

one's own drawbacks and, engenders *esprit de corps* among Baba-workers.

(ii) Every one should have a clear understanding of Baba-work.

President's Remarks:— Shri Bala Natu is an ardent and sincere lover of Baba and also a meticulous worker. He does his work thoroughly. Baba-work is really inward-out; but our work is only outward. It is something like a huge cloud of Love.

15. Shri Kishore Mistry, (Bombay):

Baba-workers should make their children do Baba-work. Young Baba-workers should be encouraged. One who cannot agree with others cannot train one's children to do Baba-work.

President's Remarks:—The President agreed with the speaker's views. In a constitution where there are more than one worker, we should address ourselves to the persons concerned and be helpful to those important persons concerned.

16. Shri R. P. Punk Raj (Nagpur):

(i) The important aspect in Baba-work is that one should try to improve oneself first. Co-operate in the work of others and deliver his goods in a sound condition. This does not mean that one should postpone Baba-work, until he improves himself. Baba does His work and we are His instruments.

(ii) One should have dauntless Love and courage of conviction and engender in others the same qualities.

President's Remarks:—He is a very old lover of Baba and a true lover—a combination of the thoughts of Shri Bala Natu and his own. Of course, all cannot be

expected to have self-introspection. However, a false sense of fear and timidity should be thrown out by every genuine lover of Baba, to speak out that Baba is the Avatar of the Age. One should be able to stand on his own legs in this regard.

17. Shri M. R. Dhake Phalker (Ahmednagar):

He is a man with a practical bent of mind. He accepts Baba as Avatar of the Age and God Incarnation, the Highest of the High. His experience as a practical worker in society can be distinctly classified into three categories:

(a) *Individual relations*:—As an individual, one should be thorough with Baba's Teachings, and get ready to answer any straight or trickish questions put by a listener. He should exhibit dauntless courage and perseverance to withstand the attacks from all sides. Also, he should develop a dynamic personality. Generally the response from the public will be all right. However, one should give a go-by to one who does not believe in Baba.

(b) *Relations with the Centre*:—There will be, no doubt, ego-centric differences in opinions. But, one should develop a digestive spirit, eliminating 'Ego' and evince a spirit of co-operation, which will enable one to get through. Every lover should, however, have sound and harmonious relations with the Centre. The spirit must be "The Centre is he; and he is the Centre, to do Baba's Universal Work!"

(c) *Relations with masses*:—One should move with the masses, so freely and amicably as in his own family circles. He should come down to the mass-level and spread Baba's teachings by impressing the listeners with short-stories, street-dramas etc. The workers

should be able, in short, to inculcate principles in the masses and make them follow in good faith.

The speaker cautioned not to mix up these three items of work, but consider them individually.

President's Remarks:—Shri Dhake is a symbol of physical strength and vigour combined with a sense of deep love and devotion to Baba. He is all humour and a practical worker.

18. Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao (Kakinada):

He requested Shri Adi to send copies of Messages of Love and Truth to all Centres, in order to secure uniformity in doing Baba-work in spreading His Name and Message.

19. Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, M.A., Ph.D.

(He came on to the platform for a 2nd time to refer to Baba's answer to a question about differences among Baba-workers, mentioned in the 'Awakener' of 1948.) A group-head should be always taken as one nominated by Baba and that there should be implicit obedience to what he says to the workers of the group. If one considers himself as part and parcel of his Centre and focuses his individuality in the Centre's work, then the differences vanish.

9. Bro. Adi desired to meet all group-heads and workers individually and, as it was already late for lunch, all were requested to meet again in the evening at 3-30 P.M.

10. The proceedings came to a close with a vote of thanks by the Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, Kakinada.

11. 'Arati' was sung by Shri Babjee and Party of Kakinada, after which the gathering of delegates and Baba-lovers dispersed from the Pandal.

Bro. Koduri Krishna Rao gave a farewell party to all the delegates.

(2) At 3-30 P.M, the evening session commenced in Mehersthan Pandal. Dr. T. Dhanapathy Rao, President, Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, Kakinada, introduced to Shri Adi K. Irani individually the Andhra group-heads, workers and also the members of the Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, who were present at the time. Bro. Adi gave his warm embrace to one and all introduced to him.

(3) The evening session concluded with the song specially composed for the occasion, "Oh! Ho! Premika! Meher Premika!", sung by Bro. Babjee and Party, Kakinada.

(4) A send off was given at the Kovvur Railway Station at 6-25 P.M. to the delegates and to the Chief Guests, Maharani Saheba and Bro. Adi, with echoing sounds of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai!"

—VVN.

Baba – Lovers get another chance of His 'Darshan' at Poona.

Life Circular No. 57

Issued on 12-3-1963

This Circular is for Easterners only. Westerners are not permitted to come to see Baba in Poona this year, as they were given special opportunities for Baba's close contact at the East-West Gathering last November.

Some of the Eastern lovers of Avatar Meher Baba could not participate in the East-West Gathering in November last and they are eagerly awaiting the word from Baba regarding the possibility of His giving them darshan sometime this summer during His stay at Guruprasad in Poona. In response to this, Baba has directed me to send out to all His lovers the following:

(1) Baba will be in Poona at Guruprasad bungalow, 24 Bund Garden Road, from the 24th March through the end of June 1963.

(2) Baba wants His lovers to continue to help Him remain undisturbed during His stay at Guruprasad by not visiting Him contrary to His wishes as mentioned hereunder.

(3) Baba permits His lovers, if they wish and can easily afford to do so, to visit Him at Guruprasad on Sundays, on and from 14th April.

The visiting hours will be only from 3-00 P.M. to 6-00 P.M. on all the ten Sundays of the following dates:—

April: 14th, 21st and 28th.

May : 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

June : 2nd, 9th and 16th.

(4) Baba does not wish His lovers to visit Him at Guruprasad after the 16th of June 1963. Baba will leave Poona on the 30th of June for Ahmednagar.

(5) Baba wants all concerned to bear in mind that His permission to visit Him on the specified Sundays is not meant for the general public but is only for His Eastern lovers who are eager to see Him with love and who can conveniently afford to make the trip to Poona to do so.

(6) Baba wants all visitors visiting Him on the specified Sundays, to abide by His following wishes:—

- (a) that no one should expect Baba to see anyone individually.
- (b) that no one should seek or expect to have an interview with Baba.
- (c) that no one should seek Baba's advice on personal problems of oneself or others.
- (d) that no one should put questions to Baba, spiritual or otherwise, nor expect any spiritual discourses.
- (e) that no one who cannot afford conveniently should make the trip to see Him. And that those unable to make the trip due to unfavourable circumstances should not feel upset but remain resigned in Baba's LOVE.

(7) Baba wants His lovers to bear in mind that His permission to visit Him on specified Sundays is given especially to those who missed visiting Him during the East-West Gathering in November 1962. However, Baba also permits His other Eastern lovers who did come to Poona in November last but for reasons of duty allotted to them or otherwise could not approach Baba to their entire satisfaction. In short, whosoever wants to visit Baba at Guruprasad is permitted to do so but

only on the specified Sundays from 3-00 P.M. to 6-00 P.M. None should therefore seek or expect to receive any special permission or instructions from this end. Each one visiting Baba must understand that he or she comes on his or her own responsibility in every respect, also being mindful of one's health and job.

(8) Baba says that by observing all the points His lovers will help Him to stay undisturbed at Guruprasad during this summer.

(9) Lastly, in response to the many Birthday Greetings, telegrams, and cables that He received on 25th February, beloved Baba directs me to convey to all His Lovers in India and abroad that He was touched by the love of His lovers and that He sends His Love and Blessing through this Circular.

Meher Publications
K i n g ' s R o a d
Ahmednagar
Maharashtra, India

ADI K. IRANI
Secretary & Disciple
Avatar Meher Baba

MEHER MELA AT DEHRA DUN (U. P.)

By P. S. V. AIYER

"Meher Mela" which was celebrated on 23rd March, 1963, at the Dusehra Ground, Dehra Dun (U. P.), is an important event in the history of the propagation of Avatar Meher Baba's Message of Love and Truth by His devotees in Dehra Dun. The occasion was closely linked with the donation of about one *bigha* land by Smt. Meherkanta (Mrs. Bal Krishna Bakshi) of 82, Rajpur Road, Dehra Dun, very close to the office of the Regional Transport Department in which premises Avatar Meher Baba had stayed from 18th February 1953 to 30th November 1953.

The function opened in the morning with bhajan by the ladies and the Parvardigar prayer. Sri Keshav Narain Nigam of Hamirpur (U. P.) read Baba's special message of love-greetings sent for the occasion and also its translation in Hindi. The following was the telegraphic message received from Baba: "All who will assemble in my love on 23rd March are blessed with Blessing of love"—Meher Baba. The actual act of land demarcation was made by Smt. Meher Kanti (Mrs. Bal Krishna Bakshi) by decorating the boundary of the land donated with white powder. Smt. Prakashvati thanked the donor in a neat little speech. Shri M. Thirumal Rao M. P. (Ex-Lt. Governor, Vindhya Pradesh), laid the foundation of "*Meher Dham*" and stated that the place was still vibrating with grace of Baba who had stayed in the buildings situated close to the site.

After light refreshments, the audience left in a procession with playing of band and carrying Baba's decorated portrait on an elephant for the Parade ground

where the function continued. Sardar Bahadur Inder Singh, retired District and Sessions Judge, delivered a speech, after which the meeting dispersed for lunch.

The afternoon session opened with devotional music. Sarvashri Shri Prakasa (Ex-Governor), M. Thirumal Rao, M. P., Amar Singh Sehgal. M. P., V. D. Kain of Delhi, D. V. Rajan and P. S. V. Aiyar of Calcutta and others delivered speeches on Baba.

Quawali music was arranged on the occasion. Films were shown giving pictures of Baba's second Public Darshan in Dehra Dun on 1-11-1953, his darshan programmes at Ahmednagar, and other places, and his trip to U.S. A.

Greetings and messages of good-wishes were received from Dr. C. D. Deshmukh of Nagpur, Shri A. C. S. Chari of Calcutta and others.

The gathering consisted of local devotees and representatives of Baba-lovers from Hamirpur, Calcutta (West Bengal), Delhi and other places.

On 24th March, a group of devotees paid a visit to Mafi Majori, about seven miles from Dehra Dun where Baba lived a part of his "New Life" in 1950 in a house built on a plot of land acquired for the purpose.

On 25th March. Baba-lovers held a special bhajan with Arati at the residence of Shri Kishan Singh, Meher Centre, Dehra Dun. On this occasion, Smt. Freeny Narawala read a paper in Hindi and Shri Keshav Narain Nigam gave a talk on Baba.

STATEMENT

About ownership and other particulars about newspaper 'DIVYA VANI' to be published in the first issue every after last day of February.

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I, Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 10-4-63 (Sd.) SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN
Editor & Publisher.

DIVYA VANI

(Divine Voice)

AN EARNEST APPEAL

We are happy to have published this 'Mehersthan' Special Issue of our "DIVYA VANI", with all the details, speeches, photos and Beloved Baba's Special Messages of the occasion in a befitting manner and make them available for the benefit of our dear readers and subscribers. It may be noted that the volume is almost double the normal one, in addition to colour printing of the 60 blocks on real art paper of 18 pages, in attractive get up and set up. We are therefore obliged to enhance the price of each copy to Rs. 2/-. We hope and request our subscribers will be good enough to remit us this extra amount of Re. 1/- along with their advance payment of their yearly subscription of Rs. 4/- for the ensuing year, making the total remittance of Rs. 5/- early before the end of May '63 and oblige.

We now further appeal earnestly to all Baba-lovers to kindly take more interest in the progress of this enterprise, in spreading the messages of Beloved Baba and His literature by way of rendering all possible help to popularise this magazine, "DIVYA VANI", a humble instrument of service in Baba's cause, to the extent and in the way possible for them. We take this opportunity to offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who have rendered their kind help to us during the period of past two years and request their coordination further more for the progress of this journal in the years to come.

In this connection we solicit help from all philanthropists who may be pleased to extend their munificent cooperation by donating Rs. 100/- or more and become our

"Patrons" & "Life-members" and thus render us timely help. Love-gifts of Rs. 10/- every year, thus becoming our "Helpers" will also be of immense help to us. Those who can take some interest in securing us subscribers will also be deemed to have done real good for the cause of this Journal. Our grateful thanks will be recorded for all those that render us any such help.

The following may kindly be noted for information:

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10th April '63,

Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen,
Editor: 'Divya Vani.'

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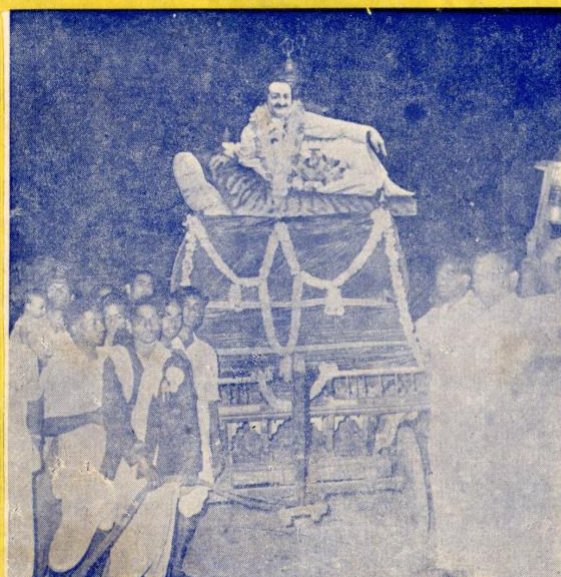
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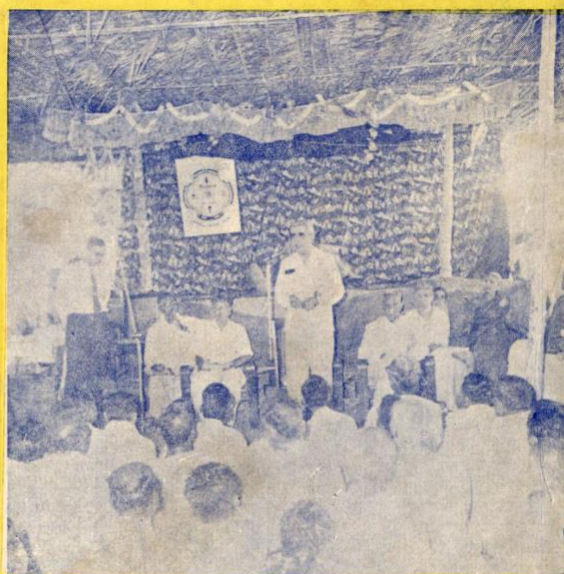
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All India Baba-workers Convention held at *Mehersthan*, Kovvur on 1-3-'63



Starting of the
Procession on the
evening of 28th
February '63



Shri Adi K. Irani, President, All India Baba Lovers' First Convention,
addressing the gathering on 1-3-'63.

Register of Editorial Alterations for the Online Edition of <i>Divya Vani</i> vol 2, no. 4				
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Mheher's	Meher's	(viii)	6	4
MADHU- SUDHAN	MADHU- SUDAN	(viii)	7	3
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an	a	7	1	14
ducks	dunks	10	1	12
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Dias	Dais	110	1	1
an	a	118	2	2
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