

**BE ALIVE WITH MEHER BABA**



**THE DIVINE BELOVED  
ALWAYS WITH US**

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In Commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary of the Silence Avatar of the Age, Meher Baba observed from 10th July 1925 until He dropped His body on 31st January 1969.

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**BE ALIVE WITH MEHER BABA  
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**AVATAR MEHER BABA** stressed on the importance of gaining the grace of a Perfect Master so much that some of His very intelligent lovers began searching for one, as soon as they walked down the Meherabad Hill on 7 February 1969, after His divinely human form was made to rest within the crypt of the Tomb-Shrine, built to hold His divine Presence 31 years ago. As the saying goes, 'As you seek, so you find'. The very persons I found discussing the need to have a living Perfect Master found one soon after. But, was it necessary? Is it necessary?

Meeting the Avatar of God is the end of one's journey. This meeting need not be physical. The grace of all Perfect Masters, present, past and the future is in the NAME of the Avatar, who holds absolute authority to give spiritual enlightenment to any who seeks, whether He is in form or without form. One has only to love Him honestly and wholeheartedly and endeavour to live in obedience to His will.

Constant and unbroken remembrance of His NAME is the only thing that is necessary.

No wiser definition of the term God has ever been formulated than the one Meher Baba, the God of the Gods spontaneously gave in America during His extensive tour of that country in 1956:

PHILOSOPHERS, ATHEISTS AND OTHERS MAY AFFIRM OR REFUTE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD, BUT AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT DENY THE EXISTENCE OF THEIR OWN BEING THEY CONTINUE TO TESTIFY TO THEIR BELIEF IN GOD- FOR I TELL YOU, WITH DIVINE AUTHORITY, THAT GOD



IS EXISTENCE, ETERNAL AND INFINITE. HE IS EVERYTHING.

Not only God is in all of us, but we are all indivisibly one with that EXISTENCE, eternal and infinite, which is termed God. The game of life is to attain conscious experience of this Truth, it is when man forgets this Truth-forgets his indivisible link with God that God becomes Man as the Avatar to awaken man once again to the awareness of his link with God and with all other men and creatures. This Truth is made amply clear in the Last Message Meher Baba dictated on the alphabet board on October 7, 1954- an inspiring message for all time- before He dropped the use of the board as an external relation with mankind.

#### MEHER BABA'S LAST MESSAGE ON THE ALPHABET BOARD

"There is no reason at all for any of you to worry. Baba was, Baba is, and Baba will also be eternally existent.

Severance of external relations does not mean the termination of internal links. It was only for establishing the internal connection that the external contacts have been maintained till now. The time has now come for being bound in the chain of internal connections. Hence, external contact is no longer necessary. It is possible to establish the internal link by obeying Baba's orders. I give you all My blessings for strengthening these internal links."

"I am always with you and I am not away from you. I was, am and will remain



eternally with you, and it is for promoting this realization that I have severed external contact. This will enable all persons to realize Truth by being bound to each other with internal links."

"Oh! My lovers! I love you all. It is only because of My love for My creation that I have descended on Earth. Let not your hearts be torn asunder by My declaration concerning the dropping of My body. On the contrary, accept My Divine Will cheerfully. You can never escape from me. Even if you try to escape from Me, It is not possible to get rid of Me. Therefore, have courage and be brave."

"If thus you lose your hearts, how will it be possible for you to fulfil the great task which I have entrusted to you? Be brave and spread MY MESSAGE OF LOVE far and wide, to all quarters, in order to fulfil My Divine Will. Let the words 'Baba, Baba come forth from every nook and corner of the world and from the mouth of every child, and let their ignorance be reduced to ashes by the burning flame of My Love."

"Come together in order to fulfil My Will by taking your stand on TRUTH, LOVE AND HONESTY, and be worthy of participation in My task. I give you all My blessing for spreading MY MESSAGE OF LOVE."

**MEHER BABA**

Focussing one's attention on the image of Meher Baba enshrined within one's own heart through constant and unbroken remembrance of His NAME, while attending to one's duties and responsibilities in life as ordained by Him, as hones-

tly as possible strengthens the internal link with Him, to reestablish which in our awareness He came amongst us.

Of all the books that have been published on Meher Baba after He laid aside His divinely human form, I have a special liking for LOVE ALONE PREVAILS by Kitty Davy. The book is an epic story of a life with the Avatar. The last chapter, 'I AM ALWAYS WITH YOU' made me reminiscent and felt like sharing some of the events and experiences through which Baba gave me the gift of His Name, the sight of His divine beauty, embrace of His infinite Love, opportunity of His sahavas and service and finally the greatest gift of His constant companionship- companionship with infinite Consciousness, infinite Divine Love.

His Name came to me when I bought a volume of GITA RAHASYA by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, English version from the International Book Service, Deccan Gymkhana, Poona in the year 1943, while under Army training at Khadakvasala. In this book was an appreciation of the Gita by Meher Baba. Through that book, His Name accompanied me wherever I travelled during the war in India and abroad. On 31st July 1949, I came to Poona for the third time, and on Friday the 19th February 1954, I had the sight of the beauty of His divinely human form on the No.2 platform of Poona Railway station. For an hour and half the train was detained and He allowed His image to be imprinted indelibly on the screen of my mind-heart. On 29th September 1954, I had the embrace of His Love for the first time. In that embrace was the beginning



of the end of my journey. But I was not conscious of it then. In that embrace was true Yoga- union of Jivatma with Paramatma. But I was not aware of it then. That embrace initiated a process of self effacement- a slow merging of individuality into the indivisibility of God's eternal and infinite Existence. But I was not aware of it then. That embrace infused into my being an enthusiasm that inspired my thoughts and energised my body to ceaseless activities for His cause and today I find myself as a machine in human form operated by His hands unseen. The final Declaration Meeting was called His workers' meeting The seed of service for His cause must probably, have been sown in my being then.

My early upbringing was like that of a caged bird. From home to school and back and occasional visits to a temple, theatre or relations with a guard consisted my world till I was sixteen. Caged birds fly in imagination. So I have developed an imaginative inquisitiveness. Grandma stores of Dhruva Prahalad seeing God impressed on my imagination that possibility. The promise of Christ's second advent in the Bible gave me a hope and began imaginative calculation on the possibility of my being present on the earth when he comes in 2000 A.C. It was with such impressions stored in my what they call the subconscious mind, that I followed Meher Baba, when He led the whole Company of nine hundred and fortyeight men, both from the East and West, belonging to almost all religions of the world, drawn from almost all walks

of life, up the Meherabad Hill on the morning of 30th September 1954.

### ICY TOUCH ON HEART THRICE

Meher Baba walked so fast that all those who followed Him, including those tall and sturdy Pendu and Padri and Shatrugna Kumar of Dehra Dun holding an umbrella over Baba's head had to run. While trying to keep step with the company, suddenly some words from the Bible came to my mind: "He went up the mountain and the multitude followed Him." When all arrived up the Hill, Baba sat under a tree near the gate of Meher Retreat, and all sat around Him. Suddenly came the other words of the Bible: "He sat on the mountain and the multitude sat around Him." As these words came to my mind, I said to myself: "He must be christ!" At once Meher Baba's head turned and He looked straight at me, and I felt something like an ice piece touching my heart region. I forgot this incident in the course of the rushing events that followed one after the other.

*12* Baba took us to His last resting place and made us bow down inside the crypt, where His divine form now rests. Later, standing at the Threshold, Baba said: "Thousands will come to caress the dust of this place. Philosophers and thinkers from different parts of the world will come to learn what happened here. How fortunate you are here with me in flesh and blood" We live to see His words come true. And during the day many a time my imagination takes wings to



Meherabad and I see Him standing by the window opposite the threshold and His divine body lying decked in roses. I lay my head at His sacred Feet and my body draws energy from His Feet to do all that I am ordained by His Will.

. When all returned to the pandal, at the foot of the Hill, Baba entered the tent, mounted the platform and took His seat on the couch. After giving some instructions regarding the participants' returning home direct from Meherabad carrying the atmosphere around Him and then giving a brief talk about His masters, the 'Final Declaration' was read out. The whole company listened in deep silence. But when I realized that He would be leaving the body by April 1955, I felt the same icy touch at the region of my heart, as I had on the top on the Hill, when His gaze fell on me. The greatest treasure found after a life long waiting in an imaginative world, would be taken away just after seven months time! Words can never convey what I experienced at that moment. "God is where imagination ends," said Baba somewhere. But God must remain where the imagination ended. Lo! He remained for me. Fourteen years and four months God waited for me.

During these period of His waiting for me, through the opportunities of His sahavas and service He gave me, He has inscribed indelibly His Name and inprinted the image of His divinely beautiful human form in my heart in such a way that He is now always with me smiling His Love into my life, energising me to be active at all times in what we call His work.

The enthusiasm He infused into my being by the first embrace of His Love was such that the greatest aspiration in my life became 'MAY YOUR SWEET AND SACRED NAME REACH THE EARS OF ALL MEN ON THIS EARTH AND YOUR LOVE EVERY HEART THAT THROBS WITH LIFE!' He has made my life an endless endeavour towards this one aim and He encouraged and helped each and every effort initiated by me in His Name for His cause till this day, till this moment.

Third time that icy touch on the region of my heart came, when I received Adi K.Irani's telegram on the evening of Friday, The 31st January 1969:

For a moment I felt like a blind boy lead by his loving father with the help of a stick suddenly finding himself left alone with the stick. Just a moment only. The next moment I found myself contacting local lovers on phone and with their help communicating the message of the Great Event to others in the area and by 10 P.M. hundred and twenty boarded the next train to Ahmednagar in a special Bogie booked for that purpose. The energy that He seems to have released into my being at that moment sustained me all these over nineteen years through the ordeals I was destined to face and continue to sustain me through an image of His smile shedding light of His grace on the path of life He willed for me.

#### HE ALERTED ME A DAY EARLIER

In spite of the self-withering work He was doing for the redemption of the



world till the last moment, which shattered His physical frame and in spite of the ineffable suffering He was bearing for His creation He alerted His lovers near and far in one way or the other. He alerted me a day earlier. How He did this?

When I was in His Presence on 13 October 1968 His health was such that I instinctively felt He was not going to give that darshan during April-June 1969. So I sat watching Him and filling my being with His Presence. It was a painful meeting and parting. I did not know then that the invitation for darshan He was issuing to His overs through life Circular No.70 dated 1 November 1968 was for that darshan He had prepared mankind to eventually take by journeying across the ocean of illusion and bowing down to Him in their own hearts at places He lived and worked and suffered for humanity, places sanctified by His divine physical presence.

Reading one of the horoscopes of the Avatar appeared in one of the Awakener Magazine I have impressed my mind with the belief that Baba would live for at least five more years in that form. So Beloved Baba's dropping body on 31 January 1969 was an unexpected event for me. I have been receiving information of His health condition from Meherazad and from Adi.K.Irani practically every day and I was attending to the work allotted to me. I was an early riser from my school days. But since my involvement in the Poona Centre activities from 50s made my going to bed late at night and



hence could not maintain my early disciplines in life. But on 30 January 1969 my eyes opened at 4 a.m. and found myself seated on a cane chair and silently repeating His Name 'OM PARABRAHMA PARAMATMA MEHER BABA.' Through out the day it continued unbroken. Even while attending to office work, his image was on the screen of my mind. That evening on my way back from office to the Centre I visited Avan Bungalow to see Maisaheb Patwardhan, Dowager Rani Saheb of Kurundwad at Koregoan Park, as she was ailing from a heart condition. To comfort her I told her how fortunate she was to share the suffering Avatar was taking on Himself for the sake of humanity etc. showing her some of the correspondence I have been receiving from Meherazad. The same experience I had on the morning of 31 January 1969 and throughout the day. silent spontaneous and natural repetition of His Name went on without any effort on my part. It was as if I was moving with Baba. When I reached the Centre that evening, the caretaker of the Centre said: BABA SAMADHI GETHILA, which means Baba has taken Samadhi. I thought, 'what nonsense? Why should God take Samadhi? I did not know then that the word is used for dropping the body of a master. While attending to my daily routine work at the Centre mind was agitated by the strange word 'Samadhi Gethila.' I took the scooter out and went to Bindra House, the residence of Jessawalas in Poona. There, I met Meherwan, Jahangir, Sukhadwala and Jal Bhai. They told me that Baba dropped His body and that we should inform



all local lovers immediately. Returning ly. to the Centre with the silent repetition of His Name, which began at 4 a.m. on 30th January, I found Adi's Telegram waiting. Reading the telegram gave me that icy touch on the region of my heart for the third time in my life.

God is infinite. There is, therefore infinite ways of approach to understand His existence and function in creation. From one angle of vision, the Avatar is the projected personification of the real self in each one of us. Hence He says, 'I am in every one and in every thing. I am every one and every thing.' In our every day life mind of each one of us is focussed on each one's body and bodily wants and needs. In pursuit of these wants and needs mind of each one of us is involved in the affairs of this world of illusion according to one's inclinations determined by one's sanskaras. The Avatar comes to sow the seeds of Love for God in the heart of humanity. But His work as far it concerns those who are drawn into the orbit of His Love, Whether they live with Him or away from Him is to shift their consciousness from the world of illusion to Himself. Those who live with the Avatar are absorbed in Him through the performance of duties allotted to each one. Those who live away from Him are also absorbed in Him through their effort to love and serve Him. To be absorbed in the Avatar in any form whatsoever is to be in link with Him internally. Awakenning me at 4 a.m. on 30th January 1969, a day before His physical withdrawal from amongst us and riveting my consciousness to



the constant remembrance of His Name was a gift of great significance. This gift He had given to all His lovers all over the world in one form or the other. For example, Elizabeth Patterson at Meher Spiritual Centre, Myrtle Beach South Carolina, U.S.A. heard clearly in the night before (30.1.1969): "I know that my redeemer liveth." Many lovers in India had similar experiences.

Nearer to Baba, at Meherabad, Ahmednagar, India, Mohammed, the only mast that lives out of the 'five favourites' said on hearing from Sidhuji, that Padri had been called to Meherazad to assist the Mandali as Baba was not well, "Tomorrow (31st January) Dada (meaning Baba) is coming here and is going to join Gustadji (one of the earliest Mandali who passed away in 1957)!\*\*

At Meherazad, Baba would often tell the Mandali, "The time is very near." On 9th January 1969, while talking to the wife of Adi Jr., Baba said, "Don't worry. All will be well by the end of this month."\*\*

On 30th January 1969, while talking to Dr. Grant from Poona, Baba told him, "My time has come."\*\*

To Bhau Kalchuri, who was constantly near Baba on the last night, Baba told him at 9.30 p.m., "I am not this body." At 10.30 p.m. and again at 12.30 a.m. Baba told him, "Don't worry."\*\*

Referring to His suffering Baba told

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\*\* Love Alone Prevails



Dr. Donkin on Thursday, the 30th January, "This is My crucifixion."

While asking the doctors attending Him to stop the pills and the injections, Baba reminded the Mandali on 31st January "Do not forget that I am God."\*\*

Baba was giving hints of His dropping the body from time to time. On 13th October 1968, When we were with Baba for discussion on the darshan He would give in April-June 1969, Baba said:

"I have been saying: the Time is near, it is fast approaching, It is close at hand. Today I say: the Time has come, Remember this!"

Even the latest hint went unheeded. Dr. Ram Ginde from Bombay was expected to arrive by noon on 31st January 1969, and Baba was enquiring whether he had come. When He was answered in the negative, Baba gestured to say, "By this time he should have come, it is getting late." The Mandali were too busy attending to Baba's needs and this statement did not make them suspect anything.\*\*

It seems that Baba decided the year of His dropping body sometime in the 40s. In a book 'In the Company of Avatar Meher Baba' by M.R.Dhakephalkar, Ahmednagar, India he writes:

"We were going to Delhi from Madras by Grand Trunk Express. It was a long journey and on the way, Baba encouraged us to entertain Him with stories, talks or skits just to pass time."

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\*\* Love Alone Prevails



Baba said that He had an year in His mind. In that year, a very great event would take place and the whole universe would receive a shock thereby. The year might be anything between 1950 and 1999 and the one who gave the exact year in His mind would receive a five rupee note as reward. Everyone made a try for it and Baba would say, "No, not that." When my turn came I said. "1969." Baba at once said. "Exactly you are right. I have fixed up that year in my mind. How did you come to it that I have that year in my mind?"

"Even now, I don't know what is there in your mind. Perhaps you want to give me the prize and have therefore confirmed my conjecture," I submitted.

"No, it is not so, you must have come to this year by some thinking and what is it?" enquired Baba.

"Baba, you like numbers 1, 7, and 9 and consider them to be important. Figures 1 and 9 were already supplied to you by others. By figure, I mean the sum total of all the numbers. I have arrived at the figure '7' by adding all the digits in 1969," I said. The prize was given to me. On the 31st January, 1969 when Baba dropped His body, I re-called to my mind this incident and then realised the significance Baba had attached to the year 1969 and the great event that would give a shock to the whole world was the dropping His body."

The reverberation of this great event of God Man's dropping His body, its ac-



tion and reaction, expression and result in the lives of His innumerable lovers, near and far, in the East and the West can be gauged from what Kitty Davis writes in The last chapter of her book, 'LOVE ALONE PREVAILS,' (sheriar Press, Inc. 801 13th Avenue South, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582, U.S.A. Price \$ 25.00) A book that reveals the incredible way of Avat-  
aric work of awakening man to realities of life.

**K.K.Ramakrishnan**

**I AM ALWAYS WITH YOU**

**Meher Baba**

**Kitty Davy writes:**

IN JANUARY OF 1969, all in the East and the West received a direct invitation from Baba, issued through the Family letter\* of January 26, to attend His darshan which would be held from April through June of that year.

In this same family letter came news from Mani\* that Baba's health had not been good for some time due to the tremendous strain of His seclusion work, but He refused to go to Poona, where medical facilities were better, before the usual time at the end of March.\* Baba warned the Mandali that they should not try to take Him against His wishes and said, "If you

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\* Life At It's Best

\* ' 82 Family Letters



want Me to drop My body now, then take Me to Poona. My condition has no medical grounds at all, it is purely due to the strain of My work. Do not call the doctors again/I tell you." So, helpless before His will, the mandali had to obey. Baba had many times over the years quoted Hafiz's couplet, BEFITTING A FORUNATE SLAVE, CARRY OUT EVERY COMMAND OF THE MASTER WITHOUT ANY QUESTION OF WHY AND WHAT."

Referring further to baba's physical condition, Mani wrote:

"Baba says that the pressure of His universal burden reflects upon His body and as the strain of His work in seclusion was severe, the effect on His body is consequently severe - but though the effect is human the cause is divine, and it is therefore in His hands. We get a fleeting glimpses of this, at moments when unaccountably He looks more well and glowing than one in the pink of health. Indeed in the light of recent tests made, the doctors are much puzzled and amazed by certain favourable factors that are contrary to all rules of medical science."

This was the very last news on Baba's health. In the early morning hours of January 31, Elizabeth\* received a telephone call from Fred Winterfeldt in New York with the shocking news that Meher Baba had dropped His physical form. When we were able to get through to Adi Jr.\* in

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\*Family Letter by Mani (Manija Sheriar Irani) gave an intimate picture of the Atmosphere around the Avatar to the Western Family of lovers and followers. See 82 Family Letters'-Sheriar Press, North Myrtle Beach, so. Carolina, U.S.A.

Invitation to attend Meher Baba's darshan from April to June 1969 was communicated to lovers in India and the East through L.C.No.70 dated 1 November 1968.



London, he confirmed the news. From Adi.K. Irani's office in India a cable was sent out to Baba-lovers all over the world:

AVATAR MEHER BABA DROPPED HIS PHYSICAL BODY AT TWELVE NOON 31 JANUARY AT MEHERAZAD TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE HEARTS OF ALL HIS LOVERS. BELOVED BABA'S BODY WILL BE INTERRED AT MEHERABAD ON 1 FEBRUARY AT 10 A.M. IN THE TOMB HE HAD ORDERED TO BE BUILT LONG AGO."

I was stunned but I did not experience a loss. I felt strongly that Baba was present where we were. I remembered the words from the Bible that came to remain with me more strongly than ever, words which daily seem a part of my being: "I LIVE, YET NOT I, THE CHRIST LIVETH IN ME." Elizabeth recalled the words that she heard clearly during the night: "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH."

It did not occur to either Elizabeth or me to go quickly to India. Our shared thought was to remain in Myrtle Beach and immediately contact all the Baba-lovers in the area. All those from nearby gathered at the Saroja Library and we announced the unbelievable news. Various passages and statements from Baba's books referring to His Infinite Self were read. Quoting Baba's words: "Although I am present everywhere eternally in My formless Infinite State, -from time to time I take form. This taking of the form and leaving it is termed My physical birth and death. In this sense I am born and (in this sense) I die when My universal work is finished."

In the course of time, the long-awaited Family letter from Mani, dated March-



14, 1969, arrived and we were able to read all that had transpired in India after Baba gave up His physical form. From an account by Francis Brabazon included in this Family Letter we read:

"Two days before Baba dropped His body He told us to call the doctors. The one from Poona came the next morning and said he could do nothing until further tests were done so that a definite diagnosis could be arrived at, and this could only be done if Baba went to Poona. Baba said to him, 'My time has come.'

"The next day the doctor from Bombay came, and also one from Ahmednagar. By the time they arrived great spasm shook His body, the pulse rate fell to nothing, and breathing ceased. This was at 12.15 p.m. At 12 noon He had been joking with us about all the medications He had been given.

"In the evening we brought His body to Meherabad. The sun was setting and the moon was rising as we placed it in the Tomb for His lovers to take His darshan."

"In the midst of the mandali's stunned anguish, Eruch reminded Mani to bring to Meherabad the gramophone and record of "Begin the Beguine" as Baba had told him to play the song by His side when He dropped His body. Seven times this was played on 31st January: first in Baba's bedroom at Meherabad, and then at Meherabad in the cabin by the Tomb where His body rested for awhile, and later in the Tomb.)

"While the song played, "Mani recalled "it seemed to convey to us His message that this was not an end but the beginning of His completed work bearing fruit.



A day before dropping the body, even while movement of His fingers brought on a renewed spasm, Baba told us, "All this, and all that I have been through all along, has been a preparation for the Word-for just the One Word!" And with a quizzical smile He added, "Just imagine!"

Regardless of the shock and confusion many devotees came from different parts of India and abroad to "lay their heads at the threshold of the place where rested the body of their Beloved." Continuing further, Mani wrote:

"They found that even at the last, their Beloved obliged them, that He was indeed the slave of the love of His lovers. For seven days and nights Baba gave His silent darshan to thousands of His lovers gave His darshan "reclining" as He said He would do. It was darshan indeed-an unforgettable week of darshan on Meherabad Hill where His lovers thronged to bow down at His feet, offer Him garlands of roses, songs of praise, tears of love."

Baba had said in October of 1968 that He would give darshan to all His lovers all over the world from the 10th of April to the 10th of June, 1969. At that time considering His physical conditions, the mandali were apprehensive of His body standing such a strain. But, as Francis Brabazon recalled, Baba had said:

"It will be easy for Me to give My lovers My darshan, so you are not to feel concerned about it. It will be a darshan reclining and that will be no strain on My body. It will be different from all previous darshans and it will be last in silence. Although I will be reclining I



will be very strong. My physical condition now is because of My work, but by then My work will be complete and My exultation will be great. A very poor man winning a rich lottery can become so excited over his fortune that he collapses and dies. My fortune will be in My work being finished and in the knowledge of its certain fruits, but My exultation will not cause My collapse- it will be My glory."

In response to both Eastern and Western lovers' desire to honour Baba's darshan invitation, Adi K. Irani issued this cable on February 8, 1969:

"DESPITE BABA'S PHYSICAL ABSENCE THOSE LOVERS WHO DESIRE TO VISIT GURUPRASAD POONA TO HONOUR BABA'S INVITATION FOR DARSHAN UP TO TENTH JUNE CAN STILL COME ABIDING STRICTLY TO THE SCHEDULE DATES AND CONDITIONS AS PER FAMILY LETTER DATED FIRST NOVEMBER. JOURNEY WILL NOW INCLUDE HALF DAY VISIT TO MEHERABAD TO PAY HOMAGE AT BABA'S TOMB. AFTER TENTH JUNE ANYONE CAN MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO POONA AND BABA'S TOMB INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE ON ONE'S OWN."

This darshan from April to June 1969, referred to as the "Last" or "Great" darshan was indeed unparalleled in the tremendous outpouring of Baba's infinite Love which, with few exceptions, was felt by all present\* and many who, unable to attend, felt this great Love in their own surroundings. Almost seven hundred men, wo-

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\* Life At It's Best



men and children representing sixteen countries came- "rivers and streams answering the Oceans's call" commented Mani. Devotees from both East and West expressed their love for Baba in the form of music, song, poetry and skits which filled the halls of Guruprasad to overflowing with Baba's Love. Among the many tributes to Baba was a talk by Francis Brabazon in which he said:

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

"Why has Beloved Baba given you people this extraordinary privilege? Because He required a few to do what the many, what everyone, must eventually do: journey across the world of illusion to take darshan of Him in their hearts.

"But you also have your parts to play in this grand journey you have begun- you must not leave it all to your beloved. For every step the lover takes to the Beloved the Beloved, takes ten to the lover. But the lover must continually take that one step. We must practice taking Beloved Baba's darshan, bowing down to Him in our hearts, every day, then every moment until we have continuous sight of Him."

The Myrtle Beach group had chosen the

12 The Myrtle Beach group had chosen the month of May to attend the darshan and Ruth White, in her one hundredth year, was one of those most determined to honor Baba's invitation. But a few weeks before the departure, it was a toss-up as to whether she would be able, due to her health and her family's misgivings, to obey Baba's call. However, with her doctor's permission, we made the necessary preparations for the trip. As it turned out, Ruth was able to go and she withstood the rigors of the long plan journey beautifully.

After we arrived in Poona, Mehera lovingly arranged for Ruth to pay her respects at Baba's chair in the large reception hall at Guruprasad before the other Westerners arrived. It was a touching occasion and Ruth and I were privileged to remain seated the whole time throughout the morning of the programme quite close to where Mehera, Mani and other women mandali were sitting. During our stay, although many seemed tired or weary, not so Ruth, who seemed fresher than most of the others- truly a remarkable woman! Had not Baba called her His "soldier"?

For a description of this special time, I would like to share a beautiful account by Wendy Hayness Connor who attended the darshan with Myrtle Beach group.

"The last Darshan was truly beyond imagination, beyond the highest expectation. On the morning we filed into Guruprasad Hall, filling every corner, and sat quietly facing Beloved Baba's chair. The clock chimed 9.00 and Eruch said, 'It is 9.00 and we have kept our appointment



with God.' Heads bowed in unision as hearts surrendered to the joyous caress of His loving Presence. We sat in absolute silence and listened. The Hall was filled with Beloved Baba's welcome as He spoke in every heart, 'You see, I am here and I love you.' One by one we went up to Baba's chair to receive a personal 'embrace'- a timeless embracing of hearts. Francis Brabazon then addressed the group. We wept with him as he ended, saying, 'What a Beloved is our Beloved. What a mighty Beloved.' A final 'embrace' from Baba and the first two hours of darshan ended.

"Thus the morning hours were spent sitting with Baba and His dear mandali, absorbed in His silent Love: sometimes listening to music, sometimes watching performances. For many it was a first glimpse of Mehera, and an unforgettable one. Each heart was touched by her courage in the face of such tremendous suffering. Each day she came out and sat up front on the far left-hand side of the hall, on Baba's right. That she did this for four days and managed to greet people as well was yet another inspiring example of how she places her Beloved above all else.

"One morning a group of Myrtle Beach lovers performed two of Francis Brabazon's plays: 'The Moon' and 'The Stranger,' directed by Jane Haynes. This was the first time Francis had ever seen these plays produced and he was touched by the performances. Another morning, Pukar, a long time disciple from Hamirpur, stood up to speak but could only stand silently before us, unable to stop the tears flowing. As we watched Pukar struggle with his gr-



ief, the pain of not seeing Beloved Baba's form struck afresh in our hearts and we saw it reflected in this dear disciple's face.

"Perhaps the most poignant afternoon was the one spent at Meherabad and Meherazad. As we walked up Meherabad Hill to sit before the Beloved's resting place, one had the sense, that here, more than any where, God has suspended time, that there was no beginning or end, just the eternal now. Each person entered the Tomb to be alone with Beloved Baba and many emerged weeping with joy of His Love. Suddenly we heard the strains of "Begin the Beguine." A Western Baba-lover, Henry Kashouty, was playing his trombone with all his heart and the notes lingered hauntingly over Meherabad Hill.

10 "Later in the afternoon we clambered on board the buses and headed in the direction of Meherazad. Everyone was eager to see Baba's home of so many years and the home to this day of His Meherazad mandali. What a treat, especially for new one to see firsthand Mandali Hall, Baba's House, Mehera's garden everything! Everyone went their separate ways, following their hearts impulse- some were drawn irresistibly to sit in Mandali Hall where Baba had conducted the business of the day and received fortunate visitors. Others found themselves in Baba's bedroom and were overcome by His presence. Indeed, one woman said, 'It is as if He just stepped out a moment ago.' Although the surrounding area was parched and dry from lack of rain, the garden was alive with color and all could see the love and care with which



Mehera tended it. It was an afternoon to cherish- for what greater gift is there than to walk where the Beloved has walked to touch what He has touched, to be where He has lived and where He still lives in the hearts of His beloved mandali.

"For some of us who had known Baba in the physical form, it was the beginning of a new relationship to Him. And although there was pain mixed with joy at the passing of that glorious form, we could not help but come away from this darshan with renewed conviction that He is truly who He says He is- the Divine Beloved who is always with us. And now that He is no longer bound in human form He has truly come to live within the hearts of His lovers."

After returning from India to the West following the Last Darshan, I had occasion to visit my nieces. Zillah and Jenny in Montreal and I sat by the fire one evening I was able to reflect on Baba's suffering and the culminating events in India of the past year. I recalled His words, "My suffering is begotten of My compassion and love for mankind." As I thought of Baba's Love and suffering for all suddenly tears came- tears that I vowed in India a long time back never to shed except for the beauty of Baba's Love. The moment had come- not in India- not at the Last Darshan- but in the stillness and contemplation of Baba's compassionate Love for all.

It was not until Mani returned to Meherazad that she could share with us in words some of her reflective thoughts:

"Beloved Baba's presence fills each



part and particle of Meherazad. Every room where He sat or slept, every piece of furniture that He used, every article of clothing that He wore, the paths and grounds that He walked on, the trees and flowers that He admired, the birds that He inquired after in dear concern, the hill where He sat in seclusion, the books that He enjoyed having read out, the records of songs which He liked to listen to on the gramophone—each object unveils His Beloved presence.

"So it is not that we grieve for His absence from us, but for our separation from His form—the exquisite garment which wrapped our hearts so fully that we desired nothing else. God-realization was not our concern. Striving to realize God's love expressed through the garment worn and suffered for His creation was enough to occupy lifetime. Since He has put aside His garment, we realize it more and more. His every act of grace and compassion that is recalled, every form of His suffering that is remembered, adds a little to our realizing it. Our growing realization of His Love is a large part of our pain of separation. Baba referred to His beloved Mehera as His 'Radha.' And at times when her tears flow for Baba, Her Lord Krishna, I remind her that this separation is but another tune played on His divine flute, for her life to dance to it as perfectly as it had done to the sweet music of His physical presence.

"To have what one wants is to have everything. To us, being with Baba was everything—and we had it. Staying with God and sharing His humanness was such



completeness for us that it has left nothing besides to want for. We're not looking for any happenings to manifest. We are simply waiting- waiting for His Will to manifest in whatever forms He may choose, that we might keep on carrying it out with our imperfect obedience and His perfect grace."

In the West we, too, waited as Mani had put it, "for Baba's Will to manifest in whatever forms He may choose." We didn't have long to wait: A quickening of His work was immediately Noticeable. The emphasis became concentrated on the outpouring and impact of the Beloved's infinite Love and on our awakening to this infinite Love. In a letter from Europe one wrote, "The Baba-lovers feel the intensity of Baba's Love and grace very strongly - a surge of Love so great as is now outpouring cannot be ignored." From America another wrote, "It is as if a breathtaking tempo has been speeded up five-fold. Baba seems to have no time to waste a single second in this stage of personal and universal outgoing. His Divine Love is everywhere at work." The release of Baba 'as infinite Love began drawing larger and larger numbers to Him- a fulfillment of what He had previously told us would happen. Quoting Baba: "When the Word of My love breaks out of its silence and speaks in your hearts, telling you who I really am, you will know that that is the real Word you have been always longing to hear."

In August of 1969 I wrote to Mani as follows:

"The Center is fuller than ever with



more Baba-lovers than ever. Baba has broken His Silence in the sense that love is pouring out in humanity in more abundance than ever before. Groups and centers are propping up everywhere, like mushrooms, so rapidly. Baba is wasting no time in getting His Message spread. Really, it is incredible to see the results it is producing in so many people's lives over here. / n

"I don't have to refer to what all of you are going through day by day in the familiar surroundings that breathe, whisper and beat only with Baba's Presence- His smiles, His meaningful gestures, His unbroken Love and wishes. Only in the words of Hafiz is there expressed just what this separation means in suffering- the highest and greatest of all suffering- but I want you to know I do understand and Baba in His way will be closer than we know, with our limitations which Baba has been fit to place on His loved ones and can remove at His will and in His time.

"I know you are all busy and move ground with heavy step and heart. I only know Baba is always there as Elizabeth and I feel He is always here."

As to my personal experience of discipleship, I can only say how different in every way from anything I had conceived or imagined have been the results of obeying Meher Baba's preliminary Call, "Come Unto Me." As Baba states, "Spiritual progress is not a process of accumulation from without, it is an unfoldment from within." And how in my own experience have I faced the outward changes that took place after Meher Baba was no longer in the



physical form? It came to me gradually that there must be a consciousness of Baba's presence within, where Baba had always told us He is to be found as He really is. With the increasing number of visitors finding their way to the Center, I realized I had to become very familiar with Baba's writings and references to finding God within, to be able to try to answer the many questions that were beginning to pour in. How vital is Baba's advice that we should read and re-read His words: (For example, I recall very clearly Baba telling a number of people to read God - Speaks three times; for some it was even an order.) At each reading of Baba's words we are sure to grasp something previously overlooked or not clearly understood.

In being drawn consistently to Baba's writings at this time, two statements from His Discourses stuck me as especially profound: "In Myself I am free but in you I am bound. The binding is My crucifixion. It is your ego-mind that binds Me in you." And the second statement: "I am ever conscious that I am in you but you are never conscious that I am in you. Daily I support you and share your consciousness. Now I want you to uphold Me and share My consciousness one day."

Beginning in the 1970s, still at the Meher Spiritual Center in Myrtle Beach, - occasionally I was asked to talk on various aspects of my life with Baba. This I did to the best of my ability, for as Rano once pointed out, "In the early years we rarely had any opportunity to speak to others about Meher Baba. All we were try-



ing to do was to love and obey Him." However, with Baba's help, nothing is impossible if you give the task to Him and remember it is He who does everything through you. One of my Talks was on the theme of "Meher Baba and Consciousness," and with an adaptation of this Talk I would like to bring this narrative to a close.

### MEHER BABA AND CONSCIOUSNESS

Many aspects of the spiritual path seem much clearer when we understand the concept of the word "consciousness." Also certain sayings of Meher baba's, hitherto difficult to understand, become clearer. How I came to live to the present time so unaware of the importance of this word is a mystery to me. Baba used the word so frequently in His writings, but somehow I overlooked its significance. The time, as we say, was not right.

Although the word "consciousness" is in common use today, in my early years with Baba the word "awareness" was far more often used. However, I cannot recall Baba's using or emphasizing either word to any great extent, or if He did I was not aware of it at the time. The words we were most familiar with were love for Baba and obedience that followed from that love. What Baba emphasized was happiness, cheerfulness and the importance of trying to please Him- bringing us closer to loving Him more and more. Looking back however, I realize that above all other aspects of our early lives with Baba in India and in the West, He was silently and continuously weaving one fine thread onto



the canvas, and that fine thread, as I see it today, concerned consciousness. Why, for instance, did Baba call us so frequently to be with Him- to sit with Him, to play various games, receive various orders and duties? I feel He was working to try to bring consciousness away from self and away from the many objects of illusion and duality to the one object of Himself. He appeared never to tire of having us around and His constant inquiry was, "What are you thinking of?" And who can forget His smile and His twinkling eye when you could reply, "of you, Baba."

Think of it: companionship with infinite consciousness, infinite Divine Love- which Baba was and is and always will be- and yet at the time we did not comprehend this. Baba was our friend and companion. Undoubtedly this was as He wanted it- winning our love so spontaneously and at the same time watching our awareness being gently shifted to Himself as the One object of consciousness. Over the years, - this gradual shifting of consciousness grew as our love for Baba deepened. Many of us feel and observe, when we visit the mandali at Meherabad and Meherazad, that we are meeting face-to face with those whose consciousness is completely absorbed in the one object of consciousness, Meher Baba. And yet at the same time the mandali are immersed in the daily duties assigned to them- a perfect balance of head and heart.

How clear today is that moment in 1937 when we were in Nasik and Baba called me suddenly "out of the blue" and spelled out on His alphabet board, "Learn to



love the One in the many and not the many in the One. I am the only friend who will never let you down." How often have I pondered this phrase: And now it is so clear that "the many" means: all the varieties of illusion and duality.

How hard in those early days was our shell of obstinance and ignorance! Only Baba's infinite patience could succeed in His work of shifting our awareness to Him self. For Baba it was a ceaseless struggle, otherwise would He ever have said of us, "You are hard nuts to crack"? Through it all, Baba's magnetic love was pulling us ever closer. This shifting of consciousness was noticeable not only in His work with us, but also in His work with the masts, the poor and the masses. To quote Baba's words: Every one of you is in one form or another the Divine Manifestation. You are in Me. I am in you all. The only way to realize God is through love. Love for God and love for one another." Thus He tells us that the shifting of consciousness can be done through love - a selfless, giving love.

On this theme, I recall Eruch saying that since love and faith are gifts of grace, and perfect obedience is not within the grasp of any one of us, then all we can do is to try and please Baba. And Baba, responding to our need to know how to please, gave us three ways in which we could do this. In so doing, we would grow in our love for Him. Note how positive these ways are: 1) Think of things you would not hesitate to think in My presence. 2) Speak words that you would not hesitate in My presence. 3) Act and do



things that you would not hesitate to act and do in My presence." To these I would add a later statement of Baba's: "Think of Me, remain cheerful in all your trials and I am with you, helping you." It is sometimes said that there are few disciplines that Baba has stressed for the spiritual path, but could we find a stricter inner discipline than these four points with their emphasis on obedience?

As Baba wrote to Kimco in the early 1930s: "My work is the conscious realization of Myself in all creation. I alone do My work but I allow you, My close ones, to work for Me so that you have the opportunity to use your talents and capacities selflessly, so as to draw closer to Me." We know of course that all work is God's work- creative arts, caring for children, -sweeping the porch. But what we have to keep in mind is that fine thread of consciousness that must permeate all work and become its motivation in order that we may experience love, joy, peace and happiness. The Greek writer Kazantzakis expresses this theme so well: "This life becomes a crusade in the service of God. Whether we wish it or not we set out as crusaders to free not only the Holy Sepulchre, but God, buried in matter and in our souls." What a divine work! Nevertheless, we have to remember that Baba has told us the binding of Himself in us is His own doing. It was, all along, God's plan that Reality gets buried in the ego-mind, attaching itself to illusion until eventually the individual self finds its way back to the Ocean (God consciousness).

Baba once referred to the shifting of



consciousness as one surrender after another. What eons of degrees ~~of~~ consciousness between its two poles! As Teilhard de Chardin has said, "There are as many waves of consciousness as there are human forms."

Fortunate indeed, I feel, are children whose consciousness early on is spontaneously centered in Baba, their Friend. Baba spoke of the young generations as the New Humanity and He states, "Through divine love the New Humanity will learn the art of cooperative and harmonious life-oneness."

From the beginning Baba told us, "It is not practical to have spiritual ideals without putting them into practice. To realize the ideal in daily life, to give beautiful, adequate form to the living spirit- this is being practical in the truest sense of the word." And He continued, "I will teach you how to move in the world and yet to be at all times in communion with Me as the Infinite Being."

Meher Baba has said that the spiritual impact of the Avatar continues until He returns again within 700 to 1400 years. Elizabeth Patterson, in her article "Follow Love" from the Meher Baba Journal writes on the Avatar's spiritual impact as follows:

"From time to time in the history of religions, there have been revivals where man asserted his right to know God for himself and demanded his experience, uncircumscribed by rights and creeds. No amount of persecution could dim such fervor, and only when the experience ceased to be direct and intimate did the waves subsi-



de. Religions itself is inspired from the living example on earth of God as man. God the abstract can be worshipped from afar, prayed to, meditated or pondered upon but when Divine Love awakens the heart the affections become concentrated and objectified. God, the Beloved, has ever been in the form of Savior. He who, like Christ, has become one with God is God-Man. Those searching in this present era have heard the call of the Avatar: 'I am the Ancient One; I was Ram, I was Krishna, I was this One, I was that One, and now I am Meher Baba.' It is the Avatar who kindles the genuine enthusiasm that is indispensable to the disciple's progress and to the heart of the seeker. Meher Baba's very life is the Divine example of Love and Truth."

I recall that, in reference to the above, Baba has said that one may follow God in the Absolute, but one must bring the Absolute into one's own being. This surely is what we must do if we want to be really alive and filled with enthusiasm— a word that comes from the Greek and means literally "alive with God." It is so important to be alert and ready to give a smile, a word of interest, an intuitive response that would help others. Baba, by the example of His own life, shows us that not by running away from life but by communicating with and loving one another can we strive to shift our consciousness to His infinite Oneness.

If we try to remember Baba every time our consciousness slips back from the "ONE" to the "MANY", we will be on the way to putting into practice the valuable le-



ssion of mental control and obedience, and thus be pleasing Baba. What we need to try to do is to learn to love Love. Baba reminds us to let all our thoughts, words and deeds be controlled by our constant remembrance of God, with love.

Clearly Love and Love alone prevails in Meher Baba's final message to us, dictated by Him on January 6, 1969:

"To love Me for what I may give you is not loving Me at all. To sacrifice anything in My cause to gain something for yourself is like a blind man sacrificing his eyes for sight. I am the Divine Beloved worthy of being loved because I am Love. He who loves Me because of this will be blessed with unlimited sight and will see Me as I am."

- Meher Baba

### MEHER BABA'S PRESENCE

Since 1944 Meherazad, outside Pimpalgaoon Malvi village, nine miles north of Ahmednagar became Meher Baba's second abode where He has stayed longer than at any other place. To those who lived with Him Beloved Baba's presence fills each part and particle of that sacred place. Every room where He sat or slept, every piece of furniture that He used, every article of clothing that He wore, the paths and grounds that He walked on, the trees and flowers that He admired, the birds that He inquired after in dear concern, - the hill where He sat in seclusion, the books that He enjoyed having read out, the records of songs which He like to listen to on the old gramophone- each object un-



veils His Beloved presence.

The Beloved's presence can also be felt and His image can be seen at places He lived and worked for the redemption of the world- Devid Sassoon Hospital, Pune, where the divine child was born, the houses He lived in and grew up, the schools and college He studied in, The Neem Tree, under which waited Hazrat Babajan, the Emperor of the spiritual realm of the time to unveil Him, and where He built the Tom-Shrine for His master, where the world of His lovers bow down before they go to Him at Meherabad; the lanes and streets He walked on and played with other children; the places of His other masters He visited to take charge of the world, Kasba Peth where the three wise men from Persia seeing the light of oncoming Avataric advent came and settled there, prepared the ground for His work in the hearts of people lived around the Shrine of famous Saint Khwaja Salauddin to be blessed by the touch of the holy feet of the Avatar, the Pune-Bombay road, He walked with His forty followers towards Manzil-e-Meem at Dadar, Bombay, at the place where He lived in a hut in Shivajinagar, a township named after and in honor of Him as Shivaji (His partial manifestation three hundred years ago) when He came to prepare and sanctify the great land for His Avataric advent in our time. It is inspiring and interesting to remember the great event of historical significance, a sudden interest evinced by the British Government in getting Shivaji's statue unveiled in Poona (opposite Shanwarwada) at the hands of the Prince of Wales- the then Duke of Windsor, on the



occasion of his visit to the city in the year 1921 synchronised with Baba's physical and spiritual presence in Poona. It was a symbolic act of great spiritual and material significance designed in the divine plan of the Avatar for the removal of monarchy from the face of the earth and for giving freedom from domination to all people. The Duke of Windsor, heir apparent to the British Empire, where the sun was believed to have never set, by unveiling the statue of Shivaji, spiritually bowed his head down to the Avatar, the Director of the divine drama and wasn't destined to wear the crown and in it was first divine step in India's Independence.

The Beloved's presence can also be felt and His image can be seen at the houses and shops of His lovers, where His early lovers in Poona assembled to sing His glories and where He physically visited in the 50s and 60s.

The Beloved's presence can be felt and His image can be seen at the Centres created by His lovers all over the world for His Cause. But there are three Centres in the world He had created by His Will, and where He had created an atmosphere of His Love and Presence and blessed it with His divine physical presence.

1. Meher Spiritual Centre, Myrtle Beach, So Carolina, U.S.A. He called it His Home in The West, where He stayed in 1952, 1956 and 1958. 2. Avatar's Abode, Woombye, Queensland, Australia. Here He stayed in 1956 and 1958, and which He said will become a place of pilgrimage. 3. Avatar Meher Baba Poona Centre at the sacred birth place of the Avatar. He visited the land when it



was purchased in 1959. When the construction was in progress He came with some of His mandali and Maharani Shantadevi of Baroda. When the construction was over He opened the Centre with His divine hands on 1st may 1964 and on the 1st anniversary of its opening on 1st May 1965, He gave his darshan to His Eastern lovers.

Guruprasad, 24-Bund Garden, Poona brings to mind the God Man's presence in Poona during Summer months, when fortunate ones from the East and the West met Him year after year, until 1965, when His lovers from the East had His darshan for three days in May. Guruprasad has become immortal by the great event of "1962- East West. Gathering", when His children from the East and the West sat at His Feet from 1st to 4th November. This event was in fulfilment of a statement He made in England 30 years before: "It will be one of my greatest miracles to bring together and blend the realistic West and idealistic East; the West at the zenith of its material and intellectual attainment and the East at the height of its spiritual manifestation in the shape of a Perfect Master will meet without shaming or looking down upon each other. I repeat- materialism and spirituality must go hand in hand." /k

It was here in Guruprasad Baba made the most profound public proclamation about Himself after the 'HIGHEST OF THE HIGH' issued at Dehra Dun 1953. Addressing the participants, Baba said:

My dear Children,

Your coming from different places and from across oceans has pleased me. And



although no sacrifice to be near me is too great, I am touched by the sacrifice that some of you have made.

Those who have not been able to come should not feel disheartened, for my love is with them as always and specially so at this time.

/c You have come from great distances not for some convention or conference but to enjoy my company and feel afresh my love in your hearts. It is a coming together of children of East and West in the house of their Father.

All religions of the world proclaim that there is but one God, the Father of all in creation. I am that Father.

I have come to remind all people that they should live on earth as the children of the one Father until my Grace awakens them to the realization that they are all one without a second, and that all divisions and conflicts and hatred are but a shadow-play of their own ignorance.

Although all are my children they ignore the simplicity and beauty of this Truth by indulging in hatreds, conflicts and wars that divide them in enmity, instead of living as one family in their Father's house. Even amongst you who love me and accept me for what I am there is some times lack of understanding of one another's hearts.

Patiently I have suffered these things in silence for all my children. It is time that they become aware of the presence of their Father in their midst and of their responsibility towards Him and themselves. I shall break my Silence, and, with my Word of Words, arouse my children



to realize in their lives, the indivisible Existence which is GOD.

Throughout the years I have been giving many messages and discourses. Today I simply want to tell you who are gathered here in my love to shut the ears of your minds and open the ears of your hearts to hear my Word when I utter it.

Do not seek my Blessing which is always with you, but long for the day when my Grace will descend on all who love me. Most Blessed are they who do not even long for my Grace, but simply seek to do my Will.

### THE GREAT DARSHAN

One day in November 1968, Baba casually remarked to His mandali "In March you all march to Poona." It appeared to them then no more than a delightful pun. Much later when the month of March arrived in His physical absence, they asked themselves, - whether Baba would want them to go to Guruprasad, Poona as usual, and they then realized the significance of Baba's remark in November 1968, which had provided them with the answer. So on March 30, 1969 they all marched to Poona, where they witnessed the miracle of Meher Baba giving His darshan to His lovers, who came in response to His invitation, at Guruprasad from 10 April to 10 June 1969. Besides the hundreds who came from different parts of India, nearly seven hundred came from sixteen countries. An unprecedented event in the annals of Avataric Advent.

K.K. Ramkrishnan.



## MEHER BABA SEEN

14 From 25th February 1894 to 31st January 1969 Meher Baba, the Compassionate Father of all in creation was in that appealing-~~to~~-all-hearts human form of M.S. Irani. Baba has often told us. "I am not this body that you see." From 12-15 p.m. on 31st January 1969 He assumed His natural form keeping aside the body which He was not, the exquisite garment which, in the language Mani, wrapped the hearts of His lovers so fully that they desired nothing else, that which made God's infinite Love and Compassion tangible to them, that which was their constant companion. Those who lived with Him were in the habit of writing to His lovers who were physically away from Him: "Beloved Baba is with you every moment. Baba says He is with His lovers always." From 31st January 1969, they began learning to live those words, because Baba began to live with all men and creatures, as He ever was, is and will be.

15 Not only His lovers began seeing His Presence, but even strangers-men and women who had not known of Baba, who were simply acquainted with His Name began seeing Him after He dropped His body, and personally recounted their experiences to Baba's lovers. A Zoroastrian High Priest, who had heard of Meher Baba, but had neither love nor belief said: "Baba appeared to me in the early hours of the morning of 31st January 1969. I saw Baba, a bright light round His head, riding speedily past me on a white horse and saying "I am going to my Manzil (destination)." Overpowered by that vision, the priest felt compelled to visit Meherabad. There he asked permissi-



on to enter the Tomb and pray for a while. After doing this, he went down the steps of the crypt and took Baba's darshan by reverently touching His feet- an unprecedented act on the part of a Zoroastrian priest! On the final day too he had a glimpse of the Beloved's compassion. After leaving the Tomb, the priest felt drawn to take yet another look at Baba, and jostled his way back through the crowd. But however much he craned over the solid front row of lovers' shoulders, he could not see into the crypt. Then, all of a sudden, Baba's face appeared to his vision! The priest said that Baba actually raised His head and smiled at him, and then gradually reclined again.

Experiences of three persons living in different localities of Nagpur, Maharashtra State, India- persons who were not Baba lovers, who were not even acquainted with lovers of Baba. Their only contact with Baba was that they had at some time heard the name of Meher Baba:

On 3rd February 1969, a clerk working in a Sales Tax department, was sitting in his bedroom before starting out for the office. While seated there, he saw a jeep approach and stop by his front door. From it he saw Baba step out with a few other men, stopping to converse with them for a while. The clerk also saw and heard some people standing around the jeep calling out "Meher Baba has come", and instantly he bowed down with reverence and love that surged over him. Just then Baba turned His face towards him and smiled. The clerk says that he was fully awake at the time; that until this scene before his



eyes disappeared, he took it to be an actual occurrence.

The second man who had a similar experience, is a deputy collector. An ardent devotee of Lord Rama, he daily meditated before Rama's picture and recited Sanskrit couplets which invoke Rama's protection and guidance. On the 7th of February, while he was doing this, he was confronted by a blinding light. Opening his eyes he saw a man before him, a man whom he instinctively recognized as Meher Baba. Filled with a happiness he had never experienced he gazed adoringly at Baba. This went on for over an hour, during which Baba appeared in various garbs and headgears—now in a sadra, now in Western suit, now in a kafni, now wearing a scarf, now a fez cap. It continued even after his wife interrupted by coming in to remind him that it was long past supper time. Although she managed to coax him away for a while, when he returned Baba was again with him for nearly two hours more. It amazed him to learn that his wife had not seen Baba when she had entered the room, had seen no one in the room beside her husband! This deputy collector now tells others, "Meher Baba is the Avatar—He was Rama, He is Meher Baba. He is the one and the same Avatar. He is, and always will be."

A middle-aged housewife was the third person—she had come across Baba's name in some booklet, years ago. Recounting her experience she said that on 25th February she had been busy all day attending to a sick relative. Returning home, she tried to catch up on her neglected household chores and started at the sink. Being



fond of devotional singing, she sang while she washed the dishes. Suddenly the room lighted up with a dazzling light. She turned to see what had caused it, and beheld a smiling figure reclining on a tiger skin, the right hand forming the sign that means "Good!" Instinctively she knew that this was Meher Baba. Bathed in a bliss she didn't know could exist, she bowed low before Him. She felt inspired to compose a song for Him, and wrote it down then and there- a song that touched the hearts of Baba's lovers to whom she presented it at the Centre. There at the Centre she saw the picture of beloved Baba that is exactly as He had appeared to her at her home. She had never set eyes on it before, nor on any other picture of the Beloved.

Volumes can be written if one cares to record the experiences of Baba lovers all over the world.

Meher Baba's Presence is so all-pervading that there is no place where He is not. But His living presence is in the hearts of His lovers.

Meher Baba has stamped His advent in the heart of humanity. Meher Baba's image is imprinted in every atom of creation. knowing this Truth try, try and again try to love Him in all and serve Him in each other. Meher Baba is love. We have to learn to love LOVE. LOVE alone can save us from ourselves. Jai Baba!

K.K.Ramakrishnan

### VISIONS AND DREAMS

A staunch and pious Zoroastrian, woman



living in Aden had heard of Meher Baba but refused to entertain the preposterous idea that He could be the same as Lord Zoroaster (the Christ)! One morning, while she was praying before a framed portrait of Zoroaster, she saw the picture fade away before her eyes and in its place appeared a Face she had never seen before- it wore an expression of ineffable love, and hair that was down to the shoulders of a brown fur coat. For a long time she believed it to have been a vision of St. Peter, until one day she saw a picture of Baba in the home of a dear friend in India, a head study that seemed to her a replica of her vision- and then she knew that it was Meher Baba she had seen in Zoroaster's picture! She and her family are devoted Baba lovers.

1d A woman in U.S.A. who hadn't even heard of Baba. She was lying critically ill in hospital, when she saw the form of a man approach her beside. He was dressed in a soft white robe, bathed in a light that was dazzling but cool. Smiling with love, He bent down and placed a hand on her brow that soothed her to sleep. Years later she came across a picture of Baba in some magazine, and recognized her Visitor of the hospital!

A man in Bombay, a Parsi who denied and challenged Baba's divinity whenever he heard his acquaintances and friends talk about Him. One night, in an agonizingly vivid dream, he saw a sky overcast with dark clouds. While he was gazing up, a great light shot out from the clouds like a big sun, from which a figure emerged walking towards him. Dazed, the man



moved forward and kneeling before the figure he bowed his heads to the ground and cried out "Meher Baba, forgive me for all that I have said about you; it was said in my ignorance. O forgive me!" The Figure then bent over him and caressed his back for a long while, until he felt his back was beginning to bleed. Looking up he found himself alone, and woke up. His wife related this dream to a Baba lovers family she visited in Ahmednagar.

From a letter from a man in U.S.A. "I am sure that you know about me, and that what I will tell you is not new for you. After much reflection and hesitation I have decided to communicate first with you, since from what you will read you will see that I have some justification. I have been in the U.S.A. since 1967. I was born in Bulgaria, where for 23 years I experienced all the horrors and difficulties that people have who are characterized as enemies of the state. In addition, I was accused of having taken part in sabotage.... Later it was proved that I was innocent, but that did not ease my situation.

"I first quite tangibly observed help from 'invisible helpers' when escaping, they conducted me together with my wife across the frontier in daytime, at 2.30 on a bright sunny day through wire entanglements, among mines and heavily armed guards. When I arrived in U.S. I began to work, but on July 19 I fell down the stairs and my spinal column was injured and my left arm atrophied. I was immediately operated. Two months later my wife underwent a very complicated operat-



ion again. This was truly a great trials for me. Then unexpectedly there occurred what is actually the subject of this letter. I don't know whether to call it a miracle or a vision, and if I had not been fully conscious I would not have believed it myself.

During the night of November 26-27 I was awakened by a strange noise, the next moment the room was filled with a blinding light, in the center of which I saw a completely normal human figure, which pronounced in pure Bulgarian: DO NOT FEAR. DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?'

'Yes' I answered mechanically, 'YOU ARE MEHER BABA.'

"I must confess that I had known nothing about the bearer of that name although it is true that about four months ago I merely heard it pronounced, without any other details. What led me to answer immediately thus I can still not understand.

"The human figure with a kind glance and meek words continued: 'BELIEVE FIRMLY I SHALL HELP YOU.'

"It became dark again; I heard the same strange noise, which also awakened my wife. She found me in a state of ferish excitement which lasted two days- like a frenzy or trance. All this impels me to seek a means to get in touch with you. I now already believe deeply that you will help me. I will joyfully wait to receive your instructions. My greatest hope is, if I can, to be of service to you.

#### ECHO OF MEHER BABA'S SILENCE

Although I am present everywhere eternal-



ly in My Formless Infinite State, from time to time I take form. This taking of the form and leaving it is termed My physical birth and death. In this sense I am born and (in this sense) I die when My universal work is finished.

\* \* \*

My suffering is begotten of My compassion and love for mankind.

\* \* \*

When the Word of My love breaks out of its silence and speaks in your hearts, telling you who I really am, you will know that that is the real Word you have been always longing to hear.

\* \* \*

Spiritual progress is not a process of accumulation from without, it is an unfolding from within.

\* \* \*

In Myself I am free, but in you I am bound. The binding is My crucifixion. It is your ego-mind that binds Me in you.

\* \* \*

I am ever conscious that I am in you, but you are never conscious that I am in you. Daily I support you and share your consciousness. Now I want you to uphold Me and share My consciousness one day.

\* \* \*

Learn to love the One in the many and not the many in the One. I am the only friend who will never let you down.

\* \* \*

Every one of you is in one form or another the Divine Manifestation. You are all in me. I am in you all. The only way to realize God is through love. Love for God and love for one another.

\* \* \*



Think of Me, remain cheerful in all your trials and I am with you helping you.

\* \* \*

My work is the conscious realization of Myself in all creation. I alone do My work, but I allow you, my close ones, to work for Me so that you have the opportunity to use your talents and capacities selflessly, so as to draw closer to Me.

\* \* \*

Through divine love the New Humanity will learn the art of cooperative and harmonious life- oneness.

\* \* \*

It is not practical to have spiritual ideals without putting them into practice. To realize the ideal in daily life, to give beautiful, adequate form to the living spirit- this is being practical in the truest sense of the word.

\* \* \*

I will teach you how to move in the world and yet to be at all times in communion with Me as the Infinite Being.

\* \* \*

One may follow God in the Absolute, but one must bring the Absolute into one's own being. This surely is what we must do if we want to be really alive and filled with enthusiasm.

\* \* \*

To love Me for what I may give you is not loving Me at all. To sacrifice anything in My cause to gain something for yourself is like a blind man sacrificing his eyes for sight. I am the Divine Beloved worthy of being loved because I am Love. He who loves Me because of this will be blessed with unlimited sight and will



see Me as I am.

\* \* \*

Have hope. I have come to help you in surrendering yourselves to the cause of God and in accepting His Grace of Love and Truth. I have come to help you in winning the one Victory of all victories-to win yourself.

- Meher Baba

### Twelve Ways Of Realizing Me

1. If you experience that same longing and thirst for union with Me as one who has been lying for days in the hot sun of the sahara experiences the longing for water, then you will realize Me.

\* \* \*

2. If you have the peace of a frozen lake, then too will realize Me.

\* \* \*

3. If you have the humility of earth, which can be molded in to any shape, then you will know Me.

\* \* \*

4. If you experience the desperation that causes a person to commit suicide and you feel that you cannot live without seeing Me then you will see Me.

\* \* \*

5. If you have the complete faith that Kalyan had in his Master- in believing it was night although it was day because his Master said so- then you will know Me.

\* \* \*

6. If you have the fidelity that your breath had in keeping you company till the end of your life- even without your constantly feeling it, both in happiness



and suffering, never turning against you-  
then you will know Me.

\* \* \*

7. When your love for Me drives away  
your lust for the things of the senses,  
then you will realize Me.

\* \* \*

8. If you have the quality of selfless  
service unaffected by results similar to  
that of the sun, which serves the world by  
shining on all creation-on the grass in  
the field, on the birds in the air, on the  
beasts in the forest, on all of mankind  
with its sinners and saints, its rich and  
poor-unmindful of the attitude toward it,  
then you will win Me.

\* \* \*

9. If you renounce for Me everything  
physical, mental, and spiritual, then you  
will have Me.

\* \* \*

10. If your obedience is as spontaneous,  
complete, and natural as light is to the  
eye or smell to the nose, then you will  
come to Me.

\* \* \*

11. If your surrenderance to Me is as  
wholhearted as that of one who, suffering  
from insomnia, surrenders to sudden sleep  
without fear of being lost, then you will  
have Me.

\* \* \*

12. If you have that love for Me that  
Saint Francis had for Jesus, then, not only  
will you realize Me but you will please  
Me.

Meher Baba



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*For every step the lover takes to the Beloved, the Beloved takes ten to the lover. But the lover must continually take that one step. We must practice taking Beloved Baba's darshan, bowing down to Him in Our hearts, every day, then every moment until we have continuous sight of Him.*

- Francis Brabazon

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