# CELEBRATING

# Avatar MEHER BABA'S

Sixty-Seventh Birth Day

25th February 1961



MEHER CENTRE



MEHER BABA'S

Message for 67th Birth Day

"I am the one who is always lost and found among mankind. It is your love for your self that loses me and it is your love for me that finds me. Love me above everything, for now while I am in your midst I am most easily found as I really am."

# CELEBRATING AVATAR MEHER BABA'S SIXTY-SEVENTH BIRTHDAY

25th February 1961

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This brochure comprises selected Messages of AVATAR MEHER BABA. They are the overflow, in words, of His Silence which He has kept now for 35 years. Those who would understand these words must seek for their meaning within this Silence which has expressed itself through a life of service to humanity. This understanding will come through a heart awakened in love, not by an intellect sharpened through gymnastics. Even worldly knowledges do not come to one without devotion and dedication: how much more so will it be with Divine Knowledge — for the source of that Knowledge is LOVE.

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S true Message is in His Silence. The Messages contained in this brochure are but encouragements, born of His compassion, to us to discover the silent Message of His Silence.

FRANCIS BRABAZON

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# DIVINITY

Lose yourself in your Self and find yourself in Me.

When I bow to you I bow to My Infinite Self that I "see" in you all.

I have come from the Highest to your level. I am one of you, one with you, and one in you. Take me to be yours, and you naturally become mine. If you are poor, take me to be poor. If you are rich, take me to be rich. If you are literate, take me to be literate. I am approachable to one and all. But only those can truly know me who truly love me.

I belong to no religion. Every religion belongs to Me. My own personal religion is of My being the Ancient Infinite One and the religion I teach to all is love for God.

This love can be practised by anyone high, low, rich or poor; and everyone of any caste or creed can love God.

The one God who resides equally in us all is approachable by every one through love. So I give My blessings that at least some of you may love God as He is to be loved.

I am the One so many seek and so few find. No amount of intellect can fathom Me. No amount of austerity can attain Me. Only when one loves Me and loses oneself in Me, am I found.

This love must be so honest that not only others should not know it, but you yourself should not be aware of it.

One of the Divine aspects is infinite goodness, and so, do good but without expecting any appreciation for the same from any quarter.

I love children and never feel more happy than when amongst them. I would prefer to have time to play with them rather than have all this garlanding, "Puja", "Arti", etc., especially as I am expert in playing marbles. Ages ago when I woke up I began to play marbles with the Universe.

I would feel especially happy if you, pupils, one day become Masters of Art of Divine Love and be torch-bearers of Truth that is Baba.

I want you to feel that I am one of you and that is why I am now sitting here on the ground with you all. I am on the level of

each one of you; whether poor, rich, small or big, I am like each of you. But I am approachable only to those who love Me.

Only those who can lose themselves in My Love will find themselves in Me. This is not an idle talk but an authoritative statement, for eternally I have been and I will always be the slave of My lovers.

In the spiritual path, messages and addresses mean nothing. Without actual experience all philosophical statements are idle talk and all ceremonial is further addition to the existing illusion.

If instead of performing ceremonies and rituals mechanically as age-old customs, people were to serve their fellow-beings with the selflessness of love, taking God to be *equally* residing in one and all and that by so serving others they are serving God, My work will have been fulfilled.

I gave you all My blessings so that if not all, few of you, some of you or one of you, can love God honestly and find Me in every one and every thing.

The Universe is My ashram, and every heart is My house; but I manifest only in those hearts in which all, other than Me, cease to live.

The only message I could give and have been giving is "Love God" — and you will find that your own self is nothing but God.

God cannot be theorized,
God cannot be discussed,
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.

I am one of you, one with you, and one in you and we are all One. To realize this oneness, love God wholeheartedly and honestly, sacrificing everything at the altar of this supreme Love, and you will realize the Beloved within you.

Do not worry. Love Me more and more. Hold on to My 'daaman'. Whatever trials and difficulties you may be passing through, you are sharing in My Universal working and are fortunate to do so. The time is not far when I will reveal Myself and you will see Me as I am. My love to you each.

I am really the only one who is not in seclusion. It is the rest of humanity that is in seclusion, and I have come to make it emerge

into eternal Freedom. The time has come and it has to be done.

For ages I have been giving in silence
My silent Message of Love.
You ask Me for a message from My silence,
But silent are the words of My silence.
Silent is Love, and the lover loves My
silence,

And silently adores Me in My silence.

What do you mean by Yoga and what do you aspire to attain through it? There is only one true Yoga and that is 'You go'. I know of no other Yoga than 'You go'. The meaning of Yoga is as simple as that. You are your own curtain and only when 'you go' can 'you come'. But the problem is how will 'you go'? The only solution is love. When 'You' go (are annihilated) through love for God the Beloved. 'You' come (emerge) as you really are.

Truth when it comes, comes in a flash within. When knowledge comes one knows everything; but Truth and Its knowledge is not found unless one seeks with all his heart and, when one feels that he cannot live without It—one finds It within the self. I give you my Love, and this Love will help you find Truth.

I have been repeatedly telling people for ages that only love can bring us near to God. God, who is within us, can be realized only through love...... I give you My Love.

Sai Baba made me assert this time what I am; Babajan made me feel what I am; Upasni Maharaj made me know what I am.

Although you find Me moving about amongst you, playing with you and, in fact, doing all that a supposed living man does, <u>I am really dead!</u> I am living because I am dead. Die all of you, in the real sense, so that you may live ever after!

Don't worry about anything. Keep thinking of Me constantly.

I am the only one that exists, the only one that matters.

I enjoy playing marbles, flying kites, watching cricket, playing cards and 'gilli-danda'. I have not come only for such play. I have come and taken this body for other purposes. I am the Ocean of Mercy, Compassion and Love. We know that there are judges in the Courts of Law and that their duty is to pass judgement after judgement for they have to

give justice. The worldly judges do give justice-either a person is convicted or punished or acquitted or released according to the judgement of the worldly judges. I am the Universal Judge and as such, I give Justice. Not only do I give Justice but I also forgive, whether or not one is found guilty. My Justice does not punish the guilty; it forgives. My forgiveness makes the guilty fully realise their guilt.

I am the Ancient One, the One Beloved residing in the hearts of all individuals. Undoubtedly I am the Ancient One, I reside in all. Therefore, if you can love all and make them happy and serve them at your own cost and at the cost of your comforts, then that would be loving Me - that is loving Me who is the Beloved residing in every individual heart.

I am continuously crucified and continuously taking birth.

You have no idea what I am bearing—but I have the biggest of hearts — I am the ocean.

The only place that can hold Me is the heart. Keep Me close with you — I am always there.

The Universe will be shaken and the brunt of the impact will fall on Me.

I come to sow the seed of Love in your hearts.

I am not here just for crowds. I am here for the individuals dispersed among the crowds who silently adore Me.

I want you to make Me your constant companion. Think of Me more than you think of your ownself.

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

Don't worry, remain happy.

My love for those who belong to Me and are ever close to My heart never changes, whatever its expression and whenever conveyed.

Those who lose their all in Me find their all in Me ever after.

Do not try to understand Me. My depth is unfathomable. Just love Me.

If you love Me, nothing can come between you and Me.

# LOVE

If you have rock-like faith in God and flame-like love for Him, nothing in this world will affect you. Misery will not trouble you. Flattery will not touch you. Happiness will not humour you. Such faith and love will cause you to rise above the imaginary phenomenon and make you understand that God alone is real.

Although I observe silence, I speak through you all. I am ever silent yet am everlastingly speaking. The time has come when I will soon break this outward silence and those who love Me will see My real Self. Take with love the "PRASAD" of Love that I give, eat it with love and the seed of Love will be sown within you.

All messages, writings and lectures mean nothing. For the common man, the most practical way of loving God is to help others lovingly. God is in every one, so if you try to love others, help others, make others happy, you are then loving God. So even attending to your every day life duties, you can still love God.

Love for God can be expressed in so many ways, because He has infinite aspects. The

three aspects of Power, Knowledge and Bliss are well known but infinite Honesty and infinite Goodness are also aspects of Him, and goodness means where there is no thought of self.

When you serve your fellow-beings with selflessness, you serve God, but this term "SELFLESSNESS" is so very loosely used that, in its very use, its purpose is lost. Selfless service means that it has to be so very natural that even the thought that you are serving should be absent.

What God's aspect of honesty means is that you serve others in order to make them happy at the cost of your own happiness. Honesty demands that no show and no fuss is made of your service and you treat others as you treat your own dear ones.

Where there is love there is oneness.

Only a Master can awaken love through Divine Love which He imparts; there is no other way. Those who want to be consumed in Love, should go to the Eternal flame of Love.

True Love means the dedication of one's self or complete surrender of one's self to the

Beloved. It aims at seeking the happiness of the Beloved, without the least desire of getting happiness from the Beloved.

When one loves God one is eternally young, because God is eternally young, infinite and everlasting; and to love Him and know Him as He is, is the Goal of life. To love God, to know God and to be one with God, is the only thing that matters in life.

What else is life meant for but to love God and become one with Him? God is the only Reality; we have to go on and on until we arrive at a stage when we must love God, because all life leads to Him.

Pure love is the beginning and end of everything, When only one desire remains Love manifests in full glory, because only in the Divine Beloved is Love Infinite Purity. When a lover and Beloved become one, that is the end and beginning.

You can counteract a disease only by its antidote. Love is the only antidote to hatred. When you feel like hating a man try to remind yourself that he is a form of your own Self.

Love is God, lust is Satan.

Whatever one suffers for Love is suffered for the better.

Love resembles death in that it annihilates snobbery, vulgarity and all distinctions.

Divine Love causes its captive to forget his own individual existence by making him feel less and less bound by the trammels of human limitation on his onward march, till he reaches a point where he can raise himself to the realization of the highest in himself.

# OTHER SAYINGS

God does not listen to the language of the tongue. He does not listen to the language of the mind. He responds to the language of the heart. The language of the heart is the song of love for the Beloved God. Love God. Keep him ever consciously present within you. Let him form the basis of all your thoughts, speech and actions. Remember Him in every little thing you do; the responsibility will then rest with Him.

Do not listen to the voice of the mind. Listen to the voice of the heart. The mind wavers, the heart does not. The mind fears, the heart is undaunted. The mind is the home of doubts, reasonings and theories. The heart, when purified, becomes the dwelling of the Beloved. Rid your heart of low desires, malice and selfishness and God will manifest in you as your own Self.

Be content with your lot, whether rich or poor, happy or miserable. Understand that God has designed it for your own good and be resigned to His will.

You eternally were and will be. You have had innumerable forms as man and woman, beautiful and ugly, strong and weak, rich and poor, and here you are again with another such form. Till you gain spiritual freedom you will be invested with many such forms; so why seek temporary relief which has in its wake more bindings? Ask God not for money, fame, power, health, or children, but for His grace of love which will lead you to eternal bliss and freedom.

Modesty is weakness but humility is strength. A world of difference, therefore, exists between the two. The moment you say, 'I say in all humility', this very expression is the expression of the ego in you. Even if in your mind you feel that you are humble, your feeling so is egotism.

The difficulty does not end even if with true honesty you try to express true humility. An obstacle, like the thought as to what others may think of your expression of humility, is bound to come. In modesty you are constantly pestered with thoughts about your correct behaviour to such an extent that an inferiority complex is created in you, and that is not strength but weakness.

No sooner humility is given an expression, it is no longer humility. It is humbug to give deliberate expression to humility. The life of humility is to be lived spontaneously and it

should not give rise to any thoughts either about humility or about modesty. For example, suppose you undertake to clean a latrine, but when you actually begin to do so, you cannot help getting the stink; but a sweeper who cleans latrines all his life will remain unaffected by the stink. Similarly, the person who parades humility is like the one who feels the stink when cleaning a latrine; whereas, the person who lives the life of humility, is like the sweeper who is not only immune to the stink but who also remains absolutely unmindful about what others will think of him and his job, because he actually lives the life of a sweeper.

To have to try to be humble is also humbug. You must be so natural that your life becomes humility personified, which is then all strength free from any weakness.

Only God and the Perfect Masters can live such a life. They are the only ones who are <u>really humble</u>. So what you are, you should express it unmindful of the opinion or the reaction of others.

Be natural. If you are dishonest, do not try to hide yourself behind the curtain of honesty. This, however, does not mean that you should continue to be dishonest. What I want to say is, that you must be most natural rather than be the least bit hypocritical.

True happiness begins to come when a man learns the art of right adjustment to other persons and right adjustment involves self-forgetfulness and love.

The kind of detachment which really lasts is due to the understanding of suffering and its cause; it is securely based upon the unshakable knowledge that all things of the world are momentary and passing and that any clinging to them is bound to be eventually a source of pain.

To entrust the development of our soul to the guidance of an imperfect teacher is like letting a mad man sit on our chest with a sharp instrument.

The miracles performed by Yogis (Spiritually semi-advanced persons) are essentially selfish, as they are invariably based on personal motives; whereas the miracles of Sadgurus or Perfect Masters are absolutely selfless, as they are based on the principle of giving a spiritual push to humanity.

Intellectual disputations about God will not at all bring you nearer to Him and may

take you away from Him. But persistent heart-felt prayers to Him will lower the veil that at present envelopes you in darkness.

There is no difference in the Realization of Truth either by a Muslim, a Hindu, a Zoroastrian or a Christian. The difference is only of words and terms. Truth is not the monopoly of a particular race or religion.

Curb yourself and never give way to anger. Whenever you fly into a passion, you contract 'red-Samskaras', which are the worst of all.

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

One who has become a Perfect Master can make others Perfect like Himself.

Trust God completely, and He will solve all your difficulties. Faithfully leave everything to Him and He will see to everything. Love God sincerely and He will reveal Himself to you. This love needs no ceremonies and show. Your heart must so love that even your mind is not aware of it.

There can be no greater folly than for the wayfarers to quarrel over the pros and cons of this way or that, instead of remaining

concentrated upon and concerned with one's own onward march along the path that one happens to be on.

One road may be steep, another full of pot-holes, third torn with raging rivers. Similarly, one man may walk best, another may be a good runner, the third a fine swimmer, yet in each case, the things that should really count are the destination and the actual progress that every individual makes. Why should one who can run like a hare come in the way of another who is more likely to succeed only with the speed of a snail?

The fact is that God alone is real, and everything is in God. We all are one with Him, but owing to our ignorance we feel ourselves separate from God. We always were. And what was before us? "We". Before "We"? We, We, We! Only when we get the Knowledge, we know what this means. Then instantly, everything is absolutely clear in a twinkling of an eye; but such a "Flash of Being" is even quicker than the twinkling of an eye!

There is no question therefore of becoming God, since we are already God; and so we have to cease becoming, for we are <u>already</u> that. In order to know this, we have to get more and more 'away' from God through prayers,

fasting, etc., as otherwise what can God do for God? That is why the Knowledge cannot come to one and all individuals, because we all are God; and God being in everyone, who is to give and to whom? Only when God is perfectly individualized as Most Perfect Dnyani or Most Perfect A'riff can He impart this knowledge to other individuals.

The duty of the Master is first of all to release and free you from the venomous clutches of maya, and then to give you the experience (Realization) of Reality.

Once you surrender to the Master, He has to do His duty to you, He cannot escape that. It is only your unbounded love and unswerving faith that is required thereafter, and this will 'encourage' Him in His duties towards you. So, take your Master to be your God, and with as much love and faith surrender and serve Him, and you will be saved.

Three curtains — the 'gross', the 'subtle', and the 'mental' — intervene between man and Truth of Paramatman. When you remove the 'subtle' curtain you act through the 'mental' alone; when you are free of the 'mental' curtain you become one with the Paramatman.

Don't run away from the world; run away from your own lower self.

Don't renounce the world; renounce your own lower self.

Don't seek solitude anywhere but within your ownself.

Silently cry out within your ownself, "Beloved one, reveal yourself to me as my own real Infinite Self".

Don't become master of disciples till you have mastered your own self. It is you who are obstructing yourself from finding yourself, so try to love your lower self in continued rememberance of God —who is your real Self.

People generally think that the blind are unfortunate. You may also sometimes think so. But it is people with eye-sight who are truly unfortunate. They think that all the things they see are real; but they never see God, who alone is real.

Meditation is neither devotion nor love. Meditation means mental pursuit in pinning down the object of one's thoughts before one's mind's eye.

Although it is good to have inner experiences, it is very dange rous to attach importance to them. If the aspirants are not

warned, then even petty experiences prove treacherous and hinder steady progress.

Accidents are of no importance. The only important thing is to see God everywhere and in every one and to become one with Him. The Goal of life is to know God - the Infinite One in every day life; and all this in existence is to gain that Goal.

Do not be afraid of Self. You do not merely possess but actually are Soul; and the Soul is but the one <u>Paramatman</u>. If you fear the Self, you make God aloof from and independent of yourself.

Always think of helping others and not of achieving results. Never worry about results, because "selfless service" means trying to help others without even thinking I am doing this or that. Always work with all your heart for the best and don't worry; the world crucified even the Christ.

Do not get disheartened and alarmed when adversity, calamity and misfortune pour in upon you. Thank God, for He has thereby given you the opportunity of acquiring forbearance and fortitude. Those who have acquired the power of bearing with adversities can easily enter the spiritual path.

Beware of pride, not only because it is hydraheaded, but because it is deceptive. So deceptive it is that more often than not, it puts on the apparel of humility.

Though millions say that there is nothing but God, to most men this gross world is all in all, and God is unreal and a phantom.

You will not be saved by accepting any theological dogmas or by regarding a prophet, who lived hundreds or thousands of years ago, as the only God-incarnate, as the only genuine Saviour and as the last real messenger of God. If you want to be saved, conquer your mind, lead a pure life, renounce low desires and follow the One who has realized God and in whom you have sound faith.

We cannot witness even the 'threshold' of the Divine Path until we have conquered greed, anger and lust. The worst sinners are better than hypocritical saints.

The highest divine Knowledge is attained through Love (which has in it all the spiritual faculties of intuition and inspiration) and is opposed to intellectual faculty. It is love that makes one transcend the domain of intellect and gain the state of complete 'self-annihilation'. It is this state that ends in Union with God.

There is greater valour in conquering the heart of a single enemy than in gaining victory over the bodies of thousands of enemies. The mind is capable of turning the bitterest enemy into the sweetest friend by constantly thinking well (charitably) of him.

Never think that by helping another you have put him under any obligation to you. On the contrary, believe that the recipient of your generosity gives you an opportunity to serve yourself.

Forgetfulness of the world makes one a Yogi; forgetfulness of the next world (Heaven and Hell) makes one a saint; forgetfulness of God means realization (for realization is 'becoming' and beyond 'remembering'); and forgetfulness of forgetfulness is perfection.

"Bhaktiyoga" and "Karmayoga" are good remedies for wiping out one's "Sanskars". A better remedy is surrender to a Perfect Master.

Whereas atheism is generally born of intellectual vanity, agnosticism may be, more often than not, the outcome of intellectual humility. Humble, honest agnosticism is sure to be converted sooner or later into firm conviction of the Reality of God.

The basis of religion is 'faith', - faith in God and faith in a future state of life. There is no question of faith or belief for one who has seen and realized God. Such a one is above all faith and religion.

Spirituality does not mean renunciation of worldly activities. It means the internal renunciation of mundane desires.

Divinity includes all that is beautiful and gracious. How, therefore, could you expect a Perfect Being not to have a sense of humour?

Realization of Truth is solely the concern of every individual.

The purpose of life is to realize God within ourselves. This can be done even whilst attending to our worldly duties. In everyday walk of life and amidst intense activities we should feel detached and dedicate our doings to our Beloved God.

Do not worry. Even though the world collapses around you do not worry. Worry accumulates and grows in strength, becoming a habit long after the original cause has ceased to be.

The Infinite One is in everything and can be expressed in everything.

"Cast not your pearls before swine". Materialistic people are as swine, for they prefer the filth of the world to the pearl of Liberation from the bondage of births and deaths.

As a single object seems to multiply itself to him, who is drunk to excess, so Unity appears as plurality to those who are intoxicated with the wine of egoism.

All those who experience the gross world as real are asleep.

The book of the heart holds the key to the mystery of life.

Our very life should be such as to be God's meassage of Truth in the world. In our every-day life of worldly duties if Love, Service, Honesty are Manifested, renunciation is achieved without renouncing the world.

A man becomes wise by practising, not by preaching virtue. Ability in advising others about virtue is no proof of saintliness nor is it a mark of wisdom.

# HOW TO LOVE GOD

- "To love God in the most practical way is to love our fellow-beings. If we feel for others in the same way as we feel for our own dear ones, we love God.
- "If, instead of seeing faults in others, we look within ourselves, we are loving God.
- "If, instead of robbing others to help ourselves, we rob ourselves to help others, we are loving God.
- "If, instead of worrying over our own misfortunes, we think ourselves more fortunate than many many others, we are loving God.
- "If we endure our lot with patience and contentment, accepting it as His Will, we are loving God.
- "If we understand and feel that the greatest act of devotion and worship to God is not to hurt or harm any of His beings, we are loving God.
- "To love God as He ought to be loved, we must live for God and die for God, knowing that the goal of life is to Love God, and find Him as our own self."

- MEHER BABA

# MY WISH

The lover has to keep the wish of the Beloved.

My wish for My lovers is as follows:

- 1. Do not shirk your responsibilities.
- 2. Attend faithfully to your worldly duties, but always keep at the back of your mind that all this is Baba's.
- 3. When you feel happy, think: "Baba wants me to be happy." When you suffer, think: "Baba wants me to suffer."
- 4. Be resigned to every situation, and think honestly and sincerely: "Baba has placed me in this situation."
- 5. With the understanding that Baba is in everyone, try to help and serve others.
- 6. I say with my Divine Authority to each and all that whosoever takes My name at the time of breathing his or her last, comes to Me.

So, do not forget to remember Me in your last moments.

Unless you start remembering Me from now on, it is very difficult to remember Me when your end approaches. You should start practising from now.

Even if you take My name only once every day, you will not forget to remember Me in your dying moment.

— MEHER BABA

# PRAYER

Dictated by AVATAR MEHER BABA.

O PARVARDIGAR, the Preserver and Protector of All!

Thou art without Beginning, and without End;

Non-dual, beyond comparison; and none can measure Thee.

Thou art without colour, without expression, without form, and without attributes.

Thou art unlimited and unfathomable, beyond imagination and conception; eternal and imperishable.

Thou art indivisible; and none can see Thee but with eyes Divine.

Thou always were, Thou always are and Thou always will be;

Thou art everywhere, Thou art in everything; and Thou art also beyond everywhere and beyond everything.

Thou art in the firmament and in the depths, Thou art manifest and unmanifest; on all planes, and beyond all planes.

Thou art in the three worlds; and also beyond the three worlds;

Thou art imperceptible and independent.

Thou art the Creator, the Lord of Lords, the Knower of all minds and hearts; Thou art Omnipotent and Omnipresent.

Thou art Knowledge Infinite, Power Infinite, and Bliss Infinite.

Thou art the Ocean of Knowledge, All-Knowing, Infinitely-Knowing; the Knower of the past, the present and the future; and Thou art Knowledge itself.

Thou art All-merciful and eternally benevolent.

Thou art the Soul of souls, the One with infinite attributes,

Thou art the Trinity: of Truth, Know-ledge and Bliss.

Thou art the Source of Truth; the Ocean of Love.

Thou art the Ancient One, the HIGHEST OF THE HIGH; Thou art Prabhu and Parameshwar, Thou art the Beyond-God, and the Beyond-Beyond-God also; Thou art Parabrahma; Paramatma; Allah; Elahi; Yezdan; Ahuramazda; God Almighty; and God the Beloved.

Thou art named EZAD; i.e., the Only One worthy of worship.

#### REPENTANCE & PRAYER

#### FOR FORGIVENESS

OM PARABRAHMA-PARAMATMA, Ya-Yazdan, Ya-Allah, O God, Father in Heaven!

We repent, O God most merciful, for all our sins, for every thought that was false or unjust or unclean, for every word spoken that ought not to have been spoken, and for every deed done that ought not to have been done.

We repent for every deed and word and thought inspired by selfishness, and for every deed and word and thought inspired by hatred.

We repent most specially for every lustful thought, and every lustful action; for every lie; for all hypocrisy; for every promise given but not fulfilled, and for all slander and backbiting.

Most specially also, we repent for every action that has brought ruin to others, for every word and deed that has given others pain, and for every wish that pain should befall others.

In Thy unbounded mercy, we ask Thee to forgive us, O God, for all these sins committed by us, and to forgive us for our constant failures to think and speak and act according to Thy Will.

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