



merwan

"All this world confusion and chaos was inevitable  
and no one is to blame.

What had to happen has happened;  
and what has to happen will happen.

There was and is no way out except  
through my coming in your midst.

I had to come, and I have come. I am the Ancient One."

*Meher Baba*

Donated by  
Bro. Jim Peterson  
U.S.A.

01912  
        
~~E. G. L.~~

# MERWAN

An Original Musical Drama  
Honoring the Birthday of  
AVATAR MEHER BABA  
February 25, 1894

*The White Horse Players*

Sufism Reoriented, Inc.  
1300 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, California  
February 26 and 27, 1977

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ACC No.

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CALL No.

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Our play is His story.

On February 25, 1894, the great miracle of God's love for us was manifested. A child was born to Shireen and Sheriar Irani, Parsis living in Poona, India. He was named Merwan, and today millions know Him as Meher Baba (Compassionate Father), and recognize Him to be the Avatar (Messiah) of this Age.

Those who follow Baba believe there is but one Avatar who comes again and again. Every 700 to 1400 years the Avatar takes human form and is born on earth at our darkest hour, when, in our forgetfulness of His messages, we become immersed in selfishness.

He comes veiled from knowledge of His true self, and it is the role of the five Perfect Masters of the time to remove this veil, revealing only the seventh plane, and later bringing Him painfully down through the seven planes of consciousness so that He is established in each and every heart.

We could not hope to portray all the events surrounding Baba's birth, nor could we include all those whose lives were transformed by the touch of the God-Man during the first 28 years of His life on earth. The characters are real. We have chosen to tell only the stories of some of those who lived closely with Merwan. Most of all, we try to relate the story of Merwan Himself, who must bear the suffering of the universe for the sake of love.

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MERWAN, 1907

"Sai Baba made me what I am;  
Babajan made me feel what I am;  
Upasni Maharaj made me know what I am."

Much of the material for this play was recently gathered in India, and we gratefully acknowledge the assistance of several of Baba’s mandali. The play was written by four Sufis who wish to give this love offering to Beloved Baba.

Produced by . . . . . DUNCAN KNOWLES  
Directed by . . . . . JOHN KRCHNIAK  
Music, Lyrics, and Orchestration by . . . . . HENRY S. MINDLIN  
Assistant Producer . . . . . GREGORY KARAKASHIAN  
Stage Manager . . . . . MICHAEL SMITH  
Production Coordinator . . . . . STEPHANIE OSWALD  
Choral and Vocal Director . . . . . LORENZO DURHAM  
Choreographer . . . . . FRANCINE TACKER

## CHARACTERS

SHIREEN	Meher Baba's mother. Engaged to Sheriar at age 5, married at age 14. Merwan was her second child. She loved him dearly and wanted to provide him the best the world had to offer.
SHERIAR	Merwan's father. Sheriar wandered in the desert for many years seeking God. Baba's sister, Mani, remembers Sheriar continuously uttering "Yezdan" the Zoroastrian name of God. Baba said of his father, "There is none like him."
GULMAI	The mother of Adi K. Irani. Adi later became Baba's secretary for many years. Centuries of social and cultural prejudice led to the kinds of limitation Gulmai was forced to experience. In many ways her life typifies the struggle of us all to find true freedom.
BEHLI	Born in the same hospital bed as Baba, just 40 days later, and delivered by the same nurse. He was Merwan's rebellious childhood friend.
BABAJAN	One of the five Perfect Masters, Babajan was said to be at least 120 years old. She stated, "My mission is for my son. I have taken my body for my son."
SAI BABA	One of the five Perfect Masters, Sai Baba was the Qutub-i-Irshad, or head of the spiritual hierarchy at the time of Baba's unveiling.
UPASNI MAHARAJ	The Hindu Perfect Master who received God-realization through Sai Baba. Upasni established his seat at Sakori and worked to break the shackles of Eastern women.

**CAST**  
*(in order of appearance)*

Babajan . . . . .	SANDRA STAR
Avatar . . . . .	ZUHEIR AL-FAQIH
Sheriar . . . . .	SCOTT COLT
Piroja (Sheriar's sister) . . . . .	KATHLEEN CARROLL
Young Shireen . . . . .	MEHERA HALLIWELL
Gulendoon . . . . .	CLAUDIA O'HANRAHAN
Dorabji . . . . .	PHILLIPS PHILLIPS
Shireen . . . . .	GHIDA AL-FAQIH HEAPS
Freni . . . . .	GINA RUTENBERG
Young Merwan . . . . .	JOHN McGREW
Young Behli . . . . .	MATTHEW CHARLOT
Gulmai . . . . .	TERRY HASSEN
Kaikhushru . . . . .	GARY GUSICK
Piroja (Kaikhushru's mother) . . . . .	DENAGH BOSTWICK
Ghani . . . . .	CRAIG BOYAN
Khodadad . . . . .	JAMES McGREW
Jamu . . . . .	STEVEN OVERSBY
Edward . . . . .	DALLAS AMOS
 MERWAN . . . . .	 ZUHEIR AL-FAQIH
 Behli . . . . .	 STEPHEN CROCKER
Masaji . . . . .	RICHARD ANDERSEN
Jal . . . . .	DAVID McCOY
Behramji . . . . .	JAMES TAYLOR
Sai Baba . . . . .	TONY DAVIS
Upasni Maharaj . . . . .	WILLIAM BODMAN
Patel . . . . .	KHALED AL-FAKIH
Faredoon . . . . .	GARY RUTKIN
Vishnu . . . . .	SEAN PHILLIPS
Durgamai . . . . .	ANN ROYETON
Sayed . . . . .	STEPHEN SARDELLA



## CHORUS

Donald Black	Robert Hippler
Kate Brooks	Kevin Kentfield
Peter Brooks	Marty Kentfield
Cynthia Ceteras	Andrew Mayer
Benedict Clark	Caryl Morton
Antoinette Cruser	Pauli Nemanic
Richard Cruser	Charles Parker
Ronnie Deitrick	Alicia Reeks
Melody Dickinson	Gail Smith
Joan Dimpfl	Karen Sterkin
Barbara Durham	Earl Turner
Richard Harrison	Kathryn Wiederhold
	William Wilson

## DANCERS

*as Angels, the Lotus, Planets, Arti Dancers*

Rachel Abramson	Diane Crocker	Constance Ehmke
Sidney Hutchison	Nancy Mayer	Barbara Schaps
		Dee Tehan

## EXTRAS

*as Relatives, Devotees, Fishermen, Villagers, Hecklers, Crowds, Beggars*

Barbara Amos	Robert McClean
Robert Ballard	Dana McGrew
Matthew Charlot	John McGrew
Cecile Crockett	John Moulding
Donald Davenport	Leroy Parker
Diana Davis	James Peterson
Ira Deitrick	Giora Pinkas
Constance Ehmke	Susan Sly
Mehera Halliwell	Richard Watson
Jo McBride	Benjamin Wells
	Paul Zwicker

## SCENES

PLACE: INDIA

TIME: PROLOGUE — From 1840's

ACT I — From 1900

ACT II — From December, 1915

### PROLOGUE

*From the Sixth Plane of Consciousness to God-Realization  
and back to the Gross Plane*

### ACT I

- Scene 1* Irani home, Poona, c. 1900
- Scene 2* Gulmai's home, Ahmednagar, c. 1909
- Scene 3* Cosmopolitan Club, Deccan College, Poona, 1913
- Scene 4* Irani home, 1913
- Scene 5* Babajan's tree, Poona, May 1913 — January 1914
- Scene 6* The Beyond State of Bliss
- Scene 7* Irani home, January 1914
- Scene 8* Babajan's tree, 1914
- Scene 9* Irani home, December 1914
- Scene 10* Merwan's room

INTERMISSION — 10 MINUTES

## SCENES

### ACT II

- Scene 1*      Irani home, December 1915
- Scene 2*      Shirdi, December 1915 – Sakori, 1918
- Scene 3*      Irani home, 1918
- Scene 4*      Toddy shop, Kasba Peth District, Poona, 1918
- Scene 5*      The river in Poona
- Scene 6*      Toddy shop
- Scene 7*      Sakori, 1919
- Scene 8*      Gulmai's home, 1921
- Scene 9*      Gulmai's home, two days later
- Scene 10*     Irani home, middle of the night
- Scene 11*     Babajan's tree, 1921
- Scene 12*     Sakori, 1921
- Scene 13*     Irani home, that evening
- Scene 14*     Sakori, December 1921
- Scene 15*     Poona, early 1922
- Scene 16*     Babajan's tree, May 1922

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### PROLOGUE

Invocation and Prayer . . . . . Chorus, Babajan

*(adapted from "The Master's Prayer" by Meher Baba and  
prayers of Rabia of Basra)*

"I Will Seek You". . . . . Sheriar

"The Way of the World" . . . . . Chorus

"Hush, Little Merwan" . . . . . Shireen, Sheriar,  
Gulendoon, Babajan

### ACT I

#### SCENE 2

"Gulmai's Theme" . . . . . Chorus, Gulmai

#### SCENE 7

"The Ocean of Bliss". . . . . Chorus

#### SCENE 10

"My Father, My Son" . . . : . . . Babajan

### ACT II

#### SCENE 2

"Descent into Matter" . . . . . Company

#### SCENE 4

"Toddy" . . . . . Fishermen

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### SCENE 5

“Nine O’Clock” . . . . . Behli

### SCENE 7

“Sunset Beloved”. . . . . Devotees of Upasni Maharaj

### SCENE 9

“Sadguru Upasni Maharaj” . . . . . Merwan, Chorus  
*(words and music adapted from Gujarati arti  
composed by Meher Baba in 1921)*

### SCENE 11

“One Up”. . . . . Babajan, Gulendoon

### SCENE 13

“I’ve Lost Him” . . . . . Shireen  
“I Will Seek You” (*Reprise*). . . . . Sheriar

### SCENE 15

“The Endless Game”. . . . . Gulmai, Merwan

### SCENE 16

“New Beginning”. . . . . Disciples, Chorus

## ORCHESTRA

CONDUCTOR . . . . . Henry S. Mindlin

### *Violin*

Steve Bonacich  
Randall Hammon

### *Flute*

Richard Carroll  
Stephanie Oswald

### *Piano and Celesta*

Bernard Schwartz  
Nadya Taylor

### *Cello*

Loel Miller

### *Oboe*

Roger Siegel

### *Harp*

Margaret Patrick

### *Bass*

Douglas Taylor

### *Clarinet*

Lillian Remer

### *Percussion*

Craig Boyan  
Peter Ravazza

### *Sitar*

Robert Holcomb

### *Bassoon*

Tim Barnhart

### *Tabla*

Craig Boyan

## MUSIC COPYISTS

COORDINATOR . . . . . Barbara Durham

Nancy Ball  
Steve Bonacich  
Sandra Biermann  
Ronnie Deitrick  
Philip Hocking  
Loel Miller

Pauli Nemanic  
Claudia O'Hanrahan  
Alicia Reeks  
Lillian Remer  
Karin Thure

Rehearsal Pianist . . . . . Stephen Spraitzar

## COSTUMES

COSTUME DIRECTOR/DESIGNER . . . . . Robyn Moulding  
 Assistant Designers . . . . . Katherine Clausen  
    Margaret Mayer  
 Secretary . . . . . Leslie Curtis  
 Wardrobe Coordinators . . . . . Patricia Hawkins  
    Celeste Slimmon

### Costume and Wardrobe Crew:

Rosalie Ackerson	Beatrice Dimpfl	John Moulding
Jennifer Al-Faqih	Barbara Emrich	Carol Palley
Judy Ardine	Helene Epstein	Carolyn Parker
Nancy Ball	Helena Fuentes	Margaret Patrick
Catherine Black	Virginia Glasky	Nancy Patton
Donald Black	Lorraine Granit	Ann Royeton
Kirsten Black	Susan Harrison	Barbara Russell
Stephanie Blumberg	Yolanda Hastings	Lee Slimmon
Nancy Burgess	Heather Hoose	Jacqueline Smith
Sheila Ceteras	Janice Kaplan	Karin Thure
Edith Charlot	Laurel Keeley	Margaret Watson
Terry Curtis	Bonnie McClean	Dolores Warren
Adell De Persia	Marilyn McGivney	

## MAKEUP

MAKEUP DIRECTOR . . . . . Barbara Boyan  
 Assistant Director . . . . . Ghida Al-Faqih Heaps  
 Merwan's Makeup:

Kenneth Hastings (Coordinator)	Dallas Amos	Diane Cobb
	Tony Davis	Bruce Kinneberg
		Benjamin Wells

### Makeup Crew:

Gay Ballard	Dorothy Crane	Susan Sly
Edward Brooks	Keith Davenport	Virginia Smithwick
Lori Ceteras	Helena Fuentes	Ruth Sobel
Jan Colt	Phyllis Rutkin	Mayo Wohltmann

## SETS

SET DESIGN/STAGE COORDINATOR . . . . . Philip Hocking

### Carpenters:

Richard Beatman	Alan Oswald
Edward Brooks	Steven Oversby
Fred Brunswig	Craig Plumlee
Ronald Duce	Peter Ravazza
Eric Halliwell	Gerald Salazar
John Hawkins	Thomas Smith
Robert Hippler	Graham Smithwick
Michael Nemanic	

### Stage Crew:

Richard Beatman	Philip Hocking	Gerald Salazar
John Hawkins	Craig Plumlee	Peter Skiff

## PROPERTIES

PROPERTY COORDINATOR. . . . . Richard Laurence

Crew: Bernard Glasky, Robert Holcomb, Thomas Smith

## HOUSE

HOUSE MANAGER . . . . . Eleanor Smith

### Ushers:

Sharon Childs	Margaret Miller
Anne Coolman	Tighe O'Hanrahan
Allan Francke	Alan Oswald
Ursula Hamilton	Catherine Pinkas
David Israel	Edson Skiff
Pascal Kaplan	John Skiff
Jeanne Kerr	Louise Skiff
Susan Laurence	Lee Slimmon
Jerry Maggioncalda	Lorraine Smith
Elinor McCoy	Dolores Warren
Jean McKee	



## TECHNICAL STAFF

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR . . . . . Duane Heaps  
SPECIAL EFFECTS . . . . . Richard Laurence  
Crew: Thomas Smith, Robert Holcomb

LIGHTING DIRECTOR. . . . . Ronald Duce  
Crew: Nicholas Remer, Ellen Sirota

SOUND DIRECTOR . . . . . Fred Brunswig  
Crew: Michael Nemanic, Mary Ann Allen, Frederick Warren

VIDEO DIRECTOR . . . . . Duane Heaps  
Crew: Bernard Glasky, Gregory Karakashian, Jonathan Willis

GENERAL ASSISTANCE . . . . . Aneece Hassen

## SUPPORT STAFF

Production Secretary . . . . . Sharon Childs  
Stage Secretary. . . . . Judy Ardine  
Head Prompter. . . . . Carol-Leigh Duce  
Typists: Katherine Clausen, Susan Laurence  
Elinor McCoy, Nancy Perham

TELEPHONE NETWORK COORDINATOR . . . . . Susan Sly  
Callers: Cecile Crockett, Virginia Glasky  
Susan Harrison, Winifred Kershaw

BABYSITTING COORDINATOR . . . . . Clare Shields  
Babysitters:

Mary Conner	Janice Kaplan	Sally Muhley
Marta Cormier	Pascal Kaplan	Jonathan Palley
Richard Cormier	Karen Kaye	Nancy Perham
Claire Flower	David Kershaw	Michael Pettingill
Keith Davenport	Winifred Kershaw	Barbara Russell
David Israel	Jean McKee	June Sardella
	Keith McKee	Karin Thure

## **PUBLICITY**

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	<b>Sandra McGrew</b>
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<b>Media Coordinator</b>	<b>. . . . . Sandra McGrew</b>
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	<b>Laurel Keeley</b>
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<b>Media Assistants</b>	<b>. . . . . Tracy Craig</b>
	<b>Margaret Mayer</b>
<b>Poster Distribution Coordinators</b>	<b>. . . . . Carol Palley</b>
	<b>Jonathan Palley</b>

**LOVE MAKES THE FORMLESS AND INFINITE  
BECOME ENFORMED AND FINITE AS THE  
GODMAN AMONG MEN  
LOVE ME MORE AND MORE BECAUSE FOR THE  
SAKE OF LOVE I HAVE COME AMONG YOU**

**BIRTHDAY CABLE  
FEBRUARY 20, 1968  
*MEHER BABA***

~~1912~~  
~~E, 80,~~

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