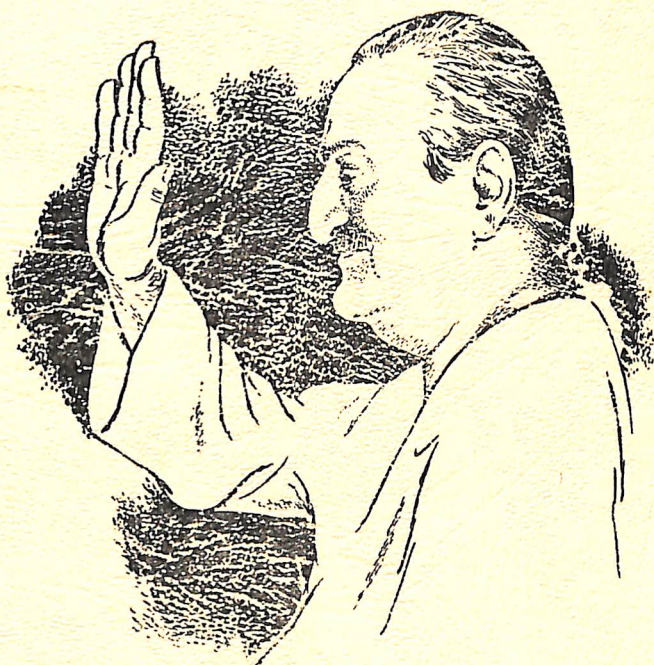


WHO IS MEHER BABA?



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON MEHER BABA

Published by The Avatar Meher Baba Bombay Centre for the MEHER BABA—THE AWAKENER Stall at the International Tourist Fair in Bombay, inaugurated on 30th October 1967.

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Who Is Meher Baba?

He is the essence of your very being which provokes you to ask this question.

He is the Awakener who will awaken humanity from its sleep of ignorance to the knowledge of its true Self.

He is the Arouser who will arouse man to the consciousness of his rightful divine heritage.

He is the Light which will dispel the darkness of our selfishness, and make us aware of our oneness in God.

He is the True Friend, who has come to guide mankind to the path of Truth.

He is God in human form.

He is the Saviour, the Messiah, the Christ, the Rasool, the Avatar, the Buddha.

He is the Answer to all questions.

He is the Avatar, the God-Man.

Why Is He Called An Avatar?

He is not *an* Avatar, He is *the* Avatar. The same One God who manifests on earth at different times, in different forms, under different names is the Avatar. Meher Baba is called the Avatar because He is the Avatar. He cannot be called other than what He is. He is God in the form of a human being, the God-Man. The difference between an ordinary man and God-Man is this: The ordinary man is not yet conscious of his inherent Godhood but fully conscious only of his manhood. The God-Man is fully conscious of His Godhood *and* Manhood simultaneously. He continually experiences infinite Knowledge, infinite Power and infinite Bliss. He simultaneously suffers with, and in, each one of His creation. As God-Man,

God helps mankind age after age, individually and universally. Avatar is the Manifestation of God in the form of a man. At intervals, God manifests on earth in human form because of His Love for His children. As God is One, the Avatar cannot be more than one. The Avatar is the one and only God-Man on earth. There cannot be two Avatars at any time.

When God mingles among men as one of them, He is called the Avatar. All other so-called avatars can only be avatars in name, not in fact.

Q: What Makes You Believe That He Is the Avatar?

A: One's belief or faith is an inner revelation, a deep conviction, that cannot be communicated to others by words. It has to be a personal experience. We believe that Meher Baba is the Avatar, because in Him we find the affirmation of the existence and attributes of God. There are hundreds of thousands who are fortunate to have experienced this, who believe that Meher Baba is the Avatar.

Q: Why Is Meher Baba Observing Silence?

A: For the benefit of mankind. Meher Baba says, "The voice that is heard deep within the soul is my voice. Through those who are receptive to this voice, I speak eternally. My outward silence is no spiritual exercise. It has been undertaken and maintained for the good of others. I bind myself with silence, that when I break it mankind will realize what real freedom is."

Q: When Will He Break His Silence?

A: Two parties cannot talk simultaneously. One has to talk and the other has to listen. Meher Baba will break his silence when the world is ready to listen to his Word.

Meher Baba says, "People have asked me when I will break my silence. I, in turn have asked them, if my silence does not speak, then of what avail would be speeches made by the tongue?"

Q: How Does He Communicate?

A: Through his divine Love which reaches the hearts of all who come in his presence.

Through the language of the heart, which is love—pure divine Love. Through the silent language of the heart which is more potent than any spoken word.

Through the gestures of his hands, which are more expressive and eloquent than the spoken word.

Q: *Will He Be Able To Speak After So Many Years Of Silence? (Doctors Say It Is Not Possible.)*

A: Yes, He will be able to speak, for his silence is not the silence of man.

Q: *Why Has He Been Putting Off The Breaking Of His Silence From Time To Time?*

A: Because of infinite compassion. Although a doctor knows that his patient will take a long time to recover, he comforts him by saying he will get well soon. Every time the doctor sees the patient he assures him that he will soon be feeling quite well and strong, and to help him do so he promises his discharge from hospital in a week—then another week—and yet another week—until finally the day arrives when the patient is fully recovered and obtains release. Th God-Man is the Divine Doctor or Messiah who has come to heal a very sick humanity. The breaking of his silence will release humanity from its ignorance of the purpose of God's Creation.

Q: *Why Does Meher Baba Remain In Seclusion Most Of The Time?*

A: Because as the time of his manifestation approached, his intensified universal work demands his undivided attention. Also to make his lovers impatient to see him and make them feel his presence all the more when he steps out of seclusion and gives his darshan.

Q: *What Does He Actually Do When He Is In Seclusion?*

A: He attends to his universal Work on the inner planes of consciousness, of which we can have no idea. At such times he wishes to remain absolutely undisturbed by visitors, or correspondence etc. Also he says, everyone does something but he does nothing.

Q: *What Is Meher Baba's Religion?*

A: He belongs to no religion. Every religion belongs to him. He says, "My personal religion is my being the Ancient Infinite One; and the religion I impart to all is Love for God which is the truth of all religions."

Q: *What Are His Teachings?*

A: Remember God and love God, and forget yourself and everything. He does not teach but awakens in one love for God.

Q: What Are His Activities?

A: He helps the poor and the afflicted.

He gives spiritual discourses to his disciples who live with him.

He gives darshan to the public when he is not in seclusion.

When he is not in seclusion, he gives interviews to his lovers who come from distant places and different countries to be with him. He also gives personal attention to the large amount of correspondence that comes to him from his followers all over the world, and particularly from the hundreds of Meher Centres in India and abroad that spread his Message of Love and Truth.

When he is in seclusion he does not attend to such matters, wishing to remain undisturbed for reasons of his universal work. Although he continually does his universal work on all levels of the inner planes of consciousness, at specific periods when his universal work is stepped up to a greatly intensified degree, he retires into strict seclusion.

Sometimes when he is in seclusion he washes the feet of the lepers because he says that he finds them beautiful souls in ugly cages. Because he himself suffers infinitely, those who suffer are dear to him.

Q: Does He Give Special Prayers Or Meditation?

A: Yes, he has given two prayers to mankind;

(a) The Master's Prayer (O, Parvardigar). (b) The Prayer of Repentance. He does not lay stress on any form of meditation. He stresses remembering him wholeheartedly and constantly while attending to our daily duties. This, he says, is the best form of meditation. However, he has given some discourses on meditation, as well as two Charts called "The Divine Theme".

Q: Why Doesn't He Have An Ashram Where Anyone Can Go For His Darshan Freely?

A: He says that the whole Earth is the Ashram of the God-Man and that his REAL DARSHAN can only be had within oneself by his Grace. However, when he is not in seclusion, he is available to all who seek his darshan, at the times fixed by him—mainly when he is residing in Poona during May and June each year.

Q: Why Doesn't Meher Baba Perform Miracles?

A: Miracles when performed to exhibit occult powers are nothing more

than a passing show—a *tamasha*.

Meher Baba's miracles are performed silently in the hearts of his followers, awakening them to the spiritual values and true purpose of life.

Meher Baba says that God is to be known through love and not through the illusion of miracles. He says, "My first and last miracle will be performed when I break my silence. It will be the greatest miracle of all times. When I perform that miracle, I won't raise the dead but I will make those who live for the world dead to the world and live in God; I won't give sight to the blind but make people blind to illusion and make them see God the Reality."

Q: Why Does He Call Himself God?

A: What else can he call himself when he is God?

He says there is nothing but God. He not only says he is God, he says that ALL are God in varying degrees of consciousness. We are not conscious of our Godhood, and continue to experience the duality of illusion. He has the full consciousness and continuous experience of Godhood, and the authority to say: "I am God!" He says that he is God in human form, the Avatar, the Ancient One who has come to redeem the modern world.

Q: How Do You Know He Is God?

A: When one has implicit faith in God and His attributes one can feel the presence of God in every little thing. When God Himself manifests as the Avatar, Christ, Rasool, Buddha, it is possible to recognize Him and know Him as God. But only implicit faith in God and His attributes and the Grace of God can make one know the presence of the Avatar among mankind.

Q: If He Is All-Knowing And All-Powerful Why Has He Allowed Himself And His Disciples To Meet With Accidents And To Have Suffering?

A: Only when the All-knowing and All-powerful shoulders universal suffering can humanity have hope of deliverance from suffering. To meet with accidents and to have physical injuries are but the outward signs of the inner suffering of the Avatar.

Zoroaster allowed himself to be stabbed in the back, Krishna chose to be shot by an arrow, Rama made himself helpless to prevent Sita's abduction and roamed the forests in search of her, Jesus Christ per-

mitted himself to be crucified, Mohammed was stoned by his adversaries, Buddha died of poison. And yet, the Christ—the Buddha—the Avatar, is All-knowing, All-powerful.

Meher Baba is the Compassionate Father of all, and in his Compassion he permits some of his disciples to share in his universal suffering. To the disciples it is a blessing, a divine boon.

Q: When God Is In Our Midst Why Is There So Much Suffering In The World? How Can We Believe In Such A God?

A: Only when suffering reaches its height in the world does God manifest Himself as Avatar in our midst, to deliver mankind from suffering. The Avatar does his work with infinite compassion whether one believes or does not believe in such a God.

Q: Why Is India Suffering More Than Any Other Country Even Though The Avatar Is Born And Lives In India?

A: It is always when suffering is intense on earth that God manifests as the Avatar, the Christ. And it is but natural for the Redeemer to live among those who suffer most.

Q: What Has He Done So Far To Help Humanity?

A: There is chaos, confusion, and tremendous destructive potential in the world today. His Presence on earth is the very act of Divine Intervention that checks the world from headlong catastrophe and saves it from total destruction.

Q: Who Are His Intimate Disciples? Has Any Of Them Realized God?

A: Anyone who adheres to the discipline set by him and carries out his every command without any reservation is his ultimate disciple. To live with him from day to day is more than God-realization for his disciples, who love him and revere him as God on earth.

Q: How Does Meher Baba Maintain Himself And His Disciples?

A: There are many followers of Meher Baba who desire to spend money for his and his disciples' daily needs; only a few are permitted to do so. Apart from these followers, there are those who wish to express their devotion in the form of simple gifts, and when the manner of expression touches him he accepts these also, and distributes them among those who are with him at the time.

Q: What Does He Eat—Is He Vegetarian Or Non-Vegetarian?

A: He is neither a vegetarian nor a non-vegetarian. He eats little and is indifferent to such matters. He takes whatever breakfast, lunch and supper is prepared for him with love. However, his favourite dish is plain dal and rice.

Q: Does He Observe Fast?

A: Yes, he has often observed rigorous fasts, for weeks at a time. Once he fasted for six months, taking nothing but a limited amount of coffee each day. But his fasting is not an act of austerity or penance, as that of an ascetic who seeks spiritual gain. For him there is nothing left to gain. When he fasts it is for the spiritual benefit of mankind.

Q: Is He Married?

A: In this Advent, No.

Q: Has He Ever Been In Love?

A: Yes, he has. And he is still in love.
He has been and eternally is in love with humanity!

Q: What Have You Learnt By Following Meher Baba?

A: That we have to completely unlearn all we have learnt in order to begin to know the Truth.

Q: What Have You Gained By Following Meher Baba?

A: The loss of some of the false self.
Unless one completely loses one's false self one cannot gain one's true Self.

Q: Does One Have To Receive Any Initiation From Him To Be His Follower?

A: The only 'initiation' is the love for him that he awakens in one's heart.

Q: Does He Give Any Mantra, Any Sadhana (Discipline)?

A: To repeat his name is the only *mantra* that he gives.
To just remember him wholeheartedly at all times is the only *sadhana* he prescribes.

Q: What Yoga Does Meher Baba Teach?

A: Meher Baba says, "The yoga I teach is: You go from you and come to me."

Q: What Does He Want Of Us?

A: He wants complete surrender and complete obedience.

Q: How Can One Get Happiness? What Has He To Say?

A: He says:

"If man wants the happiness he is striving for, let him be more aggressive towards himself and more tolerant towards others."

"The cause of misery is the selfishness in man."

"Happiness and misery are two facets of Illusion."

Q: What Is The Goal Of Life According To Meher Baba?

A: The annihilation of the mind and the realization of the Self.

Q: What Is Meher Baba's Mission?

A: He is not a missionary to have a mission.

He is the Ancient One come again among men to help them to know that God alone is real and all else is illusion.

Q: What Is God?

A: What is not God? God is Existence infinite and eternal.

Everything is God.

Though everything in existence is nothing but God, the difference between Meher Baba and us human beings is that Meher Baba is simultaneously and continuously conscious of both his Godhood and manhood, we are conscious only of our manhood.

Q: Is Not This Stall In The International Tourist Fair (Bombay) Propaganda For Meher Baba?

A: On the contrary, his followers are lovingly obliging those who have not yet heard about Meher Baba by spending their own money to give out the proper information about him and his Work—so that the children of the present generation do not blame Meher Baba's followers for not having informed their parents of the Presence of the Avatar on the Earth.

