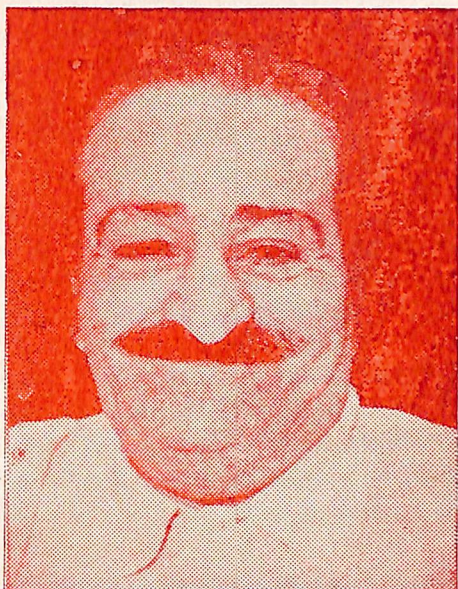


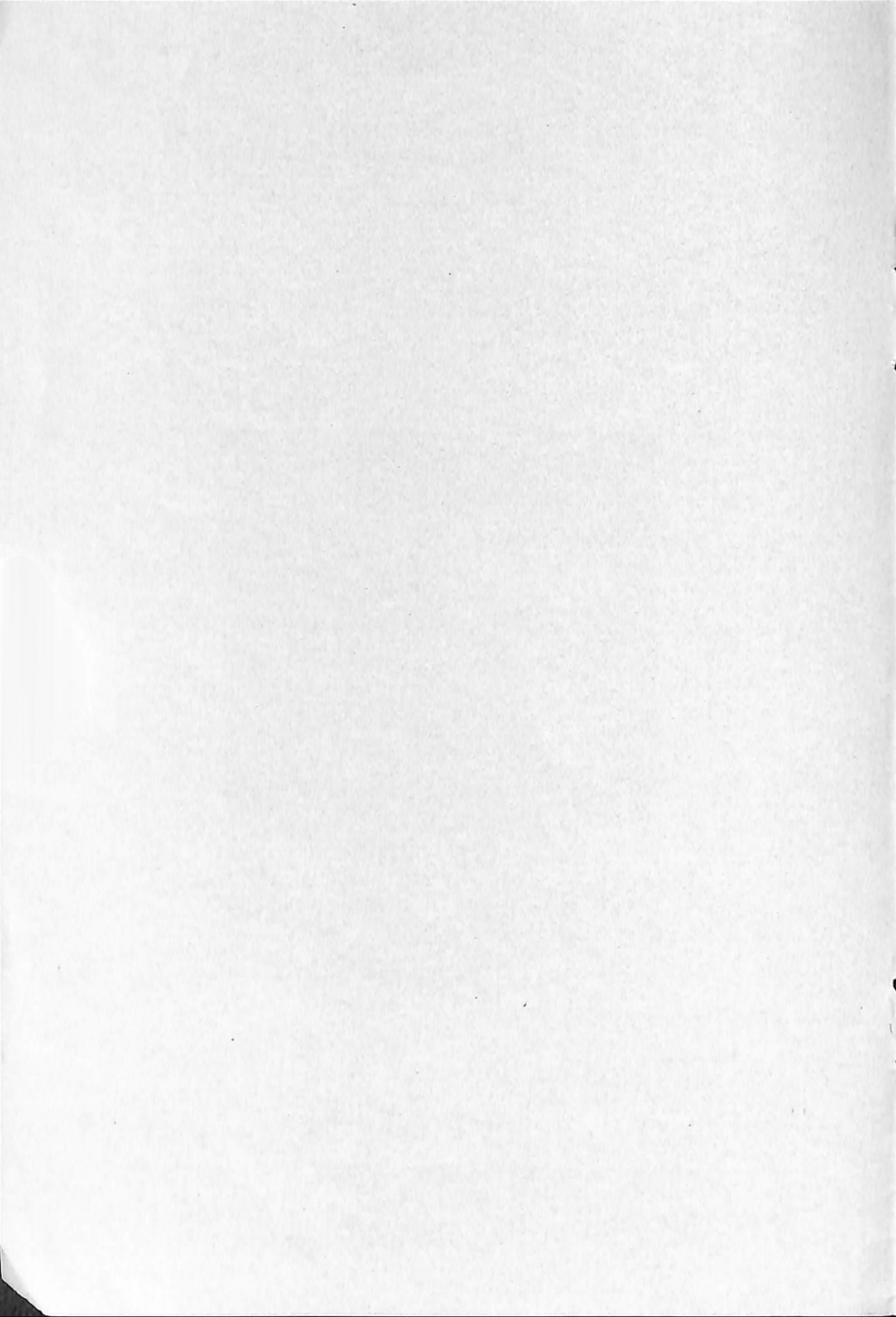
MEHER BABA'S SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF MAN



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MAN NEEDS LOVE

Every being is a point from which a start could be made towards the limitless ocean of Love, Bliss, Knowledge, and Goodness already within him. No spiritual Master brings religion to the world in the form which it eventually assumes. His very presence is a blessing and radiates spirituality. He imparts it to others by personal contact. Religions are an effort to commemorate the association with a great spiritual Master, and to preserve his atmosphere and influence. It is like an archaeologist trying to preserve things which only resuscitate the past. The living spirit being absent religions or organizations gradually lose their force.¹

Though religion has come into existence to liberate man from all narrowness, it can itself become a cage when not understood properly. All the world religions proclaim the same eternal and universal Truth ; yet human weakness has a tendency to carve out some limiting, narrow loyalty which closes its gates upon the shoreless and unbounded ocean of love or divinity. It is not the essentials of religions, but addiction merely to their outer forms, which has tended to divide man from man, thus thwarting the very purpose of the great founders of the world religions.²

I am not come to establish any cult, society, or organization — nor to establish a new religion. The Religion I shall give teaches the knowledge of the One behind the many.

The Book which I shall make people read is the book of the heart, which holds the key to the mystery of life. As for ritual, I shall teach humanity to discriminate, express,

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and live rather than observe it. I shall bring about a blending of the head and the heart. Societies and organizations have never succeeded in bringing truth nearer. Realization of Truth is solely the concern of the individual.

In the highest state one feels in harmony with everyone and everything, and realises divinity in every phase of life, and is able to impart happiness to others. Here one attends to all duties and material affairs, and yet feels mentally detached from the world. This is true renunciation and understanding.¹

..I have been asked many times what solution have I brought for the social problems now confronting you — what did I have to offer that would solve the problems of unemployment, prohibition, crime, that would eliminate the strife between individuals and nations, and pour a healing balm of peace upon a troubled world.

The answer has been so simple that it has been difficult to grasp. The root of all our difficulties, individual and social, is self-interest.

It is this, for example, which causes corruptible politicians to accept bribes and betray the interests of those whom they have been elected to serve ; which causes bootleggers to break, for their own profit, a law, designed whether wisely or not, to help the nation as a whole ; which causes people to connive, for their own pleasure, at the breaking of that law, thus causing disrespect for law in general and increasing crime tremendously ; which causes the exploitation of the great masses of humanity by individuals or groups of individuals seeking personal gain ; which impedes the progress of civilization by shelving inventions which would contribute to the welfare of humanity at large, simply because their use would mean

the scrapping of present inferior equipment ; which, when people are starving, causes the wanton destruction of large quantities of food, simply in order to maintain market prices ; which causes the hoarding of large sums of gold, when the welfare of the world demands its circulation.

But the elimination of self-interest, even granting a sincere desire on the part of the individual to accomplish it, is not so easy, and is never completely achieved except by the aid of a Perfect Master. For self-interest springs from a false idea of the true nature of the Self, and this idea must be eradicated, and the Truth experienced, before the elimination of self-interest is possible.

..To face the Truth is to realise that life is one, in and through its manifold manifestations. To have this understanding is to forget the limiting self in the realisation of the unity of life.

..In the light of the Truth of the unity of all life, co-operative and harmonious action becomes natural and inevitable. Hence, the chief task before those who are deeply concerned with the rebuilding of humanity, is to do their utmost to dispel the spiritual ignorance which envelops humanity.³

Everywhere today man is rightfully occupied with the problem of world peace. If there is war, it means nothing short of racial suicide and total destruction. But world peace cannot be ensured through dogmas, however learned, or organizations, however efficient. It can be ensured only by a release of unarguing and unconquerable love which knows no fear or separateness.²

..Spiritual healing is by far the greatest healing, and this is what I intend to give. The highest is latent in everyone, but has to be manifest..I repeat — materialism and spirituality must go hand in hand..

My work and aims are intensely practical. It is not practical to over-emphasize the material at the cost of the spiritual. It is not practical to have spiritual ideals without putting them into practice. But to realize the ideal in daily life, to give beautiful and adequate form to the living spirit, to make Brotherhood a fact, not merely a theory, as at present — this is being practical in the truest sense of the word.¹

Material adjustment is only part of the wider problem of establishing spiritual adjustment, but spiritual adjustment requires the elimination of the self not only from the material aspects of life but also from those spheres which affect the intellectual, emotional and cultural life of man.

To understand the problem of humanity as merely a problem of bread is to reduce humanity to the level of animality. But even when man sets him-self to the limited task of securing purely material adjustment, he can only succeed in this attempt if he has spiritual understanding. Economic adjustment is impossible unless people realise that there can be no planned and co-operative action in economic matters until self-interest gives place to self-giving love. Otherwise, with the best of equipment and efficiency in the material spheres, humanity cannot avoid conflict and insufficiency.

..It is not possible to realize human brotherhood merely by appealing to high ideals or to a sense of duty. Something more than that is essential to release human consciousness from the clutches of selfishness and greed.

Today the urgent need of mankind is not sects or organized religions, but LOVE. Divine love will conquer hate and fear. It will not depend upon other justifications, but will justify itself.

I have come to awaken in man this divine love. It will restore to him the unfathomable richness of his own eternal being and will solve all of his problems.²

Love cannot be born of mere determination ; through the exercise of will one can at best be dutiful. Through struggle and effort, one may succeed in assuring that one's external action is in conformity with one's concept of what is right ; but such action is spiritually barren because it lacks the inward beauty of spontaneous love. Love has to spring spontaneously from within ; it is in no way amenable to any form of inner or outer force. Love and coercion can never go together, but while love cannot be forced upon anyone, it can be awakened through love itself. *Love is essentially self-communicative ; those who do not have it catch it from those who have it.* Those who receive love from others cannot be its recipients without giving a response, which, in itself, is the nature of love. True love is unconquerable and irresistible. It goes on gathering power and spreading itself until eventually it transforms everyone it touches.³

The source of eternal bliss is the Self in all. The cause of perpetual misery is the selfishness of all. As long as satisfaction is derived through selfish pursuits, misery will always exist.

Only because of the infinite love and mercy of God can man learn to realize, through the lessons of misery on earth, that inherent in him is the source of infinite bliss, and all suffering is his labor of love to unveil his own infinite Self.

It is not possible to receive undying life in the Truth unless you surrender all resistance to it. You cannot drag

along the prejudices of past and yet hope to unfold Divinity within..If you meet life squarely accepting its opposites with equanimity while carrying on your duties in a spirit of selfless love and service, you will not only come in tune with the Infinite, but you yourself will become the Infinite which you seek.

Learn the art of taking your stand on the Truth within. When you live in this Truth, the result is the fusion of the mind and the heart and the end of all fears and sorrow. It is not a dry attainment of mere power or intellectual knowledge. A love which is illumined by the intuitive wisdom of the spirit will bless your life with ever-renewing fulfilment and never-ending sweetness.

Through enslavement to the temporary and the passing man deprives himself of the eternal and the lasting. Each moment with which man is confronted can either tighten the grip of the false or deliver him to the Truth. God is the only Reality and He is the fountain-head of all love, beauty, peace and happiness..God is eternally inviting man to Himself, affirming Himself as the Truth of man's being. Those who dare to see and love God in everyone and everything, experience Him as the everlastingly immediate Presence..Here and nowhere else is the final solution of all your problems. Love born in the Truth liberates without binding and fulfils without overpowering; it is a pure blessing not only for yourself, but for each and all, for ever and ever..

..When you realize the Truth as the very core of your being you are free from all fear and helplessness, and all rivalries and conflicts reveal themselves to be meaningless, for you know yourself to be inviolably one with all that has life.

To the struggling, failing and faltering humanity I say, "Have faith". Turn to God in complete surrenderance and receive the divine love. You are equally a part of the one indivisible divine life. There is not a single atom that does not vibrate with this divine life.

There is no need for anyone to despair. The greatest of sinners as well as the greatest of saints has the same unfailing divine assurance.²

The life of the spirit does not consist in turning away from worldly spheres of existence, but reclaiming them for the Divine Purpose which is to bring love, peace, happiness, beauty and spiritual perfection within the reach of everyone.

Not by seeking individual happiness or safety, but by again and again offering one's life in the service of others, is it possible to rise to the unsurpassed completeness of realized Truth. God is not to be sought by running away from life, but by establishing unity with the one in the many. Purity, Love, and Service are the elements of spiritual life.

Start learning to love God by loving those whom you cannot love. The more you remember others with kindness and generosity, the more you forget yourself, and when you completely forget yourself, you find God.

—Meher Baba.

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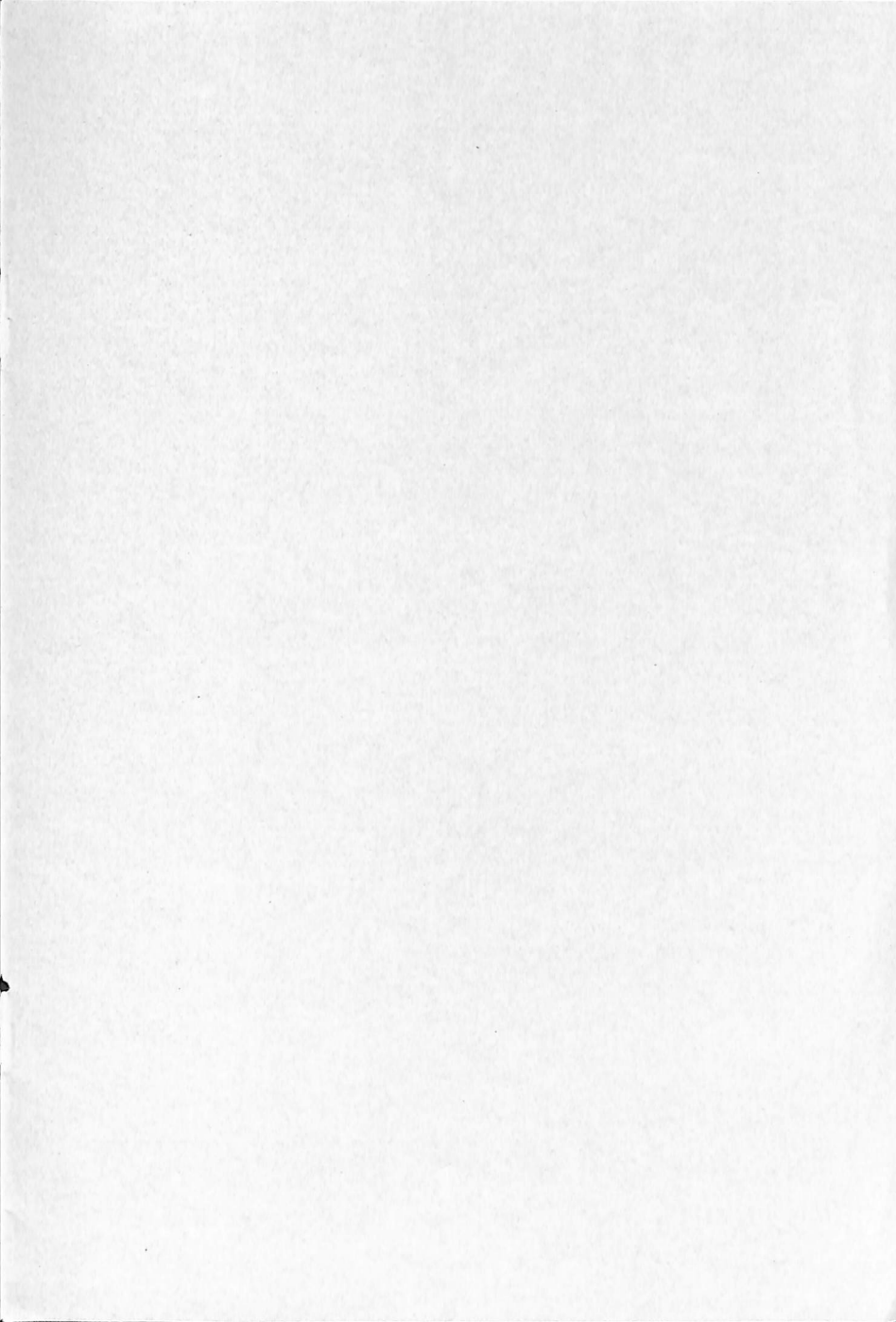
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Diwali Greetings

in the glory of GOD, the Highest of the High !
who walks in the clothes of the humble among the
poorest, and lowliest, and lost.

who keeps company with the companionless among
the poorest, and lowliest, and lost.

who, in sun and shower, is with the tiller tilling the
hard ground and the path-maker breaking stones..

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