

84 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ON AVATAR MEHER BABA

(Revised Second Edition of "61 Questions & Answers")

With

Preface

Many Birthday Messages

Appendix (Sayings of Baba)

"On Baba's being dead"

and two Photos.

25th February, 1969

(75th BIRTHDAY OF AVATAR MEHER BABA)

Compiled & Published by

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for

AVATAR MEHER BABA CENTRE (Regd.)

5, Basti Nizamuddin (West)

NEW DELHI-13

"I want you to know that I will definitely break My Silence and I want you to cling to My 'daaman' till the very end, irrespective of whether I speak or not. I am the Highest of the High and want you to LOVE ME, not for any material or spiritual gain, nor for the impending 'breaking of My Silence' and My 'Manifestation', but I want you to love Me for Myself as being God in human form". —MEHER BABA

"I would like you to bear in mind that you do not approach Me with the thought of any worldly gain. Come to receive MY LOVE Come prepared to receive not so much of My words, but of My 'SILENCE'....." —MEHER BABA

"The dark cloud hovers overhead. It is approaching very fast. Only a few will hold on to Me.those who are near to Me, not in space, but in Love. The rest will leave Me. The age-old experience will be repeated. In this incarnation, I have a large following, but again, I will be left with a few. It is as if around me there are many beautiful buildings, it took years to build them, but when an earthquake comes, they are destroyed in a few seconds, only a few survive....." MEHER BABA
(Vide : 'The Awakener' Vol. V, No. 3, page 7).

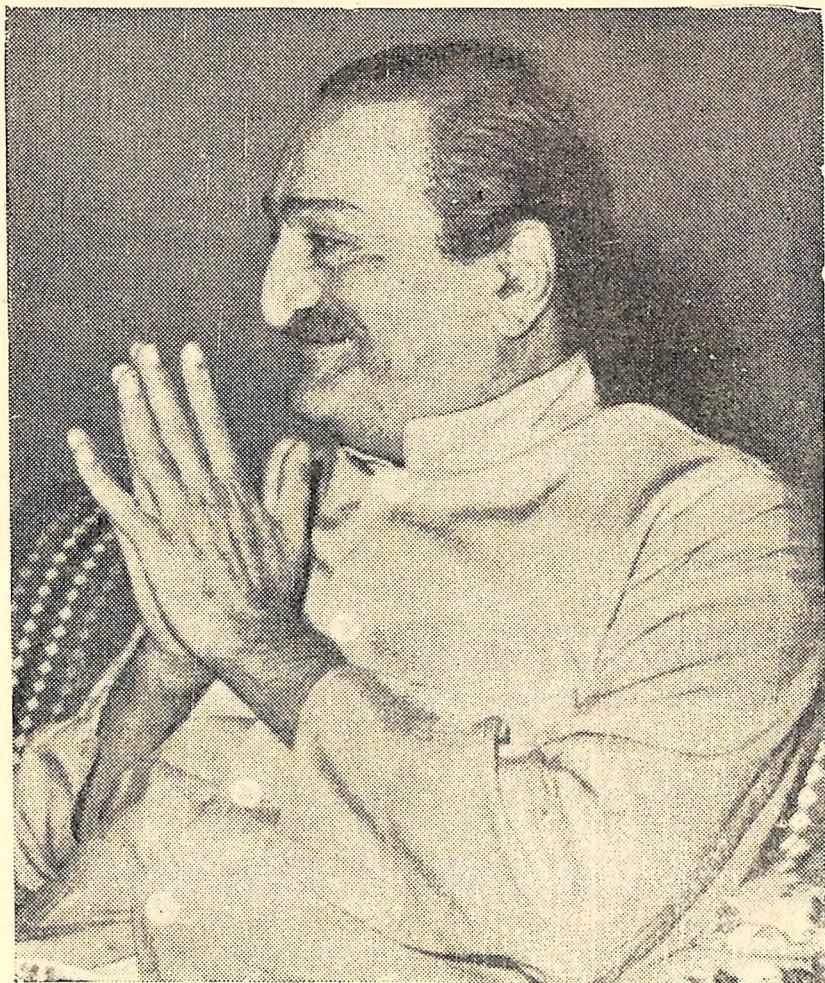
"You will see Me only in memory. When I drop my body, I will remain in all who love Me. I can never die. Love Me, obey Me, and you will find Me." — MEHER BABA
(Vide : Ibid)

"My words can never be in vain. Whatever I have said must and will come true. When it appears otherwise, it is due to your ignorance and lack of patience....."

—MEHER BABA

(Vide : DIVYA VANI", dated 10-1-1963, Vol. 2, No. 3, Page 9).

AVATAR MEHER BABA



"I am the Highest of the High"

"I am God in human form"

"I have come not to teach, but to awaken"

PREFACE

THE material of this publication was got ready before those eventful days (31st January 1969 and 7th February 1969) when all the Lovers of AVATAR MEHER BABA were shaken and sank in gloom. Thereafter, several pertinent enquiries have been made, or questions have been put, by many. Hence, it became necessary to add those Questions in this publication and answer them not so much as the final answers which might be convincing to the intellectual or rational mind of the worldly man, but more as thought-provoking ones to a pilgrim on the Spiritual Path, and passing on the views held. They are Questions Nos. 10, 37, 41 and 63. Many of the Answers compiled before 31.1.1969 have not been changed.

Let me share with the readers the following excerpt from a recent message to the Western lovers of Baba from Mani (Baba's sister) :

"I believe that His dropping His body is to release His Word to his Creation before His Manifestation, because a day before dropping the body, Baba said that all his suffering had been a preparation for the 'One Word'. May we never be absent in our faith and love to receive it from Him who is always with us !"

Those who have known Meher Baba for many years..... many of them including myself are now living..... have no sort of difficulty in expecting anything at any time from Meher Baba. He is UNIQUE. He can do anything and we unhesitatingly can affirm that every word uttered by Beloved Meher Baba will be fulfilled.....in His own inscrutable ways and in His time. His Kingdom will come to Earth and All Glory be to Him and will be to Him. But, patience, alertness and faith are neededwhy did He ask us to see that 'His daaman' does not (as it may quite easily) slip out of our hands !!! In this School of daily Life, He wants us to practise the LOVE He has taught us ... and for that effort, He has already granted us all His Love and Grace. It now depends on us to avail of the opportunities of life and be more and more responsive to the 'awakening' of His love.

"The greater the trouble, the nearer God (Meher Baba) is to us. The deeper the experience, the more intimately we learn to know God (Baba). When we cannot find God (Baba), we can be found by God (Baba).

LOVE NEVER FAILETH, LOVE NEVER LETS GO OF US.

There comes a time in our life when we cannot find God, but can be found by God (MEHER BABA)".....adapted from H. T. Hamblin (a great Mystic).

This Second Edition was hinted and, in a way, inspired by Beloved Baba in October 1968 and later, also blessed by Him in January 1969. The same has now received the good wishes of Baba's Mandali. I am also authorised to state that this Preface and the Answers to the Questions Nos. 10, 37, 41 and 63 have also the approval of Brothers ERUCH and ADI K. IRANI.

25th February 1969

A.C.S. CHARI

84 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON AVATAR MEHER BABA

Question 1. Who is Meher Baba ?

- Ans.** (i) Please read booklets, such as, "Who is Meher Baba?" or "Introductory Life-Sketch of Meher Baba" or other similar tracts. He is an International Personality now.
- (ii) He is the essence of your very being which provokes you to ask this question.
- (iii) He is the Awakener who will awaken humanity from its sleep of ignorance to the knowledge of its true Self.
- (iv) He is the Arouser who will arouse man to the consciousness of his rightful divine heritage.
- (v) He is the Light which will dispel the darkness of our selfishness, and make us aware of our oneness in God.
- (vi) He is the True Friend, who has come to guide mankind to the path of Truth. He is "the Deliverer of the World."
- (vii) He is God in human form—"Antaryami" (=Omniscient).
- (viii) He is the Saviour, the Messiah, the Christ, the Rasool, the Avatar, the Buddha.
- (ix) He is the Answer to all questions.
- (x) He is the Avatar, the God-Man.
- (xi) He is unquestionably acknowledged and proclaimed as "Limitless Love", also as "The new Messiah" by the Great Ones.
- (xii) He Himself asserts : "The GODMAN is here among men to give them *Love of GOD* and to awaken them to the Reality that GOD ALONE IS REAL AND ALL ELSE IS ILLUSION—A DREAM".

Question 2. Why is He called an Avatar ?

- Ans.** (i) 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.
- (ii) He is *the* Avatar, not *an* Avatar. He is called *the* Avatar

because 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 continuously 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.

- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.

Question 3. What is the significance of the expressions "Avatar" and "Sadguru"?

Ans. "Avatar"=God-Man=Oceanized Individual.

"Sadguru"=Man-God=Individualized Ocean.

Question 4. What makes you believe that He is the Avatar ?

Ans. 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. Mere *intellectual knowledge* is quite different from one's *inner experience*. We have his own assertions which are very authoritative and cannot be treated lightly.

The attributes of the Avatar : (i) The stimulation of His divinely human example ; (ii) the nobility of a life supremely lived ; (iii) of a Love unmixed with desire ; (iv) of a power unused except for others (v) of a peace untroubled by ambition ; (vi) of a Knowledge undimmed by illusion. Baba has all these.

Question 5. Why is Meher Baba observing "Silence" ?

Ans. 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.”

Question 6. When will He break His “Silence” ?

Ans. (i) 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 and when the time is ripe.

(ii) 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 ?”

(Please also see Appendix).

Question 7. How does He communicate ?

Ans. (i) Through His divine Love which reaches the hearts of all who come in His presence.

(ii) Through the language of the heart which is Love – pure divine Love.

(iii) Through the silent language of the heart which is more potent than any spoken word. (The human tongue is not always the only means of communication).

(iv) Through the gestures of his hands, which are more expressive and eloquent than the spoken word. (Till 7th October 1954, He used an English alphabet-board also).

Question 8. Why has He been putting off “the breaking of His Silence” from time to time ?

Ans. Because of Infinite Compassion (“DAYA”, “ANUKAMPA”, “KARUNA”). The time is evidently not yet ripe.

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

* “says” means “communicates through gestures (since 7.10 1954), and prior thereto, through either gestures or an English alphabet-board”. Meher Baba has been observing complete silence from 10th July 1925.

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. The 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. His messages on "Breaking His Silence" have been collected and are available separately. They are significant and unique.

"The present world chaos is the beginning of spiritual manifestation. To illustrate : If a man develops a cataract in his eye, the cataract raises a curtain over his vision and he cannot see properly. The only remedy is to remove the curtain, which means an operation by an eye specialist. But not before the doctor sees that the cataract is ripe enough for the operation – otherwise he allows it to grow ripe.

"Similarly, the present chaotic condition of the world is due to materialism, which has developed self-interest and greed in mankind, raising a curtain which obstructs spiritual vision and development. It has grown so bad now as to create chaos all over the world, a clear indication that the cataract is ripe and almost ready for the operation.

"The operation over, the disease of ignorance, greed and lust will be removed and the spiritual vision of the world will once again be restored. The Doctor-Master is ready for the operation, awaiting only the ripening of the cataract."

—(Meher Baba).

"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." (13-10-1968)

—Meher Baba.

Question 9. Why does Meher Baba remain in seclusion most of the time ?

Ans. Because as the time of His manifestation approaches, His intensified universal work demands His undivided attention. Also, perhaps, 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*.

Question 10. Is Meher Baba living now ? We learnt that he died on 31st January 1969 and that His body was interred in a tomb on 7th Feb. 1969,

(What did he die of? Was he 'stabbed in the back'? Did he die a violent death?)

Ans. In one sense, AVATAR MEHER BABA (THE MEHER BABA) is living and eternally living. Even as to the dropping of the 'physical body', although in the worldly sense, according to the medical opinion and in the view of the Committee of persons who decided to inter that physical body on 7th Feb. 1969 (for more reasons than one) he is dead, there are many persons who still believe that Meher Baba is still alive. In any event, as Meher Baba often used to declare 'I AM NOT THIS BODY', the present non-existence of the body has not much importance with His Avatarhood, His work 'IN SILENCE', His uttering His WORD OF WORDS, and His 'Manifestation'. We have to understand the deep meaning and significance of Meher Baba's utterances in the proper sense, and not in the common man's way.

Those who have some faith in the Science of Astrology will find the following instructive—vide '*The Awakener*' Vol. II, No. 1, page 12 :—

"...He dies under Mercury. Mercury is very bad in this horoscope, good for the occult and bad for the health. Mercury is ruled by Jupiter and Neptune. Neptune gives mostly unusual death-causes which cannot be clearly diagnosed. No physician will find the clear cause of this man's death. Could he be murdered? No. The planet of death, Mercury, is in a very good aspect with Jupiter, from the fourth house, showing that he dies a natural death in his home, but as already said, the true cause will not be found. His open enemies cannot cause his death; unknown enemies also cannot come into consideration. It would be an unknown sickness"

THIS WAS WHAT HAPPENED !!

Baba's body is entombed in a tomb up the Meherabad Hill built in 1938 as per Baba's instructions. Baba, in 1955 and in 1927, took His lovers to that Tomb and said : "When I leave this body, it will have its rest in the Tomb on this hill. After seventy years, this hill will turn into a place of world pilgrimage where lovers of God, philosophers and celebrities will come to pay homage to the Tomb. How fortunate you all are that you are here in my living presence and that you could come up the Hill with me !!...A big town will grow up here... Those of you who have not seen the Tomb before should go

there, see it and pay respects, with a firm resolve (i) that you will try to love Me wholeheartedly, and (ii) that you would try your best to give happiness to others at the cost of your own happiness and comfort. Having made this resolve, try to follow up these two things honestly”- (Vide ‘*The Awakenar*’, Vol. V. No. 3, page 12, and Vol. VII, No. 3, pages 29 to 31).

Question 11. What did He actually do when He is in seclusion?

Ans. He attended to His universal Work on the “inner planes” of consciousness, of which we can have no idea. At such times He wished to remain absolutely undisturbed by visitors, or correspondence, etc. Also He says, everyone does something but He does nothing.

Question 12. What is Meher Baba’s Religion?

Ans. 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.”

Question 13. What are His teachings?

Ans. (i) Remember God and love God, and forget yourself and everything.

(ii) He does not teach, but awakens in us love for God.

(iii) “Baba says : ‘LOVE ME, do not worship me’ ”.

“He says : ‘I AM GOD’, and then, shows the God in you”.

“He says : ‘I AM THE HIGHEST OF THE HIGH’, and yet, he bows down to the lowest of the low”.

(iv) “He knows the complete past and future, yet He makes us live in the Present”.

“He never makes gifts to us. He reveals the Treasure within”.

“BABA IS — hard to understand, easy to love, difficult to know, impossible to realize — so, TRY !!”

“He does not ask for faith in him, but faith in SELF.

He does not ask that you love him, but LOVE HIM IN ALL.

He does not ask for obedience to him (as a person), but as TRUTH.

He asks for surrender only to the Divine Will which is in Him,
 In Him clear
 In you diffuse."

Question 14. What, in Meher Baba's opinion, is the Real meaning and purpose of life ?

Ans. "It is to become identified with the Universal Self, and thus to experience Infinite Bliss, Power, and Knowledge ; and finally, to be able to impart this experience to others, and make them see the One Indivisible Infinity existing in every phase of life."—
 (Meher Baba).

"The purpose of life is to realize God within ourselves.....to realize our oneness with the Infinite. This can be achieved through Love for God. This can be done even whilst attending to our worldly duties. In the everyday walks of life and amidst intense activities, we should feel detached and dedicate our doings to our Beloved God."

—Meher Baba

Question 15. What is life ?

Ans. Meher Baba, to this question, smilingly replied thus :—

"Life is a Mighty Joke. He who knows this can hardly be understood by others. He who does not know it finds himself in a state of delusion. He may ponder over this problem day and night, but will find himself incapable of knowing it. Why ? People take life seriously, and God lightly ; whereas, we must take God seriously, and take life lightly. Then, we know that we always were the same and will ever remain the same..... the Originator of this Joke. This Knowledge is not achieved by reasoning. But it is the KNOWLEDGE OF EXPERIENCE."

(Vide "*The Awakener*", Vol. I, No. 2, page 9)

Question 16. Will any changes take place in the existing religions when Meher Baba imparts the "spiritual push" to the world ?

Ans. "All collective movements and religions have hinged round one Personality who supplied the motive force. Without this centrifugal force, all movements are bound to fail. Societies and organizations have never succeeded in making people attain spiritual perfection.

"Apparently, Meher Baba's message pertains to Divine Love, Universal Brotherhood, right living, and the elimination

of the motive of self-interest. But, in reality, MEHER BABA HAS NOT COME TO TEACH. HE HAS COME TO AWAKEN. By the power of the Divine Love, which flows from Him continually, He transforms the consciousness of those who come to Him for liberation, that they may know, through experience, what the philosophers have tried to teach theoretically through the ages.”—(Meher Baba).

“I am not come to establish any cult, society or organisation ; not even to establish a new religion. The religion that I shall give teaches the knowledge of the ONE behind the many. The book that I shall make people read is the book of the heart that holds the key to the mystery of life. I shall bring about a happy blending of the head and heart. I shall revitalize all religions and cults and bring them together *like beads of one string*.” —(Meher Baba).

“I am equally approachable to one and all, big and small,

To saints who rise and to sinners who fall,
Through all the various paths that give the Divine Call.
I am approachable alike by saints whom I adore, and by sinners whom I am for :

And equally through Sufism, Vedantism, Christianity, or Zoroastrianism or Buddhism, and other ‘Isms’ of any kind.

And also directly through no medium of Isms at all”.
—(Meher Baba).

“I have come to awaken people to the ONE GOD, one Humanity, one Brotherhood. I have not come to teach a new religion, but to revitalize the existing ones”. —(Meher Baba).

“All Paths are Mine,

And all lead eventually to Me.

But, the Shortest Way to Me

Is the ‘NO-PATH’ of self-annihilative LOVE”.

—(Vide “*The Awakener*”, Vol. X, No. 3, page 46)

Question 17. What were His activities ?

Ans. (i) He helped the poor and the afflicted.

(ii) He gave spiritual discourses to his disciples who live with him. These are recorded and published and distributed for the benefit of the world.

(iii) He gave darshan to the public when he is not in seclusion.

- (iv) When he was not in seclusion, he gave interviews to his lovers who come from distant places and different countries to be with him.
- (v) When he was not in seclusion, he gave personal attention to the large amount of correspondence that came 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.
- (vi) When He was in seclusion, he did 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 retired into *strict seclusion*.
- (vii) Sometimes when he was in seclusion, he washed 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.

What is Baba's Work ?

To transform human consciousness from the illusion of the world and the self to the Reality of the Spirit and God ; or, to put it in another way, to enable men to know by experience the Truth of the Infinite Self which is in all.....Real help that can be rendered to humanity is to make man feel his inherent Divinity, and to cause him to see that the only purpose of life is to LOVE GOD in order to become one in full consciousness with Him.

"To those who love Me and naturally wish to know about My activities, I can only say : 'As far as My inner life and internal activities are concerned, only God and those who are One with God can know and understand. As far as My external activities are concerned, regarding My work with the God-intoxicated, saints, sadhus and the poor, of contacting them, serving them and bowing down to them in whole-hearted devotion, they have all been mostly recorded'....."

—(Meher Baba).

Meher Baba was, during the period 1925 to 1956, contacting persons called '*Mast-s*' (=advanced souls and souls intoxicated with Divine Love, but who to the layman appear as mad unbalanced persons living in uncouth and filthy places or surroundings). Baba has toured a great deal incognito to several remote places, putting himself to considerable hardship and expense, both in India and in foreign

countries. He gives them unique effective guidance and push (spiritually) so that they become more and more fit as vehicles for the expression of the Divine Will and also become more efficient agents for the promotion of the Divine Plan on earth.

Question 18. Does He give special Prayers or Meditation ?

Ans. Yes, he has given two prayers to mankind :

(a) The Master's Prayer ("O, Parvardigar") given in August 1953.

(b) The Prayer of Repentance – given in November 1952.

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.

"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" – (Meher Baba) - Vide "The Awakener", Vol. VI, No. 2, page 1.

However, he has given some discourses on Meditation, as well as two Charts called "The Divine Theme."

Question 19. On what subjects has Meher Baba given His 'discourses' ? What about the Hindu faith which believes in Karma and Re-incarnation ?

Ans. Yes, though Meher Baba was born in a Zoroastrian family, His teachings are of 'UNIVERSAL' acceptance. The books may be studied. There are wonderful 'discourses' by Meher Baba on many subjects including 'Karma and Re-incarnation'. The Prayers dictated to and recited by His lovers are absolutely 'Impersonal' and of 'Universal acceptance'. Please study those Prayers also.

Question 20. In meditation, it is necessary to control the mind ; and this requires the use of force. However, the mind cannot be expected to find out the TRUTH unless it functions freely. How, then, can we justify meditation ?

Ans. "I attach more importance to LOVE and WORK, than to MEDITATION. If you love a person, you *naturally* and *spontaneously* think about him. There is no question of forcing the mind in such meditation." – (Meher Baba).

(Vide "The Awakener", Vol. I, No. 2, page 8).

Question 21. This type of flowing and spontaneous meditation is, of course, very beautiful and needs no justification. But, why should some systems emphasize the need for concentrating upon some single form ?

Ans. "If you concentrate upon anything intensely, it shatters the whole structure of *sanskaras*, so that their chains become loose".
—(Meher Baba).
(Vide *Ibid.*)

Question 22. Why, when so many inspired Religions already exist, is additional revelation of God as Avatar (Meher Baba) required ?

Ans. "At the time of the manifestation of an Avatar, the force of the new spiritual impulse is so tremendous that it creates quite a new awakening of consciousness. This, combined with the teachings and activities of the Avatar on the physical plane during the life in which He manifests Himself, is given outward form by His followers, who call it a new *Religion*.

"As the force of the *spiritual push* gradually weakens with the lapse of time, spirituality also recedes until it almost sinks into insignificance ; religion, or rather the outward form of it, becomes like a dry crust, ready to crumble at any moment, and world conditions reach a climax. It is at this critical juncture that an Avatar appears, and manifests on the physical plane, to give once again the *spiritual impulse* that the world then requires. The force of this *spiritual push* is again adopted as a new outward religious form according to the existing circumstances. The Avatar, after completing His mission, abandons His physical body and assumes the Impersonal aspect of Divinity as before, till He is compelled once more by force of circumstances to take the human form and re-appear and manifest as an Avatar ; and the process goes on and on and on.

"This is why the contemporary religions have apparently different forms, owing to the different times and circumstances in which they were established, and they are known after the name of the Avatar of that particular period, though in essence they contain the same ideal of life taught over and over again by the same Divinity, who appeared and manifested on Earth at different times and under different circumstances."—
(Meher Baba).

Question 23. Why is it necessary to have the aid of a Perfect Master in order to attain perfection ?

Ans. ‘Only a Perfect Master, who is the veritable incarnation of Divinity, can awaken in the individual the fire of Divine Love, which consumes in its flames the lesser desires of the body, mind, and world, all of which must be completely relinquished before Perfection can be realized’.

Question 24. Why is meditation on a Perfect Master the most effective form of meditation ?

Ans. “By meditation on a Perfect Master, who is Divine and fully conscious of His Divinity, the individual who is divine, *but not* fully conscious of his divinity, is led into Divine Self-Consciousness.

“There are two aspects of the Infinite One – Personal and Impersonal. The *Impersonal* aspect lies beyond the domain of Creation and transcends even the mental plane. The *Personal* aspect of God is the Perfect Master, who, having attained to the *Impersonal* aspect, lives in the world and helps others towards Truth” – (Meher Baba).

Question 25. How are we to reconcile love for all life with the love for the Master ?

Ans. “If anyone loves *anybody*, that love ultimately comes to ME, because I am there” – (Meher Baba).

(Vide “*The Awakener*”, Vol. I, No. 2, page 8)

Question 26. When Meher Baba said that J. died and he ‘came to Him’, C.P. asked Baba to comment on what Meher Baba meant by “to come to Me”.

Ans. Meher Baba replied : – “‘*To come to Me*’ means liberation, experiencing Me as I am. No more bondages of births and deaths. But it does not mean the state of a Perfect Master, of Perfection. This is only to be attained in the gross body. So, if you are not blessed with this state of Perfection, at least you can have liberation. If you just take My name, just at the moment of dropping your body, you ‘*will come to Me*’. Yes, anyone. It is not so easy to take My name at the very moment of leaving the body. Then you individually experience bliss, infinite bliss. After liberation, you continue to experience infinite bliss eternally. Why ? Because it belongs to you eternally. You experience what belonged to you

eternally. Even spiritual ecstasy cannot be compared with Divine Bliss. Remember this."

Question 27. How can Meher Baba have both the Buddha and the Christ Consciousness ?

Ans. "There is but one Divine Infinite "Consciousness", whether realized by the Christ, or experienced by the Buddha, and the external expression of this Divine Consciousness varies according to the circumstances confronting (at the respective historical times) the GODMEN who have attained to this super-conscious state.

"Once gained, the Cosmic Consciousness is gained for eternity, and is continually present either on the spiritual plane, or, as "THE WORD" made flesh, for the upliftment of humanity." —(Meher Baba).

Question 28. Why doesn't He have an ASHRAM where anyone can go for His Darshan freely ?

Ans. 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 was not in seclusion, He was available to all who sought His darshan, at the times fixed by Him - mainly when He was staying in Poona during May and June each year.

Question 29. Why doesn't Meher Baba perform miracles ?

Ans. 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. "Ages and ages ago, I did perform one great miracle and the whole of this illusion of Creation came from Me. I will perform another such miracle at the time when I break My silence. That will be My first and last miracle in My present incarnation. Expect no other miracle from Me." "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” “There is no greater miracle than the miracle of the Awakened heart”. — (Meher Baba).

Question 30. Will Meher Baba perform Miracles when He speaks ?

Ans. He has often performed and will perform miracles when the time and situation demand. He will perform them to draw towards Him the sceptical, unbelieving people who would never believe in Truth, unless it were proved by some extra-ordinary phenomena.

“Miracles are not necessary for *understanding* persons because spiritual healing is by far the greatest healing, and this is Avatar Meher Baba’s real work. He will not perform miracles to satisfy mere idle curiosity” (Meher Baba).

“Meher Baba has explained that the ability to perform miracles does not necessarily imply high spirituality. Anyone who has attained perfection and enjoys the “Christ-Consciousness” can perform miracles. Healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, and even raising the dead, are quite simple for a Perfect Master. Even those who have not become One with the Infinite, but who are only traversing the planes, can perform miracles and are able to make and unmake things.”

“Spiritual Masters do not perform miracles to order, just to satisfy idle curiosity. Miracles were performed, and will be performed, according to the existing circumstances. Masters have sometimes performed miracles when they intended to give a *universal spiritual push*”—(Meher Baba).

Question 31. Does Meher Baba do any “healing” as Christ did ?

Ans. Meher Baba says : “ Real healing is *Spiritual healing*, whereby the soul, becoming free from desires, doubts and hallucinations, enjoys the eternal bliss of God.

“Untimely physical healing might retard the spiritual healing. If borne willingly, physical and mental suffering can make one worthy of receiving spiritual healing. Consider mental and physical suffering as gifts from God, which, if accepted gracefully, lead to everlasting happiness.”

(Vide “*THE AWAKENER*”, Vol. I, No. I, page 33)

Question 32. What is Meher Baba’s attitude towards “miracles” ?

Ans. Meher Baba says : “Why should we produce petty imitation illusions in the already created mighty infinite Illusion ?

“Unless absolutely necessary, for the spiritual purpose of a general collective drawing of mankind towards Self-Realization miracles performed un-naturally or super-naturally can interfere with GOD’s ordained evolutionary process.”

(Vide *ibid*)

Question 33. In H.P.B.’s work ‘ISIS UNVEILED’ (II, 587), it is stated thus :—

“There is no miracle. Everything that happens is the result of law – eternal, immutable, ever active”. Does Meher Baba agree with, or differ from, that principle enunciated in Theosophical books ?

Ans. Meher Baba has dealt with this subject in detail and attention is invited to the Chapter titled “Supervening Orders in the Spiritual Panorama” in the book titled “BEAMS FROM MEHER BABA IN THE SPIRITUAL PANORAMA”. Baba explains that “there are ‘grades of laws’ which supervene upon one another, so that a ‘miracle’ is not an exception to the existing laws of the Universe, but the supersession of ordinary and known laws of Nature by the super-natural and unknown laws of the Inner Spheres”.

“...The only miracle which is worthy of the name is the DIVINE GRACE that knows no fetters, and that can control the entire universe with all its laws. It is the *last* supervening factor in the graded orders which obtain in the spiritual panorama..... Mind also can be called the great miracle of the universe, because it is out of the mind that the illusion of the universe arises. Mind is a parent miracle, yet the fulfilment of its destiny lies in self-annihilation. It has not fulfilled its true purpose, if it does not completely disappear.....When the mind gets ‘annihilated’ (in the real sense), it happens.....only by an act of Divine Grace.....We can neither deny, nor explain, this DIVINE GRACE which transcends all of the graded orders, together with all their laws, in the spiritual panorama. With the wiping out of the mind, there is the wiping out of all minor and major miracles. This is the *only miracle* worthy of the name and which is *spiritually necessary*.....All separateness vanishes as soon as the mind, which is the creator of this sepa-

rateness, comes to its termination *through the act of Divine Grace.....*” — (Meher Baba).

Question 34. Why does He call Himself God ?

Ans. 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 God-hood, 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.

Question 35. How do you know He is God ?

Ans. 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, the Christ, the Rasool, the 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.

Question 36. If He is all-knowing and all- powerful, why has He allowed Himself and His disciples to meet with accidents and to have suffering ?

Ans. Only when the All-knowing and the 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 in the forests in search of her. Jesus Christ permitted 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.

Question 37. Do you think that MEHER BABA’S work as Avatar is over and complete ?

Ans. In one sense, largely Yes, in the words of Meher Baba Himself. In the Circular No. 68 dated 4th March 1968, it was stated thus : "None can have the least idea of the immensity of the work that I am doing in this 'Seclusion'. The only hint I can give is, that compared with the work I do in seclusion, all the important work of the world put together is completely insignificant. Although for Me the burden of My work is crushing, the result of My work will be intensely felt by all people in the world...I also repeat that the fate of the Universe hangs on My 'Seclusion' and the redemption of mankind depends upon My 'Manifestation'. All I ask of My lovers is to help Me complete My work by 21st May 1968, so that by this date My Universal work in 'Seclusion' will end and there will be no need for further 'seclusions'."

Thereafter, Tuesday the 21st May 1968 marked both an end and a beginning of Baba's work—the end of the interminable 'seclusion' and the beginning of a period called 'exclusion' (when His lovers were excluded from seeing Him). This period of 'exclusion' is the threshold leading to 'Inclusion' the time that will include all to His 'Darshan'. Please read the NEWS-LETTER dated 9th September 1968, published in the Journal 'DIVYA VANI' Number 3 of Volume 4 (25th Septr. 1968) pages 38 to 49.

On the evening of Tuesday, 30th July 1968, Baba declared thus : "My work is done. It is completed 100 per cent. The result of this work will also be 100 per cent and will manifest from the end of September."

On 13th October 1968, Meher Baba declared thus :—"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."

The foregoing should all be well studied and remembered. Further, we cannot bring Meher Baba to the human level and judge Him. It is very difficult for all to understand Him. There are the 'chosen few' who know what Meher Baba says and does.

There is also another view which some of His devotees take in understanding the events of 31.1.1969 and 7.2.1969 (it was the date of His 75th Birthday according to the Zoroastrian almanac). Very often, those close to Baba would entreat Baba to take care

of his bodily health—well-intentionedly, of course. Meher Baba often used to say thus : “You cannot have a seed of an idea how crushing the pressure was, for it is beyond human understanding My body felt as though it had been through a wringer.....”. Meher Baba worked entirely away from the gross plane and it was always a hard labour for Him to retain His link with the physical body. He had to take great pains to keep the thread-fine link from snapping !! Those close to Baba, although showing implicit obedience, always showed more concern about Meher Baba’s physical body — not adequately realising Baba’s work. At one moment, Meher Baba let fall this remark : “That would mean once again prolonging the Work and postponing the result and set it on a different course !! ”

There is another view also and it is this : “Now that Meher Baba has chosen to drop His physical body, He is all the more living—and eternally living — in the hearts of all His lovers. He had to undergo very severe mental and physical hardships which ultimately told seriously on His health and they were tantamount to His crucifixion to save the world from destruction. He has sacrificed Himself to enable the world to live. *HE IS NOT DEAD*. He is very much living and *THE WORD* that He promised to utter before the dissolution of His body is already with us. He more than once said : ‘You cannot deny God, but you cannot defy God’. He cast *THE WORD* into a perceptible and tangible form of Himself. He is our constant “*AWAKENER*”. He came to our succour and decided to dwell in our hearts all by *HIMSELF* and now we may see Him *within ourselves*. He was *ONE*, but now He is ‘*ONE IN MANY*’. He is One with *THE ONE* and is guiding our destinies. Let us not fail Him. Let us work out His plan which is Divine and Eternal.”

Please also read the instructive and the balanced Editorial in “*DIVYA VANT*”, Monthly Vol. 4, Vol. 7, dated 25.2.1969.

Question 38. When God is in our midst, why is there so much suffering in the world ? How can we believe in such a God ?

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

Question 39. Why should misery perpetually exist on earth in spite of God's Infinite Love and Mercy ?

Ans. "The source of Eternal Bliss is the Self in all and 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 that all suffering is his labour of love to unveil his own Infinite Self"—
(Meher Baba).

Question 40. Why is India suffering more than any other country even though the Avatar is born and lives in India ?

Ans. 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.

Question 41. What has He really achieved and done for humanity ?

Ans. For one thing, it is too premature to answer this question. Posterity will know and realise, if the present humanity cannot or does not.

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. He is intensely working in His own way for the establishment of "THE NEW AGE" wherein "THE NEW HUMANITY" will live in harmony, co-operation, peace and goodwill. Vide also APPENDIX.

'I live in the hearts of My lovers'.....said Baba many a time. For nearly five decades Baba engaged himself in building His 'Universal Family' transcending all barriers of caste, creed, religion, nationality with the tender cords of LOVE. He put His lovers to severe disciplines of mind and body so as to fit them into the 'New Humanity'. In His Characteristic declarations, there has always been a deep element of mysticism. In fact, Baba, revelled in mysticism and in what we may call 'Promise-breaking'. To take Baba's statements literally has been an indication of our own ignorance. This is the reason why He was telling us not to try to understand the UN-UNDER-
STANDABLE.

Can there be any doubt that Meher Baba is the GOD-

MAN, that from the moment of His own 'spiritual awakening' (by the five Perfect Masters)—in the earlies of 1913-1921—every moment of His life He devoted wholly and absolutely for the regeneration of mankind's spirituality? Through the flame of His Divine LOVE, Meher Baba has tried to kindle the flame of LOVE in every being on this Earth, so that man's life may be *consciously* turned towards the Divine, and one's life's efforts and daily living may be devoted towards the realization of the GODHOOD which is latent in everyone—thus fulfilling Meher Baba's oft-repeated expression 'I HAVE COME NOT TO TEACH, BUT TO AWAKEN'.

Question 42. How does Meher Baba help an aspirant and how does He help mankind?

Ans. "As a rule, Masters help individually according to the temperament and preparedness of the aspirant. But this being the Avataric period, i.e., the end of the previous Cycle and the beginning of the new one (it usually occurs every seven to eight hundred years), Meher Baba's spiritual help to humanity will be both individual and collective. He rejuvenates and infuses new life into the old order of things, and imparts the highest state of spirituality — the state of Oneness with the Infinite Ocean of Bliss, Knowledge, and Power to His close disciples. (He calls everyone as His 'lover'). He gives a general *spiritual push* to the whole universe".

"I have come to sow the seed of Love in your hearts so that in spite of all superficial diversity which your life in Illusion must experience and endure, the feeling of ONENESS through LOVE is brought about amongst all nations, creeds, sects and castes of the world."

— (Meher Baba).

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

— (Meher Baba)

Question 43. Will Meher Baba bring "peace and happiness" to the world?

Ans. "There exists at the present moment a universal dis-satisfaction and an indescribable longing for something that will end the terrible chaos and misery that overshadows the world just now. He is going to satisfy this longing, and will lead the world to *real happiness*."

The disorders in the world without, are a reflection of the disorders within. Meher Baba will enable mankind to solve

their *inner* problems by *awakening* the Divine elements in them."

See also answer to Q. 67.

Question 44. Has Meher Baba any solution for the problems of politics, economics, morals, and sex ?

Ans. "In the general *spiritual push* that He will impart to the world, the problems of politics, economics, and sex, although they are subsidiary to the primary purpose, will automatically be solved and adjusted, and new values and significance will be attached to matters which appear to baffle solution at the present moment"—(*Meher Baba*).

Question 45. How will Meher Baba be able, by speaking, to ease the world depression, to solve the problems of unemployment, prohibition, and crime ?

Ans. "The root of all our difficulties, individual and social, is *self-interest*. It is this, for example, which causes corrupt 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 pleasure, in the breaking of that law, thus causing disrespect for law in general and increasing crime tremendously ; which causes the exploitation of 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 wanton destruction of large quantities of food simply in order to maintain **high** prices ; which causes the hoarding of large sums of gold when the welfare of the world demands its circulation.

"These are only a few examples of the way *self-interest* operates to the detriment of human welfare. Eliminate *self-interest* and you will solve all your problems, individual and social.

"But the elimination of *self-interest*, even granting a sincere desire on the part of the individual to accomplish it, is not easy, and is never completely achieved except by the aid of a Perfect Master, who has the power to convey Truth at will.

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 this elimination is possible.

“Meher Baba intends, when He speaks, to reveal the One Supreme Self (God) which is in all. This accomplished, the idea of the Self as a limited separate entity will disappear, and with it, will vanish self-interest. Co-operation will replace competition ; security will replace uncertainty ; generosity will replace greed ; exploitation will disappear”. — (Meher Baba).

Question 46. Who are His intimate disciples ? Has any of them realised God ?

Ans. Anyone who adheres to the discipline set by Him and carries out His every command without any reservation is His intimate 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. The question of “GOD-REALISATION” and “TRUTH” is an individual perception and inner experience, for each. Each individual is in a particular stage or level in his progress and is certainly marching and gathering “experiences”. A spiritual push is given to the whole humanity of this Age and in particular, to each individual — at whichever stage he or she be.

Meher Baba can arouse the highest ideals in men and women, and can touch the hearts of millions.

Before He ‘utters’ the WORD, there will be conflicts unavoidably. But none will win, none will lose. Rather, it will be a desire for a better and a higher ideal of life. All the existing ideas of race, nationality, religion, etc., will be eradicated and destroyed, and the ideals of *human brotherhood* will be established. Rather, *Universal Brotherhood*, which is a fact in Nature, will be realised and lived.

Question 47. How does Meher Baba maintain himself and his disciples ?

Ans. 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, irrespective of caste, creed or faith.

“Amongst His numerous lovers, both in the East and in

the West, there are many who are fairly well-to-do and who voluntarily contribute money towards His cause, for the maintenance of some of His 'mandali' (who stay with Him or under His care), and for travels that His work necessitates. In fact, there are also a few who have dedicated all their possessions, and even their lives, to Him and His cause.

"From the spiritual point of view, it may be expressed in Meher Baba's own words : "The WHOLE UNIVERSE IS MINE".

"From the material point of view, He sometimes is provided with enough money and means for His work, and sometimes, He is also penniless. But, He is, always, equally un-attached and worriless".

Question 48. Does he observe fast ?

Ans. 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.

Question 49. Is he married ?

Ans. In this Advent, No.

Question 50. Has he ever been in love ?

Ans. Yes, He has. And He is still in love. He has been and eternally is in love with Humanity !

He is LOVE—LIMITLESS LOVE, DIVINE LOVE MANIFESTED.

Question 51. What has he to say on Marriage ? Does he allow inter-caste marriage ?

Ans. If a man and a woman love each other and wish to marry, then they should marry by all means taking into consideration their family and social responsibilities.

He is unconcerned about this, because for him there is no distinction of caste or creed. He says that if both individuals love each other and their parents have no objection to the marriage, then there is no reason why an inter-caste marriage should be objected to.

Question 52. What has he to say on "Family planning" ?

Ans. Restrict the number of children to not more than three, if you can afford three, and abide by the laws of the land.

Question 53. What is Meher Baba's opinion concerning money ?

Ans. "It entirely depends upon the way in which we use our money, whether it is good or bad. Money earned and utilized as a means of livelihood for oneself and for those who depend on one, is *good*. Given as charity for the benefit of humanity, it is *better*. But, to give anonymously, and yet, carefully, for the intelligent service and spiritual upliftment of humanity, without dictating as to how it shall be administered or spent—this is the *best* use of money. But, very, very, few selfless people can do that.

"When money, gained by fair means or foul, is spent in order to gratify one's desire for pleasure and enjoyment, it makes the spender pleasure-loving and selfish. And, if the same person suddenly loses that money, he naturally feels miserable and curses life and fate. Worse still, is it when he wastes money, earned or inherited, in speculation and gambling, or in wine and women.

"Whether it is good or bad for us to possess money depends entirely on the use we make of it. Fire can serve and warm a man; fire can also burn and destroy a man"—
(*Meher Baba*).

Question 54. What have you learnt by following Meher Baba ?

Ans. That we have to completely unlearn all we think we have learnt, in order to begin to know the Truth.

Question 55. What have you gained by following Meher Baba ?

Ans. The loss of some of the false self.

Unless one completely loses one's false self, one cannot gain one's true Self.

"This is the good fortune of each one of us, to be incarnated at the time of the Avatar. He can respond consciously to us. He *does* respond. This is His work. This is our destiny."

Question 56. Does one have to receive any "Initiation" from Him to be His follower ?

Ans. The only "initiation" is the *love* for Him as GOD that He awakens in one's heart.

Question 57. Does he give any "Mantra" or teach any "Sadhana" ?

Ans. 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. (HIM=GOD.) (HIS=GOD'S.)

Question 58. What yoga does Meher Baba teach ?

Ans. Meher Baba says, "The yoga I teach is : 'you go from you and come to Me'."

"...I know no other Yoga than 'you go'...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".

Question 59. Is it possible for man to get at the TRUTH ?

Ans. "Yes. As to how it is possible, could be answered in a sentence, or even volumes would not suffice. I shall give the answer in one sentence : Discard falsehoods to get at the Truth. But, what is 'falsehood' ? You are right when you say that that which does not endure, is 'falsehood'. Therefore, discard all that which does not endure, and you will realize the TRUTH."—(Meher Baba).

Question 60. But, is there any part of the 'Self' that endures ?

Ans. "Yes. (Baba pointed at the person and said) : You alone endure and the rest of your self is to be discarded to realize the real SELF that is YOU"—(Meher Baba).

Question 61. What is Meher Baba's attitude towards 'prayer' or 'worship' ?

Ans. Meher Baba has dealt with this subject with clarity in a Chapter titled "Prayer as Inner Approach" in the book "BEAMS FROM MEHER BABA ON THE SPIRITUAL PANORAMA" and in a Discourse titled "BHAKTI YOGA" (see 'The Awakener', Volume VI, No. I, pages 7 14). To quote : ".....The ideal prayer to the Lord is nothing more than spontaneous praise of His being. You praise Him, not in the spirit of bargain (or 'expectation'), but in the spirit of self-forgetful appreciation of what He really is. You praise Him because He is praiseworthy.....All prayers with a motive (or expectation) fall short of the ideal prayer which is without motive.....If you pray with a motive to do good to some one, your prayer may actually bring about good both to him and to yourself. Some people pray for the spiritual benefit of those who have done them some wrong. There also, they are helping others spirituallyIn the entire spiritual panorama of the universe, nothing is more sublime

than a spontaneous prayer.....In its highest form, prayer leaves no room for the illusory diarchy of the lover and the Beloved. It is a return to one's own being."

"A worship may be sincere, it may be from the heart, but if the worshipper offers it with the expectation of any return, whether in the shape of any worldly benefits, or for blessings in the life hereafter, his worship is 'SAKAM' This '*Sakam*' is generally connected with the first stage of '*Bhakti Yoga*'. When worship is offered from the heart for the sake of worship only, and without any thoughts of reward in this or in the next life, it is called '*NISHKAM*'..... True, the aspiration to see and be one with God is the chief motive of the HIGHEST WORSHIP, but this aspiration is poles asunder from worldly desires. This aspiration is such that even when one comes face to face with God, it remains in full blaze until the Union is effected - Cf. Hafiz when He exclaimed thus, when He reached the 'sixth plane' :-

"*Khatiram vakhti havas kardi kay binam chizha Ta toora didam na kardi jooz ba didarat havas !!*"

=(*"I always desired to see different things, but since I have seen YOU, I desire to see nothing but YOU"*).

"Efforts may be made to turn *Sakam Bhakti* into *Nishkam Bhakti* even in the first stage. In the beginning, worship is necessarily *Sakam*. A man may cease to worship God for the sake of temporal gains. But it seldom happens that, while worshipping, a man in the initial stage can help avoiding thoughts for reward in the life to come - (or perhaps, of attaining liberation altogether). And although this *Sakam Bhakti* is nothing but beggary, - it is, however, beggary before God - it is all the same the beginning of *true Bhakti*, for while begging directly or indirectly of God for any kind of favours, the worshipper *sincerely praises God*. Because the praise of God, actuated by the thoughts of gain, is *from the heart*, it is likely to turn into dis-interested praise, which in turn, leads to *Nishkam Bhakti*."

Question 62. It is remarked that Meher Baba makes promises and always puts them off and that it looks as though he is not sure of himself or what he declares ?

Ans. "The world is against spirituality, and so against Me, as I have often told you. *Do not be hasty in forming opinions regarding My words or deeds.* My words will prove to be true, but I alone know, how, when and where. You will not understand them, because to understand My mystical statements, supernatural intelligence is required" (Meher Baba).—(page 104 of Irene Conybeare's Book "CIVILISATION OR CHAOS?"—2nd Edition).

Question 63. Meher Baba promised to give 'DARSHAN' to His lovers at Poona, in the place called "GURU PRASAD" between 10th April 1969 and 10th June 1969. If He was 'GOD', should He not have known that he would die and that this would be an empty and misleading promise ?

Ans. What you say is, perhaps, the first impression to an ordinary person. But, those who know the Spiritual Path much better have been taking different views : One is : that Baba's Circular No. 70 dated 1st Novr. 1968 and the Circular No. 71 dated 15th January 1969 have not been carefully scanned and understood. There are words and sentences in both of them which clearly indicate that "THE DARSHAN" will be given and that only to 'HIS LOVERS' (meaning those who have implicit faith in Meher Baba and 'stick on to His daaman' even after the incidents of 31.1.1969 and 7.2.1969), that it will be the last 'given in Silence', that "it will not be possible to see anyone individually or give private interviews". Baba prepared the whole programme and handed it to His lovers on 13th October 1968 and emphatically stated "These are my terms, take it or leave it". It is possible that very few of His close ones did grasp his His words, or that all took Him lightly then. Meher Baba also clearly emphasised that this Darshan will be unique and that "the 1962 East-West Gathering will be nothing when compared with this". Perfect Masters usually only give *hints*, and it depends on us how alert and serious we are.

Another view is : God can always change His plans and ways, both as regards time and methods. It is not a case of a human being committing himself/herself and not resiling from such commitment.

It is more prudent to keep a receptive mind, wait and watch and see. One cannot discard Meher Baba's utterances

so unwisely. He was always definite and categorical and sure of what He did and said (by gestures and/or the alphabet-board). It is also likely that some of His lovers have to wait for some incarnations also, if this life is not sufficient.

There are many of His lovers who have such implicit faith in Him that they would still seek His 'Darshan' in the terms laid down in the aforesaid Circulars. Their faith will undoubtedly reward them.

Please also read the Editorial in 'DIVYA VANI', Monthly, Vol. 4, No. 7, dated 25.2.1969. Also the Article "*ON MEHER BABA'S BEING 'DEAD'*" printed in this publication.

Question 64. Sometimes, Meher Baba is misunderstood, so it is said. Why so ?

Ans. "To guide, instruct and help humanity, which is My only mission, I have come down to the level of human understanding and consciousness, and here it is that I am 'misunderstood'. To give an example : If a teacher, a Doctor of Literature of a University, comes down to the level of his students (boys and girls) and teaches the letters of the alphabet, it does not mean that he has ceased to be a Doctor of Literature of the University. Similarly, My Infinite state of God-Consciousness remains un-affected, even when I function at the level of normal human consciousness"— (Meher Baba)— (Vide "*The Awakener*", Vol. X, No. 2, page 40).

Question 65. What is His recent message to humanity ?

Ans. "...Love makes the Formless and Infinite become enformed and finite as the GOD-MAN among men. Love Me more and more because for the sake of Love, I have come among you... Let My lovers rejoice...because soon...something great will happen that has never happened before..That which is to happen...will be SOMETHING GREAT, something that has never happened before, something that will not happen again for billions and billions of years..The something great' will happen of a sudden, not in developing stages. People will go about their daily affairs unaware till the moment of its happening...". Vide also APPENDIX.

Question 66. What does He want of us ?

Ans. He wants complete surrender and complete obedience.

He wants everyone of us to purify ourselves and live a life

of love, goodwill to Humanity and to all Creation and become worthy of belonging to "THE NEW AGE" or "THE NEW HUMANITY". Vide also APPENDIX.

"These days 'MAYA'.....the principle of Ignorance.....is in full play and tries to oppose My Work. So, particularly those who live near (and those closely connected with my work) must remain very watchful (alert). Knowing My Love for you, Maya awaits the opportunity to use your weaknesses. The moment you neglect *My instructions*, Maya's purpose is served. I have to put up a big fight with MAYA.... not to destroy it, but to *make you aware of its nothingness*. The moment you fail to obey Me implicitly, it tightens its grip over you and you fail to carry out the duties assigned to you. This adds to My present suffering.

"In God, there is no such thing as confusion. God is Infinite Bliss and Honesty. In Illusion, there is misery, confusion and chaos. As the Eternal Redeemer of Humanity, I am at the junction of Reality and Illusion, simultaneously experiencing the Infinite Bliss of Reality and the suffering of Illusion. With Reality on the one hand, and Illusion on the other, I constantly experience, as it were, a pull on either side. This is my 'crucifixion'. I do not ever let go My hold on Reality. Imagine, for instance, that the pull of Illusion becomes too great, what would happen ? My 'arm' would be pulled out of its socket, BUT I REMAIN WHAT 'I AM'.".....(Meher Baba).

Question 67. How can one get happiness ? What has He to say ?

Ans. 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".

See also Answer to Q. 43.

Question 68. What is the Goal of Life according to Meher Baba ?

Ans. The annihilation of the mind and the realization of the Self.

See also Answer to Q. 14.

Question 69. What is Meher Baba's mission ?

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

"The God-Man does not convey thought, but Truth, which He either awakens in the individual whom He is helping, through a deep inner experience, or which He transmits directly from the superconscious to the conscious, from the spiritual to the physical, by means of either the physical eye, the physical touch, or the spoken word".

"One who transcends the three states of consciousness (viz., 'awake' state, 'dream' state, and 'deep sleep' state) and gains illumination experiences the superconscious state. This is the Christ-Buddha-Krishna state, the God-Man state, in which one attains to perfect manhood and perfect Divinity. To be one with the source of all Love, Knowledge, Power, Light and Existence is to enjoy infinite bliss and feel in harmony with everyone and everything. Art, science, beauty, Nature, appear as one's own manifestation.

"This is all well and good for the individual; *but what about the multitudes ?* In the present state of world depression and economic strife, the supreme thought of the people at large is about their daily bread. How can they think of or aspire to spiritual illumination ? And it is self-interest (caused by low selfish desires) that is at the root of this universal condition of misery. Material desire is misery. When you want a thing, you crave for it, until you get it — this is suffering. And when you do get it, you don't experience the happiness you expected — this is disappointment, which is also suffering.

"And this self-interest *cannot* be eliminated by means of religious piety, nor can sermons or the fear of heaven and hell help. Only when the atmosphere of *selfless love* and *universal brotherhood* prevails throughout the world, will this *self-interest be annihilated*. Then only will people realize that the true aim of life is not merely to eat, drink, sleep, or seek for pleasure — in other words, to gain material welfare — but to attain real happiness in every phase of life : material, social, and spiritual. *And this time is drawing very near*". (Meher Baba).

Question 70. There are references to 'the Second Coming of Christ' in the Gospels, e. g., in St. Mark Ch. XIII, verses, 21, 26, 27. Will Meher Baba explain this ?

(The following is the Biblical quotation above referred to :

“And, then, if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ ; or, Lo, *He is* there ; believe *him* not.....”

“But in those days, after that tribulation.....then shall they see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.”)

Ans. Meher Baba answered thus ;—

“The ‘*gathering of the elect*’ refers to the re-incarnation and final assembling of His close disciples and followers at the time of His Second Coming. It is wrong to associate “the Second Coming” with the imprisonment of the Devil and a thousand years’ peace, or with a literal interpretation of the Last Day of Judgment.

“All the great Mystics have understood the word “CLOUDS” as a symbolic expression for states of consciousness or the spiritual planes. When *the Christ* descends from the Infinite, that is, the Seventh Plane, He brings with Him to earth the Infinite Goodness, Wisdom, Power, and LOVE, and also the powers, signs, and experiences of the six lower planes. In the words of a great SUFI Saint :

“Behold the sky, and clouds and the world :

First is God, then the planes, the last is earth ;

But all the three are linked”

(“*Asman o Abro dunya basta*” been

Avvalin Haq bad manzil pus zamin”)

“We read in the Gospel of *St. Mark* (Ch. IX, verses 2 and 7) that ‘the Transfiguration of Jesus’ occurred when He ascended into a mountain :

“And there was a cloud that overshadowed them :

And a voice came out of the cloud saying, :

‘This is my beloved Son, hear him’.”

“(Brother Leo relates the Vision of St. Francis in Mount Alvernia that he ‘saw coming down from Heaven a torch of flame exceeding beautiful and light, which, descending, rested on the head of St. Francis ; and out of the flame there came a voice.....’ St. Francis explains to Brother Leo thus : ‘I then was I in a Light of contemplation, in which I saw the abyss of the Infinite goodness and Wisdom and Power of GOD.....and in the flame that thou sawest was God, who also spake in such a manner unto me, even as in old time He had spoken unto Moses.’.)”

“Therefore, we see that ‘CLOUDS’, the ‘HOUSE OF CLOUDS’ (*manzil*), is a symbolic expression among Mystics for the ‘six planes’.”

“(The ‘Seven Planes of Consciousness’, often referred to, are : Intellect, Lower Inspiration, Intuition, Insight, Higher Inspiration, Illumination.....the Sixth Plane, which is only experienced by the greatest saints.....and Christ-Consciousness. The ‘Seventh Plane’ is separated by a great gulf from the Sixth Plane, and no one can cross it and attain Christ-consciousness without the aid of a Perfect Master)”.

(Vide ‘*The Awakener*’, Volume I, No. 3, page 7)

Question 71. What is God ?

Ans. What is not God ? God is Existence, Infinite and Eternal. Everything is God.

Though everybody 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.

Question 72. Why has God created this Universe ?

Ans. Meher Baba answered thus : “Who says GOD has created this world ? We have created it by our own imagination. God is Supreme, Independent. When we say He has created this Illusion, we lower Him and His Infinity ; He is beyond all this. Only when we find Him in ourselves and even in our day-to-day life, then do all doubts vanish. We then *know Him*, and therefore, we have not even to think about Him. Do you ever have to think as to whether you are a man, or a woman ? The answer is : ‘No’, because you *know* you are a man. So it is, when we *become God*. Unless and until we experience this supreme Knowledge, it is all mere talk, reasoning, logic, and theory.....”.

(Vide “*The Awakener*”, Vol. I, No. 2, page 11).

Question 73. What does Meher Baba mean by ‘God’ ?

Ans. “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. GOD IS LOVE. INFINITE LOVE IS GOD. Love God...and you will find that your own *self* is nothing but GOD.”

—(*Meher Baba*).

“YOU AND I ARE NOT WE, BUT ONE”. (Meher Baba).

Question 74. What, in a nutshell, is Meher Baba's philosophy of the “DIVINE THEME” ?

Ans. “Due to the Original ‘Lahar’ (=Whim), the Unconscious Infinite “I” was simultaneously confronted with (i) Consciousness, (ii) “Who am I?”, and (iii) Illusion — and manifested into innumerable finite “I-s” and said :

‘I am stone’ ; ‘I am metal’ ; ‘I am vegetable’ ; ‘I am worm’ ;
‘I am fish’ ; ‘I am bird’ ; ‘I am animal’ ; ‘I am man’ ;
‘I am woman’ ; ‘I am body’ ; ‘I am energy’ ; ‘I am mind’.

When Illusion disappears, the Infinite “I” with Consciousness retained, says : ‘I AM GOD’.”

“Reality pulls you towards itself, and Illusion pulls you towards itself.

If you let go the pull of Reality, you get drowned in the ocean of Illusion.

If you lean towards both, you get crushed.

So, through Love, let go the pull of illusion and become One with Reality.”

(Vide ‘*The Awakener*’, Vol. VI, No. 3, page 2).

Question 75. How to love GOD ?

Ans. Meher Baba once answered : “How to love God ? How do you love anything ? If a man falls in love, say, with a beautiful girl, what happens, then ? No system or principle exists for him. He will not mind ridicule. If people call him mad, he does not mind it.

“One should become lost in the idea of possessing the Beloved by hook or by crook. When you are prepared in your heart of hearts to gain Union with God, at the cost of life and in the face of ridicule of the whole world, then, perhaps, you may be said to have “entered the Lane of Divine Love”.

“We should love God as He ought to be loved. (Baba explained thus) : Because in the very beginning, imagination gave a twist to Substance and thus gave importance to Shadow, we, who are eternally *Free*, find ourselves *Bound*, having lost our Original Self in the maze of Illusion. Therefore, in spite of possessing Infinite Bliss, we have to experience misery, worries, doubts, failure and helplessness.

"When, in a flash, the Real Knowledge comes, that we are not what we seem, but are that Infinite One, then all worries disappear, because in reality, "*Sukh*" (=pleasure) and "*Dukh*" (=misery) do not exist. To get rid of this persistent ignorance and to know the true value of Reality, we have to *experience* God; and, GOD, who is the Breath and Life of our lives, can only be experienced through honest LOVE.

"We have to love Him silently and honestly even in our everyday life. Whilst eating, drinking, talking and doing all our duties, we can still LOVE GOD CONTINUOUSLY, without letting anyone know. When GOD is found, you can have no idea what Infinite Bliss and Peace is gained. I give you all My Love, so that some day, YOU CAN LOVE GOD AS HE OUGHT TO BE LOVED."

(Vide "*The Awakener*", Vol. I, No. 2, pages 11-12).

"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 we suffer in the sufferings of others and feel happy in the happiness of others, we are loving God.

"If, instead of worrying over our own misfortunes, we think of 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).

Question 76. What does Meher Baba say about the Masters of the Past?

Ans. "Christ, Buddha, Mohammed, Zoroaster, Krishna, and other Masters were all, in reality, the embodiment of the same Divine

Self-Consciousness, manifesting according to the needs of different periods and of different countries". — (*Meher Baba*).

Question 77. What does Meher Baba think about the 'BHAGAVAT GITA' ?

Ans. "Because Sri Krishna was born among the Hindus, it is therefore considered that the Bhagavat Gita is a book (scripture) of the Hindus ; but its message is not only for the Hindus, but for the entire Humanity. If the nations living on this Earth act upon its teachings, then love and harmony will reign supreme on this Earth and all clashes, controversies and disharmonies are vanished".—(from *Gita Ke Mukh Upadesh*, page 24, February 1935, containing Inaugural Address while inaugurating the BHAGAVAT GITA CONFERENCE in Multan, by Mr. Roshanlal Chaudhury (Rai Saheb), Additional District Magistrate, Multan).

Question 78. What does Meher Baba feel about Guru-Nanakji ?

Ans. Meher Baba once was met by some Sikhs at Dehra Dun (U. P. in India), Baba turned to one of them and asked him to repeat the favourite hymn of Guru Nanak, the Sikh Master. After the hymn was recited, Baba advised them to follow the meaning and spiritual significance of that hymn with understanding and love. Meher Baba then added thus :—

"If, when we grow up, we become like children, child-like (not childish), then, we can love God ; because, to love God, we have to be desireless, except with the one desire, the one longing, to be united with God. So, when we grow up and become child-like, (not childish), we can then honestly love God. We then find God everywhere. Nothing can shake, alter, or stop (hinder) that perpetual happiness ; but, we must first be honest seekers of TRUTH.

"Great Masters have taught us to think and act in all humility.

"NANAK-JI WHO WAS GOD PERSONIFIED, acted as 'Nanak-Das (=servant)'".

(Vide "*The Awakener*", Vol. I, No. 2, page 9).

Question 79. What do the Theosophists think about Meher Baba ?

Ans. Many seasoned Theosophists who have a correct understanding of real 'Theosophy' do understand Meher Baba's utterances

and teachings quite correctly. They find it is all Theosophy, often better expressed than in Theosophical literature. They feel that the three-fold objects of the Theosophical Society are typified in the life and teachings of Meher Baba, and that Meher Baba is the living symbol of this ideal trinity. Some have a conviction that Meher Baba is of the Great White Lodge of Masters, and some believe that the WORLD TEACHER who has been and is working to create a New World Order is He. They all are unanimous that the magnitude of Meher Baba's personality is versatile, many-sided and immeasurable.

Question 80. What has Meher Baba got to say to the "atheists" ?

Ans. Meher Baba said once : "Everyone is an atheist till he finds God by actual *experience*. It is better to be an atheist and be honest in words and deeds, than to pose as a lover of God and lead a dishonest life. GOD IS INDEPENDENT. He needs no worship. He only needs that we be honest".
(Vide "The AWAKENER", Vol. I, No. 2, page 11).

Question 81. Are not His followers doing a sort of propaganda for Meher Baba ?

Ans. 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 them (the children) and their parents of the Presence of the Avatar on the Earth. Further, the lovers of Meher Baba feel it a duty and a pleasure to share this precious love with others. That is the least they would do.

Question 82. It is said that "a Prophet is not honoured in his own lifetime", "not honoured in his own native-place". Does that not also apply to Meher Baba ?

Ans. No. Somehow, *unique* is Meher Baba in this respect. He is honoured in his own lifetime and has a wide range of followers of lovers—(He never calls them 'devotees', but as 'lovers') in all strata of society in several places *of the world*. Wherever He chose to pay personal visits, the number of followers are more than in other places where His name and messages have been

spread by His lovers. In his own Birth-town (Poona, Maharashtra State, India), He is honoured by the people and also the Governments. Recently, the Government approved of the installation of a marble plaque in the Sassoon Hospital where he was born reading thus: "AVATAR MEHER BABA WAS BORN THIS HOSPITAL ON 25th FEBRUARY 1894" and such a plaque was installed by the Deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly on 9th Decr. 1968. In the country of his father (Iran or Persia), he has a great following and people are eager to meet Him in large numbers and to obey Him implicitly.

He is 'modern' in every respect. He embraces His lovers (be they poor, or sick or blind, or lepers or convicts in prisons, people in the film-world, sportsmen, journalists, women children, etc.). He never allows anyone to touch His feet (as is the ceremonial with other Saints or Great Mahatmas). He never wears any ochre robes, or grows a beard, or has any out-of-the-ordinary appearance. He sometimes plays jokes, plays and sits and allows His lovers to move freely with Him.

"It is difficult to interpret Meher Baba's actions. On some occasions, (referring to the game of cards), Baba said: "You do not know what internal work I am doing while playing cards. In the world, many people play cards, but the playing of cards here is quite different. It is because it is God playing cards."—
—(Vide "*The Awakener*", Vol. X, No. 4, page 10).

Question 83. What are the books and literature by and about Meher Baba, and where can they be had?

Ans. The important and bigger books now available are: "GOD-MAN", "GOD SPEAKS", "LISTEN, HUMANITY", "THE EVERYTHING AND THE NOTHING", "DISCOURSES 3 Volumes", "BEAMS FROM MEHER BABA", "LIFE AT ITS BEST". There are many other smaller publications and tracts. The MEHER BABA CENTRES often distribute free literature also. Some have been translated in other languages, Indian and foreign. The important current Journals are: "The AWAKENER", 'DIVYA VANI', 'THE GLOW', 'MEHER PUKAR', 'AVATAR MEHER'. From time to time, Baba's Mandali issue lengthy "NEWSLETTERS" and His Secretary issues 'CIRCULARS'—which are circulated to all the Centres

and through them to the public. Baba's Secretary (Sri ADI K IRANI, King's Road, Ahmednagar Maharashtra State) and all the various MEHER BABA CENTRES scattered throughout India and all parts of the World would be happy to be of service to anyone by giving information and all facilities for obtaining all books, literature, etc., by and about Meher Baba.

Question 84. What is the Key-book by or about Meher Baba which one is advised to read ?

Ans. It is best to read all the books containing the Discourses and Messages of Meher Baba. But, the one BIBLE to always read (and read several times till it is assimilated), is the book called "GOD SPEAKS". Baba Himself has so often said : "Take My advice and accept "GOD SPEAKS" as the final authority. Nothing of its kind has been recorded before". "There is no need to read other books."

— (Vide "*The Awakener*", Vol. X, No. 4, page 24).

SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THE 75th BIRTHDAY

(25th February, 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).

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S MESSAGES FOR SOME OF HIS BIRTHDAYS

For the 74th Birthday (25th Feb. 1968) :

"...Love makes the Formless and Infinite become enformed and finite as the GOD-MAN among men. Love Me more and more because for the sake of Love, I have come among you ... Let My lovers rejoice ... because soon ... something great will happen that has never happened before..... That which is to happen..... will be SOMETHING GREAT, something that has never happened before, something that will not happen again for billions and billions of years 'The SOMETHING GREAT' will happen of a sudden, not in developing stages. People will go about their daily affairs unaware till the moment of its happening....."

"On this My apparent physical Birthday, I send my homage and obeisance to My lovers who live for Me and would, if ordered, die for Me."

For the 73rd Birthday (25th Feb. 1967) :

"Births and deaths are illusory phenomena. One really dies when one is born to live as God, the Eternal Who is beyond both birth and death".

"I will be with you all who gather for My Birthday to celebrate My being among you. I am wherever My lovers are. I give My love and blessings to each of My lovers .."

For the 72nd Birthday (25th Feb. 1966) :

(1) Be composed in the Reality of My Love, for all confusion and

despair in your own shadow which will vanish when I speak
THE WORD.

- (2) Shun those masters who are like multi-coloured electric signs that flash on and off, brightening the dark sky of your world for a moment and leaving you in darkness again.
- (3) I am the Sun which is hidden by the shadow of yourself. Cease thinking that you are your shadow, and you will find that the Sun which I am is your own Reality.
- (4) All that frightens and confuses you and grips you with despair is your own shadow. When the Sun of LOVE manifests in Its Glory, and all faces are turned towards that Radiance, all shadows will have disappeared—even the memory of them will have vanished.
- (5) I am the joy in your heart and the despair of your mind—for Love can attain which the intellect cannot fathom.
- (6) A post, to stand erect and firm, must have its butt-end sunk well into the ground. Likewise, my lover needs to have the base of his faith deeply embedded in My Divinity, if he would remain steadfast in his love.

For the 71st Birthday (25th Feb. 1965) :

“Be true to the trust I repose in you and remember Me wholeheartedly. My Love and blessings to you”.

“All talk about the path and the goal is as a lantern carried by a blind man. A blind man needs a staff in his hand ; the seeker needs his hand in the GOD-MAN’S”.

For the 70th Birthday (25th Feb. 1964) :

“The aim of life is to love God. The goal of life is to become one with God. The surest and quickest way to achieve this goal is to hold on to My ‘daaman’ by loving Me more and more. I have suffered much and will have to suffer much more till I break My silence. I give My love to My lovers”.

“Although I take birth for all mankind, fortunate are those who love Me while I am still on earth”.

“Throughout the ages, men have been deeply involved in the struggle for peace and happiness. It is this struggle that lands them into chaos and misery. If men were only to become conscious of the fact that peace and happiness are not to be fought for, but to be sought for within oneself, they would abandon their fighting and be at peace with themselves and the world.

"I have come not to teach, but to awaken—to awaken men to that peace and happiness which cannot be obtained through struggle ; neither can it be bargained about, nor borrowed, nor bestowed, for it is inherent in all".

For the 68th Birthday (25th Feb. 1962) :

"On this anniversary of My Birthday, I give you My Blessings for the deathday of your false selves and for the Birthday in Me of your One True Self.

"It is open to every man to choose God or self, to flower or to wither ; and the choosing is continuous."

For the 67th Birthday (25th Feb. 1961) :

"I am the One Who is always lost and found among mankind. It is your love for yourself 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".

For the 65th Birthday (25th Feb. 1959) :

"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".

"Every second in eternity, everyone of us is the same One Indivisible God Who has no second ever, not even on the 25th February 1959!!".

For the 60th Birthday (25th Feb. 1954) :

"I am never born, I never die. Yet every moment I take birth and undergo death. The countless illusory births and deaths are necessary in the progression of man's consciousness to Truth — a prelude to the Real Death and Real Birth. The Real Death is when one dies to self ; the Real Birth is when dying to self one is born in GOD to live for ever his Eternal Life consciously. (Vide "*THE GODMAN*", Page 215).

APPENDIX

The following are some of the "utterances" (conveyed through gestures or an alphabet-board) of Meher Baba and are commended for careful study—

"The time has come for the pre-ordained destruction of multiple separateness which keeps man away from experiencing the feeling of unity and brotherhood. This destruction which will take place very soon, will cause three-fourths of the world to be destroyed. The remaining one-fourth will be brought together to live a life of concord and mutual understanding, thus establishing a feeling of oneness in all fellow-beings, leading them towards lasting happiness . . . Before I break My Silence, or immediately after it, three-fourths of the world will be destroyed. I shall speak soon to fulfil all that is shortly to come to pass."

"I have come to sow the seed of love in your hearts so that, in spite of all superficial diversity which your life in illusion must experience and endure, the feeling of oneness, through love, is brought about amongst all the nations, creeds, sects and castes of the world."

"When I speak that WORD, I shall lay the foundation for that which is to take place during the next seven hundred years. When I come again after seven hundred years, the evolution of consciousness will have reached such an apex that materialistic tendencies will be automatically transmuted into spiritual longing, and the feeling of equality in universal brotherhood will prevail. This means that opulence and poverty, literacy and illiteracy, jealousy and hatred, which are in evidence today in their full measure, will then be dissolved through the feeling of oneness of all men. Prosperity and happiness will then be at their zenith."

"The breaking of My Silence and My uttering the One Word of words - it was said in My own 'language' and simultaneously in yours, because when I utter that WORD, it will be an audible word to you.. 'The destruction of three-fourths of the world' - it was said in My 'language' alonethat which is said in My own 'language' is impossible for you to understand, however much you may all try to interpret and grasp the underlying meaning behind My words. Only the fulfilment of events can unfold to you, in due course, the meaning of what I said in My own 'language'....."

N. B. The expressions 'speak', 'The Word of the Words', 'breaking of Silence', 'Manifestation' have special esoteric or Mystic meanings and significance and should not be understood in the Dictionary sense,

"When I break My Silence, the world will come to know that I AM THE ONE WHOM THEY WERE WAITING FOR".

"I must break My Silence soon. You all who have come into contact with Me, will have some glimpse of Me. Some will have a little, some a little more, and some still more. When the Power-house is switched on, wherever there are electric bulbs, and if they have connection with the Power-house, there will be light. If some of the bulbs are of high candle-power, the light will be bright. If some of the bulbs are of low candle-power, the light will be little. If the bulb is fused, there will be no light at all.....The Power-house is to be switched on and all connected with it will be enlightened ; it will be not only here, but throughout the world... That is why I have been telling you all *to love Me more and more*. All this talk of books, literature, is good for preparing the ground, but the time for the 'Power-house' to be switched on is so near that the only thing that will count now is LOVE".

"God has come again and again in various Forms, has spoken again and again in different words and different languages the SAME ONE TRUTH - but, how many are there to live up to it ?.....God's Truth cannot be ignored ; and thus, by mankind's ignorance and weakness, a tremendous adverse re-action is produced - and the world finds itself in a cauldron of suffering through wars, hate, conflicting ideologies, and Nature's rebellion in the form of floods, famines, earthquakes, epidemics and other disasters. Ultimately, when the apex is reached, God manifests anew in human form to guide mankind to the destruction of its 'self-created evil', that it may be re-established in the Divine Truth"

O fmy own, I shall not break My Silence ; Universal Crisis will make Me do so. When the Crisis will reach its culmination, it will make Me utter the WORD at that moment.

Circumstances are converging and fast gathering momentum towards precipitating the right moment, which will come completely *unawares* at any time, any hour, any day. That Moment is not far away..."

"As Jesus came to impart spirituality to a materialistic age, so have I come to impart a spiritual push to present-day mankind. There is always a fixed time for such divine workings, and when the hour is ripe, I shall reveal My true nature to the entire world... The time is soon coming to give mankind a universal spiritual belief which shall serve all races of people and all countries. In other words, the

way is being prepared to enable Me to deliver a worldwide message... I shall break My Silence and deliver My Message only when there is a chaos and confusion everywhere, for then, I shall be most needed ;... There will be a long era of unique peace, a time of world tranquillity. Disarmament will then no longer be a matter of talk, but an actual fact. Racial and communal strife will cease, sectarian hatred between religious organisations will come to an end ..”.

“I will break My Silence and manifest when, on the one hand, Science reaches its highest level, and, on the other hand, anti-God elements rise to their peak. Accordingly my spiritual manifestation will also be of the highest. When I break My Silence, the world will be shaken into realization of Who I Am. When I break My Silence, the impact will jolt the world out of its spiritual lethargy, and will push open the hearts of all who love Me and who are connected with Me. What will happen when I break My Silence, *is what has never happened before*”.

“When an atom is ‘split’ an infinite amount of energy is released. Similarly, when My Silence is broken and I utter the WORD, Infinite Wisdom will be released...When an atom bomb strikes the earth, it causes vast devastation. Similarly, when the WORD I utter strikes the Universe, there will be a great material destruction, but there will also take place a tremendous *SPIRITUAL UPHEAVAL*”.

“Just as an atom bomb, which in itself is so small, when exploded, causes tremendous havoc, so, when He (Baba) breaks His Silence, the universal *spiritual upheaval* that will take place will be something that no one can describe ..”.

“Scientists will soon discover a little of what I say. There are 18,000 worlds that are inhabited by human beings. In some, the people are extremely intelligent, in others less, and in still others, still less. None of them who live in these worlds have any experience of the subtle or the mental worlds. People from those worlds must be born on this Earth to experience the subtle and the mental worlds. This is an Avataric Age, and a Special Avataric Age, as I am observing Silence. Science and anti-God elements will reach their zenith .before I break My Silence. So My Manifestation will also be the Greatest. Breaking of My Silence will be as forceful as hundreds of thousands of atom bombs exploding. Science is practically heading to its zenith today because of the very intelligent souls of the other worlds coming down here (to this our Earth). Our population is increasing by leaps and bounds for the same reason that souls are migrating from other worlds as they want a human body on this Earth in this Avataric Age ..”.

"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." (13th Octr. 1968).

"I perform no miracles, and will perform none, until I manifest on breaking My outward silence. When I will perform the One and Only Miracle, whose greatness and glory you cannot even imagine, and which will benefit not only those around Me, but the whole world .. each and every being in consciousness The moment I break My silence and utter that Original Word, the first and last miracle of Baba in this life will be performed. 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 will make people blind to illusion and make them see God as Reality."

"When the first WHIM surged in God in the Beyond State, He felt the urge of '*I want to know MYSELF*'. In this first desire, was embodied the first binding which manifested into form, and in this process, the first urge abbreviated simply to '*I want*'.

"The soul has [forgotten that the 'want' really is to know *the Self*, and so through countless forms it continues to feel only that '*I want*'. It is only in the last phases of the involution of consciousness that the perfected man remembers that actually he IS GOD, Who had wanted to know HIMSELF".

"Books and discourses will not bring about one's spiritual regeneration. Mind cannot be annihilated by mind, as one cannot jump over oneself. Only by loving Me as I ought to be loved, can the mind be destroyed.....In spite of all explanations and reading of books, words remain mere words. They do not take one any further than mere intellectual satisfaction. Only Love for GOD works the miracle, because Love is beyond mind and intellect. Where then is the necessity to read ? I AUTHORITATIVELY SAY : I AM THE ANCIENT ONE. I HAVE BEEN SAYING THIS TO ALL THE WORLD. IF YOU LOVE ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART, YOU SHALL BE MADE FREE ETERNALLY."

".....Be brave. Be happy. I and you all are One. And the Infinite that eternally belongs to Me will one day belong to every individual.....".

"I am the ONE Who is always lost and found among mankind.

"It is your love for yourself 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".

"I say with My Divine Authority to each and all that whosoever takes My name at the time of breathing his last comes to ME. So, do not forget to remember Me in your last moments. Unless you start remembering Me from now on, it will be difficult to remember Me when your end approaches. You should start practising from now on. Even if you take My name only once every day, you will not forget to remember Me in your dying moments."

"I repeat, I lay down no precepts. When I release the tide of Truth which I have come to give, men's daily lives will be the living precept. The words I have not spoken will come to life in them."

"I veil myself from man by his own curtain of ignorance, and manifest my glory to a few. My present Avataric form is the last incarnation of this cycle of time, hence my manifestation will be the greatest. When I break my silence, the impact of my love will be universal, and all life in creation will know, feel and receive of it. It will help every individual to break himself free from his own bondage in his own way. I am the DIVINE BELOVED, who loves you more than you can love yourself. The 'breaking of my silence' will help you to help yourself in knowing your real Self."

"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".

"Through endless time God's greatest gift is continuously given in silence. But when mankind becomes completely deaf to the thunder of His Silence, God incarnates as Man. The Unlimited assumes the limited, to shake Maya-drugged humanity to a consciousness of its true destiny and to give a spiritual push to the world by His physical presence on earth. He uses the body for His Universal work, to be discarded in final sacrifice as soon as it has served its purpose."

"I am not limited by this Form. I use it like a garment to make myself visible to you; and I communicate with you. Don't try to understand me. My depth is unfathomable. Just love me. I eternally enjoy the Christ-state of consciousness, and when I speak, I shall manifest my true Self; besides giving a general push to the whole world, I shall lead all those who come to me toward Light and Truth."

"The benefits that shall accrue to different nations and countries

when I bring about the spiritual upheaval will be largely determined by the amount of energy each possesses. The greater the energy however misappliedthe greater the response."

"Experience is not the goal, vision is not the goal, but Union with God is the goal. In order to attain this goal, My Grace is necessary. For My Grace, you should resign to My Will. When the climate is cold, it is good to take wine, but if it is hot and you get sweaty and if you take wine, you may get high blood pressure. Therefore, do not ask for it. I will give it at the right time".

—(Vide "*The Awakener*, Vol. X, No. 4, page 23).

"It is easy to love Me, because I am LOVE. But, it is difficult to love Me with that Love by which I am attained".

"God's first word was 'WHO AM I?'.

God's last word is 'I AM GOD'.

And the Word that I, the GODMAN, will utter soon will be the sound of MY INFINITE SILENCE".

"The real untouchables are those who cannot enter the temple of their own hearts and see the Lord therein."

"Jesus Christ knew that it was not possible for men to love God, therefore, He said : 'Come unto Me, follow Me'. That is all that is needed for you all."

"In Avatic periods, one does not necessarily have to make these inward journeys by stages (referring to a chart given by Him concerning THE FOUR JOURNEYS (Vide the book THE EVERYTHING AND THE NOTHING). If you have the Grace of the Avatar, He just takes you from where you are to where you should be, where God wants you to be. There is no need for "trains" or "planes" when He is here!!"

"Why not lose yourself . so that you can come to Me !! Forget your worries ..and find Me within you. When I give out the WORD, let it touch your heart it will give you such happiness that the loss of even millions of dollars will not matter. No amount of money can give you that Experience !! The time must come when I will give My WORD. Meanwhile, I want your love I want you to love Me as you should...". (Vide "*The Awakener*", Vol. IX, Nos. 1 & 2, page 37).

"...(To His workers) : you are older and are beginning to realize that there is a greater work ahead of you than what you have been doing. .. It is not a different work to what you have been doing already. ... it is the same work done *in a different way*. THAT WAY

IS THE WAY OF EFFACEMENT, which means the more you work for Me, the less important you feel in yourself. YOU MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT I ALONE DO MY WORK. Although only the one who has become ONE WITH GOD can serve and work for all, I allow you to work for Me, so that you have the opportunity to use your talents and capacities *selflessly*, and so as to draw closer to Me. You should never think that in your work for Me, you are benefiting others, for by being instrumental in bringing others to Me, you are benefiting yourself. My work is your opportunity. But, when you allow *yourself* to intervene between you and My work, you are allowing the work to take you away from Me. When you put My work before yourself, the work will go alright, although not necessarily, smoothly. And when work does not go alright, it means you have put yourself between it and its accomplishment. THE WAY OF MY WORK IS THE WAY OF EFFACEMENT, which is the way of strength, not of weakness; and through it, you become mature in My Love. At this stage, you cannot know what real Love is, but through working for Me as you should work for Me, you will arrive at that ripeness where, in a moment, I can give you THAT which you have been seeking for millions of years". — (Vide "*The Awakener*", Vol. IX, Nos. 1-2, pages 30-40).

"Unity in the midst of diversity can be made to be felt only by touching the very *core of the heart*. That is the work for which I have come.

"I have come to sow the seed of love in your hearts so that, in spite of all superficial diversity, which your life in illusion must experience and endure, the feeling of oneness through Love is brought about amongst all the nations, creeds, sects and castes of the world.

"In order to bring this about, I am preparing to break my silence. When I break my silence, it will not be to fill your ears with spiritual lectures. I shall speak only ONE WORD, and this Word will penetrate the hearts of all men and make even the so-called sinner feel that he is meant to be a saint, while the saint will know that God is in the sinner as much as He is in himself."

"When I say that My manifestation is connected with the breaking of My Silence, people should not expect an outpouring of verbosity. I will utter the Word of words that will irresistibly impart to those who are ready the 'I-am-God' (*Anal Haq* or *Brahma Asmi*) state.

"My mission is to utter this Word of Truth which will pierce the

mind of the world and go to its very heart. It will convey the simple Truth in its utter and indefinable simplicity. It will mark the moment of fulfilment of the Divine Life. It will throw open new gates to Eternity. It will bring new hope to despairing humanity.

"The Word that I will speak will go to the world as from God, not as from a philosopher ; it will go straight to its heart. With the dawn of realization of the Unity of all life, hatred and dissension will come to an end. There will be unfaltering Love and unfailing understanding, and men shall be united in an inviolable Brotherhood based on the realised Oneness of God ..

"Be ye guided by Love and Truth. This is the simple way that leads to God. Not by the endless maneuvering of alluring illusions, but by loyalty to the Unchangeable Truth, can ye hope to be established in abiding peace.

"When I speak, it will be only One Divine Word ; but it will be the Word of Words, or the Manifestation of Truth. This word will have to be hearkened by the *heart*, and *not* merely by the *mind*. It will go home to you and bring you *the awakening*..."

"The silence which I have been observing for the past (fortyfour) years is a call from the Silence of unfathomable Divinity. Invite that Divinity into your hearts so that you may become permanently established in the immortality of universal life(My) Silence .. is not intended to veil My Truth, but to manifest it.....".

"... The time is rapidly approaching when a tidal wave will rise in the Ocean of Grace. Then the usual process by which the water in the rivers flow into the ocean will be reversed and the ocean water will rush through the river-beds. Be prepared to receive this overflow of Grace.....".

".....Constructive and creative forces which will redeem humanity are also being released. Though the working of the constructive forces is silent, they will bring about the transformation of man, for it is a part of the Divine Plan to give to the world a fresh dispensation of the Eternal Truth.....".

"The New Humanity to emerge out of the travail of present struggle and suffering will not ignore Science or its practical applications. It is a mistake to look upon Science as anti-spiritual. Science is a help or hindrance to Spirituality according to the use to which it is put .. The progress of humanity is assured only with Science and Religion hand in handThe coming civilisation of the NEW

HUMANITY will be expressed not in intellectual doctrines, but in *living spiritual experience.....*".

"The NEW HUMANITY will come into existence in the release of Love through the spiritual awakening brought about by the Masters Humanity will attain to a *new mode of being* through the free interplay of LOVE from heart to heart..... LOVE will establish peace, harmony and happiness in social, national and international spheres, and shine in its purity and beauty.....".

"DIVINE LOVE is the expression of Divinity, and through Divine Love, the New Humanity will be in harmony with the Divine Plan. Through Divine Love, the New Humanity will learn the art of co-operative and harmonious life. It will free itself from the tyranny of forms and release the creative life of spiritual wisdom ; it will shed illusions and get established in the Truth ; it will enjoy peace and abiding happiness ; it will be initiated into the life of Eternity.....".

"Avataric periods are the springtide of Creation. They bring a new release of power, a new awakening of consciousness, a new experience of life — not merely for a few, but for all. Qualities of energy and awareness, which had been used and enjoyed by only a few advanced souls, are then made available *far all humanity*. Life, as a whole, is lifted to a higher level of consciousness and geared to a new rate of energy. The transition from sensation to reason was one such step ; *the transition from reason to intuition* will be another.....".

"BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HEAR ABOUT ME BEFORE I BREAK MY SILENCE".

"It is more important for people to come to know about ME at present, than after I manifest as the Avatar of the age".

"The Real Baba can never grow old ; the Real Baba is eternal. Who is this Real Baba . . . whom He says we have never seen ? This 'Real Baba' is our Real Self that is in each and every one of us, but whom we have not yet realizedWhom we have not yet joined in the eternal marriage of Love, Knowledge and Bliss Infinite.....".

"Baba is what He is ; I was Baba, I am Baba, and shall evermore remain Baba".

"You are one of my rocks on whom I can depend. I can promise you definitely that you will always be near Me until you become One with MeI want you to make Me your constant companion..... think of Me more than you think of yourself. The more you think of Me, the more you will realize My Love for you. Your duty is to keep Me constantly with you throughout your thoughts, speech and actions".

"Out of millions, only one loves God ; out of millions of such

lovers, only one succeeds in obeying and finally in surrendering his whole being to God the Beloved

“One of the essentials is that a man should have faith.....Faith may be strong and vital, or it may be weak and lukewarmA living faith is always born of some deep experience which the Master impartsit is not easy for you to understand ; though I am here with you in this place, I am also everywhere at the same time.....Faith in the Master, therefore, becomes the chief motive-power for realizing the divinity which is latent in man Faith in the Master becomes all-Important, because it nourishes and sustains faith in oneself and faith in life, in the very teeth of setbacks and failures, handicaps and difficulties, limitations and failings” “The consciousness of those who leave their hold on all except their life of obedience to Me, shall transcend all limitations of the intellect.....”.

“Man knowingly suffers for God, but God as Avatar knowingly suffers for one and all beings and things.....You see Me in this physical form, but every moment I am crucified. Only those fortunate ones know this. I suffer as no one could suffer. I suffer because I love,.....”.

“God has been everlastingly working in Silence, unobserved, unheard, except by those who experience His Infinite Silence Those who have got the courage and wisdom to surrender themselves to a Perfect Master are the recipients of His Grace”. “The Divine Beloved is always with you, in you, and around you. Know that you are not separate from Him.....”.

“Believe Me that I am the Ancient One. Do not doubt that for a moment. There is no possibility of My being any one else.....I am not this body that you see. It is only a coat that I put on when I visit youI communicate with you through words best fitted to your understanding. If I used the language of My [own] Consciousness, you would not know what I am talking about. Don't try to understand Me.When the Infinite and Changeless works through the finite and changing, the channels are necessarily varied and unlimitedI do My work ceaselessly.....Do not try to understand the method of My working. Do not worry or question. JUST OBEY..... Do not worry about their seeming contradictory or oscillating. I know know what has to be done. I know how it is to be done. It is for you to do what I say. Do not be concerned with anything else I am the Root of everyone and everything. I CAN NEVER DIE. LOVE ME. OBEY ME and you will find Me. Think of Me, remain cheerful

In remembering THE BABA, we remember who we are, and when we know who we are, we know all there is to know. Meher Baba tells us that all suffering is our own labour of love to unveil our Real Self. Meher Baba's will works out to awaken us to this Knowledge. His Grace pours out ceaselessly — to receive, we must give. His peace is everywhere always.

BABA IS NOT "DEAD". How can Baba die? HE IS ALIVE IN ALL OF US. He does not die when the body dies, nor is He then born. HE IS INFINITE CONSCIOUSNESS, permeating everything everywhere. HE IS INFINITE LOVE HE IS THE DIVINE BE-LOVED WHO LOVES US MORE THAN WE CAN EVER LOVE OURSELF. Because He IS, I AM. He assures us : "BE COMPOSED IN THE REALITY OF MY LOVE, FOR ALL CONFUSION AND DESPAIR IS YOUR OWN SHADOW WHICH WILL VANISH WHEN I SPEAK THE WORD".

MAY WE ALL BE READY TO RECEIVE THIS WORD OF WORDS!!!

By courtesy : MEHER BABA INFORMATION, Box No. 1101,
BERKELEY, California (U.S.A.)

AVATAR MEHER BABA

(1st to 6th Feb. 1969)



"I CAN NEVER DIE"

"I am not this body"

"I am LOVE. Just obey me"

The following sayings of the Great Ones (Hafiz and Kabir) were often emphasised by Avatar Meher Baba :—

1. "Befitting a fortunate slave, carry out every command of The Master without any question of 'Why' and 'What'."
2. "About what you hear from The Master, never say it is wrong because, my dear, the fault lies in your own incapacity to understand Him."
3. "I am slave of The Master who has released me from ignorance : whatever my Master does is of the highest benefit to all concerned."

—HAFIZ

"Nothing that I have belongs to me.
All that I have belongs to You.
What will I lose if I surrender to You
What belongs to You ?"

—KABIR

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