



Pilgrimage to Meher Baba

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PILGRIMAGE TO MEHER BABA

India invites Meher Baba lovers to fly Air-India, to pay homage to him, the Eternal Beloved.

Meher Baba, loved and recognised as the Avatar, was of Persian parentage, born February 25, 1894, in Poona, India. His father was a Zoroastrian and a true seeker of God. Baba's name was Merwan Sheriar Irani, and he signed himself M. S. Irani, (never Meher Baba). In 1913 while a student at Deccan College, he met Hazrat Babajan, an ancient Mohammedan woman who was one of the five Perfect Masters of the Age. Babajan gave him the bliss of God-realisation and the experience of his being the Ancient One — the God-Man. During the next seven years another Perfect Master, a Hindu named Upasani Maharaj, made him fully aware of his role as the Ancient One — The Christ. In 1921 Meher Baba gathered his first disciples. They called him Meher Baba, which means "compassionate father"

Meher Baba eventually established a colony near Ahmednagar, India, called Meherabad, which included a free school stressing spiritual training, a free hospital, and shelters for the poor. He trained his disciples in moral discipline, love for God, spiritual understanding, and selfless service. He himself has bathed lepers,

washed the feet of the poor and distributed grain and cloth to the destitute, always with his own hands.

Meher Baba did not belong to any ism. He did not profess any religious faith nor did he discourage any one. Meher Baba followers are followers of God through love of Meher Baba. Meher Baba expects nothing but love from his followers. He said, "I am LOVE and all I want is love"



One of Baba's tenets is that God is the only Reality and all else is Illusion. He said, "I am the Ancient One" Zoraster, Ram, Krishna, Buddha, Christ, Mohammed and all the other Avatars the world has known, are the manifestations of the same Ancient One. Meher Baba remained silent for forty four years without uttering a word. He said, "throughout eternity I have laid down principles and precepts, but mankind has ignored them. Man's inability to live God's words makes the Avatar's teaching a mockery ... Because man has been deaf to the principles and precepts laid down by God in the past, in this present Avataric Form I observe Silence...." "...When I release the tide of Truth, which I have come to give, men's daily lives will be the living precept. The word I have not spoken will come to life in them..."

"...when the Word of my Love breaks out of its Silence and speaks in your hearts, telling you who I really am, you will know that that is the Real Word you have always been longing to hear". Meher Baba travelled many times round the world. In spite of his observing silence Meher Baba contacted hundreds of thousands of people and gave many messages to the multitude through the use of an alphabet board and unique hand gestures.

Meher Baba's insistence that "If God can be found through the medium of drugs, God is not worthy of being God" has helped a lot of young people all over the world to shed some quite serious drug hang-ups by accepting him and his message on drugs.

Meher Baba dropped his physical body on January 31, 1969. Meher Baba said : "I am never born, I never die ; yet every moment I take birth and undergo death". "I am the Ancient One. I have come not to teach but to awaken. Come All Unto Me. I am your Eternal Beloved"

The DISCOURSES, original discourses given by Meher Baba between 1938-1944 reveal the Way by which the real goal of life is achieved, is available for \$10, while Meher Baba's GOD SPEAKS describes creation, evolution, reincarnation, involution and realisation — the fundamental mechanics of life and the universe — and the purpose of it all, for \$15, from Sufism Reoriented, 1300

Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, California 94595, USA.

THE BELOVED by Naosherwan Anzar is a complete, authoritative biography of Meher Baba, detailing his life and work, with over 150 photographs, available for Rs. 87 (US price \$10) from Editor, THE GLOW, 36, Lytton Road, Dehra Dun, U.P., India.

THE GLOW is a quarterly magazine devoted to Meher Baba and his work. It can be subscribed for Rs. 10 (U.S.A. price \$7) from 36, Lytton Road, Dehra Dun, U.P., INDIA.



ARRIVAL FORMALITIES

Welcome to India. On Air-India, the airline that loves you. But before you board our 'Palace in the Sky', the Boeing 747, please ensure that all your documents are in order. We list below all necessary information :

DOCUMENTS :

A valid passport and visa is required. If your stay in India does not exceed 28 days, you do not require a visa. Longer than that you need a Tourist Visa — apply at your nearest Indian Embassy or Consulate. For visits to neighbouring countries, and back to India you need to get multiple entry tourist visas. For different countries there are different visa regulations. Please contact Air-India or your travel agent.

The Tourist visa is valid for 3 months. If the visa is extended for more than 3 months you need to register **WITHIN 7 DAYS**. In all District Headquarters, the Superintendents of Police are Foreigners' Registration Officers.

INNOCULATIONS :

International vaccination certificates for cholera and small pox needed. Yellow fever too, if you're coming from Latin America or Africa. Do take Typhoid and Cholera shots in India, for going to other countries after India.

TOURIST INTRODUCTION CARD :

You must get a Tourist Introduction Card from your visa issuing authority, Government of India Tourist Offices abroad, or, on arrival, at Airports. It helps with liquor permits, rail concessions, accommodation booking, admission to clubs, shopping facilities, etc.

TOURIST BAGGAGE RULES :

If you're a Tourist for not more than 6 months in India, you're allowed to bring in duty free cigarettes — 200; cigars — 50; tobacco 250 grams; wine — 1 bottle (750 cc., 24 ounces) and spirits — $\frac{1}{4}$ litre (250 cc, 8 ounces) whisky, brandy, etc; toilet water — $\frac{1}{4}$ litre (250 cc. 8 ounces); 2 cameras; 1 cine camera; 25 rolls or 48 plates of film; 10 reels of 8 mm and 16 mm film; personal jewellery; binoculars; portable

gramophone; 10 records; portable musical instrument; portable radio; portable TV; portable typewriter; perambulator; camping equipment; 2 watches; perfume; portable tape recorder; 4,800 ft. of recording tape; sports equipment.

*You will have to fill a 'Re-export Form' undertaking to take back expensive articles such as cameras, binoculars, typewriters, jewellery, etc.

*The import of certain items such as dangerous drugs, live plants, gold coins, gold and silver coins not in use is prohibited.

*A 'Declaration of Baggage' form helps in that you can clear any unaccompanied baggage later.

*Any major items other than those listed above, will be charged some duty.

*A licence for firearms is necessary.

CURRENCY :

Remember, for a foreign tourist India is one of the least expensive places in the world; there are duty-free shops at international airports.

Any amount of foreign currency can be brought into India, provided that amount is permitted to be taken out of your country. But you must declare what you've brought, on a Currency Declaration Form. Because when you leave, you cannot take out more than you brought in



and declared on the form. For any money taken out in excess of this, the Reserve Bank of India has to give prior permission in writing.

- * Have your money converted into rupees by an authorised exchange dealer, at airports, banks or hotels. Ask for an official receipt so that you can freely reconvert any unutilised rupees at the time of departure.
- * Exchange transactions with unauthorised persons (they tempt you with black market rates) is illegal and involves the risk of receiving counterfeit rupees.
- * Ask for receipts when you encash Travellers' Cheques, or enter the transactions on the Currency Declaration Form.
- * All non-Indians must pay hotel bills in foreign currency unless they have an Exemption Certificate or Police Registration Papers.
- * Foreign travellers cheques are better converted into State Bank of India rupee travellers' cheques, which are accepted throughout India.
- * No Indian currency can be brought in or taken out of India. But rupee travellers' cheques from banks abroad are allowed.

ELECTRICITY :

Voltage in most places is 220V AC; 50 cycles. A few areas have DC supply only. Best to bring your own 110-220 volt transformer and check before using your electric shaver, hair dryer, etc.

PHOTOGRAPHY :

Black and White films and processing facilities available everywhere. Kodak, Agfa and Orwo colour films can also be processed in main cities. This takes about two weeks. (You can ask them to mail the processed film to your home address, if necessary).

But films are expensive. So bring your quota with you. 8 mm and 16 mm cine films and Polaroid film are not easily available.

TELEPHONE/TELEX :

You can put through a telephone call to almost all countries — either from your hotel or from a post office. Most big hotels have telex facilities to many countries including the UK, USA, Canada and Australia.

Long distance direct dialling facilities are available between most of the metro cities, and connects these cities to towns in the neighbouring regions.



Other trunk bookings are through the operator; please check the waiting period for your call to come through.

Public telephones need One 50 paise coin for local calls. Shops and restaurants charge more.

WEATHER :

Most pleasant during November to February (maximum 20.5°C 68.9°F, minimum 19.4°C, 66.9°F). Then it gradually gets hotter into summer (maximum 33.3°C, 91.9°F, minimum 22.7°C, 72.8°F).

During this time, there is hardly a drop of rain. And then — 'the monsoon' — June to September it really pelts down to the drama of thunder, lightning, double-decker-high waves and thick black clouds.



AIR-INDIA :

Air-India's fleet consists of nine Boeing 707s and five Boeing 747s. The airline presently serves 35 online and 102 offline sales offices throughout the world.

Meher Baba followers may contact the nearest Air-India office for ticketing and reservations. To ensure your passage on the required date, please make a reservation well in advance.

AIRLINE TELEPHONES :

Air-India (Airport) Tel. No. 533221/535461
(City Booking) Tel. No. 299696
(Other Offices) Tel. No. 292728
Indian Airlines (City Booking) Tel. No.
258911

ACCOMMODATION IN BOMBAY :

When you alight at Bombay Airport you can telephone Jal Dastur or Nargis Dadachanji, for any assistance for accommodation you may require. Of course, the best is to write ahead to:

Jal Dastur
179 Navayug Nagar
Forjett Hill Road
Bombay 400 026
Tel. No. 37 52 95

OR

Nargis N. Dadachanji
Sohrab House
607B, Dr Ambedkar Road
Dadar (Near Dadar Parsee
Gymkhana)
Bombay 400 014
Tel. No. 44 54 96

A Moderate Hotel is :

YWCA International Guest House
(males & females)
19 Madame Cama Road
Bombay 400 001
Tel. No. 21 51 35

Assistance for airline and rail reservations, bookings etc. contact : Jal Dastur.

FOR INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE :

For assistance of any kind, dial first Baba-Contact in Bombay :

Naosherwan Nalavala ANZAR*
AIR-INDIA
Public Relations
Air-India Building, 20th floor
Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021
Tel. No. 29 27 28

*Anzar is also Editor of the Baba-magazine THE GLOW.

The Meher Baba Centre is open every evening from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m., with a special meeting on Sunday at 6 00 p.m.

Avatar Meher Baba Centre
Navyug Niwas
3rd floor
Opp. Minerva Cinema
Lamington Road, Bombay.

BOMBAY TO POONA : 164 km. (102.5 miles)

Air : There is a daily Indian Airlines flight from Bombay to Poona. The flight takes 30 minutes. Flight timings are subject to change and should be checked in advance. Arrange bookings with your local travel agent.

Train : The trains leave from Victoria Terminus Station (V.T.). The Deccan Express is a fast train, there is one early morning and one late afternoon. Some of the other trains are slower and take 6-7 hours to reach Poona.

(A night train from Bombay to Ahmednagar is a whole night's journey. The Second Class compartment is extremely overcrowded and travel in this class should be avoided. The First Class, however, is more comfortable.)

Taxis : Taxis for Poona from Bombay are available from Dadar Main Post Office, three minutes walk from Dadar Railway Station (of Central Railway) any time of the day or night. The charge is approximately Rs. 30 per seat (the taxi will accommodate 4 persons).



AT POONA :

In Poona you should contact Jal S. Irani or Meherjee A. Karkaria for all assistance :

Meherjee A. Karkaria
or

Rusi Kapadia

c/o White Cloud Paper Mills
412 Gultekdi Road
Poona 9.

Tel. No. Office : 41078

Residence : 41578

Jal S. Irani
765 Dastur Meher Road
Meher Mohalla
Camp, Poona-1
Tel. No. 22701

In Poona you may stay at the moderately priced :

Hotel Amir
Connaught Road
Poona-1
Tel. No. 27351 22564

or

Hotel Gulmohr
16-A Connaught Road
Poona-1
Tel. No. 23545 23546

MEHER BABA PLACES IN POONA :

Travel around Poona is best by scooter rickshaw and Jal Irani (Meher Baba's brother) will take you round to Baba-places, such as :

1. The Sassoon Hospital where Meher Baba was born.
2. The house with the well where Meher Baba lived from 1918 for some years. This house has the room where Meher Baba suffered infinite agony after the meeting with the Perfect Master Babajan. This is known as "Baba's Room".
3. The Pumpkin House, known by that name because of the large round stone at the

entrance, where Meher Baba spent his childhood and much of his boyhood.

4. St. Vincent School where Meher Baba studied.
5. Deccan College where Meher Baba attended after St. Vincent's.
6. Babajan's shrine by the Neem tree in Poona Cantonment.
7. The Bund Gardens that Meher Baba often visited, as a boy and later. (Ask to be shown the Mango-tree under which Babajan used to sit with her followers and later Meher Baba would also sit under the same tree with his followers when they assembled there to give him a send off.)
8. Tower of Silence which Meher Baba frequently visited and where at times he sat for hours at a stretch before he came to be known as Meher Baba.
9. Guruprasad Memorial Hall which has been constructed with the material of Baba's original room at Guruprasad. The chair on which Meher Baba sat and gave darshan is placed in the room of the Memorial.



POONA TO AHMEDNAGAR :

1. You can take a special taxi by paying the fare for five people (hire charges vary) or a seat in the "paper" taxi which leaves

Poona at about 8.00 a.m. and reaches Ahmednagar at 10.30 a.m. (For this arrangement write to Jal Irani or to Meherjee Karkaria.)

2. You can take a bus from Shivajinagar, Poona, as well (it takes longer time by bus and is not recommended during Indian summer).

AT AHMEDNAGAR :

Write in advance to Adi K. Irani, Meher Baba's Secretary and inform him of your travel plans :

Adi K. Irani
King's Road
Ahmednagar
Maharashtra State
Tel. No. 266

Assistance for accommodation write to Adi K. Irani or to :

Mrs Viloo S. Irani
Viloo Villa
1B Hunter Road
Ahmednagar
Maharashtra State
Tel. No. 46

Some of the places for boarding and lodging :

Dawlat Lodge (approximately Rs. 8 a day without food)
Tel.No. 200

East and West Tourist Hotel (approximately Rs. 8 a day without food)
Tel. No. 674

Ashoka Tourist Hotel — Tel. No. 907
Hotel Sublok — Tel No. 820

Food in these hotels is adapted to Western stomachs and the drinking water is understood to be filtered or boiled.

GOVERNMENT FORMALITIES :

You must contact Adi Irani at his King's Road office within **24 hours** of your arrival. He or his assistants will help you with registration at the Foreigners' Registration Office. Please be sure to bring with you three passport size photos. When you leave Ahmednagar you must fill in the departure card as well.



WHAT TO WEAR :

Both men and women can wear lightweight summer clothes. Cotton clothes are more comfortable than synthetics because they are more absorbent. They are advised to dress suitably and discreetly and both men and women need comfortable walking shoes.

If you are coming in winter (November through February) you should bring a sweater and jacket or a warm coat; also you may bring your sleeping bag, but this is not obligatory. It is imperative to bring a hat or a head-cover

throughout the year. Sunrays here are stronger, and even if not felt may result in fever and stomach disorder. A flashlight is a handy companion. A raincoat and/or umbrella is a must for the monsoon season from June through September.

HOW TO TRAVEL :

Meherabad is located approximately six miles south of Ahmednagar while Meherazad is approximately 9 miles north of Ahmednagar. Bicycles for both men and women with or without lamps (lights) are available for rent at Ahmednagar on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Scooter rickshaws should charge according to metre within the city but for a visit to Meherabad and Meherazad set a price with a driver before you sit in. The price must include waiting charges as well. Public buses too run at more or less regular schedules from different stands in Ahmednagar. Details are posted at Adi K. Irani's office. Remember Meherazad is by the village of Pimpalgaon Malwi and Meherabad is by the village of Arangaon, and it is advisable to give your directions accordingly when travelling — so that destination to Meherazad and Meherabad may not get mixed up !

If you plan to stay for a full day at either Meherazad or Meherabad take packed lunch with you.

MEHERABAD :

Meher Baba spent ten months of 1922 in Bombay training his disciples in various aspects of living with a Master.

On the last day of March 1925 he announced that he intended to bring the Bombay stay to an end. A visit to Ahmednagar followed. At the end of April he paid a visit to "Happy Valley", thirteen miles away from the city.

After a few days stay there, Meher Baba along with a group of disciples, while walking along the road from Ahmednagar to Dhond, halted near the village of Arangaon. Meher Baba and the disciples chose to relax at a place which had once been a military camp with a dilapidated post office building which existed then.

To the amazement of his disciples, Meher Baba liked the place and expressed a desire to stay there. Meher Baba was informed that the place belonged to one Mr. Kaikhushroo Irani, whose son Mr. Adi K. Irani is one of Meher Baba's close ones.

Meher Baba stayed there for a week but it was his first contact with the place. This place afterwards came to be known as 'MEHER-ABAD' ('Abad' literally means 'flourishing').

When Meher Baba decided to stay on for a longer period at Meherabad, he returned in March 1924 and began to settle down once



more. Here the disciples had to observe severe discipline and before long the place developed into a small colony. Meherabad began to grow. A school, hospital and dispensary were set up alongside ashrams for lepers and the destitute. Hundreds of people came regularly for Meher Baba's **darshan** and a school was opened for boys and girls of all classes and creeds.

Meherabad flourished till 1928 when Meher Baba decided to bring the colony to an end. After a period of intensive world travel, Meher Baba re-established Meherabad in November 1933. At the end of 1936 he invited some of his men and women disciples from the United States and England to stay in his ashram at Nasik. Later on a number of his Western disciples stayed in Meherabad along with his Eastern disciples in selfless service to their Master.

In 1938 Meherabad was again used for his work with the masts (God-intoxicated souls). Of special significance is the Tomb of Meher Baba that was built years before on Meherabad Hill. Meher Baba had said, "When I leave my body it is to be buried here".

The Tomb is notable for its simplicity. It has a white masonry Dome and walls of stone. It also had an open crypt in the centre. When Meher Baba dropped his body on January 31, 1969, his body was interred in this crypt, where he had in 1927 spent months of fasting and seclusion. The inside of the walls of the tomb are painted by the Swiss artist Helen Dahm and



the murals depict Meher Baba with his disciples and villagers. At the entrance of the Tomb the words "Mastery In Servitude" are inscribed and its four corners are adorned with replicas of the Church, Temple, Mosque and Zoroastrian Fire symbolizing togetherness in the love of the One who is in all.

Meher Baba often spoke of the time when Meherabad would be the greatest place of pilgrimage on earth. This prophecy is being gradually fulfilled as the young and old, from the East and West come to Meherabad to pay homage to their Beloved Master, Friend and Comforter, Meher Baba, in their hearts.

The Pilgrims Lodge at Lower Meherabad has a few comfortable rooms with a separate dining room. Baba-lovers are permitted to stay there for four days. You have to spend for your meals and for the servant who does the cooking and washing. Permission to stay at Meherabad is to be obtained on arrival from Manija S. Irani, the Chairman of Avatar Meher Baba Trust, King's Road, Ahmednagar.

There is, of course, water shortage at Meherabad during the summer months. Avoid visiting Ahmednagar from March 15 to June 15. The Pilgrims Lodge is also closed during these summer months.

The Free Dispensary at Meherabad, in charge of a qualified doctor, serves people of all castes and creeds.

MEHERAZAD :

Fifteen miles from Meherabad, near the village of Pimpalgaon-Malwi is Meher Baba's residence, named MEHER-AZAD ('Azad' literally means 'free'). Meher Baba moved from Meherabad in 1943 with some of his mandali to this place which he later named Meherazad and except when travelling, this place remained his home. The men and women mandali live in simple quarters with a minimum of comforts.

Meherazad has two entrances : one leads to Meher Baba's room, while the other to the main hall and the residential quarters. Delia de Leon, an English disciple, who was present at the opening of the main building at Meherazad in 1948 describes the momentous day. "For the big celebration the opening of Meherazad at Pimpalgaon, we all put on our best clothes. Baba opened the lock of the door with a key, and Mehara, chief woman disciple, along with other disciples, performed the **arti** (act of devotion to the Master). The main house is like a Swiss chalet with Baba's quarters upstairs and the women **mandali** on the ground floor. There is a lovely garden all around and in the bungalow opposite the chalet are two rooms (which at that time were occupied by the Western women disciples). "It was so peaceful and wonderful to be in this lovely place, with Meher Baba and his mandali. There was a feeling of eternity and timelessness and all thoughts of the world faded away"

The **mandali** (close disciples), both men and women, still reside at Meherazad where Meher Baba's Eastern and Western followers gather each day to hear them speak of Baba and his work.

You can visit Meherazad any day of the week up to 6.00 p.m., except Fridays, when those who live there are given a day to themselves. Meherazad remains closed each year from March 15 to June 15.

AVATAR MEHER BABA AHMEDNAGAR CENTRE :

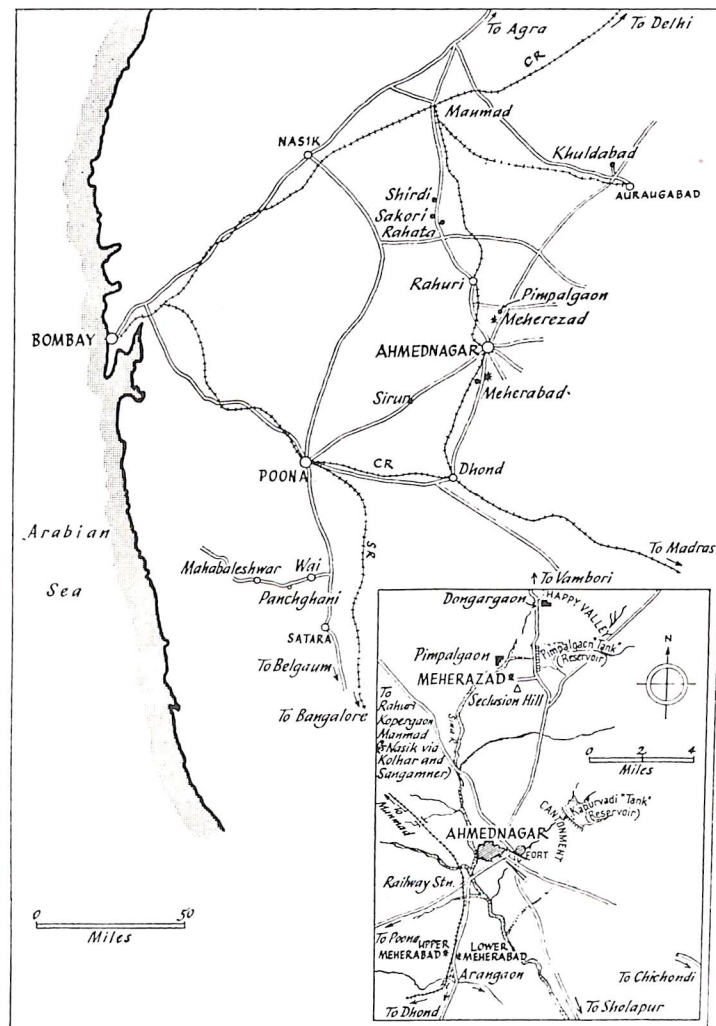


The Centre is located in "Meher-Nazar" Compound at King's Road, opposite Sarosh Cinema and Canteen, where every Saturday from 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. the Centre is open for Baba-meetings. All are welcome to attend the programmes.

AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST :

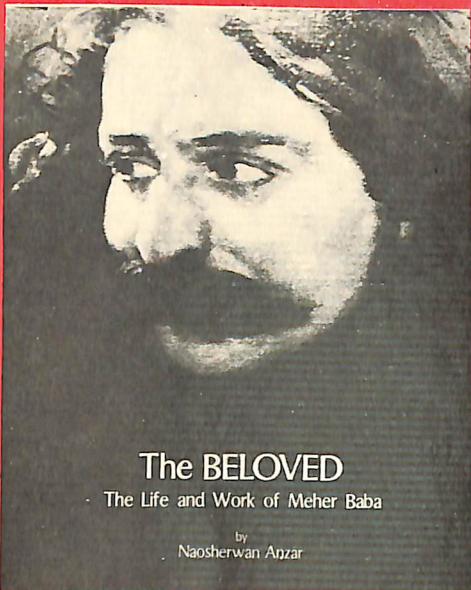
The Avatar Meher Baba Trust (AMBT) office is located on King's Road, Ahmednagar, in the "Meher-Nazar" compound adjacent to Adi K. Irani's office. The Trust was created by Avatar Meher Baba in April 1959 for two objects : Firstly, for the maintenance of his close disciples and Secondly (now called Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust) for public charitable objects, such as :

dispensaries, hospitals, schools, libraries, pilgrims quarters, shelters, and water facilities at Meherabad including maintenance of Avatar Meher Baba's Tomb. The fulfilment of these objects depends upon the donations received by the Trust. The benefits from these charitable objects are made available to all irrespective of caste, creed, race, sex, religion and nationality.



The Meher Baba Country: A Diagrammatic Map





The BELOVED

The Life and Work of Meher Baba

by
Naosherwan Anzar

THE BELOVED is the first illustrated biography of Meher Baba, written by Naosherwan Anzar after several years of research. For a copy of the book write to Sheriar Press, P.O. Drawer 1519, Crescent Beach Station, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582, U.S.A., or Editor THE GLOW, 36, Lytton Road, DEHRA DUN (U.P.) INDIA

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