

Source of Solace

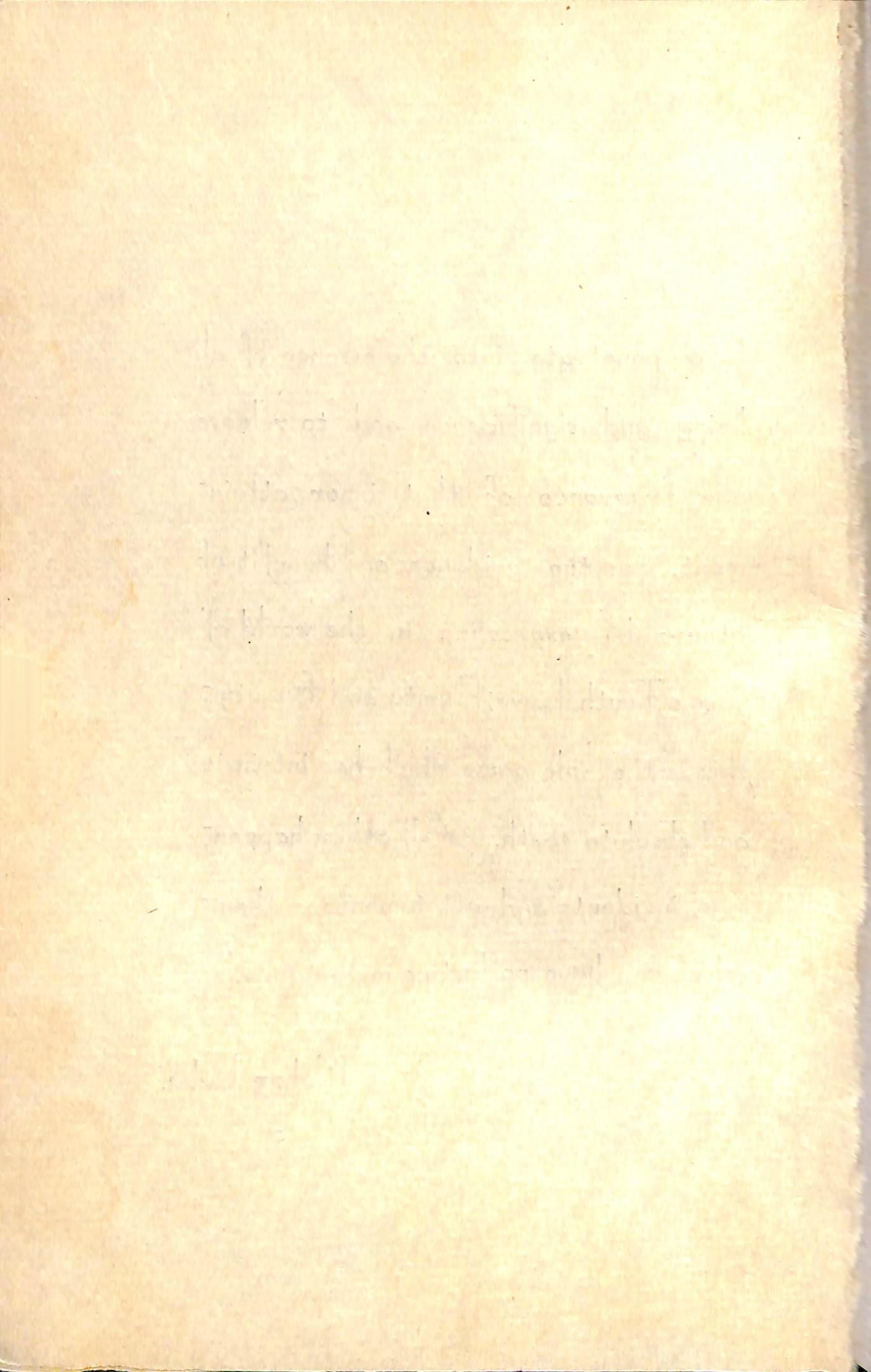




"To penetrate into the essence of all being and significance and to release the fragrance of that inner attainment, for the guidance and benefit of others by expressing in the world of forms Truth, Love, Purity and Beauty - this is the sole game which has intrinsic and absolute worth. All other happenings, incidents and attainments in themselves can have no lasting importance."

Meher Baba.

1-701288

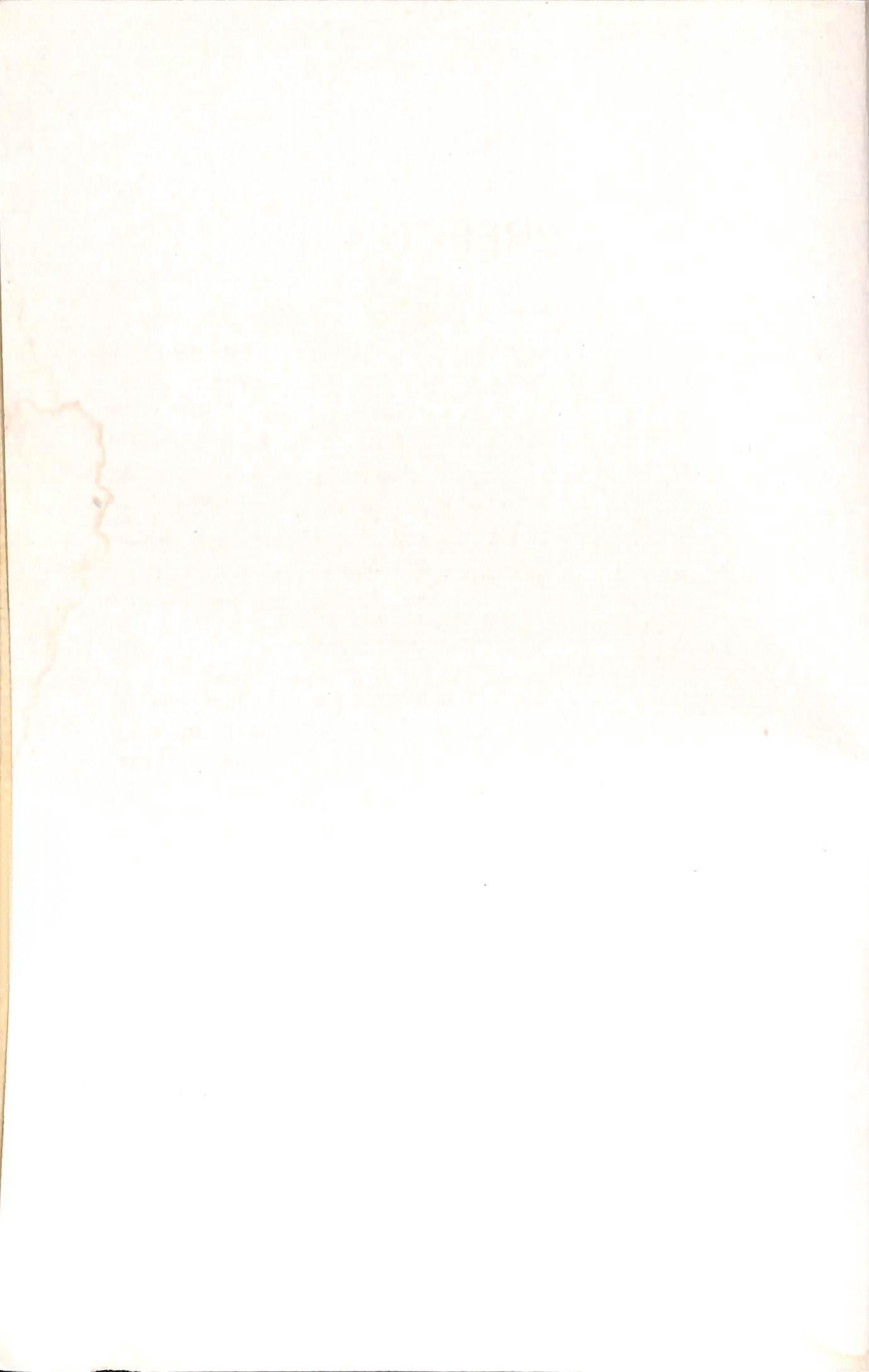




AVATAR MEHER BABA

"The Universe is my ashram, and every heart is my house, but I manifest only in those hearts in which all other than me, ceases to live".

—Meher Baba



PREFACE

God is one of us, one with us and one in us and thus God and we are all one. We are not consciously aware of this Truth. We should be awakened to know this. Awakening is from within and nothing needs to be injected from without. Blessed few are fortunate to get in contact of a personality who is God in human form (known as Avatar) who is capable of creating such an awareness within and when such a thing takes place in one's life, it is the beginning to the Eternal journey - a journey to the goal of Self-realization.

I am sure I am one of those blessed few. Not because I have got a chance to tread on the path, not because I knew something more than what I have already learnt, not because I gained something more than what I have already gained, and not because I am blessed with a few amenities for a peaceful life but because I have come into the orbit of a whirlpool of LOVE, because I have known that personality-God-Man (Avatar) with whom the entire beings in creation consciously or unconsciously are linked with, because I have not so far got in touch with anyone or anything in the world which had made so much of an impact on my mind to change the course of my life and because I could make my life so purposeful as to be lived unto God in order to finally merge in Him. This is the supreme

conviction I possess in my Beloved Master - Meher Baba. Existence of God is now ineffaceable fact for me since Meher Baba came into my life, otherwise, I donot know whether I would have erred on my belief in the very existence of God.

Meher Baba says "All life is an effort to achieve freedom from self-created entanglement. It is a desparate struggle to undo what had been ~~in~~ done ⁱⁿ ignorance to throw away the accumulated burden of the past to seek rescue from the debris piled high from temporary achievements and failures".

In the light of Meher Baba's message, life has to be put up cheerfully and detached, through thick and thin amidst a series of events and steered through with one-pointed conviction in God. This is achieved through the grace of Avatar Meher Baba, and here I stand before you as one experiencing it.

I, therefore, thought that I should make available a brief biography of this great Master to the masses to assimilate in a short-span of time what He is and what He is for.

8-3-21, Red Cross Road,
Second Bazaar, Secunderabad.
dated the 11th January, 1982.

M. Ramak ishna Sarma.

AVATAR MEHER BABA

(Brief Life Sketch, His Universal Work
and His Message).

INTRODUCTION

Very few people in the world, in this age of strife and turmoil, controversy and disharmony antagonism and animosity, lust and greed, selfishness and egoism, pride and arrogance, hypocrisy and deceit crookedness and jealousy, bother to know something about spirituality and Godhood and are thus interested to pursue real values in life in order to achieve the ultimate goal of liberation and Self-realization. Even these very few are caught in bewilderment because they do not come across in such a pursuit any spectacular results of the existence of God and thus lost track of the correct way of understanding the Truth and finding out the path to ultimate goal of Reality. Thus they are caught up in the quagmire of a ritual ridden and ceremony based life without finding any ray of the excellent, surest and quickest means of attaining spiritual freedom under the guidance of a Truth Realized Master - namely the Perfect Master. Yet they have some belief in Him - either due to a study of religious discourses, ancient scriptures, or due to some supernatural happenings or because of some crude faith in the deities and several gods and also perhaps due to practice of some routine rituals and

ceremonies mechanically for years. This faith therefore is distracted and is not helpful to them in any way to find Him. Thus they stick to such a code of life in a deluded belief that all such things will lead them to Realization or make them eligible to receive highest benefits from their Almighty and several other Gods in whom they have belief.

Truth is God and is to be realized within ourselves. It is not to be sought after outside and elsewhere.

*"When mind soars in pursuit of the things
conceived in space, it pursues emptiness.
But when man dives deep within himself,
he experiences the fullness of existence".*

— Meher Baba.

In fact man minus ego is God. We are not conscious that we are God. We are conscious that we are human beings and we identify ourselves with our own little self but not as the Self of all selves. One day or the other we should identify ourselves as the Self of all selves and then we consciously experience Godhood. We are thus God-realized. This is the goal of all life in creation - from beginning to Eternity. Whether man wants to attain this state or not, he is bound to reach the goal one day or the other because the 'pheri' of life and death leads only to this goal which is the Ultimate one. If we desire to get rid of this pheri of evolution, early the better we should seek a Perfect Master and per chance we come across such a Master or the God-Man (the Avatar) we should not miss such a blessed chance.

"We must loose ourselves in order to find ourselves. Thus loss is gain."

—Meher Baba.

Man on his own accord cannot reach independently this state of God realization and cannot get liberation until he is helped out by a Perfect Master or God-Man (i.e. Avatar). A Master, a Sadguru or the 'Outub' the God Man i.e., Avatar as he is known possesses supreme authority and power to use it so that they can help any individual soul in the creation to get God-realization through self-annihilation.

Avatar appears on the earth once in a cycle of 700/1400 years time and as per the verdict of all religions in the world this is the time (because now that the chaos and confusion is at its highest peak) for the Avatar to descend on earth in human form and to awaken humanity through Love to the supreme purpose of reaching the Ultimate goal 'Liberation', besides giving a general shake-up of the disorder. It is also widely believed that God incarnates in human form on earth to establish righteousness fading away by creating an atmosphere of mutual trust, love and sacrifice. But from time immemorial it has been greatly believed that the advent of the Lord creates a magnanimous change among the man kind in the sense that all sinners will be destroyed on the spot and the so-called saints will be saved and given all comforts on earth and ultimately eligible for being sent directly to heaven. Truth is far from such crude beliefs. What happens is a change in the mental attitude as a result of coming into the contact of the Master or God-Man. If God is to incarnate on earth today, or if Christ is to come again today, His main work

should be to destroy the tendencies of selfishness, greed, lust and anger etc. etc. from human mind and cause cessation of all thoughts arising out of such selfishness etc and make the mind otherwise busy, turn it away towards something Real-i.e. God. This creates in man a detachment to the material world thereby wicked tendencies are curtailed and then we will witness 'dharma' prevailing. This is the purpose for which God incarnates himself in every cycle of time. Of course there might be different contentions among men of various beliefs and faiths that He comes as a Messiah again, or recoming of the Christ or as the re-appearance of the Prophet and so on and so forth. Irrespective of these minor differences of opinion, the universal fact remains one-that He comes again on the earth to redeem humanity fraught with danger of extinction and destruction. He is only the saviour who comes then to the rescue of the humanity in trouble. He is the Avatar.

So one should not miss such a golden and rare opportunity when the Avatar comes but should make themselves available to receive His grace and Love Him till the very end - till they finally merge in Him - the only one that Exists.

As pre-ordained Avatar appeared already according to the Divine Law and dwelt on this earth from 1894 to 1969 completed His Divine work and withdrew himself from the scene back to his original state of 'Paratpar Parabrahma'. This time he is called 'Avatar Meher Baba' and was born at Poona. We as Hindus knew him hitherto as Rama and Krishna, we as Christians knew him hitherto as Jesus - the Christ, we as Mohammedans knew him hitherto as Mohammed - the Pigamber and we as Budhists knew him

hitherto as Budha and we are all eagerly awaiting for his next advent expecting that he would come in the same form this time too. But Divine working is always not the same. All of us fail to recognize him because he has changed his name and came now as Meher Baba and has taken birth in a different place and in a different community and as it happens everytime whenever he comes in human form, he changes His name, he changes his place and comes in a different place and in a different community. Yet he has come again with the same purpose of awakening humanity to the supreme goal of liberation and carrying the same Message 'Love God' - 'Come all unto Me', Remember Me whole-heartedly and Constantly'.

To fulfill the wish of his devotees anxiously awaiting His advent he has appeared but only a few of us sofar had got the blessed opportunity of knowing this fact and getting convinced with a firm conviction that he is the same Rama and Krishna same Christ and the same Budha and Mohammed. Still some of us remained in darkness and it is time for us to hasten and take all steps to know him, serve him, Love him and obey him who will lead us to the destination of 'Liberation'. Those who pay heed are always benefitted and blessed. The Story of this Avatar who dwelt amidst us till recently goes thus :

LIFE (1894 - 1969)

Merwan Sheriar Irani - later known as Meher Baba was born at 5 a.m. on 25th February, 1894 at Poona in David Sassoon hospital to parsi parents Sheriar Mundegar Irani and Shirin Mai. Merwan's father roamed in Persia in search of God and later came to India seeking after God

but subsequently gave up the pursuit in response to an inner voice which commanded him to stop wandering and take up family life. He refused marriage initially but on the insistence of his sister he pointed out a girl of 7 at his age of 31 for whom he has shown willingness to marry in a firm belief that it would not come through. But as Divine providence would have it, later at his age of 38 the same girl was settled in marriage to him at her age of 14 and thus Sheriarji and Shirinbano were together married. To these parents were born five sons and two daughters. Eldest son Jamshedji died in 1926 and the first daughter Freni died at her age of six. Thus remained five of whom Merwan was the second child, Jal, Behram and Ardeshir his three brothers and one sister Mani. Jal and Mani were attached to Meher Baba in the firm belief that he is God and not as brother. Mani is in Meher Baba's women Mandali and now is the Chairman of Avatar Meher Baba Trust.

Meher means 'Mercy'. Baba means father. Merciful father. Meher was very active in his childhood, noted for gentleness and unselfishness. When he was five years old he was educated at Dastur Girls School and at nine at Camp Government English School and in St. Vincent High School where from he was Matriculated at the age of 17 in 1911 and then he entered Deccan College, Poona.

About his childhood Baba once commented "When I was a boy I did not know anything, I had nothing to do with spirituality. My father, who was a dervish had roamed throughout Persia and India, begging and contemplating God. He taught me some verses from Hafiz and

other poets but I had no interest in this. I preferred games. I found myself the leader of others".

As teen aged Merwan was very active in school, excelled in cricket and became class leader he was liked by all. He wrote poems in Persian, Gujarati, Hindustani which were published in 'Sanj Vartman' under the non-deplume 'Homa'. He was educated at Deccan College, Poona in 1911. While in College his course of life changed. One morning in the Month of May, 1913 when riding on a bicycle through Rao Saheb Kedari Road, he looked up and saw an old woman sitting under a neem tree, who beckoned at him. He went to her and she arose and embraced him. He remained sitting with her for quarter of an hour and not a word passed from them during their great meeting. Then he left. This remarkable woman was Hazrat Babajan a Muslim aged 122 years old at that time. She belonged to Baluchistan and migrated to India. Babajan remained under the neem tree exposed to all weathers - even once when there was a great storm in Poona uprooting trees and houses blowing down, Babajan remained under the neem tree uncovered. Later her devotees constructed small shed for her. She was recognized as a Sadguru, and was heard to say that she was God. Meher met such a great Sadguru for the first time. After that great meeting, he visited her every night and sat in silence. One night in January, 1914 - he kissed her hand stood before her and she kissed him on his forehead after which he stood there for a few moments and went home. It was 11'clock night. He went to bed and started experiencing extraordinary thrills as, though he were receiving electric shocks, joy mingled with pain and lost his body consciousness. Meher's mother found

him lying with wide open vacant eyes for three days, he lay down in that state. After three days he slightly regained consciousness and thus remained 9 months during which time he did not know what he was doing. He was placed under medical treatment to no avail including morphia injections. Meher was sent to Bombay to his brother Jamshedji for two months where he used to visit Chowpathi and Victoria gardens and spend there several hours. He returned to Poona used to spend most of his time in a small room in his father's house.

In November' 1914 he regained partial consciousness and started occasionally mingling with his family members and also started taking small quantities of food. At this juncture his friend Kodabad Sheriar Irani introduced to Meher one young man named Behramji Fardoonji Irani who immediately became attached to Meher and later became his close disciple. Meher offered to teach Persian to Behramji and he taught him automatically and not as a conscious teacher.

During April, 1915 Meher visited Khedgaon and visited Sadguru Narayan Maharaj and returned to Poona. Then he along with Behramji visited Tajuddin Baba of Nagpur. After some weeks Meher along with Behramji visited Saibaba of Shiridi the famous Sadguru for thousands and thousands of people-who paid greatest reverence to Him as God.

On seeing SaiBaba in a procession Meher prostrated himself on the road and when he arose, Sai Baba looked at him and said 'Parvardigar' which means "God Almighty-Sustainer". Immediately after this Meher proceeded to the temple of Khandoba - where Upasani Maharaj was

living under Sai Baba's guidance, naked and fasting. This was the last month of 1915.

Upasani Maharaj played key role in Meher's life. When he saw Meher for the first time he flung a stone at Meher which hit on the forehead exactly at the place where Babajan kissed him. This was intended to bring Meher into gross consciousness which he did not regain fully by then. Meher later said that this helped him to know that He was the 'Ancient One'. He stayed with Upasani for two days then returned to Poona. From then he used to visit Babajan regularly and during one such visits Babajan pointed out "This child of mine will shake the world to a great upheaval". Thereafter he used to regularly visit the parsi tower of silence, sit there for hours and knock his forehead against the stones and used to cover the bruises with a kerchief. Twice in a month he also paid a visit to Upasani Maharaj and also engaged in correspondence. As Meher appeared returning to normal consciousness he was forced to take up a job at Lahore in 1916 which he did for two months period and returned to poona and took charge of his father's tea shop and later opened his own toddy shop in partnership with Behramji. In this shop Meher used to work from morning 6 till 12 midnight washing the bottles, sweeping the floor and serving customers. He used to advise the customers not to drink too much and also to stop drinking. Later he wound up the toddy shop and participated in sports. On one occasion he shut himself up in an attic in Behramji's house and sat there 36 hours, completely smearing with dirt and came out fully exhausted. Behramji cleaned him. This was all in order to under-

take lowly and mean job for its own purpose in Divine work.

In the month of July 1921 Meher went to Sakori and lived for 6 months with Upasani Maharaj. He and Upasani Maharaj used to spend a number of hours together at night and day and none was allowed to approach them. At the end of December Meher was restored to full normal consciousness. Then Upasani Maharaj said to his disciples "I have given my charge to Merwanji. He is the holder of my key. Sometime later in the presence of a number of persons Upasani Maharaj said "This boy will move the world. Humanity at large will be benefitted at his hands". A few days later Upasani Maharaj sent for "Gustadji Hansotia one of his leading disciples and said I have made Meherwanji Perfect. He is the Sadguru of this Age. Now you have to leave me and stick to him." To Behramji, he said "Your friend is God-realized, carry out every command and every desire of his". Maharaj folded his hands on one night and said "Merwanji - You are Adi Shakti. You are Avatar", Thus the part played by Upasani Maharaj in the life of this Avatar of the Age - Meher Baba was crucial which made him at the age of twenty seven to start upon his Universal work.

As a part of the Divine game and in fulfilment of His Divine Manifestation, Meher Baba commenced observing Silence from 10th July, 1925 and continued it till he dropped his mortal body on 31st January, 1969. His Tomb Shrine wherein his body was laid to rest is at Meherabad, a place within 5 km. from Ahmednagar railway station - a district headouartes in Maharashtra. To this Tomb Shrine, thousands of his followers pay a visit on

every Amarthithi Day of 31st January, to pay obeissance to their Beloved Avatar who is their very breath. It is very interesting to know some details of the Universal work undertaken by Avatar Meher Baba when he walked on this earth in flesh and blood. Equally important is to study his discourses and messages to know how to love Him so that we may be able to know him and Love him as he ought to be loved for our own upliftment and ultimate benefit.

UNIVERSAL WORK (1922 - 1969) :

After Meher Baba became conscious of Himself as the Avatar through the help of the Five Perfect Masters and realized that He came to sow the seed of Love in the hearts of humanity struggling with waywardness and anti-god tendencies, he started upon his Universal work. In the beginning of January, 1922 he lived in a small hut on Ferguson College Road, Poona where some disciples gathered around him and used to call him 'Baba'. Then on he is known as Meher Baba. He insisted upon disciplined way of living and used to give spiritual discourses to several of his friends who came to meet him. In May 1922, Meher Baba made a journey to Bombay on foot with 45 followers of all faiths and took up a bungalow for one year there on the main road which was named by Baba as 'Manzil-e-Meem' (House of the Master). Life in Manzil-e-Meem was very strict and subjected to rigorous spiritual disciplines including getting up at 4 a. m. taking cold baths, and obeying a set of orders given by Baba and whoever fails was subjected to a severe ordeal. All the followers who accompanied Baba willingly underwent the rigors of such a strict

life and were stuck to Baba as they had immense faith in Him that he is God in human form. Hundreds of amusing incidents were later narrated through diaries of those who lived in Manzil -e- Meem with Baba and through other notes recorded by some of these disciples. Meher Baba wound up the life at Manzil -e- Meem and shifted to a place called Arangaon in Ahmednagar district, 5 Miles from Nagar later called as Meherabad during March 1923 where he established Ashrams, Schools, Hospitals wherein destitute boys were educated, poor and lepers were served.

Meherabad was the hub of various activities of Avatar Meher Baba during the course of his Divine work which manifested through different walks of life including hard-labour. Here again, his followers and disciples those who were staying with him popularly known as his 'Mandali' were put to severe ordeals and were profusely overhauled in spirituality through daily life, and by putting them to severe tests. His Mandali put up with all types of severities for the sake of 'obedience' to the Master.

Meher Baba's work was in silence and universal. Three important phases embraced the life of this Avatar of the Age, and all his Avataric activities, were greatly carried out in this way of working.

LONG JOURNEYS .

Meher Baba undertook long journeys, some times by foot through the length and breadth of India and several other countries in the world accompanied by his Mandali giving discourses, interviews and public darshans to large congregation of people;

Second is CONTACTING MASTS (god-mad) ;
(1939 - 1948)

Mast contact was done in a phased manner by following a well chalked out itinerary with a view to help these Masts to push forward in their consciousness towards self-realization. Masts are God-absorbed and God-communed. Masts are those who become permanently unconscious in part or whole of their physical bodies, actions and surroundings due to their absorption in their intense love and longing for God.

Mind stopped is God;
Mind working is Man;
Mind slowed down is Mast;
Mind working fast is Mad''

—Meher Baba.

Baba worked through these Masts in general for the upliftment of humanity at large and as a part of his Divine Manifestation in particular. Baba said "I work for the masts and knowingly or unknowingly they work for me'.,. Baba used to sit alone with Masts for hours together and when he came out he was often found completely exhausted and looked very serious.

When Baba visited them some of these Masts who were very much advanced in spirituality used to disclose spontaneously at first sight, Baba's Highest Divinity which is another proof of Baba's Avatarhood:

Azim Khan Baba.
(A high mast of Matura.

When Baba contacted him he said—

14th December, 1946)

“ You are Allah ”. You have brought forth the creation and once in thousand years you come down to see the play of what you have created”.

Bhorwala Baba.
(An adept pilgrim
of Bhor.
January, 1947.)

He said of Baba - Meher Baba has in him the whole universe. He is the Master of everyone and he is within every disciple”.

Brahmanandji Mast.
(An adept pilgrim of
Mathura
14th October, 1946.)

He touched Baba's feet and said “Behold, how devoted love draws - Lord Krishna to me,”

Chatti Baba.
(The sixth plane mast
of Nagapattinam).

In March 1941, in Quetta, he said “There will be so great a calamity in the world that no one can imagine it, even brother will kill brother and there will be great tribulation, then all the world will think of my big brother (Baba) at that time Baba will draw aside the veil, and all will pay obeissance to him.

The phase of Mast work is a unique phase in life and work of Avatar Meher Baba in that thi. kind of spiritual

work does not seem to have been done in the past Avatic periods to such a great extent.

The third phase is 'SECLUSION' :

Meher Baba used to go into Seclusion for long periods extending for months some time and also observe fast during such periods. His retirement in Seclusion was very strict and he did not allow anybody to approach him save allowing one of his devotees to be on guard outside the place where Baba used to shut himself up in seclusion. His fasting during such periods also was very very strict and sometimes - it used to be only on water for days together. The periods of seclusion and fasting extended for weeks together in the early phase of his life and they had great significance, as they are inter-related with the happenings in the physical world like Wars and National disasters etc. It was subsequently gathered through some of Baba's explanations at various points of time on the significance of his Seclusion and fasting, that this mode of working has had a very salutary effect in his working with the affairs of the Universe, the Gross, Subtle and Mental worlds.

The Seclusion which Baba observed from 22nd June to 31st July, 1949 at Meherazad was referred to by Baba as 'The Great Seclusion'. This was precluded to his next important phase of Life called "NEW LIFE".

The New Life was launched on 16th October, 1949 and ended on 26th February, 1952.

About the NEW LIFE Baba declared on 16th October, 1950 at Mahabaleswar as follows ;

"This New Life is endless and even after my physical death it will be kept alive by those who live the life of complete renunciation of falsehood, lies, hatred, anger, greed and lust and who to accomplish all this, do no lustful actions, do no harm to anyone, do no backbiting, do not seek material possessions or power, who accept no homage neither covet honour, nor shun disgrace and fear no one and nothing by those who rely wholly and solely on God, and who love God purely for the sake of loving, who believe in the lovers of God and in the reality of Manifestation and yet do not expect any spiritual or material reward, who do not let go the hand of truth and who without being upset by calamity bravely and wholeheartedly face all hardships with one hundred percent cheerfulness and give no importance to caste, creed or Religious ceremonies. This Life will live by itself, even if there is no one to live it".

During the period of NEW LIFE Baba and his Mandali took upon themselves untold sufferings and put up with unimaginable inconveniences, travelling some times on foot and staying on roadsides not even caring inclement weather and forbearing much insult and humiliation. (A phase similar undertook by Rama during his exile in forests). This was intended to erase egoistic tendencies, thus to bring in NEW HUMANITY into existence, in very near future at which time Love and Sacrifice reign supreme in the world. Then it would be the best time for us to enjoy the fruits of the greatest work turned out by the Avatar and His Divine Manifestation.

SILENCE :

In the Life of any Sadguru or for that matter any spiritually advanced person, silence has an important part

to play. Creation emerged out of silence. But the silence Meher Baba observed has no parallel in spiritual work and does not seem to have been observed so long continuously by any previous great Masters from Rama to Muhammed. Meher Baba started his silence from 10th July, 1925 and continued till He dropped his mortal coil on 31st January, 1969, thus observing strict silence for 44 years.

At first he used to communicate through writing on a slate, later switched over to an alphabet board on which he used to point out quickly the letters which used to be translated by one of his mandali. This continued for about 30 years and on 7th October 1954 Baba discarded the same. From then on he used to communicate through the means of gestures with which those around him became familiar. Mostly, Eruch one of his closest disciples, used to translate all the messages and discourses given in silence by Baba. He is a fortunate soul indeed who is to act as 'mouth-piece' to God. This blessed person is still residing in the mandali at Meherazad.

Meher Baba's active Avataric work—the important and unique phase of his work includes work with the Masts, longest journeys throughout India and the world, hectic activities covering public darshans at various places in and outside India, two greatest Sahavas one in 1955 the other in 1958 and also the 'East West gathering' held in 1962, All this activity was carried out while observing Silence in which Baba gave elaborate discourses and messages to the participants and literally spoke to his audience and disciples—so to say—in silence only. He has communicated with them through their hearts, the language of which is silence and some of those present had felt nothing short of per-

sonally speaking to Baba. This was a unique experience indeed.

They had such an unforgettable communion with Him as He is the one without a second, the One residing in their hearts and closer to their breaths. His greatest work "God Speaks" a book on the 'Theme of Creation' and its Purpose and the Discourses were given by Baba in silence only.

On his Silence Baba remarks :

Inspite of my silence, I speak with all the tongues of the world.

God has been everlastingly working in silence unobserved, unheard, except by those who experience his Infinite silence. if my silence cannot speak, of what avail would be speeches made by the tongue.

If you were to ask me why I do not talk, I would say, mostly for three reasons-

Firstly I feel that through you all I am talking eternally,

Secondly to relieve the boredom of talking incessantly, through your forms, I keep silence in my personal physical form and

Thirdly because all talk in itself is idle talk, lectures, messages, statements, discourses of any kind spiritual or otherwise imparted through utterances or writings are just idle talk when not acted upon or lived upto.

"If you were to ask me when I will break my silence, I would say, when I feel like uttering the only real word, that was spoken in the beginningless beginning, as that word alone is worth uttering. The time for breaking of my outward silence to utter that word is very near".

People may get confused as to why Meher Baba has not broken His silence as promised before dropping his body. To those who have immense faith in his Avatarhood, the answer is very simple-Baba has been everlastingly speaking in their hearts. Others may interpret Baba's various messages on his silence given at different times, in their own way, according to their own understanding.

Everyone lives with hope and looks forward to prosperity. To achieve this they strive hard. They struggle for self-upliftment and self-aggrandizement. Few are there who struggle for Eternal Peace and Beatitude after attaining which nothing else is to be attained. On the "Aim and Goal" of life Baba discoursed so befittingly:

Aim & Goal

The aim of life is to Love God.

The goal of life is to become one with God.

To do this, you have not to renounce the world.

But to renounce the low desires, dishonesty and hypocrisy.

Then in the midst of activities you will be loving God as

He should be loved.

—Meher Baba

Now let us know further more of Baba's Divinity.

MEHER BABA'S DIVINITY AND HIS MESSAGE OF LOVE AND TRUTH.

To quote Meher Baba —

"I have come to sow the seed of Love in your hearts, so that inspite of all superficial diverstty 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"

Some of the incidents in Meher Baba's life and his working with His Mandali (a nucleus of his followers who were attached to him and lived with him throughout Baba's life through thick and thin on their own accord and who bound themselves to a code of rigorous discipline imposed by Meher Baba by a word of promise given to their Master, including severence of sexual relationship and family ties were formed into His mandaii They worked day in and day out-breath in and breath out for their Mastet Meher Baba and who wholly and totally existed for the sake of their Beloved Master- the Avatar of the Age-the redeemer of the humanity) are most inexplicable to common knowledge and bear special significance. They are very thrilling, exciting and exuberant coupled with spectacular events- which clearly show if any one has got the slightest interest in spirituality, that such occurrences will be only at the instance of a person who can be none other than God in human form. Such is the greatness and efficacy of Avatar Meher Baba whose Message of Love and Truth awakened many a God-lover to follow him and hold fast to his daaman.

Meher Baba's UNIVERSAL MESSAGE appearing on the pages following acts as an eye-opener to those groping in darkness.

Declarations Of Divinity :

I am the Divine Beloved who loves you more than you can ever love yourself.

All religions of the world proclaim that there is but one God, the father of all in creation-I am that father.

You and I are not We but One.

I was Rama - I was Krishna - I was this One and I was that One and now I am Meher Baba. In this form of flesh and blood I am that same Ancient One who alone is eternally worshipped and ignored ever remembered and forgotten.

I am the Ancient One - the Lord of the Universe. When I say I am the Avatar there are a few who feel happy some who feel shocked and many who take me for a hypocrite, a fraud, a supreme egoist or just mad.

I am what I am whether the world bows down to Me or whether it turns against Me, it does not matter. No amount of slander can effect or change me, nor any amount of admiration or praise enhance my Divinity. Baba is what he is. I was Baba - I am Baba and I shall forever remain Baba.

Meher Baba's Message of Love and Truth :

I have come not to teach but to awaken.

Baba says -

"God exists. If you are convinced of God's existence then it rests with you to seek Him, to see Him and to realize Him.

Follow any religion you like, but follow the spirit. Do not make a mock of it by adopting the conventional husk of religion and ignoring the underlying Truth.

Have hope. I have come to help you in surrendering yourselves to the cause of God and accepting His grace, Love and Truth. I have come to help you in winning the one victory of all victories to win yourself.

The only message I would ever give and have been giving is 'Love God' and you will find yourself is nothing but God".

"The practical way to the average man to express love is.

*to speak lovingly, think lovingly and
act lovingly towards all Mankind, feeling God
to be present in everyone."*

On how to Love God - Baba says—

1. 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;
2. 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 are loving God;
3. If instead of seeing faults in others, we look within ourselves, we are loving God.
4. If instead of robbing others to help ourselves, we rob ourselves to help others, we are loving God;
5. If we suffer in the sufferings of others and feel happy in the happiness of others, we are loving God;
6. If instead of worrying over our own misfortunes, we think of ourselves more fortunate than many many others, we are loving God;
7. If we endure our lot with patience and contentment, accepting it as His Will, we are loving God;

Love is essentially self - communicative. Those who dont have it catch it from those who have it. True Love is unconquerable and irresistible. It goes on gathering power and spreading itself until eventually it transforms every one it touches;

THUS LOVE MAKES YOU

1. Unlearn all that you have learned intellectually. Not remember the past, forget the present and not think of the future.
2. Renounce everything and everyone including your own self.
3. Escape from all that is illusory and take refuge in Reality.
4. Burn all your desires, and longings and kindle the one and only desire and longing - union with the Beloved.
5. Become God, live God's life and make others God unto yourself.

To be worthy of the Divine gift of this Love, let all your thoughts, words and deeds be controlled by the constant remembrance of God.

God cannot be explained. God can only be lived.

The best course for My lover is to remember Me wholeheartedly as much as he can, and to remain happy. So try to love Me by remembering Me and leave the rest to Me."

"I belong to no religion. My religion is Love. Every heart is my temple".

Real happiness lies in making others happy.

Don't worry - Be happy.

"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 really am."

Baba says - "The Lover has to keep the Wish of the Beloved. MY WISH for my lovers is as follows" :-

1. Do not shirk your responsibilities.
2. Attend faithfully to your wordly duties, but keep always at the back of your mind that all this is Baba's.
3. When you feel happy, think 'Baba wants me to be happy'. When you suffer, think "Baba wants me to suffer".
4. Be resigned to every situation and think honestly and sincerely "Baba has placed me in this situation".
5. With the understanding that Baba is in everyone try to help and serve others.
6. 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 once every day, you will not forget to remember Me in your dying moments".

To understand God through our intellect is like trying to gauge the depth of the ocean with one metre - scale. How worthwhile such an action is one can imagine. God is to be experienced through one's heart. Meher Baba therefore so aptly says:

*"God is not to be learnt
or studied or discussed or
argued about. He is to be
contemplated, felt, loved and lived".*

He pointed out —

*"Whatever you can understand
is not God, whatever is explained
is not God, whatever is expressed
is not God,"*

The stories that we all hear about the love of God of devotees like Tukaram, Ramdas, Gora Kumhar and Mira Bai relate to this Pure, unadulterated and Sublime Love expressed in their daily lives in that no tinge of intellectual egoism had any place. These stories are the media to inspire us and also to develop real understanding of God. They lived very much in the world, lead the worldly life amidst varied experiences, yet so much detached to all such fleeting instances, for the sole reason that their hearts were constantly filled with Love for God and minds full of this 'nam - smaran' (repetition of His name). This is the way one should cultivate Love for Baba. It is very easy once we start our life in this way. So, in order to reach that state of consciousness wherein one's mind is always in constant thinking of God, it is necessary to train our mind slowly towards a state of "detached attachment" live in it, but not of it.

One will get the strength to come to such an understanding through the Grace of the Perfect Master. That's why, there is need to know about the Perfect Master, through study. Baba once made a point to one of his devotees that we should study His discourses and writings diligently because during his life time they held "Spark". He said that His aura would remain in the world for one hundred years after he gave up the body but after that the writings would not have so great a force that they would become scriptures".

Therefore, one should hurry up to study the discourses of this Great Master given on different occasions.

Baba very often stressed not to worry : Once he said :-

"Don't worry. Worry accumulates and grows in strength becomes a habit long after the original cause has ceased to be".

Meher Baba is Universal Master; belonging to no religion. His religion is Love. He is therefore approachable by one and all without any reservations. Explaining this Baba once said —

"I am equally approachable to one and all,
big and small.

To saints who raise and sinners who fall,
Through all the various paths that give
to Divine Call.

I am approachable alike to saints
whom I adore,

And to sinner whom I am for,
And equally through Sufism, Vedantism,
Christianity or

Zorastrianism and Buddhism and other isms,
of any kind and also directly through no medium of
"isms" at all".

What one is expected to do to come under the fold of Avatar Meher Baba - the Ancient One - and to start Loving Him :

The main purpose of his present advent is to awaken humanity from their slumber of ignorance and make them to 'Love God'. Commenting on His mission Meher Baba says—

“The life in eternity knows no bondage, decay or sorrow. It is the ever - lasting and ever renewing self affirmation of conscious illimitable divinity. My mission is to help you inherit this hidden treasure of the self”

Meher Baba stressed more often on the constant and wholehearted repetition of His Name, so that it will work as the greatest panacea to all the ills affecting humanity. Repetition of Baba's name will enable man to drive away the strangers seated in his heart from ages old, which are -Lust, Greed, Anger, Jealousy, Selfishness, Egoism and Hypocrisy' after departure of which-God the indweller will awaken in our own hearts. This is the supreme Yoga, yoga of all yogas as told even in Gita. But very difficult to practice unless one is helped out by a Perfect Master and humanity requires this help once in a cycle of time at

the hands of the Avatar who will be the Master of Masters and if one gets under the care and guidance of such a Universal Master - he is blessed and much benefitted. To Love such a Master is to Love God.

Those who are sincere believers in the existence of God, should equally be sincere and honest to find him, know him and realize him as He alone exists. We exist because He exists. All else is illusion without Him. We can come to this conviction only through the grace of a Perfect Master or God-Man - the Avatar. So when we happen to come across such a God-Man it should be our bounden duty to follow him, obey him and serve him. How to serve him? We need not run away from the world wearing ochred coloured robes or renouncing worldly duties. On the other hand one should take more interest in the duties and responsibilities cast upon him and amidst all such activity think that this is all His wish.

Think of Baba. The surest and quickest means to approach Baba is to silently repeat his name as many times as possible in a day till it becomes natural for us to think of Baba and His Divinity in every circumstance and at all places.

Let us do three important things :

1. To start with we can start repeating His name daily in our mind duly forming his picture in our mind, while getting up from bed and then during our vacant times in a day and while going to bed. This helps us to think of Baba as many times as possible in a day.
2. Let us read the MASTER'S PRAYER AND PRAYER OF REPENTENCE dictated by Baba at least once in a day either in the morning or evening or at any time convenient to us. This will take us near to Meher Baba and His Divinity.

It would still more help if one could start slowly living upto any one dictum given in Repentence Prayer and also try to live upto BABA'S WISH - in every day life.

3. Least but not the last let us pay a visit to Avatar Meher Baba's Tomb Shrine at Meherabad (situated 5kms. away from Ahmednagar a District headquarters in Maharashtra, (Ahmednagar is on the way to Bombay from Aurangabad) and pay our obeissance and respect to Him so that we can derive the benefit of receiving His Grace.

Participating in Baba's Premik Sammelan programmes, weekly gatherings held in the Centres, and keeping company with Baba Lovers will help us to enhance our faith and conviction in Meher Baba as the Lord of the Universe.

Also one should know much about Meher Baba's Life, His universal work and other activities and several interesting stories and incidents happened in the lives of his followers through a study of the books written on Meher Baba and dictated by Him. Following are some of such important books suggested for study by a new comer.

BOOKS BY MEHER BABA

1. God Speaks - Dictated by Avatar Meher Baba in silence - on the Theme and Creation and Its purpose.
2. Discourses. Dictated by Meher Baba on various spiritual topics.
3. The Everything and the Nothing. Discourses by Meher Baba.

ON MEHER BABA.

4. God Man. Life story and work of Avatar Meher Baba. — C. B. Purdom.
5. The Way farers. An account of the work of Meher Baba with Masts —
—Dr. William Donkins.
6. Listen Humanity Details of a ⁷five day Sahavas in Nov. 1955 held in the Darbar of Avatar Meher Baba and some of Baba's Divine Discourses.
—Don. Stevens.

Let us Pray Beloved Baba that everyone who reads this brief Life and work of Avatar Meher Baba will be inspired to lead a life dedicated to God and will be recipients of His grace. Hope this would enable us to fill in our hearts with fresh dispensation of Love and new wind of strength so that we can turn into true lovers to be useful to ourselves and those around us.

*"Let your own life of love for Baba
be the message of Baba's love for
one and all."*

JAI BABA.



THE MASTER'S PRAYER

O PARVARDIGAR, the Preserver and Protector of All,

You are without Beginning, and without End;

Non-dual, beyond comparison; and none can measure
you;

You are without colour, without expression, without form,
and without attributes;

You are unlimited and unfathomable, beyond imagina-
tion and conception; eternal and imperishable;

You are indivisible; and none can see you but with eyes
Divine;

You always were, you always are, and You always will
be;

You are every where, You are in everything; and You are
also beyond everywhere and beyond every-
thing;

You are in the firmament and in the depths, You are
manifest and unmanifest; on all planes, and
beyond all planes;

You are in the three worlds, and also beyond the three worlds;

You are imperceptible and independent,

You are the Creator, the Lord of Lords, the Knower of all minds and hearts; You are Omnipotent and Omnipresent;

You are Knowledge Infinite, Power Infinite, and Bliss Infinite.

You are the Ocean of Knowledge, All-Knowing, Infinitely-Knowing; the Knower of the past, the present and the future; and You are Knowledge itself.

You are All-merciful and eternally benevolent.

You are the Soul of Souls, the One with infinite attributes.

You are the Trinity of Truth, Knowledge and Bliss;

You are the Source of Truth; the Ocean of Love;

You are the Ancient One, the HIGHEST OF THE HIGH;

You are Prabhu and Parameshwar; You are the Beyond-God, and the Beyond-Beyond God also;

You are Parabrahma, Paramatma, Allah; Elahi; Yazdan; Ahuramazda; God Almighty; and God the Beloved.

You are named EZAD; i.e., the Only One worthy of worship.

—Dictated by Meher Baba.

REPENTANCE PRAYER

"OM PARABRAHMA — PARAMATMA
YA — YAZDAN, LA ILAHA ILLALLAH,
O GOD, FATHER IN HEAVEN !

We repent, O God most merciful, for all our sins, for every thought that was false or unjust or unclean, for every word spoken that ought not to have been spoken, and for every deed done that ought not to have been done.

We repent for every deed and word and thought inspired by selfishness, and for every deed and word and thought inspired by hatred.

We repent most specially for every lustful thought, and every lustful action; for every lie; for all hypocrisy for every promise given but not fulfilled, and for all slander and backbiting.

Most specially also we repent for every action that has brought ruin to others, for every word and deed that has given others pain, and for every wish that pain should befall others.

In your unbounded mercy, we ask You to forgive us, O God, for all these sins committed by us and to forgive us for our constant failures to think and speak and act according to Your Will.

—Dictated by Meher Baba

THE UNIVERSAL MESSAGE

On 9th July 1958, Meher Baba gave to the world His Universal Message :

"I have come not to teach but to awaken. Understand, therefore, that I lay down no precepts".

"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. Instead of practising the compassion He taught, man has waged crusades in His name. Instead of living the humility, purity and truth of His words, man has given way to hatred, greed and violence".

"Because man has been deaf to the principles and precepts laid down by God in the past, in this present Avatic Form I observe silence. You have asked for, and been given, enough words : it is now time to live them. To get nearer to God you have to get further and further away from "I", "My", "Me" and "Mine. You have not to renounce anything but your own self. It is as simple as that, though found to be almost impossible. It is

possible for you to renounce your limited self by my Grace. I have come to release that Grace.

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

"I veil my self from man by his own curtain of ignorance, and manifest My Glory to a few. My present Avatic 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 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 ever love yourself. The breaking of My silence will 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".

The masses who try to attain the Truth by following rites and rituals are as it were in the goods train which is detained indefinitely at various stations. Those who sincerely and devotedly meditate on God or dedicate their lives to the service of humanity are, as it were, in the ordinary train which stop at every station according to the time table. But those who seek the company of the Truth-realized Master and carry out His orders in full surrenderence and faith, are as it were, in a special train which will take them to the goal in the shortest possible time, without halts at intermediate stations.

—Meher Baba.