## words

AVATAR MEHER BABA
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# words

A collection of poetry written by Baba lovers with a foreword by Don Stevens

IF MY SILENCE
CANNOT BE HEARD
OF WHAT AVAIL
WORDS

Meher Baba

Edited by Michael Milburn & Rosemary Harris

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c the authors

MORDS

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#### Foreword

Since the beginning of time the adoration of the lover for the beloved has poured forth in special sound and act. Instinctively the lover has recognised the unique ability of the beloved to lead him deeper towards discovery and unity with his own inner self. So, in fact, the outpourings of enchantment are the bewitched cry of anticipation of finding again the lost unity of being for which all of creation yearns.

Unchallenged as the object of love is the Perfect One who willingly takes upon himself the unique crucifixion of setting aside his knowledge of his unity to become a catalyst in search of others for their own identity. The love for this special being who sacrifices his bliss for a while is the content of this collection of poetry. In this instance the name of the Perfect One is Meher Baba. Having once been in his presence, one could do no less than adore him.

**Don Stevens** 

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#### DEAR BABA

It was the beginning to heaven
When the sea was washed up
On our bodies by the sun
And there seems no end
to the world when seagulls
White marble statues
you shaped from the rocks
Flow Into Us

In

the arms of the waves
you lie wet and still as sleep.
I tread lightly in your footprints
Led by surging light silenced
By your silence. And we still endure
The stones beneath our feet remembering
The Narrow Way.

And we can hear voices from other shores.

It is a blessing all this

O in the name of your name

And the sun's beating

And the sea's cry

It is a blessing

I am amazed

And

Ruthi Blackmore

#### TO THE GODMAN ON MEHERABAD HILL

In such sand and sea of ochre would I be taken and tossed as if by some miracle illumined would stretch on to greyness unknown worlds and universes take shape and break form.

Then with newness that is day on distant line a little ship with white sail and yellow light as if the whole creation was finite focus on that ship.

And there am I in clouds that are neither grey nor blue nor anymore but ship, O Ship that takes all.

**Bob Barton** 

#### WHO IS MEHER BABA?

He's the winking eye in the pyramid on a green one dollar bill He's the moment of deep silence when the evening stands quite still He's the groove in the centre of a silly little white pill He's the gust of warm laughter on the top of a hill

He's the everything He's the nothing and He loves us yes He does

He's the right on in the ghetto and the latest military coup He's the baby's piercing cry and its crooked smile too He's a zoroastrian hindu muslem buddhist christian jew He's the oldest of the old and the newest of the new

He's the everything He's the nothing and He loves us yes He does

He's the order beyond the chaos and the truth behind the lie He's the one who paves the way through the jungle to die He's the crust on the edge of a steak and kidney pie He's the lowest of the low and the highest of the high

He's the everything He's the nothing and He loves us yes He does

He's the desperate graffiti on an old crumbling wall
He's those who've got 'most everything and them with nothing at all
He's infinitely large and infinitesimally small
He's the goal the ref the players and even the ball

He's the everything
He's the nothing
and He loves us
yes He does

He's marching with the workers and He's waiting with the chiefs He's soaring up with happiness and plunging down with grief He's on and in and round the side above and underneath He's springs first budding bud and autumn's first red falling leaf

He's the everything He's the nothing and He loves us yes He does

He's the city lights and starlit skies, a light beyond our ken He's weaker than the sharpest sword and mightier than the pen He'll fill you up with so much love you'll forget to say when He's more than a zillion zillion zillion to the power of ten

He's everything He's the nothing and He loves us yes He does

He's a pile of rotting garbage and a leper's festering sore He's virtue's maiden aunt and he loves that downtown whore He's a miau a quack a moo a hiss a chirp a howl a roar if you love Him as He should be loved He'll open up His door

He's the everything He's the nothing and He loves us yes He does

He's the everything you've ever known He's all you'll ever know He's the place where everybody will eventually have to go He's the head the arm the fingers and the kneecap and the toe He's the question and the answer He's the yes and the no

He's the everything He's the nothing and He loves us yes He does

Mike da Costa

FOR A DYING FISH

when the tide comes in swim both ways at once and be born again

Mike da Costa

### PLEA TO RETURN MEHER BABA'S SMILE REMEMBERED

Your smile was night-colored the shape of almonds painted on paper lanterns

It sang from the bottom
of a sleeping lake
danced on a double rainbow
caught in the mountains
like a wagon wheel
with colored ribbons

Without your smile
I have only my hands and the sky
Dawn turns pale
at the corner of every hour

Come back for I am no longer eager to catch the folded wings of birds Come back

We will mix old Persian songs with the skylark's dawn drink purple wine from the hollow crescent of the moon

Bill Cunningham

O! BELOVED

O! Beloved

I want to explain thy love

to the world.

How can one explain a full heart

where nothing exists?

Where to look for a smile?

I hide in the summer night

I hang on a holy tree.

I am not here

My Lord!

I am no-where.

Where can one see you

Beloved

in the absence of myself?

Right there,

Beloved!

Govinda

#### BLACK JINGLE FOR BABA

Though you have no other lover
Love a Baba as your mother
Flying sorrows You should rather
Fly to Baba as a father
Baba, Abba I love you
There's someone dead on the
Bottom of my bathtub
That's Baba too

Baba smiles
Baba smirks
Baba has a whim
It even works
Baba howls, Baba cries
Look out, lovey
He has three eyes!
Baba wounds Baba heals
Baba's pretty good
At the eightsome reels
Baba, Abba, Baba, me
You say we're one?
Why, it feels like three ....

When your darlings Liebchens, caras
Tautly tangle your sanskaras
Baba's juggling in his whimsy
Breaking egos strong or flimsy
Listen, lover Turn me on
There's something dark at the
Bottom of my staircase
Where's Baba gone?

Baba plays
Baba sings
Baba has a tail
And big white wings
Baba's best, Baba's fun
Dodge him, ducky
He's got a gun!
Baba sows Baba reaps
Baba's in the crows
and the little cheeps
Baba, Abba, Baba, me
I hope we're one
But it seems like three

Insufficient?
You should suckle
At a sufic breast, not buckle
At the knees when incarnating
Or just join me in creating
Songs of Baba Jingle-mad
But Baba knows this is
Bolstering my ego
And Baba's sad

So I love Baba I really do and I know we're one Though it feels like two

Rosemary Harris

#### MEHER NAZAR

Your peace is in the noise of cicadas the songs of India outside the gates in the eyes of your drowned lovers heavy on the flagstones of your path.

The children at your gate dark faces of devotion have nothing but you

O meher God who gaze with compassionate life from the infinite pools of their souls

Robert Hartford

#### THE INDIAN MYSTIC AND THE JAZZ MUSICIAN

This is the season for dying in.
It is February.
The ice-cold jostles
Against the window blade.
It is high time I got up from my bed.

Two have died so far, this week.
The one, Meher Baba, was already a part of infinite consciousness.
He may indeed have been infinite consciousness itself
So for him there really are no problems.
He dropped his body, but his smile remains.

For the other, a young jazz musician, there were no problems
And there are problems still that remain to be sorted out.
He had no future, someone said
So the news of his death is curiously irrelevant.
What happened to his spirit while he was alive is altogether another matter.

Somewhere in his life
May be at birth
He had been literally struck down in his tracks.
It was as if they had cut off his legs
As a child, before he'd been ready to walk.
I'm speaking metaphorically, of course.
The effect of what they did to him was far, far worse
Than if they had actually cut off his legs from beneath him.

You could see it all in his eyes. They were doomed. Numb. Struck dumb.

And we who saw him while he was alive
Would pause for a moment when he entered the room
And started, rather restlessly, playing at the piano.
But we did not fully grasp what had happened to him
Until after he'd died. Doomed, numb, struck dumb.

The words still don't convey the multitude of confusion
That was going on deep down in his soul.
As for the other, Meher Baba, light flowed from beneath him.
The lives of the two strangely contrasted. Poles apart.
Infinite consciousness contrasting as it does with a state of permanent disease.

John Horder

BABA

Baba's a sheep. He is my mother

He is also my Indian brother

Sister, father, friend and lover

His wool keeps me warm. I need cling to no other.

John Horder

#### BATHTIME TO A STATE OF THE STAT

Baba is having a bath with me Inside and outside of me. Shissh!!! Don't let the secret out. He and I are one And have been for all along.

Baba is having a bath with me Inside the deepmost depths. And right here, he is beside me Inside of the bath itself. Hey, didn't you know?

Steaming, outside the bath now, naked Shimmering in the depths of his loving embrace You can see Baba's here by his inner glow. He and I are one And have been for all along.

Hey, you over there. Didn't you know?
You can always tell he's around by his inner glow.
Great heavens! You are slow.
You and he are one also.
We're all one in him. Now you do know.

John Horder

MEHER BABA (1894 - 1969) (In memoriam E.P.H. 1910 - 1972)

Meher Baba

Rips open

Your baby.

Whether you're eight hours

Eight days

Or merely eighty.

There is no escape

Other than to re-awake.

John Horder

#### HIS NAME

When He who was expected came, so quietly, mysteriously born, not knowing who He was amongst us until the sign was given; the flowering God with lotus brow, — Merwan was His name.

In every sphere, on every plane
His forerunners went before him to prepare, Babajan, Sai Baba, Tajuddin, Narayan and great Upasni Maharaj waited at Sakori — then the moment came!

Baba is having a both with me

The God-flower opened in His heart, the pain of knowing who He was, and the bliss—a man apart: the Christ, the Buddha in one flame; impersonal, divine, beloved.

The prayers of men were answered when He who was expected came.

The moon had risen, the SUN itself, the Light shone all around.

Then step by step His work began with clear intent and certain tread His suffering bliss, the TRUTH found, and clear as day His life unwound.

Now dear disciples came—
the heroes who could live with Him;
quick to obey, quick to feel;
ready to lose the world and self
and listen to the WORD of God.

He laid His finger on their hearts with just one glance, one gesture or command they recognised their Master -- Meher BABA is His name

Maud Kennedy

#### SILENT CENTRE

You have made us into devotees of yourself, Beloved!
You have made yourself the Father
and Mother of unruly children,
children who are longing to grow,
who never rest or relax or go slow,
nor lie in the dust or gaze at the stars,
or contemplate the moon stealthily,
but race on, blinded by noise,
along windswept roads —
chased by grinding wheels relentlessly.

Then you came
you laid a calming hand on our brow
and taught us an effortless quiet.
You taught us how to switch off the engine,
and live in the NOW.
We have learnt to look and to listen.
To remain steadfast - withdrawn
and round the room flows a silent love.
You have made us into devotees of yourself
Beloved.

In this place the water is calm is level – the blood flows back to the heart, down, down, we float below the surface, and cease the swaying motion of this and that —of right and wrong. Empty opinions bleach the air, here is rest at last; we are content to be your devotees Beloved!

You have brought us here where we belong, where we can be one — yours is the song.

Where no-one is striving to excel.

There is no sound.

Here you have come to bless us,

Take off your shoes, for this is holy ground.

You have made us into devotees of yourself Beloved!

Maud Kennedy

#### THE TREE OF MEHER

When the Avatar comes we open our eyes in surprise.
We see before us a straight and perfect Tree, rooted in the soil: it grows so high, its topmost branches reach the clouds. As we look, it keeps growing with protecting strength; so we,happy at last, walk under its shade, astonished to find our friends already there.

One day we discover the Tree has grown so high that all human beings are sheltering under these branches and that we ourselves are the leaves

Maud Kennedy

## OF ALL YOUR QUALITIES BELOVED, THE ONE THAT AMAZES ME MOST

Of all your qualities Beloved, the one that amazes me most is your patience.

Living under the threat of cataclysm from the first day of your coming, you have still waited.

Calmly, you have waited.

Others come and rouse the multitudes and you are content with only a few.

Others fill halls and stadia, and your little meeting room is half empty.

Is it your power to shield power?

It must really be that time
means nothing to you.

Kenneth Lux

I am the God of Light, Of the morning star Which gleams in the eyes Of those who know.

I have come again from the water of the grave, with my bones refreshed and a young body.

I have come with the water of life in my palm.

Drink and fill each bottomless void with soul, So each man and woman shall be fulfilled.

I am of the Earth
of the trees, of the iron,
of the gold, of the fire,
of the air, of the water,
of the innermost yearnings of man.

The God of the bone on the cross and the weeping mother Have returned to the waters of life, to sleep the great sleep of no dreams.

I have been sent by the Nameless ONE, who watches from the darkness of the sun, to ease the thirst of your half created souls.

I am He who always was,
I am remembered by you,
I am the God of the childhood
in man and woman.

I am within you. Seek me and you shall find yourself.

I was here before; You trusted Me, then you feared Me, So I dried up and turned to bone.

For with fear Love dies, But I am Now.

I am the morning and the evening star,

The Lord of Day and Night The Lord of Two ways.

And those who are of me are of the Earth , the Living Earth .

And my flower of the Earth is the Jasmine which coils like the snake of the cosmos.

I am the God of man

I have come I AM NOW

#### MEHER PHYSIC

Impressions are insidious therefore take strong medicine to escape Maya. Drink it day and night beware its potent action tclerance will not develop The smile of Love descends like a web on the face ultrafine a garb of many colours. Let lust depart by any door it is not rewarded in final analysis but confines the Self in all. Energy is needed to withstand the onslaught of crafty ego thus anger (such a waste) must go. Reveal thy Self. And needs, desires too the greed begotten of ages only foster unhappiness. If not wanting suffices

turn back from other ways, criticism takes on burdens tolerance sets free the heart.

The path and progress are slow patience to persevere, unfinished business presses.

But without excesses

Some One knows the precise balance
Baba, whose Love
is All Medicine given or taken.

Francis Martin.

Wherever beauty dwelt in dark tresses, Love came and found a heart entangled in their coils. Jami c. 1490

#### THE GARDEN

The rose has departed what shall we do with the thorns?
Lay them on a fire so the ashes rising through flames may find their flower consumed in the hair of a young girl walking with her Lover and laughing softly in the garden

M. Milburn

#### GREETINGS

Did you ever
send Baba
an Easter card?
Birth
is joyful
but Death
is fearful
until we realise
we were all
conceived
in the dark
to which
we must return
to be

M. Milburn.

#### SILENCE

The heliotrope follows the curve of the sun the selentrope moves in perfect union with the moon each in their own way hymning their prayer even as the lilies of the field sing their praises quite perfectly and the butterfly for a day is a constant witness to everlasting iridescence

If for a moment
not least the life of a flower
or the day of a butterfly
I could entertain their experience
if for a moment
I could hear the universal hymn
manifested in their hymn
of light and movement

If for a moment
I could fly on the plane
of silent prayer
Meher Baba, Baba Meher
if for a moment
the world was my garden
I might begin to apprehend
the dignity of your silence.

29

M. Milburn.

#### JAI BABA

The area that surrounds is flat with lonely bushes on colourless ground just a few give one the view of life in a desert stumbling over rocks across railway tracks if there is a path it starts here and is guarded by trees. There was a water hole up some way where dragon flies were eating smaller flies and darting in angles all day. A green canopy outside the tomb gives shade allowing me to sit beneath. The dome is like the earth - in the clouds there are smiling and crying lovers and bodies holding hands making a ring round the Baba. The blue marble floor is cool to lie on and has a place ready to rest my head.

#### **TRANSFORMATION**

If I could be contained in the Sun's light

Even for a moment

Able to focus on the inner heart of the rose

Where the petals meet folded together

In such perfection of form.

If I could finally transform the pain of death

Through the education of the heart

Then I can dare to look beyond the cracked mirror

That has held my reflection for so long.

Elspeth Spottiswood

#### I AM A GARDEN WHERE TRUE LOVE SLEEPS

I am a garden where True Love sleeps.

I have wound him around with iron wires.

The Beloved is a hidden treasure, He has invested himself in my form.

I am his homing ship. I am his homing ship. I we kept him so long from the harbour.

True Love, Shatter these chains and take over the ship.
Unwind these wires and take possession!

I am the torture chamber of God himself.

Oh Beloved, how can you bear this pain I am giving you Keeping you so long from yourself?

Craig San Roque

#### THE MEASURE OF YOUR SONG

the measure of your song is how far the arrow of it flies toward his heart.

his feet and the way to them are littered with half-hearted attempts.

in his mercy he may reach down to catch your wavering shaft and carry it, for you, to his breast.

this art of getting the measure of Baba's heart is a long business.

Practice makes perfect.

But sometimes love will surprise you and carry you headlong quivering to the target.

keep your bowstring taut and your focus one ready to fire from the soul at a moment's notice.

Craig San Roque

**JANUARY 31** 

Your body has borne the game for how long now? You've opened the door of the universe and stepped out. It's time.

You've taken the doll out of our hands, a great wrench to our hearts, and you have unlocked the torrent.

Borne unawares out to sea in a paper ship it is now the ocean we face.

Lured by sweets and promise of a kiss, your arms around us finally to secure us, perhaps, in your own home city.

Lured by the sweet music in your hands, lured by the smile, we have come to love.

All ways you cheat so perfectly.
All ways you change the rules,
All ways you all ways win.

A cobra has passed through the room swiftly and silent.

Your life has been one long crucifixion;

The first nail was Babajan's kiss and the second Upasni's stone,

Into your side have sunk the thorns of how many lovers?
You have consumed our bitter vinegar
every day of your life.

Your unspeakable love hammering your head, smashing your thigh to keep you down night after night.

Grinding your bones so thin until nothing could contain you.

Who can say bye bye Baba
Who does not feel your perfume springing within us now, dissolving our own.

Your silence breaking in our hearts.

Every lover longing to love all ways without beginning without end.

Oh but your seduction has been so perfect your love play so complete.

We proclaim you the all time star of the silent screen.

The slightest shadow of your lips, the glance of your fingers;

You had only to lift a foot and our whole heart comes tumbling down.

It is very cruel of you to be so beautiful, We shall miss your body, Beloved.

We, who didn't see you, we hoped to see you, we, making ready, hoped for your touch.

Things are different now We shall have to face you as you really are.

Hello Baba hello.

> Heyford, Oxford, February '69 Craig San Roque.

DARSHAN 1969

Coming to your house, how far we have come; how far to go to be here.

Carrying the burden of our hearts to the real place of our heart.

The heart was heavy and calm for it knew where it was going.

The heart was hushed and shaking for it feared where it was going.

Our heart was dragging us
like the lifesaver drags the struggling swimmer from the ocean.
To the ocean.

Our shy bodies dissolving around you, in us, carrying you to yourself.

Coming home and a foretaste of coming home.

A foretaste because although we are home all the time, it is still a long way to be here. Here where the heart is.

You called us home to send us home to ourself.

Where ever we are, you are, where ever we are.

Hayford, Oxford, February 169

II
We have wept we have laughed
We have sung we have listened.

Now we are approaching silence, no more weeping for a while.

So many strange emotions and strangers have entered and left.

And now, just the full emptied heart waiting to be filled by you.

Waiting to find you at home in our own country.

111

Our heads are laid at your feet may they never rise again.

Consumed are our minds in the flame of your name.

Allow us to bow the head so perfectly that it may contain the whole heart.

IV

You have been waiting at the gate so patiently.
We the prodigal xhildren.

Your arms so strong about us now.

Never shall we forget the sweet smell of your house.

You have set the finest ring on our finger, What a feast we have had.

What a gift, Giving the gift of ourselves to you.

We are leaving the marriage bed dazed at the power of your love.

Beloved invisible You have shown just a glimpse of yourself and already we stumble about the garden bleating your name. What shy lovers we have been, What wooly love.

You have opened the floodgate ever such a little and already we are overwhelmed.

Contain us
do not let us burst.

Feed us Baba wean us
Use us Baba use us in whatever way you use us.

Without doubt we are leaving your house, knowing we are home.

Meher, we are on our way home.

All together now. One ...
Baba is good for you. Baba works.

Achha

Guruprasad。 Poona Darshan 30 May '69 Craig San Roque。 'My Beloved, my Treasure and my God'
'Cherish Meher the Beloved of Beloveds, for
He is the One who will hand the Pearl to the
one who adores.'

Olive Pitt

"From a dark doorway a man shines forth"

**David Alan Roberts** 

'The dust cries out for the print of his feet and the trees reach down to cover his head' and the turtles wander over dry land to seek his touch'

Hilda Thorpe

The only real joy the only real freedom the only realy purpose which now is beautiful

is necessary
is destiny
is His
is mine
is yours
is ours
is Life itself

Pat Bowles

'It seemed I was getting nowhere fast
why, the next book contradicted the last
the authors I could plainly see
were groping in the dark
like me.'

Michael J. Lackey

'O my lovers
here in this holy valley
why do you seek further
for your grails,
Am I not here also?'

David the Australian



