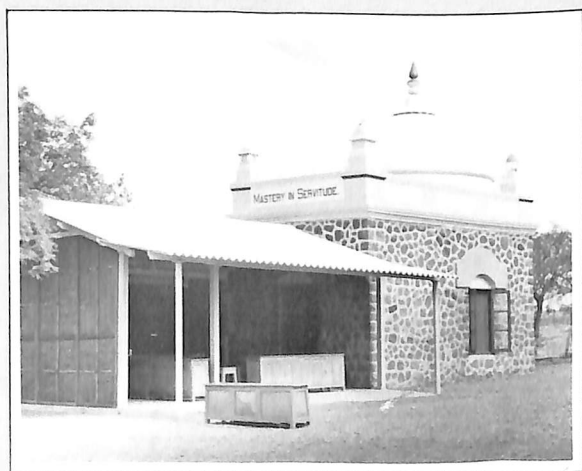


**AVATAR
MEHER BABA
TRUST,
Ahmednagar**

Questions & Answers



AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST, AHMEDNAGAR

Questions and Answers

Lovers of Avatar Meher Baba who are familiar with His Tomb at Meherabad, His disciples, and His home at Meherazad often hear of Avatar Meher Baba Trust and wonder, "What is the Trust? What is it for? Who set it up?" These and other questions put by Meher Baba's lovers to those involved with the Trust have inspired the following "Questions and Answers" about the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Ahmednagar (India).

What is the Trust's early history? How did it come into being?

In 1959, at Guruprasad, Poona, Meher Baba summoned some of His disciples and expressed His Wish to form a trust with the sole property which remained in His Name at that time. This property is comprised of an area of land on Meherabad Hill (Ahmednagar District, India) with all its buildings, including Baba's Tomb. Incorporating Baba's specific instructions, the Deed of Avatar Meher Baba Trust was drawn up. As the "Settlor" of the Trust, Baba named ten of His disciples as Trustees, and He signed the Trust Deed on Meherabad Hill on 6th April 1959 in the presence of the Sub-Registrar from Ahmednagar.

Why was the Trust formed?

The primary purpose of the Trust, though of a temporary nature, was to provide for those of Baba's disciples dependent on Baba whom He named in the Deed as "beneficiaries."

Its long-range purpose was to maintain the existing Trust properties, particularly Baba's Tomb, and to develop and expand them for the time when Meherabad would become a center of pilgrimage for the world.

When did the Trust become active?

Baba was particular that the Trustees hold meetings and seriously regard matters relating to the functioning of the Trust, but it remained practically dormant from 1959 to 1969. Trust meetings were held intermittently at Guruprasad and at Meherazad from 1959 until Baba dropped His body in early 1969. Suddenly with this monumental event, the Trust began to function actively for the first time. The Trustees found themselves facing many problems in their efforts to administer to the awakening needs of Upper and Lower

Meherabad and the situation of the beneficiaries now dependent upon the Trust. Gradually word spread among Baba's lovers, and they began to donate to the Trust out of their love for Him.

What has happened within the Trust during the last ten years?

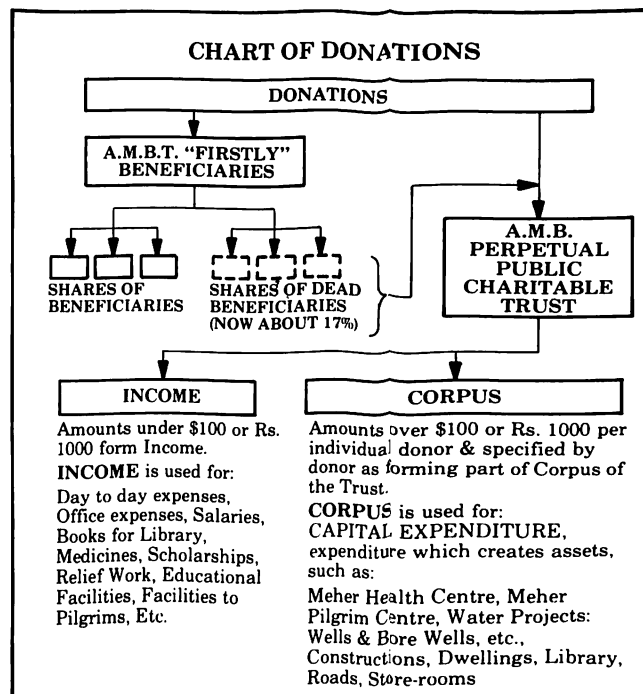
According to the mandates given in the Trust Deed, for the sake of convenience Avatar Meher Baba Trust now comprises two parts:

- 1) The private and temporary part called: AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST (FIRSTLY) for the maintenance of the beneficiaries.
- 2) The public, charitable part called: AVATAR MEHER BABA PERPETUAL PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST for the maintenance and development of the Trust Estate.

To date, nine of the original forty-one beneficiaries have died, leaving thirty-two beneficiaries now dependent on Avatar Meher Baba Trust (Firstly). As each beneficiary dies, his or her share of receipts goes to the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust.

Five of the original ten Trustees have died, and they have been replaced by five others of Baba's disciples. These Trustees administer both parts of the Trust, currently under the Chairmanship of Manija S. Irani, Baba's sister.

How is the Trust Financed?



As the accompanying chart shows, the Trust is exclusively financed by donations, from Meher Baba's Eastern and Western lovers and others who may be interested in the Trust.

What is now the property of the Trust Estate?

The Estate at Meherabad has grown from 16 acres in 1959 to 137 acres in 1979, and still needs 100 more acres in order to fulfill in time the objects given in the Trust Deed. The Trustees are doing their utmost to acquire as much adjacent land as possible for the Master Plan, because in the future all land around Meherabad will be much in demand and may not be available to the Trust. There are also various lands and properties used by Baba in His Work which are not situated at Meherabad but have been acquired or leased by the Trust. In Ahmednagar, the Trust owns the site of the Trust offices, Adi K. Irani's offices and the Ahmednagar Meher Baba Centre, all in the compound known as "Meher Nazar." The Trust has on permanent lease the top of Seclusion Hill (Meherazad) and the Guruprasad Memorial (Poona).

Is Meherazad Trust property?

No. Meherazad was Baba's headquarters from 1944 until He dropped His body in 1969. It is the private property of Arnavaz Dadachanji and remains the home of Baba's resident mandali, who are among the beneficiaries of Avatar Meher Baba Trust (Firstly).

What are the developments that have taken place at Meherabad since 1969?

The development of Meherabad was thoroughly detailed by Meher Baba in 1959; now it is already becoming a place of pilgrimage in the eyes of the public and the scope of its facilities is widening to encompass more and more of humanity, as was His wish.

In the ten years since Beloved Baba dropped His body, the Trustees have gone fairly forward in fulfilling the priority objects that Baba set down for development:

- 1) to dig wells or obtain independent water supply for providing sufficient water on the Estate;
- 2) to provide shelter and/or accommodation for Baba-pilgrims;
- 3) to construct a vehicular approach road to the top of the Hill;
- 4) to provide medical facilities for visitors and

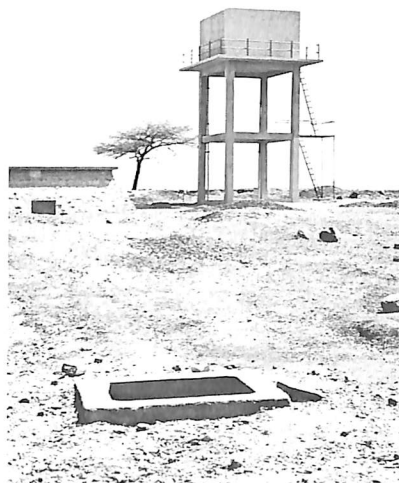
DEVELOPMENTS at MEHERABAD

Water Facilities:



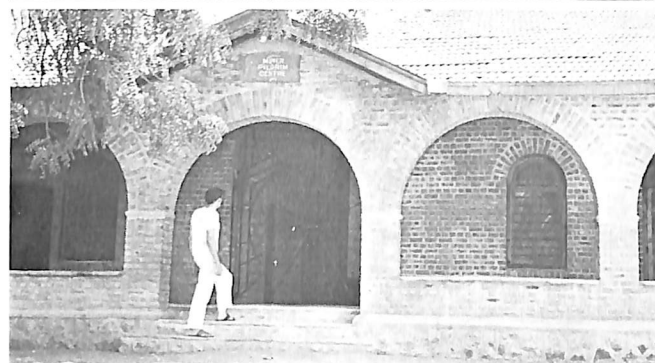
This well, Babul Van II, is one of ten open wells at Meherabad. Through the overhead tank and an underground pipeline it helps to service Meher Pilgrim Centre.

A three-quarter-mile-long pipeline fills these water-storage tanks at Upper Meherabad with water from a distant well owned by the Trust. This newly constructed system provides water for pilgrims and for the sapling trees recently planted on the Hill.



Tree planting will ensure shade for future pilgrims! Under the Afforestation Program at Upper Meherabad over 1000 trees are being planted on the Hill. This should provide green cover and also benefit the climate of the whole area.

Accommodation for Pilgrims:



The Meher Pilgrim Centre, a new construction, will house 56 pilgrims at Lower Meherabad. The building's attractive entrance, interior courtyard gardens and one of the eight spacious verandas are shown here.

This charming one-room dining hall is used by pilgrims staying in the four Guest Rooms at Lower Meherabad. Currently 12 visitors per week are accommodated in the rooms.



Medical Facilities:

Meher Health Centre operates six days a week dispensing free medical treatment and medication to approximately 2,000 patients per month. The Health Centre has nine rooms and a staff of nine, including two doctors, a nurse and a laboratory technician.



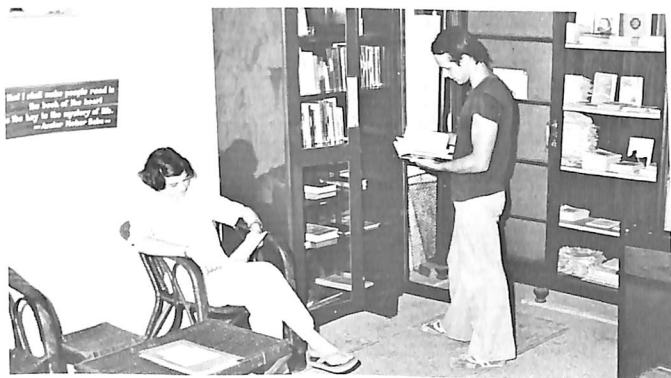
Facilities for Spiritual Training:



Facilities for Spiritual Training include the Study Hall, Museum, and Library, all situated in the Meher Retreat Building at Upper Meherabad. Pictured at left is the Study Hall.



Displayed in the Museum are various articles used by Meher Baba.



The Library offers visitors a full selection of books, journals and periodicals by and about Meher Baba.



For Amartithi time and other occasions of mass gatherings, a Pilgrims' Gathering Ground is being shaped from the natural contours of the Upper Meherabad hillside. The stage foundation can be seen just beyond the trees.

Educational Facilities:

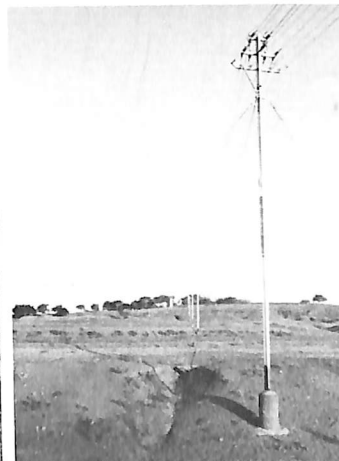


Educational facilities include extensions to the existing school building in Arangaon Village, construction of a sewing school and award of scholarships to deserving poor students. Apart from this, a new facility, "The Education and Research Centre," is being established on the Trust lands at Lower Meherabad with a view to render technical expertise to local farmers in Dry-Land Agriculture and in Horticulture. Several new drought-tolerant plant species have been introduced and are being tested for their economic suitability.

Roads:



This pathway from Lower Meherabad to the top of the Hill was much used by Beloved Baba. The construction of a separate all-weather vehicular road up the far side of the Hill is in the planning stages.



Electrification of Meherabad. Picture shows poles carrying electricity up the Hill.