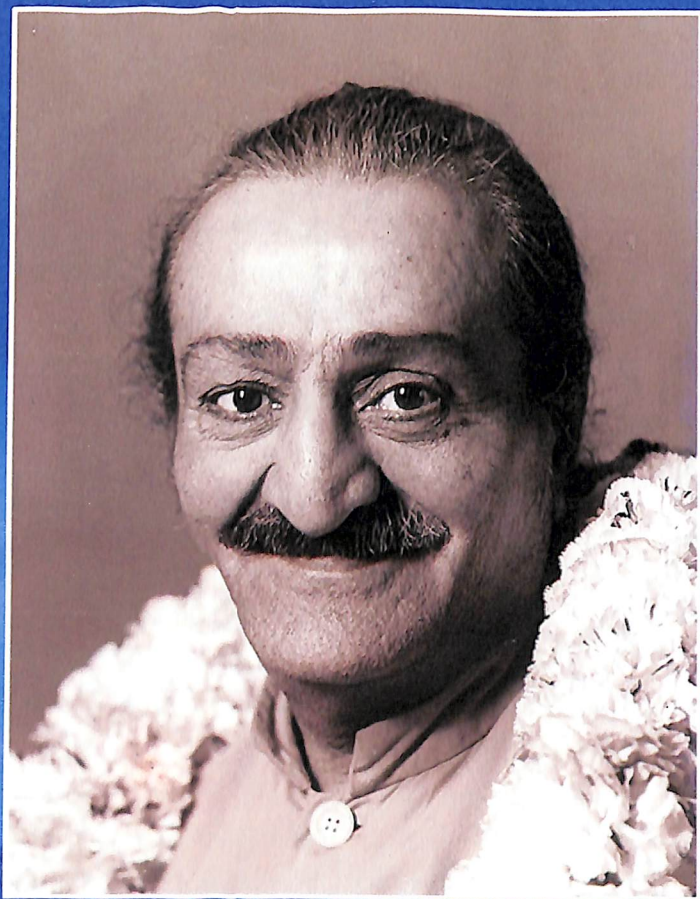


Avatar Meher Baba



Life Sketch and Messages

“Meher Baba” means “Compassionate Father.” It is the name given to their spiritual Master by a group of disciples in the early 1920s when signs of His spiritual status first became apparent. Today, many thousands of people from every major religious tradition regard Meher Baba as the One long awaited - the Prophet, the Buddha, the Christ, the Messiah of this age. Most commonly in India He is referred to as the “Avatar,” a Sanskrit word meaning “descent of God.”

Meher Baba was born Merwan Sheriar Irani in Poona, India on 25th February 1894. His parents were Zoroastrian, and His father Sheriarji, was a true seeker of God who prior to his marriage had for many years wandered as a dervish in the deserts between Iran (his birthplace) and northwest British India. Of His father Meher Baba said, “He was matchless.” His mother Shireenmai, was a courageous and beautiful woman with an extraordinary love and devotion to her son.

He passed through a normal childhood, attending St. Vincent’s Christian High School in Poona and later Deccan College. At the age of 19, while still in college, His true identity was revealed to Him through an encounter with Hazrat Babajan, an ancient Muslim saint who was one of the five Perfect Masters (Sadgurus or Qutubs) of the age. In a single instant, with just a kiss on His forehead, Babajan gave Merwan experience of the supreme bliss of God or Self-Realization. Thereafter Merwan was drawn to the Hindu Perfect Master Upasni Maharaj. At their first meeting, Maharaj threw a stone which struck young Merwan on the same spot on His

forehead, giving Him Divine Knowledge. During the next seven years, Merwan's contact with Maharaj brought Him back down to normal consciousness of the world without interrupting or diminishing His God-consciousness.

By 1921, Merwan was recognized as a Perfect Master and started to gather His first close disciples. After several years of their intensive training, He established Meherabad, an ashram community near Ahmednagar (120 kilometers northeast of Poona). Here His work embraced a free school where spirituality was stressed and a free dispensary and hospital with shelter and food for the poor. No distinction was recognized between high and low castes. All lived together in common fellowship.

To His followers, who came from different castes and creeds, Meher Baba exemplified a life of perfection - moral discipline, love for God, spiritual understanding, and selfless service. His magnetic personality and ability to touch the hearts of those who came into His contact transformed the lives of many and won the enduring love and loyalty of close associates through decades of trial and hardship.

On 10th July 1925, Meher Baba began observing silence, which He maintained for a period of nearly forty-four years. His silence was not undertaken as a spiritual exercise, since He was Perfection itself. Rather, it was a limitation that He assumed for the benefit of all creation. For many years, He "spoke" to others by pointing to letters on an alphabet board which a disciple would read out. In 1954, however, He gave up the alphabet board, communicating thereafter through His own system

of hand gestures unique and beautiful in their expressiveness.

Nineteen thirty-one witnessed the inauguration of a period of world travels; over the next six years Meher Baba traveled ten times to Europe, thrice to America, and once to China and the Far East. The purpose of His coming to the West, as He explained at the time, was “not with the object of establishing new creeds or spiritual societies and organizations” but rather to awaken people to the one indivisible Reality pervading all aspects of life. Many in the West recognized Him as a Christ-like divine personality, and a few became His long-term disciples.

In the late 1930s and throughout the 1940s, Meher Baba’s work took a new turn, focusing increasingly on His personally contacting and serving persons whom He called masts. Masts are advanced souls on the inner planes of the spiritual path who have become spiritually intoxicated from direct awareness of God. While to outward appearances masts often seem to be mad, in actuality they are vast reservoirs of spiritual light and as such were useful to Meher Baba in His spiritual mission. Throughout the length and breadth of the Indian subcontinent, from small hamlets to large cities, by train or bullock cart or even on foot, Meher Baba traveled in search of these individuals, whom He would feed, bathe, and sit with in seclusion. Another aspect of His work at this time and, indeed, throughout His life involved bathing lepers, washing the feet of the poor, bowing down to these unfortunate ones, and giving them grain, cloth, and money. Again, Meher Baba gave to understand that these actions when performed by the God-Man had

an impact not only on those directly concerned but on all humanity.

On 16th October 1949, Meher Baba dissociated Himself from the places, possessions, and connections that He had maintained until that time and embarked on what He called a “New Life” of complete helplessness and hopelessness in total reliance on God. During the next three years He appears to have voluntarily given up His state of Perfect Master in order to embrace the role of Perfect Seeker. This phase culminated in early 1952 with what He called “Manonash” or “annihilation of the mind.”

Thereafter Meher Baba resumed contact with His “Old Life” followers and gave His personal touch to the hundreds of thousands who flocked around Him during the mass public darshan programmes of this period. In February of 1954 for the first time Meher Baba publicly declared Himself to be the Avatar or Christ of the age. The Avatar is the direct descent of God into human form; previous Avatars known to history include Zoroaster, Ram, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad. Many of Meher Baba’s most significant messages date from this period - including the “Universal Message,” “The Highest of the High,” and the book *God Speaks*, a monumental and unparalleled elucidation on the theme of God and creation.

During the 1950s Meher Baba traveled three more times to the West, reestablishing old ties and providing newcomers with the opportunity for His contact. During these visits He stayed at centres in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Queensland, Australia that had been prepared for Him by His lovers there. He passed through

two serious automobile accidents, one in Oklahoma, U.S.A. in 1952 and the other in Satara, India in 1956. As He explained at the time, the Avatar or Christ in all His advents must take physical and spiritual suffering upon Himself as a part of the crucifixion which He undergoes for the redemption of humanity. The injuries which Meher Baba sustained particularly from His second automobile accident contributed to the gradual decline in His health over the next decade.

After 1958 Meher Baba for the most part discontinued His travels and public darshans, withdrawing into an increasingly strict seclusion for the purpose of what He called His "Universal Work." This seclusion work continued throughout the 1960s, broken only at rare intervals by such darshan programmes as the East-West Gathering of 1962 and the Poona darshan of 1965.

In July of 1968, Meher Baba announced that He had completed His work 100% to His satisfaction. But His health was shattered, and a few months later, on 31st January 1969, He dropped His physical form to live eternally in the hearts of all who love Him. In keeping with His prior instructions, His body was interred in the crypt in Meherabad Hill which had been prepared for this purpose thirty years earlier.

Today, Meher Baba's Tomb at Meherabad is a site of pilgrimage, and thousands of visitors annually travel from all over the world to pay homage to One whom they regard as the Avatar of the age.

Meher Baba's 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 practicing 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 Avataric form I observe Silence. You have asked for and been given enough words - it is now time to live them. To get nearer and 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 precepts. When I release the tide of Truth which I have come to give, men's daily lives will be the living precept. The words I have not spoken will come to life in them.

I veil myself from man by his own curtain of ignorance and manifest my Glory to a few. My present Avataric form is the last Incarnation in this cycle of time, hence my Manifestation will be the greatest. When I break my Silence, the impact of My Love will be universal and all life in creation will know, feel and receive of it.

It will help every individual to break himself free from his 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 you to help yourself in knowing your real Self.

All this world confusion and chaos was inevitable, and no one is to blame. What had to happen has happened; and what has to happen will happen. There was and is no way out except through my coming in your midst. I had to come, and I have come. I am the Ancient One.

How to Love God

To love God in the most practical way is to love our fellow beings. If we feel for others in the same way as we feel for our own dear ones, we love God.

If, instead of seeing faults in others, we look within ourselves, we are loving God.

If, instead of robbing others to help ourselves, we rob ourselves to help others, we are loving God.

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

If, instead of worrying over our own misfortunes, we think of ourselves as more fortunate than many, many others, we are loving God.

If we endure our lot with patience and contentment, accepting it as His Will, we are loving God.

If we understand and feel that the greatest act of devotion and worship to God is not to hurt or harm any of His beings, we are loving God.

To love God as He ought to be loved, we must live for God and die for God, knowing that the Goal of life is to love God and find Him as our own Self.

Excerpts from “Meher Baba’s Call”

Age after age, when the wick of Righteousness burns low, the Avatar comes yet once again to rekindle the torch of Love and Truth. Age after age, amidst the clamour of disruptions, wars, fear and chaos, rings the Avatar’s call: “Come all unto Me.”

Although, because of the veil of illusion, this Call of the Ancient One may appear as a voice in the wilderness, its echo and re-echo nevertheless pervades through time and space, to rouse at first a few, and eventually millions, from their deep slumber of ignorance. And in the midst of illusion, as the Voice behind all voices, it awakens humanity to bear witness to the manifestation of God amidst mankind.

The time is come. I repeat the Call, and bid all come unto Me. . . .

Live not in ignorance. Do not waste your precious life-span in differentiating and judging your fellow-men, but learn to long for the love of God. Even in the midst of your worldly activities, live only to find and realize your true Identity with your Beloved God.

Be pure and simple, and love all because all are one. Live a sincere life; be natural, and be honest with yourself.

Honesty will guard you against false modesty and will give you the strength of true humility. Spare no pains to help others. Seek no other reward than the gift

of Divine Love. Yearn for this gift sincerely and intensely, and I promise, in the name of my Divine Honesty, that I will give you much more than you yearn for.

I give you all my blessing that the spark of my Divine Love may implant in your hearts the deep longing for Love of God.

The Seven Realities

Meher Baba gives no importance to creed, dogma, caste systems and the performance of religious ceremonies and rites but to the understanding of the following seven Realities:

The only **Real Existence** is that of the one and only God, who is the Self in every (finite) self.

The only **Real Love** is the love for this Infinity (God), which arouses an intense longing to see, know, and become one with its Truth (God).

The only **Real Sacrifice** is that in which, in pursuance of this love, all things - body, mind, position, welfare and even life itself - are sacrificed.

The only **Real Renunciation** is that which abandons, even in the midst of worldly duties, all selfish thoughts and desires.

The only **Real Knowledge** is the knowledge that God is the inner dweller in good people and in so-called bad, in saint and in so-called sinner. This knowledge requires you to help all equally as circumstances demand, without expectation of reward, and when compelled to take part in a dispute, to act without the slightest trace of enmity or hatred; to try to make others happy with brotherly or sisterly feeling for each one; to harm no one in thought, word, or deed, not even those who harm you.

The only **Real Control** is the discipline of the senses from indulgence in low desires, which alone ensures absolute purity of character.

The only **Real Surrender** is that in which the poise is undisturbed by any adverse circumstance and the individual, amidst every kind of hardship, is resigned with perfect calm to the will of God.

My Wish

Baba said: 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 worldly 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 practicing from now on. Even if you take My name only once every day, you will not forget to remember Me in your dying moments.

Beads on a String

I am not come to establish any cult, society or organization, nor even to establish a new religion. The religion that I shall give teaches the Knowledge of the One behind the many. The book that I shall make people read is the book of the heart that holds the key to the mystery of life. I shall bring about a happy blending of the head and the heart. I shall revitalize all religions and cults and bring them together like beads on one string.

The Seed of Love

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

The Game

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 that has intrinsic and absolute worth. All other happenings, incidents and attainments in themselves have no lasting importance.

Baba's Sermon

[Meher Baba stepped out of the New Life on 16th October 1950 to dictate this message]

Being just now in the "Old Life" for these few hours, I will tell you what I feel to be the established divine facts:

Essentially we are all one. The feeling of our being otherwise is due to ignorance. Soul desires consciousness to know itself, but in its progress towards this goal which it cannot realize independently of creation, it must undergo the experience which it gathers as the individualized ego and which is all imagination. Thus it is faced at the outset with ignorance instead of Knowledge.

Dual forms and illusionary creations are the outcome of ignorance: birth and death, happiness and misery, virtue and sin, good and bad - all are equally the manifestation of this same ignorance. You were never born and will never die; you never suffered and will never suffer; you ever were and ever will be, as separateness exists only in imagination.

Soul undergoes experience through innumerable forms - such as being king and beggar, rich and poor, tall and short, strong and weak, beautiful and ugly, of killing and being killed. All these experiences must transpire as long as the soul, though it is one in reality and undivided, imagines separateness in itself. When soul is bereft of the impressions of these illusionary experiences, it becomes naked as in its origin, to become

now fully conscious of its unity with the Oversoul which is one, indivisible, real and infinite.

The soul becomes free of the binding of impressions through various paths. And love is the most important of these paths leading to the realization of God. Through this love, the soul becomes entirely absorbed in God, ultimately forgetting itself completely. It is then that all of a sudden Knowledge comes as swiftly as the lightning bolt which burns to ashes all that it falls upon.

This Knowledge uproots illusions, doubts, and worries, and apparent sufferings are instantaneously replaced by everlasting peace and eternal bliss which is the Goal of all existence. Soul, now free from its illusions, realizes its original unity of being.

Let us not hope, because this Knowledge is beyond hoping and wanting. Let us not reason, because this Knowledge cannot be comprehended or thought of. Let us not doubt, because this Knowledge is the certainty of certainties. Let us not live the life of the senses, because the lusty, greedy, false and impure mind cannot reach this Knowledge. Let us love God as the Soul of our souls, and in the height of this love lies this Knowledge.

The divinely Perfect Ones can bestow this Knowledge on any one they like and whenever they like.

May we all gain this Knowledge soon.

Selected Books by and about Avatar Meher Baba

God Speaks : The Theme of Creation and Its Purpose. By Meher Baba.

Discourses. By Meher Baba.

Listen, Humanity. Messages by Meher Baba, narration and commentary by Don Stevens.

The Everything and the Nothing. By Meher Baba.

In God's Hand. By Meher Baba.

The Path of Love. Messages by Meher Baba.

The Awakener. By Charles Haynes.

Much Silence. By Tom and Dorothy Hopkinson.

Lord Meher. By Bhau Kalchuri (Meher Baba's biography in 20 volumes).

Centres for Meher Baba

Avatar Meher Baba Trust, King's Road, Post Bag 31, Ahmednagar, M.S. 414 001, India. Meher Baba's Tomb-Shrine on the Trust Estate at Meherabad along with His residence at Meherazad is the primary place of pilgrimage associated with Meher Baba.
(Visitor accommodation at Meherabad available by reservation.)

Meher Spiritual Center, 10200 Hwy. 17 North, Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29572, USA.

Avatar's Abode, Meher Road (P.O. Box 22), Woombye, Qld. 4559 Australia

Avatar Meher Baba Bombay Centre, Navyug Niwas, 3rd floor, Bhadkamkar Marg, Mumbai, M.S. 400 007, India.

Avatar Meher Baba Poona Centre, 441/1, Somwar Peth, Pune, Maharashtra 411 011, India.

Avatar Meher Baba Hyderabad Centre, 4-7-297A, Meherkoti, Esamia Bazar, Hyderabad, A.P. 500 027, India.

Avatar Meher Baba Delhi Centre, 50 A, Tughlakhabad Institutional Area, M.B. Rd., New Delhi, 110 062, India.

Avatar Meher Baba Centre, Meherpuri, Hamirpur, U.P. 210 301, India.

Meher Baba Association, 1/228, Hammersmith Grove, London W67 HG, England.

Avatar Meher Baba Center of S. California, 10808 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025, USA.

Books & Information:

Meher Baba Information, Box 1101, Berkeley, CA 94701, USA

Sheriar Books, 807 34th Ave. S., North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582, USA

"Let these words be
inscribed in your heart :
Nothing is real but God.
Nothing matters but love for God."

Meher Baba



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