

Avatar Meher Baba

(A BRIEF INTRODUCTION)



I have come not to Teach but to Awaken.

— Meher Baba

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(A. B. O'Connell)



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—A. B. O'Connell—



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AVATAR MEHER BABA

(A brief life sketch - His Declarations & Messages)

LIFE (1894-1969)

Meher Baba was born of Parsi parents Sheriar Mundegar Irani and Shirin Mai in Poona in the year 1894 on February 25th at 5 a.m. He was named Merwan Sheriar Irani later known as Meher Baba. Meher was very active in his childhood. He was lover of beauty and good at sports excelling in Cricket and Hockey. He was educated at Deccan College Poona. Meher was writing poetry and was much interested in the writings of Hafiz.

On one morning in the month of May, 1913 while Meher was riding on a bicycle he saw an old woman, a centenarian sitting under neem tree who beckoned him near her and embraced him. That was the first meeting with Hazrat Babajan a Muslim saint. From then on Meher paid regular visits to her and used to sit in silence. One night in January, 1914 he made his usual visit when Babajan kissed him on his forehead.

He went home and started experiencing extraordinary thrills and lost his bodily consciousness. His eyes wide open he lay down on bed for three days and later regained some consciousness. He was in this condition for nearly 9 months. Thereafter he regained consciousness and visited Khedgaon where Sadguru Narayan Maharaj lived whom Meher met. Then he went to Nagpur and paid a visit to Tajuddin Baba. From there Meher visited Sai Baba of Shirdi while he was returning in a procession and prostrated before him. When he arose Sai Baba looked at him and said 'Parvardigar'— — which means God Almighty. — Sustainer. !!

Meher atonce went to Upasani Maharaj who was then living at the temple of Khandoba in the last month of 1915. Upasani Maharaj on seeing Meher flung a stone at him and brought him down to normal consciousness which Meher lost when Babajan kissed him. This made Baba know that He is the Ancient one. On one occasion Babajan remarked. "This child of mine will shake the world to a great upheaval". In 1921 Meher went to Upasani and lived with him for 6 months when both used to sit silent for most of the time. On one occasion during their

meeting Upasani Maharaj said to his disciples "I have given my charge to Meherwanji. He is the holder of my key. Some time after in the presence of a number of people he said "This boy will move the world. Humanity at large will be benefitted at his hands. I have made Merwanji perfect He is the Sadguru of the age. Now you have to leave me and stick to him. On one night Maharaj folded his hands and said 'Meherwanji-You are Adi Shakti-You are Avatar-!!

Meher became Meher Baba at the age of twenty one and started upon his Universal work.

UNIVERSAL WORK :

Meher Baba established Ashrams where the disciples who gathered around him were given strictest instructions to follow which include fasting, observing silence, strict celibacy, obeying orders without any question and sticking to the Master under all circumstances. The earliest of such Ashrams was at Bombay-wherein 45 disciples were living with Baba. This ashram was called 'Manzil-e-Meem' (Master's Abode) Baba established another ashram in Ahmednagar in Maharashtra. This Ashram was named Meher Ashram.

Life with Baba was not a bed of roses for

spiritual reasons and the disciples were subjected to rigorous discipline and to carry out all his commands. Those who willingly accepted those conditions were only allowed to stay with him. He made long journeys on foot in India along with his Mandali to carry out his spiritual work. He made seven times world tour and visited important countries like America, England, France, Aastrailia, Arabia and Iran. Darshan is one of the Important element in Baba's outward work. Thousands of people had Baba's Darshan wherever the Darshan programmes were arranged in and outside the country.

From 10th July 1925 Meher Baba observed silence which he continued till he dropped his mortal coil in 1969. In the beginning Baba used to communicate his message by writing on a slate and he stopped writing from 2nd January, 1927 and started to use an alphabet Board where in A to Z 1 to 0 were printed. Baba used to dictate his messages, give discourse to 'Dharshanard his' with the help of his alphabet board. He stopped using this by 7th October, 1954 and from then on used to communicate with his hand gestures which used to be transmuted in to English to the people by his close Mandalimember Eruch. Thus Baba gave messages only in silence.

One of the most important aspect of Baba's universal spiritual work which has no parallel so far in the life of any Sadguru or spiritual Master is with 'Masts'-God intoxicated people (God-Mad). Baba had undertaken wide tour in India to contact these Masts. It was a task to His Mandali members to identify these Masts because these Masts look like mad but they are God Intoxicated and Oblivion to their surroundings and Physical body. So they have to be differentiated from ordinary mad, and then fetched to Baba to be contacted by him and give spiritual 'Push'. During the period of work with Masts Baba rose at 4 a.m., and retired at midnight. He served them, cleaned their latrines and each day sat with them in seclusion. Another aspect of Baba's work is serving the lepers. He even cleaned their wounds. He gave them money, food and cloth after washing their feet and bowing down to their feet.

During Baba's life time several Darshan programmes were arranged and thousands of people had Baba's Darshan. His meeting with his Lovers and His love to them expressed in silence is unique and made one to sit in rapt attention and enjoy bliss in His presence. Even contankerous person adamant to recognize Baba as a great person or to have his darshan in the

beginning had unequivocally and inspiringly declared after he had Baba's Darshan that He is something - Unique someone Supreme - such a person was never seen before and He is Beauty and Light embodied !!! Such is the omnipresence and all pervading personality of this Silent Master who spoke to the hearts of His Lovers to awaken Love of God. He dropped his mortal coil on 31st January, 1969 and His Great Tomb is situated on Meherabad Hillock. Meherabad is 5 miles from Ahmednagar (a district headquarters near Aurangabad). On every 31st January there will be 'Amarthithi' (Annual function) programme wherein thousands of His Lovers from all over the world from different religions gather to receive the Love Blessings of the Avatar of the Age - Meher Baba.

BABA'S DECLARATIONS :

Meher Baba declared :-

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

Age after age, amidst the clamour of dis-

ruptions, wars, fear and chaos, rings the Avatar's call, 'COME ALL UNTO ME'. The time is come I repeat the Call and bid all to come unto me.

Irrespective of doubts and convictions and for the Infinite Leve I bear for one and all, I continue to come as the Avatar to be judged time and again by humanity in its ignorance in order to help man distinguish from Real from the false. My present Avataric form is the last Incarnation of this cycle of time, hence my Manisfestation will be the greatest.

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

I am the one somany seek and so few find. No amount of intellect can fathom Me. No amount of austerity can attain Me. Only when one loves Me and loses One's self in Me am I found.

I am God-God the beyond and God in Human form.

All religions of the world proclaim that there is but one God, the Father of all in creation. I am that Father. I am the light of the Universe.

From the beginningless beginning I am the Ancient one, Immutable and Eternal.

I am 'Sakshat Paramatma' If anyone were to get even a glimpse of my real state, one would be glad to be cut into pieces a thousand times.

I was Rama, I was Krishna, I was this one and that one and now I am Meher Baba.

I am the Ancient one. The one residing in every heart. Therefore love others, make others happy, serve others even at discomfort to yourself. This is to love Me.

Baba authoritatively declares :-

I tell you all with my Divine authority, that you and I are not "We" but "ONE". You unconsciously feel my Avatarhood within you, I consciously feel in you what each of you feel. Thus every one of us is Avatar in the sense that every one and everything is everyone and everything at the same time and for all time.

Baba further declares :

I am God. You are God and we are all

one When I say I am God it is not because I have thought about it and concluded that I am God - I know it to be so.

Baba has come to awaken this understanding in us in those who love him.

Meher Baba has thus not only declared that he is the ~~Avatar~~ but he has authoritatively declared that every one of us is the Avatar and not only we but the ant and the sparrow just as one and all of us, are nothing but God. The only apparent difference is in the states of consciousness. The Avatar knows that which is a sparrow whereas the sparrow does not realize this.

LOVE OF GOD

MEHER BABA'S MESSAGE :

To realize Him Baba wants his lovers to love God in the way in which He ought to be loved. To love God one need not renounce the world but has to renounce his low desires and has to go further and further away from 'Me' and 'Mine'

Meher Baba further says :

The One God who resides equally in us

all is approachable to every one through love. This love must be so honest that not only others should not know it but you yourself should not be aware of it. Begin to love God by loving your fellow beings. Begin to see God by seeing Him in all beings and things. Give without thought of return in everything. Most of all He is right within yourself. In fact He is not only within you but He is your very self. The ego mind must meet actual death if God is to be seen and realised.

Baba while dealing with 'How to love God' :- refers to—

SEVEN WAYS OF LOVING GOD :

You will be loving God—

If you feel for others, in the same way as you *feel* for your dear ones;

If instead of robbing others to help yourselves, you rob yourselves to help others;

If you suffer in *the* sufferings of others, and feel happy in the happiness of others;

worrying

If instead of ~~working~~ over your own misfortunes, you think yourselves more fortunate than many others;

If you endure your lot with patience and contentment, accepting it as His will;

If you understand and feel that the greatest act of devotion and worship to God is not to hurt or harm any of his beings.

To Love God as He ought to be loved you must live for God and die for God.

BABA SAYS :

The purpose of life is to realise God within ourselves. This can be done even whilst attending to our wordly duties. In the every day walk of life and amidst activities feel detached and dedicate your doings to our Beloved God.

What is spirituality (Poise—that state of mind in which nothing excites you nothing upsets you—thinking not of yourself but of others.

Meher Baba wants His lovers not to pose as something which they are not. He wants one

should be honest with one's self.

HE SAYS :

God forgives everything except hypocrisy. Donot pose as being pious, because God is everywhere. God cannot be fooled - so why pose as something you are not ? To profess to be a lover of God and then to be dishonest to God, to the world and to himself is unparalleled hypocrisy.

Live the life of Love, humility, sincerity and selfless service in which there is no trace of hypocrisy. Live not in ignorance. Donot waste your precious life-span in differentiating and judging your fellow-men.

Be pure and simple and love all because all are one. Live a sincere life, be natural and be honest with yourself. We should think well of those who think ill of us. Difficulties give us opportunity to prove our greatness by overcoming them. Donot worry. Be happy in my Love and continue to hold last my Daaman to the very end. God does not abandon those who trust him.

Think of me, remain cheerful in all your trials and I am with you helping you.

Desire for nothing except desirelessness. Hope for nothing except to rise above all hopes Want nothing and you will have everything.

Baba used to give Birth Day Messages to His lovers the last of which given on the auspices of His 75th Birthday is —

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 am.

Baba has said :

I am not limited to this form. I use it like a garment to make myself visible to you and to communicate with you. Donot try to Understand Me My depth is unfathomable. "Just Love me".

wants

Meher Baba ~~want~~st his Lovers not to go to Him with any desire and not to seek any spiritual or material reward from him. He is so clear on this point which is revealed through His 75th Birthday Message. One should love God for the sake of Love because God is Love.

Meher Baba has made all the declarations and delivered the messages in the open gatherings when His lovers attended Darshan programmes at various places in and outside India. All these messages and declarations were either given on the alphabet board and when he dropped using it in 1954, he gestured through his fingers quickly which were translated by Eruch one of His mandali members to the gathering simultaneously.

God cannot be explained. He cannot be argued about, He cannot be theorized nor can He be discussed and understood. God can be lived. Thus concluded Meher Baba.

MEHER BABA ON SILENCE :

One would wonder why Baba had not spoken and became silent. Meher Baba dealing with this aspect of silence says :

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 speak, I would say I am not silent, and that I speak more eloquently through gestures and the alphabet board. 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, discourse of any kind, spiritual or otherwise, imparted through utterance or writings are just idle talks when not acted upon or lived upto.

BABA AGAIN SAYS :

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. Yet Baba has been continually speaking to His lovers in their

hearts in Silence only. Very many blessed souls have been brought into the fold of Avatar Meher Baba and there are men who lived with him sacrificing their all and there are still those who continue to hold fast to his Daaman (to be in his fold) till day even after Meher Baba dropped his physical body.

Blessed are those who had the conviction that Baba is God in human form and lived upto His messages in spirit and letter.

As Baba once said—it is not He that needs us but it is we that need Him. One has to stick to Him in thick and thin in pain and pleasure if one has to experience Love of God. To be with a perfect Master for one moment is equal to a hundred years of sincere prayer with all one's heart and soul. Baba more often stresses : 'Remember me wholeheartedly and constantly' This is what is required of us in whatever circumstances we are placed irrespective of time and place. Be it a bed room or bath room we can always keep our mind in constant communion with Him and remember Him without the least disturbance by environmental forces and thoughts.

This is possible only when one tries to remember Baba as many times as possible in a day. Baba has therefore enjoined upon His lovers to think of Him atleast 14 times a day – especially while going to bed and while immediately getting up from bed. Have his form and think of Him, repeat His name silently in your mind. This becomes a practice and you are in communion with Him and He is your companion thereafter !!

Start practicing—

PRAYERS :

Meher Baba has dictated the following prayer and Repentance Prayer to his Lovers and instructed them to recite both the prayers daily once. So it is essential that one reads these prayers daily once so that one is able to remember God.

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 expres-
sion, without ~~form~~ and without attributes;

You are unlimited and unfathomable,
beyond imagination and conception; Eter-
nal and Imperishable;

You are indivisible; and non can see You,
but with eyes divine,

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

You are everywhere, You are in everything
and you are also beyond everywhere; and
beyond everything;

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 be-
yond the three worlds; You are independent;

*imperceptible
and*

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 benevo-
lent ;

You are the Soul of souls, the One with
infinite attributes ;

You are the Trinity of Truth, knowledge,
and Bliss ;

You are the ~~some~~ *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 ; Allah : Elahi ;
Yezdan ; Ahuramazda, a n d God the
Beloved.

You are named Ezad, the only one worthy of worship.

REPENTENCE PRAYER :

Om Parabrahma - Paramatma

Ya - Yazdan.

La - Illa - Illillah,

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; 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 thought inspired by hatred;

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

Most especially 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.

PRAYER TO BABA LOVERS :

Beloved God, help us all to love you more and more, and more, and yet more' and still yet more till we become worthy of Union with you, and help us all to hold fast to Baba's DAAMAN till the every end,

WHY ALONE MEHER BABA & HIS PHILOSOPHY - IS IT ANY THING NEW ?

Why alone Meher Baba ? Yes. There is nothing new in his Philosophy. Baba Himself says I have not come to establish anything new. I have come to put life into the Old. One need not shed his own religion or path, but one should live honestly to the underlying spirit of it. How

many of us are able to do it ? We may recite daily one time Gita, or do five times 'Namaz' or attend every day the temple- Church or Mosque-but how many of us think in terms of living upto atleast one dictum of God - let it cost even one's life - one should live upto love of God. But we donot have the required strength and courage to live upto it. Every one of us agree that one should live detached to material things and one should always be in remembrance of God in thick and thin and repaat his name -WHOLEHEARTEDLY-even amidst intense worldly activity. But one is bothered only about his own little self and his own upliftment. This is because one lacks the guidance and the Grace at the hands of a Perfect Master. So Meher Baba is that personality who makes one to think of God to remember God and to give one the strength to live upto God amidst material pursuits. In fact He can lead us because He is the source of all sources which merge in Him, finally.

SO - WHAT ONE IS EXPECTED TO DO ?

Meher Baba wants us to leave nothing or

to renounce anything. He wants us to think of Him more often in a day so that we can think of Him all time and till the very end. To cultivate this Baba asks us to :

1. Think of Him atleast 14 times a day silently in our mind and heart just before going to bed and immediately on raising from bed daily-Is this difficult ?
2. Recite at least once daily-any time convenient to us.the Master's Prayer and Repentance Prayer.
3. Let us resolve to live upto any one point which we repent till the very end of our life however, difficult it might be.

MEHER BABA WANTS ONE :

4. To be in the company of God lovers as far as possible (Satsang) which could give us the opportunity to praise His Glories and thus be in constant thinking about Him and His ways.
5. Let us read his literature as stated below At least some of the important books.

6. Let us meet together and sing his praise atleast once a week.
7. Let us live upto Meher Baba's "WISH"
8. Last but not the least—Let us try to visit once the Sacred Tomb of the Master—Beloved Meher Baba. On the Amartithi Day—31st January.

Thus we can know, experience and live upto Meher's Message of Love and Truth.

MEHER BABA'S WISH :

Let us know and live upto His Wish.

The Lover has to keep the wish of the Beloved. My wish for my lovers is as follows :

1. Donot shirk your responsibilities.
2. Attend ~~faithly~~ ^{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. 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 only once every day, you will not forget to remember me in your dying moments.

There are volumes of books on Meher Baba and there are very important books on the Theme of Creation, His discourses etc., by Meher Baba. Baba has dictated all in silence on his alphabet board For the initiates the following books are advocated so that one can know the complete life and work of Meher Baba--

BY MEHER BABA—

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. God Speaks - | The Theme of Creation and its purpose (with charts explaining evolution of soul). |
| 2. The Everything & the Nothing | His messages given at various times to His lovers and in Public Darshan programmes. |
| 3. Discourses - | In five volumes. |
| 4. Highest of the High | A declaration made at Dehradun 7th Sep. 1953. |
| 5. Meher Baba's Call | Mass Darshan Programme at Ahmednagar on 12th Sep. 1954. |

ON MEHER BABA :

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. God Man by CB Purdom | The life Journeys and work of Meher Baba with an interpretation of His silence and spiritual teaching. |
|-------------------------|--|

2. **Avatar** By Jean Adriel An account on Meher Baba by one who lived with Him
3. **Listen Humanity** By D.E. Stevens Complete record of the details of the "Sahas" called by Baba at Meherabad from 7th Nov. to 3rd Dec.
4. **Messages** Adi K. Irani A collection of messages from 1932 to 1955.
5. **Life at its Best** Sufism Reoriented by O. Duce A collection of brief messages,
6. **Civilisation or Chaos** Irene Conybere ~~here~~ A study of the world crisis in the light of the teachings of Meher Baba.
7. **The Wayfarers** William Donkins An account of the work of Meher Baba with the God - Intoxicated, Advance Souls and Sadhus and the poor.

8. Stay with God A statement in illusion
Francis Brabazon: on Reality A long
poem in five parts.

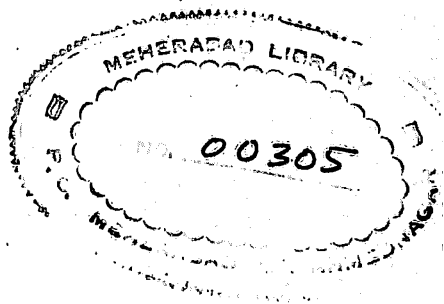
All these Books can be had from - Adi
K. Irani, King's Road, Ahmednagar, (Mahara-
shtra)

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