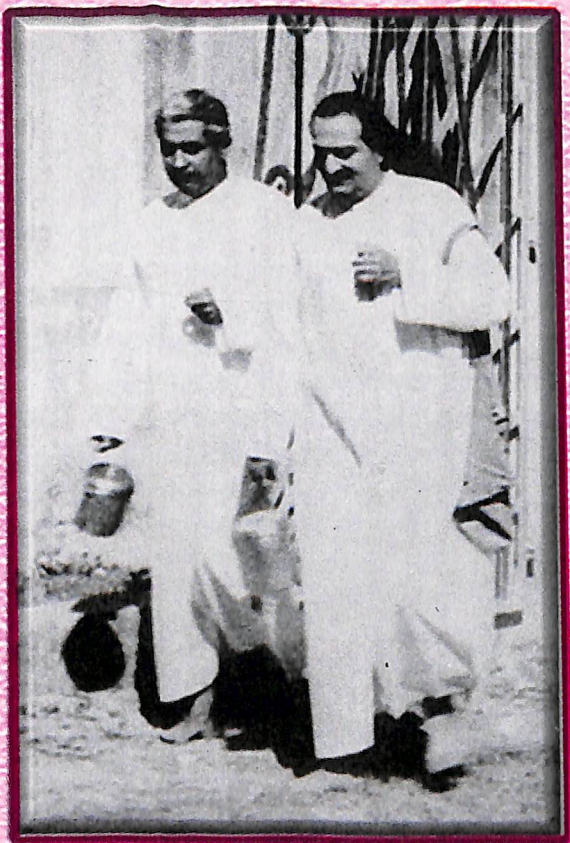


WHAT THE NEW LIFE IS ?



Meher Baba in the New Life

Hidden in your penniless hand,
is treasure untold,
Your beggarly life will be the envy of kings
(of the world).

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●
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WHAT THE NEW LIFE IS ?

Fifty years ago on 16th October 1949, Avatar Meher Baba began His New Life of complete renunciation and absolute helplessness.

Even today, Meher Baba's New Life phase is the most difficult to comprehend. The published accounts of His New Life phase based upon the diaries and the information gathered from those who accompanied Meher Baba can be considered as mere attempt to explain it.

The disciples and followers of Meher Baba received most unanticipated news through a special circular on 10th October 1949 issued by late Shri Adi K. Irani secretary of Avatar Meher Baba as given below :

"Baba ends His Old Life of cherished hopes and multifarious activities and with a few companions begins His New Life of complete renunciation and absolute hopelessness from October 16, 1949. Although Baba's and His companions' New Life will be known to everyone and their whereabouts will be no secret, no one should try to see Baba or His companions for any reason what soever as Baba will not see any of them, nor allow His companions to do so. No one should try to communicate with Baba or His companions under any circumstances or for any reason whatsoever.

The followers of Meher Baba were astonished when they learned about this most unexpected circular. The terms Old Life and New Life were new to them. They all knew to love their Beloved, follow Him and obey Him. And

now the One whom they loved suddenly decided to depart never to return again.

By entering the New Life, Meher Baba showed the way of living the New Life to the spiritual aspirants of the world. It is essential for the spiritual aspirants to understand the deep meaning underlying the New Life and live it in the spirit. On the eventful morning of 16th October 1949 when Meher Baba with His sixteen men and four women companions crossed the Ahmednagar Railway Crossing, their New Life actually began. They walked under the rain for a mile and then went by car to Supa, seventeen miles from Ahmednagar, where they stayed for two days in rest house. He explained to the companions the conditions of New Life, stressing the need to be cheerful under all circumstances.

From Supa they walked upto Ghodnadi and after two days they reached Belgaum, the first training Centre. He inaugurated the physical labour phase at Belgaum and assigned different duties to one and all.

The following points given by Meher Baba in one of His circulars give the ideas of His activities during the New Life Phase :

1. The first period of training will be spent at Belgaum until November 20, 1949, comprising of physical labour.
2. The second period of training will be spent at Benares from November 25 to December 10 comprising of begging and life in langoti (loin cloth).

3. The third and last period of training will be spent on the way to Hardwar from December 10 to December 31 comprising of Gypsy Life.
4. From January 1, 1950 onwards whether on the way to Hardwar or wherever God takes us, will be endless New Life of hopelessness in real earnest.

The dates mentioned in the above circular were adjusted to suit His work.

The New Life song written by late Dr. Abdul Ghani, one of Meher Baba's New Life companions, incorporating the points given by Him fittingly described the New Life Phase.

The New Life companions of Meher Baba wandered with Him from place to place begging for food, but it was only later that they understood the true meaning of this really symbolic act which was to beg for and constantly yearn within the heart for the love and compassion of the Lord and that He should remain their Constant Companion.

Meher Baba's New Life is a blue print for our life for we can find examples in it to help us in every incident, to be cheerful under all circumstances, to try and curb our anger and never to worry about the future but to depend solely on the Lord's will.

In the New Life phase Meher Baba lived a natural life of long journeys on foot, at times begging with a begging bowl, wearing a loin cloth and a kafni, sweeping out

His rooms, washing His clothes, offering prayers and serving the poor. These external activities demonstrate a simple and natural way of life - a life of self - effacement.

Meher Baba 's New Life had a specific context in His Avataric mission and the various external activities were like the scaffoldings erected to accomplish His spiritual work of awakening the hearts of humanity. Therefore, the moment undue importance is given, the sublime significance of Meher Baba's New Life is lost immediately. Though the New Life of Meher Baba will ever remain as a guiding star for the sincere seeker, no one can initiate or institutionalize Meher Baba's New Life.

The young people today are trying to emulate the New Life by renouncing material goods or by adopting an unnatural life or by copying its external aspects. They are living abnormally whereas the new life companions did not simulate or create situation for a life of hopelessness and helplessness - it was natural.

Even while Meher Baba was leading the New Life there were those who wished to join Him, for them Meher Baba clearly declared that :

“This New Life 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 the reality of manifestation and yet do not expect any spiritual and material reward; who do not let go the hand of Truth and who without being upset by calamities bravely and whole heartedly face all hardships with one hundred percent cheerfulness and give no importance to caste, creed and religious ceremonies.

This New Life will live by itself eternally even if there is no one to live it."

In this statement of Meher Baba there is no mention of emulating the external activities associated with Meher Baba and His companions in the New Life.

The true New Life is the conviction of Avatar's companionship in all our thoughts, words and deeds and thoughts.

Outward withdrawal is not necessary. One has to renounce the world within one's heart. It is not a question of ignoring or escaping from anything but of facing facts and offering the results totally to the Lord.

The secret of the New Life is not to strive for anything except to respond continuously to the awakened intuition - the will of God. Thus one should not venture on a New Life guided solely by one's intellectual powers or detailed study of Meher Baba's New Life.

The important activities during the New Life phase can be summarized thus :

Preliminary Preparations :

Meher Baba issued various statements and held discussions with his lovers in August 1949 which portended great change about to take place in His work.

He became a true aspirant to show the way of living the New Life to the humanity. Meher Baba having become the Perfect Aspirant, first renounced everything by disposing off everything and completed all arrangements for the maintenance of His dependents and their families. He disposed off all land and properties including Meherabad and Meherazad. However Meher Baba made it clear that the place of His Samadhi on Meherabad Hill is a spiritual treasure and this treasure has been dedicated to His lovers and the whole world. This place is not connected to material world and as such the question of its renouncing does not arise.

New Life Companions :

They were sixteen men and four women disciples who accompanied Meher Baba in His New Life. The conditions and principles of New Life and orders and instructions given by Meher Baba were the medium of achieving the inner and outward renunciation in which there were no hopes and there were no expectations of any reward. At every step one had to renounce oneself, and in the end one had to renounce renunciation itself.

Meher Baba laid emphasis on complete obedience and instructed His companions that nothing

should be kept hidden or secret, all were equal and all should try to be one hundred percent honest and should only speak the truth whatever the circumstances and consequences. The most important point to remember in all circumstances was to remain cheerful and happy. Even if the spells of despondency, annoyance and disgust might assail them, but they should try not to show it on their face. Anger might come but they were not to express it.

Period of Physical Labour :

The period from 20th October to 12th November 1949 at Belgaum was the period of training and physical labour. They were to carry out general duties - cleaning vessels, fetching water, keeping things clean, washing clothes etc. Meher Baba Himself participated in these tedious jobs.

On 15th January 1950, Meher Baba disclosed three new plans to the companions based on the labour phase.

In Plan One, the men companions were to live together, earn their living and subsist on their earning. According to Plan Two, they could leave and lead the New Life at their homes with freedom to get jobs and enter business. In Plan Three the companions could choose to follow all the original conditions that Baba had laid down.

Begging and Life of langoti :

The period from 15th November to 30th November 1949 at Benares and from 1st December to 12th December in Sarnath comprised of begging and life in langoti.

For begging in Benares the four pre-requisites were ; bare feet, kafni, brass bowl and jholi (cloth satchel with pockets to receive different kinds of breads, grains or anything that is dry and uncooked). While begging they had to say " Maa\Bhaiyaa Premsey Bhiksha Dijjiye"

Meher Baba began begging on 24th November in the guise of a beggar, walked to Dr. Nath's house with His three companions. Baba stood outside the doorstep. Dr Nath gave Him and the companions cooked and uncooked food as Bhiksha.

From 26th November the companions began going out into the streets of the city to beg. Their appearance was similar to Baba's - barefoot, in white kafnis, carrying the brass begging bowl and orange cloth satchel, wore green turbans. They begged in groups of two walking from house to house until they had recovered Bhiksha.

Dr. Nath arranged living accommodations for Baba and the companions in Benares and Sarnath.

Meher Baba started on foot for Sarnath with the companions on 1st December 1949 with their meagre belongings.

On 7th December 1949, Baba walked to the underground rooms in the subterranean passages of the Sarnath ruins with His men companions, each clad only in langotis. Each one read the prayer in their minds for fifteen minutes. After the prayers Baba asked them to put on the

clothes and advised them to carefully preserve the langoti they had put on at the time of prayer, not to use it again.

Gypsy Life :

This was the last phase of the training from 12th December to 31st December 1949 spent on the way from Sarnath to Hardwar. It was the journey on foot only and baggage was sent to Majri Mafi by goods train.

A camel christened "Bhola Ram", the camel cart, two cows with a calf, two she-donkeys and a white horse sent by Dr. Nath and Dr. Khare arrived in Sarnath. Padri arrived in Sarnath with the caravan, bullock-cart and four bullocks.

At 7 o'clock in the morning of 12th December 1949, Meher Baba left on foot with four women and Eruch followed two hours later by the whole caravan. The white horse followed by the caravan pulled by the black English bull "Raja", followed by the camel-cart, bullock cart, two cows, calf and two donkeys. The companions and Baba were dressed in white kafnis with green turbans. This was the beginning of the Gypsy life. Passers-by were curious about the strange group of travelers.

During the journeys they had to face honours and insults but they were to remain unaffected. They had to walk in the freezing cold with no shelter; they had to sleep in the open in that weather and the food too was not substantial. At every halting place they had to attend to the animals - to water them, bring fodder, feed them and tie them up at suitable places - attend to minor repair to the carts,

beg for food, cook, clean pots, fetch water and wash clothes.

On the way they halted at Jaunpur, Moradabad, Najimabad and finally to Dehradun.

Meher Baba held a meeting of His lovers on 16th October 1950 at Mahabaleshwar on completion of one year of entering New Life phase and gave sermon and discussed about His future work. He continued His work with the mast and the poor in Mahabaleshwar, Kolhapur, Hubli, Hyderabad, Madras, Bombay, Assam, Bengal, Orissa and Bihar. His New Life phase of begging, langoti and gypsy life continued. He entered in seclusion of hundred days in Mahabaleshwar for His universal work.

Manonash :

In the concluding phase of New Life of Meher Baba was the period of Manonash from 16th October 1951 to 16th February 1952. It was the God determined step.

For the Manonash work in the first phase He selected Khojaguda Hill, about fifteen to eighteen kilometers from Hyderabad. On this Hill, in the cave of about 20' x 15' Meher Baba went into seclusion on 16th October 1951. Only five models representing different religions were in the company of Meher Baba.

On 24th October He declared that the work in the cave was completed hundred percent successfully.

Manonash means passing out of separative Self (mind) to abide in God. Meher Baba being the God-Man, whose Manonash did this phase indicate ? He did not explain.

However while doing this work, Meher Baba out of His compassion for those who are ordained to be in the orbit of His love, took on Himself this additional binding (Manonash) so that its consequent consumation could help His dear ones break the shackles of their minds to get closer to Him in His own time.

In the second phase of this period of Manonash, Meher Baba left Khojaguda Hill on 24th October on foot. He took about a month to reach the seclusion Hill at the back of Meherazad via Aurangabad, Khuldabad and Imampur. During the journey sometimes they traveled by bus, goods lorry or bullock-cart.

23rd November 1951 was the last day of the journey of New Life from Imampur to Tembi Hill (Seclusion Hill) Meherazad, a distance of 12 kilometers. In the second week of December 1949, the cabins on the hill which were used for seclusion were brought down. Meher Baba's final work began on 15th December 1951.

On Khojaguda Hill he commenced the Manonash work keeping the five models - Temple, Mosque, Church, Pagoda and Fire Temple near Him. Whenever He worked these models continued to remain by His side till the end of this particular phase. During the work, Meher Baba made use of the external things for inner spiritual work. He seemed to have used the models of religion for reviving and recharging the spiritual potentials inherent in different religious practices. It was a mystical way of Baba's working.

Though in the earlier years Meher Baba sometimes

asked His followers to repeat any one of the names of God, after the completion of Manonash phase He asked those who loved Him and obeyed Him and those who would want to do so, to remember Him wholeheartedly. Out of His compassion for one and all, Meher Baba has occasionally and unreservedly revealed to His followers :

I am God in Human form. If you make Me your real Father all your problems will become dissolved in the Ocean of My love. I like being meditated upon because then I help directly. If you cannot love Me don't worry, I will be loving you. If you cannot remember Me constantly then repeat My name before going to sleep and on waking up. When I drop My body I shall remain in all who love Me. I am the Ancient One.

Meher Baba once said in 1966 :

“ The yogis and aspirants do penance, meditate and perform yoga to attend oneness with Infinite. While for spiritual aspirant renunciation is of help, but those who love the Avatar do not have to renounce anything. The lovers of the Avatar have simply to obey the Avatar's instructions and to love Him wholeheartedly”.

May we all resolve to begin to live the spirit of New Life and rise above all hopes and helplessness and beg and implore Beloved Lord Avatar Meher Baba the “bhiksha” of His love that will eventually annihilate the mind and make us live in the spirit of perfection, the cause of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba.

- Avatar Meher Baba Bombay Centre

नई जिन्दगी का तराना

SONG OF THE NEW LIFE OF MEHER BABA & HIS COMPANIONS

सुनो मेहेरबाबा की खामोश बानी,
इसी मे है सब आशिको की कहानी
है जिना तुम्हें गर नई जिन्दगानी,
करो तर्क दिल से ये दुनिया है फानी ॥१॥

Listen to the silent words of Meher Baba:
The life-story of all lovers (of God) is based on the
practice of these words.
If you are serious about living this New life,
Then whole-heartedly renounce this ephemeral
existence.

खुदा के भरोसेमे हम जा रहे है,
कसमसे इरादोंको गरमा रहे है
गजल नामुरादी की हम गा रहे है,
बला और मुसीबत को बुलवा रहे है ॥२॥

We have taken to this life, in which we **rely only on God**;
In this, our **Will** (to do or die) is strengthened by the oath
taken;

We are merrily singing the song of **hopelessness**;
We are inviting all **calamities** and **difficulties**.

उम्मीदों का रोना न वादों का शिकवा,
न इज्जत से मतलब न झिल्लत की परवाह
न गीबत किसी की न खतरा किसी का,
यही रंग है अपनी अब जिन्दगी का ॥३॥

We neither wail over lost hopes, nor complain about (broken) promises;

We neither covet **honour** nor shun **disgrace**;

Back-biting we know not, nor do we **fear** anyone;

This is now the colour of our New Life.

खयालों में उलझन है बाकी न बंधन,
निरखत न गुस्सा न कुछ काम कंचन
है मजहब से रिश्ता न कुछ फिकरे तन मन,
सवार एक कश्ती में शेरवो बिरहेमन ॥४॥

No **confusion** in the mind, now, nor any **ties** left.

Pride, anger, lust and **greed** we know not.

We have no **religion** nor care for physical or mental **fads**.

The Sheikh and the Brahmin-typifying all castes and creeds-are now **sailing in the same boat**.

न अपने लिए कोई छोटा बड़ा, है
मुरीद और मुशद न मौला रहा है
उखुवतका बाहम जो रिश्ता जुडा है,
हमें दर्दो गममें मजा आ रहा है ॥५॥

There is no **small** or **great** now,
for us all;

The questions of **disciple, Master** or **God-hood**, no longer arise;

Brotherliness or fellow-feeling is the link that exists.
And this contributes to our present **enjoyment of suffering**.

न दुनिया न उकबाँ न दोजरव न जन्वत,
न सिद्धी न शक्ती न कशफो करामत

ये सब नक्शे बातिल हुवे दिलसे रुखसत,
जो कुछ है वो है हालकी कदरो कीमत ॥६॥

This world or the next, hell or heaven, we no longer both-
er about.

Shakties and Siddhis, occultism

and **miracles**, we no longer think of;

All these false impressions (thoughts) for us have been
purged from the mind.

What has value and importance for us now, is to live in the
active present.

ये अल्फाज बाबाके सुन दिलसे प्यारे,

शुमार अब मेरा है बराबर तुम्हारे

मगर हुक्म अच्छे बुरे दूँ के न्यारे,

बजा लाओ फौरन खुदा के सहारे ॥७॥

Dear ones, take seriously the words of Baba when he says,

Although now, I am on the **same level with you all**,

Yet all **orders** from me, **good, bad,**

extraordinary,

You should all carry out immediately,

leaving the result to God.

अगर आसमाने मुसीबत भी टूटे,

सदाकत का हाथों से दामन न छोटे

चमन या सो हिरमांने हरचंद लूटे,

तवक्कलसे इनमे लगे बेलबूटे ॥८॥

Even if the heavens fall,

Do not let go the hand of **Truth.**

Let **despair** and **disappointment** ravage and deströy the

garden (of your life).

You beautify it once again, by the seedlings of
contentment and **self sufficiency**.

चले दिलपे छुरियाँ मगर लब हो खन्दां,
ये एक रम्ज है जिसको करता हूँ उरियाँ
तेरी तंग दस्तीमें दौलत है पिनहा,
गदाईपे तेरे करें रश्क शाहां ॥१॥

Even if your heart is cut to bits, let there be a **smile on
your lips**.

Here I divulge to you a point worth
noting.

Hidden in your penniless hands, is
treasure untold,

Your beggarly life will be the envy of kings
(of the world).

है बेशक खुदा और बरहक नबी है,
बहरदौर अवतार हरदम वली है
हमें तो फकत बेबसी बेकसी है,
कहूँ क्या तुम्हें क्या नई जिंदगी है ॥१०॥

God exists indeed and true are the Prophets;
Every cycle has an **Avatar** and every moment
has a **Wali**.

For us however, it is only hopelessness and
helplessness.

How else should I tell you what our New Life is !



BABA IS FIRE

When you feel Cold
And sit near the fire,
It drives out your cold
And makes you perspire.

When you feel hungry
And cook on the fire,
It gives you your food
For which you aspire.

But if you, like a fool,
Try to play with the fire,
It may burn you so badly
That would make hell admire.

-Composed by **Meher Baba**
at Mahabaleshwar
on 22 May, 1947.



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- Avatar Meher Baba Bombay Centre is open to all true seekers of Truth and honest lovers of God..
 - To help men know the true spiritual values of life unfolded to mankind by Avatar Meher Baba, weekly meeting is held every Sunday from 5:45 to 7:15 P.M.
 - The Centre is open every day from 5.30 P.M. to 7.30 P.M.
 - Books and literature on and by Meher Baba in various languages are available for sale as well as in the library, and are given for reading at home.

**"This New Life will live
by itself eternally,
even if there is no one to live it."**

- Meher Baba