



*TIPS FOR
PRESERVING YOUR PRECIOUS
BABA TREASURES*



*Prepared by the
Archives and Museum Committee
of Avatar Meher Baba P.P.C. Trust, Ahmednagar, India
in response to queries from Baba lovers.*

TIPS FOR PRESERVING YOUR

Quite a number of dear ones from our Baba family have been asking us what they can do to care for the precious items of Beloved Baba's that have been entrusted to them. An invaluable pointer is this: what is good for people is usually not good for these items.

For instance, while people like light and air, things don't - light and air damage them and shorten their life. Light and extremes of temperature and humidity are harmful to precious items, as are dust, pollution, mold and pests. Even ordinary handling will cause damage that may not be evident for some years.

So to prolong the life of any Baba treasure that you may possess - such as a sadra, a handkerchief, a strand of Beloved Baba's hair, a letter or book with His signature, or a photo touched by Him - you need to find a way of keeping it safe from damage and loss even as you enjoy the fragrance of Baba's presence that it imparts.

HERE ARE SOME SIMPLE GUIDELINES:

- ❖ Make sure that each treasure has a label that includes the words "Avatar Meher Baba".

In the case of a cloth item, Baba's name can be embroidered or written with India ink on a well washed pure cotton cloth ribbon. This can be very gently tacked on to the item in a place where it won't be seen if you wish to display it.

If this is impossible, then a tag of a neutral and durable material can be tied on to the item. Otherwise, keep it in a safe container that is clearly labeled.

Don't directly embroider or write on the item itself, don't use glue directly on any item or permanently attach anything to it.

- ❖ Be sure to record a brief history of the article, since if this history is forgotten, those who come after you will have no way of knowing the treasure's worth. This written history should be carefully stored in reference to the treasure.
- ❖ Be very conscious of security and keep your treasure in a safe place.

P R E C I O U S B A B A T R E A S U R E S

- ❖ Make sure your close ones know in writing what to do with it if anything should happen to you. If you are uncertain of the continuity of its care and safety, you can bequeath it to Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust, Ahmednagar, India, thus insuring its availability for posterity.
- ❖ Avoid unnecessary handling of treasures. Handling causes microscopic damage and leaves chemicals from your skin on them that will accelerate the aging process.
- ❖ Keep treasures away from sunlight and artificial light as much as possible. For example, make sure to cover any see-through display case or cabinet with a dark cloth when it is not being viewed.
- ❖ Keep precious articles away from windows and doors where climatic changes in temperature and humidity are more extreme. Don't store your treasures in attics or basements. Bear in mind that artificial lights are also sources of heat, and shouldn't be focused directly on your treasures.
- ❖ Be sure articles are safe from dust, pests and polluted air. Particularly at risk from insect attack are wool and silk items, and Beloved Baba's hair and nails.

The best way to protect your treasure is to keep it in a closed container, such as a cupboard, trunk, acid-free box, stainless steel or glass container, or specially made display case. Always line the container with well washed cotton cloth, acid-free tissue paper or Reemay to provide added support and protection. Be careful with plastic bags and wooden containers - many wood and plastic products contain harmful chemicals that will damage your treasures.
- ❖ Acid-free paper and Mylar available from stationers are the best protection for precious letters and photos. Make sure your framed photos are matted with acid-free cardboard and protected with UV glass. If you have a photo album, make sure it is archivally safe.

- ❖ Garments and other cloth items which are folded should be supported inside the creases with archivally safe padding - such as polyester batting; well washed, unbleached cotton muslin; acid-free tissue paper or Reemay - so that the creases don't become permanent.
- ❖ Be sure to periodically examine each item carefully to make sure that no unexpected problem has arisen.
- ❖ Don't attempt to wash, clean or restore any treasure yourself. If you feel your treasure needs attention, show it to a museum professional.

For further guidance on the protection and preservation of your Baba treasures, or for help with any of the above points, you may contact:

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