



THE
MOVING FINGER
WRITES.....



“When I break My silence the world will come to know who I am. As a rule, in the past it has been the lot of posterity to know who the Avatar WAS. But in this unique Avataric advent the world will know who the Avatar IS while Baba is yet on earth.”

MEHER BABA

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Dreface

Since partition of this Indian sub-continent, receipt from India of books, magazines etc. has become so very difficult, that to obtain any sort of literature on payment involves one in considerable amount of time and labour. Under such conditions, it is not surprising to find that most of us in Pakistan are hardly aware of the existence of a man who is stationed at Ahmednagar, India, and who has proclaimed Himself as the Avatar of the Age.

The method adopted this time by the Avatar to spread His Message of Love is entirely different from that in previous Advents. This time, He has chosen :-

- 1) To remain silent. (On the 10th July 1963, He completed 38 years of silence.)
- 2) Not to teach but to awaken.
- 3) Not to establish any cult, religion or society, but to "revitalize all religions and cults and bring them together like beads on one string."

The name of this outstanding personality is Meher Baba. He was born in Poona, India, in 1894, of Persian parents. In 1914, while He was still in College, a momentous event occurred in His life — the meeting with an ancient woman, Hazrat Babajan, a Perfect Master of her time, who made Him aware of His High Spiritual Destiny, and at the same time gave Him God-Realization. Afterwards, He came in contact with Upasani Maharaj, another Perfect Master, who during the next seven years, brought Him back to ordinary human consciousness.

In 1921 His spiritual mission of awakening people to the unity of spiritual knowledge and love of God began. To His devotees, who belonged to different religions, Hindu, Moslem, Zoroastrian and Christian,

Baba gave a training of moral discipline, love of God, spiritual understanding, and selfless service.

On July 10, 1925, Meher Baba became silent and has remained so, communicating by means of the English alphabet painted board, and with hand - signs. He frequently retires into seclusion and observes long fasts. These periods of seclusion are periods of spiritual working on the inner planes for the good of all humanity. Alternating with the periods of seclusion, He leads a life of dynamic activity. Meher Baba's aim is wholeheartedly a spiritual one, to awaken the Divinity in everyman and guide him to his goal which is Love.

The time has now come when Meher Baba is preparing to break His 38 years old silence. He is now most emphatically urging His lovers, who are spread all over the world, to consider the present time to be of utmost importance, and to engage themselves in spreading His Message of Love and especially to live the life they ask others to live.

This small booklet, "The Moving Finger Writes..." a compilation of some of His Messages, is our humble effort to introduce Him to those who have not yet read His published books. We hope later to publish a second small volume.

May all who read this little volume, one day, if the Silent One so chooses, meet face to face with Reality, and know, feel and become one with His Ahuramazda, Allah, Krishna, God who is all pervading and is in the hearts of one and all.

5th September 1963.

AMY A. ARJANI
ADI K. ARJANI

Introduction

In "The moving finger writes" Khayyam-Fitzgerald conveys the inexorableness of Fate — a blind Force that picks up men, whirls them about and finally deposits them in hell or paradise, for no more reason than the wind's that carries grains of sand and deposits some on a mountain and some in the sea.

In choosing these words for the title of a collection of Sayings of Meher Baba, Mr. Arjani, as it were, poses the "problem of fate" only for the reader to find, as he turns the pages, that fate has no meaning or power before the compassion and love of the Perfect Master; for with the single stroke of His forgiveness, every line that Fate ever wrote is cancelled.

Yet the whole beauty and power of Meher Baba's words are not revealed in these excerpts from a mass of as yet unedited material; they are like a heap of precious stones taken out of the mine, but not yet cut and polished.

But this is an impatient age; we cannot wait for cutting and polishing. And perhaps rightly so. Better a gleam of light from uncut stones now, than the blaze from perfect gems later. This booklet will well have served its purpose if it causes one person to seek the Mine itself.

Francis Brabazon

Silence

1. Things that are real are always given and received in Silence.

2. God has been everlastingly working in silence, unobserved, unheard, except by those who experience His Infinite Silence.

3. My outward silence is no spiritual exercise. It has been undertaken and maintained solely for the good of others.

4. The time is rapidly approaching when a tidal wave will rise in the Ocean of Grace. Then the usual process by which the water in the river flows into the oceans will be reversed and the ocean water will rush through the river-beds. Be prepared to receive this overflow of Grace.

5. My mission is to utter this Word of Truth which will pierce the mind of the world and go to its very heart. It will convey the simple Truth in its utter and indefinable simplicity. It will mark the moment of fulfilment of the Divine Life. It will throw open new gates to Eternity. It will bring new hope to despairing humanity.

6. Unity in the midst of diversity can be made to be felt only by touching the very core of the heart. That is the work for which I have come. 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. In order to bring this about, I am preparing to break My Silence.

7. When I speak, I shall manifest My True Self; besides giving a general push to the whole world, I shall lead all those who come to Me towards Light and Truth.

8. When I speak, there will be many proofs of My spiritual power, and of My ability to bestow illumination. People will then realize that Truth, which is the Source of all Love and Existence, rules supreme in all departments of life.

9. For thirty-eight years, no word has passed My lips. Yet I am never silent. I speak eternally. The voice that is heard deep within the soul is My Voice - the voice of inspiration, of intuition, of guidance.

Renunciation or Sanyas

1. Wearing the yellow robe, begging for bread, visiting the holy places, do not necessarily prove Sanyas or Renunciation. The true sanyasin is he who has renounced his lower self and all worldly desires.

2. For those who insist from the very depths of their souls and from the innermost cores of their hearts on seeing Reality face to face, at all costs and consequences, there is only one way - that of complete renunciation.

3. He who does not act according to the dictates of his lower self and who resists all worldly temptations is a true sanyasin.

4. It is praiseworthy to be a genuine sanyasin (spiritual pilgrim) but honest householders are far better than hypocritical sadhus.

5. From the materialistic standpoint it may seem cowardly to forsake the world, but it requires great heroism to lead the spiritual life.

The Seven Realities

Meher Baba's teaching 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 :-

1. The only REAL EXISTENCE is that of the One and only God, who is the Self in every (finite) self.
2. 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).
3. 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.
4. The only REAL RENUNCIATION is that which abandons, even in the midst of worldly duties, all selfish thoughts and desires.
5. The only REAL KNOWLEDGE, is the Knowledge that God is the inner dweller in good people and so-called bad, in saint and 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.
6. The only REAL CONTROL is the discipline of the senses from indulgence in low desires, which alone ensures absolute purity of character.

7. 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.

World Peace

1. Everywhere today man is rightfully occupied with the problem of world peace. If there is war, it means nothing short of racial suicide and total destruction. But world peace cannot be ensured through dogmas, however learned, or organisations, however efficient. It can be ensured only by a release of unarguing and unconquerable love which knows no fear or separateness.

2. Humanity is not going to be saved by any material power-nuclear or otherwise. It can be saved only through divine intervention. God has never failed humanity in its dark and critical periods. The greatest danger to man today is not from any natural catastrophe, but from himself.

3. It is not possible to realize human brotherhood merely by appealing to high ideals or to a sense of duty. Something more than that is essential to release human consciousness from the clutches of selfishness and greed.

4. Today the urgent need of mankind is not sects or organised religions, but LOVE. Divine love will conquer hate and fear. It will not depend upon other justifications, but will justify itself.

5. I have come to awaken in man this divine love. It will restore to him the unfathomable richness of his own eternal being and will solve all of his problems.

Repentance & Prayer For Forgiveness

OM PARABRAHMA-PARAMATMA,
YA-YAZDAN, YA-ALLAH, 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, and 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 word and thought inspired by hatred.

We repent most specially for every lustful thought, and every lustful action; for every lie; for all hypocrisy; for every promise given but not fulfilled, and for all slander and back-biting.

Most specially 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 Thy unbounded mercy, we ask Thee 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 Thy Will.

The Call of the Silent Master

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

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Don't try to understand Me. It is impossible for your poor intelligence. Love Me and surrender yourself to Me. Do as I say. Don't question.

5. I am what I am, whether the world bows down to Me or turns against Me, it does not matter. It is no one's fault.

6. I am the One so many 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.

7. You have waited and waited for Me for a long time. I am the real Guide. You will know My Reality through direct experience. You will know Me. You will see Me. You will feel Me. This Divine Revelation shall be My Grace.

8. I love you as God impersonal loves. It is the Light, creating "facts" giving life to all. And I love you as the Truth-Personified, whom you shall remember for ever. I am the real Manifestation of the Truth. This Truth I can make you realize at will. This shall be My donation for you.

9. Through unfathomable ways, I lead you to liberation. To be liberated is to be free from wants and desires. I can do it with My Will. My Will is Love.....Love, which you will realize in this age, at which I shall decide.

10. I will lead you through the dark night of the soul. Give unto Me all your shortcomings. I will lift you above them. I am the Ocean of Love. You shall be redeemed. You shall find My Peace.

11. Accept My rhythm, come in tune with it without reservations. It will lift you above your self. Your inmost Self is crying for help. My rhythm of Truth shall redeem you. It will open your heart. It will give you new Love. It will initiate you in the scient order of spiritual thought.

12. I am the Light, producing order in everyone. I have descended into the world to serve you. I can make man become what he cannot achieve by himself. You need Me.

13. Let Me help you. I can help you. Rest assured that I will help you. You shall know this when I come in Person and have you share the TREASURE that I behold for each and everyone of you..... that you may share it with Me and all others..... It is Love. Do not worry.

14. I am nearer to you than your own breath. Remember Me, and I am with you, and My Love will guide you.

15. I am the One Who is always lost and found among mankind. It is your love for yourself that loses Me and it is your love for Me that finds Me. Love Me above everything, for now, while I am in your midst, I am most easily found as I really am.

16. The Universe is My ashram, and every heart is My house: but I manifest only in those hearts in which all, other than Me, cease to live.

17. Have hope. I have come to help you in surrendering yourselves to the cause of God and in accepting His Grace of Love and Truth. I have come to help you in winning the one victory of victories — to win your Self.

18. Do not worry about anything. Keep thinking of Me constantly. I am the only One that exists, the only One that matters.

Love

1. I have only one message to give, and I repeat it age after age to one and all: Love God.

2. Of all the forces that can best overcome all difficulties, is the force of love, because the greatest Law of God is Love, which holds the key to all problems.

3. This mighty force not only enables one to put the ideal of selfless service into practice, but also transforms one into God.

4. It is the undying flame that has set life aglow. The lasting emancipation of man depends upon his love for God and upon God's love for one and all.

5. Where there is love, there is oneness, and in complete oneness, the Infinite is realized completely at all times and in every sphere of life . . . be it science, art, religion or beauty.

6. Love also means suffering and pain for oneself and happiness for others. To the giver, it is suffering without malice or hatred. To the receiver, it is a blessing without obligation. Love alone knows how to give without necessarily bargaining for a return. There is nothing that love cannot achieve and there is nothing that love cannot sacrifice.

7. To those whose hearts are pure and simple, true love comes as a gift through the activating grace of a Perfect Master, and this Divine Love will perform the supreme miracle of bringing God into the hearts of men. In this love are embodied all Yogas known to saints and seekers.

8. Like a tree, Love has branches :—

- (a) Branches of whole-hearted devotion,
- (b) Perfect non-violence,
- (c) Perfect selfless service,
- (d) Self-denial,
- (e) Self-sacrifice,
- (f) Self-renunciation,
- (g) Self-annihilation and Truth.

9. When one truly loves God, one longs for union with Him, and this supreme longing is based on the desire of giving up one's whole being to the Beloved.

10. You cannot bargain for love. No amount of penance, meditation, pooja, etc. can give that gift of Love. Once that gift comes from God, it burns up all the veils of sanskaras.

11. The best of all forces, which can overcome all difficulties on the way, is the love that knows how to give without need to bargain for a return. There is nothing that love cannot achieve, and there is nothing that love cannot sacrifice. There is nothing beyond God and there is nothing without God, and yet God can always be captured by love. All other essential qualities will come to the aspirant if he follows faithfully the whisperings of the unerring voice of love that speaks from his own heart, shedding light on the path.

12. To lose hold of the mantle of this guide is to find only despair. The heart without love is entombed in unending darkness and suffering, but the heart that is restless with love is on its way to realization of the unfading light that shines on the unfathomable sweetness of life divine.

13. Pure love is matchless in majesty; it has no parallel in power, and there is no darkness it cannot dispel. It is the undying flame that has set all life aglow, yet it must be kindled and rekindled in the abysmal darkness of selfish thoughts, selfish words and selfish deeds. As it is fired anew it bursts out in magnificent light to serve as a beacon for those who still grope in the darkness of selfishness, be that darkness deep blue or all black.

14. Love is dynamic in action and contagious in effect. It is only the spiritually alive and enlightened who can feel the significance of the ancient adage, so cheaply bandied about by some preachers and philosophers, that "love begets love."

15. The way of love is not free from sacrifices. Just as heat and light go hand in hand, so do love and sacrifice. The true spirit of sacrifice springs spontaneously, like humility, and cannot be aware of itself nor reserve itself for particular objects and special occasions.

16. The spirit of true love and real sacrifice is beyond all ledgers and needs no measure. A constant longing to love and be loving, and a noncalculating will to sacrifice in every walk of life - high and low, big and small, between home and office, streets and cities, countries and continents - are the best measures man can take to be really self-ful and joyful.

17. How to love God? How to do love anything? If a man falls in love with a beautiful girl, what happens then? No system or principle exists for him. He won't mind ridicule. If people call him mad, he does not mind.

18. One should become lost in the idea of possessing the Beloved by hook or by crook. When you are prepared in your heart of hearts to gain union with God at the cost of life and the ridicule of the whole world,

then perhaps you may be said to have entered the Lane of Divine Love.

19. You do not have to renounce anything. You can lead a family life and be in the world. You do your work or business and attend your service; attend parties, everything. But always do one thing. Constantly think, constantly try to make others happy even at the cost of your own happiness. That is one of the ways of loving God.

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

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

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

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

(e) If, we endure our lot with patience and contentment, accepting it as His will, we are loving God.

(f) If, we understand that the greatest act of devotion towards God is not to harm any of His beings, we are loving God.

(g) To love God as He ought to be loved, we must live for God and die for God, knowing that the goal of all life is to love God and find him as our own self.

21. Love is a gift from God to man, obedience is a gift from master to man, and surrender is a gift from man to master.

22. One who loves, is the lover of the Beloved. One who obeys is the beloved of the Beloved. One who surrenders all body, mind and all else-has no existence other than that of the Beloved, who alone exists in him. Therefore greater than love is obedience, and greater than obedience is surrender.

23. Be ye guided by Love and Truth. This is the simple way that leads to God. Not by the endless manoeuvring of alluring illusions, but by loyalty to the Unchangeable Truth can ye hope to be established in Abiding Peace.

24. Unity in the midst of diversity can be made to be felt only by touching the very core of the heart. That is the work for which I have come.

25. 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 the nations, creeds, sects and castes of the world.

26. When from the depths of his heart, man desires something more lasting than wealth, something more real than material power, the wave of destruction will recede. Then peace will come, joy will come, light will come.

The Theme

There is no creature which is not destined for the supreme goal, as there is no river which is not winding its way towards the sea. But only in the human form is consciousness so developed that it is capable of expressing the perfection of its own true self, which is the Self of all.

However, even in the human form the soul is prevented from realizing its birthright of joy and fulfilment because of the burden of sanskaras which it has accumulated as a by-product of its arduous development of consciousness. Like the dust that accumulates on the shoes of a traveller on foot, these sanskaras are gathered by the pilgrim as he treads the evolutionary path.

In the human form, which is the crowning product of evolution, the divine life is enmeshed in the sanskaric deposits of the mind. The expression of the divine life is therefore curtailed and distorted by the distractions of the sanskaras, which weld consciousness instead to the fascinations of the false-phenomenal.

One by one the many-colored attachments to the false must be relinquished. Bit by bit the sanskaric tinder feeding the deceptive flames of the separative ego must be replaced by the imperative evidence of the unquenchable flame of truth. Only in this manner can man ascend to the height of divine attainment : the endless beginning of life eternal.

The life in eternity knows no bondage, decay or sorrow. It is the everlasting and ever renewing self-affirmation of conscious, illimitable divinity. My mission is to help you inherit this hidden treasure of the Self.

Religion

1. "I am not come to establish any cult, society or organization ; not 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.

2. True religion consists of developing that attitude of mind which should ultimately result in :-

- a) Seeing one Infinite Existence prevailing throughout the universe.
- b) When one could live in the world and yet not be of it and at the same time be in harmony with everyone and everything.
- c) When one could attend to all worldly duties and affairs and yet feel completely detached from all their results.
- d) When one could see the same divinity in art and science and experience the highest consciousness and indivisible bliss in everyday life.

3. Though religion has come into existence to liberate man from all narrowness, it can itself become a cage when not understood properly. All the world religions proclaim the same eternal and universal Truth : yet human weakness has a tendency to carve out some limiting, narrow loyalty which closes its gates upon the shoreless and unbounded ocean of love or divinity. It is not the essentials of religions, but addiction merely to their outer forms, which has tended to divide man from man, thus thwarting the very purpose of the great founders of the world religions.

4. If, instead of performing ceremonies and rituals mechanically as age-old customs, people were to serve their fellow beings with the selflessness of love, taking God to be equally residing in one and all, and that to be serving others they are serving God, God's work will have been fulfilled.

5. If, instead of erecting Churches, Fire-Temples, Mandirs and Mosques, people were to establish the house of God in their hearts for their Beloved God, God's work will have been done.

6. There are many religions, temples and many religious practices and prayers which you yourselves may know, and the people following them, but God appears indifferent to those prayers or does not hear them for the reason, that they are not of the heart.

7. God does not listen to the language of the tongue which constitutes "Japs" (mental repetitions) "Mantras" (verbal repetitions), "Zikra" (either kind of repetition), and devotional songs. He does not listen to the language of the mind which constitutes meditation, concentration and thoughts about God. He listens only to the language of the heart, which constitutes love. The most practical way for the common man to express the language of the heart, whilst, attending to daily-life duties, is to speak lovingly, think lovingly, and act lovingly towards all mankind, irrespective of caste, creed, and position, taking God to be present in each and everyone.

8. Worldly-minded priests, though they may mutter prayers throughout the day and may perform this and that ceremony, can confer no spiritual benefits on any one. Poison trees may be watered with nectar, but they will not produce edible fruits.

9. Give up all forms of parrotry. Start practising whatever you truly feel to be true and justly to be just.

Do not make a show of your faith and beliefs. You have not to give up your religion, but to give up clinging to the outer husk of mere ritual and ceremonies. To get to the fundamental core of Truth underlying all religions, reach beyond religion.

10. Through endless time, God's greatest gift is continuously given in silence. But when mankind becomes completely deaf to the thunder of His Silence, God incarnates as man. The Unlimited assumes the limited, to shake Maya-drugged humanity to a consciousness of its true destiny and to give a spiritual push to the world by His Physical Presence on earth. He uses the body for His universal work, to be discarded in final sacrifice as soon as it has served its purpose.

11. God has come again and again in various forms, has spoken again and again in different languages the same one Truth — but how many are there that live up to it? Instead of making Truth the vital breath of his life, man compromises by making over and over again a mechanical religion of it - as a handy staff to lean on in times of adversity, as a soothing balm for his conscience or as a tradition to be followed in the footsteps of the past.

12. Man's inability to live God's words makes them a mockery. How many Christians follow Christ's teaching to "turn the other cheek" or to "love thy neighbour as thyself?" How many Muslims follow Mohammed's precept to "hold God above everything else?" How many Hindus "bear the torch of righteousness at all cost?" How many Buddhists live the "life of pure compassion" expounded by Buddha? How many Zoroastrians "think truly, speak truly, act truly?"

13. I love and adore all religions, but I am of no religion. Nor do I seek to establish another religion or add to the numberless illusions that divide man against man. No religion was ever intended to be anything more than the Gateway to God as Truth; but

every religion has in the course of time got converted into a veil, obscuring the undimmed perception of the one Truth.

14. The rituals and ceremonies of organised religions can lead the seeker only to the threshold of the True Inner Journey, which proceeds along certain High Roads. These remain distinct from each other for a very considerable distance, though towards the end they all get merged in each other. In the earlier phases, they remain distinct owing to the diversity of sanskaric contexts of individuals and the differences of their temperaments. In any case, it should be clear from the very beginning, that though Roads may be many, the Goal is and always will be one, viz; attainment of union with God.

15. The quickest of these High Roads lies through the God-Man, who is consciously one with the Truth. But when this is not possible, the other High Roads, which can eventually win the Grace of God are :-

- (a) Love for God and intense longing to see Him and to be united with Him.
- (b) Being in constant company with the saints and lovers of God and rendering them whole-hearted service.
- (c) Avoiding lust, greed, anger, hatred and the temptations for power, fame and fault-finding.
- (d) Leaving everyone and everything in complete renunciation, and in solitude devoting oneself to fasting, prayer and meditation.
- (e) Carrying on all worldly duties with equal acceptance of success or failure, with a pure heart and clean mind and remaining unattached in the midst of intense activity.
- (f) Selfless service of humanity, without any thought of gain or reward.

16. Age after age, history repeats itself when men and women in their ignorance, limitations and pride sit in judgement over the God-incarnated Man who declares His Godhood, and condemn Him for uttering the Truth they cannot understand. He is indifferent to abuse and persecution, for in His true compassion He understands, in His continuous experience of Reality He knows and in His Infinite Mercy He forgives.

17. The masses who try to attain the Truth by following rites and rituals are, as it were, in the goods train which is detained indefinitely at various stations. Those who sincerely and devotedly meditate on God or dedicate their lives to the service of humanity are, as it were, in the ordinary train which stops at every station according to the time-table. But those who seek the company of the Truth-realized Master and carry out His orders in full surrenderance and faith are, as it were, in a special train which will take them to the goal in the shortest possible time, without halts at intermediate stations.

18. The established codes of religion and morality are to mankind as is the general advice given by father to his child. They are for its well-being. But when one may have the advantage of living wisdom, it should be accepted in preference to these established codes. This may be done not only without coming to harm, but with much benefit.

As stated by a Seer, wealth may be sacrificed for health, wealth and health for self-respect, and all three (wealth, health and self-respect) for one's own religion, but to gain God, everything including religion, should be sacrificed without hesitation.

Love is Grace

What is Love? To give and never to ask. What leads to this Love? Grace. What leads to this Grace? Grace is not cheaply bought. It is gained by being always ready to serve and reluctant to be served. There are many points which lead to this grace:

Wishing well for others at the cost of one's self.

Never backbiting.

Tolerance supreme.

Trying not to worry. Not to worry is almost impossible ... so try thinking more about the good points in others and less of their bad points.

What leads to this Grace? Doing all the above. If you do one of these things perfectly, the rest must follow. Then Grace descends. Have love ... and when you have love, the union with the Beloved is certain.

When you love, you give; when you fall in love, you want. Love is pure as God. It gives and never asks; that needs Grace.

Yogis in the Himalayas, with their long eyelashes and long beards, meditating, sitting in Samadhi, they too, have not this love ... it is so precious. The mother dies for her child ... supreme sacrifice, yet it is not love. Heroes die for their country, but that is not love.

Love. You know when you have love. You cannot understand it theoretically; you have to experience it.

Majnu loved Leila. This was pure Love; not physical, not intellectual but spiritual Love. He would

have gladly seen her married to another if he knew that would make her happy, and die for her husband if he thought she would be happy in that. At last, it led him to God... No thought of self, but of the Beloved, every second and continually.

You would not be able to do that if you tried. It needs Grace. Trying leads to Grace.

What is God?

Love.

INFINITE LOVE IS GOD.

Gems

1. Keep your mind quiet, steady and firm. Do not submit to desires, but try to control them. One who cannot restrain his tongue cannot restrain his mind; one who cannot restrain his mind cannot restrain his actions; one who cannot restrain his actions cannot restrain himself; and one who cannot restrain himself cannot attain his real Infinite Self.

2. For the purification of your heart, leave your thoughts alone, but maintain a constant vigil over your actions. When you have thoughts of anger, lust or greed, do not worry about them, and do not try to check them. Let all such thoughts come and go without putting them into action. Try to think counter-thoughts in order to discern, to discriminate, to learn, and above all to unlearn the actions which are prompted by your own impressions.

3. 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.

4. Man does not seek suffering ; it comes to him as an outcome of his search for happiness. Happiness is sought through the fulfilment of desire but in the pursuit of desires, he is preparing for suffering from their non fulfilment.

5. Unless you become as dust you cannot realize God. But first you have to become stone, for you cannot become dust right away. What is needed is to retain human consciousness and become as stone and then wear yourself to dust at the feet of the Perfect Master.

6. Only when the heart is cleaned out and the mind completely emptied, can they become instruments, hollow as the flute or drum, to give forth divine music. Your being with Me is immaterial. It is My being with you that matters. So keep Me with you always.

7. (a) It is only in spiritual freedom that one can have enduring happiness and unhampered Self-knowledge.
- (b) It is only in spiritual freedom that one finds the Supreme certainty of truth-realization.
- (c) It is only in spiritual freedom that there is a final end to sorrow and limitation.
- (d) It is only in spiritual freedom that one can live for all, and yet remain detached in the midst of all activity.

(e) Spiritual freedom is won by one's self, for one's self, through watchful and unfailing war against the false self.

(f) Spiritual freedom is freedom from all wanting ... When the soul breaks asunder the shackles of wanting, it is emancipated from bondage to body, mind and ego. This freedom brings realization of the unity of all life and puts an end to all doubts and worries.

8. Any lesser type of freedom is like a house built on sand, and any lesser attainment is fraught with fear of decay. There is no gift greater than that of spiritual freedom, and no task more important than helping others to find spiritual freedom. Those who have understood the supreme importance of spiritual freedom must not only strive for it themselves, but also share the God-given duty of helping others win it.

9. Do not give undue importance to explanations and discourses. Words fail to give any meaning to Reality; because when one supposes that one has understood, one has not understood: one is far from understanding anything so far as Reality is concerned. Reality is beyond human understanding (samaj) for it is beyond intellect ... Intellect must go before knowledge dawns.

10. The aim of life, and the real goal of all creation, is to achieve true Self-consciousness.

11. Desire for nothing except desirelessness.

12. Hope for nothing except to rise above all hopes.

13. Want nothing and you will have everything.

14. Seek not to possess anything but to surrender everything.

15. Serve others with the understanding that in them you are serving Me.

16. Be resigned completely to My will and My will will be yours.

17. Let nothing shake your faith in Me and all your bindings will be shaken off.

18. Real happiness lies in making others happy.

19. The real desire is that which leads you to become perfect in order to make others perfect.

20. Be angry with none but your own weakness.

21. Hate none but your lustful self.

22. Be greedy to own more and more wealth of tolerance and justice.

23. Let your temptation be to tempt Me with your love in order to receive My grace.

24. Wage war against your desires and Godhood will be your victory.

25. Fortunate are they whose love is tested by misfortunes.

26. Real living is dying for God.

27. One who dies for God lives forever.

28. It is necessary to experience being caged to appreciate freedom.

29. He who does not want things, to him things come. But he who tastes for the sake of tasting gets entangled and loses.

30. The book of the heart holds the key to the mystery of life.

31. Learn the art of taking your stand on the Truth within.

32. In the spiritual life there is no room for compromise.

33. True love is no game of the faint-hearted and the weak ; it is born of strength and understanding.

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

35. Love not the many in the One, but the One in the many.

36. Give up low desires and unnecessary cravings, and you will experience heaven on earth.

37. It is not what the world thinks of us that counts, but what God knows about us.

38. A human being comprises Godhead plus Maya.

39. The chief groups and agents of Maya are Kama, krodh and lobh (lust, anger and greed).

40. It is Maya that drives man to think of the universe and its charms as realities.

41. Maya is the source of all worries, anxieties and troubles.

42. If man wants the happiness he is striving for, let him be more aggressive towards himself and more tolerant towards others.

43. The real untouchables are those who cannot enter the temple of their own hearts and see the Lord therein.

44. When you feel angry or get lustful thoughts at once remember Me whole-heartedly. Let My name serve the purpose of a net around you, so that like mosquitoes, the thoughts may keep buzzing around you, yet they will not be able to "bite" you.

45. Be true to your duty. I want you to make Me your constant companion. Think of Me more than you think of your own self. The more you think of Me, the more you will realize My love for you. Your duty is to keep Me constantly with you throughout your thought, speech and action.

46. Ocean contains everything-water, dirt, nectar ; and everything dissolves in the ocean. I am the Ocean. Nobody is debarred from coming to Me and helping himself to the endless expanse of Love ; but how much of the Ocean you can take with you, depends on the receptacle you bring. If it is a cup, you can only take a cupful ; if a pail, only a pailful. But once in a long while there comes the true hero, the giant in Love that can gulp the Ocean itself.

47. The Perfect Master is in everything, and is the Centre of everything. Everyone and everything is therefore equidistant from Him. Though, owing to our own limitations, He appears outwardly to be present at only one place at a time, He is on every plane of consciousness at one and the same time. To see Him as He is, is to see God.

God the Beloved

1. Don't run away from the world ; run away from your own lower self. Don't renounce the world ; renounce your own lower self. Don't seek solitude anywhere but within your own self. Silently cry out within your own self, "Beloved one, reveal yourself to me as my own real infinite self "

2. Do not get disheartened and alarmed when adversity, calamity and misfortune pour in upon you. Thank God, for He has thereby given you the opportunity of acquiring forbearance and fortitude. Those who have acquired the power of bearing with adversities can easily enter the spiritual path.

3. If you have rock-like faith in God and flame-like love for Him, nothing in this world will affect you. Misery will not trouble you. Flattery will not touch you. Happiness will not humour you. Such faith and love will cause you to rise above the imaginary phenomenon and make you understand that God alone is real.

4. The purpose of life is to realise God within ourselves. This can be done even whilst attending to our worldly duties. In everyday walk of life and amidst intense activities, we should feel detached and dedicate our doings to our Beloved God.

5. Trust God completely, and He will solve all your difficulties. Faithfully leave everything to Him and He will see to everything. Love God sincerely and He will reveal Himself to you. This love needs no ceremonies and show. Your heart must love so that even your mind is not aware of it.

6. God is everywhere and does everything.
God is within us and knows everything.
God is without us and sees everything.
God is beyond us and IS everything.
7. God cannot be theorized.
God cannot be discussed.
God cannot be argued about.
God cannot be explained.
God cannot be understood.
God can only be lived by losing ourselves
in Him through *love*.
8. The more you try to understand God, the less you understand Him. How can He, who is beyond all explaining be described? His being infinitely easy to know has rendered Him infinitely difficult. The secret is that you have to become what you already are.
9. God, the real Beloved, is ever ready to enter your house, the mind, but He cannot, because it is occupied by your numberless unreal beloveds ... desires... and there is no room for Him.
10. You yourself are the cause of your separation from the Beloved. Annihilate the (lower) self and you will thereby gain union with Him.
11. The way to peace and fulfilment in union with God, the Divine Beloved, is a daring dive into the "eternal now"
12. Begin to love God by loving your fellow beings. Begin to see God by seeing Him in all beings and things.

13. So long for one thing ; be restless for one thing ; long and wait for one thing that will kill the million other longings. Long for union with the Beloved.

14. God can only be found within you, for His only abode is the Heart.

15. Love God. Keep Him ever-consciously present with you. Let Him form the basis of all your thoughts, speech and actions. Remember Him in every little thing you do ; the responsibility then rests with Him.

16. God is Omnipresent and the one who calls out sincerely to Him never fails to be heard and to receive His help.

17. God does not abandon those who trust Him.

18. Nothing is real but God. Nothing matters but love for God.

19. God is not to be lured but is to be loved. God is not to be preached but is to be lived.

20. God is not understood, until He is understood as Infinite Love.

21. God reveals Himself only to that mind which is entirely devoid of egoism and egotism.

22. God is your innermost self.

23. God is infinite honesty. To love God you must be honest.

24. To find God is to come to one's own Self.

25. God is that "One" playing innumerable roles.

26. One who bears the music of God in his own heart - such wonderful music, for it is the original music - loses his bodily consciousness and sees God everywhere.

27. God is deaf to the language of the mind, and is keen to hear only the language of the heart.

28. God forgives everything except hypocrisy.

29. Everyone is an atheist till he finds God by actual Experience. It is better to be an atheist and be honest in words and deeds, than to pose as a lover of God and lead a dishonest life.

30. When one remains fully and completely resigned to the Divine Will of God, all service, sacrifice, solitude, seeking and surrenderance merely symbolize one's love for God.

31. Love for God can be expressed in so many ways because He has infinite aspects. The three aspects of Power, Knowledge and Bliss are well-known, but infinite Honesty and infinite Goodness are also His main aspects, and goodness means where there is no thought of self.

32. There are three ways of obtaining the spiritual treasure :

(a) To earn it yourself by self-denial ;

(b) To receive it as a spontaneous gift from God given to His lover whose self has become effaced in the intensity of his longing for his Beloved ;

- (c) To inherit it directly from the Perfect Master who bequeaths it to those who remain completely resigned to His will. Therefore, if you wish to find the treasure, stop seeking material pleasure. Seek the kingdom of Heaven by not seeking the kingdom of earth, and you will find it.

33. To know Reality is to become it. It is nearest to you, for, in fact, it is you. Owing to ignorance God who is nearest appears to be farthest. But when the veil of ignorance is rent by the grace of the Perfect Master, you become you - the real Self which is the innermost Reality that you are, ever were and ever will be.

34. God is infinitely more vital to your existence than your breath which is your very life. Ordinarily, life is associated with breath; but you only become aware of this when breath is restricted through exertion, and you only completely realize this when breath is cut off altogether as when drowning. Similarly, you only become aware that God is your existence when you pant for Him, and you only finally realize Him when you drown in His Ocean of divine Love.

35. The humour of the divine love-game is that the One who is sought is Himself the seeker. It is the Sought who prompts the seeker to ask, Where can I find Him whom I seek? The seeker asking, Where is God? is really God saying, Where indeed is the seeker !

Complete Surrender

1. I declare to all of you who approach me, and to those of you who desire to approach me, that you must never come with the desire in your heart which craves for wealth or worldly gain but only with the fervent longing to give me your all-body, mind and possessions-with all their attachments.

2. Seek me not in order to extricate you from your predicaments, but find me in order to surrender yourself whole-heartedly to my Will.

3. Cling to me not for worldly happiness and short-lived comforts, but adhere to me through thick and thin, sacrificing your own happiness and comforts at my feet. Let my happiness be your cheer and my comforts your rest.

4. Do not ask me to bless you with a good job, but desire to serve me more diligently and honestly without expectation of reward.

5. Never beg of me to save your life or the lives of your dear ones, but beg of me to accept you and permit you to lay down your lives for me.

6. Never expect me to cure you of your bodily afflictions but beseech me to cure you of your ignorance.

7. Never stretch out your hands to receive anything from me, but hold them high in praise of me.

8. For spontaneous surrender the heart must, so to speak, be worn on one's sleeve. One must be ever ready to place one's neck under the ever-sharp knife of command of the Beloved, and the head should figuratively be

detached in order that it might be completely surrendered at the master's feet. Obedience should be so complete that one's concern with it makes one as much awake to possibilities as it makes one deaf to impossibilities-as envisaged by the poet :

“Darmiyane qahre darya

Takhta bandam kardā-ce

Baad mi gu-ee kay

Daaman ter makun hoshyar baash.”

“I was tied to a raft and thrown in the ocean and then I was warned to be careful not to let my robe get wet.”

Life At Its Best

If understood, life is simply a jest ;

If misunderstood, life becomes a pest.

Once overcome, life is ever at rest.

For pilgrims of the Path, life is a test.

When relinquished through love,

life is at its best.

The Questioning Mind

1. Mind wants to know that which is beyond mind. To know that which is beyond mind, mind must go—vanish, leaving no vestige of itself behind. The humour of it is, the mind, which is finite, wants to retain itself and yet know Truth, which is infinite. This is the position of those who seek Truth through intellect. Few grasp this fact, and so most grope and grapple in vain.

2. It is easy to ask questions, but it needs past preparation to grasp what I explain. Those who have the authority to ask and the capacity to understand do not ask. They understand that God is un—understandable and beyond the reach of the questioning mind.

3. Everyone wants to be happy. Each of you seeks happiness in one way or another invariably to meet with dissatisfaction and disappointment. In reality you are Bliss itself—but what a comedy Illusion stages before you, what game it makes of you to make you aware of it.

4. According to the Law that governs the universe, all suffering is your labour of love to unveil your Real Self. In comparison to the Infinite Bliss you experience on attaining the I-am-God state, all the suffering and agony you go through amounts to practically nothing. I am the Source of Infinite Bliss. To draw you to me and to make you realize that you are Bliss Itself, I come amidst you and suffer infinite agony.

5. I am the Ancient 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. Many consider it blasphemy for one to say he is God ; but in truth it would be blasphemous for me to say I am not God.

6. When you say, I am man, it is not a matter of possibly or perhaps. There is no doubt in your mind. No corroboration is needed and no contradiction could affect it. It is a matter of supreme certainty to you. Suppose you could descend to the level of animal consciousness while, at the same time, retaining human consciousness, what you would convey to the animal is, I am a man. I am a man and one day you too shall become man. I have come down to your level of consciousness while retaining Infinite Consciousness; and I repeatedly tell you that I am God in order to help you know that you too are God. I am God and everyone and everything is nothing but God, and one day everyone and everything too will become God consciously.

7. The greatest sin is hypocrisy. He is the greatest hypocrite, who, himself being one, asks others not to be hypocritical. I want you all to be honest. You should not pretend to be what you are not.

8. One of you has said, Baba, I am doing my duty honestly, yet I am not happy. Why should you not be happy? What need bind you to unhappiness? Binding is self-created. It can be overcome if you really want to become free. You are your own obstacle to freedom, and merely wishing for freedom is not enough. It is not what you think or say that matters, but what you sincerely feel within. If you want God, you must want God alone. It is possible to get God if you want to experience Truth. And what is the cost? Your own separate existence. When you surrender all falseness you inherit the Truth that you really are.

9. Truth is beyond the reach of mind. It is a matter of experience. Mind is very elusive and creates innumerable excuses in order to entrap you. It causes you to say, I cannot live just for God. I have my duty towards my family, towards society, the nation, and the world. And so you are pulled more into illusion than towards Truth.

10. Truth is simple, but Illusion makes it infinitely intricate. The person is rare who possesses an insatiable longing for Truth ; the rest allow Illusion to bind them ever more and more. God alone is Real and all else that you see and feel is nothing but a series of nothings.

11. Mere intellectual understanding does not bring God nearer to you. It is love, not questioning, that will bring God to you. Questioning nourishes pride and separateness. So do not ask questions, but strive to become a 'slave' of the Perfect Master.

What the Word "Avatar" Means or Conveys as Explained by Meher Baba :

"It is very difficult to grasp the entire meaning of the word "Avatar". For mankind it is easy and simple to declare that the Avatar is God and that it means that God becomes man. But this is not all that the word 'Avatar' means or conveys."

"It would be more appropriate to say that the Avatar is God and that God becomes man for all mankind and simultaneously God also becomes a sparrow for all sparrows in creation, an ant for all ants in creation, a pig for all pigs in creation, a particle of dust for all dusts in creation, a particle of air for all airs in creation, etc. for each and everything that is in creation."

Books by Meher Baba

God Speaks (Dodd Mead New York)

Listen Humanity (Dodd Mead, New York)

God to Man, Man to God (Victor Gollancz,
Ltd., London)

Life At Its Best (Messages Pub. 1957)

Beams from Meher Baba (Pub. 1957)

The Everything and The Nothing (Meher
House Publications-Australia)

Books About Meher Baba

Stay With God : by Francis Brabazon.

The Perfect Master : by C. B. Purdom.

Avatar : by Jean Adriel.

The Wayfarers : by William Donkin.

Journey with God : by Francis Brabazon.

Civilisation or Chaos : by I. H. Conybeare.

The East - West Gathering: By Francis Brabazon.

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