

# The Truth Of Religion



*SPEECH DELIVERED*

*by*

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AT

The Third World Religions Conference

*HELD IN NEW DELHI*

ON

**26, 27 & 28TH FEBRUARY, 1965**



AVATAR MEHER BABA

## THE TRUTH OF RELIGION

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So many people talk of Religion and yet they understand not what Religion is. They grope in the dark because they do not recognize the one Reality behind all religions. Religion has come into existence to liberate mankind from the narrow bindings of ignorance ; but it can itself become a binding — a cage — when not properly understood. All the world religions proclaim the same eternal truth, yet human weakness has a tendency to carve out some narrow loyalty which by so doing deprives man access to his inherent treasure of Divine Love and Truth.

Gathered here as we are under the aegis of the World Fellowship of Religions. I, as one of the followers of MEHER BABA, will endeavour to place before this learned audience what Meher Baba has given us to understand about the truth of Religion.

Irrespective of whether he believes through the medium of IDEAS or IDOLS, with sincere love and faith in DIVINITY man can get ever nearer to God who is already the most near to all. The essence of faith lies, not in the shape or manner of man's belief, but in the depth and sincerity behind it. The faith that can move mountains, can and does move the greatest of them all — the mountain of IGNORANCE that denies man a glimpse of his true divinity and conceals from him his true identity.

God is Freedom, Bliss and Knowledge eternal. To make Him fit exclusively within the four walls of man-made churches is but added proof of our ignorance. God is Fathomless. To bind Him within the narrow and limited channels of dogmas, creeds and religious conventions is to admit our lack of the true perception of God's Omniscience.

Unconsciously, man is always seeking, yearning and aspiring to something higher—though he misinterprets that longing in the elusive expression of ambition, power and human love. When the mind

stops vacillating amid the flights of its myriad-coloured fancies, and focuses on the centre, then can man visualize his true goal.

God is the Goal, the Centre — no matter from what angle you approach Him, you will find Him if you seek Him persistently. 'Seek and ye shall find', are the words of One who knew. To quote, an Indian mystic, "Ask, ask and ask again, and you shall not ask in vain. Keep on asking, and I swear to you by God that even though you ask for God Himself, you will have Him."

The priests and pandits, mullahs and dastoors, the mandecried intermediaries between man and God, may in the name of religion propound to the contrary, but none can alter the birthright of man to actually SEE God, and to consciously BECOME one with God. The faithful or the infidel, touchable or untouchable, black, white, brown or yellow, every man and woman is ultimately destined for the Supreme Goal.

Man's humanity is born of God's Divinity. The physical birth of man takes place through the expression of man's animality. The tints of animality and the sparks of divinity inherent in man are inevitably manifested, alternately predominating until the Oneness of the Soul is actually experienced. We have here, therefore, the three combined characteristics in man ; animality, humanity, divinity. Man fluctuates from his level of humanity to the higher one of divinity and to the lower one of animality, until he scales duality and realizes the Oneness of the Soul.

Man does not feel himself to exist in part, that is, partly existing and partly non-existing. He always feels aware of his "I Am " state as whole and unchanging in its essence, and unbroken in its continuity. In the course of dreams, whether they are ordinary or fantastic, exhilarating or terrifying, the dreamer does not find himself to be different in any way. His "I-am- ness" continues to remain identical with that of his wakeful state. During spells of deep sleep the consciousness of man remains dormant in oblivion, but on awaking, he immediately feels the continuity of his existence.

This "I Am" consciousness of man is aloof from the muchness or littleness of his body. A severed limb does not deduct any of his

"I-am-ness" from the entirety of his original self. In the same way, his "I-am-ness" is neither found to be a whit less nor more throughout man's growth from childhood to youth, from maturity to old age.

The "I Am" awareness of the ego-self is apparent from the beginning of evolution and continues as the soul with ever increasing consciousness identifies itself with each different form adopted in the course of its progress. The ultimate and supreme Consciousness of the soul's "I am" state is reached when it identifies itself with God.

The ordinary approach to life may or may not embrace religion, philosophy, spirituality, or the psychology of modern schools of thought. Facts of common human experience cannot alter just because they happen to be labelled under different names, or because of a difference in the method of interpretation.

Man believes in one great religion or another; as also in one or all of the great principles such as truth, peace, service, sacrifice, justice, equality and freedom. But how many are there who live up to these beliefs?

In the world today there are millions of Christians, as there are Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists. How many Christians, follow to the letter Christ's teaching to 'turn the other cheek', or 'to love thy neighbour as thyself'? How many Muslims can claim to be true followers of 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 can claim to live the three gems of Zoroastrianism 'think truly, speak truly, act truly'?

Meher Baba has followers from among different religions. At one time or another they have been asked whether Meher Baba makes his followers give up their religion. On the contrary, Meher Baba says, "Follow any religion you like, but follow its innermost nucleus. Do not make a mock of it by adopting the conventional husk of religion and ignoring the underlying Truth. Religion should

not be a convenience to be indulged in, but words of Truth to be lived. ”

Without a living sincerity of belief in Truth, without the full courage of conviction, and without the actual preparedness to interpret the significance underlying the Truth, words of wisdom—however lofty, beautiful and full of meaning they may be—remain just words and are no more than colourful flowers painted on a canvas.

It has been truly said, “ Men talk as if they believed in God, but they live as if they thought there was none. ”

The Second Coming of Christ, The Imminent Manifestation of Imam Mehdi, The Birth of Kalanki Avatar, Soshiyent, (the One expected by Zoroastrians), The Last Buddha: clothed in different religions and expressed in different tongues we thus hear proclaimed the Advent of the Avatar.

He is here.

Once more the Avatar is in our midst. Soon the world will witness the greatest manifestation of God on earth, and we will share the great Moment according to our receptivity. Let us be prepared for this awakening. May we be worthy of such a blessing.

A saint has well sung, “Every time my Beloved bears a different name, and manifests in a different garb, yet ever the same face assumes a different form of beauty and grandeur.”

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My friends, you have heard me expound the truth of Religion as gathered from discourses by Meher Baba. I shall now read out to you what Meher Baba Himself has to say on Religion.

“ I belong to no religion. Every religion belongs to me. My personal religion is my being the Ancient One. ”

“ The religion I impart to all is Love for God, which is the Truth of all religions. ”

“This Love can belong to all, high and low, rich and poor. Everyone, of every caste and creed, can love God. The one and only God who resides equally in all is approachable by each one through love.”

“Religion, like worship must be from the heart. Instead of mechanically performing ceremonies and rituals as age old customs, people should serve their fellow-beings with the selflessness of love, taking God to be equally residing in One and all and knowing that by so serving others they are serving God. ....”

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My esteemed brothers and sisters, we are gathered here from all parts of the world as representatives of different religions, though inherently they are all one. I wish, therefore in conclusion, to give you:

**Meher Baba's Universal Message.**

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

“Throughout eternity I have laid down principles and precepts, but mankind has ignored them. Man's inability to live God's words makes the Avatar's teaching a mockery. Instead of practising the compassion He taught, man has waged crusades in His name. Instead of living the humility, purity and truth of His words, man has given way to hatred, greed and violence.

“Because man has been deaf to the principles and precepts laid down by God in the past, in this present Avataric Form I observe Silence. You have asked for and been given enough words — It is now time to live them. To get nearer and nearer to God you have to get further and further away from “I”, “my”, “me” and “mine”. You have not to renounce any thing but your own self. It is as simple as that, though found to be almost impossible. It is possible for you to renounce your limited self by my Grace. I have come to release that Grace.

“I repeat, I lay down no precepts. When I release the tide of Truth which I have come to give, men's daily lives will be the



living precept. The words I have not spoken will come to life in them.

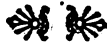
" I veil myself from man by his own curtain of ignorance, and manifest my Glory to a few. My present Avataric Form is the last Incarnation of this cycle of time, hence my Manifestation will be the greatest.. When I break my Silence, the impact of my Love will be universal and all life in creation will know, feel and receive of it. It will help every individual to break himself free from his own bondage in his own way. I am the Divine Beloved who loves you more than you can ever love yourself. The breaking of my Silence will help you to help yourself in knowing your real Self.

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

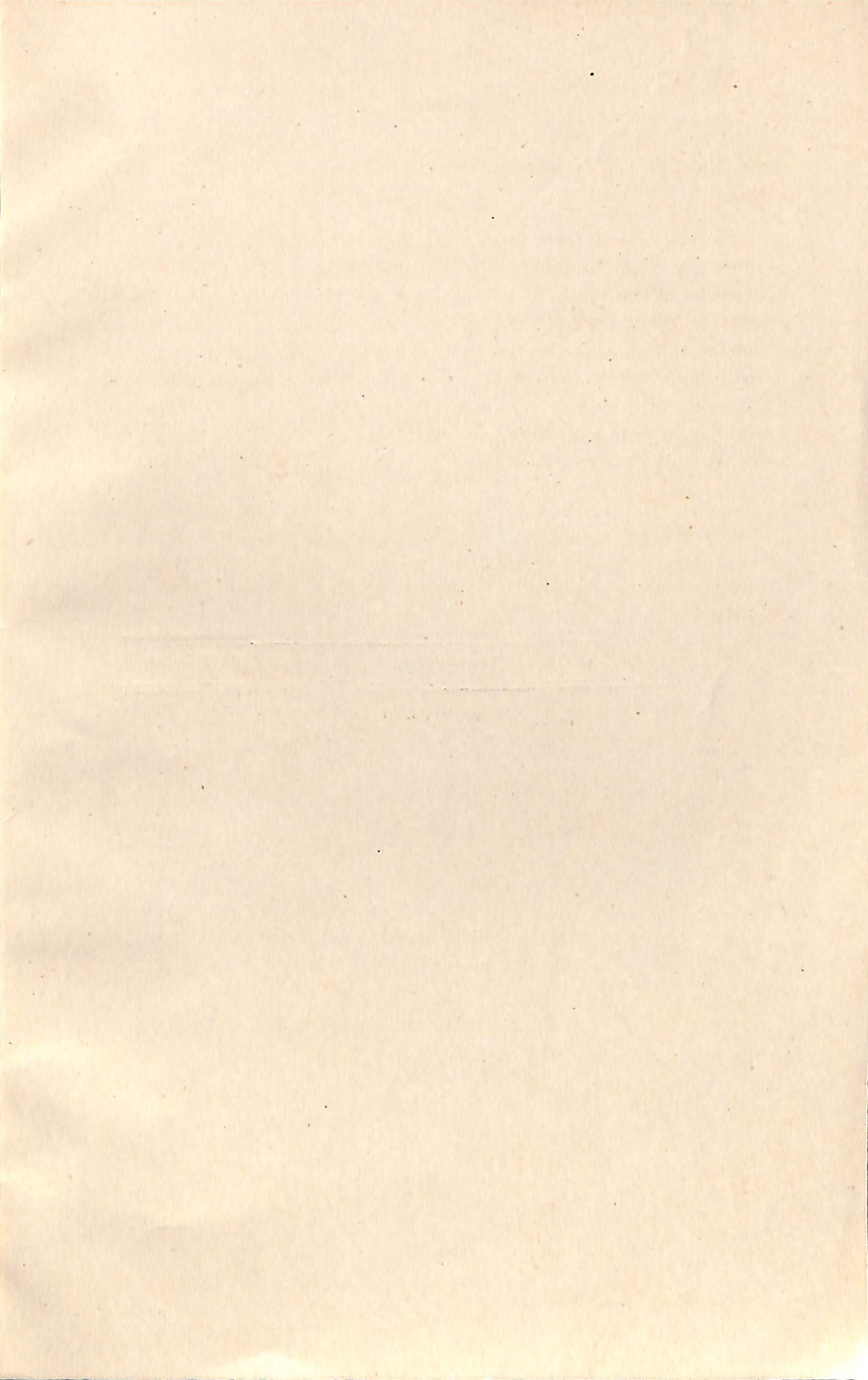
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May we be imbued with the incomparable awakening imparted to mankind by Meher Baba.

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**The Victoria Cross Press 3, Daryaganj, Delhi-6.**