





A V A T A R

M E H E R

B A B A

"Without doubt, Meher Baba is one of the great figures of our age, a giant whose stature is only measured by slow degrees as the breadth of his activities and the depth and acuity of his insight begin to be measured by the stretching of the inner self of those who contact Him or His writings." ***

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Meher Baba makes no bones about referring to himself as the Avatar or Christ of his age. Nothing could be more surely calculated to arouse the argumentative instincts of the occidental.

In the first place, many doubt that there ever was such a person as Jesus Christ, or at least that He had anything of the stature attributed to Him. Second, the time for such events always seems to be in the past. To have someone jolt the present with such a rude claim seems a deliberate challenge to a sense of modern rationality.

A third attitude often encountered is that Jesus Christ was the one and only Son of God, and there will not be another. Finally, there is a deeply ingrained conviction that if Christ should come again, good breeding would cause Him to avoid claiming that He was the Christ.

For all of these reasons, it is upsetting to find a man of undoubted stature state with candor that he is the Christ. It is always easier to deal with such claims in the past. To have them occur today presents a challenge of frightening dimensions.

There is hardly a person reared in Christendom who has not jeered in his heart at the Pharisees for not having recognized Christ's stature, or at least for not having treated Him fairly. By implication, if one condemns a person who may turn out to be the modern Christ, then one becomes a modern counterpart of the biblical Pharisee." *

"In the long run there are only two reliable answers to the fundamental question of whether a given man is the Messiah. The personal answer can be personal contact.... For many, however, there will be no opportunity for personal contact nor for acceptance or rejection in the flesh. And as these events are occurring in our age, none of us can rely on the consensus of evaluation that society will have made over the generations that are to come. For these, then, who are in such a position, it is required to peruse, and to think and to mull with an open mind, for here may well be a great store-house of the Truth and Reality for which each of us searches throughout a lifetime. It is not necessary to make a crisis of acceptance or rejection, but to allow the concepts described to simmer in one's own mental stew-pot. Gradually one's own deep sense of the sufficient, as well as the sheer factuality of life itself, will corroborate or refute the outlines described." **

"The age of jet transport and atomic power does not render the question of Christ-hood obsolete, but brings it more insistently to the forefront. Mankind will need such a superhuman force in the world to dispense the clarity and balance needed to equate against the superhuman questions it now faces.

If God did not provide a means for answering the questions He allows men to raise, it would be an unreasonable world in which He forces us to live. But there is reason to believe that those answers do exist in the great nation which specializes in the inner springs of man's nature: India. Stripped of the refuse which the centuries produce, pared of the inessentials which serve only to separate man from man, and reduced to the hard core of spirit, the answer can emerge from the wisdom of that land. The answer would not be a new one, but it would be a vital infusion into the lifeless stalks which once bore up in man the ripe knowledge of his own purpose and dignity." *

* from the introduction to LISTEN, HUMANITY, 1957
** from the introduction to GOD SPEAKS, 1955
*** from the book flap of GOD SPEAKS

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