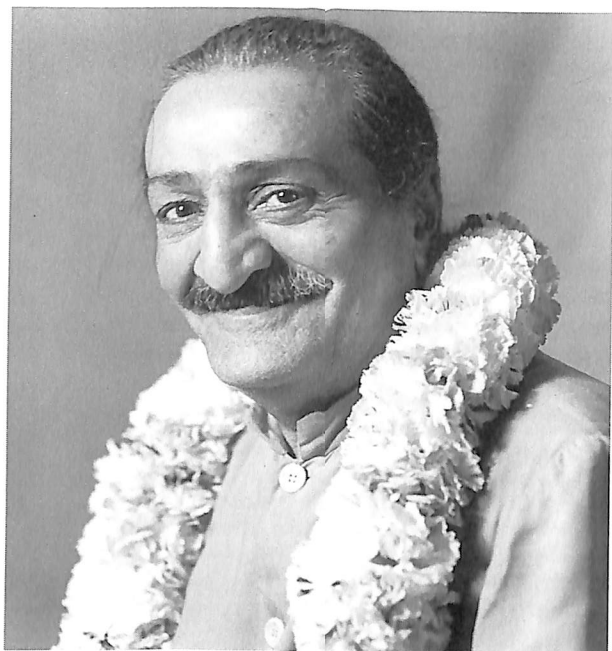

AVATAR MEHER BABA



"I am not come to establish any cult, society or organization; nor 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."

**The
Avatar Meher Baba Center
of Souther California
*"Meherabode"***

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Introduction

Meher Baba is one who needs no introduction because he is the Self of every self and has his home in every heart; but because we have forgotten this he has re-introduced himself to men as the Ancient One who is before all things were and will be after all things have ceased to exist.

In earlier times he was known as Jesus the Christ and Gautama the Buddha and Krishna the Lover and Rama the King. This time he is called Meher Baba. Men will probably add "*The Awakener*" to his name, for he has said, "I have come not to teach but to awaken."

Meher Baba asserts that he is God, Truth absolute, and says he has taken form solely because of his compassion for suffering humanity. Man's suffering is great. Despite the propaganda programs of 'things were never better' man's suffering is so great that he has devised the means of self-annihilation, to extinguish himself and his seed utterly. The question that now occupies the minds of all thinking men is how this destruction may be averted, for the power for this destruction is in the hands of men who are not morally equipped to be the custodians of such power.

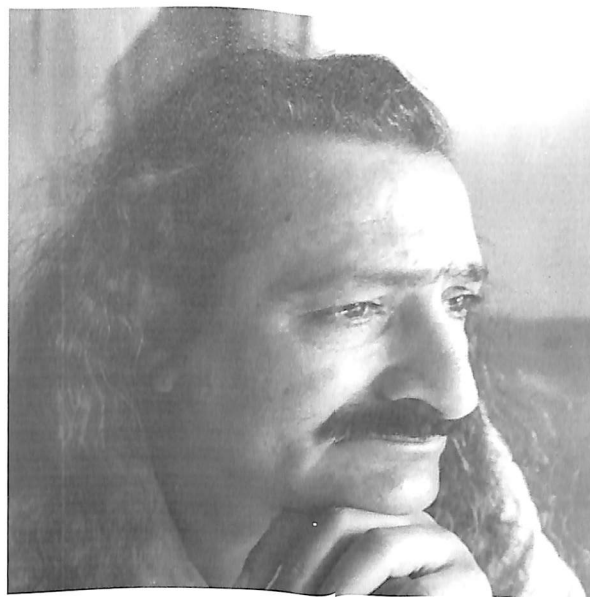
This thinking is not in clear streams, but is rather as the cross-currents of an agitated sea seeking a channelled flow toward *Something* that can guarantee continued existence. With religionists this *Something* tends to take the form of *Someone*, the world Savior which all religions promise.

Meher Baba says he is this *Something* or *Someone*. "I am the One whom so many seek and so few find."

Naturally many will not accept this assertion. Indeed, while all men are praying for *Someone* or *Something* to save the world, some will be praying that this Man be saved from the gigantic deception of believing he is God!

But Truth has never waited for us to accept It, but, as the Wind listeth where It will, proclaims Itself according to Its own sweet will and whim. It is as natural for God-Man to assert, I am God, as it is for us to assert, I am man. And it would be as laughable for God-Man to say, I am not God, as it would be for us to say, I am not man. Our ignorance of divine Truths is colossal and our ideas about God are so elementary.

It takes some courage to accept God as God-Man, for acceptance means surrender of one's individual ego-life. However, since our cherished lives are no longer ours but are in the hands of the first one who will give an order of buttons to be pressed, surrender is not so difficult!



But more courageous than those who surrender themselves to God-Man would seem to be those, who, expecting a *Someone* or a *Something*, remain true to their *expectation* by denying the occurrence of the Advent of God-Man *because they cannot prove he is not* what he proclaims he is.

And perhaps more courageous than these are those who continue to follow the westerling false lights of material progress while the beautiful silent Person of God has already lit the east-sky with the Dawn of a New Humanity. Presently the Sun of His Word will break across the world, and his Glory will be manifest to all....

Francis Brabazon

1st November, 1962

AVATAR MEHER BABA

(1894-1969)

Merwan Sheriar Irani was born in 1894 in Poona, a flourishing city in India, some 100 miles east of Bombay. His Zoroastrian parents sent Merwan to a Catholic school where he distinguished himself in academics and sports, displaying leadership qualities at an early age. Merwan attended Deccan College and in 1913, on his way home from school, he stopped to visit with an ancient Mohammedan woman, Hazrat Babajan, who was widely recognized to be a great saint. She was, in fact, one of the five Perfect Masters of the age. This encounter awakened Merwan to His spiritual destiny, giving him consciousness of himself as the Avatar. Babajan kissed Merwan on the forehead and revealed to Him his Godhood, sending Him into a state of bliss. During the next seven years, Merwan encountered four other Perfect Masters, those responsible for "unveiling" Him to His unique consciousness and mission in the world. The last of these, Upasni Maharaj, a Hindu by birth, gave Merwan the experience of Gnosis, Divine Knowledge.

Thus Merwan attained spiritual perfection. His mission began in 1921, when people from all backgrounds were drawn to Him as their Master. These early disciples gave Merwan the name "Meher Baba" which means "Compassionate Father." In 1922, Meher Baba took His disciples to Bombay for a period of rigorous training. Soon afterwards, Meher Baba moved His base to a remote country village near the town of Ahmednagar. Here, in "Meherabad," under Baba's guidance, the disciples put into practice their training in selfless service. A school was founded, a free shelter was built for the migrant poor, hospitals and dispensaries were established. People from every caste, creed and walk of life were welcomed. From Meherabad, Meher Baba would often take His disciples on trips throughout India, bathing lepers and feeding and clothing the poor.

On July 10, 1925, Meher Baba began to observe silence. He dictated spiritual discourses and messages by means of an alphabet board. Later, Baba employed a unique series of hand gestures to communicate. Despite the Silence, the force of His personality was so great that tens of thousands of people would gather at a time to receive His blessing.

Beginning in the 1930's, Meher Baba made many trips to the West, contacting disciples in Europe, Australia and America. On His request, a Universal Spiritual Retreat Center was established in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; He visited there three times in the 1950's, while doing His work in America.

Meher Baba maintained His silence and continued to love and serve humanity throughout a long life. He dropped His body on January 31, 1969. Baba asserted simply throughout His life that He is the Ancient One, Who has come again to redeem man from his bondage of ignorance and to guide him to realize his true self which is God.

"I have come not to teach but to awaken."

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THE AVATAR MEHER BABA CENTER

Meher Baba visited Los Angeles in 1932 and 1956. Those interested in Baba held meetings in private homes. Over the years, several bookstores were established in Meher Baba's name and meetings were held at those locations. Eventually, the bookstores came together as one Center.

The Avatar Meher Baba Center of Southern California was established in 1969, and was located in West Los Angeles for nearly twenty years. Meherabode, our new home, is located in the heart of Los Angeles on an acre of beautifully landscaped grounds. We are a non-profit organization, supported by voluntary donations, fundraisers, and bookstore sales.

In addition, we have an extensive collection of periodicals, photographs, audiotapes and CD's with music to Meher Baba. There are over thirty video tapes with film footage of Meher Baba and interviews with His Mandali (disciples). As well as free literature, information is also available through our extensive lending library of audio and video cassettes.

Through our Service Committee, there is an opportunity to participate in community projects to help those in need. In addition to local activities, the Avatar Meher Baba Center of Southern California hosts an annual retreat in the San Bernardino mountains.

Meherabode is a gathering place focused on Meher Baba and His "Message of Love," where you have the opportunity to meet and share with others who are interested in Meher Baba. Weekly programs are free, and every month there is a special night devoted to films of Beloved Baba.

The building which houses our bookstore and large meeting hall was originally the Carriage house for the Milbank mansion, built in 1913 and since declared a Cultural Monument. It is situated on five sylvan acres. Children are very welcome here, with their own room and plenty of play areas outside on the grounds.

Come walk about the lovely grounds of Meherabode and enjoy the beautiful gardens, fish pond, and waterfall. Picnic on the lawn or in the gazebo. Also enjoy the peace and serenity of the Dome, a place for quietude and reflection.

All are welcome!

QUOTES OF MEHER BABA

"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 among all nations, creeds, sects and casts of the world!"

*

"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."

*

"Love and coercion can never go together, but while love cannot be forced upon anyone, it can be awakened through love itself. *Love is essentially self-communicative; those who do not have it catch it from those who have it.* Those who receive love from others cannot be its recipients without giving a response which, in itself, is the nature of love. True love is unconquerable and irresistible. It goes on gathering power and spreading itself until eventually it transforms everyone it touches. *Humanity will attain to a new mode of being and life through the free and unhampered interplay of pure love from heart to heart.*"

*

"Age after age, when the wick of righteousness burns low, the Avatar comes yet again to rekindle the torch of Love and Truth. Age after age amidst the clamor of disruptions, wars, fears and chaos, rings the Avatar's call:

'Come All Unto Me''