THE DAWN OF THE NEW ERA THE DIVINE CALL OF MEHER BABA

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THE DAWN OF THE NEW ERA THE DIVINE CALL OF MEHER BABA

(By Dr. Prof. C. D. Deshmukh, M. A., Ph. D. King Edward College, Amraoti, Berar) Emergence of the New World Order

Every thoughtful person is today occupied with the animating principles of the New World Order. which must emerge out of the present chaos. The immense sacrifices, which man has made for fighting the evil and the great suffering, which he has accepted for a better world, must inevitably bear a fruit. which is worthy of these sacrifices and of this suffering. It would be a tragic irony if thousands of idealistic persons should have to pay the heavy price of sweat and blood for the sake of something which is utterly trivial or purely temporary. The New Order, emerging out of this chaos, must embody those Ideals, which will amply justify the worldwide strugale of humanity. If it is founded on spiritual understanding and only then, it will justify all our sufferings and sacrifices; and only then, it can give an indelible stamp of real value upon our agonising struggles. Any world-order, which is not built on Spiritual Foundations, cannot be acceptable to the Highest Self in man. Man is, therefore, bound to strive for change, until the World-Order reflects his highest ideals.

Owing to the collective greed of nations, racial pride, colour-prejudice and other factors, which

make for mutual distrust and fear, humanity has not been able to achieve the ideal of Universal Brotherhood. Theoretically it may be possible for a Dictator to change the World Order in respect of political or social structure or external ways of life. But any such change, which is merely brought about from without, will be without intrinsic spiritual value, even if it were possible. The World Order, which will bring fulfilment to humanity, must spring from within; it will have to be a spontaneous expression of the general spiritualisation of humanity. Spiritualisation of humanity is not a problem for merely academic education or legislature. It involves the rallying of all the creative Forces of Light, which are working towards Spiritual Reconstruction.

The Forces of Spiritual Reconstruction.

The deeper forces of spiritual reconstruction are even today silently operative behind the pageant of apparently unplanned march of world-events. We can clearly discern, in our very midst, a good many Spiritual Workers, who are inspired by the noble ideal of *incorruptible brotherhood* and who are steadily working for the coming of *the New Era of Truth and Love*. The saints and the Masters of our times, like those of the past, are ceaselessly active in rebuilding the *Edifice of Enlightened Humanity*. In the wake of devastation and destruction, they sow, in the realm of the spirit, seeds of fresh life. They are determined that man shall not, through his suicidal ignorance, defeat the glorious future which God has in store for him; and in this field, the name, which has invited and arrested the attention of people all over the world, is the name of Meher Baba, who has been observing unbroken Silence since July 1925 and who will break it as soon as the time is ripe. He has aroused universal interest because what he says has the irresistible appeal of Divine Truth.

The Fundamental unity of all the world-religions.

All the great world-religions of history have set themselves to the important task of awakening and releasing the divinity, which is latent in man. For this purpose, the Prophets and the Avatars have held before humanity the high ideal of spiritual perfection, emphasising just those aspects of perfection, which were urgently needed by those, to whom they addressed themselves. The Truth which the Prophets and the Avatars have imparted, has been always the same; but they have presented it in their own way, and clothed it in a terminology, which would be immediately understood and accepted by the people of their times.

However, the thread of unity, which runs through all the great world-religions of history, becomes apparent to any one, who has an eye for the essential Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism Hinduism, Budhism and all the other important religions of the world, have presented and emphasised the Spiritual Ideal or Truth in its personal or impersonal aspect or in both aspects: and they have all, in their own way, revealed the essential identity or kinship between man and God or the Infinite Reality. Meher Baba brings to us that *integral vision*, which gives a *synthetic* view of all these complementary aspects of man's position and destiny in the world. It enables us to see all the great world-religions in their truth, harmony and beauty.

The Truth is beyond all sects, creeds or organised religions, which are shadows cast by different formulations of the one Truth. The Spiritual work of Meher Baba will, therefore, be non-sectarian and comprehensive in its scope. He will give not a new sect or religion, but a fresh and direct perception of the Eternal and only Truth, of which all the great world-religions are revelations.

The World-task of Meher Baba,

The work of Meher Baba is carried not only in the external world, but also in the inner planes of Reality. His inner working consists in contacting and inspiring all the spiritually advanced souls and preparing them for the universal work, which is ahead of him. For this purpose, he has to meet atleast seventy five percent of the spiritually advanced persons and co-ordinate their activities so as to secure maximum result in the realm of the spirit. Of particular importance is his work with the 'Masts' of the inner planes, who, on their spiritual Path, need further guidance and help, in order to get established in the final and creative poise of understanding. Through his help, they become channels for efficient and impersonal dispensation of spiritual guidance to all, who need it.

Meher Baba's work in the *external world* is also of immense importance for the future of humanity.

So far, it has chiefly consisted of contacting the genuine aspirants all over the world, through his several tours in the East as well as in the West. He has been drawing to himself those persons, who will share his universal work after his Manifestation. Through his inspiring contact with his Eastern and Western Disciples, he is building up a foundation for the edifice of the New Humanity, which will be illumined by a sense of the unity of all life, and which will be animated by self-giving and creative love. The achievement of this means constructive work on a stupendous and unprecedented scale.

Meher Baba's supreme method of helping the struggling humanity, in its onward march, is that of awakening the divinity in man by imparting direct perception of the Truth. The beautiful and divine love, which flows from him, brings about the spiritual resurrection of all, who are its recipients. It is a pure blessing, because it fills man with immortal sweetness and unbounded joy and quickens his being with the fire that consumes all dross. Through the power of his noble example and comprehensive Teaching, he unfolds the best in man. And those, who taste of the pure and unfettered life which he brings, shall not only be redeemed from a life of bondage, suffering and ignorance, but shall themselves become instruments for the fulfilment of the Divine Plan, which is to bring to the whole of humanity, a new creative life of freedom and happiness and understanding.

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The Great Ones.

Zarathustra sounded the trumpet-call of duty by inviting man to side with the forces of Light, in the perpetual battle, which they are waging with the forces of Darkness. Christ worked towards the redemption of humanity through his life of love and sacrifice, even at the cost of crucifixion at the hands of those, who misunderstood him. Shri Krishna revived the lost Yoga (or the Supreme Art of life) not only by his noble and all-sided teaching, but also by a life of sweet, pure and strong love. Mohammad brought to the world of strife a new zest for the ideal of unity and fraternity. Buddha turned the wheel of Dhamma or Righteousness and enlightened humanity through his spiritual discourses. And now in our midst, is one, who has come to fulfil and complete the spiritual work of all these Great Ones of history. Being the Incarnation of the Truth, Meher Baba will, in his own way, not only draw to himself all the advanced souls, but will also use them for an outpouring of life, which will change the entire course of future human history.

The Great Ones of history have all been intensely practical in their objective, which has been to take humanity nearer its divine goal. Their teaching is always carefully adjusted to the needs and the capacities of those, who are going to be its direct recipients. They have never wasted their energies on barren speculations of merely theoretical importance. Meher Baba's published Spiritual Discourses, given in Silence, will continue to ennoble and inspire the lives of generations to come. But the imparting of verbal Teaching is only a portion of his true Mission. He has come not to give a bare theory, but a new life-impulse to humanity as a whole. This indeed has always been the life-work of all, who are at the helm of spiritual progress, in the critical periods of human history.

The need for Vision.

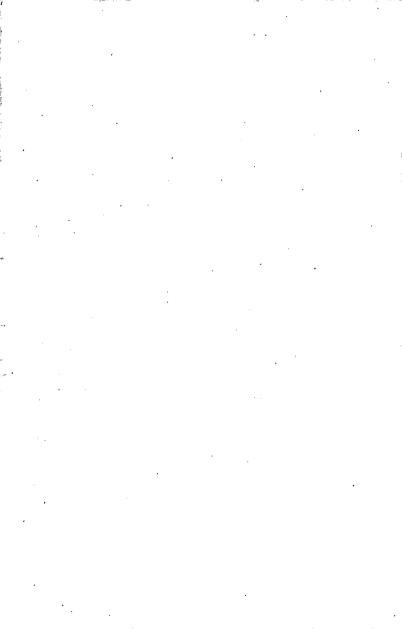
Only one thing can save the world from ruin and disaster; it is VISION—the vision of man's destiny on earth, the vision of God's plan for man, the vision, which has, in the history of humanity, found repeated utterance through the Avatars and the Prophets, who, from time to time, have appeared in our midst, for the redemption of man. This Vision of the Truth, which Meher Baba brings, shall initiate man to the undivided and limitless Life in Eternity. by unlocking in his heart an undying spring of Love and by reclaiming him for the creative expression of the Infinite Divinity, which is latent in him.

The Vital Problem for Humanity,

To harness the various forces, released in meeting the present distress and to divert them into creative channels-this is the chief task, which confronts all, who love humanity. To talk about this important work is easy enough; to get it actually done is pretty difficult. This task is impossible without the general spiritualisation of humanity. In this field, example is better than precept. The world can, therefore, today get Light and help only from those, who have realised the Spiritual Ideal in themselves. They can bring about an Order, which is *planned by Reason and inspired by Love*. Man has to be unshakably established in the equipoise of spiritual understanding, if he is to make effective contribution in bringing the world in tune with the Divine Plan for man.

The Divine Call of Meher Baba,

How are we to induce people in giving up their lust and greed and selfishness? How can we persuade them to shed their separative narrowness and enter into the limitless life of the Truth? How are we to lead them to the Abiding Peace that blesseth all, who are pure and wise? The Divine Call, which shall wean men away from the surging passions of the ego-life, must go home to them and awaken their Highest Self; it must arouse their latent Divinity into creative and purifying action. When their hearts are failing on the Path of Righteousness, the Call must give them strength; and when their steps are moving away from this Path, it must bring them back. The Call must be much more than claiming man for some noble principles; it must be a living appeal from the very heart of Divinity to the very inmost being of man. To the bewildered humanity, this Divine Call has been already given by Meher baba. Let us hearken to his Call and let our parched lips taste of the pure waters of the Eternal life, which he brings !



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