

My Life with Meher Baba

By W. D. Kain

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My Life with Meher Baba

By W. D. Kain

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MY LIFE
With
MEHER BABA



Meher Baba

W. D. Kain

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Introduction

The One who has said that He would bring all religions together "like beads on a string" was born in the City of Poona on 25th Feb. 1894. Meher Baba's boyhood was not unusual, though from his very childhood he was alert, gentle and humorous. One day when he was reading the words of the Buddha, the thought - "This is who I am" - charged through him, only to vanish the next moment. He was educated at St Vincent's High School and the Deccan College.

One May day in 1913 while bicycling from College to home, he was accosted by Perfect Master Babajan, who embraced him leading to the loss of normal consciousness by Baba. The seed of God Realization had been sown! Babajan once said "Meherwan you will shake the world to its foundation". For nine months after becoming God realised he remained unaware of the physical world. In the following year Baba was drawn to make contacts with Perfect Masters: Narayan Maharaj, Tajuddin Baba, Sai Baba. Sai Baba directed him to Perfect Master Upasani Maharaj of Sakori, where he stayed for 7 years when he was restored to normal consciousness.

In 1922 Meher Baba began his Avataric Mission. For two years he recorded his spiritual experiences and in 1925 he started his "Silence" - a lifelong commitment. Formerly he used to write, but later took up the alphabet board, which also was discarded in 1954. In spite of his silence he dictated a lot of discourses including memorable works like God Speaks, The Everything and The Nothing, Listen Humanity etc.

In 1931 Baba made his first visit to America via London. During this visit he met Mahatama Gandhi on S. S. Rajputana. This contact of the Mahatama with Meher Baba prompted the

former to observe silence once a week throughout his life. Baba made in all eleven journeys to the West, several of which were around-the-world tours. About these trips Baba had declared that such tours were meant to "lay spiritual cables" between East and West. During Baba's spiritual work, contacts were made by him with God-intoxicated souls - Masts - saints and sadhus during his extensive tours throughout India. The story of the work with Masts is told in "The Wayfarers" by Dr. W. Donkin.

In 1949 Baba entered what He called the New Life. It was a period of "hopelessness and helplessness" for himself and his companions. The New Life led to the last stage of Baba's work: the Free Life. During the period four most important statements were made: The Highest of the High, Baba's Call, The Final Declaration and the Universal Message: "I have come not to teach but to awaken." During this period Baba gave several "sahas" to his lovers in India and three in Myrtle Beach, USA, in 1952, 56 and 58. The East West Gathering of 1962 was attended by more than 10,000 devotees both from India and abroad.

On Jan. 31, 1969 Meher Baba dropped His physical form. Prior to this He had said in 1968:-

My work is done. It is completed 100% to my satisfaction. The result of this work will also be 100% and will manifest from the end of September." - Meher Baba

Acknowledgement

I acknowledge with thanks the encouragement meted out to me by the Mandali at Meherazad headed by our Revd. Chairperson of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust - Mani Behn, in the compilation of My Life with Meher Baba, who has all along been guiding the destiny of my wife and myself, for the last so many years. But for the love of Meher Baba's disciples in and around Ahmednagar and a few devoted souls, steeped in the divinity of Baba overseas, I would not have ventured to write even a few lines about the glory of the Highest of the High. There are also persons like Dr. Ravinder Singh who silently pray for us.

Baba had stressed that we should not make a promise and having made it, must keep it at all costs. When I promised my American brothers and sisters that I would write about my experiences with Baba, little did I know that the faculty of writing, appreciated by Baba and his Mandali, had dematerialized along with the physical exit of Baba from this hemisphere. And to top it all, I have lost to a great extent my memory of names (and sometimes even of faces) of my dear and near ones.

I, therefore, humbly apologise for any errors and omissions, that may have occurred in this write-up regarding the sequence of events or mention of names of persons who matter and who deserve to be mentioned in this spiritual account. Most of the faults of the memory can be ascribed to the 1991 accident, when I sustained serious head injury; besides the fact that throughout the dictating of this book I have been thinking and talking about Baba only, with the result that only Baba's name has been etched on my heart (where previously the names of other people were inscribed) like a Cassette overplayed with different music.

I also gratefully acknowledge the permission granted by Revd. Mani Behn, Chairperson of the Avatar Meher Baba Charitable Trust for the publication of this book.

Thanks are due to Shri M. R. Vohra and his son - Navneet - who helped in the compilation and proof-reading of this book and to Shri A.S. Prashar and Shri Sahib Kumar for their valuable suggestions and encouragement from time to time: also to Baba lovers at Delhi for their inspiring thoughts.

My love

I am wedded to Baba, because I owe my all to Him. I believe absolutely that I have a mission to give Baba's Message to the world and to express my gratitude to my Master - my God and Guide on the occasion of His Birth Centenary and run a commentary on the God-man's appearance in the world at a time when Humanity was crying for succour, for redemption, for peace and security. My mission has no geographical limits as will be borne out from the account of my World Tour of 1970. My life is dedicated to One who came to Awaken and left to infuse lasting Divine Knowledge in the bosom of ignorant mankind. The huge crowds witnessed at the Meherabad Hill on his Birthdays and on the Amartithi Day bear ample testimony to the fact the Silent Master's message has reached every corner of the earth: For here you see thousands of people both from India and abroad, who had not had His physical darshan, singing the glory of Meher Baba day in and day out. Just a glimpse of His Manifestation.

- *W.D. Kain*

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Brown Bear Atop The Gulmarg Hill

The year 1942 was the most important one in the forties, not only in the World History but also in the Indian body politic. The Pearl Harbour incident, declaration by America for active participation in the World War, thereby strengthening the Allied Forces, the Declaration of Quit India Movement by the Indian National Congress on August 8: all too well known events the world over. To us the month of August 1942 had its own significance. How?

My wife and I were sitting one day in the porch of our Hut at Gulmarg (Kashmir) watching the clouds coming down from the snowcapped hills, trailing over the daisy fields in front of us and almost entering our apartment. This Hut of ours was perched right on the top of the highest point of Gulmarg Hill Station, and was not near any thoroughfare. The marvellous beauty of the environment held us spellbound. And this reverie was only broken when we heard the rustle of leaves on the pebbled path leading to our place from the main road. This was something unusual because our orderly seldom used that path: the natural corollary was that a bear was coming up that way, attracted by the corn growing in our kitchen garden. I sent Prabha inside, and from a distance it appeared that some living creature in khaki was coming up, through the thick mist of clouds. As it came nearer I was surprised or relieved to discover the face of a Postman bringing Mail. As I received the registered parcel, I found that it was addressed to me by my full name (which is usually given only in the Passport) and the address was original and not "redirected". The sender was ADI K. IRANI, King's Road, Ahmednagar. The wonder of wonders was that we had not informed anyone outside our official circle about our

address at Gulmarg, and our mail was received at Srinagar and brought from there in a sealed bag by a special messenger. No one was supposed to know our address! The contents of the parcel solved the mystery. Here was the book entitled "DISCOURSES by MEHER BABA (Volume I)". Subsequent events and in-depth study of a portion of the book as well as a look at dear Baba's picture reassured us. This was a gift parcel from the Perfect Master of the Age, who is Omniscient according to my belief and later association with the Highest of the High. His gift of love was a blessing for us, as we had only recently been tied in nuptial bonds. In that bouquet of "flowers" - Discourses - Baba had sent us the following message of love:

Life and love are inseparable from each other. Where there is life there is love. The law of gravitation, to which all the planets and stars are subject, in its own way is a dim reflection of the love which prevails every part of the universe. Human love is tethered by these limiting conditions of anger and jealousy so that the spontaneous appearance of pure love within becomes impossible. So when pure love arises in the aspirant, it is always a gift. Pure love arises in the heart of the aspirant in response to the descent of grace from the Master. When pure love is first received as gift it becomes lodged in the consciousness of the aspirant like a seed in favourable soil, and in the course of time the seed develops into a full-grown tree".

The love gift created a metamorphosis in our lives. It was not just a gift that came. It seemed as if Baba had come and embraced us: for us it was love at first sight.

Immediately I wrote a letter to Brother Adi asking him how when and where I could see Baba, His reply came as follows:

"Your letter bespeaks of your longing to see Baba and His Manifestation as Avatar; I am so happy you are endowed

with an inspiration so divine. Our longing to admit of Baba's Divine influence should be so intense that we feel Him within ourselves without having ever to ask when and how such revelation should take place. No time is long for the supreme unfolding and no experience so everlasting.

"Baba sends His Blessing and Love".

I waited for some time. The spark of love had been ignited and the pangs of separation became unbearable. I wrote again to Brother Adi and the following reply was received on June 9, 1943:

"Shri Baba read your letter and was very happy with it. He says He knows everything about you and asks you not to worry about anything. Think of him as much as you can and leave the rest to him. He has his 'Nazar' on you. As regards His Darshan, a day will surely come when you will have His Darshan,

Baba sends His love and blessings to you."

Baba Came on the Full Moon Night

On the occasion of Guru Poornima (Full Moon Night) in the month of July, Perfect Masters are worshipped all over India by their devotees. Just a day or two before Guru Poornima in July 1943, I happened to visit a temple, to return a courtesy call by a local saint residing in Srinagar. I noticed lot of activity in the premises. The place was being given a face lift. Flowery arches, festoons and foliage were being profusely used for decorating the place. In response to my anxious enquiry I was told that next day being Guru Poornima, their perfect master (Guru Ji) living right in those very premises would be garlanded and offerings would be made to him by the devotees. He would give Prashad - sweets and fruits, along with his blessing to the devotees. I was invited to join those festivities. But all this jubilation rather upset me (like Manthra in

Ramayana, who was angered at the receipt of news about Rama's Coronation). I returned to my house with a heavy heart and lay down in bed almost weeping. My regret was that while their Guru would bless his followers and give them fruits and sweets, my Perfect Master was not available even for Darshan, leave aside the dainties. I was all alone in the house: Nobody to console the weeping child of Baba! I had practically no sleep at night. About 3.30, it seemed, I dozed off. Around 4 A.M. I saw a light in the adjoining prayer room. I was startled out of my bed for I had switched off the lights at 10 p.m. As I rushed into my prayer room, lo! what do I see? Baba sitting on my prayer seat all smiles! Recollecting that it was Guru Poornima and Baba had graciously come to bless me, I prostrated at His feet, made verbal offering of Rs. 100 as Guru Dakshina. Baba touched my head and as I got up to have a look at Him, Baba had disappeared as mysteriously as He had appeared. He slipped past my hold, which made me repeat the words of Bhagat Surdass:

"Banh chhudaye jaat ho nirbal jaan ke mohey

"Hirdey me se jahiyo to sabal bakhanun tohe.

(You have slipped past my hold considering me to be too weak. But if ever you are able to escape the hold of my heart then only I shall consider you too strong for my love grip).

But who cares? This love game has been going on since eternity: the lover chasing the Beloved and the latter now appearing now disappearing.

As day dawned, I wrote out a Money Order Form and under this I wrote to Brother Adi:

"Baba appeared to me this morning in my prayer room and accepted the sum of Rs. 100 as Guru Dakshina. If this is a fact and not a hallucination, then the money may be

accepted: Otherwise it may be returned".

And the money order was accepted

Several years later, I came to know that this "physical" appearance of Baba in Kashmir was not a solitary case. There have been several instances like this. One incident is mentioned when the Consulate General of Persia (Iran) told the Mandali that they had to appear personally before him for grant of Visas. Regarding Baba, the Consul General said that Baba had already been to him. And all the while Baba had not left Ahmednagar!

How The Room Turned Into A Glass House

The rainy season was off and autumn was round the corner. All of a sudden, I felt an occasional palpitation in my heart, a vibration, a sensation like a flutter. I could not understand the reason. Suddenly it dawned upon me that maybe Beloved Baba was in Kashmir and the reaction of the heart beat was a good omen. But there was no news from Baba's Secretary. who had promised to let me know as soon as Baba visited Kashmir. There was absolutely no reason to disbelieve him, and at the same time in my heart of hearts I knew the rhythm of heart was disturbed due to the proximity of the "Spiritual Magnet". In that helplessness, I dozed off to sleep. At about 5 A.M. I was woken up by the sound of a car horn, so to say, and right from my bed, I found that the entire mortar and brick edifice of bed room had turned into a "Glass House", and from within the glass panes, I saw dear Baba's car passing along the nearby road proceeding towards Rawalpindi from Srinagar. But before I could get over this condition, the car had sped away, and the room resumed its former shape. I then realised to my utter disappointment that Baba had again given me a slip! Getting ready after my ablutions and morning prayer, I left for office to check the lists of "Visitors to Kashmir". And what did I find there. A foreigner, with two companions had

arrived Srinagar from Rawalpindi. Baba's name was not mentioned. There was no indication as to the "Proposed where to stay?" I rang up Nedou's Hotel, the only European type Hotel in Srinagar at that time, and was informed that no such party had arrived. So a search around all other hotels started, culminating at Bombay Guest House near Dal Lake. As I interrogated the Manager, he told me that a very handsome gentleman, with flowing hair, who did not speak to anybody and was accompanied by two ladies, had stayed the previous two nights in the Hotel. The party, I was told, used to leave early in the morning with thermos flasks full of coffee/tea and returned late in the evenings. AND THEY HAD LEFT THAT MORNING exactly 10 minutes prior to the time I had spotted them from my "glass room chamber" driving towards Rawalpindi.

Later on when I questioned Brother Adi on the "propriety" of not informing me of Baba's visit, he told me that Baba was staying with a few persons at Rawalpindi in connection with his Mast/spiritual work. One day Baba suddenly said that he would like to go to Murree with two ladies, one of them being Rano Gayley. On reaching Murree, Baba remarked "It is murree – 'dead' murree". He changed his plans and drove straight to Kashmir. So the people in Rawalpindi or Ahmednagar had no idea where Baba had gone. Luck did not favour me spiritually in 1943 though it did materially, as I got a strong foothold in the Imperial Service in the same year. And I was deputed to receive the three Chiefs of Allied Forces: Gen. Eisenhower, Gen. Stilwell and General Montgomery, when they came for a special meeting at Gulmarg in 1943.

Meher Baba Visits Kashmir - 1944

In September 1944 a party of "tourists" was on its way to Kashmir mounting so to say every inch of the way to Srinagar,

among hills and dales, woods and lakes. On either side of the road were the ever refreshing rice fields - beautiful green panorama when ripening. They had started on the most beautiful trip in the world to witness the lovely scenery of the mountains. Jhelum Valley beckoned from a distance to welcome them with open arms and saffron aroma. Within 20 miles of Srinagar, they got on to the flat land for miles and drove through long avenues of poplars from Baramula onwards,

The Tourist Season was almost over. The visitors had mostly left the valley, the nightingale had rounded up her nest to go to the plains, the fountains in the Moghul Gardens had stopped playing, the Chinars seemed to be on fire with their entire foliage turned yellow. And a happy heart beat, similar to one felt in 1943, disturbed the tranquility of my mind. This was a timely signal. And I was on the alert. So I rang up the Postmaster Srinagar to find out if he had any information about any mail coming in for MEHER BABA. He promptly replied that such a Mail was coming in as "poste restante" and a messenger came every morning at 11 A.M. to collect it. I told him that next time when the gentleman came, I should be informed on the phone and the delivery of the mail should be delayed under one pretext or the other. Next day the telephone ring came at 11-05 and I was in the Post Office in less than 10 minutes. The Postmaster gave me the signal and as soon as the messenger had come out of the precincts of post office building, I caught hold of him. The "attack" was so sudden that the messenger was non-plussed. In his embarrassment he cried out "I have not smuggled anything". I told him he had smuggled the world's richest treasure without our knowledge. I mentioned about Meher Baba. He pretended utter ignorance about it; but later on confessed that he had orders not to divulge the information about Baba as He was staying in Kashmir incognito. I told him point blank that I had definite promise in writing from

Bro. Adi that if and when Baba came to Kashmir I shall be informed. He was therefore required to escort me to Baba, failing which he would be detained. The threat worked on Vishnu Master, who later became a great chum of mine. He was a person of rather short stature, a thin personality but all vibrating with spiritual fervour. He very much regretted his inability to take me along with him to Baba there and then, but promised to convey my message to Baba and arrange for the Darshan - of course with the approval of the Master. It may be mentioned that on one occasion when Baba and party arrived in Srinagar, they stayed at the Majestic Hotel near the right bank of Jhelum. During that stay the sad demise of Baba's then Secretary Dadachanji occurred. He was buried in the Parsee Cemetery at Badami Bagh Cantonment. After that Baba shifted from that Hotel and never stayed there.

Baba gives Darshan - Kashmir 1944

Next day the word came that Baba would grant Darshan to His lovers - viz. Dr. Daulat Singh, T.N. Dhar, P.N. Ganju, Shambu Nath Miya and W.D. Kain, the following day, at Bhagat Bungalow near Gupt Gange on the Nishat-Shalimar Gardens Road. These lovely moghul gardens on the outskirts of Srinagar are really beautiful. The heavenly peace that hinges around the place is indescribable. The calmness, the serenity bore testimony to the presence of God on earth and now in the nearby Bungalow. All of us presented ourselves at the appointed time there, and were ushered into the presence of dear Baba.

While leaving for Nishat Gardens, all Baba lovers had taken some fruits - apples, walnuts etc. for Baba. Somehow or other I did not like to take either of these, and as later events showed, Baba had no liking for apples which were termed as "Kath ke laddoos" - wooden round sweets - in one of the Mast

tours in 1953 when I accompanied Him. I managed to get some plums from the Maharaja's Palace. After the Darshan, Baba distributed all the presented fruit to those who had come and sent the plums inside saying that he would like to take these in the evening. I was much delighted at this gracious gesture of Beloved Baba. Mine being the smallest offering was accepted by the Highest of the High.

After the Darshan all of them left but I hung on. Baba walked over to adjoining open space/courtyard. and Adi asked me why I had not gone with them. I told him that I had come for Darshan. Adi queried "But have you not had it along with others?" "No" I said, "It is not real Darshan". Baba overheard the discussion, gave a clap of hands and Adi was asked to get me inside right unto Baba's sole presence.

Real Darshan

When I approached Baba. He asked me what did I want. I told Him "I do not want anything except your Grace - these five enemies of mankind, Lust, Greed, Anger, Pride, Jealousy are always bothering me." Baba said, "Don't worry. Leave them to me. You just love me". Just as I knelt down to thank him and touch His feet Baba's figure disappeared into the firmament leaving a long trail of light (only the feet were visible) and right from the highest of the high pinnacle of glory I could hear the chuckle of his Holy Silence. I stood in wonder with folded hands, praying for his Grace-Daya-Compassion, Love. This transformation over, Baba embraced me: all regrets for having been kept without Darshan all these months were forgotten:

Baba "gale se mil gaya sara gila jata raha."

Baba then clapped in Adi and he translated His orders for my future guidance. The following orders were given:-

"You are to fast on Sundays with only tea and water

during the day. In the evening you have to take your meals (once only) after feeding one person nicely, taking him to be Baba, until next Spring, when a meeting of Baba lovers would be convened at Raipur, where Jal Kerawala was stationed as Commissioner....." I told Baba how I had waited all these years for His Darshan and that it was impossible for me now to bear the separation.

Baba asked me to love Him more and more and not to worry. Since I was reluctant to leave Him even then, he assured me that after the next Spring circumstances would take a turn which would remove my worries and bring me closer to Him. And having witnessed the glory of his transcendental presence just a few minutes back, I had no doubt that he had accepted the prodigal son.

.....

Baba sends me to Karachi.

Two days after the "Darshan" in Kashmir, Baba left for Ahmednagar and on December 1, 1944, the final circular was received, which inter alia mentioned that Baba had paid a visit to Nagpur. He halted at Nagpur for four days and then visited Saonar on the 15th November. It was also mentioned that Baba had visited "No Man's Land" in the month of October 1944 with Aga Baidul and Kaka Baria.

During October 1944 Baba had sent Brother Adi to different places to discuss with Baba's devotees the proposed meeting at Raipur next year. Finally the programme was fixed as on 15th August with 600 signatories of the circular to be present at Ahmednagar (instead of Raipur). This meeting was,

however, finally cancelled. Baba then ordered that for the establishment of a permanent link, it was desired that, "Every signatory should fast for the whole day from 7 A.M. of 1st May to 7 A.M. of 2nd May 1945 - 24 hours. He should not eat solid food or liquid except water."

Consequent to the earlier orders given by Baba that a Meeting was to be held at Raipur, which I had to attend, I had applied for three months' leave for "rest and recreation". Since 1939, when the World War II broke out, I had no leave and had to work from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. with just two short breaks for meals each day. The leave was sanctioned in view of the approaching Allied Victory. When Baba cancelled the meeting I had no excuse for withdrawing my leave application. I therefore asked Baba's permission to avail of the leave and visit Karachi, where my father-in-law Mr. Baij Nath (who later had Baba's Darshan in Delhi and became an ardent devotee of Baba) was posted as Currency Officer Reserve Bank of India. Not only was Baba kind enough to grant me permission to visit Karachi, but He also asked His Secretary Adi to give me a letter of introduction to some of His devotees at Karachi. Reaching there I met two great Baba lovers' families: Mr. Minoo Kharas and his sister and the Patels. Minoo Kharas became a great pal on the very sight and never missed meeting me during his subsequent visits to India even after partition. The Patels were a lovely couple, highly devoted to Baba and Mrs. Patel was a moving embodiment of Baba's devotion. During my stay at Karachi I spent most of the time with them. On my return to Kashmir, I wrote a letter to Adi: Acknowledging this he wrote: I am very happy that my letter brought you in contact with some of the devotees of Baba at Karachi and that you had a very happy time with them..... With wishes of love and Blessings from Baba to you and family".

One month's Meeting Cancelled 4th December, 1945

In connection with the earlier meeting scheduled to be held at Raipur, Baba sent on 4th December, 1945 a Circular to the following effect:-

"A few weeks prior to the culmination of my Hyderabad (Deccan) stay, I had declared to the Mandli there with me that I shall 'die' (spiritually in November 1945)."

2. Those with me at Angarishi Hill, where I was in seclusion for a number of days and underwent intense spiritual activity during conference of five of us, representing Intelligence, Creation, Preservation, Destruction and Co-ordination, have seen me suffer in a manner that almost threatened my physical existence.

3. Since Meherabad is associated with beginning and early stages of my spiritual activity, I have decided to culminate the momentum of my workings at my original place, i.e. Meherabad.

4. At Meherabad, I am going to retire in my crypt under the Dome on the Hill from 1st January 1946 for spiritual relaxation for an indefinite period. Hence this oft-postponed meeting due to be held in February 1946 is hereby finally postponed sine die.

5. Under these particular circumstances, the One Month Meeting may be fixed by me at any period after January 1946 and the signatories will be informed to join the rally within ten days of receiving notices, unreservedly at any cost or consequence.

Dictated by Baba.

We visit Harvan blessed by Baba

Harvan, which is about 20 kms from Srinagar (Kashmir),

and is known for its beautiful Lake-cum-Water Reservoir and Wild Life Sanctuary, is a Must for tourists to Kashmir. Nearby is a village by the same name. During His tour to Kashmir in 1929, Baba expressed a desire to retire in seclusion in an isolated spot and Harvan Village appealed to the Mandli. It was a very quiet place with charming surroundings and the atmosphere suited Baba's purpose.

Immediately after Baba's arrival at Harvan the people of the village and surrounding places came to see Him and paid their homage. The majority were poor people and Baba ordered public feast to be given to all before he went into seclusion. A feast was accordingly arranged, when hundreds were treated with a sumptuous meal.

Two small houses were hired at the foot of the hills. After an arduous survey of the surroundings a spot was selected about 500 feet high on the side of a hill, i.e. about 6000 feet above sea level. Here was built a small hut with a room with just sufficient space for a person to lie down and no more, the roof jutting out on two sides to form a shelter for two others, Gustadji and Behramji of the Mandli, who were ordered to stay there and keep watch over Baba who had locked himself in the small cabin-like room.

After giving necessary instructions to the Mandli, Baba retired and locked himself in. He fasted during the entire period of the retirement, taking only water, which was passed on to him through a small window at the side at a certain hour daily when he knocked from inside, and received the water through the window without being seen by anybody.

Those outside had also to keep fast, but were allowed to take milk and fruit twice a day. Behramji was also ordered to abstain from speaking during the period. Gustadji had already been observing silence since 1927. Two members of the

Mandali staying In the Harvan village were to come up twice with fresh water for Baba, milk and fruit for the other two, each by turn, one in the morning and one in the evening. During their stay near the hut they too had to observe complete silence and to communicate when necessary with the two outside (Baba's hut) by signs. Chanji (Dadachanji - Baba's Secretary) was placed on night duty to keep watch while the other two slept. The night watcher was strictly ordered to sit outside Baba's cabin and not to move under any circumstances. A stick was given to him to keep away scorpions, snakes, and other small animals. The place was full of wild animals - tigers, bears, wolves and others. The hill was a select spot for hunters (Being so near the Maharaja's "Rakh" - Sanctuary).

In 1946, Babadass, a member of Baba's Mandali at that time, came to me and stated that he would like to visit Harvan. Historians have it that Jesus Christ, after he "Came down" from the Cross, "left for India and stayed there for quite some time, and was later buried on the hillock near Harvan." Later on his mortal remains were removed from that place, which was showing lot of miracles, and taken to Srinagar to be interred there. That place is now known as tomb of a Muslim Saint. We reached Harvan on a Sunday morning and tried to locate the place where Baba had gone into seclusion in 1929. After great search an aged person came to us and told me that he had served Baba and his Mandli during the time Baba was on the Hillock. He also said that Baba's Mandli had stayed in the village in one of the kacha houses which had since been rebuilt. He showed us the way to the place. We climbed up the hill which was covered with greenery and lot of shrubs. But we could not locate the place of burial. I was fasting on that day under Baba's orders. A little later I stumbled upon a stone piece and found the earth shaking. When I removed the grass from near the stones we found a big platform which had been the resting place of Baba, and which apparently had once

housed the holy remains of Jesus Christ. We meditated there for sometime in that autumnal cold and felt the presence of Baba. We were convinced that we had spotted the real place and returned to the Village well satisfied with our mission. We found the transport missing at the village. As it was already nearing dusk, we started walking in the hope that we might get our transport at the next halt i.e. Shalimar Gardens. But luck evaded us there too. Now, with empty stomach and bitter cold biting me into the entrails, I felt very uncomfortable; but there was no choice left except to hurry home, feed Babadass as "Baba" and break my fast as enjoined by Baba. To top all this, we were taking a short cut through the Maharaja's Rakh (Wild Life Sanctuarv), where a wild cat stared me in the face, but unafrald of the tiger's presence. we wended our way with Baba's name on our lips and His Mercy on our side. We reached home at about 10 p.m. The promise made was fulfilled.

1946 - A year of turmoil

In 1946, I was feeling very uneasy for reasons unknown to me. So I wrote to Baba about what was happening to me. Baba sent a reply through Adi. K. Irani:

"Baba was glad, you wrote it. Baba says he knows you and what you long for. Difficulties may come. Coming as they would, they would disappear. Your faith, love and devotion in Baba will outwit anything that may threaten to go wrong. Baba is in seclusion and I do not know when he decides to come out of it. Baba tells you not to worry. He tells you to keep steady, courageous and happy."

Baba's Grace Helps Me Leave Kashmir Safely

My short stint with Sir Pathic Lawrence, Secretary of State for India in 1946, and subsequent events, had convinced me that it would not be safe to continue staying in Srinagar until

15th August, 1947. But to leave the Valley was a problem due to official commitments as I happened to be responsible for the internal security of B.O.Ws stationed there. But strange are the ways of Heaven and equally unpredictable that of Meher Baba, my Saviour, who had taken over charge of myself since 1944. A word had reached The Viceroy's House through some source, maybe through Sir James Fraser, Private Secretary of Sir Pathic Lawrence. There Lady Mountbatten evinced interest in me. On the 9th August, 1947, I contacted M/s N.D. Radhakrishnan, Out-Agents for Northern Railway, to arrange for transport for my family and personal effects to Rawalpindi by road and from there onwards to Delhi by train. They told me that riots had started in the Punjab and Rawalpindi was on fire. Consequently no passenger buses were either leaving for Rawalpindi or coming up from there. They, however, undertook to place an entire Super Deluxe bus at our disposal with no passengers booked on that route. The journey from Srinagar to Domel (Kashmir-Punjab Border) was uneventful; but as soon as we had crossed over to Kohala (the first check post on Punjab border) we were signalled to stop by the sergeant on duty, who told us that the road to Rawalpindi was closed due to disturbed conditions en-route. I remembered Baba at that moment of consternation. An idea flashed across my mind. General Gracey of the Northern Command, who had met me some time back in Srinagar in connection with the welfare of British Officers and/or their families staying in the far-flung areas of the Valley, told me on one occasion that if ever there was an emergent need, he should be contacted at "code No." As soon as I gave the sergeant on duty the "code number," then he signalled the message by wireless to the General at Murree and the following order was communicated to him:-

"Provide British Escort (.) Arrange Safe Journey to Rawalpindi Railway Station (.) Report Back Officer And Family Reached Destination Safely (.)"

So the British Sergeant drove ahead on a BSA motor cycle and the bus followed. Seeing the British Sergeant all the gates on the road were opened and barriers lifted. We were safely escorted inside the railway station with our bag and baggage and the escort left after taking 'Safe arrival report'.

The reception on the Rawalpindi Station was very cool. The railway staff told us at the outset that no berths had been reserved for us on the train: and all this while I had sent a requisition by telegram in good time through the Railway Out-Agency at Srinagar! Anyhow, when I showed them the telegram from the Viceroy's House, they not only relented, but also extended due courtesy. The Chief Goods/Parcel Clerk, a Muslim gentleman, was very helpful. It seemed as if Baba was speaking through him. This gentleman proved to be a friend in need. He had our luggage weighed, marked and loaded in the Parcel van and also asked the booking clerk to give us a first class coupe in the bogie reserved for European families. Our servant was accommodated along with others in the servants compartment. As we were very much tired we went to sleep and woke up only when the train had reached Lahore. There were no passengers waiting at the platform to get into the train nor did any passenger in our train get down. The atmosphere was as of a ghost city. All "In" and "Exit" doors were closed. Naulakha Cinema at the back of the Railway Station was on fire: flames rising sky high. The train was detained for more than three hours and no refreshments were served as was the usual practice. This train was to run via Moghulpura to Delhi. But the Anglo-Indian Station Master would not allow this as he apprehended some trouble by hooligans at the next Station i.e. Moghulpura. Finally, the first class bogie was detached from the main train and joined to the passenger train running between Lahore and Delhi via Kasur which was run as a Special. The fate of the original train is better left undisclosed.

Later on it was revealed that the passengers of the entire train were massacred at Moghulpura when the train stopped there.

Our "Special train" which was far behind the schedule, reached Delhi around midnight and no transport was waiting for us as expected; for the ill-fated train by which we were supposed to travel never reached its destination. All those waiting for the passengers were given to understand that all was finished! When I telephoned to Ronald Daubeney at The Viceroy's House, prompt came the reply, "Are you really speaking? Are you dead or alive". He hurried to add that he had not a wink of sleep since 10 p.m. when he heard about the startling news about the train having been detained at Moghulpura. He was glad and relieved to know that we had escaped the massacre and arrived safely after all. He asked us to wait a little longer so that transport could be sent to pick us up. The transport came shortly before 1.00 O'clock. We were in Delhi after all, where we had to build our nest for the next 24 hours with a cosy compartment for dear Baba to relax and bless his lovers and devotees in the following years.

The Chance to Join Mandali Lost

The year 1947 was very important both spiritually and politically. Baba was intensely busy with his spiritual work. It was during 1947 that Murshida Ivy Duce along with her daughter Charmian visited India and later on she visited India several times to see Baba. She also came in the fifties when she stayed in Baba's room at our residence, "having it all to herself". Another Baba lover, Jean Adriel, one of Baba's earliest disciples, who had followed Baba since his visit to the West in 1931, visited Baba in 1947. She was again called by Baba in July, 1948 along with another Baba lover - Delia de Leon, and stayed with Baba for three months. During her stay

she wrote out the most important book of that time – "AVATAR". I had the good fortune of meeting her in California during my visit to the United States.

While Baba was busy as ever with His spiritual work in 1947-48, his love was consuming my inner-self. Ultimately, I seemed to have lost interest in everything mundane and wrote to Adi K. Irani in desperation that I could no longer wait for Baba's Darshan for I feared a breakdown.

On receipt of this letter Baba ordered that He would be pleased to see me on the morning of 24th November 1948 (as far as I can remember). Since there was no train for Ahmednagar in the early hours of the day at that time, it was arranged by Brother Adi that I should travel from Delhi to Nasik, stay for the night with one of Baba lovers there and travel the next day to Ahmednagar reaching there before night fall. Accordingly, I reached Nasik, and was well received by one of Baba lovers, an Accountant in a subsidiary firm of Sarosh Motors. Next Morning, after a bath in the Godavari, considered to be a holy river in India, I was escorted to Trayambakam Mahadev Temple and from there to the Trayambakam Hill, where Perfect Master Upasani Maharaj had, it is said, undergone penance (Tapasaya) for a long time, bearing heat and cold and inclemencies of weather. It is here that he got God realisation while going out for a call of Nature. I left for Ahmednagar via Rahuri, where Baba had once set up an Ashram.

I stayed for the night at Khusru's Quarters (now called Meher NAZAR) on King's Road. I had a sumptuous dinner and good night's rest - Courtesy Brother Adi. K. Irani. Next morning Adi took me in his car to meet Baba at Meherazad. At Meherazad I was taken to a room, where Baba was already sitting surrounded by members of his Mandli. The atmosphere in the room was very tense as Baba had taken that interval out of His spiritual work. During the interview, I felt like not going back

to my worldly duties and requested that I should be inducted into the Mandli. After cross examining me on several points, Baba ultimately gave the following orders:-

"You have to go home right now remembering Baba all the time and do your duties up to 31st March, 1949. On first of April, you have to divulge to your wife about your plans to join Baba. On first May you have to leave Delhi on foot for Ahmednagar bringing with you no money or valuables from home. Here is a 100/- rupee note to serve for your daily food arrangements on the way. When this money is finished, you have to beg for your food".

When April, 1st came I told my wife about my plans to join Baba. On hearing this she wrote to Baba that just as I could not live without Baba, she also could not live without me. So she requested Baba that she should also be taken into the Mandali.

When the correspondence reached Baba, He said that since He was going to enter a New Life, he could not permit any ladies to join the group and in view of that His order asking me to join the Mandli should be treated as cancelled. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that brother Nana Kher who was also interviewed the same day was able to secure a niche in Baba's Mandli and has been in the service of the Beloved till today at Meherabad.

I Continued to Fast Under Baba's Orders 1948

Having settled in Delhi. I wrote a letter.to Baba. But he was in seclusion. Adi, however, managed somehow to tell Baba about the gist of my letter. Baba asked Adi, to convey to me: "You should not worry about anything at all. Baba has His nazar on you. He sends His blessings to you." I was also asked to observe one of these disciplines:-

"Take the meal once only during each 24 hours and tea twice only, water may be taken as and when needed. Observe silence. With your own hands, feed one poor man or woman each day; Abstain literally and absolutely from any sexual relations whatsoever; Meditate each day for one hour."

Adi also gave me the addresses of two Baba devotees - Mr. Keki Desai and Mr. Harjivan Lal in Delhi. In his letter, Adi reassured me that I should not worry about Baba's darshan, which "will be granted to me at the opportune time". Since I was still feeling very much upset by the recent happenings in Delhi, Baba asked Adi to let me have a copy of the book "AVATAR" by Jean Adriel, an American devotee of Baba with His blessings. This book helped me a lot spiritually, but that could not take the place of Baba's darshan. Both my wife and I were almost pining for his darshan and Adi said that Baba wanted such matters to be left to His will and until the darshan programme materialised, I was asked to carry out my religious and mundane duties, as far as possible, and have his remembrance.

Attention was however, focused on dear Baba. We felt His proximity. He would now and then appear in the dreams, thereby granting His darshan on the astral plane. Visits were paid to Shri Harjivan Lal and Keki Desai and later on to Kishan Singh and Prakash Wati, who had come to stay at Pandhara Road, New Delhi.

In May, 1948 we were asked to carry out any one but not more than one from the following instructions during the period of one month from 21st June, 1948, to 20th July, 1948:-

- "1. Observe silence.
2. Fast with one meal and tea or coffee once only during 24 hours. Water may be taken freely. The timings of tea/coffee and meals may be fixed.

3. Feed one person every day with your own hands morsel after morsel. The same person should not be repeated during this period.
4. Repeat every day orally (and not merely mentally) one hundred thousand times any one Divine name cherished by you, the same name to be repeated every day. This need not be done at a stretch.
- 5(a) Do not touch money. Do not even carry it with yourself.
- (b) Do not touch members of the opposite sex. This need not apply to children under 7 years.
- (c) Do not hit any one under any circumstances, even in jest.
- (d) Do not insult or abuse even when provoked,

Regarding 5(b) when clarification was sought from Baba, as how to avoid contact in a Bus, train etc., Baba said "Incidentally if you touch any lady unawares it does not matter, but do not create circumstances for contact or jostle about."

Baba Prepares To Enter New Life

A Circular was issued from Meherazad on 1st January, 1949 stating that from 1st February, 1949 to end of 1949, no one was to have any correspondence of any kind with anyone, anywhere except by telegram or telephone when very necessary. That all disciples and devotees were to be more engrossed in God than in Maya by being less selfish and more sacrificing, that Baba will be away from Ahmednagar with a few disciples for four months for his work from 15th Feb. to 15th June in some places in India. So all men and women who believe in Him, should observe silence for full one month in July, 1949 (communicating only by signs or writing when necessary for work). Baba also added "although I am in everyone and everything and my work is for the spiritual awakening of all mankind, I am always aloof from

politics of any kind. My disciples and devotees should continue as before to abstain from taking part in political activities or discussions".

That was followed by another Circular dated 10th October 1949 saying "Baba ends his old life of cherished hopes and multifarious activities, and with a few companions begins his new life of complete renunciation and absolute helplessness from 6th October, 1949. Although Baba and companions' new life will be known to everyone and the whereabouts will be no secret, no-one should try to see Baba or his companions for any reason whatsoever. Baba will not see any of them nor allow his companions to do so.

No one should try to communicate with Baba or his companions under any circumstances or for any reason whatsoever.

And for preparatory exercise the first period of tour was to be spent at Belgaum, second period at Benaras, the third and last period on the way to Haridwar comprising "Gypsy Life" from 10th to 31st Dec., 1949. The song of the new life was composed both in English and Hindi and circulated. It opened with the stanza:-

"Listen to the Silent Words of Meher Baba

The life story of all lovers of God is based on the practice of these words

If you are serious about living this new life, then wholeheartedly renounce this ephemeral existence" and went on to say.....

Even if the Heavens fall, do not let go the hand of truth.

Even if your heart is cut to bits, let there be smile on your lips...

The sojourn into the New Life was not a bed of roses. They say that Baba walked past the railway crossing near the Ahmednagar railway station. He asked all to utter prayer "Oh God make this new life a success and joy eternal for all of us".

There was wind and rain and to protect themselves from the fury of the wintry weather the companions put gunny bags on their heads! As heavy rain continued Baba and his companions were taken by cars to Supa, a distance of about 24 kilometers from Ahmednagar. At Supa Sarosh Irani and others bade farewell to all and returned to Ahmednagar.

The next day, Baba and party set out on foot at 4.00 a.m. towards Ghodnadi. The first halt was at Naraingaon. After refreshments the journey was resumed. It was warming up now and Baba's delicate toes developed sores. Surely those lotus feet of Godman, worshipped by the angels were not meant to tread the dusty pebbled paths! Abdul Ghani Munsiff had a heart attack and Baba took care of him like a nursing mother. After some rest the journey continued. Dr. Neel Kanth had a narrow escape when getting down from the luggage van; he slipped and fell down and escaped serious injury. In the night Baba, who was resting on the dinner table (an improvised bed) fell down heavily on one side, but escaped any serious accident. From Ghodnadi to Belgaum 440 kilometers was covered by State Transport and the party reached Belgaum at 4 p.m. The life at Belgaum was indeed a phase of hard labour. Baba summed up the situation by saying:- "Up to now life so to say has been all pain and suffering". At Belgaum Dr. Daulat Singh was sent out to old Life with special instructions to be followed with a view to observance of celibacy and adherence to truth at all costs, etc.

Something About Dr. Daulat Singh

Prior to 1947, Dr. Daulat Singh, T.N. Dhar, P.N. Ganju, Shambu Nath Miya and myself happened to be in Srinagar. So far as my contact is concerned, Dr. Sampuran Singh of RAMC and myself used to meet at Dr. Daulat Singh's Clinic, and from there we would go out for evening walk, after a few minutes' chat with Dr. Daulat Singh. One day we missed him at the

Clinic; and his son Upkar could not explain where his father had gone. Three days later our friend returned and narrated his story as under:-

Daulat Singh had beheld Baba in a dream, but did not know about his whereabouts. The brilliance, the divinity of His face was ever before him and he did not know who he was. In the early forties one of Baba's devotees – Babadass - happened to visit Srinagar. He carried pictures of Meher Baba with him. One day Daulat Singh happened to see those pictures being displayed near his Clinic and at once recognised the face he had seen in the dream. He got Baba's address from Babadass and wrote out a personal registered - acknowledgement due - letter to Meher Baba, King's Road, Ahmednagar. Normally such letters to Baba were opened by Adi, but as luck would have it, the letter was redirected to Dehradun, where Baba was stationed at that time, The acknowledgement slip came back to Srinagar with the stamp of Dehradun. Taking this cue, Daulat Singh lost no time and went in search of Baba at Dehradun. He managed to reach the Bungalow, where Baba was staying. The Mandali, however, turned him away on the usual plea that Baba was in seclusion and no darshan was permitted. With a heavy heart and tears rolling down his cheeks, he left the mandali. Shortly afterwards, Baba appeared on the scene and asked who had come; and, when told that a Sikh gentleman had come from Kashmir, Baba asked them to go and bring him. So they ran helter skelter - one man going towards the railway station, another to the Clock Tower and so on. At long last he was found standing in the Bazar, and was escorted to Baba's presence. The meeting of Daulat Singh and Baba cannot be well described for there was Baba, whom the devotee took as his Guru Nanak. Daulat Singh fell at Baba's feet and wept like a child. Baba showered all his Love and Grace on him, and sent him away with his blessing. When he narrated all this with his face shining with the replica of Baba's glow still play-

ing on his countenance, we very much felt why he had kept all this to himself.

Baba Enters New Life

From Belgaum to Benares--and onwards to Dehra Dun.

In the afternoon of 12th November, 1949, Baba and the companions left for Benaras via Poona, Bombay and Moghul Sarai, reaching there in the early morning hours of 15th November. It was extremely cold. The house arranged by Dr. Nath and Dr. Kher was an old and spacious building with large garden. They and their families had made good arrangements and tried to make Baba's stay comfortable. They were asked to arrange for two cows and she-donkeys. Wearing white Kafni with ochre satchel on his left arm and begging bowl in his right hand, Baba along with his companions started begging for food. The companions would say "Mai give alms (Mai bhiksha deejeeye)" and "brother give alms (Bhai bhiksha deejeeye)". They accepted only food and no 'cash or coin.' The begging continued up to November end.

On 1st December, the party left for Sarnath (where lord Buddha had previously meditated) about 6 miles from Benaras. Here the camel cart, two cows, two donkeys and a white horse were delivered with a caravan, bullocks and a cart. The notable event at Sarnath was a visit to a Gufa (subterranean passage) in the ruins, where Baba and his companions sat almost naked in langotees in the bitter cold weather and repeated the following passage:-

"God give me strength to follow the conditions one hundred percent. God help me to speak the truth and not to lie under any circumstances. God help me to control anger, and to keep away from lustful greedy desires. God help me to be just, fair, honest and kind towards my companions and those who come into contact with me".

On December 12, all except Dr. Donkin, Pendu and Adi K. Irani were asked to surrender their watches to be sold. Two of these watches luckily came to my lot. Out of these one was taken over by Todi Singh. The party now started moving on foot to their next destination - all walking on foot except for the ladies who went in the caravan.

On 15th December, they reached Jaunpur, where they stayed at Kaibagh outside the town. Here the cows and the camel were disposed off. Baba had remarked, "When leaving Meherabad on 16th October, we were comparatively speaking "Light Weight". At Benares we have become "Feather-Weight" and after 1st January, who knows, we might become "Air Weight". Begging was re-started with instructions to beg from friends and acquaintances cotton and woolen clothes. They could also accept fuel, accommodation and conveyance, if offered, but not to be begged for. They left for Muradabad by train on 22nd December and stayed at the Ramlila grounds.

On 1st January, 1950, the party left for Haridwar, walking more than 50 miles. After a few days stay at Haridwar, they left for Dehradun. Information had in the meanwhile reached Delhi through Keki Desai that the party was in the grip of severe cold, lacking the basic necessities like woollens. The matter was discussed between us and Sh. Harjivan Lal, and warm clothing - sweaters, pullovers and blankets along with dry rations like biscuits, dry fruits etc. were rushed to Dehradun through Keki Desai.

On reaching Dehradun, the party went to Majri Muafi (now Meher Muafi) on the outskirts of Dehradun.

At Majri Muafi, the party came in contact with Shatrughan Kumar and his noble wife, Subhadra, who left no stone unturned to make Baba comfortable. Here the individual circumstances and health conditions of the companions were discussed and as a result of this Dr. Ghani, Adi, Jakkal and Babadass were

allowed *to* go to their homes. After some time Sada Shlvji Patel was also allowed to go.

The life at Meher Muafi was a long saga of penance. As usual Baba swept his own hut, cleaned his own utensils and washed his own clothes. During this period they all had one meal a day.

On March 3, Baba and his seven companions went to Motichoor for 10 days. On 9th March, they went to Rishikesh, where Baba contacted Sadhus, Saints and Mahatamas in their huts and caves, and this continued for the following day as well; about 135 persons were contacted.

A well had been dug in the Compound, where Baba was staying, and make-shift rooms had also been constructed, yet the place was proving to be extremely uncomfortable. The wintry rains, hail and storm made the place so cold that all the companions were crying:

Cold! Cold! Cold!, to which Baba added: BE

Bold! Bold! Bold!

Baba continued his work with saints and sadhus and Mahatamas at Motichoor and other places. By 19th March, the contacts had gone up to 1325. Baba's health seemed to be much affected, yet caring little for his own, he continued enquiring about his companions' health. On 22nd March, Baba again went to Haridwar and contacted some 3525 sadhus but returned to Motichoor due to heavy rain. He left the next day and continued going up to 5th April, contacting the Sadhus; by 7th April, 4510 sadhus and saints had been contacted when Baba returned to Muafi Majri.

Somehow or other it so happened that Baba was not feeling at home in the newly acquired property at Muafi Majri and decided to dispose it off. Initial efforts, made by Kishan Singh and others, failed to bring about the desired results. Ultimately, a word was sent to Delhiwallas to come over and

discuss the matter with Baba. So one fine morning Sri Harjivan Lal, T.N. Dhar, and myself presented ourselves before Baba to discuss this matter. Baba was prepared to dispose off the land, buildings and the well at almost 50 percent of the original price provided payment was made in ready cash. Harjivan Lal promised to try and see how it could be done. When circumstances did not allow him to keep the word, Baba gave away the rights of the property to a local man of Dehradun at almost throw away prices, Later Baba moved to 105, and another nearby Bungalaw, on the Rajpur Road, Dehradun.

**Song of the New Life
of
Meher Baba & His Companions**

I

Listen to the silent words of Meher Baba:
The life-story of all lovers (of God) is based on the practice of
these words

If you are serious about living this New life,
Then whole-heartedly renounce this ephemeral existence.

II

We have taken to this life, in which we rely only on God:
In this, our will (to do or die) Is strengthened by the oath taken:
We are merrily singing the song of hopelessness:
We are inviting all calamities and difficulties.

III

We neither wail over lost hopes, nor complain about (broken)
promises;

We neither covet honour, nor shun disgrace;
Back-biting we know not, nor do we fear anyone;
This is now the colour of our New Life.

IV

No confusion in the mind, now, nor any ties left;

Pride, anger, lust and greed we know not..
We have no religion nor care for physical and mental fads;
The Sheikh and the Brahmin—typifying all castes and creeds—
are now sailing in the same boat.

V

There is no small or great now, for us all,
The questions of disciple Master or God-hood, no longer arise;
Brotherliness or fellow-feeling is the link that exists,
And this contributes to our present enjoyment of suffering.

VI

This world or the next, hell or heaven, we no longer bother about.
Shaktis and Siddhis, occultism and miracles we no longer think of;
All these false impressions (thoughts) for us have been purged
from the mind.
What has value and importance for us now, is to live the active
present.

VII

Dear ones, take seriously the words of Baba when he says,
Although now, I am on the same level with you all,
Yet all orders from me, good, bad, extraordinary
You should all carry out immediately, leaving the result to God.

VIII

Even if the heavens fall.
Do not let go the hand of Truth
Let despair and disappointment ravage and destroy the garden
(of your life),
You beautify it once again, by the seedlings of contentment and
self-sufficiency.

IX

Even if your heart is cut to bits, let there be a smile on your lips.
Here I divulge to you a point worth noting.
Hidden in your penniless hands, is treasure untold:

Your beggarly life will be the envy of kings (of the world).

X

God exists indeed and true are the Prophets:

Every Cycle has an Avatar and every moment has a Wali.

For us however, it is only hopelessness and helplessness,

How else should I tell you what our New Life is!

The Great Silence

In 1949, Baba, ordered all his followers to join his Great Silence from July 10 for a month. During 1949, I was on duty with the Governor-General of India Sh. C. Rajagopalachari. In the summer months we were to stay at the Government House Simla for a month or so. It was during our stay at Simla, that I received a Circular regarding observing one month's silence. I gave my acceptance for observing the silence little knowing that I shall be put to a severe test. His Excellency just In the beginning of July, ordered that we should move back to Delhi after the first week of July. This made me nervous because I had to bring up the rear party leaving on the 12th of July while the main party was to leave on the 9th morning. Staying back in the Government House for three days, when the "silence" would start from the mid-night of 9/10th .July, upset me. To speak to the Governor-General! about my predicament was impossible. At midnight of 9/10th, the Chef came to me for instructions regarding food etc. which according to Baba's instructions were as under:-

- "1. Breakfast with unbuttered Chapattis with ordinary tea. No fruit and no milk.
2. A cup of tea with no eats during the day and in the evening."

After the special train with the servants and household

effects had departed, I left by the Mail train for Kalka enroute to Delhi. At Kalka there is a change-over from narrow gauge to broad-gauge railway. Through mis-understanding the Station Superintendent at Kalka, instead of reserving a first class coupe for me, had got two berths in a four berther compartment reserved for me, which did not serve the purpose and in fact became a source of nuisance. In the upper berth was sitting a lady passenger, who had put a brass jug full of water beside her. As the train started changing from one line to the other, there was a jolt and the jug came tumbling down right on my forehead giving a nice splash; but through grace of Baba, I escaped serious injury. Thank God, I did not cry, for that would have broken my vow of silence on the very second day of silence. On reaching Delhi next morning, I was received at the Railway Station and was escorted to my residence without anybody speaking to me on the way.

I had taken one month's leave (which was granted with great difficulty) to enable me to continue with my silence. but during the next few days, I was being constantly disturbed by personal visits from my colleagues and staff. I, therefore, decided to leave for Haridwar, a holy place on the Ganga, to continue my silence undisturbed. Haridwar, unfortunately, proved to be a very noisy and crowded place, and it was not possible to concentrate on Baba any better than in Delhi. I, therefore, requested my brother Sh. Govind Ram, the local Police Chief, to arrange for accommodation at Gita Bhawan, Rishikesh. The arrangements at Geeta Bhawan, were very much conducive to meditation and observance of silence. A separate suite with kitchen facilities was provided for us; and my wife assisted by my sister, managed the household. As days passed by in silence, the word went round about my silence and partial fast. One day when we were going for our morning walk, we found people saluting us with folded hands, mistaking me

for a recluse. The next day, a man actually bent down and tried to prostrate at my feet. My sister got furious at this gesture of the gentleman and cried out, "What are you doing? He is my brother, an officer and not a sadhu."

Next week, a motor launch, at the Geeta Bhawan, took me to the Divine Life Society Head Quarters, on the other side of the Ganga, to meet Swami Shivananda Saraswati, who had evinced great interest in the observance of silence by Baba and his followers. Swamiji was very cordial in the reception and said he was very glad to hear that I have been observing silence for many days "under Shri Meher Baba's orders". He asked me to continue with the silence even after this one month's observance. I should keep silence for two hours in the morning everyday, he added. He also asked me not to read newspapers. While departing, he presented me some Mangoes. This vow of silence has been going on almost uninterruptedly since then; but the newspaper reading which was suspended for almost seven years had to be resumed in 1956 for official reasons.

Many interesting incidents of spiritual and temporal importance occurred during the four weeks' silence, but the most important experience came on the 31st day of the fast/silence. On the 9th August, Seth Jai Dayal Goenka, a philanthropist and a saintly person came to me and undertook to arrange recitation of God's name from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on 10th August. Sankirtan (Holy recitation) started at 11 a.m. and continued for more than an hour. I was sitting with my eyes closed participating in the music and recitation; and I saw, without opening my eyes, that lord Shiva was sitting on the high summit of the Himalayas and lot of musical instruments were being played upon. I was so much engrossed in that joyous experience that I did not notice that all the persons in the hall had already left.

I was singing aloud and the accompaniment of musical instruments was being provided by Lord Shiva's entourage. It

is apparent that Heavenly bodies were singing the glory of the Highest of the High. At 12.30 p.m. when all the people to be fed had been waiting for more than half an hour, my sister came to take me out of my ecstasy. After the poor had been fed and I too had shared the meals, I touched the feet of the poor and gave them Dakshina. Having concentrated on Baba all these days and repeated His name continually, I felt like not breaking the silence. The silence had to be resumed for another eight days because the joy and peace that I enjoyed during the period of silence was so great as not to permit me to come back to the mundane realities of life.

Before closing this chapter, it would be worthwhile to explain about Fasting and what Baba's Silence means.—

Fasting means to become detached from the world and to cease physical activities of every description as much as possible. The object is not to mortify or punish the flesh but to increase the strength and intensity of spiritual energy. It is to withdraw from the plane of this world so that power may be concentrated on the inner or non-material planes.

IT IS NOT FOR HIMSELF THAT BABA FASTED BUT FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.

Meher Baba's Silence: To keep silence is common among Indian holy men, though a few yogis practise it for lengthy periods, for which they impose other vows of abstinence or physical disability upon themselves. Baba did not undertake silence in accordance with a vow. He takes no vows. Said the Sufi teacher Junayd, "He who knows God is dumb". "Baba is silent", he says, "as he fasts for the sake of others". As I understand Him, he maintains complete silence for the purpose of concentrating the libido. Silence increases power because libido is not expended in speech, which is a most potent conveyer of the life-power of individuals".

"Meher Baba's silence is certainly partly symbolic, and

confirms his denial of the function of teacher. A silent man obviously is no teacher. And when he also ceases to write, as Baba did in 1927, there can be no doubt that he does not seek to teach. By his silence Baba draws attention to the spiritual significance of his presence and is more dynamic than he could otherwise be; thus he both attracts and stirs up people. In other words, he awakens. It should be remembered that in the East the avoidance of words and explanations is a recognised technique in spiritual training. The guru or teacher often gives no answers to his disciples' questions, for what is to be known cannot be revealed in words". - C.B. Purdom.

So remember what Baba says, **"I have come not to teach but to awaken"**.

Snippets from New Life

Baba had earlier told the Companions that the stay at Muafi Majri was impracticable and therefore He was planning to shift to Delhi. He sent Keki Desai to Delhi with the following instructions:- "Call Kishan Singh, Harjivan Lal, Kain, and Todi Singh and tell them that Baba wants a place of residence in Delhi and that they should help Keki Desai in securing the same and while doing so they should not have the idea of service done to Baba as the Master or Sadguru." Baba said, "Messers Harjivan Lal, Kain, Kishan Singh and Todi Singh are allowed by me to have association with the New Plan group to help them on one condition only that they cannot contact with, nor have correspondence with nor meet the Companions of Plan 1-C or Plan II of New Life." Later on he asked Keki to inform Messers Kain, Kishan Singh, Harjivan Lal and Todi Singh to arrive Dehradun for an important discussion.

The Mandali Turns Gheewallas

In consultation with Todi Singh, a Cream Contractor of Aligarh and a great lover of Baba, it was decided by Baba that the Mandali should start Ghee business in Delhi. Prior to the proposed acquirement of a suitable bungalow, the business started

functioning at 4, Hassan Building, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi. Ration cards for the Mandali were made out so that they should settle at Delhi and run the business.

Mr. Harjivan Lal, was entrusted with finding out suitable accommodation for the Mandali. Even Baba thought of shifting to Delhi as the cold and damp climate of Dehradun did not suit Him.

In this connection the telegram reproduced below will be read with interest:-

Telegram

Dehra Dun 25th April, 1950

Keki Desai Hassan Building Nicholson Road, Delhi.

Inform Harjivan and Party that Rohtak Road, Bungalow will be decided on 1st May, definitely therefore, arrange accordingly with Agent Sardarji STOP Inform Harjivan, Kain, Todisingh, Klshanslugh to be here on Sunday 30th morning to return Delhi same evening STOP After informing them you come here immediately for seven days - BABA.

Mr. Harjivan Lal discussed the matter with us in detail and although he could have easily procured bungalows without rent from some of his business clients, yet Baba would not accept anything free of charge. So efforts were made to get the desired type of accommodation on rent. At the last moment, however, the owner of the building backed out of the negotiations.

This turn of events was very disappointing as the Ghee business could not be carried on in a residential flat at Hassan building. Moreover, with guaranteed purity of ghee, it was not possible to compete with businessmen in the market who normally indulge in all sorts of adulteration, shortage of contents in packing etc. etc. As Baba would not allow any dishonest practices to be adopted in the business run by his Mandli, the Ghee enterprise had ultimately to be closed down. The existing stocks of ghee were disposed off by Baba lovers in

Delhi. A lot of it came to my share which I distributed among my friends and relatives. And this Ghee aroma still pervades our mind at the very thought of it.

Lucky Fish in Baba's Net

During the 1950 Summer, I received a call from Hassan Building, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi, where Baba's very devoted followers reside, saying that Beloved Meher Baba had arrived there. On another occasion I had enquired from Keki Desai and his wife Dhun about Baba's liking in the matter of fruits and food. I was told that Baba liked Mangoes and Papaya, The Papaya plant in our kitchen garden was bearing fruit this summer. Before leaving for Kashmiri Gate, I plucked a single fruit off that plant and took it to Baba. It was a good sized fruit, yellow both in and outside, and it being tree-ripe Baba relished it very much. Strangely enough a strong wind the following evening just sliced the plant in two. Apparently it got salvation from tree life in lieu of the "service rendered to the Avatar". Never a Papaya plant matured in our garden after that.

While "conversation" with Baba was going on at Keki's house it was mentioned to me that the "NEWAR" making plant at the ground floor of the building had proved to be a great nuisance for Baba during the previous night in as much as He could not rest even for one or two hours. I made the immediate offer for the use of my residence by Baba whenever he happened to visit Delhi. Baba was highly pleased to accept the offer. I do not exactly remember what other talk took place during that afternoon. All I remember is that, pointing to his heart and addressing me Baba said "You are very dear to me". In the heart of my hearts I prayed that Almighty should give me the power to deserve this Grace.

A few days later on 23rd May, dear Baba with two members of the Mandali including Brother Eruch drove right to our residence (President's Estate). In the evening Prabha prepared the usual meal of Rice and Dal for Baba and also had a 'Malai' dish

(milk cream delicacy) ready for Baba. Baba partook of some rice and dal, but did not touch the Malai. After finishing the meals, He gave a two anna Silver Coin as the price of the meal, saying that in the New Life He did not accept any free food from any source. When requested to eat Malai also, Baba regretted that although he liked Malai very much, He did not have the money to pay for it. Both my wife and I were touched by these remarks and were wondering how the King of Kings - our dear Baba - presented Himself to be so helpless and penniless.

Next morning Baba was taken for a round of the Talkatora Gardens opposite the President's Estate. It was almost midsummer then. There were no flowers or greenery in the Gardens. But as soon as Baba entered the main gate, a big tree of Acacia type, which all those days was without any flowers or foliage, suddenly burst into a splash of colour showering scented blossoms on to the shoulders of Baba. This was a miracle for us to witness, because never had any of these trees blossomed in the summer months in the Talkatora Gardens, which happened to be my regular venue for morning walks, Baba went right up to the garden end and on the uppermost terrace we climbed on to one of the towers from where Baba was shown the Qutab Minar. Baba remarked that He would like to visit that place as well.

The visit of Baba to Talkatora Gardens proved to be a boon for Delhiwalas. This place was just then known for its spacious grounds for Football and Cricket and a cluster of Mango trees. After Baba's visit, fountains started playing in the Gardens and it was given a facelift by adding lot of flower beds And during the Asian Games an indoor stadium with latest facilities for competitive events was erected. Let Baba lovers know how the miracle happened.

In the afternoon of 24th May, Baba accompanied by Eruch, T.N. Dhar, P.N. Ganju and W.D. Kain went to Okhala. Baba was strolling along the Canal Weir, when he felt like sitting and

"talking". I took off my 'bushirt' and spread it on the floor for Baba to sit, while all of us kept standing. On the river barrage opposite us some anglers were catching fish. Pointing out to them Baba said, "Do you know who were the early disciples of Jesus Christ - Peter. Paul, etc." Answering it himself, Baba said they were all fishermen. Jesus Christ asked them to leave the fish and cast their spiritual nets over human beings in future. Somehow or other Baba made us realise that He was the best fisherman, and has got all of us in his net - The lucky fish!

During the midnight of 23rd/24th, Baba said that he would like to visit Nizamuddin. It was a little problematic because the Petrol Pump on the Church Road near our residence was normally not functioning during the night and we had no commercial petrol pump at that time in the President's Estate. Assuming that Baba will arrange things, we set out at about 2.30 a.m. for Nizamuddin, and to our great delight we found that the petrol pump chowkidar was asleep outside his cabin on the roadside. Since he knew me, I woke him and he filled the petrol in our car. Having reached Nizamuddin, Baba did not stop at the tomb of Hazrat Nizamuddin, but walked straight to Amir Khusru's tomb. Having reached there, we heard a person in prayer who called "Ya Allah!...." Keeping us outside, Baba walked into the shrine. What transpired inside, is not known to us, but Baba looked pleased when he came out and said, 'My work is done and we go back to President's Estate'. After the morning cup of tea we drove to Qutabminar. Reaching there, we went at the back of the Qutabminar to Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, where the keeper was saying his morning prayers with his knees bent and the hands towards the sky. Seeing Baba and the party, whom he mistook to be tourists, the keeper of the Mosque became more attentive to us than to the recitation of his prayer. Baba laughed at this and without saying a word made a hasty retreat. The following day 26th Baba left Delhi for His Mast Tour in the morning.

Mahableshwar : How Gustadji Had to Act as A Bride

Bombay Ghat ! Bombay Ghat ! Bombay Ghat !

These were the words, spoken, by Pt. Kushk of Kashmir, when I, along with my cousin Vidyasagar and his elder brother P.L. Datta (who had recently returned from England with an Engineering degree), visited Kashmir. Mr. Datta was anxious to visit astrologers and saints with a view to ascertain his future in life. The two youngsters accompanied me on this tour to a place outside Srinagar on the banks of the "lower Sind River". What he told Mr. Datta is not known to me, but those words of the saint "Bombay Ghat - Bombay Ghat" - made a great impression on my mind. I could not understand the import of these words but was told by the inmates of Panditji's house that this was an auspicious utterance. In October, 1950. Baba called a special meeting of his lovers at Mahableshwar. While travelling from Bombay to Mahableshwar via Poona Satara, when somebody pointed out to me that we were passing through the Bombay Ghats, I understood the significance of Pt. Kushk's words, for he had prophesied about my meeting Baba in 1944 and again in 1950 (as early as 1937) in Maharashtra State. At Mahableshwar Baba said that he had come into Old Life for a short period. The meeting was held in the spacious lawns of Agha Khan's Palace. Baba asked his devotees to spell out their difficulties in observing the orders given to them before 1949. Most of the people put up their cases for grant of relaxation. I had my own problems. Baba had ordered, as far back as 1944, that I had to observe fast for about 6 months until the congregation at Raipur, and feed one person in the evening taking him to be Baba himself. During the day

I had not to take anything except water, and take food in the evening once only. There were practical difficulties in the observance of this fast. Many a time both my wife and I had to go to bed hungry because we could not find any suitable person to be fed in the evening. Now to work for 12 to 14 hours without food even on Sundays (which was not an off day for me due to the exigencies of service) was telling upon my health. I therefore, requested Baba that I may be exempted from the observance of fast in future. Baba, however, did not agree to the request. His order had to be carried out. Another interesting episode related to our friend Pankhraj. Before Baba entered the New Life Pankhraj had been engaged to a girl of Baba's choice and dear Baba had stipulated that he will perform the marriage Himself. Baba having entered the New Life, the bride's parents were pressing for the nuptials and Pankhraj's parents were helpless. Baba then performed Pankhraj's marriage by proxy. Gustadji acted as a bride and I stood as the Best Man. There was hilarity, and everybody laughed as Gustadji followed Pankhraj as a bride around Baba amidst loud cheers and blessings by Baba! After the problem of several other devotees had been solved all were taken to another spacious ground where Baba distributed the Prasad (ladoos) to the devotees. As Todi Singh tried to put it in his pocket for being carried home, Baba from a distance raised this finger and gave a signal that the Prasad had to be eaten there and then and not to be taken home. After the meeting, we left the next day for Bombay, as Todi Singh had not seen the City earlier. After a day's stay in Bombay in the Punjabi Hotel, we returned to Delhi via Bhopal where we were met at the station by Shri D.N. Kapoor of Gopal Company who during our outward journey to Poona, had brought a basketful of lunch for the entire party comprising some 15 people. He had also brought lot of fruit. The same hospitality was repeated this time also. At Mahableshwar Baba gave the following message:-

Baba's Sermon

Being just now in "Old Life" for these few hours, I will tell you what I feel to be established Divine facts:

Essentially we are all one. The feeling of our otherwise is due to ignorance. Soul desires consciousness to know itself, but in its progress towards this Goal which it cannot realize independently of creation, it must undergo the experience which it gathers as the individualized ego and which is all imagination - Thus it is faced at the outset with ignorance instead of Knowledge.

Dual forms and illusionary creations are the outcome of ignorance: birth and death, happiness and misery, virtue and sin, good and bad - all are equally the manifestation of this same ignorance. You were never born and will never die; you never suffered and will never suffer; you ever were and ever will be, as separateness exists only in imagination.

Soul undergoes experience through innumerable forms such as being king and beggar, rich and poor, tall and short, strong and weak, beautiful and ugly, of killing and being killed. All these experiences must transpire as long as the soul, though it is one in reality and undivided, imagines separateness in itself. When soul is bereft of the impressions of these illusionary experiences it becomes naked as in its origin, to become now fully conscious of its unity with the Over-soul which is One, indivisible, Real and Infinite.

The soul becomes free of the binding of impressions through various paths. And Love is the most important of these paths leading to the realization of God. Through this love, the Soul becomes entirely absorbed in God, ultimately forgetting itself completely. It is then that all of a sudden Knowledge comes as swiftly as the lightning bolt which burns to ashes all that it falls upon.

This knowledge uproots illusions, doubts and worries, and

apparent sufferings are instantaneously replaced by everlasting peace and eternal bliss which is the Goal of all existence. Soul now free from its illusions, realizes its Original Unity of Being.

Let us not hope, because this Knowledge is beyond hoping and wanting. Let us not reason, because this Knowledge cannot be comprehended or thought of. Let us not doubt, because this Knowledge is the certainty of certainties. Let us not live the life of the senses, because the lusty, greedy, false, impure mind cannot reach this knowledge. Let us love God as the Soul of our Souls and in the height of this Love lies this Knowledge.

The divinely Perfect Ones can bestow this knowledge on any one they like and whenever they like. May we all gain this Knowledge soon.

Mahabaleshwar.
16th October 1950.

Manonash - Hyderabad 1951

Early in the summer of 1951 a circular letter was received from Adi which carried the following message from Baba. "To enable you to come within the field limits of my association for the period, I desire you to be present at Hyderabad for three days - 28th June to 30th June, 1951. In compliance with this, you should be present at Hyderabad for the occasion. If in spite of your wishing it deeply and your trying for it utmost, due to unavoidable circumstances you are unable to come, do not worry. You are to come alone. If you are coming, details when and where to arrive at Hyderabad will be sent to you by Adi during first week of June."

After details of the function had been received, we arranged special Railway reservation from Delhi to Hyderabad.

Manonash – Hyderabad 1951.

Leaving Delhi, we reached Mathura, where we had our dinner in the dining car. At Agra, Asst. Commissioner Shrivastava joined us. It was a little warm in the train but slight

drizzle brought down the temperature. In the morning as we were having a wash, we came to know that smoke was coming out of the bogie, in which Kishan Singh and Party were travelling. We got them out along with their luggage, when the train guard interrupted saying there was nothing to worry about. At Bhopal a new bogie was attached to the train. And here Kapoor Bhai (D.N. Kapoor) of Gopal Company and his wife Meera were present at the railway station. They had brought baskets full of Puris and Sweets and hot milk for the entire party which they left in our compartment. The food was sufficient for our lunch and dinner. After some time we reached a Jn. Here there is a railway line coming from Nagpur. There another party of Baba lovers joined us. From there on we travelled via Wardha, we saw several cities and towns enroute. As we reached Hyderabad Railway station, Vishnu Master and other Mandli members were present to receive us with cars and transport. From there we went to a Bungalow on the Jubilee Hills, which appeared like a palace. As soon as we got down from cars, we were presented before Baba. Smilingly He asked about the welfare of all of us. He was right glad on seeing all of us and could not contain his happiness. Then he ordered us to have our wash, take tea etc. and come one by one to him. We had our bath and were right at his feet in less than half an hour. He enquired about everybody's work and business and enquired about Prabha particularly. I gave him the full information. He ordered that Prabha should love even more than usual and said he will see what happens by 16th February, 1952. "He is very much happy about her love and says that she should not worry" said Baba. Burfi (milk sweets) and Milk bread were presented to Him which Baba asked Pendu to be sent to His residential Bungalow. After the lunch those people started going to Baba one by one, who could not get time in the morning. At 6 p.m. all were asked to assemble in the Hall and each person was given one Mango and some Cashew-nuts by Baba with His own hands. After distributing Prashad,

Baba said, "Only today you can talk individually, tomorrow taking you as witnesses, I have to declare the step that I have to take."

In the evening. Baba left for his residence with instructions given to us to be ready the next morning before 8 a.m. when Baba would come. After Baba's departure, we exchanged our views with Adi, Pendu, Vishnu Master and Baba lovers, who had come from different places, including the Hamirpur group Pukar, Kesho Nigam etc. We arranged for a musical recitation and major part of the night was spent in singing His glory. Nobody felt like sleeping. All were up in the wee hours of 28th morning and we had our bath before sunrise. By 7 a.m. the breakfast was finished. Baba arrived as usual earlier i.e. at 7 a.m. He discussed with the Mandli about the three days programme and met different groups of visitors intimately. The meeting was arranged in the spacious hall on the first floor as instructed earlier. We washed our hands and faces before entering the hall. Shortly before 8 a.m. we were instructed to go in. Baba wearing a white sadra, was sitting majestically in the wooden chair. Having made sure that members of the mandli i.e. Pendu, Adi, Vishnu Master had come in, he started dictating on the alphabet board and I started taking notes in English wherein I was relieved now and then by Jal Kerawala.

Baba said, "One thing I can definitely say with all emphasis is that for me, for all of you, those connected with me, by 16th Feb., 1952 things won't be as they are now, whether for good or bad and I feel confident it will be for the best. To be honest in the New Life I never felt so happy as I feel now and this happiness makes me feel that God wants me to make the Declaration. Baba added, "Last night I hardly slept. All of a sudden about 3.30 in the morning it was clearly revealed that God wants me to take the irrevocable step. Since then I am happy and do not feel nervous at all. I feel deeply in my heart that God will definitely help me to regain the old life of Meher Baba state by

16th February, 1952." Baba asked us to "be here wholly when you listen to the declaration." He got up and washed his face and hands in a Basin that had been placed in the corner of the room. As he resumed his seat, he looked very solemn but with the definite glow surrounding him.

Before the deliverance of Declaration, Dr. Ghani read out its corollary - "What God has determined" - to the audience. The important points of this are noted below:-

1. The period required for this inevitable step will be from October 16, 1951 to February 16, 1952.

2. The Step God wants me to take is one of complete and absolute annihilation. That means, that during this period of mental annihilation, I will in the natural course of events, be facing physical annihilation as well, without my actually seeking it.

3. Irrespective of what I was, am and will be, God in his infinite Justice will see to everything. My strongest and only advice to each one of you is to hold fast to your faith and love at least in the proportion - as now, if not in greater.

4. I will plunge deeply into the act of annihilation from Oct. 16.

5. I ask God in all humility to help me achieve the desired end by February 12.

6. In the event of my physical death the Arrangements-wallas have to carry out the instructions I have given them.

7. I will be away from Hyderabad from October 16 to February 12, 1952.

8. Anyone who wants to go through this dying process with me can join me, but..... I will have absolutely no responsibility and might have no concern whatever for anyone accompanying me.

9. I order the servants who are with me, to choose between two things, to join me in this hopeless task, or to stay at Hyderabad doing whatever duty I allot to them.

10. From July 1, to February 12, I might be available either to all, to a few, or to none.

11. Even if there is only one of you accompanying me I shall be quite pleased and satisfied and if many choose to come with me I will not mind.

12. Also, from amongst those offering to come with me, I will finally decide who is to accompany me and who is to stay (Behind).

13. During this period of annihilation my actions and mode of living will be free from any binding conditions. I might beg for anything or reject anything, or perhaps I might do none of these things. I will do anything ordinary or extraordinary, good or bad as the occasion may demand of me, based on the will of God for this great Annihilation.

The Urdu and Hindi translation of the corollary was done by Dr. Ghani and its Marathi version was written by Dr. C.D. Deshmukh.

After the reading Baba got up from the chair and gestured for all to stand up. He folded his hands in devotional manner. We too, did the same, Baba also closed his eyes. After this Dr. Donkin very solemnly read out the following declaration on behalf of Baba:-

"In the presence of God and bearing in my heart all the Perfect Ones of all times as witness, I declare that by the help and will of God, I will definitely take this step of Annihilation on October 16 of this year. God helped me to do the seclusion work of the 100 days to my entire satisfaction and I feel absolutely confident that God will help me to attain to the Old Life Meher Baba State by 16th February, 1952 and to manifest universally."

After the declaration, Baba said, "I want everyone of you who is present here as witness to this declaration, to fast for 24 hours on tea and water on the 16th Oct. 1951, commencing the fast at 8 a.m. on that day. There was then a break of 15 minutes and when we reassembled Baba looked beautiful. He

told us that from the middle of October, He would not be in Hyderabad for four months. To give an idea of the magnitude and seriousness of his work to be accomplished during those months, Baba said, "He would be like facing 400 deaths in 4 months". He asked the servant companions and all the other invitees to seriously consider if they really felt like going with him during that period. Baba reminded all that he would bear the responsibility towards none. Anyone who wished to join should not expect any material or spiritual benefit from Baba. Baba also said, "Do not fool me, and fool yourself. After knowing your decision I shall decide for each one wishing to join me."

Then Baba started dictating on the alphabet board a discourse in English on Manonash (annihilation of the mind). It was simultaneously translated in Hindi. I along with Jal Kerawala was noting down the English version and Kesho Nigam and Bal Natu were noting the Hindi version. These notes were later on published in a book "Meher Baba and the God Determined Step" by Ramju Abdullah. After the discourse, all of us moved into the dining hall for luncheon, and reassembled in the meeting hall at 2 p.m. Baba then asked the servant companions about the decisions. These people - Pendu, Gustadji, Baidul, Eruch, Kaka and Kekobad decided to remain with Baba. Then Baba turned towards invitees. He asked those, to stand up, who were willing to go with Him for four months accepting the conditions laid down by him. Out of 75 Baba lovers those who opted to stand by Baba, through thick and thin, included Nana Kher; Pankhraj, Todi Singh, Kishan Singh, Daulat Singh, Pukar, A.C.S. Chari, Shripat Sahai, Gadekar, Babadass, W.D. Kain and four others. Baba said, "Today you have decided for yourself, tomorrow I will decide for each of you. As for me whatever I have already declared is final."

Baba looked very happy because the main purpose of the meeting was over. He, however, did not continue the discourse

of "Manonash" which was postponed for the next day. He then asked for some good jokes or humourous stories. I had gone there well prepared with a few jokes which made Baba laugh heartily. Others also had their turn. Some funny stories and jokes in Hindi and Gujarati and English also were told much to the amusement of Baba.

On 29th June, all assembled in the hall on first floor by 8 a.m. Baba said that he had not been able to take any decision about those who were to accompany him during the Manonash period. He added, "As I want to be absolutely free from any kind of interference the selection is difficult. I had a very restless night and hence I could not take any decision. Now till I decide I cannot sleep."

Baba wished to continue the discourse. But before Baba could dictate it, Dr. Ghani drew his attention to the question of one birth and one death as believed by non-Hindus. Baba replied - The real goal of life is not the death of body/ego but the death of the mind. When Mohammed or Jesus or Zoroaster talked of being born once and of dying once, it was of the mind (and not of the body). When mind dies totally, the false ego becomes Real (i.e. false ego is completely effaced and Real I manifests). In reality ego is not born and as such it does not die. Ego (as witness consciousness) is always Real. It is only due to mind that ego acts and feels limited and false. Mind takes the body according to its good and bad impressions. Taking up and giving up of bodies is not the mind or the ego taking birth or dying. Every time when body is discarded, mind survives, impressions remain. These impressions press on mind to spend them by taking another body. So mind takes another body according to the impressions; ego witnesses. And another body and another. When you are in sound sleep, ego, mind and sanskaras are there. Sanskaras wake up mind. They say, "Go on, spend us." Waking up from sound sleep is, in a way, an everyday birth for the body. When one body is left,

another body came up though there is a time lag between the giving up of one body and taking up another. Mind exists even when a new body is not given to the ego. It is the mind-state of heaven or hell. But mind has to die while it is in a human body, retaining full consciousness. This is the goal.

From 2 to 3 P.M., I translated in Hindi the yesterday's discourse of Baba. Exactly at 3.30 P.M. the cultural programme started. We too showed a comic skit, wherein Pukar acted as a bride, Kesho Nigam the bridegroom and I the priest, who performed the nuptial ceremony. Baba laughed heartily as the heavy-weight Pukar dressed in crimson sari walked behind the lean and thin Kesho Nigam. After the show Baba gave us a locket each of His photograph with His own hands.

Next day Baba showed us around the twin cities of Secunderabad and Hyderabad. The places visited included Osman Sagar Lake, Salare Jung Museum, High Court, Char Minar, Shahi Mosque and the Main Bazar. Two State Buses were engaged for the purpose. In one of these Baba sat with us. While passing through the Main Street, Baba thought of entertaining the party. Just then a gentleman, proprietor of a restaurant came to request Baba to bless his newly acquired Restaurant: Baba had on one occasion taken tea at his wayside stall and according to the gentleman, Baba's blessings had made him proprietor of a big "Hotel". As Baba would not eat at anybody's place in the New Life, he had a cup of tea only while others went inside and partook of tea and sweets. I stayed on with Baba in the Bus, for I did not like to leave Him alone.

We returned to the Bungalow by 10-30 a.m. A group photo with Baba was taken on the steps of the Bungalow. Baba then called us on to the first floor where He distributed Prasad packets of sweets to all. The instructions given were that no one was to open the packets until they got home. He also gave us luncheon packets with instructions not to waste

any part of it. Due to excessive June heat the vegetables (potatoes) cooked quite early changed their "taste", but we consumed all that with no side effects. Copies of the notes as well as the discourses written out during the meetings were sent to Adi and were acknowledged by him on 6th July, 1951. On 19th July, 1951 a letter was received from Bro. Jal Kerawala, then Census Commissioner, Nagpur, that Baba was busy with the preliminary arrangements about which He had told us at Hyderabad. Shortly afterwards copies of the group photo were received.

Some of the Messages given by Baba at Guruprasad, Poona

"It is better to deny God than to defy God.

Sometimes our weakness is considered as strength and we take delight in this borrowed greatness.

Difficulties give us the opportunity to prove our greatness by overcoming them.

To profess to be a lover of God and then to be dishonest to God, to the World and to himself, is unparalleled hypocrisy.

A child's trust in its mother is complete, because it leaves all its worries to her. She has to take care of it, so if we trust God and let Him worry for us, we live contented and happy.

When the leader of a nation puts complete trust in God, God makes him the instrument to guide the nation rightly.

We should think well of those who think ill of us."

MEHER BABA

Prayer at Krishna's Temple

Shortly after our return from Hyderabad, I received a letter from Vishnu Master asking me to arrange for the recitation of a special prayer on behalf of Baba at Mathura and this was followed by a personal note on 11th October saying that Baba wanted me to do the duty at Mathura on 16th instant at any cost.

The specific instructions were:-

1. "You should be at Mathura on 16-10-51.
2. Arrange for a poor Hindu man of Mathura. who will be willing to observe fast for 24 hours from the morning of 16th October and also willing to recite the enclosed prayer in the temple of Krishna at Mathura, once on that day.
3. You also observe fast and recite the enclosed prayer in the temple of Krishna at Mathura, once that day.
4. You both should take bath on 16th October before the prayer.
5. You both can recite the prayer in different languages. Therefore, you should make the poor Hindu man learn or read the enclosed prayer in his mother tongue and then you see that he recites the same in the temple of Krishna at Mathura on 16th October.
6. Pay poor Hindu Rs. 101/- "

Similar instructions had been sent to four other old disciples of Baba as Mohammedan, Christian, Zoroastrian and Buddhist representatives.

Another devotee at Delhi - Keki Desai - was given the duty at Ajmere (Rajasthan).

I had in the meantime contacted Swami Krishan Dass, who as a Baba lover, was closely associated with our family in Srinagar in the forties. He had since shifted to Dholpur to occupy the "Gaddi" of a temple built by the Maharaja of Dhol-

pur. One day he came to see me in Delhi. I told him about Baba's work. He suggested the name of Swami Pearey Mohan Dass of Vrindaban who would help in the matter. The Swamiji was personally contacted by me and he suggested the name of an elderly poor Brahmin, well acquainted with the history of temples in Mathura. On the 15th Oct. I went to Mathura. Together we located an old temple behind the Mosque near Krishna Janam Bhoomi and the timings of the Pooja were noted, Legend has it that this temple was built by one of the descendants of Krishna originally.

When we reached the temple the Priest had already finished the morning Pooja Arti and temporarily absented himself (as previously arranged) so that we had the Krishna Murti all to ourselves. We recited the following prayer as desired by Baba:-

"Oh Paramatma, in the name of your infinite greatness and in the name of your beloved Avatar Krishna and in the name of all Avatars and saints and your lovers Meher Baba beseeches you to help him to carry out successfully his four months work beginning from today the 16th October, 1951 and asks you in all humility to have his desire fulfilled and the ultimate object achieved by February 16th, 1952."

After the prayer both of us knelt near the Murti and the old man said, "Tatha Astu" (be it so). I paid him Rs.101/- as stipulated. I left the same day for Delhi and sent the completion report.

Search for Masts

After the successful mission at Mathura, I was anticipating some news from Baba. And pat came a letter dated 9th December, 1951 from Adi to the following effect:-

Baba desires that a Mast or a Hindu saint be brought over to Ahmednagar subject to the following conditions carefully borne in mind:-

In the condition below the word Mast includes a Hindu Saint.

1. Baba expressly entrusts this work to you and says: Either you bring Mast (of the description given on the attached slip if the Mast is still alive) or arrange to send him with someone known to you, to reach Ahmednagar, not later than December 28, 1951.
2. You should try your utmost to bring or send the Mast, but not at the cost of your service, business or health.
3. After trying your utmost if you do not succeed to bring or send the Mast, you need not worry about it at all, is what Baba desires.
4. After Feb. 16, 1952, arrangements will be made from this side for the Mast to be taken back to his place of residence.

On receipt of this letter, I went to Mathura and after two or three hours of roaming about in the City, I discovered to my great disappointment that Inayatullah Masjoob of Mathura had since died. I visited the graveyard, where a marble plate confirmed the burial of his mortal remains.

Regarding Rahmatullah Baba, known as Chhidawala Baba or Goddiwala Baba of Saharanpur, Keki Desai gave a reference of Mohd. Yasin Abdul Qayum S/o Haji Rahim Bux, General Merchants and Agents Sunlight & National Tobacco Company, Nava Bazar, Saharanpur. I arrived there at about 9 p.m. in a bitter cold night of December. Fortunately the shop was open. I had no afternoon tea or dinner that day because the orders to me were that I had not to eat at anyone's place and by the time I reached the destination, the eating places in the bazar had closed down. After we had talked about the affair and Mohd. Yasin had closed his cash and counter, it was 11 p.m. He patiently listened to my problem and directed me to a Mullah's place. I had no response to my call at first.

Later on his wife came out and from behind the "Purdah-wall" enquired about the purpose of my coming so late at night. Having heard my version of the story, she directed me to a nearby graveyard, where the Chhidawala Baba was supposed to be resting. I went up and down the cemetery in pitch dark, stumbling against some broken earthen vessels - resembling skeletons in the dark, with jackals howling and owls hooting at me. But my calls to the Rahmatullah Baba only brought eerie notes from deathlike silence of the graveyard. Disappointed I returned to my informer, who was waiting all the while for me in his shop. He told me to come again after a couple of days when he would bring Rahmat Baba there and keep him waiting at his shop. Just as I had turned my back to go, I found Rahmat Baba basking himself at the nearby Halwai's furnace (the Halwai had closed the shop but left the furnace burning). I pleaded with him to accompany me but he told me he was not yet ready to go. So I repeated my visit after a couple of days. The Mast was sitting at the shop this time. He was again given Baba's message, but he would not budge an inch. He said "Baba is right with me now." In spite of all persuasion he was not prepared to leave Saharanpur. Apparently he was afraid of Baba's stature. So it was all a wild goose chase.

The year 1951 was very Important in the spiritual work of Avatar Meher Baba as is evidenced from the depiction of aforesaid events. The same year brought forth the publication of that memorable work, "The WAYFARERS" by W. Donkin, written directly under the guidance of Baba. This book, which gave a very clear picture of Baba's work with God-intoxicated Souls (Masts) and Advanced Souls, filled up an important gap in the records of Meher Baba's Life and Work.

Baba's Glory Unfolds

The year 1952 brought the following Message from BABA

"Give positively one and all my devotees in your town my this message: God's Blessings and my Love to you all on this my First Real Birthday - Baba."

In the afternoon Baba's Birthday (which according to Parsee Calendar was on 13th Feb.) was celebrated at our residence. The main feature of the programme was Sankirtan by Ladies Group from 2 to 4-30 p.m., followed by the special meeting, where each person (Ladies and Gents) touched Baba's "telegraphic blessings"; reading of Life Circular No. 1 prefaced by an extract from the booklet "God Determined Step". Then Naju Kotwal's devotional music began. Finish by tea-refreshments and prashad.

A similar function was held from 2 to 5 p.m. to mark the final day of the "Manonash" period on 16th February, 1952.

9.4.52

Early in the month of February, I received a letter from Adi that Baba proposed going to Bombay and will return to Pimpalgaon after three days. It also mentioned that April 9th has been fixed for his tour to America. Adi added, "Baba has said that he is very happy to see your (Kain's) love for him. He sends his love". Adi added, "Baba tells you in addition not to worry".

4.5.52

A meeting of Baba lovers in Delhi was fixed at the Town Hall New Delhi on the 4th May wherein Eruch and Pendu were to address the gathering. (For a gist of the proceedings of the meeting please see "How Principal Niranjana Singh accepted Baba" - Page 60).

June 52

Letters dated 25th May and 3rd June were received from USA intimating about the accident that had occurred to Baba's Car on his way to OKLAHOMA. Earlier a telegram dated 27th May, 1952 said, "Baba and ladies progressing well. All have fractured limbs and have plaster casts. Will be here about two weeks". On his return to Myrtle Beach from Prague Baba dictated a message which was sent to me, along with Myrtle Beach News dated May 23, 1952, to get it through to the Press at Delhi for publication. The message is reproduced below:

"The personal disaster for some years foretold by me has at last happened, while crossing the American Continent - causing me through facial injuries, a broken leg, and a broken arm, much mental and physical suffering. It was necessary that it should happen in America. God willed it so.

It brings to fruition the first part of the Circular which said that until July 10th (in the complicated free life), weakness would dominate strength and binding would dominate freedom: but from July 10th, in my Full free life, strength would dominate weakness and freedom would dominate binding, and then, from November 15th, in my Fiery free life, both strength and weakness, freedom and bindings would be consumed in the fire of Divine Love."

Both my wife and I cabled to Myrtle Beach address of Baba expressing our anxiety and Adi sent a letter assuaging our anxious feelings and conveying Baba's love on 3rd June, 1952.

On 20th August a letter was received from Bindra House, (Brother Eruch's paternal house) which stated *inter alia*:-

"The latest from me is that the Mandali has returned from Switzerland on the 16th and are now at their respective places. Baba is expected to come this noon according to the schedule. He is also said to have instructed that He should be driven straight to the Pimpalgaon Bungalow and that though He has

allowed all to see Him at the Airport, He will not visit anyone's house either at Bombay or at Poona. It is also said that He feels absolutely fine and that He looks very bright and cheerful though He has still to depend upon the crutches as He is asked by the doctors to put the weight of the left leg on the crutches for another month. Baba has also remarked to those in the West that He will be revisiting them again in July, 1953."

"I have received all the information that you have sent, to be put up to dear Baba. You must have had a lot of headache to accumulate all these facts and figures. Thanks a lot for the same."

"Pendur has been suffering from an acute pain in the stomach region due to an inflammation of the appendix. He was also troubled once before on this tour at Calcutta but owing to prompt treatment he felt better and we were able to proceed further. The climax reached recently when we reached Bombay station after completion of the whole tour programme. We both were in the hospital at Poona. Only day before yesterday I reached Pendur to Meherabad.

P.S. Please tell Dhar that Pendur's appendix has its source from the treat of Dhar Family. Convey my love to Dhar family. - Eruch"

Most Important Personal Letter from Baba

Dear Kain,

You have to be at Meherabad for three days: the 7th, 8th and 9th of November, 1952.

I would like you to join me during the first three months of my Fiery Life, beginning from November 15th. If you can get leave for three months, and can join me without jeopardising your job, then you should stay on with me from the 7th of November for three months. If this is not possible, then stay at Meherabad for three days (the 7th, 8th and 9th of Nov) and then go back to your place.

My love to you and your wife who is dear to me.

- Dictated by **BABA**

This was followed by a letter from Adi that I am to stay at Meherabad as Baba's Guest and "Arrangements for food and stay" will be made during this period accordingly.

So early on the morning of 6th November, I left for Ahmednagar with other companions. At the Bhopal Railway station we were met by Meera Kapur who had brought lot of foodstuff for the entire party. We had our luncheon at 12-12 p.m as soon as the train had left Bhopal. At around 1 a.m. we changed to the passenger train at Manmad: reaching Ahmednagar early in the morning. A bus arranged by Adi K. Irani conveyed us to Meherabad. Baba arrived at 10 a.m. "to greet us" all. We had our bath and later luncheon by 12 noon. Baba sent for me in His room and gave Darshan. From 5 to 6 p.m. was spent in listening to Baba's discourse. He left for Pirnpalgaon at 6-30 p.m.

At Meherabad

8th Nov.

The programme started with Bhajans, from 6-30 to 7-30 a.m. Baba's discourse followed from 8 to 10. Bhajans from 10 to 12 Noon. 3 to 6 p.m. Baba's discourse.

9th Nov.

Baba's darshan 8 to 10-30; Bhajan and Discourse. Met Baba 2 to 5-15 p.m. Baba took us up to Meher Retreat. While coming down some one picked up a small stone as a memento. Baba stopped him saying "When I come again after 700 years there will be nothing left of the hill if everyone picked up just a small pebble".

We left for the Railway Station at 8 p.m. Reached Bhopal Railway Station around 4-30 p.m, where we were again met by Mrs. Meera Kapur with our dinner packets all steaming hot. We had early Dinner. Reached Delhi 7 a.m. the next day.

How Principal Niranjan Singh Accepted Baba

In July 1952, Baba had sent Eruch and Pendu, his two loving stalwarts in the Mandali to contact his lovers in Pakistan and Delhi. The visit to Pakistan was important as after the partition, the lovers in Pakistan were feeling very much hurt by the happenings of 1947 and the cleavage created between the people on either side of the border; and they had been denied Baba's darshan since long. The political situation in both the countries was still tense which promised no immediate prospect for Baba's lovers in Pakistan coming to India to see Baba. The visit of Brother Eruch and Pendu, who carried Baba's love message for his birdies in Pakistan, had a balming effect on the lovers there. On their return from Pakistan, they stayed at Delhi for a couple of days. During their visit, a meeting of Baba lovers was arranged at New Delhi Town Hall, which amongst others was attended by Principal Niranjan Singh. Here the two disciples of Baba narrated their experiences with Baba and told them how difficult it was sometimes to obey Baba. Eruch narrated his experience how on one occasion Baba had got angry with the Mandali. And an instant after that he felt remorseful about His action and asked Eruch to slap him. Eruch first hesitated but looking at the sternness on Baba's face, he slapped Baba as ordered, and burst into tears when Baba got hold of him and consoled him like a mother flattering her child. As he said so, the entire audience was in tears, the most affected amongst the listeners was that elderly personality Principal Niranjan Singh, Educationist and Scientist whom sentiments dared not touch. He too wept like a child.

Principal Niranjan Singh's Devotion

In 1947, after the partition of India, the Punjab University Camp College was opened as an evening institution in the premises of M. B. High School Reading Road, New Delhi. S. Niranjan Singh, an Educationist of high calibre, who had held important posts in the undivided Punjab was appointed the Principal of the Evening College. In 1948 I was deputed by the Government to undertake a course of Journalism. During this period I came in contact with Shri Ramji Dass Wadhwa, a student of M. A. who showed interest in Baba and used to visit our house for Sunday gatherings. Ramji Das spoke about Baba to Principal Niranjan Singh in one of the Students group meetings, where the Principal was president. Principal Niranjan Singh asked for further information and was directed to my residence. This was the beginning of a very close spiritual association which blossomed into spiritual brotherhood. So after the meeting in the Town Hall in July, I received a request to visit Principal Niranjan Singh's house in East Patel Nagar, where I had to narrate the entire event of last evening to his wife, who was equally impressed by the sincerity and devotion of lovers of Baba, who was regarded as the Highest of the High by his followers. Principal Niranjan Singh had his doubts and would cross-examine me on various points now and then; and sometimes he would walk to our place and rest in Baba's room there. One day we were discussing about Sanskaras and I told him that most of the troubles worrying him were due to his past impressions (sanskaras). At this, he asked me to write to Baba:-

"Kya Badai Satguru.
Jo Karm Na Nase,
Singh Sharan Kat Jaiye,
Jo Jambuk Tarase."

I wrote to Baba what Principal Niranjan Singh had told

me i.e. "what is the glory of the Guru if he cannot cancel the past actions (karmas), and what is the use of going under the protection of a lion if a jackal was going to frighten the person". Baba was much amused to read that letter and promptly came a reply through Brother Eruch. Baba says, "But first surrender to the lion". The message was carried over to Principal Niranjana Singh's residence and the doubts of the couple were removed and their love took a new turn. Throughout our stay in Delhi, Principal Niranjana Singh regularly accompanied us for Baba's Darshan programmes and was invariably accompanied by his two associates, Professors Joginder Singh, a great Scientist and author of many books on Chemistry, and another Scientist Tehl Ram Ahuja, formerly of Punjab Agricultural College, Layaipur (now in Pakistan). Sh. Tehl Ram was a Persian Scholar and was an authority on Hafiz, Baba's favourite poet. In the meetings, he would now and then quote from Hafiz, which Brother Aloha and Baba alone understood; but for the sake of his lovers, Baba would interpret in English through a member of the Mandali present on the occasion. As after the year 1961, Baba gathered one by one most of his lovers unto Him, we miss the trio very much. I can say with due apologies to all concerned that in my life I had not met such guileless people, innocent and loving like children in spite of their high education and eminent status.

Although Principal Niranjana Singh had become Baba's committed follower, he continued with his queries and probes. On the morning of 30th November, 1952 at 7.45 a.m., Baba dictated the following message at our residence which was to be read over to Principal Niranjana Singh:-

"Just as God is Infinite, imagination is also Infinite and all that has come out of imagination which is called shadow of God is also infinite. We can imagine anything and everything ad-infinitum.

Science as is understood today, deals with energy and

matter. This material science is in the domain of the mind. There is also spiritual science which deals with the beyond mind-state. Material science and spiritual both yield proofs and demonstrations - material science brings results through intellect, spiritual science through love. When love is experienced fully the source of the spiritual science i.e. God the Infinite is realised and then all else is found to be just illusionary phenomenon.

Spiritual science being based on love alone and being beyond the systematic mental understanding is full of ups and downs and contradictions and vagaries which love alone can face and overcome, because material science enhances the ego-life, whereas spiritual science annihilates ego."

- MEHER BABA

The same morning Baba dictated at 9.30 hours another message for us all at Delhi:-

"There are two kinds of experiences - one external and one internal. The external experience can be had by gross means. What we actually see of gross-world, with gross eyes, is a sort of conviction, but at times even this conviction is based on false analysis just as we happen to see a man drinking milk in a bottle under a "Tadi" tree and we feel convinced having seen this, that he is drinking 'Tadi', which is false; but what is seen with the inner-eye gives absolute and definite conviction which can never fail or be false.

When one actually sees God with inner-eye as an omnipresent existence, he then only needs to become that infinite existence himself. So what is actually needed is not mere theorising and reassuring, but actual experience which would give eternal conviction. This can be had through only Love."

Meher Baba's Visit to Delhi

As soon as Babe's visit to Delhi was finalised, a Press

Conference was arranged. The venue was "The Wengers" - the best Restaurant of the time, located in Connaught Place, New Delhi. The Conference took place two days before Baba's arrival in Delhi. The Press Representatives, who responded to the invitation, included those from Hindustan Times, Times of India, Indian Express, Jan Satta, The Statesman, Vir Arjun, The P.T.I and the Hindu. The Press were duly briefed over a cup of tea by W.D. Kain and his associate Baba lovers. Literature pertaining to Baba's Life and His Teachings was also distributed.

The Press evinced great interest in Baba and covered all the functions very well, which was evidenced by the write-ups of the functions appearing in the Papers during that week.

In keeping with the aforesaid programme dear Baba arrived Delhi on the morning of 29th November, 1952. He was driven straight to his place of residence in P.E. along with three companions, while rest of the mandali left for their Camp (10, Tagore Road, New Delhi). Later on the Mandali visited P.E. as and when desired by Baba.

After the arrival of all the men mandali at His residence, Baba began His service to the poor. First, He washed the feet of seven poor persons and paid each Rs. 51/- These poor persons had gathered in the garden lawn behind the residence of Baba. (A mango sapling was later planted on the spot which gave us luscious fruit for over 15 years. The strange thing about this tree was that its first fruit (mango fall) heralded the onset of monsoon in Delhi in the month of June. A few days later I saw in a dream "GANGA" coming down from Heaven and entering "a pool of water" where Baba had washed the feet of the poor in the garden.) Later Baba went out to contact Masts.

The next two days i.e. 30th November and 1st December were scheduled for public darshan at 10, Tagore Road, New Delhi,

where a big 'shamiana' had been erected outside for the purpose. 10 Tagore Road was then occupied by Shri Prakash Chand the elder son of late Shri Harjivan Lal. Baba lovers availed themselves of the opportunity to be in Baba's sahvas in the morning as well as in the afternoon/evenings. The messages read during these gatherings were:-

****"Rituals and Ceremonies**

&

****God and the Universe"**

The Theosophical Society of Delhi held a reception in honour of Baba at the New Delhi Town Hall on 2nd December. The meeting which was very well attended, had been arranged by Shri P.L. Bhargava and W.D. Kain, both active members then of the Theosophical Society of India. The message read was "Life Eternal" By Meher Baba.

****Rituals and Ceremonies - Meher Baba**

The diverse rituals and ceremonies of different religions and cults are intended to release Divine Love, but they mostly bind the soul to the repetitive mechanism of expressive forms. Attachment to the rigid forms of external expression of love to God not only limits the love itself but creates separative divisions between one religion and another. Therefore the rituals and ceremonies often bind the soul to ignorance and illusory separateness and become an obstacle to real illumination. The true spiritual aspirant is, therefore, more keen about the inner life. Inner life is based on love for God, and it is this love that annihilates all desires keeping in view only one desire and longing - that of union with the Beloved God. He has no obsessions for expressing his reverence in any set forms. Such obsessions twist the real life. The free soul is never entangled in any of these inessentials, and never allows itself to be overpowered by the separative tendencies released by attachment to rituals and ceremonies.

****God And The Universe (Meher Baba)**

Ordinary persons are caught up in the universe and its allurements, but the entire universe is nothing but a shadow of God or Truth. The Masters are always immersed in the joy of union with God and can never be caught up in the mazes of the illusory universe. Just as ordinarily we do not pay any attention to the shadows, so the Masters do not pay any attention to the universe except to divert the attention of humanity from the shadow to the substance.

Meher Baba's Visit Continues

In the evening the Punjab University Staff and Students, numbering some 3000, had the privilege of having Baba amidst them at the campus of the Punjab University Camp College, New Delhi. Principal Niranjan Singh welcomed Baba in a touching speech, to which Baba replied:

"I feel both one with you as well as one of you, and the purpose of my coming here will be served if you try to follow the *two messages that I have specially dictated for your students and which have been read out to you"

* SOLDIERS

* MEHER BABA ON FREEDOM

On the 3rd December Sant Kirpal Singh invited Baba to give Darshan to his followers, at Rajinder Nagar. Sant Kirpal Singh, who had a good following in Delhi and was in contact with Shri Harjiwan Lal, expressed a wish to invite Baba to his Ashram. Baba, however, did not welcome the idea. After continued persuasion it was decided that Baba would grant Darshan to Sant Kirpal Singh and his followers at Rajinder Nagar. Rajinder Nagar is one of the colonies for refugees, who had come to India in the wake of partition in 1947, and happens

to be very near P.E. - Baba's residence. As soon as Baba arrived there, the entire audience stood up declaring "Meher Baba Ki Jai". Sant Kirpal Singh received Baba and garlanded him and took him to the stage where two chairs had been placed by his followers. Sant Kirpal Singh got one of the chairs removed and sat on the stage near Baba's chair. The Press reported about the event as follows:-

'AT THE RECEPTION GIVEN BY SANT KIRPAL SINGH and his devotees at Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi, Baba said:-

"Miracles are justified only when they are performed for the purpose of drawing humanity at large towards the final goal of realizing God: otherwise they are definitely an interference with the natural evolutionary process. In fact, people should look upon physical and mental sufferings as gifts from God. They bring their own lessons of the futility of the passing and the intrinsic worth of the eternal. When accepted with grace and understood in their true sense they chasten the soul and introduce it to the "Abiding Happiness of Truth".

As soon as Baba returned from the meeting at Rajinder Nagar, Sankirtan started at the President's Estate with entire Mandali present. The programme started with a song by Prabha who was accompanied on the harmonium by Pt. Shiv Dutt of Signals, and this was later taken over by the Bhajan Mandali, who kept one and all spell-bound. During the course of the Sankirtan Baba casually remarked "Be true, be honest to your own self and to God". After the Sankirtan Baba distributed Ladoos to all of us. Lunch was then served to the mandali in the verandah while Baba had his food of usual rice and dal in his own room. After lunch the Mandali left for Tagore Road and I went to Rashtarpati Bhawan. Hardly had I reached there when Prabha rang me up in an agitated tone that Baba wanted his share of ladoos and there was none left in the house (What had transpired in between was that Angoori Gupta had come all of a sudden there and Baba had given her His share of ladoos). On

receipt of the phone call I asked Prabha to keep dear Baba busy with her talk and in the meantime I sent the driver to bring a package of ladoos from the same confectioner, who had supplied the sweets earlier. These were presented to Baba who relished it very much.

In the evening Baba visited Delhi University - Arts Faculty Building, with the Mandali. The following message was dictated by Baba and was read out on his behalf:-

"The purpose of life is to realize oneness with the Infinite. That can be achieved through love for God. Infinite love makes us to be true to ourselves and to others. It makes us live honestly comprehending that God himself is infinite honesty - Divine love is the solution to all our difficulties. It frees us from all cares and worries. It makes us speak truly, think truly and act truly. Divine love prepares (purifies) one's heart and glorifies one's being. I give you my love and blessings."

"The meeting was attended amongst others by several distinguished foreigners - Chinese, Americans, etc. Before this programme a farewell party was given to dear Baba and His mandali by Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Kain at the President's Estate. Baba was in a very happy mood and distributed prasad with both hands - as a sign of the fullness of his giving (Grace).'

- A Report.

At night on the 3rd of December, Baba lovers of Delhi gathered at the Railway Station to give a hearty send-off to Beloved Baba and His Mandali. W.D. Kain travelled with Baba in the train for some distance as he was finding it difficult to leave Baba after all these days of loving sahvas.

1. *Soldiers

Let us become the soldiers of God. Let us struggle for the Truth. Let us live not for our own selves but for others. Let

us speak truly, think truly and act truly. Let us be honest as God is infinite honesty. Let us return love for hatred and win over others to God. Let the world know that above everything the most dear to our hearts is God - the Supreme Reality. I give you my blessings for the attainment of this Truth.

- MEHER BABA

2. *Meher Baba on Freedom

"We have gained our National Freedom. Let us now try to gain our Spiritual Freedom beside which every other kind of freedom is a binding. Spiritual Freedom is marred by the binding of lust, power, greed, anger, hatred, jealousy and low desires, When the prison of these bindings is torn asunder, the heritage of freedom which is born of Infinite Power, Wisdom, Peace, Love and Bliss is gained. To attain this Freedom, we must realize God who is the source of Freedom. To realize God we must love Him, losing ourselves in His infinite self. We can love God through intense longing for union with Him. We can love God by surrendering to the Sadguru who is God's personal manifestation. We can also love God by loving our fellow-men, by giving them happiness at the cost of our own happiness, by rendering them service at the sacrifice of our interests, and by dedicating our lives at the altar of selfless work for the down-trodden. When we love God intensely through any of these channels, we finally know Him to be our own self.

Shri Jal Kerawala

He was truly one who lived for God and died for God. His father had worked in a factory, which Papa Jessawala (Eruch's father) inspected. Through Papa, Jal's father heard of Meher Baba. When Baba came to Nagpur in 1937, Jal Kerawala was informed. He met Baba for the first time there. Jal Kerawala was a brilliant man and after his studies he went into Government Service. He quickly rose to a high position and eventually was made Commissioner of Raipur (Madhya Pradesh).

I first heard about Jal Kerawala, when a Special Meeting of Baba lovers was proposed to be held at Raipur in 1945. Since those were the days of strict rationing, I mentioned this aspect of the case to Baba. He told me that as his dear Jal Kerawala was Commissioner at Raipur, He anticipated no trouble on that account. Ultimately, however, the meeting at Raipur was called off. I met Jal Kerawala at Hyderabad during the period of "Manonash". Together we would take notes of the proceedings of the meetings, and read them out to Baba in the following sessions. Later whenever we met I found in him a vivacious personality, fully devoted to Baba and spreading an aroma of love amongst all Baba Companions and devotees.

On 8th October 1952 I received a letter giving the most heart-rending news of Brother Jal Kerawala having expired at 12-30 on the 6th October 1952. A very sad and abrupt end to a short span of intense love and fellowship of just 8 years. Baba's Will:

- W. D. Kain

Baba's Darshan Programme at NAGPUR

After Baba's departure from Delhi, Prabha Kain felt that she could not enjoy the Darshan Programrrie at Delhi and also missed the Discourses as she being the "hostess", had to look after the comfort of Baba and his intimate group of companions staying with Baba, at P.E. Baba, therefore, arranged that she should visit Nagpur in the company of Mrs. C.D. Deshmukh and Sanjivni Deshmukh. Accordingly she reached Nagpur at 5-45 p.m, on 1st January 1953. The following day a letter from Shri Godbole was received saying that Baba would be at Nagpur on 2nd January 1953. A report, as given by her on return, is summarised below:-

Shri Baba arrived at Nagpur from Savnekar on Friday the 2nd January and passed a quiet day, giving darshan only to a

few of his devotees that day. The following day was very busy. From morning to night he was giving darshan at the Geeta Mandir.

In the morning school children of the age group five to ten had the good fortune to see Baba amongst them. They gave physical demonstration and accorded Baba a Guard of Honour. Sweets were given to them by Baba.

Baba had his meals at a devotee's place, returning to Geeta Mandir at 1-30 p.m. and till 4 p.m gave darshan to the large number of ladies gathered there.

Baba was stated to have said there "God willing I would break silence and lead humanity towards happiness".

During the night the Darshan ceremony was open to all, and over ten thousand people had gathered at the temple for the purpose.

Baba gave darshan again from 8 to 10 a.m. next morning and visited His devotees' houses, where families were awaiting with "Arti". A booklet in Marathi giving translation of "Fiery Free Life" was distributed. Baba left the same night for Allahabad.

A pictorial write-up by its correspondent appeared in the Nagpur Times of Sunday 4th JANUARY 1953:

Meher Baba As I Saw Him

"Baba is a mystery not to be understood - a riddle never to be solved. His darshan has its uniqueness. And when you see a picture of Him you exclaim "Who could be that: Where does he live." Those who have not seen Him face to face are at once impressed by the picture. But why so. Even those who have been seeing Him all these years cannot explain this. What a wonderful AWAKENER is He whose radiance you notice but the reality within remains hidden.

And his silence is a talisman beyond the comprehension of intellectuals. The continuation of his silence for all these years is so striking to the world of planned propaganda and eloquent publicity. Who can imagine how far His silence is benefiting the world. People often enquire when He is going to speak. Baba has explained that what is the use of His speaking if His silence cannot speak. How wondrous is then this silence of Baba.

In his sahasras the mind becomes calm, quiet and self composed even though the contact may be just for a day, an hour or even a few minutes. The meeting of that beloved is tantamount to the acquisition of a big fortune. The possessions of the world, wherein you seek peace and comfort, vanish into insignificance when compared with the real Bliss of His contact. No instructions or orders are issued at the meeting yet the contact gives you the experience of as if we were obeying Him already in all respects. This is beyond the understanding of all of us. God alone can be like this. Steeped in ignorance bewildered by illusion (Maya) how can a man understand Him, whose life has been of penance alone. Lust and greed are afraid of His shadow, anger and attachment dare not enter the portals of His Divine presence. There is something which makes the world so much awe-struck. Yet Baba is so simple, so innocent, so jovial and above all a Prem Murti - Love Incarnate."

Nagpur, 3-1-53

- Prabha Kain

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During the "Discourse" at Pimpalgaon (now Meherazad)
Baba said, Those who love me are mine.

The whole world is mine.

You all are mine.

Everything is mine.

I am the One for those, who love me:

I am only His who loves me.

(Cf. SAHVAS - 1955)

The Corpse Comes To Life

During the night of 28th/29th January, 1953 Sh. Arvindo Ghosh appeared to me in a dream. He said, "I kept this body/left this body in the hope that Shri Meher Baba will help me, but he does not seem to have done this....."

The dream was so clear that it made me realise that Sh. Arvindo Ghosh was leaving the body/expiring. I left my bed immediately and after my bath and prayer, I contacted the Hindustan Times; they told me that Arvindo Ghosh expired last night. Having been used as a medium by the departing soul of Maharishi Arvindo Ghosh, I felt very restless and was not in a position to work with equanimity. So after luncheon, I left for Dehradun, where Baba was then stationed during his Fiery Free life. Since I did not know the exact place where Baba or his Mandali were staying, I drove direct to the Post-Office and reached there late in the night. I contacted the Post-master at his nearby residence and when I divulged my identity, he readily agreed to find out the whereabouts of Baba's Mandali. After a while he gave me an address of the Mandali, who were staying at No. 101, Rajpura Road. When I reached the place, I found the entire Bungalow in darkness, electric lights had apparently been switched off. Dr. Neelkanth, with a lantern placed near his chair, was sitting in the Verandah. With a sign he told me that he was keeping silence and that I should go in and sleep. I entered the main hall which was not occupied by anybody and spread my bath-towel on the floor. Due to the presence of Mosquitoes, it was impossible to sleep, so I used my Dhoti (a long cloth used for bathing or dress for prayers) to cover my body. It so happened that two or three

persons of the Mandali, who were all observing silence, were repeating Baba's name and taking turns after every three hours. At 12 O'clock, one of the Mandali, being relieved of the duty of meditation, came into the hall and was rather upset/frightened to find a white object lying on the floor which he mistook for a dead body. Under orders of Baba, he was not to speak a word and thank God, he did not cry at the sight of a so-called dead body. But all the time, he was upset to think, how this body had been brought into the hall when Dr. Neelkanth was on duty at the main entrance. The second person who came at 3 a.m. after change of his duty, was similarly upset. At 6 O'clock Brother Eruch came into the room, when I had just uncovered my face and he was relieved to find that "dead-body" had come to life. The silence was over at 6 a.m. and he said "Kain Sahib you kept us on tenter-hooks throughout the night, for we could not identify who or what was lying in our room." Formalities over, I told him what had brought me so suddenly to Dehradun. Here was a message from departing soul of a Saint to the Perfect Master of the Age. The Message was relayed to Baba immediately at his residence and I was taken there to explain the whole incident. On listening to my account Baba said, "Kutta Jane Chamra Jane... You don't worry. I'll deal with this." Baba then gave me a very loving embrace or may be he kissed me which brought me to my normal self. I then left for Delhi.

Whatever may be the spiritual reasons for Arvindo Ghosh using me as a medium especially, when I had not even seen him or attended any of his devotees' meetings/Satsang etc. One thing is clear that this gave me an opportunity to get a first hand insight into the hard life led by Baba's mandali. What penance, what devotion, what total surrender was there in the Mandali. I remember, at the breakfast time, Brother Eruch brought me tea in an enamelled Mug with an unbuttered piece of "Chapati" and said that he had saved it from the last night's dinner. Those toasts and jams and buttered Parathas and

fruit which people in Ashrams normally have, was not even heard of during those days of New Life of Baba. Even Eruch wore clothes with a number of patches on the cotton pants. And in the month of January, the woolens were not visible any where! I was very much distressed at this sight, but the Mandali were as cheerful as ever and showed no signs of deprivation or neglect. People now realise what saintly figures this Mandali of Baba comprised. Hats off to their obedience, to their love, to their worship, to their unstinted sacrifice and life long penance, self denial and self sacrifice. Even after a thousand years of Japa and Tapa we cannot attain a nearby status in Baba's Dham.

The Master's Prayer

Baba dictated the following Prayer at Dehradun in 1953 and asked the Mandali to recite it daily for 21 days i.e. 13-8-53 to 2-9-53 in His presence:

O Parvardigar, the Preserver and Protector of all,
You are without Beginning, and without End,
Non-dual, beyond comparison, and none can measure You.
You are without colour, without expression, without form,
and without attributes.
You are unlimited and unfathomable, beyond imagination and
conception, eternal and imperishable.
You are indivisible, and none can see You, but with eyes divine.
You always were, You always are, and You always will be,
You are everywhere, You are in everything, and You are also
beyond everywhere, and beyond everything.
You are in the firmament and in the depths, You are manifest and
unmanifest, on all planes, and beyond all planes.
You are in the three worlds, and also beyond the three worlds.
You are imperceptible and independent.
You are the Creator, the Lord of Lords, the Knower of all minds
and hearts, You are Omnipotent and Omnipresent.

You are Knowledge Infinite, Power Infinite, and Bliss Infinite.
You are the Ocean of Knowledge, All-Knowing, Infinitely Knowing,
the Knower of the past, the present and the future,
and You are Knowledge itself.
You are All-merciful and eternally benevolent,
You are the Soul of souls, the One with Infinite attributes,
You are the Trinity of Truth, Knowledge, and Bliss,
You are the Source of Truth, the Ocean of love,
You are the Ancient One, the Highest of the High, You are
Prabhu and Parmeshwar, You are the Beyond-God, and
the Beyond-Beyond-God also, You are Parabrahma,
Allah, Elahi, Yezdan, Ahuramazda and God the Beloved.
You are named Ezad, the only one worthy of worship.

A Mast Tour

On 11th September 1953 Baba reached President's Estate at 5 p.m. Two important incidents occurred during that stay of Baba which are worth noting. Firstly my wife complained to Baba that I spent too much of time in my morning prayers. Her grouse was that people who came to see me in the morning from distant places, had to go back disappointed, because after prayers, I had very little time to attend to any body, the priority being the President. Baba said, I should not spend so much of time so as not to annoy my wife and also the visitors. I was asked to repeat God's name for an hour and Baba Baba for one hour audibly. While giving this order Baba was looking at one of his large sized photos in his blue bed room and said, 'This photo is more powerful than myself (pointing to himself)'.

This photo which was enlarged by my wife's maternal uncle from a photo print, I had got from one of Baba devotees on Nisbat road, Lahore. That Parsee family was a very pious couple, and it was a great pleasure to meet them during the pre-partition days. The exuberance of their love and devotion for Baba was marvellous. (It may be mentioned that shortly

after Baba's accident in USA a 'Scar' like sign appeared on the "forehead" of the photo).

On another occasion, Baba, pointing to the wall in the room towards Rashtrapati Bhawan, declared that this is the Centre of the Universe. (After Baba had left, I struck a nail at that point of the wall and later on had a small window opened on the wall).

Next morning, the Mandali got into the station wagon driven by RELLON, and Baba asked me also to come in. We had to have our breakfast before leaving for the Mast tour. Mr. Meherjee Karkaria also travelled with us up to Old Delhi Railway Station; from there he had to catch a train for Poona. As soon as we had seen him off, Baba asked, "Have you brought something for me to eat?" I replied, "yes Baba, I have got lot of apples." Baba said, pointing with his fingers, "Kath ke laddoo". I followed what Baba meant and instantly said, "We are going through Sabzi Mandi, and there we shall get lot of grapes for Baba." As we reached Sabzi Mandi we found a Rehri Walla (hand-cart driver) with large bunches of ripe grapes. We took about 10 pounds of grapes, had these washed on the road-side tap, and put them in a plastic bag which Baba kept on the front seat of the car. I distributed the apples and the Mandali started eating the same. Baba partook of the grapes and seemed to enjoy it. Now and then Baba would put one or two grapes in my mouth pointing out with his fingers, "Don't tell them," and thus we enjoyed the fruit together. We reached Panipat. There Baba visited the Dargah of BU ALI SHAH QALANDAR. We followed Baba into the shrine. Suddenly Baba stopped going about and remarked, "Don't start visiting these tombs just because I am doing it." After finishing the tour Baba expressed a desire to eat some sweets. It was very early in the morning. We went to the Bazar and found that a Halwai (confectioner) was busy preparing some 'poories', We asked him to prepare some Jalebies which he agreed to prepare

after some hesitation. A Basketful of Jalebis along with some 'bhujia' was purchased and taken to the station wagon, where Baba was seated outside the Bazar limits. Baba was very much pleased to taste the Jalebis and then took some bhujia also. The Jalebis became Baba's Prashad from that very day for, as our experience shows, previous to that date the prashad offered to Baba used to comprise of Ladoos or Burfi and fruit. Baba distributed the Jalebis to all members of the Mandali, to Rellon and myself. Over and above Baba would now and then give me extra Jalebi whenever He ate one. From Panipat we went to Kurukshetra.

Kurukshetra, at that time was not so appealing as it is today. Baba went round that place for a few minutes and then suddenly changed his mind. He asked Rellon to drive further on. As we approached Rajpura Railway Station, we spotted a kiosk full of cold drinks. Baba had some cold drinks and all of us had two to three bottles of orange at Rajpura. I asked Baba's permission to return to Delhi due to official urgency and Baba left for Sirhind to visit some shrines there and do his Mast work. Baba gave me a very loving embrace and I left bodily while my heart had gone off with Him.

Baba's Reminder to those who love Him

In 1957, Baba said, "Now for six months up to March, 1958, observe the following:

- (1) Be ready and determined to do whatever I ask you to do.
- (2) Do no lustful action whatsoever, even husband and wife had better remain celibate.
- (3) Be honest. Honesty demands that you deceive no one, give no false hope or empty promise.
- (4) Try your very best not to hurt the feelings of others but to the extent of doing any lustful action."

Meher Baba On Playing With Illusions

(Darshan at Dehra Dun on 1st Nov., 1953)

I appreciate the faith, which has brought you here. I also appreciate your love and devotion. It has made me very happy.

I know and understand your difficulties and problems, sufferings and expectations. Not only the individuals, but the whole world is in the throes of suffering. When suffering comes, it comes according to the divinely established law of Karma. It must then be accepted with grace and fortitude. But it must be remembered that your actions are the cause of much of your suffering. Through wise action, it can be minimised. What humanity needs is spiritual wisdom, and for this, it must inevitably turn to the Perfect Masters and Avatars.

Suffering comes through ignorance or attachment to illusions. Most people play with illusions as children play with toys. If you get caught up in the ephemeral things of this world and cling to illusory values, suffering is inevitable. It is not easy for little children to give up their toys, for they become the victims of a habit, which they cannot undo. In the same way, through millions of lives, you have got into the habit of playing with illusions. So it is difficult for you to get disentangled from them.

For ages and ages, the Atma (Soul) has been seeking its own shadow and getting engrossed in the illusory world of forms. He gets addicted to the spectacle of his own creation and desires to see it through cycles and cycles of creation. When the soul turns inwards and longs to have self-knowledge

it has become spiritually minded. But even there, this habit of wanting to see some spectacle persists for several lives. The soul wants to experience some Miracles or spectacular phenomena or in more advanced stages, it wants to perform Miracles and manipulate phenomena. Even spiritually advanced persons find it difficult to outgrow this habit of playing with illusions. Persistent attachment to Miracles is only a further continuation of the habit of playing with illusions.

It is not Miracles, but understanding, which can bring you true freedom. If you have firm faith and unfaltering love for the God-man, your way to the Abiding Truth is clear and safe. Then you have no time to waste in playing with things that do not matter. Be ye guided by Love and Truth. This is the simple way that leads to God. Not by endless manoeuvring of alluring illusions, but by loyalty to the Unchangeable Truth, can ye hope to be established in Abiding Peace.

When I speak, it will be only one Divine Word, but it will be the word of words or the Manifestation of Truth. This Word will have to be hearkened by the heart and not merely by the mind. It will go home to you and bring you the Awakening.

My Love and Blessings.

- MEHER BABA

Baba visits Delhi Nov. '53

On 5th November 1953 Bro. Eruch wrote to say that Baba has finally decided to come to Delhi to witness the Test Match which commences on 12th November and He will be accompanied by 4 others. In another letter it was mentioned earlier that although Baba would come to our residence during the day and have his food there, He will not stay there as the Clock Tower did not allow Him to relax at night. Prabha was upset at the prospect of Baba not staying at his usual residence and we had already taken in hand the question of making the room "sound-proof". But the Clock stopped ticking and bothering the Highest of the High. And the problem was automatically solved to His as well as Prabha's entire satisfaction.

Give Up All Forms Of Parrotry

Knowingly or unknowingly man is ever seeking the Goal, which is to realize his true Self. The very nearest and inner most to man is his soul, but the humour of it is he feels far, far away from it. There appears to be no end to his journeys towards the Goal through the numberless highways and byways of life and death, although in fact there is no distance at all to cover. Having achieved full consciousness as man, he has already arrived at his destination, for he now possesses the capacity to become fully conscious of his soul. Still he is unable to realize this divine destiny because his consciousness remains completely focused on his inverted limited finite self - the Mind which, ironically has been the means of achieving consciousness.

Before he can know who he is, man has to unlearn the mass of illusionary knowledge he has burdened himself with on the interminable journey from unconsciousness. It is only through love that you can begin to unlearn, and eventually put an end to all that you do not know. God-Love penetrates all illusion, while no amount of illusion can dim God-Love. Start learning to love God by beginning to love those whom you cannot. You will find that in serving others you are serving yourself. The more you remember others with kindness and generosity, the less you remember yourself, and when you completely forget yourself, you find me as the Source of all love.

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 husk of mere ritual and ceremony. To get to the fundamental core of Truth underlying all religions, reach beyond religion.

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 limitation to shake Maya-drugged humanity

to a consciousness of its true destiny. He uses a physical body for his universal work, to discard it in final sacrifice as soon as it has served its purpose.

- MEHER BABA

**Three Special Messages Of Meher Baba Delivered
At 5-30 A.M. In Vijayawada On The 21st February 1954**

Don't listen to the voice of the mind. Listen to the voice of the heart. Mind wavers; heart does not falter. Mind fears; heart is not daunted. Mind is the house of doubts, reasonings and theories; heart when purified, becomes the dwelling of Beloved God.

So, get your heart rid of low desires, temptations and selfishness and God will manifest in you as your own self.

Be content with your lot, rich or poor, happy or miserable. Understand that God has designed it for your own good and be resigned to His will.

You eternally were and always will be: you have had innumerable forms as man-woman, beautiful-ugly, strong-weak, healthy-sickly, powerful-helpless, and here you are again with another such form.

Till you gain spiritual freedom, you will be invested with many such other forms.

So, why seek temporary relief which has in its wake more bindings? Ask God not for money, fame, power, health, children but seek for His Grace of Love, which would lead you to eternal bliss.

For the rich, I am the richest. For the poor, I am the poorest.

For the literate, I am the most literate. For the illiterate, I am the most illiterate. Thus I am one of you, one with you and one in you. We are all one.

To realise his oneness, love God whole-heartedly and honestly, sacrificing everything at the altar of this Supreme Love and you will realise the Beloved within you.

Birthday Message

25th February, 1954

"I am never born. I never die. Yet every moment I take birth and undergo death. The countless illusory births and deaths are necessary landmarks in the progression of man's consciousness to truth - a prelude to the Real Death and the Real Birth. The Real Death is when one dies to Self - and the Real Birth is when dying to self one is born in God, to live for ever His Eternal Life consciously," "Although, I am present everywhere eternally in my formless Infinite state, from time to time, I take form and the taking of the form and leaving it is termed my physical Birthday and Death."

"Your celebrating my SHASTIPURTI Birthday today with all your love, enthusiasm and zeal has deeply touched me and made me give you my blessings for the ultimate understanding that we are all one, that God alone is real and that all else is false."

- MEHER BABA

Divine Beloved

Baba is Divine Beloved of all
Of hearts which with Love are strung
He receives the caresses of the old
And accepts the kisses of the young.
Rebukes of infidels he ever ignores
And loves the hymns by devotees sung
Baba been silent for years two score
And when he speaks the word of words
An era of happiness will be rung
They may mock now or even deride
But after manifestation will all be dumb.

W.D. Kain

Baba's Love For Cricket

To the All India Cricket Team which was going to England Baba gave the following message on 2nd April, 1954 at Guruprasad, Poona:-

In going to England to represent India in the field of sport you have also the unique opportunity of yourselves practising, and of conveying to the people there, the great spiritual lessons of concentration and love. When you take the field, if you play as all men with one heart, each enjoying excellence of performance in another player as he would in himself, whether that player is on your side or on the side of opposing team, and so eliminating feelings of jealousy, anger and pride which so often mar sport, you will not only be entertaining the spectators, but demonstrating the real spirit of sportsmanship. True sportsmanship is concentrated ability enlivened with appreciation of the performance of others. And when this is manifested, everyone, both players and spectators, receive spiritual upliftment as well as good entertainment.

Some of you are "all-rounders". I am the greatest spiritual "all-rounder" of all times, because I feel equally at home with Saints, yogis, philosophers, and cricketers as well as with the so called sinners and scoundrels. I give you my blessing that in all your actions you show forth the spirit of Love.

- MEHER BABA

The first proof of Baba's interest in cricket came to us when in early 1953, Kishan Singh sent a message from Dehradun that Baba would like to witness the forthcoming cricket match at the Willingdon Pavilion, New Delhi. After telegraphic enquiries, it was fixed that 10 first class Season tickets should be obtained for Baba and his Mandali. A day earlier, Baba along with his Mandali came to President's Estate in the night.

Next morning seven of us drove to Willingdon Pavillion (near Ferozeshah Kotla) to occupy the seats. After half an hour Baba along with Eruch and Rellon came and was received at the Pavilion gate by me and taken to his seat, where we had put some cushions for him. It was a crisp wintery morning with pleasant sun shine and Baba enjoyed the game. During the interval, we had some refreshments and tea, which we had carried with us in the tiffin basket. Baba sat in the afternoon for about two hours and then signalled for us to leave. Coming back to the residence, Baba was all to himself for a few hours; but, came into the drawing room for meeting people in the house. He had quiet dinner in his room but pleasantries were exchanged between Prabha and Baba, interpreted by Brother Eruch. Next morning, Baba left very early for Dehradun. As the tickets were for the entire season, Baba lovers, old and new, were given the chance to witness the cricket match by turns. The chief invitee contacted on that occasion, was Col. Daryao Singh who later on played host to Irene Conybeare during her first visit to Delhi.

Baba again visited Delhi in the middle of 1953 to witness the cricket match between President's Eleven (Captained by Dr. S Radhakrishnan) and Prime Minister's Eleven (Captained by Pt. Nehru) at the National Stadium. Although I managed to get sufficient number of tickets through official sources, the seats were not numbered or reserved. So some of our staff went there in advance to occupy the seats. After Baba had arrived and sat in the second row just behind Pt. Nehru's seat, something in the Prime Minister's heart made him turn his face backwards again and again. At this Baba asked me to give Him my sola hat which he put on his head to conceal his identity. The game was started by the opening batsman, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, who was out for a duck. His team could not secure many runs. A Press release on the occasion will be of interest:-

"Sometime back floods had caused great havoc in Andhra

Pradesh and the Punjab. At the suggestion of Shri Jaipal Singh, M.P., that funds should be raised for the relief of the flood victims, Pt. Nehru agreed to organise a Parliamentarians 'Cricket Match', and to lead one of the sides, and our great philosopher-statesman Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (The Vice President of India) graciously agreed to lead the other.

(Meher Baba, learning of this match asked me to procure a dozen of tickets of the highest class for Himself and party).

In this match when Panditji took a very difficult catch at point (the batsman being Keshav Dev Malviya), Baba gave a long clap. Later, when Pt. Nehru was batting, he had his partner, the Communist leader, A.K. Gopalan, and made some 3 runs, not out. The perfect understanding with which these two batsmen played was a fitting finale to the match, both belonging, as they did, to different ideologies.

After the match, Panditji, who unlike other occasions was in flannels instead of churidar pyjamas, went to the Commentator's Box, at the request of Vizzy, to give a short speech which was followed by a commentary of the proceedings. It came as a surprise to everyone to discover that he was not only a statesman/sportsman but also a sports commentator."

Baba did not stay for the whole day, but his spiritual work (which was apparently to see and bless His Pt. Nehru) being over, he left for the P.E. and departed for Dehra Dun the next morning.

Baba again came to Delhi during the fall of 1953 to witness a Cricket Match (between India and the West Indies) at the Willingdon Pavilion. We had a dozen tickets of the highest Class but Baba preferred to sit outside the "Pavilion" in a comparatively less crowded place and enjoy the sunshine. He witnessed the match for one day only and left for His Mast Tour the next morning.

FRED FREY (Jr)

In September 1954 Fred Frey (from San Francisco USA)

an eminent artist and interior decorator accredited to H.M. the King of Saudi Arabia, came in contact with Baba in India and was directed by Him to stay in Baba's Room at our residence in New Delhi. Fred Frey originally was a follower of Murshida Ivy Duce (who enjoyed a large following of Sufis in U.S.A.). Being a disciple of Meher Baba, she directed all seekers of truth to Meherabad hence his visit to Baba and later on to Delhi.

Fred Frey was duly received by me at the Delhi Airport and escorted to Baba's room. After dinner, he set the timing of his watch and told me that he was very particular about the correct time indicated by his watch as he had to call out Baba once a day at 12 noon every day under orders of Baba. In the morning when he came into the dining room for breakfast he looked at the watch to make sure that it was functioning (because he had to remember Baba at 12 noon). Before he left for Cannaught Palace at 10 a.m. he again looked at the watch. At Cannaught Palace, where I drove him to Gupta Furnishers, he made sure that the watch was in order. Throughout his business discussion with Guptas over various items of tapestry, I noticed that he was not forgetful about seeing the time. This exercise went on not only up to mid-day but even beyond it until we returned home for luncheon and his retiring to Baba's room for his siesta.

The same practise of looking at the watch continued the following day when we went to inspect Gupta's Factory near Modinagar U.P., where he often looked at the watch. During his one week's stay with us he was so much conscious of Baba's orders that, although he was asked to remember Baba only once in 24 hours, he apparently remembered Him day and night, whether asleep or awake.

Produced below are extracts from some of his letters on his return to U.S.A.:-

13th Oct. 1954

"Dearest Friends,

Words are trite as at this moment my heart is sad because

of leaving you. Baba wants us to be happy and his orders have to be carried out. So I will try to be gay and tickle my heart with a feather. Naturally one thinks of music when thinking of you both. So like Orchestra without melody, like a night without moon, a river without water, a vine without flowers or a woman without jewels so likewise life would be empty without Baba and his lovers lauding together (even if only in thought).

So when He leaves His body - we, his lovers, must add his words like ornaments to our voices and carry on.

I have already written to Alexander Markey as his telephone number is not listed. I hope he will find time to have a talk with you.

May we meet again in this life or in another to come. I love you both dearly. May we always remember Baba's love and not be ones to desert Him.

Always yours.

To: Mr and Mrs W.D. Kain.

Fred Jr.

From - Fred Frey (Jr)

30th November 1954.

Dear W.D. Kain and Prabha,

Pardon this tardy note.

Frankly I became ill upon leaving India and am just feeling like myself again. It seems an odd feeling to be by oneself and be "O.K." physically, but one learns the nearness of Baba at such time.

Memories of my stay with you both fill me with joy. Carolyn is most anxious to meet you and is most grateful for your kindness to me.

Murshida in America i.e. Mrs. Terry Duce may be writing to you. Baba loves her very much. She and Don Stevens are the ones getting Baba's book "God Speaks" in order for publication. We are now working on its financing as He wants it out by May. I can obtain a copy of a moving picture of our

stay at Meherabad and its many important aspects for you and your group, should you wish it. I will write you the price later. Carolyn and I bought a copy for safe keeping here. I feel you should have a copy in your care by April. Baba's love was with me every moment and still is. "Our Diary" of our stay with Baba by Malcolm Schloss and C.B. Purdom will be published in the Awakener. I will make sure you get an early copy.

My trip which I will describe more fully later was eventful to say the least. Baba's Love was with me every moment and still is. It was all like a beautiful unfoldment.

Fred (Jr)

Meeting at Meherabad on 29/30th September 1954

A special communication dated 10th June 1954 from Adi K. Irani gave the message: You are amongst a very few of the entire number of Baba's adherents for whom Babaji expressed a wish that not only you yourself should not, for any reason whatsoever, miss the occasion of attending the meeting at Meherabad to be held on 29th and 30th September, 1954, but should also give others the valuable opportunity of attending the meeting, by distributing the copies of the Life Circular No. 18 sent to you, to your friends, relatives and even strangers who are interested or inclined to be interested in Baba for His Cause.

Baba directed me to send you his love and blessings and said that you should do your utmost for the cause of truth, thereby doing the very best for yourself.

On receipt of this note I distributed the Circular among my friends and relatives interested in Baba. A note was in the meantime received from Eruch Jessawala to ascertain whether Todi Singh from Aligarh was attending the meeting at Meherabad or not. I contacted Todi Singh at Aligarh and despatched the forms duly signed by Todi Singh and his son - Gajraj Singh - along with other forms received by me.

An Extract from Life Circular No. 18 dated 10-6-1954

Meeting at Meherabad

On 29th & 30th Sept. 1954

(Exclusive for males above the age of 16)

- I Avatar Meher Baba desires to meet at Meherabad (Ahmednagar) on 29th & 30th Sept. 1954 his close disciples, devotees, associates and all those who love him, irrespective of whether at any time they saw him or did not see him.
- II Only those who are genuinely interested in Baba as Baba or in his work need take the trouble of going to him and avail themselves of the occasion of getting benefited by his presence and getting a true understanding of his work.
- III In the meeting or meetings that will be held at Meherabad as above, Baba wants to make absolutely clear, certain most important points regarding His present Incarnation and His work in this life. Just as the Rajahmundry meeting in Andhra State called for his work and workers, was the first and last of its kind, so also this Meherabad meeting will be the first and the last of its kind before He gives up his present physical body.

Note:- No one should bring with him female devotees. No one should bring with him male devotees below the age of 16. They will not be permitted to enter Meherabad.

Baba Gives up Alphabet Board

October, 1954

While Baba was going into strict seclusion and preparing to give up the use of Alphabet board, Baba's work in the masses was gathering momentum, Baba's literature was being published and distributed all over India and abroad. I was kept in constant touch as will be seen from the extract of a letter dated 15th October, 1954, from Adi, reproduced below:-

"Received your letter of 13th, I have also received 180

copies of Hindi: Existence is Substance & Life is Shadow.

2. "Instructions from Baba are that I should not direct or permit anyone to go to Satara. However, one is always free to go unasked and unanswered.

3. Your experience bespeaks of your love and reverence for Baba; we should strive further for greater love and obedience to his wishes.

4. Presently Baba expresses his ideas through gestures. He gave up from 7 p.m. on 7th October using alphabet board. He takes food and liquids regularly and maintains good health.

5. I will be too happy to give you a weekly report as much as I come to know about him provided you on your part drop me a postcard asking for information once a week - ADI"

Baba Gives Darshan to 50,000 People At Saint Gadge Maharaj's Place

On 6th November, 1954, Baba, according to a promise given to Saint Gadge Maharaj, went to Pandharpur which is situated on the right bank of Bhima river about 160 miles from Ahmednagar. Baba had stipulated that he would not give darshan to the masses. As Gadge Maharaj insisted, Baba agreed to be at his disposal for 24 hours. Baba gave darshan to 50,000 people. Gadge Maharaj, who was about 85 years old then and had devoted himself to the welfare of poor and depressed people, acclaimed Baba as a World Teacher in that gathering. **Baba gave bath and clothes to lepers and also visited the Harijan Colony there.**

Prabha and I visited Pandharpur during our one month's stay at Poona in July, 1958.

A Page From Baba's Divine Sport (Lila) Nov. 1954

"Baba called a few of the mandali from Ahmednagar, Poona and Bombay and with those who are with him, kept us awake whole night. With the kindness of one of the Bombay lady devotees, a Qawaal was arranged to be sent over to Satara. He sang the whole of night; had a good voice and selection of

gazals: Baba liked them immensely. We were kept engrossed in a spirit of elation and interest. Baba "talked" to me sometime about the work to be done. The next morning we all left for our respective places. So from 1st December, Baba began his absolute detachment from all physical communication. He gave up using the alphabet board from 7th November. He gave up using finger signs from 1st December. Baba imposed on himself and those who live near him restrictions of food." -

- ADI

Alexander Markey Visits Delhi

Alexander Markey, a renowned Film Producer of America, who had been introduced to me by Fred Frey Jr. wrote me a letter on 18th November that he will be in Delhi on the 20th and 21st November, 1954. Arrangements for his stay were made at the Imperial Hotel, New Delhi. During his two days stay in Delhi, I showed him round all important places; and we had a nice time together. On his return to Bombay, he wrote me a letter as follows, which was received by me on the Christmas eve:-

"I have just returned to my home base in Bombay; and this is my first chance to thank you for the pleasure and privilege of meeting you and participating in your inspiring Sunday morning ritual (Satsang) at Presidents Estate. I hope to have the joy of joining you again before I leave these shores.

I cherish the little photograph of Baba you were kind enough to give me and it was a special grace to meditate in Baba's room.

With love to you and all and warm yuletide Blessings.

Alexander Markey

Meher Baba's Final Declaration

I am very happy to have you all here.

I know that very many of you have come to Meherabad under very difficult circumstances. Some of you have covered

thousands of miles, and even crossed continents to be at Meherabad today. It is your deep love for me that has braved all obstacles and prompted you to sacrifice your comforts and conveniences to honour my call and to be near me today.

I am deeply touched by your devotion and I am proud of the hearts that contain such love and loyalty.

There are many more devoted hearts like yours yearning to be present here, but these are not to be seen in your midst today. I know that in spite of their intense desire to be near me, they could not possibly come for one reason or another. Therefore they depend on you to convey to them in detail all that you see and hear during these two days of unique opportunity that has fallen to your lot. I trust you will not fail them.

Although you are present here with all love and faith in me and though you feel blessed to have my personal contact, yet I know that you will not realize today, as you ought to, the true significance of my call and your presence here at this juncture. Time alone will make most of you realize, not many months from now, the significant importance of this assembly.

The time is fast approaching when all that I have repeatedly stressed, from time to time, will definitely come to pass. Most of you will witness those events, and will recall very vividly all that transpires during these two days of your stay at Meherabad.

I have not come to establish anything new - I have come to put life into the old. I have not come to establish retreats or ashrams. I create them for the purpose of my universal work, only to repeatedly dissolve them once that purpose has been served.

The universe is my ashram, and every heart is my house, but I manifest only in those hearts in which all, other than me, ceases to live.

When my universal religion of love is on the verge of fading into insignificance, I come to breathe life into it and to do away with the farce of dogmas that defile it in the name of religions

and stifle it with ceremonies and rituals.

The present universal confusion and unrest has filled the heart of man with greater lust for power and a greed for wealth and farce, bringing in its wake untold misery, hatred, jealousy, frustration and fear. Suffering in the world is at its height, in spite of all the striving to spread peace and prosperity to bring about lasting happiness.

For man to have a glimpse of lasting happiness he has first to realize that God, being in all, knows all, that God alone acts and reacts through all, that God, in the guise of countless animate and inanimate entities, experiences the innumerably varied phenomena of suffering and happiness, and that God himself undergoes all these illusory happenings. Thus, it is God who has brought suffering in human experience to its height, and God alone who will efface this illusory suffering and bring the illusory happiness to its height.

Whether it manifests as creation or disappears into oneness of reality, whether it is experienced as existing and real, or is perceived to be false and non-existent, illusion throughout is illusion. There is no end to it, just as there is no end to imagination.

There are two aspects experienced in illusion - manyness and oneness. While manyness multiplies manyness, oneness goes on magnifying itself. Manyness is the 'religion' of illusion on which illusion thrives.

In the illusory beginning of time, there was no such state of mess in illusion as there is today. When the evolution of consciousness began, there was oneness, in spite of the diversity in illusion. With the growth of consciousness, manyness also went on increasing, until now it is about to overlap the limit. Like the wave that reaches its crest, this height of manyness will dissolve itself and bring about the beginning of oneness in illusion. Suffering at its height will cause the destruction of this climax of manyness in illusion.

The time has come for the pre-ordained destruction of multiple separateness which keeps man from experiencing the feeling of unity and brotherhood. This destruction which will take place very soon, will cause three-fourths of the world to be destroyed. The remaining one-fourth will be brought together to live a life of concord and mutual understanding, thus establishing a feeling of oneness in all fellow beings, leading them towards lasting happiness.

Before I break my silence or immediately after it, three-fourths of the world will be destroyed, I shall speak soon to fulfil all that is shortly to come to pass.

To affirm religious faiths, to establish societies, or to hold conferences will never bring about the feeling of unity and oneness in the life of mankind, now completely absorbed in the manyness of illusion. 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 the nations, creeds, sects and castes of the world.

In order to bring this about. I am preparing to break my silence. When I break my silence it will not be to fill your ears with spiritual lectures. I shall speak only one Word, and this Word will penetrate the hearts of all men and make even the sinner feel that he is meant to be a saint, while the saint will know that God is in the sinner as much as he is in himself.

When I speak that Word, I shall lay the foundation for that which is to take place during the next seven hundred years. When I come again after seven hundred years the evolution of consciousness will have reached such an apex that materialistic tendencies will be automatically transmuted into spiritual longing, and the feeling of equality in spiritual brotherhood will

prevail. This means that opulence and poverty, literacy and illiteracy, jealousy and hatred, which are in evidence today in their full measure, will then be dissolved through the feelings of the oneness of all men. Prosperity and happiness will then be at their zenith.

This does not mean that oneness in illusion shall remain so eternally. That is because all this that is, is Illusion, and the consciousness of oneness as well as of manyness in illusion is part of the process of evolution. The time is bound to recur when there will be again the same beginning, growth and culmination of the heights of manyness and oneness in illusion.

My next advent, after I drop this body, will be after seven hundred years, and that will mark the end and the beginning of a cycle of cycles. All cycles of time in illusion end and begin after 700 to 1400 years, and there have been and will be millions and billions of such cycles in a cycle of cycles, thus, there is no end to illusion, which always remains illusion.

Age after age, I come amidst mankind to maintain my own creation of illusion, thereby also awakening humanity to become aware of it. The frame-work of illusion is always one and the same, but the designs in illusion are innumerable and ever-changing. My advent is not to destroy illusion because illusion, as it is, is absolutely nothing. I come to make you become aware of the nothingness of illusion. Through you I automatically maintain illusion, which is nothing but the shadow of my infinite self, and through me you automatically discard illusion when you are made aware of its falseness.

My manifestation as the Avatar of the time will be of short duration. This short period will, in quick succession, cover my humiliation, the breaking of my silence, my glorification and my violent physical end. Everlastingly with all the divine bliss within me, I eternally suffer for one and all - thus I am crucified eternally and continually for all.

During this short period, my Word of words will touch the

hearts of all mankind, and spontaneously this divine touch will instil in man the feeling of the oneness of all fellow beings. Gradually, in the course of the next seven hundred years, this feeling will supersede the tendency of separateness and rule over the hearts of all, driving away hatred, jealousy and greed that breed suffering; and happiness will reign.

Sojourn in Dreamland with Baba

Early in the morning of 31st January, 1955, a message was received from Baba. He said "You ought not to feel concerned with the way you feel these days. Both your happiness and unhappiness will disappear before the brilliance of Eternal Bliss to which you are heading headlong even though you are quite unaware of this fact. Happiness, then unhappiness, and then disappointment and finally a short of tremendous disgust for all things mundane and even spiritual are but the hurdles en-route to Eternal Bliss.

Baba wants you not to worry at all when you feel confronted with such hurdles. You have got into the race and, being unmindful of the result, go ahead carefree. Whether one comes first or last in this race it matters nothing. What matters is that everyone who is in the race reaches the winning Post - The Goal.

Baba wants you to remain independent even of your own unhappy state and watch it with pride as one of your own achievements in your struggle for progress towards the Goal. Keep your own being aloof from your own state and march ahead without fear or distrust.

Have no fear or distrust because Baba is the Ancient One: He is Highest of the High. And, as for you? You are bound to attain the Goal and find your very being one with His Infinite and Eternal Existence.

Baba wants you to note that you should try to remain happy in spite of the spell of unhappiness that you have been experiencing of late.

Baba desires that you try to keep yourself cheerful in spite

of your present state of unhappiness and think and know that even this state is by the will of the One who controls everything and everyone.

Baba wants you not to feel worried too much over the unhappy state of your present feelings. Even this phase will have to pass over giving place to something new and better.

Kings Road,
Ahmednagar (India)
15th February, 1955

My dear Niranjan Singh,

It is after a long time I am writing you this. Being pressed with work, I could not materialise my frequent urges to write to you something about Babaji, until the time comes today. For every major happening in a man's life, including that of his being able to realise the Reality the time should be ripe. The same law holds good for physical birth of man.

The circulars of Babaji in the meantime gave you information.

Baba paid one visit to Pandharpur - a significant place of pilgrimage in the South. Baba had given a promise to Sant Gadge Maharaj. On his invitation, Baba presented himself at the right time and place. An exhaustive account of the visit is given on the seven-page typed sheets article sent herewith for your perusal. If you have read this already, the innocence of guilt involved in not sending it to you in time gets confirmed. If you have not read it, I am sure you will find it interesting.

Baba gave up using the alphabet board from 7th October 1954, prior to his departure from Pandharpur. He continues to do it till today. On 30th Nov., before he gave up moving his index fingers, in the way of writing letters and words to form sentences to express thoughts, he held a Mandali meeting at Satara and kept us all awake the whole night, deeply absorbed in thoughts of Qawali music and prayers. During the months of December and half of January, Baba abstained from food and some time

from liquid food also. It told upon his health to some extent, but on beginning to take food, he was soon all right. During the last week of January, Baba paid a visit to Khuldabad about 18 miles away from Aurangabad, Deccan, the account of which has so far been kept undisclosed officially. It was veritably a period of a tense suffering of spiritual work, unfathomable to even his nearest of disciples. Time and events alone would eventually prove to the world the gravity of his work and suffering.

I hope this finds you and your dear wife well and happy. With wishes of love and blessings of Babaji to you and to your dear wife.

Yours brotherly,
Sd/-

Copy to Shri W.D. Kain

ADI K. Irani

Life Circular No. 24

Issued on 10-4-1955

Decision

Through the wearisome mode of communication as explained in the last Circular, Meher Baba has conveyed the following Decision (in conclusion to the Final Declaration made last year on Sept. 30th and of his Clarification and Confirmation issued on Nov. 20th 1954 and Feb. 3rd 1955 respectively):-

"The Universe has come out of God. God has not come out of the universe. Illusion has come out of Reality. Reality has not come out of illusion. God alone is Real, the universe by itself is illusion."

"God's life lived in illusion, as the Avatar and Perfect Masters, is not illusory, whereas God's Life lived in creation as all animate and inanimate beings, is both real and illusory. Illusion, illusory life, and God's life in illusion are not and cannot be one and the same. Illusion has no life and can have no life. Illusion is illusion and is nothing by itself. Illusory life means life in illusion, with illusion, surrounded by illusion, and

though it is life (as experienced by the Soul in creation) it is illusory life. But God's Life lived in illusion is not illusory because in spite of living the illusory life God remains Conscious of His own Reality.

"God is absolutely Independent, and the universe is entirely dependent upon God. Yet when the Perfect Masters effect the descent of God on earth as the Avatar, they make Reality and illusion interdependent, each upon the other. And thus it is that His Infinite Mercy and Unbounded Love are eternally drawn upon by those who are immersed in Illusion.

"Between God and the Universe, infinite Mercy and unbounded Love act as a prominent link which is eternally made use of by Men who become God (Sadgurus, Perfect Masters or Qutubs), and by God who becomes Man (Avatar, Christ or Rasool), and so the Universe becomes the eternal playmate of God. Through this prominent link the Avatar not only established life in His Divine Play, but also established Law in illusion. And, this law being established by the God-Man or Avatar is the law of the law-Iess Infinite and it is eternally Real and at the same time illusory. It is this Law that governs the universe; all its 'ups and downs', construction and devastation are guided by this Law.

"At the Cyclic period, God's independent Absoluteness is made to work upon this Law by the God-Man as God's will and this means that anything and everything that the Avatar wills is ordained by God. Consequently all that I stated in the Final Declaration and Confirmation is ordained by God, and must and will happen.

"I was in Khuldabad for nearly a week from the 22nd of March. There night and day I did my work most intensively. The intensity of my spiritual work caused great pressure on my physical body and mind, and it was there that I decided that All I had declared in my final declaration must come to pass exactly in the same sequence and with the same

intensity of effect but with modification in the time factor. Therefore, with the change in the Time Limit, the intensity, scope, shape and size of the chain of events will take place without any moderation whatsoever to bring into effect the destined Plan.

"In the meanwhile mankind must await, as it must according to my final Decision, the witnessing of all that is to come to pass as ordained by God. This is the time when man must love God more and more. Let him live for God and let him die for God. In all these thoughts, in all his words and in all his actions love for God alone must prevail."

- ADI K. IRANI

Godavari Mata of Sakori

22nd April 1955

Godavari Mata arrived Delhi.

The next day I went to see her and invited her and her girl companions to our residence. She arrived at 3-30 p.m. After refreshments I took her and the party to the Rashtrapati Bhavan and the Moghul Gardens. After the round of the Gardens, I drove them to Qutab Minar enclave for a brief picnic and sightseeing. We returned around 6-30. Godavari Mata left a little later leaving behind a long trail of spiritual light and Love of Baba.

Life Circular No. 25

When Circular No. 25 was received we got it translated in Urdu, as desired, by Prof. Grewal of the Punjab University Camp College; and had it printed in Delhi.

- W.D. Kain

Baba gave out the following on 24th April, 1955:-

"According to my final Decision, except for the time factor everything will happen in every detail and sequence as declared, clarified and confirmed by me.

There is now no limitation to any point in time, nor con-

tact with any point in time. Things may happen after one month or three months, after three years or twenty years. In short I may speak tomorrow or my silence may be broken after ten years.

I am free from all promises, bindings, undertakings and arrangements. None should therefore ask for anything material or spiritual from me at any time or on any account. I will do what I think to be the best for one and all and when I deem it fit.

It is only on the above basis (Paras 2 & 3) that all concerned must now decide whether to give up or hold on to my "Daaman" i.e. to believe in me, revere me and remain devoted to me, by following my orders and instructions.

The period of three months from May 1st to July 31st 1955 is a period of crisis for me. I must go into retirement for three reasons: (1) for myself, (2) for those who love me and (3) for all.

- a) During the period of my stay in Jal Villa at Satara, I will not step out of the central rooms of that Bungalow.
- b) I may or may not eat and sleep regularly for the duration of the crisis.
- c) I am not bound to remain in any one place during or after the first month of my retirement. I may change my plans at any moment and might undertake to go on foot from place to place or go into even greater solitude.

No one should under any circumstances come to see me or communicate with me directly or indirectly for any reason whatsoever up to the end of July 1955. "All those closely connected with me, all those who love me and all those who care to follow my instructions: must be scrupulously honest: must strictly abstain from sexual actions: and must try to spread my message of Love and Truth as far and wide as possible during the period of crisis for the three months from May 1st to July 31st."

- ADI K. IRANI

Letter to Principal Niranjana Singh

Your letter of 15th August, 1955 was read out to Baba. He was exceedingly pleased to note the contents of your letter and sends his love.

Regarding your points in reference to your own position with respect to Baba, Baba says, that He knows well how your mind tends to suppress the feelings of your heart. All what you said was highly appreciated by Baba and He wants you to bear in mind that you ought not to pay heed to what others say, or are saying, to your free and frank expressions for Baba. Be mindful of all this and be delighted to know that Baba loves you and your wife very dearly. Nothing is ever counted more than the love of the one who is the Lord of Love.

Further Baba was much amused to hear your question - how can infinite be bottled up in a small physical frame? - and try to understand even a wee Bit of infinite. Baba again reminds you to read and digest the pages of the book "God Speaks." Baba has noted that you will read this book and that you are placing an order for it. There is no doubt in my mind regarding your statement that Baba's silence is still an enigma to you. You will be interested to note here one passage that I caught from Bhṛigu Saṁhita (chart No. 299-300):-

At the age of:-

1. 31-32: Change in physical condition, fast, silence and solitude.
2. 32-46: Would find some great inner purpose or motive for observing silence, as otherwise everything will be upset. People would be perplexed as to why he observes silence and none would understand why he is doing all this. Yet in spite of his silence he would go on doing his wonderful work for ever.

A great sage (Bhṛigu Rishi who wrote his great work,

Bhrigu Sangta) says here that while writing this particular kundlie:- Life Chart - he himself was in a Trance-samadhi and blissfully happy.

The above quotation, I gave not to throw any light on Baba's Silence but to consider that you are not the only one who finds Baba's Silence an enigma. Even our Bhrigu Rishi too about 3000 years ago must have suffered from the same malady of this enigma?

Even in the life of Lord Buddha we come across passages that soon after the Lord became Buddha and when he realized with his Infinite Consciousness, the Infinite ignorance, He observed silence..... he had to, because from the height of his Infinite Consciousness all else was illusion:

With affectionate regards.

Yours lovingly,
Eruch

Lord and Servant

The God-man may be said to be the Lord and Servant of the Universe at one and the same time. He showers spiritual bounty on all in measureless abundance, and as one who bears the burden of all and helps them through spiritual difficulties, he is the Servant of the Universe. Just as he is Lord and Servant in one, so he is the supreme lover and the matchless Beloved. The love which he gives or receives frees the soul from ignorance. In giving love, he gives it to himself in other forms, and in receiving love, he receives what has been awakened through his own grace, showered on all. The grace of the God-man is like rain which falls on all lands, barren and fertile but fructifies only in the lands that have been rendered fertile through toil.

- MEHER BABA

Prabha's Sickness : Baba's Concern

It was gratifying to note how much Baba was interested in the speedy recovery of Prabha. On one occasion he sent Mr. Meherjee Karkaria from Poona to Bombay to find out personally how she was progressing after the operation. And when I wrote to Baba about her safe return home, the following communication was received from Rose-Wood, Camp Satara, where Baba was in seclusion, in August 1955.

Baba was pleased to hear that Mrs. Kain is O.K. and you and Mrs. Kain are trying your best to regain the lost weight. Baba wants you to bear one thing in mind, and that is: Blessed is he who is forsaken by friends, cut off by colleagues and ridiculed by relations for the sake of love for God. Nothing counts in this illusory world, where even your own "self" forsakes its own precious form! What really counts is your unfailing devotion and faith in God - The Love for God. And you and your wife are indeed fortunate to have amidst you the veritable Incarnation of God and that too, the God who loves you both very dearly. Baba sends His Love to you and to Prabhadevi and to His lovers at home.

Days, months and years passed on, but Prabha was not satisfied with life in Delhi and I too was not enamoured of it. In reply to another letter from us Baba dictated:-

Baba wants you and Prabhadevi to note as follows:

- I. Continue to live in Delhi and follow the day routine as you both have been doing so far.
- II. Never feel despondent anytime, because, he, who has learnt to love and obey the Ancient one, becomes dear to Baba, and for him to feel worried and frightened is futile. Baba says that you both should be happy and

remain ever cheerful, knowing well that the Beloved One loves you both dearly and that whatever happens, happens because He has willed it so.

- III. Baba has felt happy and satisfied that you took the lead in Birthday Celebrations at New Delhi. But bear in mind, says Baba, that all is His doing. No one can do anything without the sanction of His will Divine.
- IV. Baba wants you both to know that He is the Ancient One. Baba is Krishna of Mahabhart, Rama of Ramayana, Jesus of Bethlehem, Buddha of Buddha Gaya, Mohammed of Arabia, and Zoraster of Persia and many, many of many many such Advents of the past and will be the Same One of the future of the Earth.
- V. You are both Blessed to have come in His intimate contact and to have heard directly from Baba (Himself) that Baba is the Ancient One. This very thing is sufficient for one's births to come and for one's Liberation. Baba sends His Love to you both.
- ERUCH

Do You Need Meditation

- W.D. KAIN

Although Meher Baba has dictated many discourses on meditation yet for his devotees he just stressed the need of love for God. "Just Love me" Baba said.

Personally I never could meditate in the real sense of the word. After all, the Gopis of Vrindavan never meditated. They just loved Krishna. The "Vanar Sena" and Hanumana just loved and obeyed Rama. Shabri just adored Rama. Saints Surdas and Tuka Ram sang the glory of the Lord. So did Peter and Paul.

One day a friend questioned me and pumped into my ears the meditation cult. I never paid any heed to it. Perhaps the Subconscious Mind did. On the night of 7/8th September

1955, I had a dream where I was given a glimpse of one of my previous lives in India. I was like a devotee of God singing His Glory. I was so much entranced by the rapture of music, that I got up very late. And when I woke up, the All India Radio was broadcasting the same song which I had composed and sung several hundred years back!

Baba thereby told us that we are here for Baba only - what matters for us is Love - unblemished love for Baba - He came to give us His love - He left us here to sow the seeds of divine in suffering humanity and quit when the harvester comes!

Hearken my Beloved ,

We long for thy Love.

We often miss your caresses

Baba dear send us lot of Love.

Baba's Concern for our Health

1955-Sahvas

The Sunday fast enjoined by Baba in 1944 was telling upon my health, as I had always to over-work even on holidays. The exigencies of service demanded it. In the 1955 Sahvas when I presented myself to Baba in the Hall, some members of the Mandali pleaded with Baba that I should be freed from this duty of observing fast. Baba had already noticed about my failing health. At that very time a group of Baba lovers brought a basket full of 'Mossomis'. Baba gave the following orders immediately:-

- a) I should not fast on Sundays except when specially asked to do so.
- b) He said, "I should not stay in the camp, but should be accommodated in the adjoining room."
- c) Baba sent for his cook (Kala) and handed over the Mossomis' basket to him and asked him to give fruit juice to me twice and also give hot milk morning and evening from Baba's kitchen.

- d) Baba sent for Dr. T. Dhanpathy Rao to prescribe some tonics for my anaemic condition.

How much Baba felt concerned for his humble lovers can be judged from this small incident. From thence onwards Baba would enquire about my health and see that I was well taken care of during my visits to Nagar or Poona.

The Story of Bahlul

The great mystic Bahlul wanted to contact certain notables of Persia for reasons of his own. The only way of doing so was to go to the Prince's party attended by these notables. Unfortunately, Bahlul was bald-headed, and in those days no one without hair was allowed to attend any party given by the Prince, for the Prince had lost his own hair, and to see others without hair prevented him from enjoying the party. And so when Bahlul went to the party he was thrown out. As the party lasted for three days, Bahlul borrowed clothes and a wig and disguised himself, and went again on the following day. No one recognised him in his fine clothes, he made a great impression, and was liked so much that the Prince asked him to sit near him. No sooner was Bahlul seated, than he winked at the Prince. This the Prince did not understand but vaguely felt that such a gesture from an illustrious man must mean something important. Thinking that it merited a suitable response, he winked back. Those who were near saw this exchange of winking and were impelled to imitate it. Soon the winking spread throughout the company. Then Bahlul cried, "Stop! O you wise men, Why do you wink?" And the notables replied, "We are winking because you great men were winking. We only imitate you". Then Bahlul took off his wig and said "We two are both bald. Imitate us". Then notables went away and on the third day returned with shaved heads. Then Bahlul turned to the Prince and said "We are permanently bald, these men will have to shave their heads daily to remain bald". Thus through his sense of humour, Bahlul secured access to those whom he wanted to help.

- MEHER BABA

SAHVAS - Nov. 1955

As we arrived at Meherabad, the weather was very wet, it having rained the previous night. The drizzle came through the awning as we assembled there. Baba immediately sent some medicines (aspirin) to be given one pill to each visitor.

Baba said that when the rain had come the previous night and showed no signs of stopping, I asked myself whether I was the Avatar and the clear and definite answer was "Yes" I am the Ancient one the Highest of the High. Then I asked Avatar Meher Baba why this rain gives inconvenience to the lovers who have come all the way to meet you. Avatar Meher Baba replied, "Those who really love you, will come with their heads on their palms. and this inconvenience would be a happiness to them."

Baba then asked all to come to the platform for his embrace. He asked them to confess their weakness after embracing Him all, one after the other, for the last time. Baba was in good mood and joked with many. Then a man from Hamirpur stood up to tell his "woeful" tale. The admission of female devotees/followers of Baba to this meeting was prohibited. So the complainant said, "Babaji my son's mother was feeling very much that ladies were not allowed to attend the function, this being the last of its kind at Meherabad. She told me to ask Baba whether it would be possible to attend the next such meeting if she changed her sex". He said it so seriously that even Baba was stunned to hear it. Baba became serious but laughed heartily the next moment, wherein he was joined by the entire assembly. Baba then lifted the ban on the entry of females during the next meetings (should these) be held next time.

At 9.30 a.m. Zoroastrian, Muslim, Christian and Hindu prayers were recited, which were followed by a Sikh prayer by Dr. Daulat Singh. Baba added "God is dead to the language of the mind and is keen to hear only voice of the heart. If you put your heart into the prayer God will definitely make you love him."

The next day (Thursday) was cool and cloudy with little rain. Baba led the followers up the Hill. Baba sat near the gate, where many of his pictures were taken by His lovers. All of them then came down to the Pandal. Here Baba said that before he gave the final declaration he "would like all of you to note that you must leave for your respective places after the programme and should not go sight seeing in or around Nagar or Bombay, in order to derive full benefit of the programme." Baba continued saying, "What I am, what I was and what I will be as the Ancient One is always due to five perfect Masters of the age, Sai Baba, Upasani Maharaj, Babajan, Tajudin Baba and Narain Maharaj. These are the five Perfect Masters of the age for me. Out of these only Upasani Maharaj and Babajan played the main roles. Babajan in less than the millionth of a second made me realise that I am God and in the period of seven years Upasani Maharaj gave me the definite knowledge that I am the Avatar. Baba said Maharaj was perfection personified. At the head of the Sakori Ashram is Godavari Mai whom I call Yashodha. She is a unique personality and loves me beyond words and to me she is the dearest of the dear." Baba then introduced the Sakori stalwarts - Yashwant Rao, Wagh, Vasant Deshmukh, Bharucha.

At 3 O'clock Eruch read Meher Baba's final declaration. The declaration was translated in four languages.

On the 13th November, Baba arrived from Pimpalgaon at 7.30 a.m. All assembled in the Hall. Baba made enquiries about persons who were ill and also enquired "Who did not sleep." Baba added, "Live as Mandali do: To observe and to

be observed by me. Let your own life be my message of love for others." Baba said, "Sahvas means proximity and intermingling like that of one of the family."

On the 14th November, programme of the poor was observed. Baba washed the feet of the poor and placed His head on their feet and gave each person cloth, grain etc. Shri M. Thirumala Rao M.P. gave a speech.

Looking towards Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M.P. as he was delivering his speech, Baba said "Today you have put into my ears the good wishes for Nehru's Birthday. That means it reaches him there. I am happy you reminded me about this. Pt. Nehru is the man for India. He has a very good heart, is very intelligent and is full of energy. Whatever he does, he does with all sincerity. From head to foot he is for India. Let India prosper spiritually and materially. The leaders are all gems. I am happy because the few gems we have in India have good hearts and they are in my heart. It is rarely that we have such gems. Gandhiji cannot be compared. Nehru cannot be compared. Just realise he is 66 today and see the energy he has because from head to foot he is for the nation. His mind is just for India and we should be proud of his energy."

Nov. 15

Baba arrived at 7-30 a.m.

All assembled in the Hall and paid obeisance to Baba. Later all went up the Meherabad Hill with Baba, where Baba showed the "Well", where He used to sit for seclusion. He also showed the place where He used to grind flour. The grinding-stone was also shown.

Nov. 16, Morning

Baba arrived at 7-30 a.m.

Later all went to Pimpalgaon. Here the devotees went up the BABA Hill where Baba had previously been in seclusion doing His Spiritual "Work".

Evening

Most of the invitees left in the evening and the rest entrained or drove off on the 17th morning to their homes.

Visit to Saint Meera's High School, Poona

In the late fifties when we were enjoying the Sahvas of Baba at Meherabad, Adi K. Irani complained to Baba that, in spite of my being invited to give talks at various functions, I refused to do so. The reason for complaining to Baba at that moment was that I had shown my reluctance to go to Poona and address the Managing Committee, Staff and senior students of Saint Meera's High School, run under the patronage of Prof. T.L. Vaswani. So Adi hauled me up before Baba, who smilingly asked me, why I do not want to go to Poona. I told Baba that, having read one of his latest discourses, that the teachings of Baba should be reflected right from the actions of his followers and that they should be an embodiment of truth, honesty and love if they preached these ideals to the public. I do not feel myself qualified to address such gatherings. Baba said, "I appreciate your views and I also know how much you love me, but for the sake of pleasing Dadaji (T.L. Vaswani) you should go because he loves me so much." So next morning I was driven to Poona to meet Dadaji. I was received by Mr. J.P. Vaswani, who took me to the Hall, which was fully packed with the audience and I felt a little shaky in addressing that distinguished gathering. I told Dadaji T.L. Vaswani about my difficulty. I asserted that since Dadaji was a personality of such high stature and had also been my associate professor at one time, I felt shy of "speaking" in his presence. So Dadaji agreed to absent himself from the stage and went upstairs. After all the ceremonial formalities were over I spoke for more than 40 minutes and then answered the questions for 10 minutes. Baba's teachings were received with loud applause.

After the Talk I was taken upstairs by Shri J.P. Vaswani to the holy presence of Dadaji, who told me he had very much enjoyed the speech replete with the teachings of the "Saviour of humanity in this dark age." I noticed that his room was connected by public audition system, so that he could hear every word that was spoken in the Hall below. I had a sumptuous breakfast in his company which I enjoyed like a 'prashad'.

Baba's Charm Works

In the late Fifties, Adi K. Irani wrote a letter saying that he was experiencing some difficulty in procuring imported paper for Meher Publications. This was the subject to be dealt with at Ministerial level, and we had instructions not to visit any Ministry of the Government of India (except Defence and External Affairs). For two days, I was wondering how to solve the problem without compromising the orders of the Head of State. On the third day as I was standing in the South Court of Rashtrapati Bhawan, I saw Dr. Shyama Prashad Mukerjee, Cabinet Minister, alighting from his car. He was well known to me, and as I received him, I quietly told him that there was some work of Meher Baba which required his attention. Shyama Prashad Mukerjee felt happy and told me that he would just show his face to the President in the Moghul Gardens where an "At Home" was being held and then would go back immediately to his residence and that I should follow there in 5 minutes." He followed the same procedure, went home and I followed there after 10 minutes. When I reached his bungalow, his Private Secretary told me that I should wait as the Minister was held up in discussion with somebody. It was then 4.30 p.m. At 5 p.m. the Minister rang up his Private Secretary to find out if I had come and was told that I have been there since 4.30. The Minister was very much upset and told his Private Secretary so, because the time was up and the office was closed and he could not issue the necessary

orders to his Secretary for release of the paper quota. Ultimately I had to break the rules, called on Dr. Shyama Prashad Mukerjee in the Ministry, and he asked his Secretary (K. Ram) to issue necessary instructions in the matter next day. The purpose of writing this is that Shyama Prashad Mukerjee had neither attended any of Baba's functions nor was given any literature concerning Baba's life and teachings. The very mention of Baba's name cast a spell - a charm - on Shyama Prashad Mukerjee, who proved to be a real Lover of Baba.

The Prayer of Repentance

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; 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 your unbounded mercy, we ask you 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 your will.

Baba Gave Me A Taste Of Levitation

Early in the Fifties, I came across a book on Tibetan Lore. From that I gathered that 'the monks living in and around Tibet used their "Astral" bodies to go to different places on pilgrimage etc.' They practised lot of self control and self abnegation besides cent percent faith in Divinity and their Masters. When my wife was taken seriously ill in 1955 and was taken in a precarious condition to Bombay for treatment I was very much upset. We had never parted even for a week for the last so many years and her separation was unbearable for me. Since her departure for Bombay, I had started a series of fasts combined with long spells of repeating Baba/God's name. When no news came from Bombay for a week, I got upset and prayed that God may grant me the power to fly to her. The precaution to be taken in such experiments is that the physical body should be well guarded and not touched by any living being so long as the astral body was out roaming about. I got Ram Dev Pandey of Gandhi Ashram Delhi, a noble young man (whose feet Baba had washed during the darshan programme at Delhi in 1952 when Pandey was unemployed) to sleep near me and see that I was not woken up or touched by anybody during the night.

By sheer will power and Baba's Grace, not by any Mantra, the first night I circled around the clock tower in front of our residence in the President's Estate; and came back all hale and hearty to my "body". The second day with renewed strength and Baba's name on my lips I dashed across to Bombay and entered the Purandre Nursing Home, there to see my wife lying in bed. She was very weak but alright otherwise. My sister-in-law (Raj) was sitting by her bed side She later confirmed that on the date of my "astral" visit to Bombay, she was

actually keeping her company at night in the Nursing Home. Baba says He does not perform any miracles, but His name certainly does!

ADI Says: What he was Born for

King's Road,
Ahmednagar.
19th February 1956.

My dear Niranjan Singh,

I received your letters of 15th and 17th. I was happy. I realize that the letters about Baba give you joy and peace. The Ocean of Peace and Bliss that Baba Himself is, cannot but evoke in his devotee identical attributes.

His constant remembrance brings stability to heart and mind, both of which set in one pointed devotion to the Ideal, pushes one on to the Goal - the core of existence and the finale of all noble aspirations. The riddle of life is solved and the one Self reveals in everyone and everything.

I am glad Kain Sahib works in co-operation with others. He is a great lover of Baba. I do write to him often. When I am mum, he draws my attention and my pen and I become ever so happy to give all information of Baba. This is the one thing I feel to have been born for and I delight in His service.

How could I ask you to go to Satara knowing well your longing and knowing full well Baba is so detached these days from communications and interviews. I wish you could have seen him. But we have to submit to His wishes.

I am the slave of His obedience and He the Master of human hearts.

May He bless you ever more and more.

Yours brotherly,
ADI K. IRANI.

Principal Niranjan Singh
Punjab University Camp College

God Speaks - By Meher Baba

The Gift for those with Searching Mind.

When 'introducing' "GOD SPEAKS" to me Adi K. Irani said: "In 'God Speaks' Meher Baba has for the first time revealed in detail the fundamental purposes and Mechanics of life and the Universe through a minute description of the evolution of the Soul from the time of its creation to its return to the Infinite Self from whence it originated."

On receipt of the book, Principal Niranjan Singh remarked, "God Speaks" is a masterly exposition of the most abstruse subject. It gives a concrete, coherent and fascinating picture of God and the Universe and how God from his deep sleep state undergoes an evolutionary process to the full consciousness of man and how then by the process of involution He shakes off the Sanskaric dross that he has collected as a by-product in the process of evolution and finally in the seventh plane regains His pristine glory with fully awakened consciousness.

"I have read hundreds of books but I have not read anything so profound. I recommend this book for serious study to all earnest seekers after "Truth".

A copy of the Principal's opinion was forwarded to Adi K. Irani. This was later incorporated in a pictorial handout giving views of literateurs all over the world. The review was also printed by the Delhi Centre and circulated to all libraries in India. Copies of God Speaks were also displayed at prominent Publishing Houses of Delhi especially at Rama Krishna and Sons, English Book Depot, Oxford University Press and Atma Ram & Sons. Efforts were also made by us to popularise "God Speaks" among Baba lovers as well as among the intelligentsia all over India. Accordingly a printed letter was circulated by the Delhi Centre.

Cynthia and Janice Camm of Australia Visit Delhi Centre

In 1956, Ms. Janice Camm along with her friend Ms. Cynthia, both teenage students from Australia visited India.

Their families happened to be Baba lovers. Adi K. Irani therefore desired that these girls should be accommodated in Baba's room and well looked after during their one week stay. They were shown round Delhi and were escorted to Agra and Jaipur for sight seeing. They also participated in Baba's Sankirtan on a Sunday. Here they were given ample opportunity to imbibe Baba's love and carry His Blessings home. They were well chaperoned by Prabha as per instructions from Nagar.

2. The last we heard about them was in January 1968, from 38 Through Road, Burwood 3125, Victoria, Australia, when Janice wrote to say that she was well settled as teacher and was planning to marry on 20th Dec. 1969. They proposed to go to England for a few years as "exchange teachers" and thus future contact with them was lost.

3. Earlier to this Cynthia Adams had written to say that she will be visiting Poona but Janice will not be going there. She added "At the moment, I am about to change my employment. Next year, I will be an Education Officer with the Commonwealth Department of Education and Science. The Section where I will be working deals with University Scholarships and it should be an interesting job."

"I hope you are both well. Possibly I will see you next year. Anyway, best wishes and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

Mrs. Otilia Arosemena-de-Tejeira

This Minister for Cultural Affairs, Panama, and Representative of her Country at UNESCO came to Delhi in November, 1956.

Adi wrote to me on 7th Nov., 1956 that Otilia was to reach Delhi for the UNESCO's 9th General Conference. She had seen Baba in America and England in 1956 and also during the recent trip. I was asked to "get in touch with her sooner she arrived in Delhi and introduce myself as Baba's Representa-

tive." I was also asked to make arrangements for her stay at Delhi during the Conference. Before coming to India, she had expressed the desire to see Baba. At the time Baba was engaged in his Mast tours, so she was asked to contact me and return to Panama after the UNESCO deliberations at Delhi. She was also asked to make it convenient to come to Baba and stay for one month there next year and as well as attend the Meherabad Sahavas congregation of 1957.

On her arrival in Delhi, she was accommodated in Ashoka Hotel because she wanted to be near other delegates staying there. But she would invariably come to our residence in the evenings when we would be talking about Baba until dinner time. A special satsang was arranged for her in the P.E. which was also attended by my father-in-law (Mr. Baij Nath) who had recently returned from Bombay. I also escorted her to all the cultural and other programmes arranged for the delegates after supper. Otilia Tejeira was gifted with a genuine spirit of social service and although her official assignments, both at home and abroad, as her country's Representative at UNESCO, kept her very busy, she was a great devotee of Baba and wanted to spend most of her time in spiritual pursuits.

She was in constant touch with me until 1970 and had in fact invited me to visit Panama in September of that year, but due to unavoidable circumstance I could not make it.

Principal Niranjan Singh

A spiritual urge or Baba's love makes lovers of God restless and this restlessness often casts a spell of despondency over them. Principal Niranjan Singh, in whose mind the scientist and the spiritualist were at war constantly, was no exception to this. He often came to me with his problems and I had to keep Baba informed about this. In Nov., 1956, Baba asked Eruch to write to him and strongly enough. Three letters all dated 26th Nov., recorded within 4 hours, were sent to Principal

Niranjan Singh, who passed these on to me after perusal, These letters, which show Baba's care and concern for his devotees. are reproduced below for Baba lovers' information and guidance.

Ist at 12.30 p.m. dated November 26, 1956

My dear Niranjan Singhji,

We came to know from one of the letters of dear Kain Sahib that these days you are under a spell of unhappiness and as such your mind is ruffled. Your complaint was that all the sparks of your learning, understanding and knowing seem to fail and fade out soon after striking the outer crust rather than penetrating deep down into the very core of your being.

Kain Sahib's letters add to the effect that you feel unhappy because you are not satisfied with the palliative treatment that you are administering to your yearning spirit and that you want now that specific which would act as a radical cure rather than a superficial hope of relief.

And, when our very dear Niranjan Singh is in agony how could we who admire you and your sincere efforts, stand by in silence? This state of affairs was brought to dear Baba's notice even though he had just returned from a very long and strenuous mast tour covering 2000 miles by car in four days.

Baba asked me to write to you saying that you ought not to feel concerned with the way you feel these days. Both your happiness and your unhappiness will disappear before the brilliance of eternal bliss to which you are heading headlong even though you are quite unaware of this fact. Happiness, then unhappiness, and disappointment and finally a sort of tremendous disgust for all things mundane and even spiritual are but the hurdles en-route eternal bliss.

Baba wants you not to worry at all when you feel confronted with such hurdles. You have got into the race and being unmindful of the result, go ahead carefree. Whether one comes

out first or last in this race it matters nothing. What matters is that everyone who is in the race reaches the winning post - The God.

Baba wants you to remain independent even of your own unhappy state and watch it with pride as one of your own achievements in your struggle for progress towards the goal. Keep your own being aloof from your own state and march ahead without fear or distrust.

Baba says have no fear or distress because Baba is the Ancient One. He is highest of the high. And as for you, you are bound to attain The Goal and find your very being one with His infinite and eternal Existence.

Baba wants you to wait a while as he wants you to stay near him for two month in Oct., and Nov., 1957; During your stay near him Baba will see that the thirst of your spirit is quenched. P.S., Baba says that if you have no objection then you may show this letter to dear Kain Sahib.

IInd at 2-30 p.m.

My dear Niranjana Singhji,

Baba wants you to note that you should try to remain happy in spite of the spell of unhappiness that you have been experiencing of late.

When Baba would call you to stay near him for two months in Oct, 57, you will feel happier and your doubts will fade into insignificance.

Baba definitely wants you to stay near him for two months, i.e. Oct. and Nov., 57. Therefore, you should prepare yourself for such a stay near Baba.

Baba sends his love to you and your wife and to all those near you who remember Him.

IIIrd at 4-30 p.m.

My dear Niranjana Singhji,

You will be delighted to know from this letter that Baba

has decided to call you near Him in the month of October next.

Baba wants you to note that you should make it a point to stay near him for two months i.e. for the months of October and November, 1957.

Baba also wants me to add here that when you come to stay near him next year, all your doubts and consequent unhappiness will be dispelled and you will begin to feel the much desired stability of mind and heart.

Baba wants you not to feel worried too much over the unhappy state of your present feelings. Even this phase will have to pass over giving place to something new and better. Baba desires that you try to keep yourself cheerful in spite of your present state of unhappiness and think and know that even this state is by the will of the one who controls everything and everyone.

Baba sends his love to you and to your wife and to those near you who remember him.

- ERUCH

Baba Meets With Another Accident

Yet another auto accident to Baba after the 1952 mishap in USA sent a wave of shock in the hearts of Baba lovers, and in reply to an anxious query from us, Adi wrote to me on 18th December, as follows:-

"I realise and appreciate how shocking the sad news of the accident must have been to you and to Shri Niranjana Singh. The inevitable, as already predicted by Baba, has happened. I had least expected that it would be in the form of another car accident. The physical suffering to Baba has been terrific. It has also been to Pendu and to a certain extent to Eruch and to the least extent to Vishnu. Nilu was indeed fortunate to breathe his last in the proximity of Baba". (This was like a personal loss to me - W.D.K.)

"There are a thousand angles from which we can judge Baba's present suffering But the inescapable fact convinces us of the background of His infinite concern, care and service to humanity in its crisis".

"All we can do at the present moment to be of any help to Baba and to His injured men from a matter-of-fact consideration is to see that all get the best of treatment. Baba was ever so reluctant to be removed from Satara to Poona where the comparative best treatment could be had. We found a clinic or hospital too undignified to our sense of love for Him. So we had a special bungalow hired at Poona under most exacting circumstances of rent and had the best of specialist take up the treatment.

"May the present suffering of Baba give the world a consciousness of His unfading love and services to Humanity:"

As Principal Niranjana Singh and I were still worried about the health of Baba and his Mandali, Adi kept us informed regularly. The following excerpt from his letter dated December 24, adds:-

"The one week which was told by Baba to be of great internal and external suffering is over: but it may not be overlooked that the after effects of the terrific suffering are still unbearable. Baba often says He is happy indeed to go through the suffering because it is borne for His universal spiritual work. There will be many a day still before Baba is able to come out of the pain and the disability and move amongst His disciples freely and with comfort.

"Eruch is nearly out of the Hospital. He gets pain in the chest only when he exerts to talk; otherwise he feels alright. Pendu will have to stay in the hospital for quite a time because of the two fractures he sustained on the hip-bone. He feels so bored and fatigued to keep lying down in the same position all

the time. For some time a slight complication had developed resulting in the swelling which he got on his foot, but it has gone down now.

Wishing you and dear Niranjan Singh Ji Baba's love and blessings."

- Adi K. Irani

Baba Asks Us To Participate In A Small "Gathering Of Meher Baba Lovers"

On June 12, 1958, Adi sent a letter saying that Baba and the party accompanying him returned to Bombay in the evening of 8th June. Although the period of stay in America and Australia was cut short by a few days, The entire Sahvas at both the places was perfect in every respect. Baba wished that no one should write any letter to Him and his Mandali till the 10th of July, 1958.

Baba, however, desired me to write Him only one letter giving an account in general of the present situation of Baba's work, at our site and the intensity of love on the part of lovers new and old. Baba was duly informed of the situation. This was followed by a printed letter from Adi, wherein I was asked to come personally to Meherabad and participate in a small gathering of Meher Baba lovers. The directive was that I should be there not later than 6 p.m. on 9th July and leave the following day at 2 p.m. It further stipulated that in case, for any reason, I was unable to come, I should not worry but should audibly repeat "Beloved God! Thy will has come to pass" 7 times on the mid-night of 9th July. This was followed by a telegraphic order for me to be present definitely at Meherabad.

The Divine Theme

Evolution, Reincarnation and the Path to Realization

A soul becomes perfect after passing through evolution, reincarnation and the process of realization. To gain full consciousness, it gets increasing sanskaras in the process of evolution, till in the human form, it gets full consciousness as well as the gross sanskaras.

In the process of reincarnation, this soul retains its full consciousness and exchanges (i.e., alternatingly experiences) the diverse sanskaras in itself; and in the process of realization, this soul retains its full consciousness, but its sanskaras become fainter and fainter till they all disappear and only consciousness remains. While becoming faint, gross sanskaras become subtle sanskaras, subtle sanskaras become mental sanskaras, and finally they all disappear.

Up to the human form, the winding process of sanskaras becomes stronger and stronger in the process of evolution. In the human form, in the process of reincarnation, the winding retains its full strength; but in the process of realization, the sanskaras gradually unwind themselves, till in the God-state, they are completely unwound.

God, the Over-soul, alone is real. Nothing exists but God. The different souls are in the Over-Soul and one with it. The processes of evolution, reincarnation and realization are all necessary in order to enable the soul to gain self-consciousness. In the process of winding, sanskaras become instrumental for the evolution of consciousness though they also give sanskaric bindings; and in the process of unwinding, sanskaric attachments are annihilated, though the consciousness which has been gained is fully retained.

In the process of the winding of sanskaras, the soul goes through seven stages of descent; and in the process of unwinding, the soul goes through seven stages of ascent. But the phenomena of descent as well as ascent are both illusory. The soul is everywhere and indivisibly infinite; and it does not move or descend or ascend.

The souls of all men and women, of all nationalities, castes and creeds, are really one; and their experiences of good and evil of fighting and helping, of waging wars and living in peace are all a part of illusion and delusion, because all these experiences are gained through bodies and minds, which in themselves are nothing.

Before the world and duality came into existence, there was nothing but God, i.e., an indivisible and boundless ocean of Power, Knowledge and Bliss. But this was unconscious of itself. Picture to yourself this ocean as absolutely still and calm, unconscious of its Power, Knowledge and Bliss and unconscious that it is the ocean. The billions of drops which are in the ocean do not have any consciousness; they do not know that they are drops nor that they are in the ocean nor that they are a part of the ocean. This represents the original state of reality.

This original state of reality comes to be disturbed by an urge to know itself. This urge was always latent in the ocean; and when it begins to express itself, it endows the drops with individuality. When this urge makes the still water move, there immediately spring up numerous bubbles or forms around the drops; and it is these bubbles which give individuality to the drops. The bubbles do not and cannot actually divide the indivisible ocean; they cannot separate the drop from the ocean; they merely give to these drops a feeling of separateness or limited individuality.

Now let us study the life of one drop-soul through its different stages. Owing to the arising of the bubble, the drop-soul

which was completely unconscious is invested with individuality (or a feeling of separateness) as well with very slight consciousness. This consciousness, which has sprung in the drop-soul, is not of itself nor of the ocean: but it is of the bubble or the form, which in itself is nothing. This imperfect bubble at this stage is represented by the form of a stone. After some time, this bubble or form bursts and there springs up in its place another bubble or form. Now, when a bubble bursts, two things happen: (1) there is an increase in consciousness and (2) there is a twist or consolidation of impressions or sanskaras accumulated during the life of the previous bubble. The consciousness of the drop-soul has now slightly increased; but the drop-soul is still conscious only of this new bubble or form and not of itself nor of the ocean. This new bubble is represented by the form of the metal. This new bubble or form also bursts in due course of time; and simultaneously there is a further increase in consciousness and a fresh twist or consolidation of sanskaras, which gives rise to the emergence of another type of bubble or form. This process continues right through the process of evolution, which covers the stages of stone, metals, vegetables, worm, fish, birds and animals. Every time that the previous bubble or form bursts, it gains more consciousness and adds one twist to the already accumulated sanskaras, until it reaches the human bubble or form, in which the ever-increasing consciousness becomes full and complete. The process of the winding up of Sanskaras consists of these regular twists; and it is these twists, which keep the consciousness gained by the drop-soul, directed and fixed towards the bubble or the form, instead of towards its real self, even when consciousness is fully developed in the human form.

On gaining the human form, the second process begins; this process is that of reincarnation. At this point, the process of the winding up of sanskaras comes to an end. The drop-soul takes numerous human forms one by one; and these forms are

exactly eighty-four lakhs in number. These human forms are sometimes those of man and sometimes those of woman; and they change nationalities, appearance, colour and creed. The drop-soul through human incarnations, experiences itself some-times as a beggar and sometimes as a king and thus gathers experience of the opposites of happiness or misery according to its good or bad sanskaras. In reincarnation (i.e., in its successive and several human forms) the drop-soul retains its full consciousness but continues to have alternating experiences of opposite sanskaras, till the process of realization begins. And during this process of realization the sanskaras get unwound. In reincarnations, there is a spending up of sanskaras; but this spending up is quite different from the unwinding of the sanskaras, which takes place during the process of realization. The spending up of sanskaras itself creates new sanskarss which binds the souls; but the unwinding of sanskaras does not itself create fresh sanskaras; and it is intended to undo the very strong grip of sanskaras, in which the drop-soul is caught.

Up to the human form, the winding up of sanskaras becomes stronger and stronger during the process of evolution. In the human forms of reincarnation, the winding continues to operate as a limiting factor; but with every change of the human bubble or form, the tight twists, gained during the process of winding, get loosened through eighty-four lakhs of shakings, before it is ready to unwind in the process of realization.

Now begins the third process of realization, which is a process of ascent. Here, the drop-soul undergoes the gradual unwinding of the sanskaras. During this process of unwinding, the sanskaras become fainter and fainter; and at the same time, the consciousness of the drop-soul gets directed more and more towards itself; and thus, the drop-soul passes through the subtle and mental planes till all the sanskaras disappear completely, enabling it to become conscious of itself as the ocean.

In the infinite ocean of the Over-soul, you are the drop

or the soul. You are the soul in the ordinary-state, and you use your consciousness in seeing and experiencing the bubble or the form. Through the gross layer of the bubble, you experience the huge gross bubble, which is the earth. You are eternally lodged and indivisibly one with the Over-Soul; but you do not experience it. In the advanced stage, up through the third plane, you use your consciousness in seeing and experiencing the huge subtle bubble called the subtle world, through the subtle bubble or form called the subtle body; but you do not see and experience the Over-Soul which you are since your consciousness is not now directed towards the Over-Soul. In the advanced stage from the fourth through the sixth plane, you use your consciousness in seeing and experiencing the huge mental bubble, which is called the mental world, through the mental bubble or form which is called the mental body, but even now you do not experience the Over-Soul. But in the Gcd-realized state, you continually use your consciousness for seeing and experiencing the Over-Soul; and then all the forms are known as being nothing but bubbles. .

So, now, picture yourself as the soul drop, lodged in the Over-Soul, behind five layers after the gross body. You, the soul-drop, are now looking at the gross body and through it at the gross world. When you look at the second layer and through it, the first layer will appear to you as nothing but a layer only, and thus, looking behind each layer, you will find all these layers as only your shadowy covers; and finally, when you (i.e., the soul drop) look at and get merged in the Over-Soul, you realize that only you were real and all that you were seeing and experiencing till now was your own shadow and nothing else.

- *Meher Baba*

Baba Visits America and Australia

On April 25, 1958 Adi K. Irani wrote as follows:-

Baba is at Mahableshwar at present. He will come to

Poona by the end of this month and will stay there till His departure to the West. Baba will leave Bombay by an Air India plane on 15th May at 11.00 p.m. He will stay at Myrtle Beach, S. Carolina, for about 20 days giving Sahavas to all the devotees from America, England and Europe, who will gather there. He will then fly to Australia and stay there for about 10 days giving Sahavas to the Australians. He will return to India by about the 20th of June.

I suppose that you do know that there are 4 others going with Him - Nariman Dadachanji, Eruch, Dr. Donkin and myself.

I am glad that you sent 500 booklets to Brother Pritam Singh to be useful for Baba's work which he intends to do.

We are all keeping well excepting that we feel worried about Baba's pain which still persists. It is His will and we, helpless creatures, can do nothing about it. It is only when He wishes that the pain will disappear.

Wishing you and your dear wife His love and blessings.

Shri W.D. Kain

Yours brotherly,
ADI K. IRANI

According to this programme Baba arrived at New York at 9-30 a.m. on 17th May and drove straight to Myrtle Beach Centre. On the 18th Baba welcomed all those who had arrived from various stations. Next day all assembled in the large barn for the Sahavas. Baba asked all to relax and be comfortable; feel at home because Baba said "I have come down to your level. I want you to be here in spirit as well as physically. It is your love that has brought me here". On 20th May interviews were granted to groups and individuals. On Thursday 21st May Baba remarked that he was crushed with the "work" the pain had increased and he had fever too. A reading from the first day of the recent Sahavas in India was given by Don Stevens. Regarding Sahavas Baba said "I am the only beloved

and you are all my lovers: or I am the only Lover and all are my beloveds. I want you all to remain happy in my Sahavas. I am the Ocean of Love. Draw as much of this love as possible. Make the most of this opportunity." The discourse went on about Split Ego or Split 'I' giving the instance of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde - a combination of good and evil characters in one. The reading went on to "obedience". Herein Hafiz had said "How can you step on the Path of Truth unless you step out of the boundary of your own nature?" There was an interlude when a record was played: the theme was:-

Life eternal flows from thee in endless surging rivers
Oh, the joy I have I know you, the Highest of the High
Oh, the love I have from thee, Master of my soul,
May thy presence be my guide, may thy name for ever
lead me.

Then Don Stevens read:

Love burns the lover, Devotion burns the Beloved.
Love seeks happiness for the Beloved,
Devotion seeks for blessings from the beloved.

On the following days discourses were read on "I am the Son of God the Father and God the Mother in One" and Love is the remedy, "God", 'Action and Inaction', "My work", "The Inexorable Must", "Omnipresence", "Fore knowledge", 'God and Cosmos', 'Real Birth and Real Death', "Fana", "Planes of Consciousness in the Next Incarnation", 'Surrendrance', 'The Lover and the Beloved'. On 27th May Baba came to the barn at 10 a.m. Here the question was asked, What does it mean when Baba says: so and so has come to me. Baba explained: 'To come to me' means experiencing me as I am. No more bondage of births and death. But it does not mean the state of a Prefect Master. - Meher Baba.

On 30th Baba left for Washington enroute to Los Angeles and San Francisco. Next day they left for Australia reaching

there on June 2. They went straight to Woombye in Queensland where a new Centre has been established in eight acre land on Kiel Mountain. Here the discourse on obedience was read and Baba explained its import. Next day gifts from the women in India were made to the women present. In the afternoon there were photographs and entertainment. On the last day the discourse on the false and real 'I' was read. Baba and the Mandali were driven to Brisbane to fly to Sydney for India. A grand Meher Centre was thus established in Australia.

Our Stay At Poona In July, 1958

The pressure of office work seemed to have told very badly on my health. Since the observance of one month's silence in 1949, I had practically no long leave. It was only in the summer of 1958 that I could be spared for two month's rest. We had official residence at our disposal at Shimla, but fearing that the official atmosphere there would still haunt me and telephonic engagements would replace physical presence in New Delhi, I preferred to go to Rishikesh to stay with the M.D. of Gita press: In the meantime Baba, all of a sudden, decided to call some of his lovers including Prabha and myself to Meherazad. Two urgent letters from Nagar remained unanswered as they were not redirected to Rishikesh until we had settled there. These letters were followed up by telegraphic reminders asking us to be present at Meherabad on the 7th July, 1958. The main meeting was scheduled to be held on the 10th July. On receipt of the telegram we moved down to Delhi and reached Meherabad in time for the darshan and the meeting. After the meeting Baba asked us to spend the "balance" of our leave either at Ahmednagar, Bombay or Poona so that we could be nearer Baba lovers and imbibe the loving spirit of his devotees. Ahmednagar being too warm at the moment for holidaying and Bombay in the grip of heavy rains, we preferred Poona. Baba asked K.K. Ramakrishnan to place his house in Kirkee at our disposal. Baba also hinted that in case

we liked the place, Poona could be made our permanent residence in future.

The stay at Poona proved to be very comfortable - thanks to the courtesy of K.K. Ramakrishnan. It turned out to be an unforgettable chapter of picnics, Pilgrimages, devotional musical evenings, Baba gatherings through the love and cooperation of Poona Bhajan Mandali led by Shri R.K. Gadekar, K.K. Ramakrishnan, Madhusudan, Subhadra, Karnble, Godbole and several other prominent Baba lovers. During our stay at Poona. we visited Pandharpur, Alandi, Urlikanchan, Indian National Academy, to name a few.

The Mango season was on and we had the dainty to our fill. Then the heavy rains came and the water supply system could not maintain potable water supply. What we got from the tap was all mud-coloured water. We could not live on aerated water alone. So ultimately the idea of staying at Poona had to be given up. After 24 years when I revisited Poona and stayed there for two days in 1992 at the invitation of an old intimate friend of mine V. Prasad Garg, now settled in Poona, I felt that we should not have given up the idea of settling permanently in Poona, the birthplace of Meher Baba, where the Ancient One had played and studied and done all his Bal Lila, which is as dear to Baba lovers as Gokul and Vrindavan are to Krishna lovers.

The permanent impression on our mind left by the stay there is that the spiritual atmosphere of Poona and the love of Punaites is unique and the devotion of people there is unparalleled.

Baba's Visit to the Institute for the Blind

On the 11th April, 1959 Baba visited the Institution for the Blind, Koregaon Park, Poona. Baba had been invited by the Superintendent Mr. Kale and He visited the school on 11th April at 9 a.m. Baba embraced all the blind students – about

150 boys - a dozen blind teachers. Boys sang songs in Baba's presence and one of the songs welcomed Baba, the Avatar of the Day, to their institution. This song had been composed by Madhusudan and was taught to the blind by his wife Subhadra. On this occasion Baba gave the following message:-

"People generally think that the blind are unfortunate. You may also sometimes think so. But it is people with the sight of eyes, who are really unfortunate. They think that all the things they see are real. But they never see God, who alone is real.

All those, who do not see God, are blind. The only thing worth seeing is God. So, even those who have physical sight, may be more blind than those, who are physically blind and love God within.

Today I embrace you with my love, so that some day you may have real sight and see me everywhere."

- MEHER BABA

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TRUST

- MEHER BABA

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. Face all your difficulties bravely and cheerfully and my loving 'nazar' will be on you.

Guard Against Maya

Ahmednagar 10.8.59

Baba said to the Mandali present at Guruprasad that August, September and October will be the most crucial months when He will be burdened infinitely with His universal work. Due to pressure of this work He will be most tired physically and mentally. This will be the period He has often spoken of, the period of His helplessness, and humiliation - and if by October physical body remains intact, there will be the breaking of His silence and His glorification. Baba added, "I want my lovers to help Me in this." He then helped them by showing them how they should help Him. For those not staying with Him, He gave the following instructions:

- 1) They should not disturb Him in the least on any account till October end. They should not come to Pimpalgaon during these three months unless called and not express their desire to stay near Baba.
- 2) They should not communicate with Baba, either by letter or telegram, during these three months.
- 3) Whatever difficulties they may have to face during this period they should not send the news to Baba, nor come to see Him personally. It would be better to die than give Him least disturbance, because any disturbance would be great owing to the infinite pressure of work He will be undergoing during these three months.

Baba asked the mandali, who will stay with Him at Pimpalgaon, to note the following carefully.

- 1) No one should go out of Pimpalgaon during these three months under any circumstances.
- 2) No one should convey any bad (disturbing) news to Baba.

- 3) All should keep Baba happy and try their utmost to do what they know would please Him.
- 4) No one should argue about or discuss anything with Baba.
- 5) Baba would not be coming to the Mandali very often during this period.
- 6) All should try 100% to obey Baba implicitly.

Instructions given to Adi were that he should come to Pimpalgaon only if and when he has work with Goher, Mani or Eruch, and he should not try to see Baba unless Baba wishes. If Baba wants him to see Him, he should keep in mind the following:-

- (1) Keep Baba's mood.
- (2) Not argue with Baba about anything.
- (3) Not give Him any disturbing news.

Lastly, Baba said he would give special instructions to Kekobad, Francis and Eruch at Pimpalgaon to help Him in this work of three months.

From the 14th of August to the end of October 1959, Maya will try to make everything go against me.

Maya being the Showman displaying things that do not really exist will make everything including my health, body, energy, words and promises go against me and this will automatically test the faith of my lovers. But the only thing that Maya cannot go against is my work, because Maya itself is the means of bringing about the result of my work.

Maya being my instrument for the fulfilment of my work has to do its utmost to bring about the utmost results of this work.

Maya having existence only in non-existence will, in the end, give way to only one Reality that is God. And so God will manifest in His Glory.

"I want all my lovers to guard against Maya's tricks and hold firmly to my 'daaman'.

Meherazad-13-8-59

- MEHER BABA

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Blessed by Baba

The phrase - those who remember Baba directly or indirectly is very significant because it goes without saying that Dr. Rajinder Prasad did remember Baba and the fact that Baba had given preference to my residence in President's Estate further confirms that Dr. Rajinder Prasad had carved a niche in his heart. Two incidents in the life of Dr. Rajinder Prasad confirm it.

On one occasion when I had gone for vacationing at Rishikesh, the President was taken seriously ill. We had all along taken good care of him during the last 10 years and it seemed there was some mishap in his daily routine. As his condition became serious, the President was removed to Sen's Nursing Home. His younger son Dhananjay Prasad, who was very intimate with me and often came to our residence and together we went for shopping, sent an urgent telegram recalling me to Delhi. As soon as I returned, Prabha told me, "Babu Ji (President) is seriously ill and is in the Nursing Home." She also gave a hint that "at Rashtrapati Bhawan, they are arranging for his "last Darshan"! I immediately drove to the Nursing Home and went straight to his room. Although the President was in the "Intensive care" room, yet nobody stopped me. As I entered, the President smiled and said, "Aap Aa Gaye (So you have come)." I felt like embracing him. But decorum stood in the way. All I said was, "Let us go back to Rashtrapati Bhawan". He nodded in agreement. Just then Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru came in the room and before he could utter a word, the President said, "We are going to Rashtrapati Bhawan now..." In my presence Pandit Ji did not feel like asking for the Surgeon's opinion. I sincerely feel that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru always showed loving regards for me. And we returned to Rashtrapati Bhawan. During the next two years (when he retired), there was no instance of any trouble not even a minor headache - Baba had done all this.

On another occasion when the President was going on tour to Bombay via Rajasthan, I was suddenly called and asked to go to Bombay with "Meher Baba File". Since the President loved me like his son, he did not like my travelling alone. So his Security Officer was asked to go with me. The President's orders were that I should find out about Shri Meher Baba's whereabouts in Bombay, and in case he happened to be there or near about, the President would like to meet him. Shri Sri Prakasha, who was the Governor of Maharashtra at that time, was known to me as a Theosophist. He made necessary arrangements for my reception at the railway station and stay at Raj Bhawan. On arrival at Raj Bhawan, I lost no time in contacting the Police Chief there. The modus operandi was to ring up the residence of Mr. Nariman Dadachanji. But there was no response from the house when we telephoned. Ultimately a Policeman in plain clothes was sent to Nariman's residence "Ashiana". He brought the news that the Narimans had gone to Ahmednagar where Baba was stationed at the moment, and the house-maid being illiterate, could not attend to phone calls. The President's stay at Bombay was for 1½ day only and he had heavy schedule of engagements. Moreover, the State Government could not arrange the return tour of the President to Ahmednagar both on account of security reasons as well as for lack of time. So in spite of the President's wish to have Baba's darshan, he found himself helpless. Later on in Delhi, when I reminded the President about fixing the programme of seeing Baba, he said with a smiling face, "Ho Gaya." "It is not necessary now, I have it." Apparently, Baba had revealed himself to the President and the President appeared very happy.

Dr. Rajinder Prashad's Visit to USSR

Early in the summer of 1960 it was decided that the President of India Dr. Rajinder Prashad will be pleased to pay an official visit to U.S.S.R. The President was a bit hesitant about the visit; but in the larger interests of the country, not caring for

his asthmatic trouble, he gave his consent to the proposed visit. The acclimatisation process started with the President going to Shimla for a fortnight in May, 1960. On the 15th May, he came back to Delhi and after a stay of one week there, went back to Shimla for another two weeks. The President stood the strain of the two journeys as well as the climatic changes very well. So in June, the President with his entourage left for Moscow via Tashkant by a special plane. For more than two months before the flight, I had been too much occupied with official duties and consequently could not write to Baba. So the first thing that I did on getting into the plane was to write a letter to Baba. On receipt of this letter Baba sent his blessings, but his blessings did not reach me at the Moscow address. Strangely enough the letter did not reach me in time at any of the places visited by us; for we were travelling from one part of the country to the other, staying just a day or two in each city. But all the time his blessings were following us. The letter dated 24th June which is worth treasuring and was responsible for taking due care of the President and his party is reproduced below:-

"My dear Kain Saheb,

It was such a surprise, indeed, to find you writing on Flight to Moscow with our dear President and the party.

Baba's ways are mysterious indeed! You who are so close and dear to the Beloved, but could not come to Him during His stay of three months in Poona and now are with the President going to Moscow. Whereas, Hon. Shri Jagjivan Ram (the Hon. Minister) had the good fortune to meet the Beloved at Guruprasad and to have His blessings. and to go to Moscow with the President like yourself. Won't you call this Beloved Baba's Leela? I do not know how dear Prabhadevi will take this piece of news. Sri Sanjeeva Reddy also visited Guruprasad and had Baba's blessings and also the special message of Love from the Ancient One in the shape of an embrace of the Beloved of all hearts.

Many distinguished persons had the good fortune of approaching Beloved Baba during the last Poona stay. Baba was also entertained by many distinguished artistes one of whom was the most renowned artiste Shri Vinayakrao Patwardhan, who headed the Indian Musical Delegation at Moscow and gave his unique performance before the Soviet Premier Mr. Nikita Khrushchev in Moscow.

Trust this letter reaches you in time to carry the precious treasure of Beloved Baba's Love-Blessings not only to His dear Kain but also to those in the party who remember Baba, directly or indirectly, in the study of His Creation a tiny speck of which at present is giving you such a thrill as said in your loving letter.

Beloved Baba directs me to convey to you His Love-blessings.

Yours lovingly,
Sd. Eruch

Meher Baba's Darshan at Guruprashad in 1961

The following circular was issued on 5th May 1961 granting permission for Baba's darshan at Poona:

Avatar Meher Baba is happy at the way His lovers are doing their very best to help Him remain absolutely undisturbed in His strict Seclusion. He says that His Seclusion will continue to remain as such and He will want His loved ones also to continue to help Him remain undisturbed whether He is in Seclusion in Poona or in Ahmednagar or elsewhere.

Baba will be in Poona at Guruprashad Bungalow, 24 Bund Garden Road till the end of July 1961.

In response to the silent yearning in His lovers' hearts to see Him, Baba has lovingly agreed to allow them to visit Him once in His Seclusion during TWO WEEKS ONLY from the 15th through 31st May 1961, between 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. only, on any one day at Guruprashad, provided each lover strictly abides by His following wishes:

1) Baba wishes the visitors to see Him only ONCE on any day during the specified fortnight, any time between 4.30 and 5.30 in the evening.

Baba will NOT see any lovers individually.

2) Baba wishes all concerned to bear in mind that this permission is only for His lovers who are close to Him in His Love and is not meant for the general public.

3) Baba says He would not wish His lovers who live at very distant places from Poona to undertake the long and strenuous journey incurring heavy expenses to see Him only ONCE for such a short time. Baba says that those unable to see Him this time should not feel worried, for later on He might give them a better opportunity in His own way.

4) Baba wants His lovers visiting Guruprashad to fully help keep His Seclusion undisturbed by:

- a) NOT bringing any offerings to Him.
- b) NOT seeking to garland Him.
- c) NOT bowing down to Him.
- d) NOT seeking to have an interview with Him.
- e) NOT seeking His advice on personal problems of one's self or others.
- f) Not putting questions to Him, spiritual or otherwise nor expecting any spiritual discourse
- g) NOT seeking permission for putting up at Guruprashad for any reasons (rest or holidays etc.)
- h) NOT seeking permission for "repeat the visit."

5) Baba wants all those coming to Poona to make their own arrangements as regards stay, conveyance, food and other personal comforts. These arrangements must be seen to by the persons concerned without seeking the least aid from resident Mandali at Guruprashad, or from Adi or his office.

Baba says that by observing all these points His lovers will help Him to keep intact His Seclusion, and those deciding to visit must come fully determined to please Baba by observing His wishes.

Accompanied by Principal Niranjana Singh, Professor Joginder Singh and Lala Tehl Ram, I went to attend the function at Poona and stayed at Hotel Dreamland. At Dreamland,

we dreamt about Baba at night and had His darshan at Guruprashad during the day.

Baba's Birthday Celebrations 1961

The Birthday celebrations started with Baba's Sankfrtan at 4.30 a.m. at the President's Estate. Dr G.S.N. Moorthy and Shri Bachubhai had arrived the previous evening and the latter regaled Baba lovers with his wonderful musical performance.

A public meeting under the Chairmanship of the Lok Sabha (Parliament) Speaker Sh. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, was arranged at the Constitution Club, New Delhi at 5 P.M., when the Speaker made a very impressive speech on the advent of Masters and Incarnations of God and Baba's message of Love and Peace to Humanity. This was followed by a very touching speech by Mr. B.N. Datar, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs. He told the audience how he had met "Bhagwan Meher Baba". Later Dr. Moorthy enlightened the public on the importance of Baba's Silence and proved by quotations and anecdotes how Baba was considered to be an Avatar. Shri Amar Singh Sehgal thanked the Speaker for having come to grace the occasion. The Meher Baba Centre's Secretary, W.D. Kain read out Baba's Birthday message and Professor Joginder Singh read a poem in honour of Baba, saying:

In search of the, Beloved!
Have I wandered, far and wide
And long,
How long, I couldn't tell!

Songs by Bachubhai and Panna Lal Chaurasia (of AIR, Allahabad) and Sh. Thapa (a Radio artiste) and Subedar Pt. Shiv Dutt followed.

On Sunday all lovers of Baba assembled with their families at the President's Estate, where they were addressed by Sh. Amar Singh Sehgal M.P. and Shri T.N. Dhar. The subject *of* the latter's talk was 'Baba Shuns Publicity'. This was followed by a sumptuous tea. Sweets were distributed to the poor numbering over one hundred. A unique feature of the programme was distribution of Baba's literature i.e. "His Life and Teachings" along with His photographs, which were very much appreciated by the new comers.

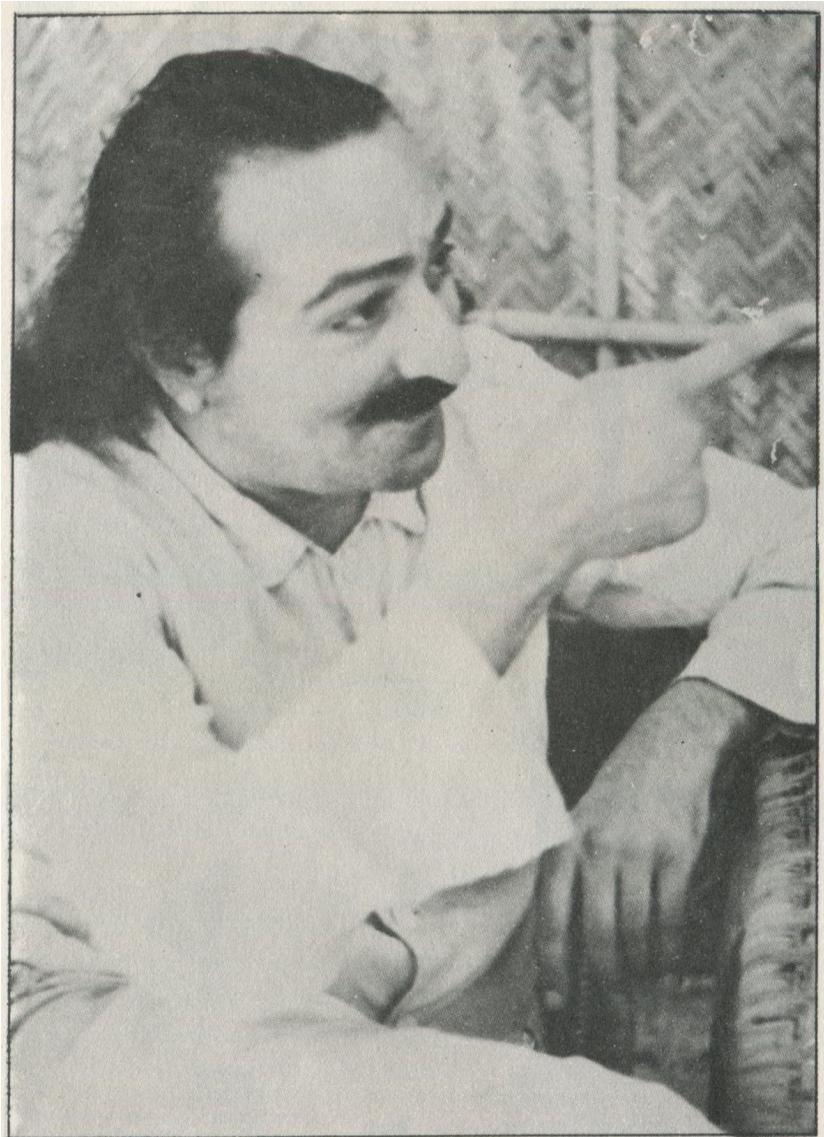
My Life
With
Meher Baba



PART-II



Meher Baba at Dehradun - WD Kain,



At Mahableshwar. Baba asks Todi Singh not to take the Proshad home.



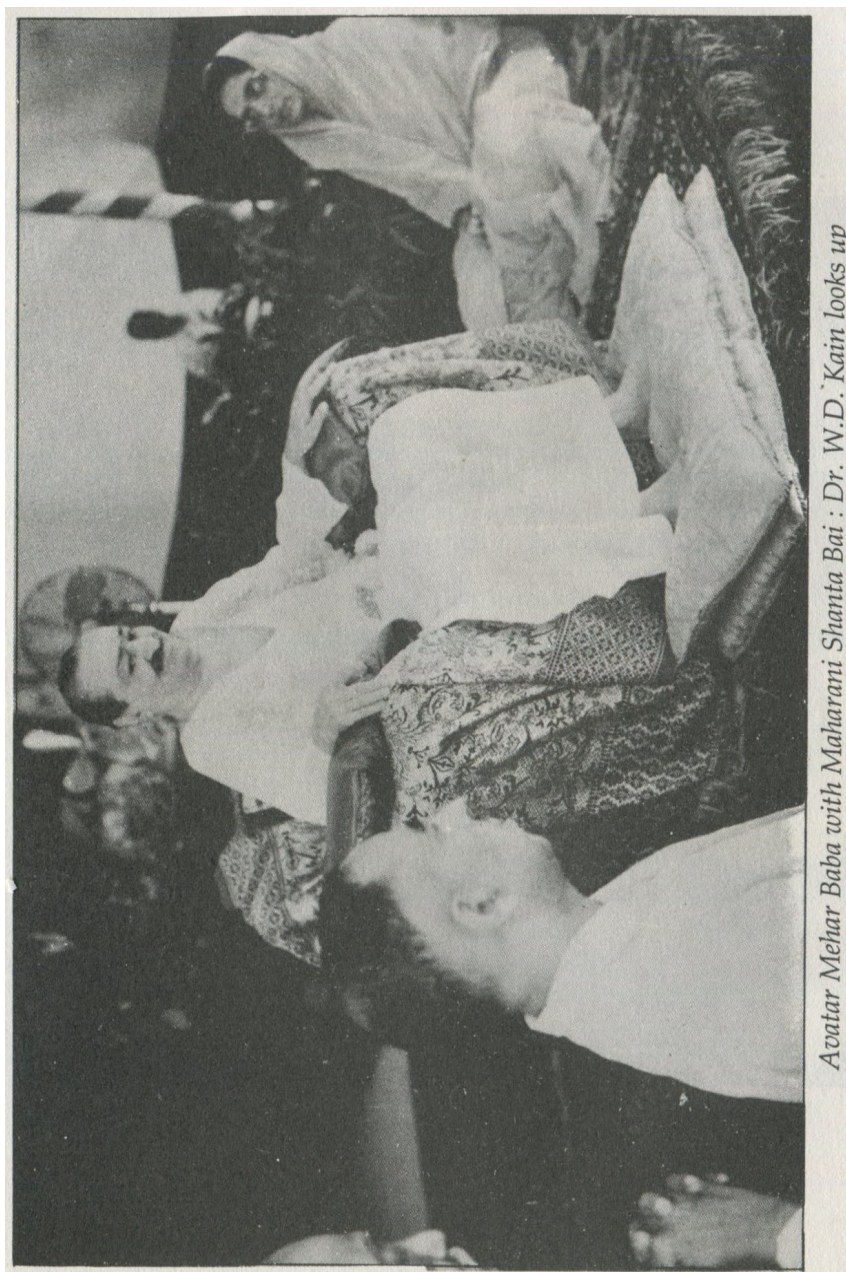
Mehar Baba at the foot of Mehar Hill Pimpalgaon



At Pimpalgaon in 1948. Baba gives some instructions to WD Kain, Kaka Baria looks on



Baba washing the feet of the poor and giving them dakshina (money)



Avatar Mehar Baba with Maharani Shanta Bai : Dr. W.D. Kain looks up



*The younger family group : Baba sitting in the chair
 On Baba's left is Sohrab and right is Rustom.
 Standing : Jal, Gulnar (Behram's daughter), Sheroo (Behram's eldest son)
 Jehangir (son-in-law of Behram), Behram, Parin Mai (Behram's wife)*



*A Farewell to Major Hari Chand (garlanded)
By WD Kain and Amar Singh Saigal. M.P.*



Baba At Poona - May 1957



Meeting after many years : Mani Behn and Kain



Baba Sankirtan and Reception for Mrs. Otilia A. de Tejeira Minister for Cultural Affairs, Panama, at President's Estate. (Facing the audience : Sitting left to right are Baij Nath, Mrs Otilia, W.D. Kain, Pt. Shiv Dutt and Prabha Kain



*Mehar Baba Standing - from right to left : Baij Nath, Mohan Lal, BD Gupta, TN Dhar, Principal Niranjani Singh, Mehar Baba, Joginder Singh, WD Kain, HR Kapil, PN Ganju, Seth Ji, Tehl Ram
Sitting are seen Shambu Nath Miya, Todi Singh, Rampat Yadav, Kishan Lal, Malhotra.*



Family Group : Adi Jr., Mani, BABA, Shirin Mai, Jal, Behram.



Sarosh K Irani addressing a meeting : Baba sitting

On His back is Papa Jessawala standing; and sitting near Papa is Godavari mai of Sakori

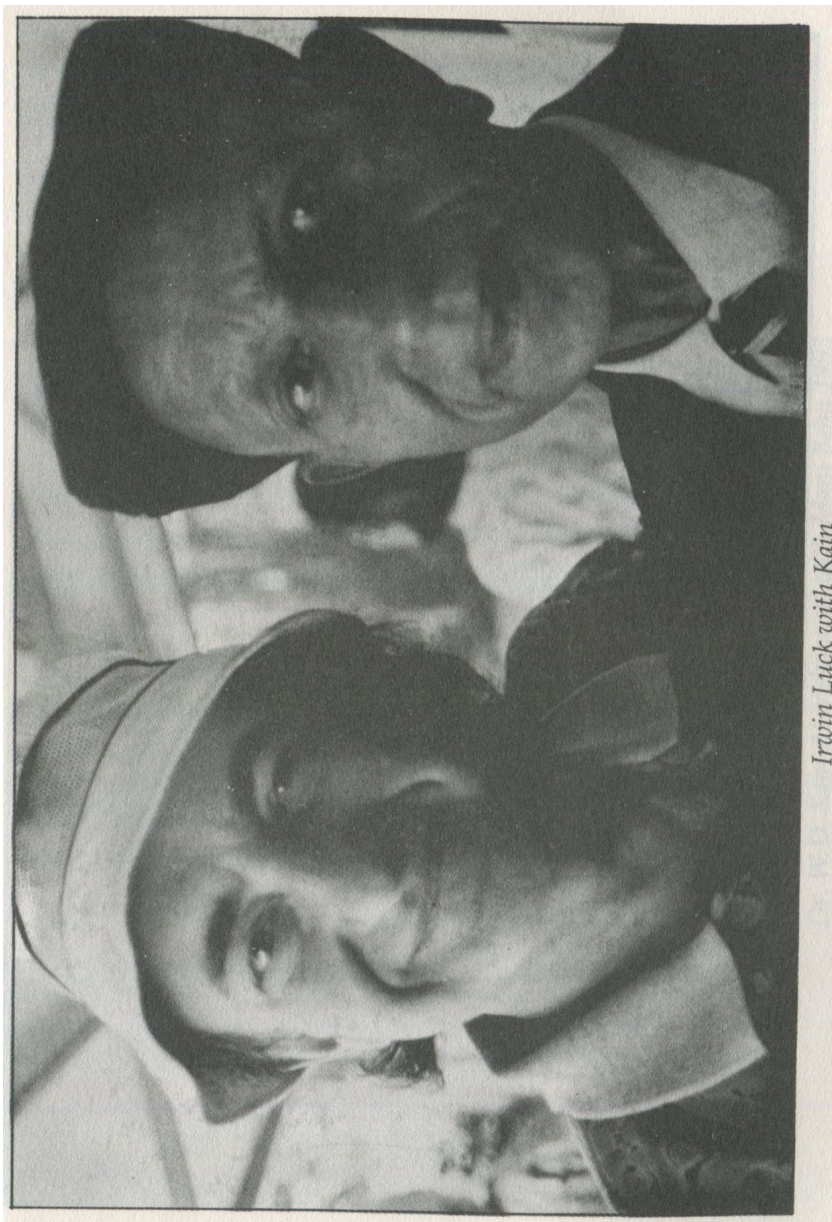


Baba gave Darshan at Nagpur in January 1953.

Baba sitting on his right standing : Prabha Kain, Sanjivni Deshmukh on his right are seen Chhagan Master and Gustadji and another disciple.



Mami Belm with Kain



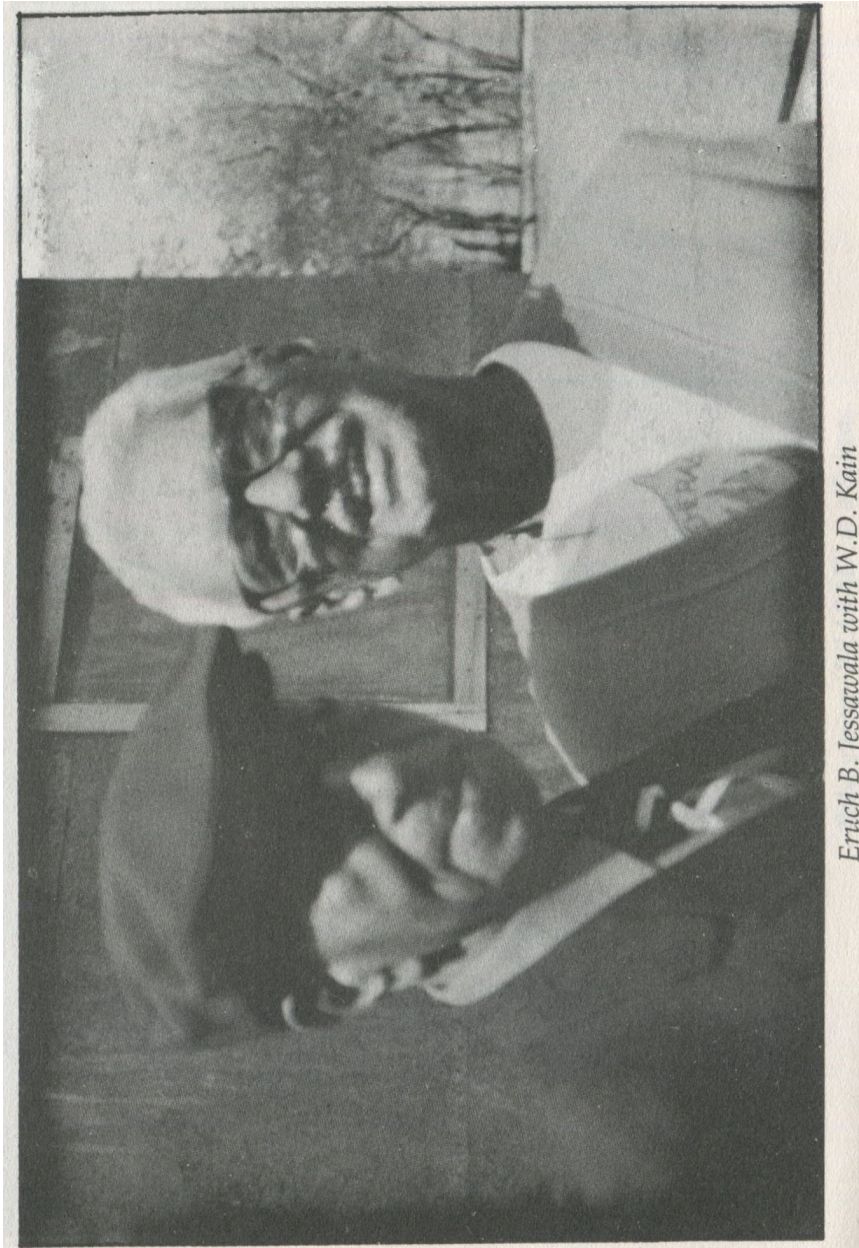
Irwin Luck with Kain



Baba giving 'PRASAD' at a Satsang.



Dr. W.D. Kain At Meharazad with Mani Behn 1993



Eruch B. Jessawala with W.D. Kain

EAST WEST GATHERING POONA – 1962.

East is East and West is West.

And never the two shall meet.

..... Rudyard Kipling

This was belied by the meeting at Guruprashad Poona in November 1962, where a Baba lover said:

" East is East and West is West,
and here the two shall meet. "

Accompanied by Principal Nirranjan Singh, Prof. Joginder Singh and Lala Tehal Ram, we went to Poona to participate in the East-West Gathering and stayed at the residence of A. I. R. Director (Mr. Chawla)

NOVEMBER 1st:- In the morning we went to Guruprashad where about 150 Westerners had gathered. A little while after this we were ushered in. Baba enquired about the health of all of us. The same day the meeting started in the afternoon. All of us assembled there. There were about 5000 Easterner and Westerner devotees of Baba. The Westerners were all sitting in front, men on the one side and the women on the other. On the platform with Baba were seated Yogi Shuddhanand Bhyarti, Maharani Shanta Devi of Baroda, Balak Bhagwan, four interpreters, Adi K. Irani and Eruch B. Jessawala. Eruch said, "Baba wants me to convey to you all that He is very happy that you are here. Your love has brought you here but it is really Baba's love that has drawn you here for this gathering". This was interpreted in Hindi, Marathi and Telgu. At the close Baba said, "Your prayer has made a few feel that God is present here. May my love make you feel one day that God is in everyone. Blessing

us Baba said, "I have been seeing the Westerners and giving them my embrace and love and also discourses. Today is the first day of the East-West Gathering. I want the Easterners to come to me, one by one and put their hands on my knees and I will pat each one: that will amount to my embracing and meeting the Easterners. All of you will not be able to come to me today. Those left over can come near me tomorrow." "The purpose of this Gathering is not to give discourses or messages to my lovers. Many discourses and messages have been given in the past. Another Volume of my discourses will soon be printed in Australia. More than all messages or discourses, your love for me will bring you to me as you should come to me." There was an interlude through a song by the Poona Bhajan Mandli. Then the Eastern women first came up to platform and took Baba's darshan. Suddenly it began to rain. Baba asked Ramakrishnan to hurry up the line. All the people were soaked and the Western Women were given clothes to change by the women mandali, lest the former should catch cold. In spite of the rain people continued to stand in the queue and as the rain stopped the line started moving up to 5 p.m.

At 4.45 P.M. the Westerners came up to the platform for a quick embrace and love through a corridor to the right of the dais. Baba said the rain was very significant and that it was a unique East-West meeting. Madhusudan & Party then performed Arti on the stage. The audience of 5000 joined in singing Baba's Arti.

November 2nd:- Morning on November 2nd we again went to Guruprashad and Baba enquired about our health. Baba said, "God is infinite. His shadow is also infinite. The shadow of God is the Infinite Space in which is the Infinite Gross Sphere."

Baba continued, "You must love God, see God, become one with God, that is your duty. Your duty is to know that this is all illusion and God alone is real. But to love God is also not in your hands. It is a gift from God to you." Baba said, "Today I have to meet about 4000 people from out-stations. More than 10,000 will be coming on the 4th for my darshan."

Afternoon:- In the afternoon, we took our seats in the pandal. A thousand more chairs had been added on that day. The Poona Bhajan Mandali was singing the glory of Avatar Meher Baba on the platform. Baba came at 1.46 P.M. when all of us, numbering more than 6000, rose up crying Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai. Baba embraced Principal Niranjana Singh and gestured it may rain. Then Baba gave the following message:-

My Dear Children

Your coming to me from different places and from across oceans has pleased Me. And although no sacrifice to be near Me is too great, I am touched by the sacrifice that some of you have made to come here.

Those who have not been able to come to Me should not feel dis-heartened, for MY Love is with them as always, and especially so at this time. I know how they are longing to be near Me even for an hour, and how helpless they are in their circumstances.

You have come from great distances, not for some convention or conference, but to enjoy My company and feel afresh My Love in your hearts. It is a coming together of children of East and West in the house of their Father.

All religions of the world proclaim that there is but one God, the Father of all in creation.

I am that Father.

I have come to remind all people that they should live on earth as the children of the one Father until MY Grace awakens them to the realization that they are all one without a second, and that all divisions and conflicts and hatred are but a shadow play of their own ignorance.

Although all are My children, they ignore the simplicity and beauty of this Truth by indulging in hatreds, conflicts and wars that divide them in enmity, instead of living as one family in their father's house. Even amongst you who love Me and accept Me for what I am, there is sometimes lack of understanding of one another's hearts.

Patiently have I suffered these things in silence for all My children. It is time that they become aware of the presence of their Father in their midst and of their responsibility towards Him and themselves. I shall break My Silence, and, with My Word of Words, arouse My children to realize in their lives, the indivisible Existence which is GOD.

Throughout the years I have been giving many messages and discourses. Today I simply want to tell you who are gathered here in My Love to shut the ears of your minds and open the ears of your hearts to hear My Word when I utter it.

Do not seek My Blessing, which is always with you, but long for the day when My Grace will descend on all who love Me. Most blessed are they who do not even long for My Grace, but simply seek to do My Will."

People who had not embraced yesterday were allowed to come up the platform. Even one or two cripples on crutches painfully went up to the platform. The function

closed with the Arti sung by Madhusudan & Party.

November 3rd:- We reached Guruprashad at 8.30 a.m. when lot of Andhra people, mostly "fishers folk" went to the porch to greet Baba. We went to the Pandal, when Baba gave the message for his workers in which Baba said, "My work is your opportunity. But when you allow yourself to intervene between you and My work, you are allowing the work to take you away from Me. When you put My work before yourself, the work will go right, although not necessarily smoothly. And when the work does not go right, it means you have put yourself between it and its accomplishment.

The Way of My Work is the way of effacement, which is the way of strength, not of weakness, and through it you become mature in My Love. At this stage you cannot know what real Love is, but through working for Me as you should work for Me, you will arrive at that ripeness where, in a moment, I can give you that which you have been seeking for millions of years".

The next item was a "Burra-Katha" by the Andhra group. Then at 4 p.m. Qawali programme by Habib Qawaal and his party started. After the Qawali the musicians were allowed to embrace Baba, and after the arti the meeting dispersed.

November 4th:- This was the day of public darshan when anyone who wished could come to see Baba. There was classical music by Shri Vinayak Rao Patwardhan. Lot of people came to say good-bye but we lingered on until the afternoon.

The important event of the function was that during one of the meetings when Statesmen and Ministers etc. had come for Baba's darshan. One of them put the query, "Baba, what is going to happen about this Indo-Chinese

War". Baba said, "As I am Highest of the High and I am born in India, India will be victorious." There was a loud applause, cheer up and cries of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai"..

THE FOUR JOURNEYS

During the East West Gathering Eruch B. Jessawala read a brief discourse on "The Four Journeys", the substance of which is as follows:-

God is infinite, His Shadow is also infinite. In this Shadow is contained Infinite Space in which is the Infinite Gross Sphere which contains the Creation that issues from the Point of Finiteness. In the Creation are millions of galaxies, the centre of which is the planet we know as our earth. In the galaxies there are developed life forms, and in some planets evolution is completed and human beings exist. But only on earth do human beings reincarnate and pass through the involutionary process to God Realization.

The involutionary process has seven planes or stations; the seventh plane completes the first journey of the soul. Only few embark upon the planes and very few complete the state of I-am-God, with full consciousness, experiencing Infinite Power, Knowledge and Bliss.

A few who complete the first journey enter upon the second journey, which has no planes but is instantaneous. The 'I-am-God' state becomes abiding in God as God. In this state, individuality is infinite, and includes gross consciousness, so that as Man and God the soul knows its unlimitedness in limitation. The third journey is taken by those whose lot it is to bear the burden of Infinite Power, Knowledge and Bliss and live God's life as Man and God simultaneously. There are only Five Perfect Masters on earth at any moment; when one drops his body one of those abiding in God takes his place.

All who live God's life on earth and all who abide in God as God on earth when they drop their bodies shed subtle and mental vehicles and pass away utterly as God, retaining Infinite individuality, experiencing Infinite Power, Knowledge and Bliss. This is the fourth

journey.

As God is without beginning and without end these four journeys are never journeyed, for everything that has the appearance of being appears from that which has no beginning and passes into that which has no ending. At the end Baba said "This is not for you. Don't worry. If you obey me and hold on to my daaman, where I am you will be". And he went on:

Only on this earth can God be realized. It is not possible for men to contact the worlds that contain the kingdoms of evolution but are without spiritual developments. On these other worlds there are beings that have more intelligence than exists in men. The earth is the centre of incarnation because men are made in God's image, and only human beings on earth are capable of advancement.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF MEHER BABA

The eleventh commemoration of the first Public Darshan, that Beloved Baba gave in December, 1952, was observed by Delhites at a Public Meeting in New Delhi at the Ram Lila grounds with a number of M.P.s and Cabinet Ministers of the Central Government among the large attendance. Inaugurating, presiding and speaking were the Minister for Irrigation and Power Dr. K.L. Rao, the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals Dr. C.M. Chenna Reddy and Minister of Education Dr. Triguna Sen, each garlanding Beloved's portrait before a speech. Each spoke on the need for mankind to receive and follow Baba's message to awaken His Love.

Full length colour portraits of Baba faced the audience as they entered the Baba Exhibition stall put up there on the occasion.

Here waves upon waves of humanity surged into the stall, carrying away some literature or photos all distributed free.

THE FOUR JOURNEYS

INFINITE GOD

INFINITE GOD

THE REALITY

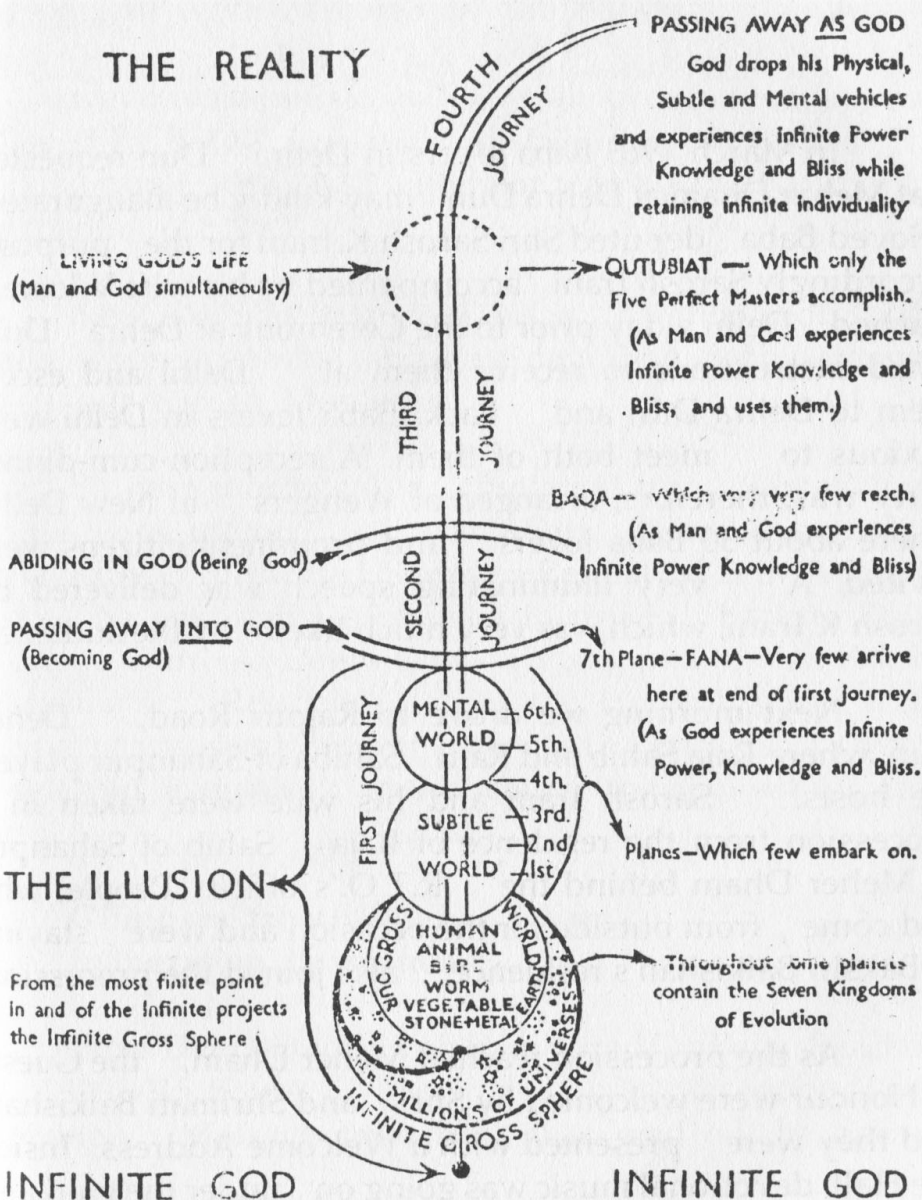


Diagram of the Four Journeys Poona (1962)

OPENING OF MEHER DHAM AT DEHRA DUN

In March 1963 Baba lovers in Dehra Dun requested that Meher Dham at Dehra Dun may kindly be inaugurated. Beloved Baba deputed Shri Sarosh K. Irani for the purpose. Accordingly, Sarosh Irani accompanied by his wife Viloomai reached Delhi a day prior to the Ceremony at Dehra Dun. I had instructions to receive them at Delhi and escort them to Dehra Dun and back. Baba lovers in Delhi were anxious to meet both of them. A reception-cum-dinner party was, therefore, arranged at Wengers in New Delhi, where about 30 Baba lovers and prominent citizens were invited. A very illuminating speech was delivered by Sarosh K. Irani, which was very much liked by the audience.

Next morning we drove to Rajpur Road, Dehra Dun, where Raja Sahib and Rani Sahiba of Sahanpur played the hosts. Sarosh Irani and his wife were taken in a procession from the residence of Raja Sahib of Sahanpur to Meher Dham behind the R.T.O.'s office. People who had come from outside for the occasion and were staying at Bakshi Balkishan's residence, also joined the procession.

As the procession reached Meher Dham, the Guests of Honour were welcomed by Shri and Shrimati Balkishan, and they were presented with a Welcome Address. Inside the Hall, devotional music was going on under the guidance of Prakashvati. As the guests entered the Hall, all stood up and gave them a hearty ovation with Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai. In his inaugural speech Sarosh Irani read out a special message of Baba which he had carried with from Ahmednagar.

Bakshi Balkishan gave a short history of the circumstances which had resulted in the lay-out of Meher Dham. We too appreciatively spoke about the great and magnificent work executed by the Bakshi family.

Devotional music and Qawali programme was followed by Baba's Arti and distribution of prashad. The function came to a close with poor feeding and community luncheon.

Next day Shri Balgopal Dass, a neighbour of Bakshi family, whose wife was an ardent devotee of Baba, arranged for our trip to Mussoori.

So next morning I, accompanied by Sarosh Irani and his wife, motored to Mussoori, where we stayed at the lavishly furnished Summer Retreat of Seth Balgopal Dass. The next day we planned to drive back to Delhi via Dehra Dun. At Dehra Dun we stopped to visit Bakshi Balkrishan's Residence, where the Hon'ble guests were given a hearty send off and presented packets of sweets for self and Mandali: and of course the choicest for dear Baba.

Glimpses from the Meher Dham Inaugration Programme

From Dehra Dun Sarosh Irani wired to Baba, Reached Dehra Dun 15 hours. Received Loving Reception. Love following Message from Baba was read out by Sarosh Irani:

"Give my love to all those moths (Patange and Patengion) who have gathered to burn in the flame of Meher Glory and having burnt themselves completely are anxious to reach my Dham (Above).

Mrs. Villoomai said:

What a sacred occasion it is today when we are anxious to enter Meher Dham. In reality we are always in Meher Dham. Yet how far removed are "we from that Meher Dham, which has no form, no colour, but which is everlasting and ever stable".

Shri Sarosh K. Irani said:

"That which is veiled can be unveiled; it can be unveiled, but how can that which is ever perceptible be inaugurated. This itself is a riddle and we have been given life to solve this riddle - Let us all bow down at the feet of Baba so that we may merge in the Infinite."

Dr. H.P. Bharuch said:

"Everyman's heart is the real Meher Dham..... Leave your "I" "Me" and "Mine".

Dr. W.D. Kain said to local people:

"When you get time and come to have Baba's Darshan in Meher Dham, you silently pray 'Beloved God let me have Darshan of your Infinite and Eternal Self'...

Dr. G.S.N. Moorthy:

"God cannot be understood. God can only be experienced. Baba is God Incarnate. Love Him more and more.

During their visit to Dehra Dun the Hon'ble guests visited Meher Muafi where they gave Baba's message:

"Give my love and Prem Bhiksha at Meher Muafi and ask them to fill the purse of their hearts with the treasures of my love".

THE AWAKENER AWAKENS PANT JI

In 1963, Shri Sumitra Nandan Pant, an eminent Hindi writer and scholar evinced interest in Baba's teachings.

Consequently on 31-12-63 Bro. Bhau Kalchuri sent me the following books to be given to Pant Ji with Baba's Love:-

1. God Speaks
2. To Stay with God.
3. The East West Gathering.
4. The Everything and The Nothing.
5. Existence is Substance and Life is Shadow.
6. Highest of the High.

These books were made over to him at his Allahabad Address: 18/7-B Kasturba Gandhi Marg, early in January, 1964.

Shortly afterwards I got a note from King's Road (Adi K. Irani) that my personal copy of "Wayfarers" may be given on loan to Pantji for study: Copies of this book were not available with publishers. This was duly delivered as directed by Baba. I did not hear from Pantji for more than 3 months, and had to go to Allahabad to collect the book. Pantji regretted very much that the book was untraceable in the jumble of books scattered all about, as the house was under repairs. He promised to send it by post which he never did.

It seemed, as I gathered during the course of my casual talk with him, that the little spark of love, ignited by the study of Baba's discourses had burst into huge flames - after reading the masterly compendium by Dr. Donkin about Meher Baba's work with God intoxicated Souls, Saints and Sadhus, engulfing Pantji in its effulgence. The "Wayfarers" was responsible for it. For Pantji it was not a book but a symbol of the Real Wayfarer - the Awakener of the age - Meher Baba.

Baba's Birthday Celebrations 1964.

The 70th Birthday of Meher Baba was celebrated at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, on 25th February 1964 at 5.00 p.m. This was inaugurated by S. Hukam Singh,

Speaker Lok Sabha. Those who spoke on the occasion included Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M.P., Dr. H.R. Bachan, Baron von Blomberg, Dr. G.S.N. Moorthy and Dr. W.D. Kain. Shri A.S. Saigal read out the following Message received on the occasion:

"I am happy to know that the 70th Birthday anniversary of Shri Meher Baba is being celebrated in Delhi. I send my best wishes on the occasion and hope that his teachings will continue to inspire a large number of people in our country".

Feb.21, 1964.

(S. Radhakrishnan)

"The aim of life is to love God.

The goal of life is to become one with God.

The surest and quickest way to achieve this goal is to hold on to my daaman by loving me more and more.

I have suffered much and will have to suffer much more till I break my silence.

I give my Love to my lovers". - MEHER BABA

A Booklet entitled "Seventy Flowers" compiled by Dr. W.D. Kain was released. This was later on sent to Baba by His lovers all over India and to U.K., USA and Australia.

What Avatar Meher Baba had to say about Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

On the day previous to the demise of Pandit Ji (at about 2.30 p.m. on 26th May) beloved Baba all of a sudden remembered Jawaharlal Nehru and said:-

"Jawaharlal will soon come to me, he will have to come".

Beloved Baba remarked that with the passing away of Panditji, India has lost its first Prime Minister who also ranked first in dedicated service to India that he loved so dearly.

Baba said that Jawarlal Nehru was match-less as a statesman and India will have to wait for another 700 years to find another jewel like him. He can be said to have been a Karma Yogi. It would be good if he had read at least some portion of God speaks presented to him by Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, M.P.

Baba added, "Only when I come again, during next Advent on Earth, will there be another like Jawarlal."

.....

N.B.

The above "Message" was handed over personally by me to Smt. Indira Gandhi at Prime Minister's House.

- W.D. KAIN

THE WORLD RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE

In Oct. 1964, Dr. Bool Chand, General Secretary of the Third World Religious Conference, wrote me a personal letter asking for my acceptance to be a member of Reception Committee of W.R.C. I gave my assent because it appeared to be a noble cause. When I wrote to Baba about it, Eruch informed me that Baba has no objection to his lovers participating in the Conference at Delhi next year. In the meantime Baron Frary von Blomberg, Co-President of the Conference happened to visit India and we met at an official function. This meeting later on blossomed into a great friendship.

At the Executive Committee Meeting of W.R.C. a list of persons to be invited was drawn and I gave a list of 85 delegates and 24 speakers including Adi K. Irani, Amar Singh Saigal, Dr. Moorty, Dr. Bharucha, Dr. Deshmukh, K.K. Ramakrishnan, Mr. Narewala, Mr. Kutumba Shastri, Dr. Dhanpathy Rao, A.C.S. Chari, P.O. Nigam etc. etc.

During this period Principal Niranjana Singh was indisposed and so were Major General Bhandari and his wife (Dr. Mrs Kamla Bhandari), who were therefore not asked to participate. The Third World Religious Conference, which had been sponsored by Muni Sushil Kumar Ji was held in the Ram Lila grounds New Delhi from 26th to 28th February, 1965.

The Inaugural Session started in the afternoon, with Prayers of All Religions by various representatives of Societies/Associations, etc. On Behalf of the Avatar Meher Baba Centre, Sardar Amar Singh Saigal recited the Parvardigar prayer or Master's prayer. Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, Union Home Minister was in the chair: and the Prime Minister

of India spoke on the occasion after the session had been duly inaugurated by Shri Morarji Desai, formerly Union Finance Minister. Speeches were made by Muni Sushil Kumar, Sant Kirpal Singh, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Baron von Blomberg and several other Religious and Missionary Heads. The last to speak was Shri Amar Singh Saigal who delivered his speech on "The Truth of Religion" which was well knit with 'golden verses' or sayings from the teachings of Avatar Meher Baba.

Just after the Prime Minister of India had finished speaking, Sh. W.D. Kain, General Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba Centre, started distributing the UNIVERSAL MESSAGE OF AVATAR MEHER BABA to the Delegates from abroad, in particular, and Indian Delegates in general. So while the other speakers were addressing the gathering, numbering over 1,00,000, the Delegates were busy reading the Universal Message of Avatar Meher Baba and His Biographical sketch - looking simultaneously at his photograph.

The morning session. of the Conference on 27th February was addressed amongst others by Dr. G.S.N Moorthy and Naosherwan Nalawala. Dr. Moorthy said that they were "chewing the dry bones of Religion" and that in the silent form of the Master alone could be established the University of religions of love and truth of God. Sh. Naosherwan Nalawala said that in this age of strife discord and chaos: what is needed the most is the living presence of an Avatar.

On the 27th evening session of Religious Conference milling crowds came to Ram Lila ground. Dr. Sushila Nayyar, the Health Minister of India delivered a nice speech. Dr. W.D. Kain, whose name was announced by Muni Sushil Ji said, "Come back to Truth". He explained that Avatar Meher Baba has asked us to be honest with ourselves and with God. He appealed to those present not to act outwardly what they were not inwardly, because

Baba wanted all to be absolutely honest "for God is infinite honesty". "Do not pose as being pious because God is everywhere. God cannot be fooled - so why pose as something you are not", says Avatar Meher Baba. Raising his voice, he repeated the words of beloved Baba "You may fool the world and your neighbours, but you can never escape from the knowledge of Omniscient". He ended by quoting from Baba:

"All talk about the Path and the Goal is as a lantern carried by a blind man; a blind man needs staff in his hand; the seeker needs his hand in God-Man's".

On the 28th February, a Conference on Ahimsa started. Dr. C.D. Deshmukh gave the Avatar's message. He said Avatar Meher Baba is the one for whom the weary world has been waiting and praying for. The Ancient one has come back to us as our eternal companion.

In the plenary Session of the Conference, thousands of booklets regarding Baba's life and teachings were distributed. Thanks to the munificence of Shri A.C.S. Chari, several hundred copies of his book 'THE LIFE AND WORK OF AVATAR MEHER BABA' and other booklets were also distributed by us including Existence is Substance and Life is Shadow.

The views of important speakers regarding one World Religion (aim of this Conference) were expressed as follows:-

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri said that there was no immediate prospect of the formation of one world religion. He, however, agreed that the basic ideals and goals of all religions were the same.

Mr. G.L. Nanda, in his presidential address, said that it has been this country's tradition to call such conferences

and discuss religious and theosophical problems.

The Home Minister said that claims were made that science had solved all the mysteries but the fact was it had not. "Not all the people were happy where there was tremendous scientific and technological advancement," he concluded.

Mr. Morarji Desai, who inaugurated the conference, said it was strange that religion, which could be the best means to attain peace in the world, had always been the basis of wars and conflicts."

Muni Sushil Kumar said that the World Fellowship of Religions had done a good deal of work in promoting fellowship among the people of different religious beliefs.

Baron Frary von Blomberg, Co-President of the World Fellowship of Religions, said that "religion was of tremendous importance and never before was the world so hungry for spiritualism as it was today."

Sant KirpaJ Singh, President of the WFR, said that "the idea of fellowship of religions was not a new one. There had been instances in the past when Kings like Kharwal, Ashoka, Samundra Gupta, Harsha Vardhana, Akbar and Jahangir held such conferences in their own way."

Meher Baba's Birthday - 1965 **– A Report**

A fifteen day's programme was chalked out, commencing from 15th Feb., 65 for the birthday celebrations. The first four days were utilized in spreading Baba's Name in the rural areas and suburbs of Delhi.

Regular meetings at the houses of Baba lovers started w.e.f. 19th February 1965. The meetings at the Centre on Sunday mornings (21st & 28th) were in addition to the programme in the evenings of those days.

Avatar Meher Baba's 71st Birthday was celebrated at the Community Hall, Panchkuian Road, New Delhi, from 5.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on the 25th February 1965. The programme commenced with devotional music by Baba lovers and ladies mandli. Shri H.V. Karnath, M.P. gave a speech showing great reverence for Baba.

The formal inauguration took place at 5.00 p.m. when Sardar Amar Singh Saigal recited the Parvardigar Prayer. Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M.P. gave the welcome speech. Shri C. Subramaniam, Union Minister for Food and Agriculture inaugurated the function. Shri W.D. Kain gave the following three messages from Avatar Meher Baba:

BE TRUE TO THE TRUST I REPOSE IN YOU AND
REMEMBER ME WHOLE-HEARTEDLY. MY LOVE AND
BLESSING TO YOU.

MY LOVE, BLESSINGS TO ALL MY LOVERS IN
DELHI ASSEMBLED IN MY LOVE IN LOVING REMEM-
BRANCE OF THE AVATAR ON 25TH FEBRUARY STOP
BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HAVE TAKEN PART IN
SPREADING MY MESSAGE OF LOVE AND TRUTH

There was a speech by Dr. C.D. Deshmukh and Dr. G.S.N. Moorthy. Prof. Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals gave the Presidential Speech. This was followed by Arti and distribution of Prashad. At ten o'clock in the night the programme was relayed by the AIR from Delhi station for 10 minutes on 25th February 1965.

All Baba lovers, their friends and families attended

and the Press was fully represented. The following literature was distributed:

Seventy Flowers

Loving Baba-Day Greetings - giving Baba's Messages.

Hindi pamphlets with Parvardigar Prayer, Prayer of Repentance and Arti. Baba's Sayings - a leaflet distributed through the courtesy of Mr. Nalawala.

SPIRITUAL FEASTS AT AGRA AND ALIGARH

As Baba went into more strict seclusion after 1965, Baba lovers spread out their wings to fly over to distant places to spread His Name and teachings amongst lovers of God during the month of April 1966. The first spiritual sojourn was towards Agra - The City of TAJ, where the love story of Shah Jehan and his consort Mumtaz Mahal is written in marble. In this historical city M.M. Aggarwal, Secretary, National Chamber of Commerce and Shri Krishna Prashad, Managing Director, Alopi Prasad & Sons played the hosts. Proceedings of the meetings replete with dear Baba's love messages as recorded in my diary are noted here under:-

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S CALL IN AGRA

In the morning, April 9, a meeting was convened in the Gita Mandir, Paliwal Park, under the chairmanship of Shri S.N. Gupta, Vice-President Gita Mandir. Shri Nepali Baba, a local saint, who gives discourses on Gita graced the occasion with his presence along with his followers. Sardar Amar Singh Saigal spoke on the Great Silence of Avatar Meher Baba.

He prefaced his speech by making the declaration in unequivocal terms that "Meher Baba was the Avatar and the world has to accept Him". Giving an account

of how Baba commenced His Great Silence on 10 July, 1925, the eminent speaker told the public that "things that are real are always given and received in silence". He further elucidated his point by saying that even during the previous advents, Christ, Buddha, Krishna, Zoraster, Mohammed and Guru Nanak did their spiritual work in Silence.

Shri W.D. Kain was then asked to speak on the Avatarhood of Meher Baba. Quoting from the Gita he told the audience that whenever Dharma was at the lowest ebb and evil reigned supreme, God came in human form to resurrect Religion. He added that God has never been unmindful of the prayers offered by suffering humanity. The state of affairs at present, the fast deteriorating condition of the world at large, the agony of ever increasing suffering that humanity was undergoing at present, demanded the Advent of God and He has come in response to the call of the Five Perfect Masters. "He has come and there rings the Avatar's call - Come all unto Me." It was further mentioned that the time for breaking of Silence by Avatar Meher Baba was fast approaching, and when He broke His Silence and spoke that Word of Words there would be a spiritual upheaval in the world. In order to bring about that spiritual regeneration, in whose wake will come an era of peace and happiness, it was incumbent upon us to remember Baba, who was the Avatar of the Age.

The same day at 4-30 p.m. a Press Conference was convened at the residence of Shri Gopal Narain Shiromani, where Press Representatives of Times of India, Statesman, Hindustan Times, Hindustan Samachar Agency, etc., assembled along with several other eminent writers and poets. Sardar Amar Singh Saigal delivered the introductory speech, enlightening the Press on the life and teachings of Avatar Meher Baba. Questions were answered by W.D. Kain and this was followed by a winding up speech by Shri T.N. Dhar.

Shri B.N.Khandelwal, the Chief Organiser of the Satsang, introduced the speakers and spoke in reverential tone about Avatar Meher Baba. The few words he said on the occasion effused love for and understanding of Baba. By 7-30 the Hall of the Satsang Bhawan and its spacious courtyard were all full. People were still coming and it was difficult to calculate the number. It was just a spontaneous response, probably an inner urge that brought so many people - rich and poor, old and young, women and children, The elite of the City were there and so were the professors and teachers, doctors and engineers, industrialists and technicians. The number had gone up to approximately 1600 when Shri W.D. Kain was asked to speak. He gave a graphic picture of the time when Meher Baba was born - the appearance of morning star at 5 a.m. on 25 Feb 1894 that heralded the Advent of MEHER BABA: his School and College days: his studies and sports: his meeting with the 110 years old Hazrat Baba Jan: His superconscious state: His meeting the Prefect Masters - Narayan Maharaj and Tajuddin Baba, Sai Baba (Who addressed Him as Parvardigar) and lastly Upasani Maharaj - who declared Him as the Avatar: the stay at Manzal-i-Meem. The Meherabad Ashram: the opening of School and Hospital etc. were described in quick succession prior to the audience being taken on Baba's Mast Tours, His Seclusions and Silence, His Fasts and Sahvas; it was narrated how he gave up the use of the alphabet board and then "conversed" with the help of finger signs. Mention was also made of His tours to England and America and round-the-world. Having prepared the audience for Baba's message, he said that Baba had come not to teach but to awaken. He belonged to no Religion and all Religions belonged to Him. Baba wanted all to hold fast to their Religion and remember God as much as they could - loving God for the sake of God. It was emphasised that all could love Baba, irrespective of caste and creed.

Shri Amar Singh Saigal in his Presidential Address laid emphasis on the Great Silence of Avatar Meher Baba. He told the audience how during one of his tours to England, Meher Baba was met by Mahatma Gandhi on S.S. Rajputana, and when Mahatma Gandhi failed to persuade Meher Baba to break His Silence, the former also started observing silence once a week. He further said that now-a-days Vinoba Bhave is also observing silence for much longer spells as the teachings of Avatar Meher Baba have spread their Divine influence on him. He clarified the point by saying that unlike various saints and sadhus, who had recourse to silence for their sadhana, the silence observed by Avatar Meher Baba was not undertaken for any spiritual benefit or sadhana. The Avatar being God in human form did not require undergoing any penance or spiritual programme of ceremonies, rituals or sadhana. Being the Ancient one and the Highest of the High, He observed Silence for His own Spiritual Work. He concluded by saying that Meher Baba was The Avatar and all should endeavour to profit by His Holy Presence, His Darshan (whenever it was available) and study of His Divine Works like God Speaks, The Everything and the Nothing, discourses etc.

Sunday 10-7 a.m. A meeting was held at Vedanta Mandir, Yamuna road, where Sardar Amar Singh Saigal presided. Shri T.N. Dhar spoke on the life and teachings of Avatar Meher Baba, with particular reference to His Dynamic Silence, Love and Truth. W.D. Kain emphasised the need for remembering and loving Baba. He warned the audience that the world was not going to be saved by any material power - nuclear or otherwise. Divine Love alone could save humanity and Baba had come to awaken that divine love in man. He reiterated that all people could love Baba, without in the least endangering or jeopardizing their religious convictions. He said that as already explained the time for breaking of the Silence by Baba was fast approaching when a "tidal wave will

rise in the Ocean of Grace". He appealed to those present to love Baba and thereby deserve His Grace.

ALIGARH APPLAUDS MEHER BABA'S MESSAGE OF LOVE AND PEACE

Todi Singh the "King Pin" behind the Ghee Business undertaken by Baba's Mandali during the New Life, was not able to adjust himself in his dairy business after he had left Dehradun and spent his time only in remembering Baba and spreading his teachings in Aligarh and adjoining areas. To give a concrete shape to his spiritual enterprise he arranged a series of meetings to spread Beloved Baba's name. Some gleanings are given below:

On 24 April, 1966, a meeting was arranged at the Satsang Bhawan of Sanatan Dharma Sabha. Aligarh, under the chairmanship of Shri Amar Singh Saigal, M.P. W.D. Kain spoke on the life and teachings of Avatar Meher Baba, referring in brief to the early days of Baba's education, His long spells of Seclusion and Fasts, His Silence and Mast Tours and so on, touching ultimately on his Divine Love which exerted unique influence on those who came in contact with Him. Explaining further that "Baba did not belong to any particular Religion and that all Religions belonged to Him". It was made clear to the audience that the quickest way of realizing God was to love God for the sake of God and remembering Baba whole heartedly and surrendering to Him completely. Shri T.N. Dhar, quoting that "Life is a Shadow" and that we should endeavour to find out that One Reality. Mind, he said, was the great hurdle and he told the audience how the mind could be controlled by renunciation and 'practice' (Abhyasa) as given in the Gita. Developing on this point he added that all this was so difficult but, the easiest way was to know and love Baba. He deplored the stark folly of mankind in not recognizing God in human form. Sardar Amar Singh Saigal summing up the proceedings

told the audience that Love of Baba was the only Reality. He stressed the need for loving Meher Baba - The Avatar. Photographs of Baba were distributed among the ladies and gents.

The venue of the next meeting was the Swami Rama Tirath Ashram - Vedanta Bhawan, where Shri Bhu Dev Sharma introduced the speakers. Shri Amar Singh Saigal inaugurated the meeting. He spoke on the Dynamic silence of Avatar Meher Baba. He narrated briefly the meeting of Pt. Gopi Nath Mahamaho Upadhaya with Baba on a day when the former was also observing silence. The language of Silence he said is supreme, and when questioned about the reaction of the meeting in Silence, Pt. Gopi Nath just said that "Baba is the Highest of the High". Baba's Silence, he told the audience "is not the silence of the graveyard but it is the Spiritual Silence of God". He also mentioned about Mahatama Gandhi meeting Baba and thereby acquiring the spiritual habit of observing silence once a week regularly. Thereafter W.D. Kain spoke on the Advent of God and said that, as mentioned in the Gita, Avatar Meher Baba has come and we should turn our faces towards that Spiritual Sun in order to escape the shadow of illusion. He further said that "Baba has come not to teach but to awaken", and awakening was possible only by deep contact with Him. Baba, he said, was all Love and Truth and if we really wish to realise God (as was apparent from the keenness on the part of so many attending such meetings in that Ashram), we should do so right now and not half heartedly. There should be no hypocrisy. If we were real seekers of God we should adopt Truth cent per cent and turn towards the Avatar who is right in our midst in this Age and in order to receive His Grace, we should remember Him constantly.

The venue of the next meeting was the Brahmin Higher Secondary School, Achal Talao. In the School

Hall were gathered the Teaching Staff, members of the Managing Committee and several others - including students. BHANU - the 5 year old grandson of Pt. Bhu Dev Sharma - 'introduced' the subject - THE AVATAR - by reciting stanzas in Sanskrit from the Gita purporting to say that "whenever there is a decay of righteousness, and there is exaltation of unrighteousness, then I (God) come forth. For the protection of the good, for the destruction of evil-doers, for the sake of firmly establishing righteousness, I (God) am born from age to age". T.N. Dhar then spoke on the life of Avatar Meher Baba. He told the audience that the Avatar, as mentioned in the Gita, was right now present in human form in this country.

W.D. Kain spoke on the teachings of Avatar Meher Baba. He told the audience that the essence of Baba's teachings was Truth and Love - unalloyed Love - Love Divine. "Modern life" he said "was creating so many problems with resultant worries. That demanded better understanding, for according to Meher Baba 'Life when understood is a jest and if not understood is a pest'". Baba, he said, "gave that understanding through an inner awakening, which again was the result of our mutual love for Him." Amar Singh Saigal spoke on the silence of Avatar Meher Baba and told the audience that the time was nearing when Baba would speak that word of words which would bring about a spiritual upsurge in the world. He added that the Avatar's silence is unique and has to be understood. Other Avatars - Krishna, Buddha and Christ - had also observed Silence and done their work in Silence. The Universal work of Baba was being done in Silence which has been going on for over 40 years now. He appealed to the audience to know and love Meher Baba - The Avatar.

The next meeting was held under the auspices of the Theosophical Society at the residence of Dr. Chand Behari Lal. Amar Singh Saigal spoke on the Life of Avatar

Meher Baba. Touching briefly on the early life of Baba and His contact with Baba Jan and Sai Baba, he dwelt on the Avatarhood of Meher Baba. He said "Meher Baba is The Avatar". He added that what he said was not only from his own personal experience but also from the accounts given by so many others. He said, he had no doubt that "Meher Baba is the Avatar".

W.D. Kain spoke on the teachings of Meher Baba with special reference to universal Brotherhood. He said that we talked so much about universal Brotherhood but defied the teachings of the Avatar. "How many Christians, for example acted up to the adage - Love thy neighbour as thyself? How can we love God whom we have not seen when we do not love our neighbour whom we see daily". Quoting from Meher Baba's teachings, he said "Man's inability to live God's words makes the Avatar's teachings a mockery". He added that the root cause of all conflicts, wars and battles, according to Meher Baba, was our own selfishness. If instead of looking more and more after our own comforts, we paid more and more attention to the needs of those in distress, we should be nearer God. If we believed that there is one God, and He is present in each one of us, then we should tear down the curtain of vicious greed, unbridled ambition and uncalled-for hatred replacing these with humility, purity and truth. "Let us start with our own group, our own neighbours, our own ward, our own street, town and so on, thereby, creating a nucleus of "Brotherhood", which would ultimately envelope the whole Universe in a spirit of "UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD", he added. Quoting further from Meher Baba, he said that Baba wanted us to love even those who hated us. The teachings of Meher Baba and His Love alone could usher in an era of Peace and happiness, he said, in conclusion. This was received with loud applause.

Shri T.N. Dhar gave a very vivid account of how he came in contact with Baba - the Lover's insistent chase and the Divine Beloved's persistent refusal to unveil - ultimately lifting of the self-imposed veil and giving a bit of 'audience' for which the lover would sacrifice his all. He said, "Baba has asserted, God cannot be discussed, God cannot be theorised, God can only be lived by losing ourselves in Him through Love: So we should love Baba and surrender to His Will".

SIX MEMORABLE DAYS IN POONA : MAY 1965.

In the last week of April all roads were leading to Poona, where Beloved Baba had come to give Darshan to his Lovers from East. They came by rail, road and air to this Baba "Fair".

1st May: Baba went to see the Avatar Meher Baba Centre, ----- Poona, where he was welcomed by the secretary, K. K. Ramakrishnan amidst loud cheers by the devotees. To the welcome address Baba replied:

"I am happy that in welcoming me to the hall which in your Love you have built for my work, you are welcoming me to a place in your lives and to a seat in each of your hearts. For it is to live in your hearts & to share in your lives that I have come among you." - Meher Baba.

2nd May At Guruprasad.

Where geraniums flower and roses red
Nature a green turf had spread
On this way put up a red awning
And in sky above Sun was yawning
Little knowing He had come to awaken
His lovers on spiritual path to hasten
They came in numbers yond imagination
Their eyes set on Him in fascination.
Some dared and went rather too near
But wept as he called them His dear.
A touch of His feet or His hands sublime
Filled pilgrims hearts with love Divine

Those who came found it hard to leave
And poor absentees did nothing but grieve.

As Baba's lovers started coming in, they were welcomed by Bros. Eruch, Pendu, Aloba, Bahu Kalchuri, Kishan Singh, Pukar, Jal, Brabazon, Adi, Sarosh, Nana Kher. And lo! Beloved Baba comes:

As the curtain was lifted in verandah rear
of Guruprasad where lived my Baba dear
Still and Movie cameras pressed near
And His lovers bowed humbly to revere
A thousand moons or million stars
A-dancing for Sun ere morning star
Miserably fail to paint a picture rare
That can even in dreams my Beloved compare.

Baba came at 8-40 a.m, and sat in the sofa chair amongst loud Jai Jaikar of Avatar Meher Baba. "No words can describe His beauty, majesty, glitter or glamour":

The beauteous form denied all description
The Saints have meditated and poets sung
But wisest philosophers remained tied tongue
For the glory of Thy face outshines the Sun.

At 9 a.m. Parvardigar Prayer was recited by Dr. Harry Kenmore. Bro. Eruch read the following message of Baba:

"I am happy to see you all..... All these years I used to embrace you. This time I want you to come to me one by one and put your hands on my knees and I will pat each one: that will amount to my embracing and meeting you".

Poona Bhajan Mandali started devotional music and those who had to leave that day started coming up for Baba's Darshan. Shri M.Thiru M. Rao said "This country is again getting into trouble".

Baba said 'That is why I have taken birth in this land again to save it. Don't worry.' "Do you know

that I am God in human form. When I break my silence the world would know as I am. All my suffering will then end . One year after breaking my silence, I'll drop my body. That one year after the breaking of my silence will be my period of glorification". When RK asked to be permitted to live with Baba, He said "To be with Baba is to keep Baba with you." Baba added "To me all are alike but I love India." To K, He said "In fact nothing really matters. What really matters is to see what I really am". Kain remarked "Those who love to see Baba as he is are not anxious to see him as what He really is. "Baba smiled and said "He is very clever".

Over 4,000 devotees - all from outside - had His Darshan that day by bowing down at His feet.

3rd May

Baba arrived: As He took the seat, Subhadra chanted the tune: "Meher Ekam Meher Nityam". C.M. Rao of Hyderabad recited the Master's Prayer. Lovers from Andhra started having Darshan.

Baba asked A.S. Saigal "what does a devotee really want?" A.S. replied "Nothing but the dust of the Master's feet". Baba said "When a lover surrenders himself cent per cent, he becomes the dust of the feet of the Master". The Darshan continued and on conclusion Arti was sung.

4th May

Although over 10,000 devotees had already had Baba's Darshan, yet the number showed no signs of diminishing. So Baba came much earlier today. Baba declared through Eruch "The love of Hamirpur lovers feels that they are poor, therefore they are being neglected". Baba said "Whether the lovers are poor or rich, I am the slave of my lovers". Eruch said "Baba wants Hamirpur

lovers to be patient". Maharani Shanta Devi of Baroda then garlanded Baba. The Gantur Bhajan Mandali began singing a devotional song. Darshan Programme started. At one stage Baba stood up so that those at the rear could see Him. Mrs NK was introduced who was living in the same flat at Napier Road where Josef Harb used to stay. Baba remarked "Nasib wali hai - She is fortunate". Those who had Darshan today included persons from Andhra, Kanpur, Nagpur, Bhopal, Indore, Amraoti. After the Arti Baba retired to his room to come up again in the afternoon at 3-45 when lovers from Delhi were sent for. Lala Tehl Ram was asked to give some Persian Couplet from Hafiz which Baba was pleased to hear.

5th May

Today Baba lovers came much early in the morning and sat in their seats. He came at 7-50 a.m. and all cried out Jai Meher Baba. Hamirpur lovers started coming up for Darshan. Bhajan Mandali from Delhi-Kanpur-Dehra Dun took up their seats on the special dais for musical entertainment. Baba stood up to give Darshan to his lovers sitting far behind. The Arti was sung. Luncheon break.

In the afternoon again Baba sent for some of the lovers to have His Darshan. This being the last day of the Darshan, some of the devotees felt pangs of separation, and others were lost in His ecstasy.

6th May

Hail Baba, Jai Meher! Parbrahm
You are Father, Mother and My Chum
Though the Session was of short term
Six days Killed false ego "I am".

So the last day came. Baba was in his seat at 8 a.m.

The lovers from outside had already had His Darshan. Today Poona people came along with lovers from Bombay. Poona people had brought their families. Baba touched a child in fond love and the parents were overjoyed. The volunteers like Kamle came - they had stood on duty outside all these days. Beloved Baba enquired about each by name. He was so considerate, so gracious, so majestic and so humorous. By this afternoon over 30,000 devotees had His Darshan. Arti was sung at 10 a.m. and as he was being wheeled away from the stage, I said:

"Again I say the Awakener has come
Declare thou loudly why remain mum.
It is true the world sees His beauty
But declare to all that's our duty."

MR. & MRS. FRANCIS GOLDNEY'S VISIT TO INDIA

Francis Goldney and his wife, who had been introduced to us by Mrs. Irene Conybeare came from Denmark to India in December, 1965 on a business tour. They had been followers of Baba since 1955 and had visited India in 1957 and again in 1961 while on their way back from a Congress in Japan. They had on one occasion planned to attend The Sahvas for Westerners from 23rd to 30th December (Later cancelled). But they saw Baba for a short time when "Baba gave them His Blessings". While in Delhi they were duly received and were taken round to Agra, to see Taj, Akbar's Tomb etc. by a friend. They had a very busy time in Delhi, seeing various business houses, meeting Minister of Commerce and so on. We often talked over a cup of tea about Baba, and although very eager to meet Baba lovers locally, they regretted their inability to do so for want of time, and indisposition of Mrs. Goldney. I gave them a copy of "Listen Humanity" to read. They invited me to meet them in Denmark if ever possible. But I could not do so as they were in Faroe Islands quite far off from Copenhagen which I visited in July 1970.

* Apart from their great love and devotion to Baba, I also appreciate their move to get me a "Baby typewriter" at very moderate price, which is helping me to type out the manuscript of this Book.

I MET DR. ZABIH GHORBAN (QURBAN)

In July, 1966 Bro. Alopa received a letter from his friend Dr. I. Mehrabanpur of Shiraj, a great devotee of Baba, who had earlier visited India with a team of lovers

from Iran and had Baba's darshan. He stated that Dr. Z. Ghorban, Vice-Chancellor, Pahlavi University of Shiraj, was coming to New Delhi to attend a Conference on Medical Education and that he was much eager to see Meher Baba and also contact some Baba lovers. His grandson had got an attack of paralysis since last two years. Dr. J.M. gave him Baba's photo to love it, concentrate on it, and repeat Baba's name. Their Ayah stated that, "Last night when the child was restless, they just put Baba's photo under his pillow and the child had a comfortable night."

Adi forwarded the letter to me and asked me to contact Dr. Ghorban. He also telegraphed my telephone number to Shiraj. As soon as Dr. Ghorban (pronounced as Qurban in English) arrived at New Delhi, I contacted him at Hotel Oberoi International. I talked to him about Baba's teachings over a cup of tea and also gave him some books on Baba. In return he gave me a copy of History of Iran, which I treasure as a memento. Dr. Qurban spent a good deal of time with me and was much impressed by Baba's teachings. Since he had a very busy schedule of engagements the next day, so except for a little outing in New Delhi, he could not find time for visiting Baba's places in Delhi.

BABA'S BIRTHDAY 1966

Baba's Birthday Programme started from 10th, February 1966 and continued for 25 days. The first function was held at the residence of Shri Amar Singh Saigal M.P. on 10th February 1966 and concluded on Sunday 6th March 1966 at President's Estate, New Delhi.

The important event of the celebrations was the press Conference held at Wengers New Delhi, where Press Representatives from the Statesman, Indian Express, Times of India, AAJ & AIR attended and were addressed by Shri Amar Singh Saigal, M.P. W.D. Kain & G.S.N. Moorthy: The Speakers, who enlightened those attending the meeting, about the teachings of Baba, included Shri M.Thirumala Rao M.P. and Dr. C.D. Deshmukh, T.N. Dhar, Mahabir Prasad & Dev Raj Aggarwal. Devotional music by Smt. Kusum & Party regaled the audience.

The following message from Baba was read out at each meeting:-

"BE COMPOSED IN THE REALITY OF MY LOVE,
FOR ALL CONFUSION AND DESPAIR IS YOUR OWN
SHADOW WHICH WILL VANISH WHEN I SPEAK TO
THE WORD."

- MEHER BABA.

The following poem was also recited –

When Earth with strife and hatred is torn
And Religion of Truth has been shorn
To dispel the darkness and bring the Morn
The God Man - The Avatar again is born.

He knows the time has really come
When warring nations should unite as one

Should begin to love and hatred shun
And feel inwardly that the Messiah has come.

To scorching Earth ever gives He rain
And suffering humanity rids He of pain
A handful of lovers in Love would train
Compassionate Father will not neglect Kain

To year 1966 He has given His thought
To replace despair eternal hope has brought
With subtle Love-net the fish He has caught
Hold fast His Daman and care ye for nought.

So to celebrate His Birthday all did strive.
They came from Kharagpur and from Nagpur arrive.
We appealed to those who on materialism thrive
And His Message of Love made the dead hearts alive.

W.D. Kain

FAIR "(EXP)" MONTREAL 1967

Meher Baba lovers from Canada were kindly allowed by Baba to participate in the World Fair '(EXP)' Montreal 1967. Here Baba literature was to be exhibited. Free literature in both English & French was to be made available & Baba books in English would be available for sale. The Govt. of India had deputed Mr. Raghbir Dayal as the 'Head' of the Indian pavilion. Plans were accordingly drawn and I was asked to discuss relevant points with Mr. D.N. Chopra. Deputy Director of Exhibitions Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India.

This was going to be a big show as the President of India Dr. S. Radhakrishnan was expected to be there on June 28 and Catherine M. Draper, the spirit behind the Baba project, told me that "well over 10 million people of different nationalities are expected to attend the Fair, between late April and late October: naturally I hope Baba will be among them." The first parcel of 24 Books ranging from "God speaks" by Meher Baba to "MEHER BABA by his Eastern & Western disciples" was despatched from Ahmednagar on Feb. 2, 1967, for approval by the Ministry concerned. On receipt of the covering letter, I telephoned Mr. D.N. Chopra at 1 Atul Grove, New Delhi and later spoke to Shri K. Srinivasan Dy. Secretary for expediting the necessary sanction for exhibiting the books. They promised all help for Baba's work.

MEHER BABA'S BIRTHDAY - 1967

Meher Baba's birthday was celebrated at Sapru house, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Justice Shri V. Ramaswamy, Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 25th Feb. 67 at 5.45 p.m.

A welcome song by Madhu, a radio artist was sung. As the curtain was rolled up, there appeared on the stage children dressed by KUSUM MOHKAM SINGH in costumes of various religious communities, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists etc. They performed Baba's Arti (Baba's prayer Song). Dr. G.S.N. Moorthy, who spoke on the occasion said, "Humanity will see rise of a new brotherhood when Baba comes out of his seclusion." Dr. W.D. Kain read out Baba's special message which inter alia said, "I will be with you all who gather for my Birthday to celebrate my being among you. I am where ever my lovers are. I give my love and blessings to you each of my lovers". Shri Justice V. Ramaswamy then delivered the Presidential address wherein he eulogised the divine role played by Baba in the present era. Another touching event was the musical feast given by Begum Akhtar of Lucknow whose melodious songs and Ghazals were steeped in spiritual aroma and divine ecstasy. It is said that when she saw Meher Baba for the first time, and sang this poem before Him, she wept profusely. So dear Baba had to give her his Silken Scarf to wipe off the tears. The opening sentence of the Ghazal, she repeated in this meeting was "Aye mohabbat tere anjam pai rona aya." Addressing Baba's picture she went on to sing "Sharab Apni jagah, go sharab hoti Hai Saki, teri nazar ka magar kaya jaawab Hai saki". Shri Harjeevan Lal then thanked the audience and W.D. Kain recited the Parvardigar prayer. Photos of Meher Baba along with 'Ladoos' (Sweets packets) were given to each visitor.

FOLLOW-UP OF BABA'S BIRTHDAY PROGRAMME - 1967

A special function was held at 169 North Avenue (the residence of Shri A.S. Saigal, M.P.). This was inaugurated by Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, Minister for Steel, Mines & Metals. He urged the audience to understand

and spread the message of Avatar Meher Baba for the welfare of humanity.

On this occasion he released a book by Dr. C.D. Deshmukh: Sparks of the Truth from dissertations of Meher Baba"

Shri Parimal Ghosh, Minister of State for Railway, who presided over the meeting told the audience that he considered Avatar Meher Baba the same "Power that comes to redeem humanity when that Power is most needed."

This function was followed by another set of meetings at Kirti Nagar, Quazi Hauz, Defence Colony, Lajpat Nagar and 9, Curzon Road, where the celebrations were of really unique type and Shri Ram Parkash Aggarwal left no stone unturned to make the function as grand as possible, befitting the occasion.

PURNIMA DAY CELEBRATIONS OF AVATAR MEHER BABA'S BIRTHDAY

A Meeting was held at 169-North Avenue, New Delhi, on 25th March 1967 which was inaugurated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy.

The Speaker said that "Meher Baba by prayer and exemplary life, has been teaching us how to live a life of contentment and happiness."

Shri Abdul Majid Khan, whom Baba once called as 'Junior Ghani' told the audience that the Messiahs came to redeem suffering humanity from time to time.

Shri W.D. Kain remarked that God had never failed humanity in its time of trial and tribulation. And that it was with that view that we have gathered here to

celebrate the Birthday of the Ancient One, the Highest of the High, who is Buddha reborn as Maitreya – whom we call as Meher Baba – the Compassionate Father."

DR. HIRA LAL CHOPRA VISITS DELHI

Dr. Hira Lal Chopra came to Delhi on 23rd May 67 and was received at the New Delhi Railway Station by Shri A.S. Saigal. M.P. and Smt. Prabha Kain. A series of lectures, dedicated to Avatar Meher Baba, were arranged by the Delhi Centre during his three days' stay in the Capital City of India. Dr. Chopra told us how he came in contact with Avatar MEHER BABA and he described himself as just a child in the company of Baba lovers, having met Baba for the first time only 16 months and 8 days back. He added that although an opportunity had presented itself to him in 1953, when Baba was staying next door to him in Mussoorie, yet he was not then ready to have his Darshan. But in Feb. 66 when Shri A.C.S. Chari placed before him telegraphic correspondence, conveying Baba's permission for him to have His Darshan at Meherazad on 15 Feb. 66, he could not resist it. He was in Poona on 13 Feb 66, where he was met by Shri K.K. Ramakrishnan and next day he drove to Ahmednagar, where he stayed as the guest of Shri Sarosh K. Irani. The following day he left for Meherazad in the company of Adi and was ushered into Baba's Room immediately on arrival there. What effect that Darshan had on him is difficult to describe and when Baba said 'You can deny God but you cannot defy God' it thrilled him and a vast vista of Self knowledge was opened before him. And to crown it all Baba asked him to kiss Him on the cheek. He did so and felt as if he would be drowned into the sea of Divinity. He then remembered how Swami Rama Krishan Parmahansa had placed the toe of his foot on the chest of Narendra (later called Swami Vivekananda) when he first came to see the Master. Like Arjuna witnessed the Virat Swaroop of Lord Krishna, Narendra saw the entire Cosmos revolving around him. He requested the Master to stop it, and was told by Parmahansa that it was done only to steady his vagrant mind. The mind, he said, is like a mirror. A dust-laden mirror is first cleaned, then it is put

in steady position. The onlooker then sees his reflection in the mirror and when he is satisfied that the picture in the mirror is his, he is satisfied with the reproduction therein. The cleansing process of the mirror is Karma Yoga, the steadying process is the Bhakti Yoga and the personal knowledge of the reflection is the Gyan Yoga. He told Baba lovers that all we had to do was to steady the mind, fix it on Baba, not allowing it to wander from place to place.

BABA - THE LIGHT HOUSE

Dr. Hira Lal Chopra rose up amidst loud cheers to deliver the Spiritual Discourse on Avatar Meher Baba. He expressed great delight at the very idea of having this Meher Baba function in such a holy place. He said "The world was created so that the man could realise God - the Creator, so says Quran, and his basic teachings are: God is one; All religions are one, i.e. there is no friction amongst them as they all tell you to realise God; All Human beings are one, being the children of one God. All these tenets have to be spread not only by priests but by those Saints and Pirs who came to give the message of Love to Humanity. And this message of life, the message of Love, the message of truth, the message of Fraternity, we get from Meherazad, where lives our "Hriday Samraat", the Lord of our Hearts - Meher Baba - where people quench their thirst of Divine Nectar.

I am fully convinced that Meher Baba has solved the problems of life, crossed the hurdles of evolution. He is Power Supreme, Bliss Divine, Knowledge Eternal. But it is so very difficult to understand Him. Not until the mind is emptied of all selfish thoughts and base desires, is it possible to do so. He knows Himself, knows God - Meher Baba. He has declared that he has come not to teach but to awaken. The Holy Books tell us not to

be afraid of anyone. But today people live in perpetual grip of fear. To such people Baba says 'Do not worry - Have Hope'. He showers His Love Blessings on them. But how far do we deserve it, desire it. We think of the Moon and care not how to live on this earth. We have forgotten the very purpose of life. Dr. Radhakrishnan once said: The purpose of all Religions - the aim of religious teachings is self realization. (Sarv Shashtra Prayojnam Atam Darshanam). We do not endeavour to know ourselves, to mend ourselves. If only we mended ourselves instead of asking others to mend themselves, the face of things will change - the entire world will be set right. To those desirous of following the path, Meher Baba says "Know Thyself". Your Divinity entitles you to realize God but how can you purify yourself and be as perfect as His image unless you see God and feel His presence all around you.

Lord Krishna in The Gita says "He who seeth me everywhere and seeth everything in Me of Him I will never lose hold and he shall never lose hold of me". Meher Baba gives us such guidance, shows us the road, by taking which we can reach the goal. He says it is a matter of heart not of head.

But to know and understand Baba, we need intense desire, internal search and incessant yearning for the Beloved. But how can we do so when we attach importance to worldly things, selfish motives, material possessions. He really lives who spends his life in His cause, in spreading His name and in the dissemination of His message. He has come to awaken us. We must get up now. The Upanishads ask us to awaken, arise and stop not until the goal is reached: until the reality is known. He makes you not a beggar - not a supplicant asking for this favour or that boon. He makes you the Master of yourself. He makes you an emperor. His nazar transforms you - not the Habitat but the Habits, not the person but the personality.

He says that you can rise only if you know how to love human beings and to serve them. MEHER BABA IS THE LIGHT HOUSE to the ships on the surface of the vast ocean facing the danger of striking against rocks and sinking in the dark. He has remained silent for 42 years but His silence is meaningful, so articulate, so significant, so supreme, that it baffles intellect. But how can the woebegotten, sin-stained, crime-crippled humanity steeped in troubles and tribulations approach Him. Here the Jewish Holy Book says "Though the gate of Mercy be shut, yet the gates of tears are always open". So He is the way. Surrender to Him as did King Janaka to His Master Ashtravakra. Unless you surrender all and everything - nay even the thought of having surrendered all unto Him, you cannot realize Him.

**THE FORMAL INAUGRATION OF SPIRITUAL
DISCOURSES BY
DR. HIRA LAL CHOPRA**

The programme of spiritual discourses on Avatar Meher Baba was formally inaugurated by Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, Dy Minister of Commerce at Urs Mahal Dargah Sharif, Hazrat Nizam-ud-Din Aulia, in the evening of 24th June, 1967. The Hon'ble Minister in his inaugural address, which was preceded by devotional music by Mrs. Kusum, Prabha, Krishna and Pushpa, remarked "In the world of today, fraught with various conflicts, man does not find peace. In the past people worshipped nature in search of the Creator and thereby found peace. Then came the enlightened ones who showed us the path to God Realization. We call them Prophets. But when they declared their authority, their Divine Power, they incurred the displeasure of mankind - the humanity whom they had come to save. To declare the truths an Avatar requires a Lion's Heart.... A time will come when the world will feel that there is a man who says that mutual conflict

and hatred has to be given up and we have to live as children of one Father - the God in Heaven. In conclusion he appealed to the audience to listen to and spread the message of Meher Baba amongst others through good thoughts, good words and good actions.

LET BABA'S NAZAR BE ON YOU.

The season's last series of Spiritual Discourses by Dr. Hira Lal Chopra was arranged at the President's Estate, where after the Lord's Invocation by Shri W.D. Kain, Mrs. Mukherjee sang "Avsar Bita Jaye" i.e. time is fleeting away. Dr. Hira Lal asked the audience at the very start if they had ever pondered over this problem of the time fleeting away:

Gafil Tujhe detahaiyeh ghadial munadi
Gardoon ne ghadi umar ki ek aur ghatadi
The Clock gives you the warning
O' You Ignorant One
You have lost. another precious
moment of your life.

Once Buddha enquired from one of his disciples if the light of the lamp burning there was the same as an hour before. 'Yes' replied the disciple. 'No' said Buddha. 'It is changing every minute'. According to the Greek Mythology, Time is fleeting. It is depicted therein with a lock of hair in the front and bald at the back. Hence they say take time by the forelock. "Man", he said, is a rational being. He is gifted with discrimination. According to his Sermon on the Mount, Christ has said 'Blessed are they who are pure of heart because they shall see God.' So let not evil enter the heart. Be a man - man of whom even God is proud of - whom Baba considers to be a jewel. In order to be so we have to leave our hoard of wants and desires. We have to discriminate

between needs and wants, shed all base desires, cast away selfishness. There should be the spirit of detachment and a continuous remembrance of His name. As Guru Nanak has said:

Naam Khumari Nanka
Chadhi rahe din raat,
Let intoxication of God's Name
overpower you always.

Then only you will find that Baba is always with you. the pre-requisite to this is cent per cent devotion. Such a devotion is free from the travail of life and death:

Aayi Qaza mujh ko dhundti rahi nahak
Main to kisi ki yaad men duniya se dur tha

Death searched in vain for me:
I was beyond the limits of world remembering Him.

But this requires the subjugation of the Ego as well as the annihilation of Aham or false I. Baba teaches you how to do it. He gives the lesson of humility. In His Court nobody is great or small. In the Sahvas at Meherabad he washed the feet of the poor and placed His head on their feet. In their feet rests Heaven - where there is no trouble, no worry no tribulation. He shows us several methods of God-realization. But we look at things from our own selfish point of view and not from the right angle or the Baba angle. So you have to surrender all to Meher Baba. His way is so simple, yet so mysterious. He has been silent for 42 years and is mostly in seclusion. And yet he is so brimful with Bliss, busy in His Universal Work and wondering over the passing events. Meher Baba says 'Be still and know that I am God' and Moulana Rumi has declared "See only that wherein you see

the glory of God". The worldly people preach the truth but they do not practice even an iota of it. To such people Baba cautions "Be Still", so that the energy is not frittered away. So all we have to do is to follow him silently, surrender to Him sincerely and worship Him whole heartedly and then you will see that the door to self knowledge is opened all at once. You have not to leave the world or give up the execution of your daily duty, not even to discard your Religion. But He wants you to be one with Him as Bullah Shah has said:-

Hath Kaar Balle -
The hands are busy with work.
Dil yaar Balle -
The heart is with the Beloved.

Guru Nanak obtained self Knowledge while weighing grain. Remember Him constantly. The name of the Lord can turn a criminal into a saint. But this requires training and that training is given by Baba. We have to bring in humility into our lives and do something which is for universal welfare. The scriptures place before you the ideal of self-sacrifice, real love, truth-ful living. But to be like that we have to hold fast to the Daaman of someone - He is Meher Baba. Anyone - high or low, rich or poor can follow Him. All Religions belong to Him. Let us, therefore, understand His teachings. He awakens you and if we do not awaken at His Call, then we shall have to regret woefully. Let us follow His path silently and feel that Baba's Nazar is ever on us. Shri W.D. Kain then read out the following telegraphic message:

"MY LOVE BLESSINGS TO ALL GATHERED IN MY
NAME AND FOR MY LOVE ON SATURDAY 24TH AT
QAWALI HALL (URS MAHAL)
..... MEHER BABA

Peer Zamin Nizami in his presidential address said that man was created for the worship of God. Every moment of life, every action of life, every breath of Life is the worship of God. As God is one, so there is only one Religion and that religion is of Love, service and brotherhood. Prophets came from time to time to give that message in their own words to different people at different times in different places. Quoting from Moulana Rumi he said that the real Religion is Love and this is what Meher Baba impresses upon us. Referring to the silence of Baba, he said "He who has known or realized God, becomes dumb". He quoted from the life story of a saint, who told his devotee "One Name has been engraved on my heart and I do not remember any other name". "The essence of Baba's Love" he said "is worship of God and service of mankind. The world is going towards irreligion and it is Meher Baba, who by His message of Love and Truth, is ever awakening humanity towards true Religion - a religion of Love which will bring in an era of peace and universal brotherhood replacing mutual hatred and bloody strife."

Forty second Silence Anniversary of MEHER BABA.

A programme of the Silence Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba was observed from 1st to 9th July 1967 with a Special Public Meeting on the 9th July 1967 at Community Hall, Sarojini Nagar, under the Chairmanship of Shri C.M. Poonacha, Minister of Railways. The Vice-President of India, Shri V.V. Giri, inaugurated the Function by garlanding the Picture of Meher Baba. The following Message of Baba was read out by Shri W.D. Kain:

"My love and Blessing to all assembled to mark the forty-second year of My Silence STOP Convey My Blessing to chairman and speakers and all young and

old who actively participate in Silence Anniversary Programme STOP I bind Myself with Silence that when I break it mankind will realise what real Freedom is".....MEHER BABA.

Dr. Chenna Reddy, Central Minister, said "I take this opportunity to offer my devotion at the feet of Meher Baba. It is through His greatness that a man like myself began to feel the power of God." A framed photo of Baba was presented to him by Prabha Kain.

Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M.P. said "Baba's Silence is not Silence. His Silence is so dynamic that it is affecting millions of people all over the world...." Shri C.M. Poonacha concluded by saying "I have been trying to follow Meher Baba's Teachings..... I sincerely feel that Peace is now being given by Avatar Meher Baba by his simple Teachings." Meetings to mark the occasion were also held at different parts of Delhi from 3rd to 8th July, with Sunday get-together at the Center - President's Estate. Meher Singing Group led by Mrs. Kusum Mokham Singh entertained the audience with their devotional music both at the meetings and early morning Prabhat Pheries. So I say:-

When ladies two score at the strike of four
Singing Baba's Bhajans went (from) door to door
In main Vinay Nagar and South Extensions
In Greater Kailash with lovely mansions
Then in Defence Colony spread sweet melody
Come to Community Hall: not for dinner nor for Ball
But there you will hear about Father of all
The Silent Meher Baba the Eternal Supreme Lord
- W.D. Kain -

The proceedings of the function were broadcast by the All India Radio at 10-45 p.m.

DR. S. RADHAKRISHNAN

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, President of India, while in New Delhi had evinced great interest in the teachings of Meher Baba. Although he was unable to attend any of the functions due to so many official "Engagements" he used to send messages of good wishes on Baba's Birthday Celebrations. One of these messages is reproduced below:

Rashtrapati Bhawan
New Delhi-4
February 21, 1964

I am happy to know that the 70th Birthday Anniversary of Shri Meher Baba is being celebrated in Delhi. I send my best wishes on the occasion and hope that his teachings will continue to inspire a large number of people in our country.

(S. Radhakrishnan)

After he had laid down the office of the President he left for Madras. Shortly afterwards a letter was received that he would like to be informed about the activities of Meher Baba Centre in Delhi. Accordingly the following letter, as approved by the Vice President V.V. Giri, was sent to him and copy endorsed to Adi K. Irani.

Presidents Estate
New Delhi-4.
July 21, 1967

Respected Sir,

Prior to 1962 I had an opportunity to call on you in the company of Miss Irene Conybeare to discuss about Avatar Meher Baba's teachings. Meher Baba, as you know has been silent for the last 42 years. and as the time

of breaking of His Silence and His Manifestation is approaching, more and more people of different schools of thought are coming into His fold, aspiring to draw inspiration from His Dynamic Silence. How the elite of the Capital of India have responded to His Silent Call for Love will be noticed from the following account:

On the eve of His Silence Day, a public meeting was held in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri C.M. Poonacha, Minister of Railways as per programme enclosed. Shri V.V. Giri, the Vice-President of India, arrived at 6.40 p.m. and as he took his seat on the dais, followed by Shri C.M. Poonacha and Dr. M. Chenna Reddy (Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals) the hall rang with "Hail Avatar Meher Baba". The Vice-President of India garlanded Baba's picture and amidst loud cheers by the audience inaugurated the function. Baba's love and Blessings were then conveyed to the Vice-President, the Chairman of the function and the speakers. The following message dictated by Baba through His gestures and received telegraphically for the occasion was then read out:

"..... I bind myself with silence that when I break it mankind will realize what real freedom is
- MEHER BABA"

The Vice-President was then presented with a framed photograph of Avatar Meher Baba; amongst those who spoke on the occasion was also Mr. M. Chenna Reddy, who told the audience that when "Avatar Meher Baba breaks His Silence, a new chapter will be ushered into the world." He was glad to mention that this was the first public meeting he had addressed after assumption of office in Delhi and this was for Meher Baba. He added "When Baba blesses He gives whole heartedly". Shri C.M. Poonacha remarked that Avatar Meher Baba has continued His silence of 42 years to see that mankind comes out of the sufferings of the mundane world. Man is not

happy. He is agitated for want of real peace. And that peace is now being given by Avatar Meher Baba. May He, the kindly Light, lead us on to the path of God-realization."

Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M.P. during the course of his speech said "We are really fortunate in attracting the attention of Avatar Meher Baba and get His smiles and embrace. Baba's Silence is so dynamic that it is affecting millions of people all over the world."

The meeting, which was very well attended, had a number of the elite of the City, Members of Parliament, University Professors and Teachers, Lawyers and Doctors, young and old, women and children. The ALL INDIA RADIO recorded the proceedings and relayed it twice during the following week.

With respectful regards from Avatar Meher Baba lovers in Delhi.

Yours sincerely,
W.D. Kain
To Dr. S. Radhakrishnan

BAHADURGARH CREATES HISTORY IN BABA'S WORK

Deep down from His Strict Seclusion, Baba had the following message telegraphed through Bro. Eruch.

"Only a few fortunate ones are blessed by the Avatar to come forward to bear witness to His presence among mankind..... Professor V.K.R.V. Rao.....Shri T.D.Verma Ji, Shri Amar Singh Saigal, Dr. W.D. Kain, Shrimati Kusum Mohkam Singh, Shrimati Prabha Kain, Krishna Kapil, Pushpa Aggarwal, Prem Mukherjee, and men, women and children of Delhi, Bahadurgarh and its neighbourhood have the love and blessings of Avatar Meher Baba for they have come forward and assembled in Bahadurgarh

on August 20th to speak and hear about the love of Avatar Meher Baba and to mark completion of forty two years of His continuous Silence....."

The occasion was a Special Function organised at Bahadurgarh (Haryana), just a few miles from the border of the Union Territory of Delhi - to celebrate the 42nd Silence Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba on Sunday 20th Aug. 67 on a Grand scale. To organise a public function, befitting the grandeur of the highest of the High, had been engaging the attention of Shri T.D. Verma, a Baba lover at Bahadurgarh, for several months. Consequently in collaboration with Baba lovers in Delhi he continued to make untiring efforts to bring about a meeting of the townsfolk and the villagers, the elite and the laity, the old and the young, men and women - all steeped in Baba Love - and what was expected to be a big meeting turned out to be a Meher Mela. Never had such an enthusiasm been noticed in this part of the country in the matter of a spiritual gathering, nor had so many people from far and near assembled to pay tributes and offering of their love to One, whom they had never seen, yet had yearned to love Him at close quarters in the innermost recesses of their hearts.

Bahadurgarh - the sub-town, which shines like a morning star in the suburban firmament of the Capital of India, was humming with activity on the 19th and 20th August, when telegraphic wires between Ahmednagar and Delhi were tingling with the Beloved Baba's message of love. On the 19th evening, some of the Baba lovers from Delhi paid a visit to Bahadurgarh and witnessed the facelifting operations going on in the town. The Municipal Committee was busy, the Mahabir Mandir Committee was busy and the Reception Committee of the Avatar Meher Baba Function was equally occupied. All this spurred the business community into gainful activity. They decorated their shops, prepared sweets and brought out heaps of

fruits and toys and balloons so that the bazar presented a festival look on the morning of 20th August. In Delhi the restlessness was equally great. As train after train brought Baba lovers from one city or the other to participate in the function, telephonic enquiries about transport arrangements came pouring in like monsoon showers. Prakashvati came from Dehra Dun just when we were holding the Sunday morning meeting of the Avatar Meher Baba Centre at Delhi. Shortly afterwards came Shri P.D. Nigam "Pukar", Shri Sita Ram and his son from Kanpur and Shri Moti Lal Nigam from Sultanpur, Shri M.M. Aggarwal from Agra. Shrimati Rama Devi came from Mokimpur with her family. Telegraphic messages of good wishes for the success of the function continued coming in from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Bilaspur, Calcutta, Hamirpur, and several other places.

At 3-30 p.m., a tourist bus flying the seven colour flag of Avatar Meher Baba, with Baba's life size picture placed on the top - and bearing Meher Baba insignia on both sides left for Bahadurgarh carrying Baba lovers from Delhi and out-stations. The passengers continued singing Baba bhajan en-route. As they entered the Haryana territory they had to slow down to receive the ovation at every village-stop on the roadside. As we neared Bahadurgarh, we saw huge crowds already gathered on both sides of the road. The Haryana Police presented a smart turnout and the local Volunteer Corps was also in full array.

The procession started at 5.30 p.m. It was headed by a life-size coloured picture of Baba placed in a bullock cart, in front of which sat the Meher Singing group chanting Bhajans devoted to Baba. Seven coloured flags of Baba fluttered here and there. As the procession passed through the magnificent welcome arch put up by the City Committee the President of the Mahabir Mandir Committee, garlanded Baba's picture. The entire route

had been decorated with multicoloured buntings, banners painted with Baba's sayings and floral welcome arches. Hundreds of people - men, women and children lined the Main Bazar and threw rose petals at Baba's feet as the procession passed by. As the procession reached the residential area, the crowd had swelled to well over six to eight thousands all shouting Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai. As they approached the Mandir Street, where a beautiful scenario-cum-floral welcome arch had been put up, Baba's picture was taken off the bullock cart and carried on shoulders by Baba lovers amidst Jai Jaikar of Baba, right on to the specially constructed platform in the Mahabir Mandir.

The meeting started at 6 p.m. On the dais was Baba's picture, profusely garlanded and canopied in silk. In front on one side sat the Meher Singing Group and on the other were the speakers. As devotional music commenced, men women and children took their seats in the respective enclosures. Shortly afterwards Shri P.D. Nigam "Pukar" delivered his speech on the life and teachings of Avatar Meher Baba. He told the audience that when the "world fails to find the way to peace and real happiness, Divine power comes to help them. Who else could bring peace unto the world. Who would lead suffering humanity towards happiness, towards comfort, towards eternal bliss? So the Avatar comes. He is right now amongst you." He then narrated in brief the life story of Meher Baba, throwing light on his parentage, His childhood, His contact with the five perfect Masters. He hinted on the Spiritual and Mast work of Baba. Proceeding further he mentioned about Baba's Silence. This Silence, he said. was meant to awaken the world towards realization of pure life, selfless service and true love. "Baba's Message" he said, "is Universal and so is His language Universal - the language of gestures. He has come to establish the Law of Love, the kingdom of Truth, and the realm of spiritual integrity". He entreated

the audience, which had by now swelled to over 4000, to wake up as Baba was about to break His Silence, when he would speak the Word of Words, the primal Word, which brought about the manifestation of creation. The utterance of the same Word would now bring about the manifestation of the Avatar. The whole world will experience His Divine Love, except those unfortunate ones who plan to do away with the very existence of the Avatar.

Smt. Kusum, Prabha Kain, and other ladies then presented a programme of devotional music commencing with "Meher Ekam, Meher Nityam, Meher Satyam, Sundaram." The climax reached when they gave out the tune "Aa giya Avatar ho, Aa giya Avatar." In spite of all persuasion by the Volunteer Corps, the ladies rushed on to the stage crying Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai, throwing rose petals and jasmine garlands before Baba's picture. It seemed Baba's life-size picture had turned into life like and those who had come for His "Darshan" could not contain themselves fascinated as they were by the spiritual aura of his portrait:

Shama par lage hain duniya ke pahre
Par marne ki jin ko hasrat hai,
voh parvane kahan jayen.

The people are standing guard over the flame. But where will these (martyrs) go who want to consume themselves.

Shri T.D. Verma, then read out a Welcome Address, during the course of which he said: "We all welcome you on this occasion, which is the first of its kind in Bahadurgarh. This function will go down into the annals of this City as being unique. Along with it will be remembered your names as the ones who came to us as Representatives of Avatar Meher Baba, from far and near."

At 7 P.M., Professor V.K.R.V. Rao, Minister of Transport and Shipping, Government of India, rose to garland Baba's picture. In his inaugural address the learned speaker said, "It is my good fortune to come here in this function. I have been hearing about Avatar Meher Baba, but have had no chance to see Him. I have got an opportunity for the first time to address such a large gathering of His devotees. That all of you have come here, shows that Avatar Meher Baba has His love for you. People expect that he should speak. But he does not. He has been silent for 42 years. He is known all over the world and people all over the world are devoted to him. Does Silence give that power? I ask. What is His Silence going to do for humanity? The answer is in the Gita. In his Sermon on Yoga of Sovereignty in the Lord's song, Krishna says that He is Mouna - Silence". He described Meher Baba as Mouni Avatar, who had that inherent Power to undertake such a long Silence. Stressing on the significance of Silence, he exhorted the audience to follow the teachings of Avatar Meher Baba. As he concluded, Shri T.D. Verma presented him a framed photograph of Baba. Professor V.K.R.V. Rao then presented four framed pictures of Baba to the President and members of the Reception Committee and the Secretary of the Mahabir Mandir Committee, on behalf of the Avatar Meher Baba Delhi Centre.

Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, M.P. recited the Parvardigar Prayer. This was followed by a telegraphic message received from Meherazad and read out by Shri T.D. Verma, conveying Baba's love and blessings to those present. "Bolo Bolo Meher Bolo Bhai" was then sung by the Meher Singing Group amidst pin drop silence.

Group Captain M.M. Sakhare spoke on the Unique Silence of Meher Baba. In a brief but very lucid interpretation he explained the significance of silence, how Baba had been observing it continuously since 10th July 1925

to awaken humanity to the need for universal brotherhood. He told the audience that the entire Creation had emanated in Silence from one Om-Point and the world would get permanent peace when Baba spoke the Word. A Qawaali "Dar peh Meher Ke Jake pagle kiya hai mangta" followed this speech.

Shri W.D. Kain then recited the Repentance Prayer, Summing up the proceedings on behalf of the President: Shri M.M. Aggarwal said, "Baba does His own Universal work and in order to do that he has to endure untold suffering. We should therefore hold on to His Daaman. This alone would be instrumental in lessening his burden of suffering. We shall also thereby overcome the present difficulties in this age of chaos and conflict. The Scriptures had all along foretold the coming of the Incarnation of God. He has already come. But we should be able to recognize Him.". Quoting from Ramayana, he said, "Avatar comes bound by the love of His devotees. So has Meher Baba come. Fortunate are the citizens of Bahadurgarh who have organised such a grand function, the like of which has never been witnessed in the North."

The Arti was then sung at 8.20 p.m. A special Film show comprising of religious pictures was released by the Social & Cultural Audio-Visual Society of New Delhi, in the name of Avatar Meher Baba.

The All India Radio, which had recorded the proceedings, relayed the programme at 10.40 P.M. from the Delhi Station on Tuesday the 22nd August, 1967, thereby making it possible for Baba lovers and admirers all over the country to partake of this sumptuous feast of Baba's love.

DO YOU EVER RECOGNISE THE AVATAR

MAJOR Hari Chand met Meher Baba while he was posted in the Signals at Poona. Both he and his family were very much loved by Baba and his devotees. From Poona he came to New Delhi and was our constant companion at all functions, whether personal or spiritual. When he was transferred to Jullundhar, he started organising Baba's functions there. During the 1965 conflict with Pakistan, he invited me to address the Officers and Troops at the Cantonment. Again in 1967, he asked me to address the troops on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami. Accordingly I went there and addressed a mammoth gathering of over 4000 persons on 28th August.

The gist of the speech is given below:

- W.D. KAIN

DO YOU EVER RECOGNISE THE AVATAR

Are we really serious about the advent of Krishna. Do we recognise the Avatar. We complain that He came to the succour of Draupadi but comes not now. Are we justified in questioning this? Lord Krishna came to the rescue of Draupadi when she had lost all hope of help at the hands of the Pandavas, Bhishma, the grand old man, and other warriors in the Court. When she placed her entire trust in the Lord and surrendered wholeheartedly to His Will, Lord Krishna saved her from the ordeal. We should have that much of faith in God. We treat devotion to God as a child's play. We must possess the ecstasy of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, the restlessness of Surdas, the tranquility of Sudama, the faith of Dhanna Bhagat, if we really want to see Him. But it is neither our luck nor intent really

to have His Darshan. What should we do then. We should shed tears of helplessness and surrender to His will. His Grace will come no doubt as the rain comes on to the roof of the saint or the sinner alike. The Almighty looks after His children and cannot let them perish in gloom and despair. He has therefore come. And here is the silent call of Meher Baba "COME ALL UNTO ME. Now is the time for All to know that I AM GOD in human form." But we do not recognise the Avatar. We made the same mistake when He came as Rama: We exiled Him then, instead of enthroning Him not only on the throne of Ayodhya but also in our hearts. We ignored Him when He pleaded as Krishna for a compromise between Pandavas and Kauravas. But the God-Man is all merciful. He comes again and again to save humanity from the onrushing danger of complete annihilation. Strangely enough we listen not to him. We are wide awake for selfish ends and sound asleep for spiritual uphft.

So He says "I have come not to teach but to awaken". Not by religious rites, nor by japas or tapas can He be realized. You have to love Him, call Him by name - Meher Baba - The Compassionate Father. I repeat remember Meher Baba, for whose advent the five Perfect Masters - Hazarat Baba Jan, Narayan Maharaj, Taj-ud-Din Baba, Sai Baba and Upasani Maharaj are responsible. NO ceremony, ritual or sadhana is involved in loving and remembering Him. He has no Ashram or organisation, involving financial commitments. He takes nought but gives all ye need: not all ye want. Desires He kills, needs He fulfills. It is High time we learnt to love God for the sake of Love, remembering Him at all times with no selfish motives. And we shall see that all our problems, economic and social are automatically solved.

Baba had said "The Avatar awakens contemporary humanity to a realization of its true spiritual nature, gives liberation to those who are ready, and quickens

the life of the spirit in His time. For posterity is left the stimulating power of his divinely human example, the nobility of a life supremely lived, of a love unmixed with desire, of a power unused except for others, of a peace untroubled by ambition, of a knowledge undimmed by illusion". The times ahead are no doubt difficult, but when the God-Man, whose Creation all this happens to be, is right amongst us, then why should we be afraid of anything. The greatest threat that humanity is faced with at present is the War.

But even War is a necessary evil. Shakespeare has said "So foul a sky clears not without a storm". War helps us to bring to the surface the hidden talents of man. Meher Baba has said "During a war there are persons who unveil their inherent higher self through the endurance of pain, and by acts of bravery and self-sacrifice. It is better that such unselfish actions be released under the stimulus of danger than not released at all. It is better that men forget their petty selves under the pressure of collective calamity, if need be, than remain permanently absorbed in fear and greed". Real peace and happiness will dawn spontaneously when self-ishness is purged". That Light House, who is sending rays of Divine Light and Hope Eternal to suffering humanity groping in the dark, is Meher Baba. He has been silent for over 42 years. He had to be, for as Nietzsche says "He who has much to announce first silences much unto himself: he who has to kindle the lightning must be the cloud for long." But the time is fast approaching when He will break His Silence and speak the Word of Words - The Primal Word which brought about the Creation and the utterance of which will bring about the manifestation of the Avatar, simultaneously ushering in an era of peace and prosperity. Baba says "I bring the greatest treasure which is possible for man to receive - DIVINE LOVE. Be ready to receive it. "Let us be prepared and qualify to receive THE TREASURE, by remembering Him every day and

remembering Him whole-heartedly so that when He speaks, all of us will hear Him right unto our hearts that He has spoken and thereby derive the spiritual benefit in direct proportion to our capacity to receive His Love. Remember, His love is unfathomable. He loves you more than you can love yourselves. So on this day when you are celebrating His previous advent as Lord Krishna, I convey to you His Love and Blessing in Meher Baba's own words:-

"If you make Me your real Father all your problems will become dissolved in the Ocean of My Love."

- MEHER BABA

MEHER MELA IN THE HEART OF DELHI - 1967 (2nd to 4th Dec.)

In order to remember that eventful day of 2nd Dec. 1952, when Baba gave Public Darshan at Delhi, three days programme was announced. The 1st day's meeting was held at Lajpat Bhawan Hall in New Delhi which was inaugurated by Mr. Trighuna Sen, Minister of Education. Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, Minister of Steel Mines and Metals and Dr. K.L. Rao, Cabinet Minister, offered their flowers of devotion by speaking with great fervour about the life and teachings of Meher Baba. Dr. W.D. Kain gave the following messages received from Baba:

I- "From my deep Seclusion, I send my love and blessings to you and all my lovers and workers in Delhi, to Dr. K.L. Rao, Dr. Chenna Reddy, Dr. Triguna Sen and to all who gathered in Meher Mela to share my Love."

(MEHER BABA)

II- With Meher Milan in Meher Mela let open the flood gates of Baba's love to flood the hearts of Delhi and wash away its ignorance of the presence of God on Earth as Avatar

- Meher Baba. (ERUCH)

Another speaker of repute on this occasion was Dr. Girija Nandan Dubey of Jabbalpur Vidyapeeth, whose speech was followed by that of Shri Kushak Bakula M.P. from Ladakh, who told the audience, "Let us put in practice the teachings of Meher Baba".

Next day the scene shifted to President's Estate, where Beloved Baba had inaugurated the Delhi Center on 3rd Dec. 1952 in the presence of his Mandli & Poona Bhajan Mandali. Here Dr. Girija Nandan Dubey spoke on the Divine Love of Baba to 'locals' as well as Baba lovers from Nagpur, Dehradun, Roorki, Hamirpur and Jabbalpur. The same evening a Public meeting was held at Sarojini Nagar and the following day all Baba lovers met at C-225, Defence Colony. At both these places Meher Singing Group entertained the audience with devotional music and lot of sweets.

MEHER BABA SAMMELAN AT FARIDABAD 24TH Dec. 1967.

A well organised function to celebrate the 42nd Silence Anniversary of Meher Baba was organised at Faridabad under the Chairmanship of Shri P. Govinda Menon, Minister of Law, who made a very touching speech throwing light on the teachings of Meher Baba and the importance of silence observed by him. W.D. Kain gave a brief outline of the early school days of Baba and his contact with five Prefect Masters. He asked the audience not to lose time in running up to catch the "Daaman" of Meher Baba. Shri T.N. Dhar thanked the audience for having responded to the invitation to this Sammelan. The Avatar Meher Baba Singing Group, led by Smt. Kusum, Prabha, Krishna, Pushpa and Vinod presented a programme of devotional music. S. Amar Saigal, M.P. recited the Parvardigar Prayer and the Prayer for Repentance, followed by Arti and a buffet dinner hosted by Sri & Srimati B.G. Malhotra.

WE VISIT MEHER BABA DUMDUM CENTRE CALCUTTA

At the special invitation of Shri A.C.S. Chari the leading Advocate of Calcutta and a very prominent Baba lover, Prabha and I visited Calcutta in Oct. 1967, where we were received by our dear friend and Baba lover S.D. Lalit.

In addition to informal talks at Baba Lovers' residences a Public Meeting was held at 6 p.m. on the 8th October 67 at the Dum Dum Centre. The subject of the talk was "Who is Meher Baba?" The meeting was presided over by Prof. Hira Lal Chopre. I spoke for more than 45 minutes about the teachings of Avatar Meher Baba, and Dr. G.S.N. Moorthy answered the questions put forward by the audience.

LOVE MAKES THE FORMLESS ENFORMED (BABA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - 1968)

A special Message was received from Ahmednagar

LOVE makes the FORMLESS AND INFINITE become enformed and finite as the GOD-MAN among men stop LOVE me more and more because for the sake of LOVE I have come among you stop From my seclusion I give my LOVE to all gathered in love on my birthday stop convey my LOVE BLESSING to VKRV Rao P Govindamenon CM Poonacha G.S.N. Moorthy Thirumalarao Amarsinghsaigal and to Aggarwal Kusummohkamsing Kapilmalhotra Dharganju Tehelram Joginder Niranjana Singh Sakhre Bhandari Harjivanlal Guptas Indersain Chaurasia Kain families.

- MEHERBABA -

Seven days programme was drawn for Birthday Celebrations of Meher Baba. Two additional messages were received.

"Let my lovers rejoice on my seventyfourth birthday

because soon after twentyfifth March something great will happen that has never happened before."

MEHER BABA

"From my seclusion I send my Love and Blessing to all attending Public Meeting at Trikon Park E block Greater Kailash to celebrate my Seventyfourth Birthday. I want you all to love Me more and more as I am the Ancient one who endures when all else is passing show....."

MEHER BABA

The main function was held at 5 p.m. on 25th Feb., 1968 in the Harcourt Bulter Higher Secondary School Hall, New Delhi. Prof. V.K.R.V. Rao, Minister for Transport and Shipping inaugurated by garlanding the picture of Meher Baba and said "It is a matter of great good fortune for me that I have been given this opportunity of participating in the 74th Birthday Celebrations of Avatar Meher Baba. In our country we had a chain of Men of God, who presented a visible embodiment of God. They had in them all those attributes which every religion described as attributes of God. It is the good fortune of this Country and of all people of the world that we are having amongst us today the Man of God (Godman) who is described as Avatar Meher Baba".

Shri C.M.Poonacha, Minister for Railway said, "I am grateful for having been given this opportunity of speaking on the occasion of the 74th Birthday Celebrations of Avatar Meher Baba. In the matter of speaking facts are the same. All I need say is that God is within yourself. Maya keeps you away from the realization thereof. Universal Love can help you to do away with Maya. Avatar Meher Baba has come to awaken. that Love in you."

The next speaker was Shri Prabhakar Mishra, Vice Chancellor of the International Sanskrit University. He told the audience how he Came in contact with Avatar Meher Baba through Dr. W.D. Kain. Quoting

from the Scriptures, the learned speaker convinced the audience that the Name Meher and its attributes were all described at length in our holy books as that of God.

Then came Talks by Dr. Channa Reddy and Shri P. Govinda Menon, both Cabinet Ministers of Government of India. This was followed by Qawali programme by Meher Baba's singing group. Other important meetings were held at Defence Colony, Sarojini Nagar and President's Estate. Shri Amar Singh Saigal, M. P. played a leading role throughout the celebrations.

I concluded the programme by quoting from the poem, recited on the occasion:

When His Birthday comes the blossoms bloom
Is there a place then which still is agloom?
He asks us to rejoice and we heartily obey
Offer Repentance Prayer and Universally pray!
- W.D. KAIN -

ODE TO MEHER BABA

This Seclusion will evils subordinate
Will Divine forces co-ordinate
Without delay inordinate
Pronounce now the Key-Word
O' Kindness (Meher) Incarnate (Avatar)
Suffering humanity is expectant
To hear the Divine Mandate
Let it not any more await
To receive the nectar,
Ask it not to wait any more
O' kindness Incarnate.
G.P. Tiwari Additional Dist. &
Sessions Judge
Jhabua.

LET US PRAY FOR BABA

Above is the caption of a report sent to Baba by me on the 6th May, regarding the special function arranged on 5th May, 1968 in the spacious lawns (now holding underground the Municipal Market) of Cannaught Place, New Delhi. This function was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India, M. Hidayatulla, who had been a devotee of Tajuddin Baba, one of the 5 Perfect Masters of Meher Baba. In his inaugural address the Chief Justice of India said:-

"I am very grateful for having been asked to inaugurate the 74th Birthday Celebrations of Avatar Meher Baba, who was born on 25th Feb. 1894. These celebrations are held in most places for 74 days and today is one of those days. For me this day has special significance as it was on 25th February that I was sworn in as the Chief Justice of India. Therefore, it is quite evident that Baba's Grace and kindness is upon me. I have not been able to see Him so far; but I have read quite a lot about him. I have learnt from it and profited by His teachings. Meher Baba is the Allah-Aulia, whose name is known all over the world. All religions have aulias, who try in their own way to bring the adherents of all religions on the right path. To them all Religions are equal. It was my good fortune that I happened to know Tajuddin Baba also. The Quran says 'Revere Aulia-Allah and live near him'. And Meher Baba is amongst us now and the whole world is taking advantage of his holy presence. I have not been able to touch his feet, to sit near Him. But I feel that He, on whom His Nazar falls, gets the benefit of His Grace, His Karam. It is hoped that Baba may break His silence and say words about the end of this year. The whole world is anxious to listen to His words. We wish to live up to that time so that when He speaks we may listen to him. We should read

His messages and try to follow His teachings. If you follow His path, not only you, but the entire world will benefit. Baba is as much in your hearts as He is in mine. So what can I tell you. He alone will guide you."

Dr. W.D. Kain read out the following message from Baba's Mandli:-

"We are all so happy to hear of the programme in Delhi on 5th May 1968 in connection with the 74th Baba Birthday Celebrations. We are so pleased that our dear Hidayatullah, Chief Justice of India, will inaugurate the function. Avatar Meher Baba's Mandli send from Guruprasad their salutations and Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jaya to all gathered in His love. Of course beloved Baba is bound to be present among the assembly for He has always assured us that He is present whenever His lovers get together in His love to give His Message of Love."

Love blessings from Baba for all gathered at Cannaught place was also conveyed.

Tributes were paid by Mr. Surinder Saini, Vice President N.D.M.C. and Sh. M. Thirumala Rao, M.P. - who made a very thought provoking and inspiring speech replete with Baba's devotion and interspersed here and there with Baba's teachings. He told the audience that Meher Baba was "that all pervading Power which worked behind whatever we saw or heard." He added that when Baba gives Darshan at Guruprasad it is not only the few hundred people sitting in the Pandal before him who benefit from His Nazar (His Grace) but millions outside as well benefit by the spiritual waves emanating from his Avataric Body. He emphasised that through His penances, self-inflicted sufferings and a long spell of over 42 years silence Baba has taken upon Himself

the sufferings of others to rid humanity of their karmic load.

Concluding the function Shri Chand Chhabra, IAS President NDMC said, "I have been encouraged by the message sent by Baba's Mandli that Baba will be present in this function; and I am grateful for having been given this opportunity to participate in this function. I feel that since Avatar Meher Baba has been silent for so long, we should instead of making speeches invoke His Karam, His Grace or Guruprashad. This Grace is not a matter of intellect. If you get His grace, you have an experience, which it is hard to narrate. Just as in the hot weather we feel refreshed and happy after a cold bath, similarly we are bound to experience 'Ananda' - a blissful state - after a spiritual bath provided by the shower of His grace. I have all along been looking at Baba's photograph since the time it has been given to me; and if I have not yet seen Avatar Meher Baba in it, there must be some deficiency of love on my part for the Avatar. I, therefore, humbly offer my tribute to Baba and ask for His Grace."

The Musical performance by the ladies group led by Kusum and Angoori, Pushpa, Krishana and Prabha and Quawalis by Aman and Party entertained the audience of over 3000 people gathered on the occasion. The All India and Film Division of the Government of India covered the function.

1968 A YEAR OF REMEMBRANCE

The year 1968 will be remembered by Baba lovers not only in Delhi, but all over the world as a unique period in which so many functions were held to celebrate the Advent of the Godman.

Starting with the birthday celebrations at the President's Estate, it went round Delhi to Sarojini Nagar, Kailash, Baljit Nagar, Moti Nagar spreading out to Trikona park near Kashmiri Gate where Krishna Prashad had arranged a special meeting which was inaugurated by Sh. P. Govinda Menon, Minister of Law, and addressed amongst others by Sh. Prabhakar Mishra and Sh. Kapindra Ji, an authority on Ramayana, Amar Singh Sehgal, M.P. and W.D. Kain. Tributes were also paid by Sh. N.K. Karanjiya, Director, Central Bank of India, Bombay, Lala Jaganath, a prominent citizen of Delhi.

The Birthday celebrations concluded with the function on 12th May. Taking into account, the spate of functions held during the spring of 1968 and the number of V.I.P.s including Chief Justice of India, the Cabinet Ministers of the Central Government, Mayors and University Chancellors, Members of Parliament, Professors and Scientists, Business magnates like Chinta Sarva Rao of Vijyawada and thousands of devotees on a single day on May 5, I wonder what a transformation had been wrought, by Meher Baba in awakening slumbering humanity before He himself chose to go to Eternal Sleep. This was a unique function of its kind. May I presume that He too felt like 'saying' that his spiritual work had been accomplished.

At the request of residents of Pahar Ganj, Delhi, the period of Birthday celebration was extended for another week with the following telegraphic message:

"Guruprasad Mandli rejoices with Delhi Baba Lovers on over extension of Baba's Birthday celebrations. May Avatar Meher Baba's blessings be on Shri Dhir and family and all gathered in Baba's Love for celebrations".

- ERUCH -"

Accordingly a meeting was held in the Chitar Gupta Temple, Pahar Ganj where Dr. C.D. Deshmukh spoke on the necessity of loving Baba. Another speaker on the occasion was Sh. Abdul Mazid Khan. He made the startling statement that "Nothing can house the Ancient One that does not house love" and he concluded with the remarks "Have hope. Baba has come to sow the seeds of love in your hearts".

The celebrations, however, continued so to say up to the 19th May - the memorable day which according to Baba's direction had to be observed as a day of silence. All Baba lovers and families assembled at the President's Estate Centre, where they were entertained by the Qawals Aman and party, and those who had come from far and near went after taking the 'Guruprasad' with sweets packets in hands and Baba's love in their hearts.

In the same year eleven day's functions, to mark the observance of the 43rd silence anniversary, were held. A special issue of "the Journal - Voice" was released in July, copies of which were distributed all over India and abroad.

MEHER BABA I AM THINE

Events were fast moving towards the last drop scene. When I wrote to Baba in Sep. 1968, little did I know that the end was coming so soon. In the heart of our hearts, Baba lovers were pining for his Darshan, which was over due. On 20th Sept. Eruch wrote a letter saying "your poem Meher Baba I am Thine" made all the Mandli happy and most of them felt that your heart spoke aloud what our hearts felt silently. It is a beautiful poem and I liked it very much. When I read it out to Beloved Baba, He remarked that I should let you know that in reply to your hearts' cry "Meher Baba I Am Thine" He wants you to hear that He is yours and of those who love him wholeheartedly. He sends his love to you and Prabha Devi.

- ERUCH

MEHER BABA I AM THINE - By W.D. Kain

When His Birthday comes the blossoms bloom
Is there a place then which still is agloom
The Avatar has come, He is now seventy four
His Silence continues and Seclusion ever more
The Angels come daily and shower dainty flowers
And gods look up to Him for heavenly powers
He orders us to rejoice and we heartily obey
We offer Repentance Prayer and Universally pray.
The world is in the grip of crisis He says
All outward activity therefore He stays.
The fate of the Universe hangs on His Seclusion
What really matters is Baba all else's illusion

Posterity will question was Avatar's Name spread
Or even Baba lovers just struggled for bread.

He suffers and we smile but think thou twice
To keep us alive and joyful He pays what price
So listen to His call and wait for the day
When Truth will prevail and make us all gay.

To forget is really difficult and to forgive Divine
Eliminate false "I" and say Meher Baba 'I am Thine'.

This was followed by another letter intimating me as follows:-

"Yes. The long awaited darshan of the Lord will be no longer a dream but a fulfillment of many a loving heart. The darshan will be given in groups. The dates for Delhi, Kashmir, West Bengal, Haryana, Punjab, Bihar, Orissa Groups are on 29th to 30th April and 1st May. There will be three days for this group. The circular No. 70 is almost printed and will be issued on and from 1st November, 1968 giving details of Baba's terms. So please tell all the lovers at your end to abide by his terms strictly. The Darshan is meant only for those who are keenly desirous of His Darshan and NOT for general public. Lesser the group the better it will be for any group coming to Guruprashad for Baba's darshan.

MEHER MELAS IN NORTH INDIA

"To Serve the God-man who serves all is serving the Universe."

Prompted by the above saying of Avatar Meher Baba, His lovers in the North of India hold Melas (Season's Festivals) to observe the sanctity of those days when Avatar Meher Baba blessed the general public with His 'Darshan', for which gods yearn, yet get not! These Melas are heralded by the festivities arranged firstly at Dehradun, where Beloved Baba gave public Darshan on 1st November, 1953. Here a three days' programme, with speeches, Qawalis, film shows on Baba and nightlong devotional music at Meher Dham are the main features of the Mela. People go from all parts of U.P. and Delhi and other places to join in the Mela and also visit Meher Majri, the sylvan retreat of the Avatar in the New Life. And they return home with the Beloved's Message: "seek not to possess anything but to surrender everything."

As they return home after this spiritual repast, a warm and affectionate invitation awaits them. It is from S/Shri Parmeshwari Dayal Nigam and Keshav Narain Nigam. They invite you to the Meherpuri Hamirpur Annual Mela on the 18/19 November and to the Meher Dham Nauranga (Hamirpur) Mela on 23 November. Unique indeed is the setting of these Melas, set in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh. The melas are spread over for several days e.g. the mela at Hamirpur in 1968 was from 16 to 19 November and that at Nauranga from 25 to 28 November. Avatar Meher Baba's special Representatives from Ahmednagar have been visiting these melas regularly. Shri Sarosh K. Irani, Shri Chhagan Master, Shri M.R. Dhakephalkar are amongst those who conveyed personal messages of the Avatar of the age

in this hallowed land, where the Avatar walked amongst villagers throughout the length and breadth of the District bound by the Ganga and the Yamuna; This holy region, where the Avatar, as Rama gave Darshan to the saints meditating in the jungles of India during prehistoric times. Herein are witnessed scenes of real devotion, when men and women sing the songs of Baba in gay abandon throughout the day and night. They come walking several miles to take part in the Melas, where they receive Baba's Prashad love Gift - in the form of His Spiritual messages. Some listen to the qawali programme with rapt attention. Others go around the Exhibition of Baba Literature, Souvenirs and other precious mementos. Young or old, men or women find something ever anew there. And then the Wrestling matches take place to bring them down from their astral flights in Baba's Divine Realm to the daily routine of the gross world. It is for such spiritually prepared souls that Baba gives the message, that in case they find it difficult to open the door of his Realm, He himself will open it for them.

And the scene then shifts to Delhi, the Capital of India, where Avatar Meher Baba gave Darshan to the public in December, 1952. In 1968 the Ram Lila Grounds, where people have so far been witnessing Ram Lila during the Dussehra Festival, depicted at length Meher Lila from 1st to 3rd December. In a beautifully festooned Pandal illuminated with multi-coloured electric lights, was visible the life-size portrait of Avatar Meher Baba on a beautifully furnished stage. Every evening Baba lovers from Delhi, Dehradun and other places - including Kharagpur, Varanasi and Nagpur - met there to listen to devotional music, Qawalis by renowned artists and speeches from eminent speakers. The inaugural address was delivered by Shri K.K. Shah, Minister of Information and Broadcasting on the 1st December, after he had garlanded Baba's portrait.

The Hon'ble Minister emphasised the importance of sound and the word eternal and said that devotional music like that voice eternal would "reach wherever He is" - where ever Baba is - where ever God is. Referring to Baba's teaching, the learned speaker said Baba has said, "Love will sustain because Love does not ask for anything." He told the audience that real Religion meant the mixture of Faith and knowledge. He had to learn that from Baba. Saying this he invoked Baba's Grace.

"May His Grace give us Jnan (knowledge): to us who are of small intellect!" He concluded his speech by appreciating the deep meaning of the Universal Prayers (Parvardigar Prayer), recited earlier by Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, M.P.

Devotional Music by the Meher Singing Group continued for sometime. And then the special message received from Meher Baba and His Mandli was read out by Shri W.D. Kain. The message from Ahmednagar said, "Avatar Meher Baba sends His love and Blessings to all participants with love in Meher Mela at Ram Lila Grounds on first second and third December..... Eruch." Shri Naosharwan K. Nalawala, Editor Glow, gave a new colour to the proceedings by presenting a nice piece of song composed for the occasion which bespoke of his loving heart.

Shri L.N. Mishra, Minister of Defence Production, who presided over the meeting, garlanded Baba's portrait. In the course of his Presidential address he expressed his gratitude for having been invited to preside over that function, arranged by Baba lovers. He told the audience that Meher Baba had brought about spiritual revolution in India - in the very thought and action of its society. He added that for the protection of the society and the religion, faith or deep sincere feeling

was necessary. That required awakening and Baba had come to bring about that awakening. He advised "we as followers of Baba have to go on following Baba's teachings. He concluded by praying for the success of the function. This was followed by devotional music presented by S/Shri K.C. Mathur and R.C. Dinesh.

A touching speech by Raja Sahib of Saharanpur, wherein he described how he had first come in contact with Baba and how he was convinced that "Baba is the Avatar" was received with much applause by the audience. He stated that "It is not blind faith but real faith that unites you with God. If you really love Baba you can unite with Baba - with God, because Baba is love.... I do not simply say that He is Avatar but I also know that He is Avatar".

Shri Bal Krishan from Dehradun then made a heart-searching speech wherein he queried "What does Baba want." He answered himself by saying that all that Baba wanted was love and that we could love Baba by loving our neighbours and brethren, as dictated by Baba. God, he said, manifests Himself as Avatar whenever there was immense suffering amongst humanity. He emphasised that Baba had come for the same reason and His message as given to him "tell the truth, work honestly and I am with you." He went on to say "All Avatars enjoined honesty and truth but, only those know how to do it, who really loved God". He added amongst loud cheers "Baba does not turn down the requests of His lovers. Those who really love Baba should not give up His Daaman: In fact they never can!".

Poetical recitations by Shri Om Prakash Sharma and Shri B.D. Dikshit provided an interlude when a comic script was presented by Master Mathur, followed by a Ghazal by Shri Ram Singh under the caption "Main apne mahboob ko pahunchne ke liye gunahon ka sahara

dhundta hun". I take the help of my sins to reach my Beloved.

A surprising note was struck when two saffron-clad Swamis from Rishikesh - Swami Vidya Nand and Bhisham Ji Maharaj - paid tributes to Avatar Meher Baba quoting at length from the Gita and other holy books to prove that Avatar Meher Baba had come as manifestation of God.

The Meher mela continued with unabated enthusiasm in spite of the severe cold wave on 2nd and 3rd December. On the second day a programme of classical and light music was presented by Radio Artist - Miss Hira Sharma.

Dr. G.S.N. Moorthy told the audience in a very informative and illuminating speech how Baba had exercised spiritual influence on Baba lovers. He explained the significance of the words - Order, Wish, Will and Desire as used by Baba. He told the audience that Baba's greatest miracle was the Creation itself! and emphasised how the silent spiritual awakening by Meher Baba was going on in the East and the West.

Swami Vidya Nand, who had spoken on the opening day also, told the audience again that "It is wrong to say that the Avatar belongs to one country, one place, one caste or one society - He is born in any place, in any society, to rid humanity of all the distress and evils confronting mankind. So while the Avatar is here why not remove all the shackles of Maya around your mind and body and attain real Freedom".

The AMAN Qawaal and Party then took charge of the stage and seemed bent upon "burning the midnight oil". As they sang unto the "Holy Presence of the Avatar" tears rolled down the eyes of the devotees, making them more and more God-conscious - Baba-conscious. They wept and sighed for the Beloved's Darshan. He

seemed so near and yet so far! For hours the devotional music spiritualised the entire atmosphere and held sway over the Love-hungry souls - Baba lovers. And every note of the Qawaal was digging deep into the hearts of the devotees. And when he sang,

"In ko mil kar kaya batayun mujh ko kaya tha mil gaya
Doobne wale ko Samjho tinke ka sahara mil gaya."

The audience was transported into the Beloved's arms of Love and Grace - a state of trance-meditation.

On the concluding day, Shri M.L. Sondhi, M.P. came to pay tribute to Avatar Meher Baba in the evening. After garlanding Baba's portrait, he made such a touching speech the like of which Baba lovers had not heard for long. He told the audience that Meher Baba would lead them towards the development of a real spirit of citizenship, of love, of brotherhood. He emphasised "All that we have to do is to believe in His divine working." Appreciating the music programme presented by the Meher Singing Group he said "Sangeet gives us Divine Symphony and brings us nearer God." Alluding to the previous programmes arranged by Baba lovers in Delhi he said "sometimes small endeavours have great effect. Baba's message has to be brought home to each individual: to each family." When a picture of Baba was presented to the speaker, he remarked "This picture should be engraved in the hearts of all in Delhi instead of just being put on the wall - and this medium of awakening should be adopted in our life so that the country as a whole is affected and the hearts of mankind change"!

AMAN Qawaal and party then came to the stage and invoked Baba's blessings with:

"Meher Baba meri nazar men aisi tasir ho jaye
Nazar jis par main dalun teri tasvir ho jaye"

And it so happened that as the audience listened to musical note after note of his devotional music, they appeared to have turned into so many silent figures, who moved not, winked not, sighed not, were burning inside with His Love, but smoked not!

And so ended this Meher Mela - filmed by the Film Division of India.

Dr. W.D. Kain gave the following message of Baba which seems to have been relayed on the astral plane

"The highest state of understanding is permanent illumination through which one experiences and sees things as they are. In this state one feels in harmony with everyone and everything, and realizes divinity in every phase of life, and is able to impart happiness to others. Here one attends to all duties and material affairs and yet feels mentally detached from the world. This is true renunciation the last and highest state of understanding the merging of the soul into the limitless ocean of infinite Bliss, Knowledge and Power."

AT THE JUNCTION OF REALITY AND ILLUSION (BABA'S BIRTHDAY - 1969)

On the 19th February, 1969, a message was received from Shri Adi K.lrani, saying:

"All the days' Birthday programme should be put through with great zeal, vigour and love. The Light that is Baba is EVER ON. He is out of our external vision to make us turn inwards. His kingdom of Love will come and time will make evident all He said."

Encouraged by this message, lovers of Avatar Meher Baba busied themselves to lend new colour to the Meher Jayanti Samaroh, scheduled to be held from 22nd to 28th February, 1969 at Sarojini Nagar, President's Estate, North Avenue, Baron Road, Sita Ram Bazar, Baljit Nagar, where devotional music was rendered by the Meher Singing group led by Smt. Kusum as well as by Smt. Brij Nath Miya and Pt. Shiv Dutt.

The following Birthday Message which Baba had dictated for for his 75th Birthday, much earlier in January was read out:-

"To love me for what I may. give you is not loving me at all. To sacrifice anything in my cause to gain something for yourself is like a blind man sacrificing his eyes for sight. I am the divine beloved worthy of being loved because I am love. He who loves me because of this will be blessed with unlimited sight and will see me as I am."

In the public meeting at C-225, Defence Colony, on Monday 24th, Aman Qawal held the Audience spell-bound by his Qawalis. Here S. Raghbir Singh Secy. of the International Sikh Federation said, "I was convinced at the World Conference of Religions that Avatar Meher Baba's point of view regarding religion was altogether different from those of others." Religion, as he understood from Baba's teachings, was intended to connect us with Reality.

Those who spoke at the functions included Bindra & Party, Shri Amar Singh Saigal, M.P., Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M.P. GP. Capt. M.M. Sakhre, S/Shri C.L. Bhatia, W.D. Kain, B.D. Dixit, Faquir Chand Verma, Shivdev Singh, Tek Chand and several others.

(From my diary)

When Baba lovers meet - W.D. Kain

A Greek philosopher once narrated an interview between Socrates and an Indian Philosopher sometime in the 5th Century B.C. The Indian Philosopher is said to have met Socrates in Athens and asked him what was the scope of his philosophy. "An enquiry into the human phenomena" Socrates answered. At this the Indian Philosopher burst out laughing: "How can a man enquire into human phenomena", he exclaimed "when he is ignorant of divine ones."

A similar situation arose this summer after a lapse of 2400 years when Shri Amar Singh Saigal, Indian Parliamentary Delegate to Yugoslavia met Dr. Couch - a Doctor of Philosophy - of Australia; in Moscow on his way back to India. After the formal introduction Shri Saigal told Dr. Couch that all the geographical, historical, literary or philosophical research was of no value in the absence of a spiritual understanding of life, which only the Avatar in the Avataric Age could impart. Dr. Couch, who is an educationist, was rather taken aback at this bold stand. Seeing him in that perplexed situation, Shri Saigal gave him some of Avatar Meher Baba's literature, containing Meher Baba's biographical sketch and a picture. He told him 'The Avatar wants little of us. All he wants is complete surrender and complete abandon. He wants everyone of us to purify ourselves and live a life of love and will to Humanity.' He advised him to go through Baba's books, especially God Speaks as "nothing of its kind has been recorded before."

BABA DROPS HIS BODY

1969 - 71

Late in the evening of 31st January, 1969, the following immediate telegram was received from Adi:-

"AVATAR MEHER BABA DROPPED HIS PHYSICAL BODY TODAY FRIDAY 31st JANUARY AT NOON AT MEHERAZAD TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE HEARTS OF ALL HIS LOVERS EVERYWHERE STOP BELOVED BABAS BODY WILL BE INTERRED AT MEHERABAD ARANGAON ON 1ST FEBRUARY AT 10 OCLOCK MORNING IN THE TOMB HE HAD ORDERED TO BE BUILT FOR IT LONG AGO - ADI K IRANI"

This was followed by another message that official announcement should be broadcast. Immediately I rang up the Minister of Information and Broadcasting (K. SHAH) and drove to his residence. By this time it was almost mid-night, the Minister was out of station and his wife suggested I should get in touch with the Director of New All India-Radio. I got Mr. R.L. Handa (a friend of mine, who had been with us as Press Secretary to the President Dr. Rajinder Prashad) on the phone and impressed upon him the necessity of broadcasting the news in the early morning News bulletin. Next morning people woke up to receive the sad tidings of Baba having dropped the body much to their anguish and grief.

Later on frantic efforts were made to postpone interment of the body. As for me I wanted to be there at once. But try as I may, there were no means of getting to Ahmednagar in time. There being no Air service to Nagar, I was feeling helpless and in that sad moment got in touch with Wing Commander M.M. Sakhre.

The nearest aerodrome being at Poona and so far away from Ahmednagar, we could not reach there even by plane. In the meantime a message was received that the interment has been postponed to February 7th. So many Baba lovers wanted to go to Ahmednagar from Delhi. About 15 of us were prepared to go to Poona by a chartered plane and from there taxi to Meherabad; but it could not be managed. At long last it was decided that Wing Commander Sakhre and I along with a couple of devotees leave for Poona immediately via Bombay Central. The railway timings were very tight. We had hardly 55 minutes gap to change at Bombay Central for V.T. Bombay. Wing Commander Sakhre had arranged for two jeeps to pick us up at Bombay Central Railway Station to be dropped at Bombay V.T. making it possible for us to entrain for Poona. The two jeeps with horns blowing like Fire Brigade squeechd along the roads of Bombay ignoring all traffic signals and got us into the Poona Ahmednagar train in time.

It may be mentioned that throughout that week I had not shed a single tear even though my Beloved's separation was gnawing at my heart because "duties" bound me down. But as soon as I entered the tomb, and struck my head at the crypt near Baba's feet, flood gates of tears opened and like an inconsolable baby who had lost its mother, I wept crying Baba Baba, and in almost unconscious state was taken out of the holy presence by the endearing Mandali members.

And then came the Ladies Mandali, led by Mehera Ma and Sister Mani who supervised the interment ceremony with great composure as has been dictated by Baba. But even now after a lapse of almost 25 years I can visualise the grace writ large on their faces.

In spite of all the consolation by the Mandali I was missing my beloved Baba among all the gathering. Brother

Adi gave me lot of advice as detailed below and I remembered then a saying by a saint:-

Sadguru moya chela roya
Donon ne birtha janam khoya

If the sadguru drops the mortal coil and the disciple weeps know ye both have just wasted their lives.

HAVE FAITH : BABA IS ALWAYS WITH US

Faith is tested by the depth of sorrow and love is tested by the height of separation. Both are equally poignant. Our individual suffering is incomparably insignificant to what beloved Meher Baba suffered for all of us. Let each one of us suffer, which we do after all, each for himself or herself.

In suffering is found the joy of life, and in joy of suffering is found the bliss of existence. If after the dropping of body by Meher Baba we feel that the ship of our life is rudderless, such a feeling should not be there, because it would mean that the meaning of our lives given to us by Baba during his life time had no meaning. But such is not the case since we did look upon our lives full of meaning during the life time of Baba. Therefore, our feeling of emptiness and hollowness after Baba dropped his body would be groundless and illogical.

Baba had declared, "Believe that I am the ancient one. Do not doubt for a moment. There is no possibility of my being anyone else. I am not this body that you see, it is only a coat I put on when I visit you. I am infinite consciousness."

,
We loved and served Baba during his lifetime

He often awakened us to keep the firm hold on his daaman. In fact it was he who had held us to his daaman and I always wondered why He again and again warned us to beware lest his daaman should slip off our hands. It was His way to keep us alert and active. It behoves us therefore, to hold on to His daaman, now and for ever. It was easier to hold on to His daaman, when he was in body because he held us to his daaman by his repeated reminders and warnings. He made it easy for us to hold on to his daaman when he is not in his body.

The important thing to remember is that Baba is ever with us and in us. Let us seek Baba as Meher Avatar in our hearts and pray that He protects and guides us to get rid of illusion and enlightens us with the ever changing knowledge and bliss of Existence.

- ADI K. IRANI

MR. TOM HOPKINSON

Mr. Tom Hopkinson and his wife contacted Baba in England during one of Baba's visits to U.K. They went to South Africa shortly afterwards where Tom Hopkinson worked as a Journalist editing the magazine "Drum" and subsequently moved to Nairobi after accepting a Professorship in Journalism in the Royal College there. He came to India in December, 1965 to attend a Seminar of the Asian Press. Mr. Hopkinson was treated as a State Guest during his stay for over a week in New Delhi. Adi wrote a letter asking me to contact Mr. Hopkinson and talk to him about Baba. Accordingly I received him in New Delhi and took him around the historical places. We became very intimate friends. Mr. Tom Hopkinson later on moved to the University of Wales as a Professor of Journalism.

While I was in London in July, 1970, Mrs. and Mr. Hopkinson came all the way from Wales to London and entertained me to luncheon and we had hearty

talks about Baba. They were so much dyed deep in the love of Baba that it was difficult to say good-bye to them even after 3 hours' company.

BABA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS - 1970

"I am the one so many seek and so few find".

A seven days programme to celebrate Baba's 76th Birthday was drawn. The public meeting was held at Lajpatrai Bhawan, under the Presidentship of Shri M. Thirumala Rao, M.P., Chairman of the Estimates Committee, Lok Sabha. Messages of good wishes received from the Chairperson of Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Vice President of India and Ministers of the Govt. of India were read out by W.D. Kain.

In his opening speech Shri M. Thirumala Rao stated that "the world in its present predicament needs Meher Baba. There is so much of dissension and discard in the country, the remedy is 'Love' as dictated by Baba....."

The next to speak was Baron F. Von Blomberg, Co-President of the World Fellowship of Religions who had come to offer a garland of flowers at the feet of Avatar Meher Baba's picture. He paid tribute to Meher Baba saying "Baba gives us love and understanding and appreciation of all religions, guiding us to work hand in hand for the welfare of the world." This was followed by a talk by Dr. G.S.N. Moorthy on the subject "How can one realize the greatness of Baba".

Meetings were also held at Greater Kailash, Baljeet Nagar, Churiwalan, Sarojini Nagar, West Patel Nagar, HIL Colony, North Avenue and Baird Road, culminating on 9th March at President's Estate where K.C. Mathur gave a beautiful recital of songs ending with "Sab Premi Phool Barsao".

WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF RELIGIONS

On 29th July, 1970, Baron Frary von Blomberg wrote me a letter that he "well remembered his contact with Meher Baba disciples during his last visit to India and that he was anxious the Meher Baba Leaders attend the Fourth World Religious Conference". Baron Blomberg had on one occasion said that the spiritual hunger of today's world is greater than ever before in History. "The solution.... is Baba".

On 13th February 1970, Baronesss Carola Helonia briefly discussed with me the future of World Fellowship of Religions. My name was also approved, she said, as "Liaison Person" between W.F.R. and the U.N.O. and I was also selected as member of the Executive Council of W.F.R. and for this purpose my name was given to Bishop Parmar (Anglican).

In the meanwhile we had drawn a 14 - points Chapter of Religions. Later on Dr. Jefferson N. Eastmond, General Secretary International of W.F.R. also wrote that a strongly responsible Executive Committee should be formed and that Baron Blomberg will get in touch with me. The idea behind all these discussions was to form an organisation directly under the wing of U.N.O. [This, however, did not materialize.] On 14th March, Dr. Jefferson N. Eastmond sent me the following letter:-

Dear Executive Board Member,

Please find two brief documents enclosed. These will form the basis of some of our discussions at the forthcoming meeting of the W.F.R. Executive Board meeting in Delhi, India, on March 30, and April 1st and 2nd.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your nomination to the Board. Moreover, I would like to express my warmest personal appreciation for your willingness to serve in a cause that is both timely and of enormous significance.

I am looking forward to my association and work with you.

Sincerely yours,

Sd/-

Jefferson N. Eastmond

By the time I received this letter, I was in for another surprise, Baba appearing to me in the dream and I went West.

I GO WEST

It so happened that Baba appeared to me in a dream again in the month of April 1970. The scenario now was appalling. Baba's previously beautiful face radiating brilliance and beauty was all suffering now, the body maimed and mutilated. Here was Baba, my compassionate father in bitter agony. He directed me to go to the West where the "Gay Cult" was declaring "God is dead". I promised to go and Baba disappeared. The next morning I felt very unhappy because throughout my life I had never seen painful sight of Baba. Whether he met an auto-accident in India or abroad or he was ailing at Meherazad in 1969, I was somehow or other kept away from him in that condition of distress. Baba knew I could not stand it.

Now recounting the events, it so happened that a few weeks before the dream, Sant Kirpal Singh accompanied by Lala Achint Ram, President of the Servants of the People's Society (who was like a father to me and patronized my honorary practice of alternative medicine), to our residence in the President's Estate. They came just as we were finishing our Sunday Satsang. Sant Kirpal Singh Ji came to us himself now because he felt that after Baba had dropped his body, my wife and I were feeling orphaned. Consultations over, Sant Kirpal Singh said that I should not take the loss so much to heart and should come to him whenever I felt upset. I made courtesy call at his Ashram after a week. On one occasion Tai Ji, a venerable lady who looked after the material and spiritual needs of visitors, said to Sant Ji "Why do you not give Naam to Kain Sahib whom you love so much". Sant Kirpal Singh

said, "He does not need it ".

After Baba had appeared to me in that aforesaid horrible dream, the first thing I did was to go to Sant Kirpal Singh to seek his guidance in the matter. He endorsed my view that I must fulfill Baba's wish. He also offered to sponsor my visit. I told him Baba does not like our taking any financial help from outside. Nevertheless he sent out letters under his own signature to some of his disciples in U.K., France and U.S.A., saying that I should be received at the respective Airports and given all facilities if needed by me. Simultaneously I wrote a letter to brother Adi informing him about the dream and my commitment to Baba. He agreed with my views and on receipt of my itinerary, informed Don Stevens in London, and a few prominent lovers of Baba in USA about the programme of my visit. The greatest hurdle to cross was to set the Government machinery going and for this my contacts with foreign office helped. The financial clinch was of course there, because during Baba's life time, we had not thought of "Savings": Whatever earnings came through normal honest means, were all spent on family needs and humanitarian work as enjoined by Baba. Undaunted, however, I applied for 4 months' leave, and that being off season for VIPs, presented no problem. The President V.V. Giri was a devotee of Baba, and as Vice-President of India he had presided over all of our functions in Delhi. The hospitality all over the world was sure to be extended to me with Mr. Don Stevens and Bro Adi Jr. in London and more than 10 relations and friends like Mr. Tom Hopkinson in U.K., Fred Frey in California and my cousin S. Sharma in Scotland. Moreover I enjoyed the patronage of Lord Mountbatten, Lady Patricia Brabourne and Sir James Gilliat, Private Secretary to H.M. The Queen, E.H. Cobb and Ronald Daubeney, IPS and several other dignitaries. There were Baba lovers in USA and a sizeable number of intimately connected Diplomats

known to me all over the world. Hence I was not supposed to face any problem whether in the West or the East.

Just then Baba performed a miracle - A prudential Insurance Policy of which I had no idea matured, and with this "intimation letter" in hand, I called at the Syrian Airways (operators for Air France) to arrange for my world tour. I also asked them to get me the necessary Visas, which they promised to do with the proviso that for U.K. and U.S.A I had to go personally; this posed no problem for me, because my courtesy calls at the High Commission / Embassy solved the problem in no time. At both the places the Secretary and Consul General were very cooperative and courteous.

The next hitch was about the Foreign Exchange. According to the rules a "globe trotter" like myself was entitled to a very small Foreign allowance. How to go round the world in 32 Dollars was a big question and I learnt this to my great disappointment after all other formalities had been finalised. Being connected with the Head of the Country here and dignitaries abroad, I could not relish the idea of "going bankrupt" en route, thereby bringing bad name to my Country as well as to Beloved Baba. Just then information was received that a cousin of mine - a high ranking Railway officer - deputed to Zambia, would help me once I reached London. The American Express also promised help but it was not utilised: but their courtesy impressed me and with my cousin's encouraging message my "study tour" was finalised.

All arrangements made, I left Delhi on the 16th June. Sant Kirpal Singh Ji had come a day earlier to our residence and gave me a hearty farewell with two apples as prashad. The journey in the Middle East was uneventful so far as Baba's work is concerned. **Itinerary.**

16th June

Damascus: Arrived Damascus early morning. Called on the Ambassador (Shri Kidwai-younger brother of Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Minister of Food Govt. of India). I was taken round the city and had Luncheon with Ambassador at his residence.

17th June

Beirut: Received by the Embassy at the airport. Dinner Party at the Embassy.

18th June

Cairo: Received by the Embassy. Had a stroll along the Nile. Saw the Pyramids & Sphinx. Dinner with Consul General.

20th June

Athens: Received by Miss Katya Lembessi, a Spiritual friend - daughter of a very prominent Citizen of Greece. Saw ancient Caves and Monuments. Spiritual discussion regarding Meher Baba.

21st June

Belgrade (Yugoslavia): Arrived late at night, stayed at Hotel. Next day treated as State-Guest Courtesy Speaker of Federal Assembly, who had previously been in India. Talked about Baba.

23th June

Rome: Received by "Embassay" (Italy), Visited "Vatican"

Venice: In front of the famous St. MARK Church I spoke about Baba. Quite a crowd gathered there.

25th June

Milan: Window shopping and Baba "JAP"

28th Geneva: Saw the Alps.

30th Zurich: At Zurich received by Mr. Behram N. Rustomjee, Manager Air India. Told him about "Baba Mission"

1st July

Munich: Received by Baroness Carola Halonia. Saw the "Christ's Painting" in the Art Gallery. Had lot of spiritual discussions as well as Medical consultations. Visited Olympic Games Stadium and Revolving Pavilion. Enjoyed a Wedding Reception.

6th July: Went across the walking St to Hotel

Evening: Copenhagen: "Hippy" Music Concert: Spoke about Baba, dissuading them from "drugs". Next day took a 'Tour' to Sweden by Sea. Visited the University and Museum.

Amsterdam:

8th July: Courtesy call on Dr. Nagendra Singh. Attended a Cultural Function at Amsterdam, Courtesy - Indian Tea Board.

10th July: Received at Heathrow Airport (London) by an English friend and Shri Sant Singh, Engineer of Wembley. Main Engagements:

1. Reception at Y.M.C.A. Talk on Advent of the Masters & why we should love God.
2. A spiritual talk at South Hall Gurudwara.
3. Talk at Krishna Temple - Liverpool under aegis of World fellowship of Religions courtesy Messrs T.L. Kaura and K.C. Chib.
4. Visit Iskon Temple, London.
5. Visit Houses of Parliament, London Bridge Westminster Abbey, Zoo, Museum etc.
6. Had Tea with Sir James Gilliat at Palace, Luncheon with Mr. E.H. Cobb (Ex. Home Secy. N.W.F.P. India) at Overseas Club. Luncheon party at India High Commission.
7. Visited Kent to see R.G. Daubey Ex.

I.P.S. My friend & benefactor.

8. Visited Ireland: To see old friends Dev Raj Surpal & Amro (old Baba lovers) had Baba kirtan there. Reception & Dinner to over 100 persons. Met my cousins Dwarka & family, later was joined by brother S. Sharma who took me to Scotland (Edinburgh).

9. Had luncheon with Dr. Don Stevens, attended Baba meetings in centre when in London and spoke on and His teachings.

10. Called on Adi Jr. (Adi S. Irani) in London. Met Dara and AMRIT after so many years.

10th August Leave London for Paris

1. Received by Mr. M. Perron Th. and Gugliemi Gilbert, escorted to Francoville

2. Visited Belgium.

3. Visited Paris everyday to give talks on incarnation of God & Indian Philosophy. Visited 'Louvre' and other important monuments in Paris like Eiffel Tower etc.

15th August Montreal to Ottawa - By Train -

Visited the Olympiad was seen off by Baba lovers at Montreal Airport.

BABA'S GRACE DURING TOUR OF EUROPE

During the tour of Switzerland when I went to see the Alps the elevator took me up to the highest point from where the tourist can see the peak of Alps face to face. I was so much engrossed in the beauty of the Alps that I forgot the count of time. And when I turned by back I found that all my companions had left. I was very much upset because in case the elevator

did not come again shortly, I would be left in the lurch and may even miss the bus back to my Hotel. I then remembered Baba and lo, my prayer was heard. The elevator stopped moving down and just then a man remembered about me. He came out of the elevator, took me along with him and the elevator started moving down.

18th August

New York - Contacted Dr. Ruth Ringer & Dr. Harry Kenmore. While at New York, I paid a courtesy call on India's Representative at UNO. Next day I was invited for luncheon by the President of the Security Council. I was also given an opportunity to be driven round the UNO headquarters. Baron Blomberg, who was convalescing far away from New York welcomed me on the phone. I called again on Harry Kenmore and gave a talk on Baba to the group assembled there.

A surprise was the meeting of Mr. P.N. Ganjoo's nephew in New York, who took me round 'Statue of Liberty' - 'Empire Building' Central park etc. At each visit or 'meeting' mention of Baba's name and His teachings reigned supreme.

On 23rd August my host T.S. Khanna telephoned to me that I should reach Washington a day earlier to speak at a function of Krishna janmashtami, where wife of the Indian Ambassador was to preside. This was a good opportunity to project Baba's picture in the hearts of people and I said "O.K."

Aug. 23rd Washington

I was received at the Airport by Mr. T.S. Khanna and a few Baba Lovers. The function was well organised, and I was treated as a Guest of Honour. Being a visiting Emissary of Baba I told the selected gathering of about 100 persons, how God incarnates to redeem suffering

humanity from time to time and Baba's Advent is in the same spiritual chain of events.

The next day the Embassy news carried the news of my talk at the Theosophical Society, where the intelligentsia listened with rapt attention about Baba lovers' approach to mysticism and divinity.

Baba lovers group-wise also had the taste of 'Talk', when I told them about my personal experiences with Baba.

Other Engagements at Washington

1. Talk at the Unity Church of Washington: "Why We Need God?"
2. Radio talk - Voice of America
3. Farewell call on Indian Ambassador
4. Visit to Myrtle Beach.

Mr. Rick Chapman suggested that a visit to USA will not be complete without going to Myrtle Beach. Although this was not on my 'Schedule' Ticket, I purchased a return journey ticket and was driven straight to the Center and shown round the place. I met Ms. Elizabeth Patterson, Jane Barry Haynes & Rano Gayley. After luncheon I gave a talk on How I came in contact with Baba, which was recorded. The same evening I returned to Washington.

26th August Toronto (Canada)

At the Toronto Airport I was received by my friends (Mehtas) from Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi. They arranged for mv conducted tour to 1001 Islands one day. On the following day he drove me to the Niagara Falls. On our way back we met some Indian friends settled in Canada where we talked about Baba over a cup of tea. They were very much impressed by the fact that I had come all the way to Toronto to spread

Baba's message of Love. Next day I left for Buffalo.

At Buffalo on 29th August I was received by Mr. A.J. Zaretsky. His beautiful young child Michael gave me a lively company while A.J. went out shopping. Buffalo is an Industrial Town and only a few Baba Lovers gathered there to hear the talk given on 30th August. Mr A.J. was very grateful for the visit. He felt that very rarely any Baba Lover came to address them there, While at Buffalo I went again to see the Niagara Falls, because I was told that Baba loved it.

Chicago 31st August

I was received at the airport by Shri Rajender Singhji (grandson of Sant Kirpal Singh Ji) and Mr. Philip Lutgendorf and about 10 other Baba lovers. Shri Rajender Singh gave a luncheon party to all of us. Later on we drove to the residence of Philip Lutgendorf where about 50 Baba lovers mostly girls, listened with rapt attention to the talk, I gave that evening. Questions were put forward by the young girls which were duly answered. Next day I was taken around the city and was shown the biggest aquarium of that time. The send-off next morning was very touching as Baba lovers did not feel like giving me the farewell.

At Los Angeles Airport

I was received by Baba lovers and taken to a friend's house. In the evening about 12 Baba lovers came there and took me to Disney Land where we had lot of fun and enjoyed the most. Next day was taken up in House visits to give each Baba lover a taste of Baba's love. The following day we went for an outing to Meher Mount where we had our picnic and talked about our experiences of Baba. On return from the picnic we gathered at the Meher Book Store at PARSIDANA.

At San Francisco

Leaving next day I reached San Francisco where I was received at the Airport by my dear friend Fred Frey and Dr. John Heywood Lovelace (Osteopathic Physician and Surgeon), I first visited San Jose and lectured there on "Why we need to remember God". I also visited "stud farm".

I returned to San Francisco in the evening where Fred's loving wife Carolyn and children gave me good company. Here a heavy schedule of engagements was drawn up as under:-

- 1) Dinner with Murshida Ivy Duce
- 2) Talk at University of California at Berkley and dinner by Mrs. Uschi Hamilton.
- 3) Talk at Town Hall San Francisco.
- 4) Visit to a nearby Beach and stay in the Hotel.

I gave a talk at the University where more than a thousand students had assembled to hear about Baba - the Messiah of the Age.

After the talk, lot of questions were put forward, which were duly answered. After the meeting some of the students insisted that I should stay one night in their hostel so that they could enjoy my company. My host did not agree. The meeting at Town Hall was presided over by the Mayor of San Francisco. I was introduced by Mrs. Ivy Duce who had a large following as "Murshida". The talk made such an impression on the audience that in the end the Mayor expressed his thanks and the audience joined in "Jai Baba" Hail Meher Baba.

Honolulu:

At the Airport, I was met by Stanley Alapa,

Shirley and others. From the Airport Shirley drove me around the whole Island and also showed me Aquarium & the Zoo. I addressed two meetings including the one at Unity Church of America. Alapa showed me his "Baba room". The last evening was spent at Mr. Alapa's "Advocate" friend - whose name (probably Greenwood) I miss but whose intense love and regards for Baba and His lovers reigns supreme in my heart.

TALK AT UNITY CHURCH

At Honolulu - When I talked of Baba as Compassionate Father and loving Mother who took so much care of his children, the errant mothers, who had no time for their children and thereby made them 'hippies', wept profusely and in the name of Baba promised to take good care of their children thereby saving them from 'Druga' etc.

VISIT TO SANATORIUM / NURSING HOME

Next day I was asked to visit a Sanatorium to see a patient. I told them I was carrying no medicines. They however, insisted on my going. Here was a young lad, who had lost his power of speech suddenly. For more than a fortnight the best doctors fought with the ailment but to no avail. While on my way to the Nursing Home I took a couple of apples with me. As I reached there, the boy lay all 'dumb'. Just then the matron brought the luncheon tray full of all sorts of savouries, puddings, buns and rolls. The boy would not eat anything. He did not even touch it. Just then I took out one apple from my pocket and with Baba's name put it straight into the tray and lo, the miracle happened. The boy cried, "This is what I wanted, and these people never gave it to me". Where doctors fail, God's name works. It was for Baba to do it in this age. The boy was cured: taken home: and I given a send-off at Airport as a V.I.P. with courtesies extended right

on to my next halt at Tokyo.

A Service Unto the Lord

Meher Spiritual Centre on the Lakes, Myrtle Beach gifted one marble slab for our beloved Baba's Tomb and this was brought to India without an import permit. As the value of the slab was more than 3000.00, the Controller of Imports at Bombay was not empowered to "clear" it. On hearing from Meherjee A. Karkaria, I asked the Deputy Chief at New Delhi (Ms. Madan) - a relative of mine, to have the "clearance" expedited. She had "known" Baba and here was Baba's Gesture to bless her.

15th December 1970

TO SEE GOD MEANS TO CEASE SEEING EVERYTHING EXCEPT GOD

Inspired by the above message conveyed through the Silent Revelations of Avatar Meher Baba, His lovers in Delhi cast aside the mantle of seeming inertia donned since the assuming of Spiritual Body by the Avatar of the Age in Jan 69, and came out singing the glory of Godman. The Avatar Meher Baba Centre organised continuous programme of Jayanti Celebrations of Baba for 10 days to mark the ten incarnations of God. The programme, however, stretched on to several weeks duration, and when it ended on 14 April, 1971 at the Bhagat Singh Market, New Delhi, the spirit of Love and Brotherhood reigned supreme. Hail Avatar Meher Baba!

The Meher Jayanti Celebrations started on the morning of Sun 21 Feb at the President's Estate, where a sumptuous feast of music greeted Baba lovers from far and near, Ram Avatar, the amateur artist devoted to the cause of the Avatar, presented a Qawali, followed

by Ghazals by the Meher Singing Group. Baba's usual message of Love was followed by Parvardigar Prayer and Arti. In the evening a public meeting was arranged in Paharganj (5351 Laddoo Ghati), where Dr. and Mrs. Satija played the hosts. Devotional Music by the Meher Singing Group, Speeches by Smt. Krishna Kapil and Shri W.D. Kain created a befitting introduction for the new comers.

This was followed by a get-together at B-171 Greater Kailash on 22nd Feb. and similar functions at Baljit Nagar and again at 22-F Prithvi Raj Market and D-425 Sarojini Nagar on 24th Feb.

On Thursday, 25 Feb. 5 p.m. all roads led to the Town Hall of New Delhi - the City of Fountains, where the 77th Birthday of Avatar Meher Baba was celebrated with great pomp and show befitting the Divine Status of the Highest of the High. Explaining the importance of the venue of the Function, Shri W.D. Kain told the audience that it was there in the Town Hall that Baba's two emissaries - Bros Pendu and Eruch - first gave public talk in Delhi and when they talked about Obedience to Baba, even very learned and elderly persons among the audience shed tears. And those who had come to scoff remained to pray! It was there again that Beloved Baba during His Darshan Programme of 1952-53 gave the following message on 2 Dec, 52 to public of Delhi!

"Even after my physical death the Universal Work will be kept alive by those who live the life of complete renunciation of falsehood, lies, hatred, anger, greed and lust and who, to accomplish all this, do no lustful actions, do no harm to anyone, do no backbiting, do not seek material possessions or power, who accept no homage, neither covet honour nor shun disgrace, and fear no one and nothing, by those who rely wholly and solely on God, and who love God purely for the sake of loving, who believe in the lovers of God and in reality of Manifestation, and yet do not expect

any spiritual or material reward, who do not let go the hand of Truth, and who, without being upset by calamities, bravely and whole heartedly face all hardships with 100% cheerfulness, and give no importance to caste, creed and religious ceremonies".

Those who spoke on the occasion included Shri B.D. Dixit, Dr. C.D. Deshmukh and Dr. G.S.N. Moorthy.

Kumari Surinder Saini, Senior Vice-President of the New Delhi Municipal Committee, in her Presidential Address stated: "It has not been my fortune to have Baba's Darshan, but I had occasions of attending Baba's Jayanti Celebrations. I have kept Baba's photo in my 'family temple' at my house." She went on to say "If you wish to see God, love God, try to look inwards.... love all beings of God in order that you may be able to love God". She questioned "Why are we not happy or have no peace of mind? Why is there no synthesis between Prosperity and Peace?" She went on to explain "If you go deep into the problem you will realize the truth of Baba's teaching and know that mental peace can only be attained by love of God. We lack contentment. Little do we realize that if 'ill-got' money comes it will be taken away one way or the other. Some sort of introspection is needed..... What are the causes of corruption in the world? How far are we responsible for it?" Baba has stressed the need for self-abnegation, which ultimately leads to self-realization. The drop feels the impulse of the Ocean when Baba's Grace comes. So let Baba bless us with His Grace in order that we can make our lives worth living. Let Baba place His parental hand on our heads, I pray". As she concluded with an offering of flowers at Baba's feet, the auditorium echoed and re-echoed with joyous cries of Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai! Thereafter she released the Meher Year 1971 Calendar, issued by the Avatar Meher Baba Centre Delhi through the courtesy of Dr. C.D. Deshmukh. Shri C.L. Bhatia, Advocate recited a poem devoted to Baba and Shri K.C. Mathur presented his memorable song

- "Sab Premi Phool Barsao Dekho Meherban Aya Hai"
- (Let all lovers shower flowers on Him as the Avatar has come) and the lovers all standing performed Baba's Arti.

Then came a series of functions at Sarojini Nagar (a musical feast), G-92 Naraina Colony (Dinner Party) and President's Estate (Sunday 28th Feb.). The last was a get-together by Baba lovers, families and friends, where apart from talks by Dr. Deshmukh and Dr. Moorthy, Mr. Fred E. Warren from California and Mr. and Mrs George M. Walmsley from London were received as the Guests of Honour, in whose honour a luncheon Party was given. The Birthday Celebrations stretched on to the first week of March as follows.

A public meeting at 978 R.K. Puram - Sec. 14 on 2nd March Baba lovers Meet at E-8 Greater Kailash on 6th March Valedictory function at President's Estate. Here Dr. G.S.N. Moorthy told the audience how to concentrate on Baba's picture - a "miniature meditation"! The messages of love-greetings received on the occasion were read out by Dr. W.D. Kain:

"May Avatar Meher Baba bless all who attend Birthday Celebrations on 7th. - ADI -

Meherazad Mandali extremely happy sending loving greetings Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai to you and those assembled in Beloved Baba's love for Avatar Meher Baba Jayanti Celebrations on Seventh." - ERUCH

From the President's Estate, Baba lovers wended their way to X-38 Green Park - the residence of Shri B.O. Dixit to see the tree where Baba had appeared in 1970. The audience were exhorted to remember Baba, who is in all

things and every where

LUCK BROTHERS

Ahmednagar
May 10, 1971

Dear Mr. Kain,

I am writing to you at Eruch's suggestion to ask a favour on behalf of our Avatar Meher Baba expedition here. We are a group of four Baba lovers from U.S.A.: Mr. Irwin Luck, Mr. Edward Luck, Mrs Adah Shifrin and Mrs Beatrice Muller, who have come to India in the first leg of a jouniey which will take us to many countries in the world where there are close Baba lovers.

Our purpose is to film the intimate disciples and followers of Meher Baba wherever they are and to get from them the wonderful stories of their times with Him. We bring colour movie, sound, and television equipment with us and have the sponsorship of Air India who have given us free passage so far. Hopefully, when we have finished in India, they will send us to Australia and even, possibly, to South Africa. Then we will cover Europe on our way home.

We come under the auspices and sponsorship of Meher Baba House, Inc., of New York City, which is duly recognized and chartered under the Religious Corporation Law of the State of New York.

What we would like to request of you, in your governmental officer capacity is a brief letter of endorsement and support of this enterprise, as it would be of great help to us with the various agencies we encounter while we travel. We do wish to make the scope of this project as wide as possible on behalf of Beloved Baba. Such a letter, addressed to Mr. Irwin Luck c/o Adi K. Irani, King's Road, Ahmednagar, would reach us promptly as we stop in Adi's Office each day.

Sincerely in Beloved
Baba,

(Mrs. R.A. Muller)

This request was endorsed by Brother Eruch.

The following reply was despatched promptly:

17 May, 71

Dear Mr Luck,

We have been delighted to note that you have come to India with a group of Baba lovers from USA on a spiritual expedition. We have also noted that you will be contacting Baba lovers here and there and will be filming a few scenes about the spiritual sojourn of Avatar Meher Baba both in the East and in the North of India.

We shall be glad to have you as our guests during your visit to Delhi, and I shall accompany you to Dehra Dun, Mussorie and Hamirpur to facilitate your Research of Divinity. We may also plan a short trip to Kashmir, if possible.

Please remember that Avatar Meher Baba is held in great esteem by high dignitaries in the capital of India. The late Prime Minister, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru was a devotee of Baba, and the present Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and several Ministers in the Cabinet are interested in Baba's teachings. You will be delighted to meet here Dr. Karan Singh, Minister of Tourism, Mr. Justice Hidayatullah, formerly Chief Justice of India, and Miss Surinder Saini Senior Vice President of New Delhi Municipal Committee, apart from hundreds of Baba's devotees spread all over North India. Your venture, which is inspired by pure love of humanity and devotion to God is laudable and we trust your dream will come true.

Assuring you once again of our best help and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,
W.D.Kain

Mr Irwin Luck
C/o Mr Adi K. Irani
King's Road
Ahmednagar
Maharashtra.

On their arrival in Delhi, the Luck Brothers were duly received and accommodated as Baba's Guests. They were shown round the different places and then escorted to Hamirpur etc.

The following letter from Meherazad speaks for itself

My dear Kain Sahib

We all felt pleased to hear that the Luck Brothers left India happily after concluding their mission in the Land of the Ancient One. It was indeed very kind of you to have gone to Hamirpur, Kanpur and Dehra dun with the Lucks. Otherwise they would have been greatly handicapped. Hope they could keep up their health and that their food was no great problem, specially because of two delicate ladies who were needed in the States by their families urgently.

The 46th Silence Anniversary Programme sent by you is very much appreciated. We are greatly overjoyed to notice that the Programme extended over 15 days. This brought, with the news of function of Memories of the days when I had to read out to Beloved Baba the Programme and Baba gestured how very happy He was, etc. You all dear Baba-lovers in Delhi are truly Blessed! May the Lord's Blessings be on you all ever more!

Yours Lovingly,
ERUCH

WORSHIP OF THE SILENT ONE LEADS TO HIS DARSHAN - 1971

The Church Bells on Sunday the 11th July 1971 pealed to announce in the morning the observance of the 46th Silence Anniversary of the Silent One - Avatar Meher Baba - in Delhi. A public meeting held in the evening at Lajpat Bhawan, heralded a chain of programmes for silent worship of the Silent One for over three months.

The inaugural meeting, which was presided over by Kumari Surinder Saini, Senior Vice-President of the New Delhi Municipal Committee, started with a message of Greetings sent by Shri Eruch Jessawala on behalf of the Meherazad Mandali. Devotional songs by the Meher Singing Group, led by Shrimati Kusum and Qawali by Shri Ram Avatar and Party served as a prelude to the panorama of devotion witnessed on the stage, where one speaker after the other poured forth his heart to pay tributes to the Avatar of the Age. Kumari Surinder Saini, after garlanding Baba's picture, released the book "Yuga Avatar" - the first volume of Avatar Meher Baba's Biography by Professor B.N. Bhasin - with the following remarks "I am sure this volume will be read widely by the people to improve their lives and also of the Society, based on teachings of Rev. Avatar Meher Baba".

In her Presidential Address the distinguished speaker emphasised the need for following and living up to the teachings of Baba. The poems recited by Shri C.L. Bhatia, Advocate, and Shri B.O. Dikshit were very much appreciated by the public. A vote of thanks by Shri W.D. Kain was followed by the Parvardigar Prayer and Arti and distribution of Prashad.

Every day showed fresh enthusiasm on the part of Baba lovers as meetings were arranged one after

the other in the Capital and its suburbs in the ensuing weeks. These meetings were held sometimes in the bedecked mansions of Baba lovers and on other occasions in the spacious lawns of Sarojini Nagar and Press Colony (Faridabad) etc. which served as venues of the functions. Musical entertainment through devotional songs and Qawalis and refreshments served on conclusion of the functions added a spirit of joy and devotion to the celebrations of the Silence Anniversary. Series of lectures explaining the "Silence" of Avatar of the Age were delivered by Shri W.D. Kain. Several meetings were held during this period.

These programmes were followed by weekly meetings in different parts of Delhi until one fine morning the denizens of Delhi were shaken out of their slumber by the most welcome message which declared that the Avatar has come to awaken. This formed part of the devotional music sung in the early hours of the morning. It was on 2nd December 1971 when Baba lovers led by Shri R.V. and B.D. Gupta, went round the streets of Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi, inviting the public to participate in the "Darshan Programme" of Baba. In the evening a meeting was held from 5 to 8 p.m. in bazar Sita Ram .to .celebrate the "Darshan day" of Avatar Meher Baba in Delhi. A profusely decorated and artistically illuminated hall served as a stage for unveiling a new portrait of Avatar Meher Baba. Speeches were delivered by Shrimati Krishna and Shri C.L. Bhatia, Advocate on the life and teachings of Baba and musical accompaniment was provided by the Meher Singing Group led by Shrimati Kusum. The following message of Avatar Meher Baba was delivered by Shri W.D. Kain in his Presidential Address:-

"We have gained our National freedom. Let us now try to gain our Spiritual Freedom, beside which every other kind of freedom is a binding. Spiritual Freedom is marred by the binding of lust, power, greed, anger, hatred, jealousy

and low desires. When the prison of these bindings is torn asunder, the heritage of freedom which is born of infinite Power, Wisdom, Peace, Love and Bliss, is gained. To attain this freedom, we must realize God who is the source of Freedom. To realize God we must love Him, losing ourselves in His infinite Self. We can love God through intense longing for union with him. We can love God by surrendering to the Sadguru who is God's personal manifestation.

We can also love God by loving our fellow-men, by giving them happiness at the cost of our own happiness, by rendering them service at the sacrifice of our interests, and by dedicating our lives at the altar of selfless work for the downtrodden. When we love God intensely through any of these channels, we finally know Him to be our own self...

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

I give my love and blessings to one and all, for the understanding of the One infinite God residing equally within us all and beside whom everything else is false and illusory".

- Meher Baba - "2nd Dec. 52"

As soon as the Parvardigar Prayer had been recited by Shri B.D. Dixit, special lights were put on for the Arti. And lo! the newly unveiled portrait of Baba was engulfed in a halo, the splendor of which charmed all present in the meetings - Men and women, old and young all cried in loud acclaim: Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai. Baba was all smiles and it seemed that the month's long worship of the Silent One had rewarded the Devotees with His Darshan. And then a tune came on the air. Someone was singing "Namo Meher Baba, Namo Dev Deva" - Salutations to Meher Baba: salutations to the God of gods. Perhaps the gods had descended from Heaven to have the Darshan of the One, Whom so many worship and yet so few realize.

Epilogue

The account of my sojourn with dear Baba, especially the Tour to the West, will not be complete unless I record my appreciation of the American people's regards for me as a Baba lover.

As soon as I arrived at Tokyo (ref: page 103), I was received at the Airport by an American Embassy official, and conducted to Hotel Okura, where the National Flag of India was flown on my suite. A Reception at the Press Club of Tokyo the same evening was followed by a Luncheon Party the next day - where "Toast" was proposed for me. As I sipped the fruit juice, I wondered what Baba has done for just an ordinary lover of His. All this is Baba's Grace. And the courtesy of the US Ambassador overwhelmed me.

After a few days stay in Hong Kong and Thailand, I returned home with sweet memories of Baba lovers abroad.

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Register of Editorial Alterations

Page 1, para 2, line 13, "tearing" changed to "through the"
Page 7, para 2, line 3, planes changed to plains
Page 9, para 3, line 7, where changed to were
Page 14, para 2, line 7, interned changed to interred
Page 18, para 2, line 3, ill-failed changed to ill-fated
Page 20, para 4, line 4, Indicidently changed to Incidentally
Page 45, para 1, line 2, "as you" changed to "as"
Page 48, para 2, line 5, nothing changed to noting
Page 52, para 1, hdg, Krishan's changed to Krishna's
Page 56, para 1, hdg, enfolds changed to unfolds
Page 63, para 1, line 5, With changed to When
Page 63, para 4, line 6, was changed to we
Page 71, para 8, line 4, seem changed to seen
Page 76, para 2, line 5, pepole changed to people
Page 77, para 3, line 2, "had" changed to "had to"
Page 95, para 4, line 4, casts changed to castes
Page 103, para 3, line 7, engima changed to enigma
Page 104, para 1, line 2, Trans-smadhi changed to Trance-samadhi
Page 110, para 2, line 7, drive changed to derive

Book 2

Page 8, para 2, line 6, daman changed to daaman
Page 8, para 5, line 3, occassion changed to occasion
Page 10, para 3, line 7, inaugral changed to inaugural
Page 12, para 3, line 1, "can" changed to "it can"
Page 17, para 2, line 1, and changed to had
Page 23, para 1, line 33, cast changed to caste
Page 27, para 1, line 11, might changed to right
Page 31, para 5, line 1, beatous changed to beauteous
Page 31, para 5, line 4, shies changed to outshines
Page 33, para 2, line 5, dias changed to dais
Page 48, para 1, line 1, caste changed to cast
Page 50, para 1 line 7, form changed to from
Page 54, para 3, line 5, related changed to relayed
Page 55, para 3, line 3, hubbing changed to humming
Page 60, para 1, line 4, Words changed to Word
Page 74, para 2, line 5, Angles changed to Angels
Page 83, para 4, line 2, spell-pound changed to spell-bound
Page 85, para 1, line 1, July changed to January
Page 85, para 4, line 3, say changed to may
Page 86, para 1, line 4, August changed to February