



*I want you to remain  
undisturbed and unshaken  
by the force of life's currents,  
for whatever the circumstances,  
they too will be of My  
own creation.*

MEHER BABA

# Lives Based On Love For God

*“A life of sacrifice based on love is never lost; it is not only beautiful and fruitful in itself but also in the creative inspiration which it leaves behind.”*

BABA GAVE THESE TIMELESS, comforting words in the Memorial Tower foundation dedication speech in 1944. A number of Baba’s lovers have passed on recently, some due to the pandemic, some from other causes. Visiting the Memorial Tower at Meherabad, seeing all the names of people from many walks of life and religions, learning of their connections to Beloved Baba, and reading His stirring words about life and death, inspires us all to remember Him and to live lives of “ever renewed and ceaseless dedication.”

In conjunction with the Archives Family Tree project, a Memorial Tower bio-glossary is being compiled with details of the connections these steadfast “departed ones” had with their

Master. One such soul named on the Tower was Baba’s brother, Jamshed. The sudden death in 1926 of this young man shocked and deeply grieved Baba’s mandali, but Baba was unfazed and gave one of the most straightforward, ever-relevant discourses on death. Jamshed’s short bio from the bio-glossary is followed by excerpts of Baba’s words from 1926:

#5 Jamshed S. Irani  
b. 2 Jan 1893–d. 27 Feb 1926

“He was Baba’s elder brother who was also one of his earliest disciple companions. He died just after celebrating Baba’s grand birthday in Meherabad, 1926, prompting Baba to give one of the great discourses on death and the soul.”

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# “MEDICAL RELIEF, HELP & SUCCOUR.... IN TIMES OF DISTRESS”

FROM PRINCIPAL DEED OF AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST

As many are aware, India experienced soaring rates of COVID-19 infection, but many restrictions have just been lifted. There are currently fewer COVID-19 cases in Maharashtra and in the city of Ahmednagar, where hospital beds were in short supply. Several Trust workers and other resident Baba lovers caught the virus, and a few have passed on to Baba.

Hostel C is still in use by the local government, although with less demand. Only a few COVID-19–positive patients are currently being accommodated there. There are 25 such places around Ahmednagar District, which are needed by persons living with family members in a small home where effective isolation cannot be carried out. The COVID-19–positive patients are discharged when their COVID-19 test results are negative. The government will continue this usage of Hostel C for the time being.

Meherabad Medical Services continues to provide quality care for residents and Trust workers while maintaining safety precautions. Meher Health Center (MHC) staff utilizes full protective gear. We are pleased to have Dr. Chandramala, a volunteer from Hyderabad, join MHC. Hours have been reduced and staff continues to receive their full salaries, even during lockdowns. The Homeopathic Dispensary has mostly been able to operate regularly.

All workers have been tested for COVID-19, with ongoing testing available at regular intervals. The Isolation Ward at lower Meherabad behind the Meherabad hospital is used to quarantine those residents potentially exposed to the virus. The trustees are working diligently to acquire vaccines for workers and many have already been at least partially vaccinated.

Recently the Trust was told that Meherabad is #1 in Ahmednagar District for the number of patients discharged healthy from COVID-19 facilities. Clearly, the loving atmosphere of Beloved Baba is helping these patients recover quickly. Meherabad volunteers and workers are all doing their best to dance to Baba’s new tune, giving the care that would please Him, relying on Him to provide solutions when at first there might seem to be none, and finding deep gratitude for the privilege of living and serving Him in His India home.

The 2021 monsoon began by  
showering Meherabad with 6 inches  
of rain in the first 6 days of June



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Baba Family,

Beloved Baba has said that the waves do not roll and the leaves do not move without His will, so we know that these current unprecedented times are all according to His will. As His lovers we simply have to do our best to remember Him and to remember it is not we who are doing anything, but He who is getting everything done. Despite these challenging times the Trust has stayed very active planning for the masses that Baba has said will be coming for His darshan. (Please see “Trust Adopts Master Plan.”) Maintenance projects continue, including care for Beloved Baba’s Samadhi. During these times, Trust employees continue to work and to receive their pay. The global pandemic has impacted everyone and Baba’s Trust has been no exception. These continue to be trying times for the Trust financially. (Please see the enclosed annual Financial Report.)

As we are a Charitable Trust the government continues to use its right to appropriate our facilities during

times of crisis by using Hostel C for COVID-19 relief. The Hostel C COVID-19 Centre is specifically for those people who are COVID-19-positive but do not need to be hospitalized. They must be quarantined to protect their families and villages from catching this virus. Beloved Baba’s living example of “Mastery in Servitude” to others is reflected in the Trust Deed stating that providing “succour” during disasters is one of the objectives of the Trust.

As of June 7th, the Maharashtra government lifted some restrictions, but no one knows whether there will be more COVID-19 surges, so the authorities do not want to dismantle the arrangements just yet. We know for certain that things are still uncertain. For the time being there are no plans for when Arti may resume at



the Samadhi. We are sorry to announce that there will be no Meherabad Silence Day observance this July and it is uncertain when there will be opening up of accommodations for pilgrims at Meherabad.

We know people are longing to come back to Meherabad. Visits to Meherabad may be restricted, but visits to Baba are always available when we do not absent ourselves from Him.

“Don’t lose heart, but keep me in your heart and know I am always with you.”

One day humanity’s throngs will once again bow down at Beloved Baba’s door. Let’s take solace in His own words:

*In the future, Meherabad will be like Jerusalem. For My spiritual work, it is the best possible place. It will always be the center of My work.*

In Baba’s love,  
Shridhar

## MEHER PRASAD RAJU New Trustee

In a meeting held on 20th March 2021, the Board of Trustees of the Avatar Meher Baba P.P.C. Trust selected



S.V. Meher Prasad Raju as a trustee. Known as Meher Prasad, he comes from Shahapuram near Kakinada in Andhra (South India). For the past few years, he has been staying in Meherabad and participating in the Trust’s activities. Previously, he

served as the Secretary of Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre and also as the President of Kakinada Center.

Meher Prasad was born September 7, 1964, and is the youngest child of a loving Baba family. When informed of his birth, Baba told Meher Prasad’s father, Shahapuram Raja, that the boy was His Prasad and instructed him to name the child “Meher Prasad.” Meher Prasad’s father met Baba in 1955 and had many wonderful experiences in Baba’s love.

After graduation, Meher Prasad completed a diploma in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management as well as a Master’s in Business Administration. After his education he started a construction company and also worked as a clearing and forwarding agent with the Godrej Group. Meher Prasad has great interests in water management as well as disaster management, which will be very helpful for ongoing development at Meherabad. He especially enjoys working on detailed preparation and follow-through work for Amartithi. An ardent lover of music, he also takes special interest in maintaining good public relations.

Mr. Raju feels that being chosen as a trustee is “the greatest blessing the Beloved showered on me. I pray to my Master Avatar Meher Baba to give me strength in shouldering this responsibility in a righteous perspective, which will help me to walk toward the Mastery of Servitude.”



### Tomb Maintenance

A worker digs a trench near the large trees west of the Samadhi to confirm that no damaging invasive roots grow toward the Tomb. The waterproofing project for the Tomb was finished just in the nick of time one morning just as the first monsoon rain came later that day. Baba’s timing!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSICA MEDNICK

## News UGGETS

## TRUST EVENTS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

**AVATAR MEHER BABA MEHERABAD STREAMS** on YouTube make it possible to celebrate Baba virtually. Every day a livestream inside Baba’s Tomb is offered, as well as a previously recorded Arti. Available online, virtual high-lights include:

**AMARTITHI:** Baba’s lovers from all over the world honored Baba with 31 hours of love-offerings recorded in homes or Baba Centres.

**BABA’S 127TH BIRTHDAY:** Several videos of Baba’s 100th Birthday Celebration were shared. Given the name “Spectacle,” the delightful event was conceived by Mani and was performed at the Meher Pilgrim Centre by residents.

**LEGACY:** In February, the Library Committee hosted “Discovering the Avatic Treasure” with presentations based on Baba’s work during 1952–53. Stay tuned for info about the next Programme highlighting the

Centenary Year of Baba’s completing His training with Upasni Maharaj.

**SAMADHI:** In preparation for the coming monsoon, the pointing on Beloved Baba’s Samadhi is being painted with an invisible waterproofing solution. This treatment was first recommended by the conservation architect who consulted with the Trust when the murals were repaired in the early 1990s. The solution

reduces moisture coming through the exterior of the walls, which damages the murals inside. The waterproofing was done at that time and periodically in the years since. The recent hot weather has dried the walls sufficiently at long last and the work has begun.

**ONGOING INFRASTRUCTURE:** A beautiful gate was installed at the highway entry into Meherabad (toward the Hospital), as well as a stone wall and paver-covered path

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# Trust Adopts Master Plan

MEHER BABA HAS SAID THAT MEHERABAD would become the greatest place of world pilgrimage. To prepare for that eventuality, in February this year the Trust approved the Master Plan for the development of Trust properties at Meherabad, Meherazad, and Meher Nazar. This plan is in keeping with Meher Baba’s directives as expressed in the Trust Deed of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust that was established by Him in 1959.

The Master Plan calls for expanding the Trust’s capacity to handle up to 1 million pilgrims at a time at Meherabad, and also allows for significant expansion at Meherazad and Meher Nazar. The plan preserves the sacred nature of all of these places, especially the area around the Samadhi, historic sites at lower Meherabad, the entirety of Meherazad, and the Meher Nazar compound. The plan also significantly increases the facilities and infrastructure that will be required. And finally, charitable objects will be significantly expanded—especially in the areas of health care and education.

The demand for access to Trust properties has been relatively stable for some years now. However, there is precedent that shows that the situation could change quickly. For example, Sai Baba’s Samadhi at Shirdi attracted few pilgrims for decades after his passing. However, that situation changed very rapidly after the broadcast of a film and TV series about Sai Baba. Today up to 50,000 pilgrims come on a normal day, and on major holidays the numbers are as many as 400,00.

Likewise, interest in Meherabad could also increase suddenly—hence the importance of having a plan in place now to ensure that the development of necessary facilities, buffer land, and infrastructure keeps pace with anticipated increase in demand.

## THE STRUCTURE OF THE MASTER PLAN

THE MASTER PLAN IS BUILT around a set of core principles that will help to ensure that the development adheres to the expressed wishes of Meher Baba. In addition, the perspectives of close mandali were carefully considered in formulating the plan. The Meherazad portion of the Trust Master Plan incorporates a prior Meherazad Master Plan that the Meherazad resident mandali had established. And this current Trust Master Plan provides the first-ever plan for the future of Meher Nazar.

Meher Baba offered no timeline for the growth of interest in pilgrimage to Meherabad. Therefore, rather than creating a plan based on specific time-frames, it is designed around three different stages of increase in pilgrim numbers: The first stage is when there are twice as many people coming as today, the next stage is for five times as many people, and the third stage is when twenty-five times as many people are coming as today, which would be up to 1 million people for Amartithi.

The Trust also cannot know whether 1 million people will be the ultimate maximum number of pilgrims who will need to be accommodated—however, this Master Plan will provide a solid foundation for any further planning that may be required as awareness of Meher Baba as the Avatar of the Age unfolds.

THE MASTER PLAN for developing the Trust is designed to fulfill the following vision:

Avatar Meher Baba has said that His advent will be the end of a cycle of cycles and His manifestation will be the greatest. Therefore, Meherabad and Meherazad will become places of world pilgrimage, where multitudes come to pay homage at His feet and to:

- o Experience Meher Baba’s Divine Love;
- o Learn about His life and message of truth and love; and
- o Dedicate themselves to a life lived in His remembrance, love, and service

## ENGAGEMENT

THE MASTER PLAN was created over a period of six years through a process that initially engaged residents from all segments of Trust operations. An initial draft Master Plan was prepared from all of this input.

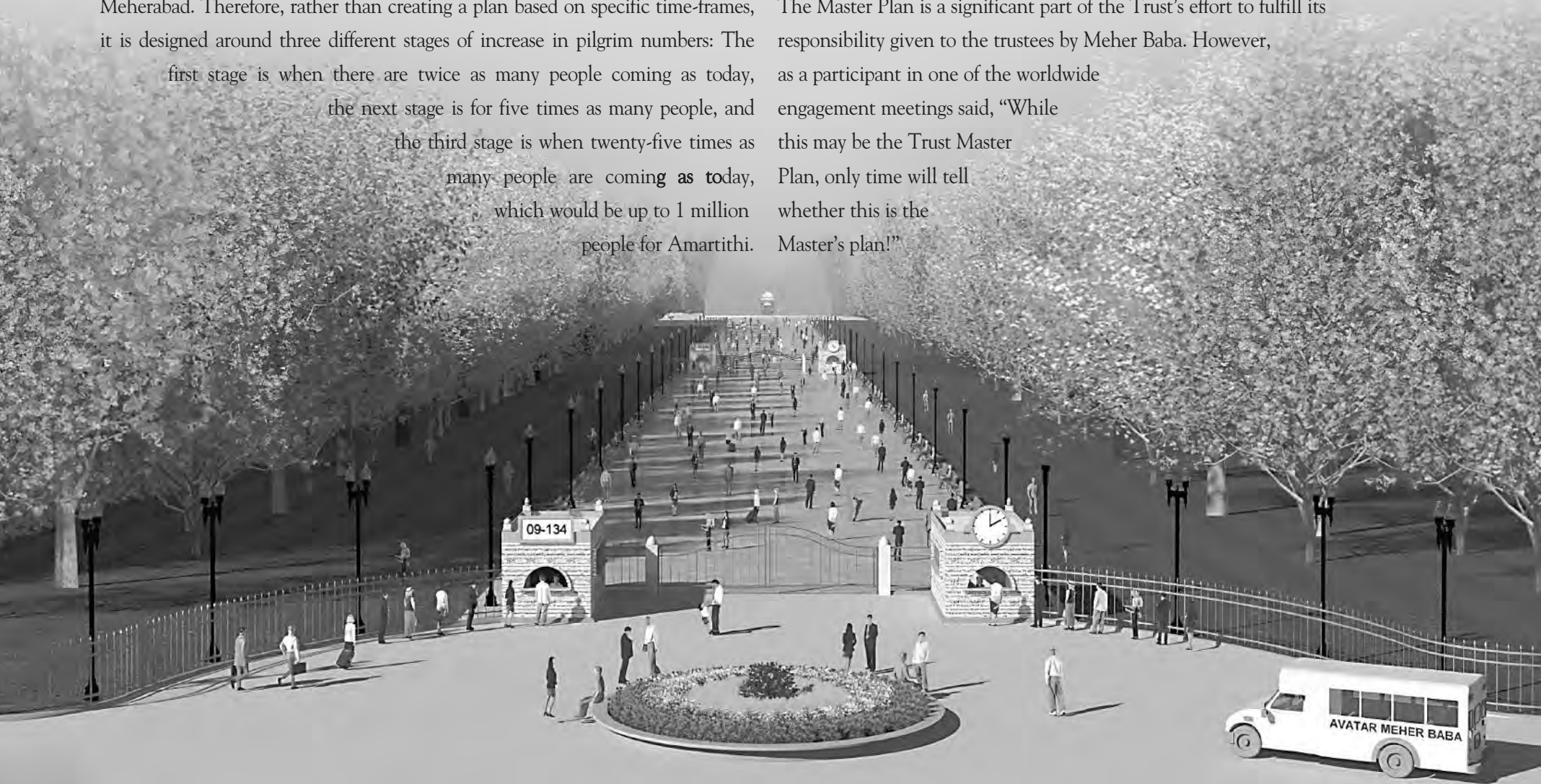
The next phase of the process was perhaps unique in the history of the Trust—the direct engagement of the worldwide Baba family. Trustees understand that the whole Baba family cares deeply about these sites and what will happen to them in the future. It is also recognized that ultimately, the whole worldwide Baba family will be involved in supporting the development of these properties.

Therefore, the Trust decided to have engagement meetings around the Baba world to share the draft Master Plan and to get feedback. Held in the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, and in numerous locations within India, about 1,000 participants were given an overview of the plan. Feedback was then generated after small group discussions. The plan received overall enthusiastic reception, and the participants provided numerous useful ideas and suggestions. The feedback was carefully reviewed and used by the Trust in finalizing the Master Plan. This engagement process made it clear that the global Baba family greatly valued their involvement and looks forward to continued opportunities to provide input.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

NOW THAT THE PLAN has been finalized, the hard work starts—the plan must be implemented and kept fresh, so every five to seven years, the Trust will review and update the plan. The needs for development for the coming few years will be anticipated, and priorities will be set in keeping with the blueprint provided by the Master Plan. Through this ongoing cycle of review and planning, the Master Plan will be kept current, and will provide a basis for continuing to develop Meherabad, Meherazad, and Meher Nazar in a steady and practical manner.

Of course, what will happen to these sites so intimately associated with the current advent of the Avatar is completely at the will of the Beloved. The Master Plan is a significant part of the Trust’s effort to fulfill its responsibility given to the trustees by Meher Baba. However, as a participant in one of the worldwide engagement meetings said, “While this may be the Trust Master Plan, only time will tell whether this is the Master’s plan!”



Master Plan illustration of Samadhi view corridor



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opposite the Dhuni. The rainwater drainage system near the Dhuni underpass was completed. Maintenance of all infrastructure continues.

**AFFORESTATION:** A large new nursery near one of the wells has been planted, and the Meherabad afforestation trees are being cared for in concerted efforts for environmental preservation.

**SOLAR POWER:** About a year ago, the Trust installed a solar power generation system at Meher Pilgrim Retreat (MPR). It started generating power in June 2020. Since the lockdown, consumption went down by more than 50%, so the power from this system is enough to provide for current consumption, which means the Trust is not paying any electric bill for the MPR. From June 2020 to March 2021, this system has provided enough power at a cost savings of Rs. 2,91,965. (\$4,000) The total cost of the MPR solar power installation was about Rs.1.7 million (\$23,000). Encouraged by these positive results, the Trust is now planning to install a bigger solar power facility at Lower Meherabad. The estimated cost will be about Rs. 5 million (\$68,000).

**MEHER ENGLISH SCHOOL** held classes for the students of 5th to 10th standard partially in 2020. Preliminary exams were conducted in 2021 but, per government COVID-19 directives, the school closed again. Online lessons are sent to the students.

**TRUST VILLAGE RELATIONS:** Funds were provided for Arangaon street lights, water line repair, compound work for AMB Centre, tree guards, and feeding the poor, as well as help toward the expansion of the Seena River in Pimpalgaon Malvi.

## How to Contribute

In 1959 Baba established the AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST. Stated in His Trust Deed are many objects including the upkeep of all the Meherabad and Meherazad facilities supporting pilgrimage to Beloved Baba's Tomb-shrine and home, as well as services to the public mainly through its medical facilities and the Meher English School. Trust facilities are available to anyone "irrespective of caste, creed, race, religion, nationality or sex." THE TRUST is supported entirely by love-gifts from Meher Baba's lovers around the world. In truth, it is Baba Himself who gives through your hands, and it is Baba Himself who brings the objects to completion which He Himself laid down in the Trust Deed, when it pleases Him to do so.

Anyone in the world can donate directly to the Trust in any currency: AMBPPC Trust, Post Bag No. 31, King's Road, Ahmednagar 414001, MS, India, by personal check or demand draft payable to Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust or online (India only)—See "HOW TO HELP" on the Trust's website [www.ambppct.org/whereContribute.php](http://www.ambppct.org/whereContribute.php). Foreign nationals can also donate to the Trust through a few Baba organizations in the USA and UK that have been established to accept tax-deductible donations and transfer them to the Trust. (To see the list of organizations, click "FOREIGN NATIONALS" [www.ambppct.org/fNat.php](http://www.ambppct.org/fNat.php).)

Another way to support the Trust is to list it as a beneficiary in your personal Legacy. (See "LEGACIES" [www.ambppct.org/legacies.php](http://www.ambppct.org/legacies.php).)

Trust financial information is provided annually in the Trust Financial Report, sent out with the June issue of this newsletter and posted on the Trust website. The Financial Report details information on the Trust's financial position and receipts and expenditures. More information can be found in the Trust's website: [www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org](http://www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org).

# Nature Flourishes At Meherazad

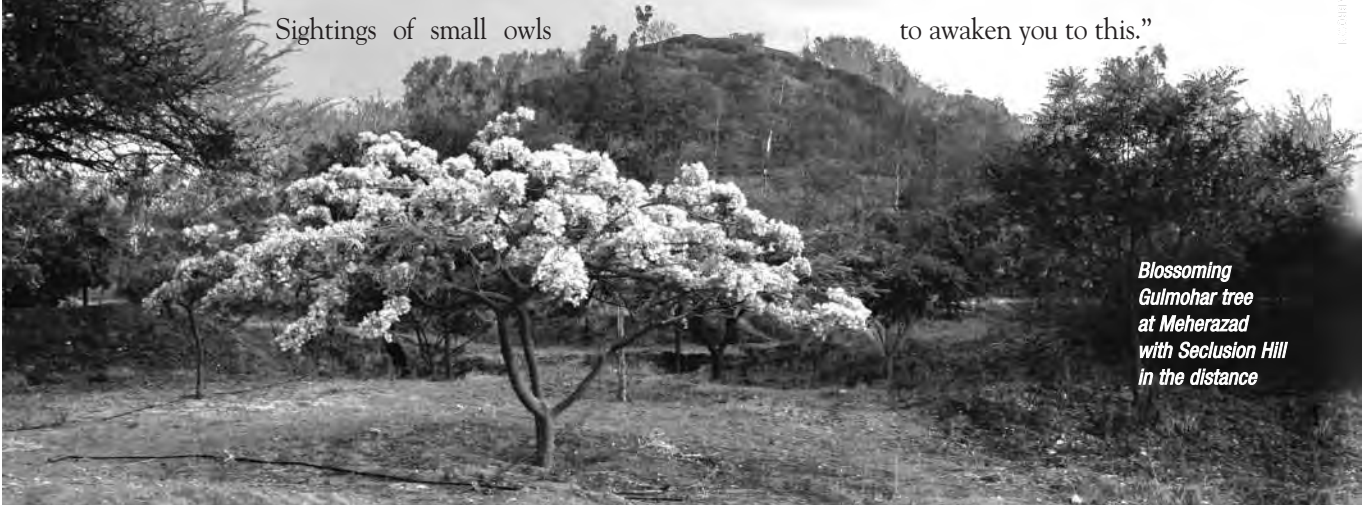
These days the world news is filled with the sad toll of COVID-19; even His lovers have not escaped the scope and breadth of this pandemic. Baba has said that the only refuge is at His feet. Meherazad, His last earthly home, is an oasis of His presence.

No pilgrims have entered Meherazad premises for more than a year now and it appears unlikely that the pilgrim season will commence since cases were recently rampant and a strict lockdown ordered. Fortunately, residents and most workers at Meherazad were able to get vaccinations. Nevertheless, there have been cases affecting some of our workers, and one of our watchmen, who suffered from other ailments, succumbed to COVID-19. There is a silver lining in this pause caused by the virus: with less people around, the animal kingdom has felt safer.

Sightings of small owls

(Pingala), hares, deer, and a leopard have occurred. Meherazad in fact has become a sanctuary for peacocks. Male peacocks with their long-feathered tail guide their harems across the roads without fear, making their homes in the woodland areas around Seclusion Hill. One pathway here through the fields has been fondly named the "peacock haven" due to all the birds that are seen.

And although the Gulmohar trees regularly bloom in the midst of Indian summer, this year the blossoms are spectacular, carpeting Meherazad, framing Seclusion Hill for the perfect photograph. The stillness and beauty of nature allows us space to remember what Baba has so lovingly told us again and again, "Think of me more and more, and all your worries will disappear into the nothing they really are. My will works out to awaken you to this."



Blossoming  
Gulmohar tree  
at Meherazad  
with Seclusion Hill  
in the distance

## Lives Based On Love For God

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*"If you have love for the dead, it should be selfless. The dead do not want your expressions of sadness. Manifest such love for them that they would be pleased and at peace. If you want the consciousness of their souls to progress, express selfless love. Do not make them unhappy by your weeping and wailings. . . .*

*"He who is convinced that after death there is birth again never worries or sorrows. What is the use of sorrowing over dried-up crops in the field? By dying before death [annihilating the mind] you will gain both worlds. Otherwise, it is a never-ending cycle of taking birth and dying. There is no escape. It is a matter of luck. What can we do when our last day dawns? It is not in our hands, so what can be done? We all have to go one day. So, what is the sense of weeping? One can do nothing except submit to God's will."*

When asked how to even begin to understand what Baba was telling the mandali, Baba replied: "From believing those who know the secrets of life and death."\* How fortunate for us that Baba always points the way, strengthening our resolve by stating: "Inscribe these words in your heart: nothing is real but God; nothing matters but love for God."

\* Lord Meher rev. p. 643.



**BABA'S FAMILY TREE** is now in the new "FAMILY TREES" section of the **ARCHIVES** on the Trust website. The Archives is compiling and preserving family trees for Baba and His close ones. To verify information, archival and personal records (such as passports, birth and death certificates, gravestones, and other resources), in addition to consultations with descendants are used to make these trees as accurate as possible. They will be updated when new information is identified. To see Baba's Family Tree, go to the Archives section on the Trust website and browse collections for family trees, or click this direct link:

<https://avatarmeherbabatrust.org/Family-Trees->

## WHAT IS THE AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST?

CREATED IN 1959 under Meher Baba's direction, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust has the purpose of fulfilling the objectives in the Trust Deed set out by Baba and the Trustees He appointed. The Trust Deed calls for the maintenance of Avatar Meher Baba's Tomb; for the creation of pilgrim facilities; for educational, medical, and other charitable services; for estate development and procurement of sources of water; for the advancement of Avatar Meher Baba's love-message through melas, museums, lectures, publications, and the arts; and for spiritual training.

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FOR HOSTEL D/DHARAMSHALA: [jaibaba@ambppct.org](mailto:jaibaba@ambppct.org).

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