

Letters
from the mandali of
Avatar Meher Baba
Volume II

Compiled by
Jim Mistry

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Letters from the mandali of Avatar Meher Baba – Volume II

Compiled by Jim Mistry

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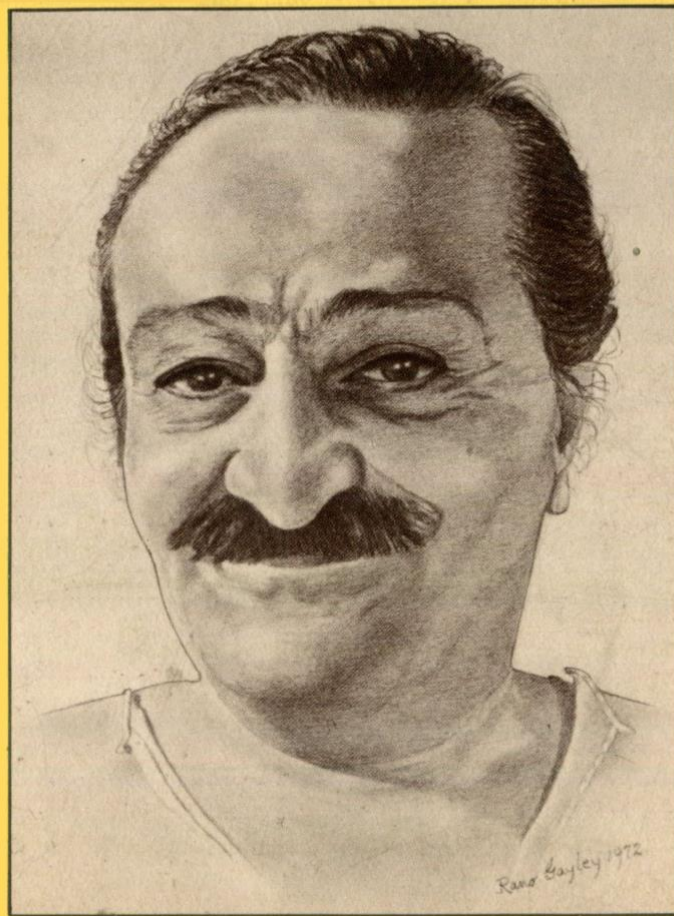
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Letters
FROM THE
MANDALI OF
AVATAR MEHER BABA

VOLUME II



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Jim Mistry

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Ahmednagar (M.S.), India

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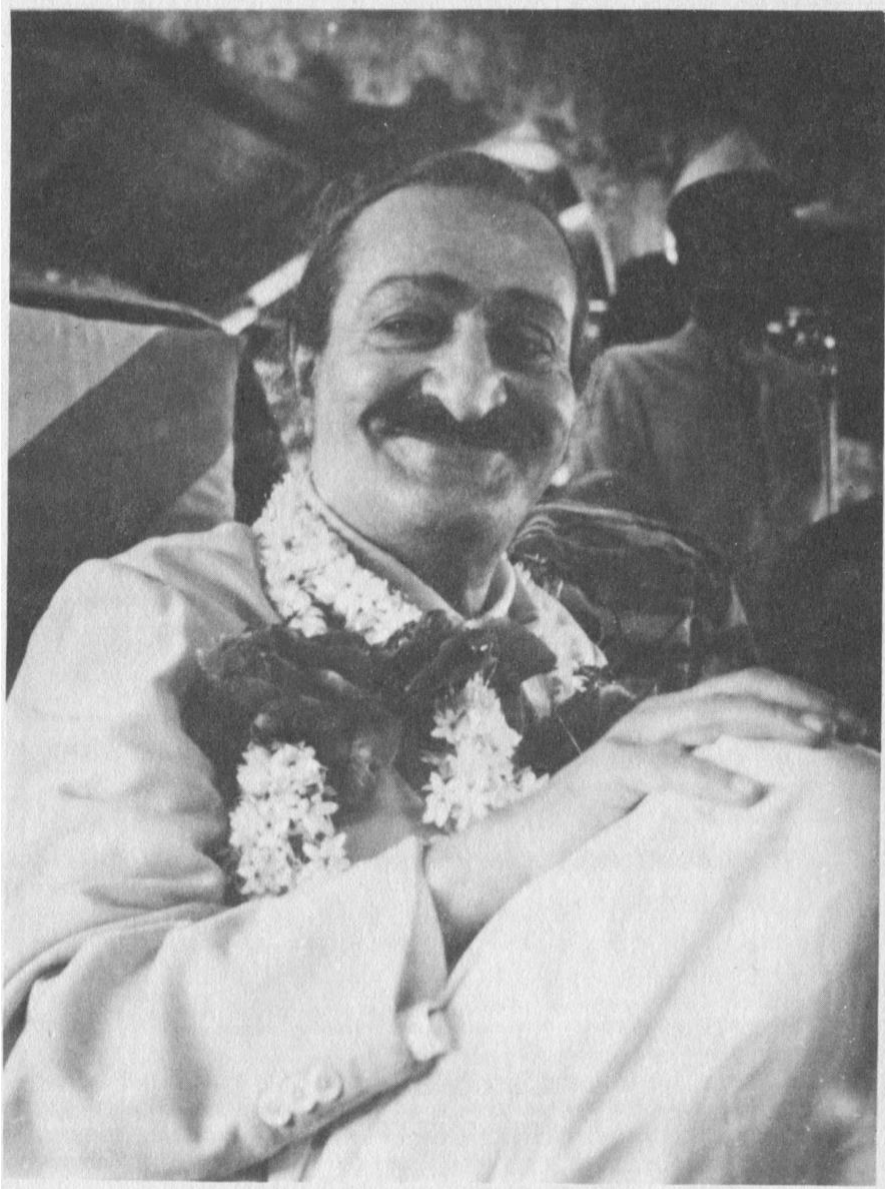
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Letters

FROM THE
MANDALI OF
AVATAR MEHER BABA
VOLUME II

Compiled by
JIM MISTRY

Sheriar Press



Meher Baba

1954

DEDICATION

*To the Eternal Companion,
Avatar Meher Baba,
who continues in the fullness
of His infinite silence
to grace our lives
with His divine help
and His divine love.*

Preface

This second volume of *Letters from the Mandali of Avatar Meher Baba* has been prepared in the same manner as the first volume.* The letters have been selected by Jim Mistry because of their general appeal and they have been only slightly edited.

In addition to the appearance of more letters from the writers in the first volume, this volume includes letters from Dr. William Donkin, Kitty Davy, Ali Akbar Shapurzaman (Aloha), Dr. Nilkanth Godse (Nilu) and Avatar Meher Baba Himself.

As in the first volume we have kept only those parts of a letter that are of general interest. To avoid repetition, greetings and closings have been deleted. Capitalizations and spelling variations have been edited for consistency. Short headings precede some of the longer letters as an introduction.

The letters in these two volumes are only a very small sampling of the correspondence of Meher Baba's mandali. For the most part, it has only been in recent years that copies of the mandali's letters have been kept as the pace of activity around Meher Baba did not allow for the typing and filing of copies. Most of the letters from Meher Baba's time have been taken from drafts that were not discarded.

Above all else I feel that these letters capture the intimacy of the flow of love between Avatar Meher Baba and His lovers. God eternally exists and embodies all divine attributes, but, as these letters show, He also becomes a very human companion and friend when He incarnates on earth as the God-Man. Meher Baba was once asked what was the most difficult thing in spiritual life. He replied: "To be perfectly human."

Peter Booth
Meherabad
16 October 1982

* The first volume was published by Sheriar Press, North Myrtle Beach, S.C., U.S.A., in 1981.

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Letters

ERUCH

On spreading Baba's
message of Love and Truth ...

Satara

28 September 1955

Baba wants all His lovers to remember one thing: He does *not* want the *Prachar* (propaganda) of His name or His message of Love and Truth. Baba is always displeased with the propaganda value attached to anything connected with spirituality. What He wants is *Prasar* (propagation) of His Love and the Truth of Reality. His Love, which is for all alike, should spread and envelop all without discrimination and the *Prasar* of His Love can only be achieved by exemplary lives of love and humility led by His lovers. Unless and until a lover of Baba lives such a life, it is impossible for any lover of Baba to do much in the field of Baba work. Baba has repeatedly stressed that the greatest work one can do for Baba is for one to live the life of love, humility, sincerity, and selfless service. Live such a life without the least trace of hypocrisy or show - and Baba's work is done. The rest automatically follows without exertion or propaganda. Let the lover's own life be the poster for propaganda and let the lover's life itself spread Baba's message of Love and Truth. Such a love and such a life are vital; they carry the weight of the highest responsibility and have a vital force behind their thoughts, words, and deeds.

Of course, in the beginning, such an attitude towards life demands the highest type of discipline. This may seem as dry as dust, but it will automatically be transmuted into the very life of the lover-the kind of life and living which Baba desires all His lovers to have and spread among all other lovers of God.

To cultivate discipline for one's self, or to inculcate it into others, is not the responsibility of a teacher, guide, or guru; it requires self-determination and an honest effort from every lover of God. To begin with, it is best to remember Baba as often as possible without neglecting the responsibilities we have shouldered ourselves - family responsibilities, our own

commitments, our jobs, and such other things that do count in this world, even though they have no foundation of their own in the domain of Reality.

Eruch

*To Baba's twin nephews
Rustom and Sorab Irani aged
18 at the time of this letter ...*

Meherazad
6 August 1963

Beloved Baba was very happy to hear the contents of your joint letter to Him.

Baba is pleased to hear from you that you both like your present jobs and that you want to go through a complete course of apprenticeship. Baba wants you both to form regular habits and to strictly adhere to the instructions He has given you both for work and living in Lonavala. Almost all the points also apply to you both while you are working in Poona, except your weekly trips to and from Poona—Lonavala and your writing letters to your parents. Baba wants you to stick fast to all those instructions and make Him happy and proud of you both. Baba wants you to remain very obedient to your superiors at home and in the factory, and He wants you to behave NOT as other boys but absolutely different from the other boys. Baba says that you should both remember well that you do NOT belong to the ways of the other boys. Hence, your way of life cannot and should not be compared with those who are neither good to themselves, nor to their parents, nor to society in general.

Baba wants you both to remain engrossed in your present work of apprenticeship and fully master the art you have chosen, and when you return home, to be of help to your dear parents. Always be obedient to them as well as your family and your elders. In short, Baba wants you to behave and live in

such a way that will make your own Beloved Baba feel pleased and proud of you both, so that He can speak of you to others and point you out as good examples.

Beloved Baba sends His Love-Blessing to you both and wants you to show this letter to your parents.

Eruch

To a Baba-lover spreading Baba's name ...

11 November 1963

Although Beloved Baba has directed me to write this letter particularly to you, it is equally meant for all who love Him and try to share Baba-work in His Cause.

Beloved Baba wants me to inform you that He is pleased to hear the reports of your successful tour in Gujarat in His Cause.

Your devotional enthusiasm to spread His message of Love in the suburbs and neighboring villages, towns, and cities has pleased Beloved Baba. Your love reaches Him and makes Him happy, for it brings you closer to Him. The part you played during these tours made Baba proud of you, you who love Him so dearly. Baba says that He knows how anxious you are to please Him by your acts of devotion and service to His Cause. He says that you are blessed indeed!

Baba wants you to continue to do the good work in His Cause and He now wants you to do so in full cooperation with other Baba-lovers and co-workers of your Meher Baba Center, observing all the discipline and routine chalked out by the Board of Trustees; so that whatever work you do in His Cause from now onwards will be with an added determination on your part to help keep the atmosphere at His Center - that atmosphere that Baba has always desired His lovers to maintain wherever they assemble, or wherever they go to spread His message of Love, or wherever they sit together to plan anything and to execute any work in His Cause.

Baba says that He always feels pleased and at home when He finds His lovers living and working for His Cause in an atmosphere that is surcharged with the sweetness of humility, the fragrance of harmony, and the sheer simplicity of love for one another.

Baba adds that there are bound to be differences of opinion among His lovers regarding the conducting of the work to be done and the manner in which it is to be done, but such differences are, in a way, always healthy and invigorating as long as they do not carry with them the sting of arrogance and insolence. Baba always expects His lovers to remain prepared to face and overcome all opposition calmly and humbly. And when the differences are thrashed out pleasantly, with an attitude of one who sincerely desires to learn and benefit from the other's point of view, the results thus achieved are beneficial to both the parties concerned.

Baba says that He knows that your devotion is bubbling with enthusiasm and a strong desire to do something extraordinary for the Avatar who is now in your midst. Your fervour is quite justifiable, and it makes Him happy as long as it remains polished and brightened by your own humility and your efforts to maintain harmony in your own camp of co-workers.

As soon as you succumb to the dictates of your ego and permit arrogance and insolence to put their heads up, then this attitude recoils on Baba Himself as you are His lover and your Beloved Baba's head remains bowed down with humiliation. Thus our attitude in His Cause becomes the cause of His continual suffering, and the burden of this cross is continually borne by Him for the love He bears for us! He will continue to suffer such sustained humiliation as long as His lovers, who have come in His close association, do not begin to share this most burdensome cross. His lovers can learn now to share this by putting up with any humiliation caused to them by the misunderstanding or arrogance of others in His Cause.

Baba therefore tells you all who are close to Him in His Love to pay heed to His Words while He is still with His lovers to guide them.

Beloved Baba wants you to shed all prejudices and forget that you are always right in what you say or do, and with all

humility and love to continue to do the good work that you are blessed to share in His Cause. Baba-work can truly be achieved by one heart with innumerable hands and tongues.

With all your differences of opinion and the consequent conflicting situations that you daily face in His Cause, Baba wants you and all His lovers to have love for one another at heart and shed all prejudices and contempt before you launch upon your mission of life to tell others of the Avatar's Message of Love and Truth.

Baba reminds you that though He is in strict seclusion and in the midst of intense Universal Work, He has made me write this letter to you because you are all so dear to Him and close to His heart.

Eruch

Sex and a spiritual life ...

Meherazad
26 January 1973

Your letter came to me at a time when I and others around me were extremely preoccupied with the *Amartithi*¹ of Beloved Baba.

Yes, I had a very frank talk indeed with your friend about sex. I did say that whether one is heterosexual or homosexual, the path that leads to Reality is the same, because whether one be hetero- or homosexual one has to rise above sex in order to experience the oneness of the One in Reality. Beloved Avatar Meher Baba never condemned marriage. On the contrary, He often told us that married life does not come in the way of an aspirant's progress on the Spiritual Path. It can be more of a help than a hindrance.

A spiritual aspirant who is married in its truest sense is like one fighting his or her battle from an invincible fortress. Marriage in its truest sense is when partners of the opposite sex are bound and faithful to each other through thick and thin for their lifetime.

Sex is exclusively meant for procreation. Any indulgence in sex outside of marital life is perverse and harmful for spiritual progress. Sex expressions by heterosexuals or homosexuals weigh an aspirant down heavily with added sanskaras.

If one cannot lead a celibate life, one was told by Beloved Baba to get married. However, I have never come across a single case where Baba permitted marriage among homosexuals. There can be affection and platonic friendships between people, but if the relationship were to lead to sexual indulgence, it received Baba's strong disapproval. Baba always emphasized leading a very pure life.

May Beloved Baba help you to live for Him and to lead your life according to His pleasure.

Eruch

Ahmednagar
4 April 1973

Now that you have written to me, I feel inclined to answer your queries in brief. This should not encourage you to ask me more questions through letters or encourage others in the States to do so.

In reply to your queries:

1) I believe the person you asked about is still alive and living at a good distance from here. This boy must have grown into a young man now. At the time I saw him last, Beloved Baba was in His Man-form, and the lad had a craving for people to bow down to him and to garland and revere him. Baba always admonished him and warned him against such evil habits. I don't think that this person has improved much. He has tasted this intoxicating habit and it is very difficult to drop it altogether.

2) Bahauallah was a good soul on the spiritual path. He helped many to turn towards the Divine Beloved. His followers elevated him to the position of Perfect Master, Divine Incarnation, Christ, etc. All that I have gathered from Beloved Baba is that he was a good soul advanced on the path who helped many

aspirants in search of Truth. Please read page 140 of *The Perfect Master* by C.B. Purdom.

3) Baba always warned his lovers to beware of the "wolves" who would be harming His "lambs"! He said that after He dropped His Man-form there will come to the surface many who would claim themselves as the God-Man, the Christ, the Avatar, etc., many false Avatars and Perfect Masters!

Hope all your queries are answered. May Beloved Baba's Grace be on us to love Him all the more so that questions and answers do not pester us at all.

Eruch

Meherazad
30 August 1973

Even if your friend has forsaken Avatar Meher Baba be assured that Avatar Meher Baba will never forsake him. He will one day realise his having been led astray and will feel the hand of the Infinite Compassion and Comforter. How blessed he will be then!

Please do not get distracted from your one-pointed devotion to your Lord on account of your friend if you love him. Otherwise you will inadvertently burden him by making him the cause of distracting you from Beloved Baba. This will add to his already heavy burden of having lost his grip on the *daaman*² of the Lord - though temporarily. Leave him in the capable hands of the Lord who is infinitely compassionate and loving and love Him who is Love itself.

I am very happy to hear from you that you have resolved to keep yourself preoccupied in sharing the greatest treasure of your love for the Beloved Lord. The more you share this treasure the greater its volume. He has lovingly assured us that He is the only One worthy of being remembered and loved. He is the Reality and all else is a passing show. How blessed are we all to be in the orbit of His Love. His Love is our strength and our love for Him is but an expression of our gratitude for His having showered His bounty on us.

Eruch

On marriage, sex and celibacy . . .

Ahmednagar
5 April 1974

How lucky and how very blessed you are that you both are in love not only with each other but with our Beloved Lord and Master Avatar Meher Baba.

Although you haven't seen the Lord physically, the finger of His Grace has touched your hearts and awakened in them love for Him. What good and great fortune in one lifetime!

Your anxiety to please the Lord by living an ideal married life in accordance with His wish is indeed very touching. The ideal, however, is not arrived at overnight. The true meaning of married life unfolds very gradually, and with it, very, very gradually, the aspirant gets a hold over biological urges.

Be patient. Let your love for her, hers for you, and the love both of you have for the Beloved Lord, dispel all tension, confusion, and desperation in your married life. Remain happy and contented with the blessings of His Love upon you both. He has blessed you with His Love so make the best of it in this life. Waste not your precious time analysing the meaning of words of the *Discourses* and in devising ways and means to make your married life compatible to the sexual/biological urges according to the written word. If you continue to do so, you will be engrossed and entangled all the more in words and thoughts of sex, whereas your Beloved Lord and Master wants you to remember Him wholeheartedly and get lost in Him rather than His words. Why should one give such importance to sex and celibacy? There are many other things more important than this given in the *Discourses*.

Now that you have asked me to give my say on your sex problem - if there is any problem at all - I would say that Beloved Baba would want you both to live a natural and happy married life. Recalling similar incidents in the lives of Baba-lovers during His physical presence, Baba would want you both to continue to use contraceptives under the circumstances as long as having children is out of the question and as

long as you both do not indulge in sex indiscriminately. Let there be no doubt about your using contraceptives, as Beloved Baba would have no objection to your using them.

Beloved Baba would want you both to love each other and be loving and gentle to all; He would want you to be simple, honest, and natural in your married life; He would want you to please Him in your everyday life by remembering Him and loving Him utmost with child-like simplicity and purity of heart; He would want you to know undoubtedly that *for an aspirant on the Path* His words are most beneficial, *but for His lover*, who loves Him and lives for Him, loving Him wholeheartedly is of the utmost importance. The Lord of Love becomes the slave of the love of His lovers when such wholeheartedness is dedicated to Him without questioning, and without expectation of material or spiritual reward or gain.

Eruch

Baba's injunction against the use of drugs ...

Meherazad
10 May 1974

Baba-love from Meherazad flows to the lovely Baba couple and to the tiny tot who is about to make an appearance in His Love and Service. We send a very loving Jai Baba to you from all your Meherazad family.

Hold fast to the solemn agreement agreed upon by all involved that you do not want the use of drugs on your land.

Your friend should stop taking drugs if not for his own physical, mental, and spiritual health at least for the sake of his inner feelings for Beloved Baba. It is not much to give up using drugs for the sake of one's love for the Lord.

If he could give up the use of drugs temporarily because of your influence and because of the influence of others, surely he is daring enough to give them up forever for the sake of Beloved Baba, who is very loving and emphatic on our stopping their use.

It is deceiving oneself to continue to commit acts of indulgence such as taking drugs, being reckless, committing theft, adultery, etc., in the belief that one's relationship with one's Lord is based on one's inner feelings alone rather than the given/written word. I must say that such a relationship is a lack of endeavor and understanding. It is sheer kidding of one's self.

Eruch

On the unity of all races ...

Meherazad
23 May 1974

Your Baba family here joins me in sending you much love in Baba, and we send you very loving greetings of Jai Baba!

Avatar Meher Baba has not given us any specific words about black or white people. How could he? He never differentiated the white from the black race; for Him there is no racial discrimination as He is the One in the many! White, Black, Brown, Red, Yellow are all the same intrinsically; they are the reflection of the same Reality but from different cultural horizons. The White of yesterday is the Black of today, and the Black of today will be the Brown of tomorrow. According to the principle of reincarnation based on the law of *karma*, race, nationality, creed, dogma, religion, and even sex, cannot have any hold on the oneness of the human race. Sex changes, color changes, stature changes, nationality changes, civilization changes, but the human being continues to be the human race without being in any way affected by so-called racial differences as it progressively gains experiences which reveal the futility of apparent separateness. The law of *karma* continuously operates and generates experiences of opposites to help free the fully evolved human consciousness from the burden of opposite impressions, and to give the only one, real, and lasting experience of the oneness of the One Truth.

So the manyness around us is to be profitably absorbed without our being affected by it; if not we fall a prey to it and get involved in such things as racial discrimination.

Eruch

Meherazad
8 August 1974

How blessed you both are to have and to hold the Love of the Eternal Beloved. His Compassion is so unfathomable that at times I remain speechless to find His Love reaching the remotest corners of our hearts, giving us the warmth of His Love and reassuring us that His Love is for all, irrespective of whether we deserve it or not. But blessed are they who have begun to try to love Him and to serve Him.

Of one thing I am sure, and that is once we are determined to hold onto Beloved Baba's *daaman* with both our hands resolving to be His, all things that come across our mundane life become, for us, insignificant.

Baba has told us that it matters not whether we can love Him the way He wants us to love, as long as we receive the rays of His Love directly or even through the clouds that hover over us.

Remember Beloved Baba and resolve to be His soldiers fighting bravely the battles of your lives. Thus set an example to those who come in your contact. Beloved Baba will surely help you and will never let you down. All He wants you to do is to hold on to Him under all circumstances. You know what He has said, "Don't worry, be happy." This most specifically applies to those who love Him and trust Him.

Eruch

On love, sex, marriage and celibacy ...

Meherazad
8 August 1974

Your letter brought sunshine at Meherazad in the midst of the cloudy monsoonish weather we are having here. I was happy to note that Beloved Baba dominates over your entire life. May He bless you to lose yourself completely in Him so that you can find Him as He really is.

Music is one of the sharpest weapons that can pierce even a stony heart. From time immemorial, it has been the swiftest vehicle for hearts to reach the distant abode of our Eternal Beloved Meher Baba. How blessed you are to have the boon of music from Him. Do graduate in music so that you can master the music which can make you reach Him who is the Master Musician. What better worship is there than to glorify the Glorious One who cannot be reached through words or theories.

Beloved Baba always emphasized that if one aspires for Union with Beloved God, one has to transcend the barrier of opposites. Sex is at the root of the manyness that keeps the One aloof from one. Hence, if one sincerely aspires for Union, one must begin with overcoming all sorts of sexual impulses. Often we are apt to equate sex with love; it is but natural and it cannot be helped, for we have the heritage of carnal impressions from our past evolutionary forms.

Now that we are blessed with human form, we should not mingle our humanness with carnality and equate love with sex. Beloved Baba has given us the awareness to ride over our sex impulses with His Beloved Name in our hearts, and has even, in His Infinite Compassion, made it very clear that it's a blessing to lead a married life even when one has all aspirations for spirituality - provided one takes a partner in his or her life for a lifetime. *But* when one cannot live without the sight of his Beloved God and is blessed with a fervent longing for Him and is yet single, the best course for him is to remain totally celibate, dedicating his life to the love for Him he holds most sacred.

Eruch

To a Christian having trouble
accepting Baba as Christ ...

6 September 1974

How blessed you are to love and adore Christ! Do so with all the strength of your heart and soul without reservations and confusion. Let not the demon of dual concept of Baba and Christ ever stand in the way of your one-pointed devotion to Christ. Let there be no conflict in your heart howsoever your mind may want to create it. Let not your mental concept of Baba stand in the way of your wholehearted devotion to Christ. The instant your love for Christ is accepted by Him, know that you are accepted by Baba. Avatar Meher Baba and Jesus Christ are but forms and names of the same Ancient One.

At the height of your love for Him, the Grace of Christ will appease your thirst for intellectual certainty and bestow upon you the conviction you seek. Continue to love Christ all the more with the warmth of your heart. True, simple and unadulterated love for Him will make Him touch your heart and awaken it to recognise his present Advent. Force not your mind to do so, but allow your heart to work it out by His Grace. Meanwhile, pay heed to His ancient warning of which you are aware - "run not after false prophets, babas, and masters."

I salute your deep love for and firm faith in Christ. May your love for Him lead you to Him. He is compassionate. He is love!

JAI BABA!

Eruch

P.S. If you find time and have not yet read *The Wayfarers* by Dr. William Donkin, then do so. "Mastery in Servitude" is depicted at its height in *The Wayfarers*.

On Baba gatherings ...

Meherazad
6 January 1975

Jai Baba to you and all the lovers of the Ancient One close to you! I received your loving letter and was happy to see that the Beloved's workers are so enthusiastically spreading the joy and beauty of His love. Surely this pleases Him, and that is the fullest and only enduring reward of our efforts in His Service.

Your recollection of my advice in 1969 sparked my memory, and now I remember the occasion. Now, more than ever, I feel the need for Baba's lovers to gather together to share their experiences, stories, efforts and discoveries in His Love. At the time, I believe I was thinking in terms of informal and spontaneous gatherings, but it is for the lovers to give love to the Beloved and so it is for you to decide the way in which you choose to praise and serve Him. Only let me say this, that conferences or anything of that sort are pleasing to Him only so far as they are the medium of expressing love for your Beloved. And in that same regard, should representatives of different centers come together, they will be representatives only if they truly represent and hold together the hearts of the lovers who send them.

So this is the suggestion that I offer: let us keep the fire of Baba-work burning by offering to it as fuel more and more of our desires, self-concern, and false hopes. Any project undertaken in this spirit will undoubtedly burn so brightly that the King of all hearts will be pleased to warm Himself by it.

Eruch

On the after-death state of the spirit ...

Meherazad
17 January 1975

I am happy that you are seriously studying Beloved Baba's *Discourses* and *God Speaks* - the gifts of the Ancient One to the modern world.

Now coming to the point with which you are concerned, please try to review the passage in question. At the outset it appears that there is something wrong.

Going downwards into the region of animal spirits does not mean that it is case of retrograde consciousness of the soul's having a particular type of negative *sanskaras*.³

Just as the consciousness of some of the good spirits (disembodied souls) is said to hover in the place inhabited by human beings, so also the consciousness of the souls mentioned in the passage you cited from *Avatar*, "go downwards into the region of animal spirits..." This does not mean that they become animals! The word *downwards* is used to indicate a state of experience of the consciousness of a disembodied human spirit more accentuated than the experience in hell. (All souls under the process of gaining consciousness or those who have not yet realized Reality are indeed spirits. These spirits when they realize the Over Soul [Reality] are truly the Soul.)

Again, the words *animal spirits* might have been used by Beloved Baba to differentiate them from an environment of disembodied human-conscious spirits.

I hope this proves helpful to you to understand the passage in *Avatar*. If not, pardon me and ask Beloved Baba to help you understand that which is necessary for the mind to understand.

Eruch

Meherazad
12 December 1975

I cannot agree with your view to aggressively seek Baba's physical appearance. I know from my personal experience that Baba never liked this attitude.

I agree 100% with your view that you do not admire an attitude which brooks any interference in coming to God. It is not selfish to love God in one's own self.

Here I may draw your attention to:

1) The greatest interference in coming to God is one's self - one's assertion of one's self.

2) It is not selfish to love God in one's own self - but can one do so? One's love of self is so very selfish that it is almost impossible to love God in one's own self. I have gathered from Beloved Baba that self removed (effaced or shed) is God revealed.

Eruch

On the breaking of Baba's silence ...

Meherazad
4 January 1976

Had Baba not broken His Silence, you would not have come to Him in India to adore Him. The day He began His Silence He broke it, and He continues to be silent and to break His Silence in the hearts where He resides and where He sleeps and is awakened continually.

The moment the heart recognizes the Ancient One, at that very moment He has broken His Silence in that heart.

It is the echo of that breaking heard by the heart that makes the heart yearn for Him and adore Him. Now it is left to you to nurture His Word.

This is how I feel about His Silence and the breaking of His Silence.

Jai Baba!

Eruch

On sports ...

Meherazad
16 February 1976

Don't let this letter surprise you. It comes from your family in the East who remembers you. A number of times you have been in our thoughts at Meherazad.

It is heartwarming indeed to know of your deep love for Beloved Avatar Meher Baba and your ever-increasing involvement in the field of sports which Baba was very fond of. In fact, Baba was the unique Sportsman who prompted sportsmanship of the highest order; He encouraged the young and the old to avail of some sport to keep mind and body healthy.

He told all: "Don't worry, be happy!"

At the same time He advised sportsmen not to get too involved in competition. He gave them to understand that the spirit of healthy competition did promote a high standard of sports and helped delight the hearts of the spectators, provided that competition restricted itself to improving the sportsman's standard and the giving of his best to the game for the delight of the spectators.

This letter is to wish you and your dear family all the best in the love and service of Beloved Meher Baba who is not only the Lord of us all but is also the slave of the love of His lovers. How loving and compassionate He is!

Jai Baba!

Eruch

Meherazad
22 July 1976

Your long explanatory letter was read and shared with all concerned. What you and others feel about your friend is but natural. We just have to remain resigned to the Will of our

Beloved Lord and feel determined to live for Him and die for Him alone. He alone is the Reality worth living for and dying for. Your friend is indeed blessed to have had such a silent love for the Eternal Beloved, and this love will eventually accelerate, bringing him closer to Beloved Baba.

Your friend's passing away is not the end of him; he has just begun to live in Beloved Baba's all-embracing love which never differentiates between the dead and the living. His Love is for all alike; one can draw strength out of it and one can become completely lost in it. His love for Baba will surely help him to progress towards the Beloved who is the Goal. Spiritual progress is a continuous process which never slides back. Loving Baba is always a drawing closer to Him from lifetime to lifetime until one is one with Him eternally. Hence, we should not brood over the past, but live in the present in the Love of the Eternal Beloved - living a full, healthy, happy, and loving life in His Love and Service.

Jai Baba!

Eruch

Meherazad

7 October 1976

Meherazad, Meherabad mandali join me in sending you much love, and we send you best wishes for success in your studies. May your love for Beloved Avatar Meher Baba continue to give you greater and greater strength, and may you have health, joy, peace, strength and courage to reap the fruits of success in life.

Remember to make Beloved Baba your constant Companion wherever you are housed. He alone is the Reality - all else is just a passing show. We are very happy to hear from you that you remember Beloved Baba dearly. Yes, people naturally will ask you all sorts of questions about the One who is existence infinite and eternal, and it is but natural that it is difficult to produce a convincing answer to satisfy the preconceived conviction of the questioner. The only right answer to the question, "Who is God?" is "What is not God?" God can

never be brought into clear focus by the human mind! God can be felt fully by the human heart alone; and God *is* when the human mind stops. It is then that God manifests.

Eruch

Meherazad
17 May 1977

Silence from this end doesn't mean that I have forgotten your devotion and love for Beloved Baba or your helping hands to me. Your last visit brought you close to us not because you were so glib, or because you were so bossy and thought yourself to be so big like a bloated frog, but because of your deep love and devotion to Beloved Baba.

We are proud of your capabilities in bringing home Baba's Love and Name into the hearts of so many around you, and we trust that you are doing so unmindful of the loss or gain in your material pursuits, because the way of life in Baba's Love is to efface oneself and to merge in the brilliance of the effulgence of the Lord. Our selves are the little dark blotches that mar that effulgence. So the sooner we efface ourselves the brighter the effulgence of our Lord.

I hope you have behaved yourself as somebody close to Beloved Baba and not given an opportunity to your parents or anyone else to feel or say anything wrong about our precious Lord.

Give my loving salutations to your parents for having reared you and nurtured you in such a way that you have found the footprints of Reality.

Eruch

Meherazad
17 May 1977

Jai Baba! We were happy to receive your letter and the enclosed letter from your friend. We all marvelled how Baba's

love shines out so radiantly from your friend's heart. It is so touching that our most intimate Beloved is so infinite and vast that He is able to be embraced by everyone everywhere within each heart. Therefore, we feel that it will be best if I do not write to your friend from here about his visit to Ahmednagar. Baba will inspire him to come if it is His Will. No one ever needs any invitation to come to the Beloved, except that undeniable and eternal invitation that the Beloved Himself extends.

Eruch

Meherazad
11 January 1977

Now that you are in Tehran, it will be good for you to visit the shrine of Hafiz the Perfect Master because the outpouring of his love gave such pleasure to our Beloved Baba. Moreover, he was one of the very few who taught the lovers of God about love for their Beloved. It is but befitting that any lover of the Beloved so close to Shiraz offer a salute to the Tomb-shrine of Hafiz.

What you write about Baba not wanting His lovers to fritter away their love for the God-Man is very true: Yes, He did not want us to visit in supplication any living or dead Perfect Master, saint or Yogi. But your visit as a lover of Meher Baba to Hafiz is symbolic of Baba's love for His dear Hafiz.

Eruch

Meherazad
9 March 1978

Thank you for giving me all the news, and I am proud that you are striving to do your utmost to please Beloved Baba. We all have our weaknesses and our strengths. Our strength is because of having experienced and become aware of our

weaknesses, which you too seem to be aware of. Indeed I am proud of your determination.

On the one hand, Beloved Baba has comforted us by saying that we should not brood over our faults, because if we were not to falter and fail He would not have the opportunity to exercise His Infinite Compassion. On the other hand, He warns us never to repeat our weaknesses, and never never to fall a prey to sexual urges and perversities.

Eruch

On Baba-group meetings ...

Meherazad

23 October 1978

Undoubtedly, there must be set discipline in any Baba group meeting, but this discipline must not smack of regimentation.

There should prevail a feeling of give-and-take during any group meeting held in love of Beloved Baba and conducted to further His Cause.

Just as a doormat is necessary to keep our apartment clean from dust, likewise a spirit of humility and tolerance is essential and necessary to keep our hearts clean of prejudice, ill-feelings, fraying tempers, and harsh words of anger.

Beloved Baba did want us to gather in His Name and Love; He did exhort us to sink our differences - at least on such occasions - in the Ocean of His Love. He said that this would not only please Him, but also would make His Presence felt more strongly. The qualifications of a board member or any lover of Meher Baba when attending Baba-group meetings or otherwise (according to what we have gathered at the feet of Beloved Baba) should be that of a broom or a doormat - humility, tolerance, understanding of the problems of others, and a sense of humour - are all of paramount importance. And of course, love for our Beloved Baba is the very basis of a Baba lover.

Mani has read this letter and said: "This reminds me of Beloved Baba who would often say, 'I want one heart with many hands to work in my Cause'."

Eruch

On serving the poor . . .

Meherazad
17 January 1979

I was happy to hear about Community Volunteer Services in your letter. Baba's Blessings are inherent in your very loving and sincere motives in doing the work, and so of course the work is blessed by Him. Serving any community or group of individuals voluntarily is serving Him after all.

Getting to your question, I may say that Baba has said that to give is better than to take. However, giving things to poor people again and again was not at all encouraged by Baba. Yes, you're right - your sense of higher service should inspire you to try to foster independence among the poor, for it is better to find out ways and means for the poor to become independent from your repeated giving. The giving of an independence from receiving is indeed real giving, provided the giver forgets that he has given and the receiver is not aware that he has received.

Meherazad mandali wish you a Happy New Year in Baba's Service and may we all remember the emblem that is on His Tomb: "Mastery in Servitude."

Eruch

Meherazad
27 February 1979

My dear sister,

I have noted what you mentioned about threatening communications in the name of God Venkateswara.⁴ It made me smile. I know that Beloved Avatar Meher Baba is not only God Venkateswara but He is that God of many names - names given by humanity. This is why He is known to His lovers as the God of Gods. And we know that He is the personification of Love. Threats or fear never go hand in hand with Love. No amount of threatening communication in the Name of the Lord can ever harm even a hair of the Lover of the Lord! So dear, you have rightly discarded such threats and we are indeed proud of you, as you hold Beloved Baba above all in your heart.

Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai!

Eruch

Meherazad
29 March 1979

Surely when your heart is full of His Love it always overflows, and if you don't allow it to overflow but try to seal it within, then it has a good chance of bursting. So it's best to allow it to overflow either through letters or through conversations with Baba lovers at your end, or with your darling family.

I am not surprised to find in your letter a note of sheer frustration in trying to love Him the way He would want us to. But you should know that He doesn't want us to get desperate in wanting to love Him, and He can be loved the way you want to love Him; but the way He wants us to love Him entails dying every moment for Him in living for Him! But He doesn't demand this of us, for He knows that each one has his or her turn of loving Him the way He wants to be loved. Be patient, wait for your turn in the queue, and don't become desperate.

The time will come, the circumstances will face you, the

opportunity will be given to you, and then you'll love Him with all your heart and soul to your heart's content.

Till such time try to be happy and loving under the circumstances and look after your duties and responsibilities in the best way possible. Do your best, honestly and sincerely, and leave to Him the rest. He will guide you and prompt you inwardly as to what is best and pleasing to Him. You can never please Him on your own; none can do so. Leave it to Him and He will make us do it. Don't feel bound to carry out whatever you may have heard from us all but feel free to live a life worthy of womanhood befitting a lover of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba.

Eruch

Meherazad
4 April 1979

I have your letter and have noted the unnecessary confusion created regarding dreams and Baba's appearance in your dreams.

Baba says that all these things are illusion. When we come to know and realise the Eternal Truth this illusion vanishes like a dream in the night. The appearance of the Truth makes one realise that the illusory life one has led was nothing but a dream.

The Ancient One comes in our midst time and again to point out to us that all this is a dream. We see dreams in our sleep and we call them sleep dreams. The illusory life that we lead while awake is a vacant dream. The Ancient One (Meher Baba) comes to us in this and tells us that it is a vacant dream. Even all this is a dreaming too; yet this dream has significance because in this vacant dream Baba makes us aware of our dreaming. Likewise, when one sees Baba in one's sleep dream, it is significant because even though we are asleep and dreaming we have the semblance of Reality and hence, His appearing in our dream has significance. This is what I have gathered from Baba.

Eruch

In reply to a Baba-lover wanting to know if it was all right to accept a job in the ashram of another master ...

Meherazad
23 July 1979

As you have asked me to answer your query regarding whether or not you should accept the job of bookkeeping at that ashram, my answer is no. Let us stop beating around the bush and be fair to our Eternal Beloved, Avatar Meher Baba.

I agree with your argument that people who follow other gurus and Meher Baba people should mingle freely at their jobs or when they visit the houses of their friends, for this mingling can be heartwarming. Baba always wanted it, but this should not be mixed up with what Baba said - that He will "bring all religions together like beads on one string." We should not identify our Beloved Lord Avatar Meher Baba as one of the "beads" for He is the "string" - the One and only string! And if you are determined to owe allegiance to the Eternal Beloved then it is ridiculous to lend a portion of that allegiance to any one of the beads on the string. Each one of us is a part of the *Whole that Beloved Meher Baba is*; and He expects from each part of the Whole the whole of love and not partial love nor partial allegiance.

Beloved Baba has been very emphatic that when we begin to love Him, it is of great importance to take utmost precaution not to get involved in any other "love affair" directed towards the search of Truth; meaning thereby that when we are determined to be the lover of Avatar Meher Baba it is ridiculous to be the lover of any Perfect Master, saint or guru. When we have the Ultimate, then it is absurd to probe for the ephemeral.

Does it not sound like our Beloved Baba is a jealous God? He is indeed! He cannot brook even a wee bit of our love for Him to be drained off on ephemeral existences. He guards us time and again and He warns us not just on account of being jealous but

also because He is infinitely compassionate. So beware, let not your tender heart, which is yet growing in His love, be affected by the rigours of your environment.

When one becomes mature in one's love for the Beloved then to face such challenges is a pleasure but at this stage in your new life I personally feel that you should avoid such situations that might even remotely allow your heart's love for the Eternal Beloved to be vitiated.

Eruch

Meherazad
22 August 1979

I read your letter and was so happy to note what transpired at your end in the name of greater spiritual advancement. Such jolts are indeed an answer from the Beloved to the strife and longing of a lover of the Lord.

I am prompted to let you know that instead of feeling great pain and sorrow for such a happy and significant sign from the Beloved, you should feel happy that you are now relieved from intermediaries who promote "spiritual advancement." If I were in your place, this situation would be an occasion for great elation, for how blessed is a lover who suffers humiliation at the hands of others while sincerely striving to reach his or her Eternal Beloved! Remain continuously in communion with the Lord directly without having anything to do with extraneous agencies. One's love for the Lord is strictly personal and any intercession in the flow of love remains an intervention.

Eruch

*Baba's warning about the planes
of consciousness ...*

Meherazad
5 September 1979

From what you have written all I can say is this: inside of us is the filth of the debris of the evolutionary process, and inside of us also are the seeds of the fruits of the involutory process. Whatever manifests from the barn within us has no significance whatsoever, especially when one has been blessed with the love of the Ancient One, our Beloved Avatar Meher Baba.

So pay no heed whatsoever to the manifestations of the innards, but remain steadfast like a steady flame to your love for Beloved Baba. His dear Love and His Compassion and Mercy will bring you closer and closer to Him, and as you come closer to Him these manifestations will become magnified. Nevertheless, the magnification of these manifestations dwindle into insignificance with the awareness of Reality that dawns upon one as one approaches Him. Then such manifestations, negative or positive, are seen to be equally unimportant, for the pilgrim then gives all importance to the threshold of the Lord, beyond which the Lord Himself awaits His lover's arrival.

The path and the experiences of the path - the planes of involution - are all in the realm of illusion; and Beloved Baba has always warned us to keep not only the pilgrim, but the pilgrim's robe as well from getting soiled by the delusions of the real illusion called the planes of consciousness. All you have to do is to yearn for the sight of the Lord, but, as that sight is not granted for the asking, the pilgrim keeps his focus on the threshold of the Lord during the process of his becoming dust at His threshold.

Eruch

Meherazad
24 October 1979

My dear brother,

Your letter in Hindi has been received by me. With great difficulty I read the letter. Your love for Beloved Baba deeply touched me, and I salute your love for my Beloved Baba.

Getting to the point of your letter, Baba wants us to remember His words. He said:

"To love Me is to love all.

To love Me in all is loving all.

To love all is not loving Me."

So our dear brother, all that we should do now is to concentrate upon our not only wanting to love Him, but to love Him with all our heart and soul so that the more we love Him, the less we remember ourselves. A day may soon dawn when we are totally effaced and all that is left is nothing but Him and Him alone. This is the highroad of spirituality in action and in life and in living.

Eruch

Meherazad
24 October 1979

My dear brother,

Upon thousands upon thousands of letters that I have received in the past fifty years, your letter was the only one that delighted my heart to read as it gave me such relief to find your deep love for me and your great concern for my time, my health, my eyesight, and my preoccupations. May Beloved Baba bless you for this.

Eruch

(The above is Eruch's reply to a letter that had nothing but the sender's address, the salutation 'Dear brother', a complete blank page with 'Jai Baba to all', and a signature at the bottom.)

Meherazad
7 January 1980

I have received your letter which has touched me. Your love for Beloved Avatar Meher Baba shines through its lines. So much can be said of Him, but if condensed to the essence there is nothing to say, for He is the Eternal and Infinite Existence and fathomless.

It is by an asthmatic that the value of breath is understood; it is by a starving man that the value of a morsel of food is understood; it is by the blind that the value of a moment of sight is understood. Likewise, loneliness, despair, and disillusionment are necessary to realize the impermanence of this illusion and to eventually value and cherish the companionship of the Eternal Friend - Beloved Avatar Meher Baba - who is ever awaiting a glance of your recognition, for He is ever yours, but are you His?

So you see how relative it is. It all depends upon the attitude of the mind. If one considers all of the duality in this illusion: fortune, misfortune, high, low, loneliness, companionship, etc., as His reminders to us to help us focus our ever-deviating attention more and more towards Him - the Reality - then our whole attitude towards life changes; everything and anything passes by us, only to leave us more determined to be His.

Slowly, but gradually and necessarily painfully, one learns to befriend Him by constant remembrance - as hope to the hopeless, and with absolute reliance - as a child in its total trust and need for its mother. So start to remember Him in the highs and lows of life's daily tune, for it is He who plays the tune. Accept everything that happens as an opportunity given to you by Him as a reminder to love Him; this is the only thing that matters, all else is naught.

His Mercy and His Grace, which are always prevalent, will help you to help yourself beyond a shadow of a doubt. Look not at the results of your efforts to love Him. Your part is in the efforts, not in the results. And remember never to despair, for tomorrow is another day and another opportunity to strive to love Him. That is all He wants from us.

Shun all thoughts of self-destruction as Beloved Baba is displeased when we think of it. Start afresh each day having

buried all yesterdays, and for tomorrow, "Hope for nothing except to rise above hopes." Live this moment for Him and less for yourself. To put it in Beloved Baba's own words: "God is for those who are not for themselves."

Eruch

The task for Meher Centers ...

Ahmednagar
20 March 1980

Your post card to sister Mani was shared with all concerned at Meherazad and the Trust Office. Your regards have also been communicated by sister Mani to all men and women at Meherazad.

Sister Mani has asked me to reply to your post card and to let you know that we too have been flooded with messages of condolences with regard to our dear Adi's⁵ demise. Indeed our loss is great, but we remain resigned to the Will of the Divine Designer of destiny, and face bravely the void created by the absence of dear Adi.

Now the time has come when each Meher Center has matured sufficiently to deal with its affairs independently and efficiently, deriving inspiration from Avatar Meher Baba. Beloved Baba's sayings, discourses, messages and warnings are crystal clear for any individual to follow faithfully. If this is done, there is no need to ask for advice or directions from here. Let each Meher Center and each loving heart of Meher lovers remain constantly tuned to Beloved Baba's wish and divine pleasure so that His presence is felt continuously in our day-to-day life.

Beloved Baba has reposed His trust in each of His lovers, and now is the time when each of His lovers who has had the greatest good fortune of His physical presence should be

responsible in discharging his or her duty sincerely and honestly.

Sister Mani and all Meherazad mandali join me in sending much love to you and all your dear Meher lovers and workers,

Eruch

Rituals at Baba's Tomb prohibited ...

Meherazad
24 June 1980

I received your very loving letter regarding your wish to have your dear daughter married in Meherabad at the Tomb of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba.

Enclosed is a copy of sister Mani's telegram to you. The contents are self-explanatory.

For a long time, requests from Baba-lovers for getting their children married in Meherabad and at the Tomb have NOT been granted, as the policy of Avatar Meher Baba Trust is such that ceremonies of any kind are not permitted. Beloved Baba has said that He came to put an end to all ceremonies and rituals.

From your letter to sister Mani you have made it very clear that all you want is for the bride and bridegroom to garland each other inside the Tomb and then to garland Beloved Baba together. The policy of the Trust does not permit even this ritual. Once any exception is made it will set a precedent. Such rituals and ceremonies are prohibited at the Tomb and at Meherabad.

It is best that the marriage is performed elsewhere. Then the bride and groom can come to Meherabad for the darshan of Beloved Baba.

We are also very busy here in the cause of Beloved Baba and it is not at all possible to make any arrangements for feasts or

photographers.

Sister Mani and all Meherazad men-women mandali send hearty felicitations to you all. We wish Beloved Avatar Meher Baba's Love Blessings on the bride and the bridegroom for a happy and fruitful married life.

Eruch

To the new editor of a Baba periodical ...

Meherazad
22 August 1980

I would like to draw your attention to one very important point.

It is customary for some to ask for the blessings of the mandali and also the blessing of Beloved Baba. Now that you will be taking the reins of this important publication dedicated to the Cause of Meher Baba, it would be very beneficial to inculcate in the minds of Baba-lovers to seek and long for the blessings of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba. He alone is the One who can bless rightly. To ask for the blessings of the mandali is not at all proper, and it is belittling to the presence of Beloved Baba. Seeking for blessings from the mandali neither helps the seeker nor the mandali; most especially it is not at all beneficial to the mandali who long to be left to themselves as dust at the feet of their Beloved Lord.

Moreover, to encourage Baba-lovers to seek guidance and/or blessings from the mandali is to distract the lovers from their one-pointed focus on their Beloved Lord and Master, Avatar Meher Baba. So it should be your duty to help and guide the lovers of Beloved Baba to concentrate their devotion, their love, and their longing solely on the Eternal Beloved, Avatar Meher Baba.

Eruch

Meherazad
23 September 1980

I have with me your life-story letter. I read through all 17 pages, and I am happy that Beloved Baba was helping you all along to hold on to His *daaman*, even before you heard His Blessed Name. Beloved Baba be praised!

Beloved Baba is not only omnipotent and omniscient, but know well that He is also infinitely compassionate. He has assured us that He dares not care not for us who love Him. Unmindful of what opinions the world holds against you or in your favor, you are a true lover, so now concentrate your love for Beloved Meher Baba onto Him and Him alone. He not only knows that you exist but also knew you well before you existed! It is left to each individual to draw closer and closer to Him by remembering Him more and more and by loving Him in one's own humble way.

Eruch

Meherazad
1 October 1980

Jai Baba! I have received your letter and noted the contents. I have no advice to give, as this affair is strictly personal between you two and Beloved Baba. You already know that whatever happens happens for the best. There are many fish in His Divine Sea, and you'll find another if that is what you are looking for; better though to cast your net for the Divine Beloved, who never leaves once you have the Catch.

My feeling is that if your partner has left you then it is His Will and for the best; if she won't come back to you then it is for you to suffer the pangs of separation, dedicating that suffering to Him. Gradually you'll come to yourself again and then you can dedicate your recovery to Him as well as your eventual happiness, for it is all His Game that He plays to bring you closer and closer to Him. Through this experience you'll get an

opportunity to measure the strength of your love for your Beloved Meher Baba and cling to Him with all love for He is the Eternal Beloved.

Eruch

Meherazad
3 October 1980

We received your very long and loving letter. While your love for Baba is a balm for our hearts, have some compassion on these old eyes dear brother and send shorter messages!

While it is very touching to read that you are clutching so firmly to your Seclusion Hill rock every night in remembrance of Baba, better you don't get attached to the rock but become rock-like yourself in His Love. Gazing at the sea and remembering His Love-Ocean and longing to drown in Him is also good, but the storm of excessive good feelings can cause a shipwreck. So my suggestion to you, dear brother, is to anchor yourself firmly in Him and contain these emotions within yourself, before all these fine feelings for your Beloved get dissipated and lost with the passage of time. Beloved Baba has said: "When you become Mine, I am already yours."

Eruch

Meherazad
26 November 1980

I have with me your letter (as usual no date, but luckily we have the address you've given), and I must say that no amount of your gloom in love affairs, either with Him or with the shadowy love-flame, will ever quicken the arrival of Doomsday. None profits by your gloom, much less yourself. So why not be lively and cheerful, just for the sake of the One who not only wants you to be happy, but always likes to have dancing lights of love around Him to keep the atmosphere lively for His

pleasure. Remember His repeated injunction to us: Don't Worry, Be Happy!

You are now in the New York area and fast on the heels of a musical career. Good luck to you brother! As you well know, music has always delighted the Ancient One, since He first woke Himself up singing that love song that brought creation into being - not only creation, but you and me and singers and listeners ad infinitum! I'm sure your singing entertains Him while entertaining others because it is a reflection of your heart's love for Beloved Baba.

Eruch

On the task for Meher Baba Centers ...

Meherazad
17 April 1981

We feel that at present there is no need for an addition to the existing Meher Centers. The ones we have should be taken great care of and the affairs conducted to please our Beloved Lord Avatar Meher Baba. He has reposed His Trust in us all and we should be extremely vigilant that we do not let down our Lord. We should be ever watchful that our one-pointed devotion to our Beloved Lord Avatar Meher Baba is not diverted by momentary flashes of saintliness and piety assumed by others.

Rumi says, "It is better to see a single blemish in one's self than to behold a hundred lights from the Unseen!" Such flashes of light can distract us away from our Lord, whereas perceiving a blemish in one's self and trying to cleanse it brings one closer to our Beloved Lord.

Baba wants us to hold on to His *daaman* with a firm grip till the end, so we have to be very honest with ourselves and see that we do not get deluded by our conceit and selfish interest.

I personally feel at this juncture that we should be deter-

mined to consolidate our activities in the existing Meher Centers. I plead with all brothers and sisters in the love of Beloved Lord Avatar Meher Baba to sink their personal differences in the Ocean of His Love and emerge afresh with a firm determination to serve and love Him with 100% honesty. We must not take Him for granted as just another saint or sadguru. We should never lose sight for a moment of the fact that He is the Lord of lords, the Eternal Beloved of all in existence. He alone is the whole Truth.

Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai!

Eruch

Meherazad
20 May 1981

In spite of the summer pilgrim vacation, there's ever a spring-blossoming of activity, which by Beloved Baba's Grace enables us to keep our hands, mind, and heart ever more sharpened to Him as He needs none for His work. Unceasingly, He alone does what needs to be done, but in the process He avails us with innumerable opportunities to serve Him, allowing us to feel our little love for Him from His greater love for us. Ultimately, the only work is to love Him, and the only real worry is how to love Him. This does not necessitate any linkage to groups, organizations, or any such media. It's purely and simply one's silent sighs and happy cries in remembrance and love for Him; *and greater is the opportunity in our old age*. So tell our dear mutual friend to forget everything, so that he can ever remember the One who is worthy of being remembered. He knows Who I mean - not his relatives, nothing and no one, but the One and Only Beloved Avatar Meher Baba; and let him do so without distractions or diversions of any other sadguru or gurus.

Eruch

Meherazad
23 July 1981

Those who at long last come to the Threshold of the Divine Beloved with an open heart - unclouded by any expectations material or spiritual - are the ones who receive the full measure of His Silent Giving. His Grace, His Mercy, and His Bounty fulfill and fill-full, even before the need or the occasion arises. His love for us surpasses all understanding and tolerance, in spite of our ignorant insistence on being what we are!

I am not surprised when you say how much this trip means to you. It is He who has sought you even before the beginning of all beginnings, and it is He who eternally awaits patiently 'round the corner, seeking your glance of recognition. By His Grace, let your eyes not wander in walking this illusion's street, enamoured by the fleeting glitter or distracted by glamour, but eagerly pursue Him, knowing for certain that at the end of the lane awaits the Beloved with open arms.

To love Him is easier said than done, as that alone is what He wants of us. Besides, there is a relentless onslaught of the nature of the self to be wrestled with at every breath, as well as the things of the world that tug with an insurmountable pull. In life's living, there is naught else but to seek His Grace - the Divine Gift of His Love - by letting every thought, word and deed be controlled by constant remembrance of God.

Eruch

Meherazad
29 July 1981

Each time it delights and warms our hearts to witness and bear testimony to what Beloved Baba often said, especially in His later years in seclusion, about an aspect of His Universal Work: "Wait and see, My young ones will come from all over the world!" And today our eyes do behold the wonder of His heart's-stealing which He did then. Slowly but surely, in

unimaginable and unfathomable ways, His children are drawn to Him. And many, many more will have to come to Him. Ultimately, one and all must come. After all, where else and Who else can one turn to? It is merely a question of time. All praise to Beloved Baba, for He is the Way and the Goal.

Because of His love for you, as for each one of us, He sought you as you are and how you are, and drew you to Him. Now it lies with you to draw closer and yet closer to Him. This is only possible when all thoughts, words and deeds are harnessed and controlled by constant remembrance of Him. Let all and everything that this world offers, and what one necessarily experiences, serve its purpose - to remind you that except for God all things are a passing show. To love Him is the end all and be all. Until such time as the gift of love is bestowed by the Beloved, nothing can be serious except lack of love for Him.

Eruch

On longing, wanting and attachment ...

Meherazad

23 August 1981

The following is in reply to your query on longing, wanting, and attachment.

Longing, wanting, and attachment stem from the original urge of the Infinite Self to know its Self.

Longing and attachment go hand in hand with wanting to know one's Self. But in the process, multifarious experiences of the opposites generate, ad infinitum, identifications with the falsity of one's self, until it eventually attains Truth and realises the Self.

- I. To begin with,
One *longs* to have *everything*,
wants to have *everything*, and is
attached to *everything*.

- II. Then a time comes when
One *longs* to have *some things*,
wants to have *some things*, and is
attached to *some things*.
- III. After which
One *longs* to have *something*,
wants to have *something*, and is *not*
attached to anything except to *that*
something which one wants and longs for.
- IV. Then there comes a time after many, many multifarious
experiences of opposites when
One *longs* for *nothing*,
wants nothing, and is
attached to *nothing*.
- V. Ultimately, when one is totally stripped of even the
attachment to nothing, wanting even *nothing* is shed
and true longing dawns for the One - for the Truth.
- VI. This longing is to love, adore, obey and surrender to the
Beloved Lord.
Such longing is bereft of any wanting and attachment.
- VII. One now longs truly for the Truth that the Beloved is,
and it is this longing that negates all wanting and attach-
ment.

Therefore, longing for the Beloved is the *only longing*
worthy of its name and the *only longing* where wanting and
attachment have no place.

Eruch

Meherazad
26 August 1981

Last weekend, amidst the hearts gathering in mandali hall,
the mail bag containing your loving letter was delivered to me.
And as it so happened, we read together your letter in the
presence of Beloved Baba and shared your written feelings in
the very hall where, not too long back, you were with us and
felt regrettably tongue-tied to bare your deepest feelings.

In the deepest recess of our hearts is His Mansion where He eternally resides behind the door of the self. He is the only One, the only Friend, the Eternal Comforter, the ever-expectant Listener to the silent language of our hearts, always attentive to the slightest sincere call. But who cares, so to speak, to pick up the other end of the telephone? He is always connected at His end, silently awaiting a response to His incessant ringing at our end.

Each heart is a victim of its own deafness to Beloved Baba within. When the commotion of our self is gradually dulled by constant remembrances of Him, we are able to respond to His eternal Call: COME UNTO ME.

We have to depend on Him more and more for everything, and thereby greater and greater will be the need to call on Him, until such time as He takes over completely.

There is nothing else to do but beseech Beloved Baba's Grace to love Him more and more and hold onto His *daaman* evermore.

Much love from all Meherazad mandali to you who have the knack of uplifting our spirits by His unique sense of humor.

Eruch

Meherazad

19 September 1981

I was deeply moved by the feelings expressed in your letter. That which was on your mind, and probably needed to be ventilated, has been. Hopefully the smoke generated by the confusion is now cleared. I am happy that you will no longer feel shy in my presence. I always want you and all my brothers and sisters to feel at home while you make the pilgrimage to the Abode of your Eternal Beloved.

Meher Baba says, "Truth is One, but the approach to it is essentially individual." The only yardstick in our individual approach to Him is in the sincerity of our efforts to love Beloved Baba, as this will one day enable us, by His Grace, to love Him as He should be loved. Whether we are single or

married does not at all affect our individual approach to Him.

I sincerely wish you all the best of happiness. May you succeed in pleasing your Beloved Lord one day through your singing and pouring your heart out in praise of Avatar Meher Baba.

Eruch

To a Baba-lover who was convinced he had
"bad karma" and was beyond redemption ...

Meherazad

21 October 1981

I have with me your letter, and hope, by Beloved Baba's Grace, this reply will be of some help and comfort to you. The fear of leaving Beloved Baba is but your imagination running amuck, having been pounded by so-called adverse circumstances instilled in you by yourself or by others. Whatever or whoever has made you think, "I had very bad karma coming into this life, perhaps having been a phony guru or a black magician," is promoting plain gibberish. No one, absolutely no one, can know the fathomless knotted intricacies of karma and its working except the God-Man Himself - Avatar Meher Baba - who knows that which He has designed Himself for the ultimate good of all concerned. Take care, do not delve into that which the mind is incapable of fathoming; the mind will break you - that very mind which should serve its only purpose of making you arrive at Love's Threshold through intelligent awareness.

Adversity is as much a part of His plan as good is. Having experienced blindness, one learns the value of sight; one learns through adversities the value of what is Real. You express fear that you have left Beloved Baba. Have you first asked yourself whether anything exists besides Him? Who else or what else is there that you could hold on to? There is nothing besides Him; there is no one else but Him. Remember, do not be presump-

tuous to call yourself unworthy or beyond redemption. You will then belittle Beloved Baba's Grace and Compassion and His Mercy which are boundless. He alone is the protector of the despairing. He is the only hope to the hopeless, and His Love which reigns supreme sustains all and everything.

Despair, helplessness, and hopelessness born of misfortune and suffering are invariably the causes of the turning point of the heart's gaze away from the world and towards Him. Until such time that the roving and vacillating self turns its back completely to the world and faces the Beloved with total focus, consider this pain as Beloved Baba giving you a priceless opportunity to focus on Him more and more. Remember Him every moment, at every up and down, at every step or turn, and gradually you will forget more and more that which is transitory and needs forgetting.

You say you believe you have cancer. Aren't we all cancerous in the nature of our 'self'? You say you believe you are dying. Aren't we all walking towards our graves? Your life, as is ours, is His giving, and He shall take it when He wants it. Let this never be questioned again. In the meantime, dear friend, of the days allotted to us let us walk to our graves with each step dying a little more to our self and living a little more for Him.

In spite of everything and all things said and done, you still feel you have left Him. Consider how much more Beloved Baba - who is closer to you than your very breath - would feel for your having left Him? And how much more will His joy be on your returning to Him! For He is the way and the Goal.

All Meherazad mandali join me in sending Beloved Baba's dear friend much love. We wish your past a happy death to begin a new life - by dying to your self in Love of Him and by living evermore for Him and Him alone.

"I AM THE ONE WHO IS ALWAYS LOST AND FOUND AMONG MANKIND. IT IS YOUR LOVE FOR YOURSELF THAT LOSES ME AND IT IS YOUR LOVE FOR ME THAT FINDS ME. LOVE ME ABOVE EVERYTHING." - MEHER BABA

Eruch

*To a young boy afflicted since birth with
cerebral palsy from which he cannot recover ...*

Meherazad
12 February 1981

On January 31st, 1981, twelve years to the day since our Beloved Lord, Avatar Meher Baba, dropped His physical body that cloaked His Reality, I received your very loving letter which touched me. On this day, since January 31st, 1969, thousands of Meher Baba's lovers from all over the world gather on the Hill at Meherabad where His Tomb lies, in remembrance of and to glorify the Advent of Meher Baba - the same Ancient One who comes age after age, in various forms, and speaks again and again, in different words and different languages, the same one Truth. He came as Zoraster, Ram, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, and this time as Meher Baba. Each time He comes and walks in our midst, humanity at large fails to recognize Him. It has sufficed mankind in its ignorance, throughout history, only to expect the Expected One! Only a few recognize Him each time He descends as the God-Man. As Meher Baba has said; "I am the Ancient One whose past is worshipped and remembered; whose present is ignored and forgotten; and whose future (Advent) is anticipated with great fervour and longing."

It was by no mere coincidence that the Society for Avatar Meher Baba, who had come for the occasion, had brought with them your letter. And on that very day in Meherabad in the midst of the teeming throng of His lovers, they handed me your letter for a reply to you. It was His Will alone that your longing and seeking (which were echoed in your letter) participated along with all hearts that had gathered in His Name on that day. It is not the lot of all to recognize God when He manifests as the Avatar, Christ, Rasool, Buddha, Messiah. Blessed is he who longs for Him!

Meher Baba has said that the only meaning of life is to love God. That alone is real, all else is illusion: to love Him, make

Him your constant Companion by keeping Him constantly in your thoughts, speech and actions. His companionship needs no time, place, circumstances, or outward expression, for He resides in each heart, and speaks through the silent language of the heart. At all times let your love for Him be your strength, and in every state remembrance of Him your comfort. Beloved Meher Baba has said: "If we endure our lot with patience and contentment, accepting it as His Will, we are loving God." And He further assures us by saying: "When you become Mine, I am already yours."

Eruch

Meherazad
28 February 1982

We are happy to learn of your interest in Meher Baba and the helpful role that *Listen, Humanity* has played in clarifying for you the purpose of life.

It has been conveyed to me that if at all you have a question it is, "How to stay in the light?" And if at all I were to try to answer such a question, I would be reminded of how Beloved Meher Baba so often explained to us, in so many different ways, that as long as "we" remain, the Supreme Effulgence or Light of God must always remain absent. In short, "we", "I" and "you" are the very ego-veils that cover the Light of God; and as Baba once said to a visiting yogi, "You go and I come."

So, as long as you or Eruch or anyone of us remain we will never be able to enjoy the "Light". When, however, through for love, God and self-effacement, and through service to God in others, "you" go, then the real you, the effulgence of God, will begin to live. It is as simple as that, Baba says, but it is found to be almost impossible: when our shadow-self disappears, the Light of our Real Self, which is God, appears to live eternally.

Meher Baba has also explained that glimpses of light appear with varying intensity and duration at every stage of the inward development of consciousness. The ultimate experience, for which each soul is destined, is to experience itself as

God continuously without a break - the All-pervading Effulgent Light of God then experiences Itself!

The quickest way to experience this Goal of the death of this shadow and the birth of the light, according to Baba, is to love God. When fortune brings you within the orbit of the love of a Perfect Master or the God-Man Himself, it is possible out of normal life in the world.

"Your love for yourself veils Me; but your love for Me unveils Me."

Eruch

Letters

MANI

1939

Meher Baba's Love

There dwells in a desolate countryside
On a far off lovely hill,
Its head turned up to the wide
Blue sky,
A yellow daffodil.

As it sways with joy in the gentle
Breeze,
It sings a song or two,
Which hold the sweetest words
On Earth,
Oh Baba I love you.

Around a pink rose in my garden
Hovers a bumble bee.
From rose to rose it dances wild in sheerest
Ecstasy.
It whispers to the flowers all
Kissing the shining dew,
Says words that every flower knows,
Oh Baba loves me too!

- Mani

September 1942

To His disciples Baba says

Do what I tell you with love and zest;
Leave to Me the entire rest.
Even failure does not mean a thing
When you have tried your very best.

Live in the world and play your part;
Renounce the world within your heart.
And in the life that comes and ends,
Strive for the end that has no start.

Fast when you are hungry, eat when you are not.
Keep cool as a cucumber when you're boiling hot.
No matter what soup or fix you're put in,
Don't ever forget to prove a sport.

Have your feelings, but know them untrue,
Look sunbeams and smiles when feeling all blue.
Whatever the path I've chalked out for you,
Keep going; why stop to argue?

I shall give you what you wish, and more,
But not when you wish to get it, be sure.
To wait and wait, and just to wait
Is what you must learn to endure.

Don't grumble and cry at your share and lot.
Don't think I've forgotten and love you not.
Remember, what you get from the Ocean of Love,
Depends on the size of the vessel you've got.

When doubts and grief knock at heart's door,
Tell them you don't live there any more,
But slowly climbing blade-like steps,
Shifting to the seventh floor.

- Mani

(Originally printed in "Meher Baba Journal", September 1942.)

We were with Baba in Dehra Dun in 1953 - it was summer season, made bearable only because it was mango season too. The house where the men mandali stayed (some distance from the women mandali's house, as usual) had mango trees on its grounds and they were given strict instructions by Baba not to pick any of the fruit, but if a mango fell off by itself, then they could have it. That did it! The ones most affected were His veteran disciples, Gustadji and Baidul. With strained ears they vied with one another for a mango whenever one thudded to the earth, anytime, day or night. This caused tremendous entertainment for the other mandali and for Baba who would recount to us the daily episodes of this mango meditation.

MANGOES!

Everest news may rock the Nation,
Headlines scream, "The Coronation",
No matter how big the sensation
Under your nose;
To stir the heart and light the eye
One needs to hear the lusty cry
M A N G O E S!

They may be small, they may be big,
No one seems to care a fig,
They may be good, they may be bad,
Babes in arms
Well-dressed marms
Every blinking fellow-me-lad
Cousins, sisters, mum and dad,
One and all are mango-mad.

The river Ganges is in spate
The Delhi train is awful late.
There's flying saucers in the sky
The price of cups is soaring high;
The yogi squats a-mountain top
The rains have spoilt the bumper crop.
Egad sir, who cares to know
S'long as I have a MANGO!

An Episode in Dehra Dun 1953

The clock strikes 12 - it's midnight, Hark!
A figure's prowling in the dark -
He does not mind the raging storm,
His heart is glowing strangely warm,
As bending down towards the loot
He gathers up the King of Fruit!

There's others too
Oh quite a few!
As fondly dreaming
Lovingly scheming
Eyes a-gleaming
They wait to hear
The thud that says a mango is here.
Then in a flash
They make a dash
With leaps and bounds
And hungry sounds
The mangoless grounds.

A sudden halt -
What is this here,
Beneath a leaf, a mango's rear?

Alas, alack! a gasp, a moan,
'Tis nothing but a leering stone!

- Mani

A wish is like a rubber ball,
Throw it out, it'll turn about
and on you fall,
Then make a wish pure and true,
For sure it will come back to you
A thousand times grown
from the time it was thrown.
So mind the ball, that's all!

- Mani

29 February 1956

With a few of my school friends I was at the Poona station one day and we decided to spare an *anna* each for the novel weighing machine. The result? A little card popped out of the machine's slot giving your exact weight; at the back of it a bit of fortune telling was thrown in. As exams were approaching we were more interested in the latter. One girl got on but the machine refused to produce anything but a loud click. The other had the same result. Undiscouraged, I got on and put in my precious *anna* and out burst an avalanche of 50 cards with various weights and fortunes that had been clogged in the machine for days! Well, that's just about what happened with your letters. I got three of your air letters (with a difference of five days between each date) all on the same day!

We shared the first day's fast with Baba (on the 15th) and my Brother did us out of that wonderful feeling we usually enjoy when breaking the fast the next day by continuing it stricter than ever by Himself for another four days. I think I would have been a stretcher case at the end of such a five-day fast, but Baba was as energetic and looking lovely as ever!

Baba moved this month to another house known as Judge's Bungalow which is almost as old as Jal Villa but less dilapidated somehow, and in a quieter locality. I hear the owner soon will be auctioning Jal Villa, which has certainly served as an important landmark in Baba's seclusion.

After we had the news about Ruano,⁶ Baba said, "There will

be three more coming to Me soon." Of course I asked "East or West?" - He replied, "Both" ...and so Margaret Scott is the first of these three.

Mani

On the unity of mankind ...

21 April 1956

What a lot of things I have to acknowledge - your lovely Easter cards with the sweet loving message, your loving letters, and most of all your most unique and delightful invitation for Baba! Baba is touched by your loving thought and heartfelt invitation.

It is dreadful to read about all this feeling regarding the black people - to judge a person by the color of his skin rather than the merit of the person himself. There are good people and bad people in all colors and it is the innate quality one should go by. The civilized world takes such pride in the advances it has made; to think man has conquered the skies yet fails to see deeper than the color of a skin! I wonder when all this ignorance will go. It seems that Baba has a big task of washing away not only such ignorance in the minds of men but in their hearts as well. I was told that when people came to see Baba in Myrtle Beach, Baba always got up to receive black people. There is still caste segregation in India as well, though gradually the orthodox views seem to be fading. How easy to go to churches and pray to God; how difficult to see God in every human being and accept all as one.

Mani

On anti-vivisection ...

8 May 1956

All last week I meant to write to you and the tomorrow came and went till today I've decided to pin it down so it won't escape me. We did get your Christmas card after all, though it reached us nearly three months later! But loving thoughts are timeless and it did not make any difference when we got it.

You must let us know how the exams went. Even though it's very many years since I sat for one in school, I can still remember the tension and the last-minute race with time as the days approached. I used to be one of the last-minute workers and would ask my father to pray for me. He'd say, "You should do the praying child," and I'd reply, "How can I - I'm too busy studying! So you pray and I'll study and it's bound to be successful." The prayer by proxy did work too.

Goher sends her loving thanks for the anti-vivisection magazine which I also read with much interest. Now that we see things in the light of Baba's Universal Teachings, from the point of evolution and spiritual progress, I cannot fully hold anti-vivisection views. For the subject itself, i.e., the animal concerned, it is undoubtedly good when it is in the service of another, when research helps in the progress of humanity, and when they contribute to medicine and science. However unconscious, it is a sacrifice for others, and as such it cannot but be greatly beneficial to their spiritual evolution.

Look at the daily slaughter of sheep, supplying food for the more evolved animal, man. It is not only a part of God's plan of give and take, the opposites of killing and being killed, of suffering and pleasure, but it is also an advance in their evolution. What is more difficult to reconcile oneself with are the daily cruelties animals and men go through, for example, the vast heart-breaking problem of countless stray dogs in India. One feels at times how wonderful it would be to go round ending their sufferings with some form of painless death. But then, I tell myself, are we trying to prove ourselves more

compassionate than God? Surely if it were not God's divine plan, they would not be allowed to suffer. And, if all animals were happy, how would they experience the *sanskaras* of suffering that are so necessary in evolution. I'm sure these same poor semi-starved waifs incarnate again as happy and pampered pets in some good home. Even then I sigh; it is all so complex, so vast to be accommodated in our human hearts and limited minds.

But then this much we know - it is good for those who suffer; it is bad for us who may be responsible in any way for cruelty in thought, word, or deed. Sometimes I think we are mixed up in our sympathies. I remember when I was a child, a boy (whom my father had befriended and later made his partner) committed fraud and embezzled the funds so that my father's business was ruined. Although my mother bitterly recriminated, my father's sympathies till the end were with the boy. He'd say, "We have lost nothing - but look at the suffering ahead for him, and what a lot he has to pay in lives to come."

But to come back to the subject of vivisection (which I believe is done as painlessly as possible) when it contributes to some advance or purpose of humanity, it is for the animal's spiritual good. What is bad is the power it gives to man over his lesser creatures when he misuses it for his own gratification and forgets the motive that must prompt it.

On the ninth the Beloved comes to Grafton again; the tenth ends His twenty days of fast and from the ninth evening for twenty-four hours He will fast completely, once more without even water. We will all share, but will drink water. Only Mehera whom He has allowed to share completely will fast as Baba.

Mani

Meherazad
8 October 1956

Your loving letter reached me nearly a month ago and although I acknowledged it, I feel like writing a few lines

personally for the lovely news you sent us of Beloved Baba's visit. I loved the personal little details that are such a beloved and human part of our Highest of the High. Being Perfection itself, I am perpetually amazed at His unbounded patience with us all who are imperfect in so many ways.

I was happy to read about all the ones you mentioned, and feel sorry about your friend. I feel sure that he will meet Baba some time (when he is meant to) and will come closer to him gradually before that. I was interested in what you said about a disciple not approaching a Master with curiosity. This is how I see it: unless Baba says (as He has said for the November meeting coming next year) that only those who sincerely *love* Him should come, anyone and everyone is benefitted by contacting Him, regardless of the approach. Sometimes such a one *after* meeting the Master is drawn very close to Him. At other times, one who comes even with an open mind fails to receive the direct blessing. One woman in New York wrote and said she wanted to meet Baba and see for herself, as she would trust her own instinct. But when she saw Baba the first time she asked Him for a sight of a beloved one she had lost and failed to receive His gift. I told her that in such cases the fault lies with us - for there is always water at the Fountain, but if we go with a *chatti* that is already full (of our own desires and questions) then it is not the fault of the Fountain if we cannot get our fill from it. It is not He who holds back the water from us, it is we who are incapable of taking it in.

We should not be disappointed if more do not come to Him, we are just the instrument and Baba will draw those who have a connection with Him. Baba says, "When the power-house is switched on it will light those bulbs connected with it. If the bulbs are of small candle-power, the light will be slight. If the bulbs are of high candle-power, the light will be bright. If the bulb is fused, there will be no light at all. I perform no miracles. Love Me whole-heartedly, that is the only thing that matters. Love Me, love Me, and love Me, and you will find Me."

Mani

16 October 1956

There is no stronger relationship than that in Baba and I am happy to greet you as one of His vast family. We who know what it is to have Baba's Love in our lives feel happy when others begin to share it also. We hear Baba say, "Love Me more and more; nothing else exists." He tells us for He knows.

There are people who look to Baba for miracles. I tell them that the greatest miracle is what we witness daily - the miracle of His Love transforms the lives of so many who are fortunate to feel it. This is not the outward miracle or phenomenon that dazzles for awhile but provides no benefit, but the inner one that lasts and endures.

It is also interesting what you said about going to church and praying, not the fact of attending church, but the fact of your feeling nearer to Him. For the greatest church, temple, or shrine is the heart, and when that is empty then just attending church has no meaning. It is when we bow not only with the head but with the heart also that our prayers are accepted. May His Love fill it evermore.

Mani

20 October 1956

I was so amused at your description of our dear friend that a startled Peter (Baba's pet black cocker spaniel) rushed out from under the bed to discover if I had gotten sunstroke though by now he ought to be used to my sudden bursts of merriment.

So my brother Jal has been telling tales about me. Yes, I do like clowning; it comes much more naturally to me than being a secretary but of course our Master knows it. We learned quite early when Baba knows you don't like something hey presto you find yourself having to do it (and surprisingly, not badly and almost liking it). Being our very Self, He knows our inner resources and needs, though I wish sometimes we could

more often do these things with a better grace than we find possible.

I was delighted with your remark about the ego. We can't blame it for hating to be drowned, and must expect it to pop up its head now and then for a breather - although I find it comes up at rarer intervals each time till we have it (wishful thinking?) just where Baba wants it.

Mani

2 November 1956

Your dear letter reached me some time ago. It was like a ray of sunshine, a reflection of our universal Sun. I love what Kaikobad (of the mandali) says: "Baba is the Sun and Maya is the Moon - she tries to obstruct and eclipse the earth from the Sun's brightness." But the Glory of the Sun is always shining; His Love and Compassion can never be hidden from us for long even by our ignorance and our attachment to Maya. A friend writes: "The Sun has come into all our dark corners, and is burning into more dark corners until it is all His." The saint Gadge Maharaj once said, "Baba is like the Sun, and I, like a little lamp."

You are right, all love truly belongs to Baba. Consciously or unconsciously all the love expressed in one's daily life is like the insect's feelers feeling for Him, always going towards Him. We are so fortunate to consciously feel and offer love to the One it rightly belongs to. This morning as I watched the flowers nod and the birds sing they seemed to be singing and swaying for Him only. I wonder what Baba feels like, to have so many lovers all seeking Him, consciously or unconsciously, willynilly. And how good to know that we are the "willies" instead of the "nillies."

Baba is touched with your gift, or more exactly, with the love and thought it brought. In the world one can learn the right and wrong value of money and come to understand to some extent its use and impact. But with Baba it is so deep, so

fundamental - we learn with Him to be most economical and yet not for economy's sake. It is fascinating to watch Baba work through money; one fathoms a lot from it as with all things Baba does. One sees money flow into His right hand and flow out from the left while His own needs are so extremely simple and only reluctantly will He allow us to spend anything for His personal needs. Baba will spend a large amount on what apparently are unnecessary projects (like keeping the pet horse we have who has every care, attention, and luxury possible) while the mandali are more and more restricted daily in their ration of absolute necessities. But we see and learn how nothing that He does is unimportant or unnecessary, however little or seemingly trivial and inexplicable it may seem to us. Each thing has deep connection with His work for the world.

Well, to get back to your gift of love, I knew it had to be personal, something that gives Baba joy and relaxation, and flowers or a scarf or a coat would not quite fulfil that (these things He accepts for the thought behind them more to make us happy than Himself). So then we got together and hit on the one perfect thing that Baba really enjoys - *qawwali* music (works of the great Sufi poets put to song) and we got a set of these records by one of Baba's favourite *qawwali* singers, Abdul Rehman Kanchwalla.

My letter was just interrupted because a poor young woman came to the gate and I went to see what she wanted. She looked weak and frail enough to be blown down with a breath. I knew she needed medication and soon found she was terribly unhappy too - she has no strength to work in the fields, her husband has left and gone away, and her parents are so poor most of their mud house collapsed in the rains. She begs for food and hates doing it. She has fearful dreams and hears voices. I asked her to come the next day, saying Goher was out. She said, "I want Baba. Only He can help me." So I let Baba know and He had her escorted to the mandali where Baidul is to find out all about her, see she is cared for, given medication, and her rent paid (Rs. 2 a month) which has been due these

past six months. Baba will provide for it all and also a monthly allowance. You should have seen her face when I offered her a glass of milk. I had to quickly turn away. There are so many like that, it does something to one's insides. We already have three poor ones who are fed daily at Grafton; one is a half-wit with a blind mother (he takes food for both of them) and the other is an odd young woman who looks like Lolobrigida but goes about in rags. She calls Baba "Bhagwan" (God), and the only time her face lights up with an indefinable smile is when she sees Him.

To get back to your letter, it's odd (or is it really?) your saying what you did about Baba being under a terrific strain. Because only a few days before that (possibly while you were writing the letter) Baba told us that the reason why all close ones were undergoing special crises and troubles at the moment (health, finance, worries, etc.) was because we were sharing an infinitesimal bit of Baba's burden for the universe. He ended with, "Now that the five Perfect Masters who actively worked have left their bodies, I carry the entire burden Myself, and all who share are most fortunate."

Mani

On religion ...

13 November 1956

I loved reading about your carrying Baba's picture and asking Him to reach the hearts of all. For that is how it is: through His own Love that He has given us He draws others to His Universal Heart. We who are thus awakened to His presence on earth cannot but feel for the slumbering ones who will awake some day. For, when the core and truth of religion are hidden and smothered in layers of outward rituals and routine, it is like a blocked channel that cannot see His Light. And when religions become what they are now to the average

church-goer, then, as Baba says, "Religion must go and God must come."

I agree with you about religion. Someone asked, "Have you given up your religion? Is that what Baba asks?" I said, "No, we have found religion, for Baba reveals to us the heart of all religions which to most people is hidden in the husk of rituals and insincere prayers. He shows us that the prayer God accepts is to love Him, not just to bow outwardly with the head while keeping the heart full of one's little self and wants."

Mani

Baba's wish that Baba groups work independently of each other ...

Grafton, Satara
26 November 1956

Baba wishes to inform all concerned in your area about the following decision He has made in the matter of group meetings and gatherings in His Name and Love. As you know, the purpose of such gatherings is a communion in His Love in full heart and spirit. But though it is true that our hearts are one in love for our Divine Beloved our minds differ in the ways and expressions of it. In short, our hearts agree but our minds disagree, causing unnecessary dissension and disharmony and obstructing the free channel for His Love through us. Being all-knowing, Baba knows and understands this more than we can fathom; being all-compassionate, He guides and teaches us through our very weaknesses, strengthening through difficulties our love for Him. For His work He makes the best use of the material at hand and whatever He wills or decides is for our ultimate best.

As there are different groups in the West, there are also many, many Baba-groups in the East, and often more than one group in one place. For the best scope for His Love and work

He has therefore decided that the groups should work independently. Through the different groups, minds will be able to more harmoniously express their love in Baba. He is present wherever even a few meet in His Love,.

We must keep in mind that all Baba-gatherings must be Baba-gatherings only. We are extremely fortunate to have the direct Love and Presence of the One who embodies all the past Great Ones and is the ever One Avatar coming amidst us as a man in His great Love for us. The person who guides or conducts the meetings must love Baba sincerely and must not do so on a monetary basis; he or she will automatically receive the richest wealth in receiving His Love and Blessings. This does not apply to any one particular person, but to any and all of any and all Baba-groups.

Baba sends His Love to each and all who receive this letter and His personal decision given herein.

Mani

Meherazad
1956

I must seem so neglectful in not replying to your dear letters - but my refuge is in the loving understanding of your heart... I couldn't help smiling at your calling yourself "such a loveless and undisciplined person" - you who have found the treasure of Baba's Love which lies in the depth of the heart! But I know what you mean, for when the Sun comes up there is the shadow too which makes us wonder sometimes if we are receiving and reflecting its rays or not. But we won't worry as long as Baba is with us and within us - the Sun always shines, and those who are meant to feel and receive the warmth will be drawn through us to the Eternal Sun that our Beloved is. I sometimes wonder at the many lives we must have spent in darkness, so content in our ignorance that we didn't even seek His Light - but all the same I'm glad it was meant to be now when He has come as Baba.

I find it difficult to explain about Vishnu's experience when

he saw Baba right after the accident⁷. All I can say is that at the time of the accident, when Baba let His human body be hurt so, He revealed a fraction of the Divine Beloved He is, and Vishnu was fortunate to have been there at that moment. But even this word "fraction" is in our language, for I remember Baba saying once in the early days, "If I were to reveal even a fraction of my Divine Beauty you would go mad. But rest content with what I am and what I give you - you are fortunate to love Me now. When I manifest and reveal Myself, the whole world will worship Me."

He knows best how we can serve, and gives our roles accordingly - yours is not any the less because you are further away physically than we are. Once upon a time there were many of us in the ashram (including quite a number of westerners), and except for a handful, Baba has sent the rest to various places for His work. Even if this is not outwardly visible to ourselves, we are nevertheless posts or channels for His working, in just loving Him and obeying Him. I often think of the words sent in a letter by a child in Switzerland which seem to sum up everything we should do. She said "Dear Baba! I LAY ME IN YOUR HANDS."

Baba has just returned from the morning visit to the mandali's quarters looking frail and at the same time so strong. He stops to nod in return to a gardener's salutation, or to look up at a tree or bush, then forward again - slowly on His crutches. These are elbow-length crutches. He does not use the wheel chair so much now, and we hope He will soon be giving up the crutches too. I went up to Baba's Hill this morning and as I sat there I could picture Baba coming up with his firm long strides followed by the mass of men (as we had seen during the Sahavas) trying to keep up with Baba who walks so fast!

Mani

1956

What an enchanting, delightful, and artistic report from you. We greatly enjoyed it, and I do appreciate the loving

labour and precious time you spent on it. You ask, "Will it do, dear Mani?" Yes, it does, and we couldn't have drawn a clearer, more loving or intimate picture of the wonderous visit than you did. Thank you.

I wrote a hurried letter a couple of days ago, regarding the big news. Of course Baba is as unpredictable as the most unpredictable woman (for in His Perfection He is both Mother and Father) and frankly one can't help feeling the plan might be postponed or cancelled by the time November 1957 comes along; but then perhaps that will be just the reason why He *will* see it through. For how often, when we feel smug and complacent in our estimate of a certain thing, feeling by now we know Baba's ways, Baba shakes us out of it by doing just the opposite!

So with Baba one should never be caught napping. I just love Saint Theresa's words, "When pheasant then pheasant. When penance then penance." That is so characteristic of Baba in His molding of us. Baba makes us go through both phases: when feasting then feast, when fasting then fast. When the budget has been full we have traveled in pomp by first class (though with patched luggage and not a penny in our private pockets, so that once I was truthfully able to say to a startled beggar, "I am poorer than you") to all sorts of places, living in comfortable houses, yet at the end of it making a crude meal of thin vegetable soup and bread. With Baba one learns to be so pliable and ready for anything. When occasionally we go out, we put on our best clothes returning home to change to our patches and quiet life which we love even more.

To you and all dear ones comes Baba's Love which includes mine.

Mani

1956

Someone told me I was as old as a mountain and as young as a new-born sheep - rather confusing isn't it? I believe everyone is that mixture to some extent, though I am an

exceptionally odd mixture in Baba's menagerie of disciples. This incoherent beginning is so you can understand the shriek of delight I gave over that card which you sent for Baba. We showed it to the Beloved and He put His finger over the tear and smilingly gestured to say, "Very good".

You will be getting a copy of my most recent letter. It gives Baba's instructions for the groups to work separately. One wonders why Baba didn't have that done in the first place? We can't answer that for we can't fathom Baba's ways of working, but I think part of it is like taking a bundle of sticks apart in order to tie them more securely. A lot of sifting in ideas and renewing in strength is done in the meantime.

Baba says, "Don't worry. Be happy in My Love."

Mani

On philosophy and Meher Baba's Love ...

1956

As Meher Baba does not directly correspond, He wishes me, one of His women disciples, to answer your letter. You ask, "Do you feel you can improve relations with people by mere philosophy?" This can best be answered by Baba's own words, "I have come not to teach but to awaken." Meher Baba has emphasized that words, however philosophical and wise, if not lived are a poor imitation, like inanimate flowers painted on canvas. The change must come from *within*; the outward is a means but not the end. The outward channel or expression is important only so far as it expresses the spirit within - like clothes that cover a man but do not make him.

Love for God must be awakened within, then one may express it through whatever one is in harmony with - art, literature, dancing, teaching, business, any profession - it matters little when He is at the back of all our actions.

Love for God once felt grows of itself. It lightens the dark

corners of one's mind; it makes you think less of your own self and more of your fellow beings; it guides you, sustains you, and gives a greater joy and meaning to life. It may not lessen your physical hardships, but it helps you to face them better; it provides a better perspective of true values, and allows you to be more indifferent to the petty fears that smother you.

Trying to express in words the essence of Baba's philosophy of life and work is, I find, impossible. In this age when we value the spoken word more than the unspoken, Baba has observed complete silence for the last thirty years, communicating by gestures or an alphabet board. He once said, referring to the experience of God, that it was like a person trying to explain what a headache actually is to a man who has never had one. It is when the man *experiences* the headache that he knows without the aid of any description what it is.

May you be blessed with His Love,

Mani



1956

How fortunate we who love Him and know the message of hope for the future of man who walks at present in the blind alley of ignorance and egotism. May His Love and Compassion spread to all. The wise ones have said:

Know then blessed children, that there is peace within your soul and the world shall have peace when you have learned, when you have grown, and when you have known the truth that is within your soul.

Baba has been fasting very strictly recently - often twenty-four hours without even drinking water - in spite of the awfully hot days we have been having. We are sometimes allowed to share, but told to consume water. Even then most of us have terrible headaches. It brings closer to us how much Beloved Baba does for us.

Mani

6 August 1955

Thank you for your letter. It is one more link in my correspondence for Baba which encircles America, England, Europe, and Australia. It's like holding hands across the ocean in our love for the Highest which Baba personifies. I'm so happy the picture reached you, for it has gone through quite a bit of history. It was Baba's particular wish to autograph a certain number of His pictures (which in itself is unique for He seldom signs His Name) and His message of Love carried by it has reached those it was meant for.

Yes, we did meet for lunch in London. I was on silence then (which was probably why you had a chance to talk!) but was intrigued with some adventures of your travels you were relating, for I too have a passionate curiosity for strange lands.

This love for over-the-horizon must be our innate though unconscious search for the True Goal which man must pursue even when he cannot see it.

Man's pursuit for happiness, however, materially interpreted, is but his eternal struggle to achieve his highest spiritual ends. How lovely to know we are all headed, whether we know it or not, towards the great Goal of knowing one's Self - the only Self. We are not just a flame to be snuffed when the candle burns out, not just a long drifting without a purpose at the mercy of the tide. Thank God we know it - thank God He comes to our level to enlighten us - thank God for Baba!

Mani

22 February 1955

Baba is happy about the fast and prayers of the group. He is very satisfied and happy with your love, and you must not worry about anything; don't let the thoughts you expressed depress you at all. Like the Divine Shepherd, Baba gathers His own unto Him in innumerable and incalculable ways. We who have the extreme good fortune and privilege to recognize and accept Him while He is on earth in our midst have a divine link

forged through many lives, a deeper connection with Him than of a few years, as Krishna said to Arjun in the *Bhagwad Gita*:

But most of all I love
Those happy ones to whom
'tis life to live
In single fervid faith and love unseeing
Drinking the blessed *Amrit* (honey) of my Being!

We celebrated Baba's birthday according to the Zoroastrian calendar, but of course we will also celebrate His birthday on the 25th as will all Baba lovers. The actual hour of His birth is 5 a.m., so we got up very early to be ready by then. We decorated the house with flowers and put *rangooli* (pastel chalk designs) on the floor and decorated the table of course. Baba looked very beautiful in His pink coat and green and gold turban which Mehera fixed from a sari for the occasion. On the stroke of 5 we cried His "Jai", sang "Happy Birthday", and gave a seven-gun salute with special fireworks that resounded like guns. Baba asked one of us to blow out the seven candles that were placed on His birthday cake. We then played on the gramophone some *qawwali* music (it is usually the works of great mystical poets sung to music) which Baba loves. It was a wonderful day, and the deep prayer in our hearts was, "May we have many such wonderful days with our Beloved Baba."

Mani

On dealing with emotions and worries ...

Meherazad
21 November 1955

It was such a pleasant surprise to get a letter from you - your style of writing is as individual and familiar as I remember your letters in the old days.

You say there is so much you would like to tell me. Why don't you? It would make me happy to share in your thoughts and feelings; it is the privilege of friendship alone, and we who share Baba's Love have more than that. I feel that you have filled your mind with too many thoughts; pouring some out will be a relief to you.

Is it very difficult to be with a Perfect Master? Well frankly it is not really easy, but on the other hand what Baba fills our life with more than makes up for everything. Life anywhere is a challenge, but with Baba one learns that worries are not so monumental as we thought them after all. He teaches us to maintain a better balance of truer values and not to worry over spiritually lesser ones. He often brings our emotions to the surface so we have to face them as this is the way to overcome them. We must not take things too seriously, and never lose a sense of humor. Baba used to have one of us read jokes every afternoon, and someone asked why He liked jokes. Baba replied because the Universe is God's biggest joke!

I have no idea what you mean when you say, "It is certainly all my doing." Forgive me for being outspoken but (whatever it is) when we say that we are really flattering ourselves. Truly nothing is of our own doing except the shaping of our next life, and even in that there is a greater hand than ours that guides our path. Of course it is not easy - but would we really want it all smooth? The obstacles we come across can become stepping stones if only we used them so. Baba once said, "Treat your circumstances like a life buoy and it will not let you sink."

Of course one has troubles and worries. We would be as stone if we didn't, and sometimes they seem too big; but Baba teaches us to dismiss them, to snap out of it (with that He snaps His beautiful fingers). I think life is much easier when we do not think too much. You know what I mean? One thought invites another and another and another, and soon there is not enough room in the mind for the giant we have created. I think the trouble nowadays is that we have forgotten to relax our mind as much as our body. I once wrote to a friend who needed comfort: "Don't shut all the doors within you. You're not holding anything out, you are shutting yourself in. Relax in His Love; tell Him you are His to do with what He likes and then relax in His Will."

Just as I am finishing this the sun is setting and there is a great calm that drops like a caressing feather on the countryside. Now I think I will sit out under the babul tree beside the well and watch the brilliant splashes of red in the sky. Soon we will hear Baba's car honking in the distance as He returns from Meherabad.

Mani

*The difference between the seeker
and the lover ...*

13 April 1957

Some of the God-fire in your heart must have rubbed off on your letter I received last evening. I read it to Baba and the look on His face was very deep. His message for you is that you are very fortunate to experience this Love and that you should "Plunge in, unafraid."

It immediately brought to my mind something Baba told us one evening just before the accident and made us repeat it a few times. It is the lines of an Urdu couplet by a mystic poet: "Understand well this Love is no joke; it is an Ocean of Fire in which you have to plunge deep and drown yourself."

The road of the mind is narrow, and for a *dnyani* (seeker) it is a long journey. The road of the heart, however, has no limits and it's the most direct to God. For the *dnyani* there are a thousand questions to all of which the *bhakti* (lover) has one answer - and it is all-sufficient and satisfying. Baba says, "I have come not to teach but to awaken;" but unfortunately only a few can say, "Baba, I have come not to learn but to be awakened."

Mani

28 July 1957

Received your dear letter, and when the crossword popped out I got engrossed in solving it till I threw it up in despair. I used to try solving crossword puzzles a long time ago but gave it up after awhile as the published results never seemed to agree with my very clever efforts (ahem).

But as you must know by now I am quite good at nonsense. When we were in Satara I saw a contest - an advertisement for a toothbrush in which they gave an incomplete limerick and we had to fill in the last line. Prize? A gold watch worth one thousand rupees for just those eight silly words. Naturally I sent my entry in Goher's name. We heard the results when we were in Poona, after Beloved's accident, that we had won the prize out of thousands of contestants from all over India! They called on Goher asking her to attend a presentation ceremony in Poona. Poor Goher seemed quite distressed over it, having to leave Baba's bedside and dreading the fact that she might have to make a speech! She is a shy and dear person but went of course in a borrowed sari, blouse, etc., as we hurried over from Satara with barely anything. A disciple bought the watch and Baba used the thousand rupees towards the poor program when He emerged from seclusion.

Mani

Meherazad
15 September 1957

Today is a Sunday and so my only letter is to you. It is a special morning. Baba has just gone in the car to Ahmednagar where He will bow down to 101 lepers, give them His prasad of sweets and a rupee each. We hope it won't tire Him too much; His pain is not any less and one feels dreadfully helpless and so inadequate to help Him in any way.

The young ones realize the cul-de-sac their elders have come to, for all the achievements of civilization and all this teenage chase for pleasure is a flimsy shell. As you say, they are so

lonely, aching and longing underneath. When the right answer comes along these young ones will be the first to recognize it, for they haven't to unlearn as much as their elders. In fact, the whole thing seems to hinge on the unlearning of all the accumulated *sanskaras* we have so laboriously learned through the ages. No wonder Baba tells us there is nothing to teach. He has come to awaken!

Mani

P.S. I read jokes to Baba sometimes and here is one that tickled me especially: "I am so booked with worries, that if something happens to me today it will be two weeks before I'll be able to worry about it."

Ashiana, Bombay
28 September 1957

I don't know why you should jump ahead of the long queue of names on my "to reply to" list but you have done it. I mean why I'm inspired to write to you this morning is because you are a musician and we love music. Last evening a wretchedly poor street-singer wended our way and sang songs to Baba. Baba sat on the divan in His room with the men mandali around Him. We women stood in the other room, and the singer (a tall, lanky Goanese Christian) stood in the corridor with his ukulele and sang in a deep, rich, haunting voice a couple of Negro spirituals, some other songs, and Baba's old favorite, "Begin the Beguine". His singing still haunts me. Baba liked it extremely and said, "He sings with feeling, and he is so fortunate to have sung to Me." Such are the fortunes of the poor.

The street-singer has practiced for Christmas a song called "He." After seeing Baba last evening, he expressed a wish to sing it to "that gentleman" (Baba), so tomorrow he will sing "He" to Him.

There was another fortunate street-singer too - an Indian who is blind and sang *qawwali* songs to the accompaniment of

the harmonium that he played himself. Nothing remarkable in that except that he has no hands, but he still played so well!

Mani

1957

Your letter started me musing over other dear ones. Baba actually never asks implicit obedience from the many lovers in the East and West, but does so from those who stay with Him in close contact (hence the stipulation for the sahasvasies who will stay with Him for one month). We can only obey Him by His Grace, Love, Forgiveness, and Divine Patience. Obedience can never be given without love and Baba is not just the Guru for us - He is also Brother, Father, Friend, and Beloved. Nilu (Dr. Nilkanth) used to say, "I know nothing of spirituality and understand very little, but I know I am yours Baba; my love, my weaknesses, my life are offered to You forever." Such is the relationship of Baba with His dear ones, all having the one thing in common - the utterly free unbreakable bond of LOVE.

Mani

1957

Baba is happy with your utter honesty. How often in His messages we find He stresses, "Be honest with God," hence with yourself. Baba has also said, "I am whatever you take me to be. Love me, and do not try to understand me. I cannot be grasped by the intellect. I am only reached by love." So He says that He is happy with your relation to Him - not of a *chela* (disciple) but of a friend, a dear child. He says, "If you truly take Me as a friend then take Me as your *best Friend*; if you truly take Me as a Father then take Me as your parents – *both*

Father and Mother." If you really do that then there is no need to say, "Yes, yes," and mean, "No, no." Your devotion as a friend and child will automatically and naturally mean, "Yes" in heart and outwardly as well.

Mani

1 January 1958

Yes, my dear, I know I am an awful slowcoach at writing these days, but though the spirit is there, time just isn't. Run as I do, time always seems to be running faster; yet I often wish it would rush faster - that the calendar would whizz past to March end and on to the safety margin of the big black cloud our Beloved tells us of. It seems already to reflect in the circle of His close ones in both the East and West who are going through a stiff time one way or another, and therefore it's not surprising that you are sharing it also. Baba wants you to be patient until the May Sahavas when He will see you. And then, as always happens when the Master-hand untangles the knot, it will all seem so simple and clear in a jiffy. Baba knows your complete love and obedience and is happy.

Your friend loves Baba, but is going through a difficult time learning the hard way, and only Baba knows what the real lesson is - for we learn with Baba that it is seldom what we just outwardly see and understand. I know he's very fond of you, but he's feeling very lonely inside. He has Baba's Love - he very much needs Baba, and he needs all the loving understanding which you alone as a near friend can give. If he's on slippery ground, he needs the steady hand of someone on firm ground, and much tact and kindness, for he's one of those who is wary of being cornered or fenced in; although he must know by now that any give-and-take with Baba is a matter of complete free will. You can only be bound to Baba with love, a binding as free as the air or ocean (and as strong), a binding in which we give because we long to give, in which we receive because *He* is always giving. Anyway, dear, Baba is

working through it all, and it will turn out as He wants it, which is always the best.

Mani

To a girl in school ...

1958

Even though I wasn't able to reply personally to your lovely letters, I know you know I always enjoyed them. Your letter made me recall my own school days, and one of my favorite doodlings in between lessons was mirror writing (writing backwards - to read it you have to hold it to a mirror or against the light) - I still do it sometimes. So you like French? It was one of my favorite subjects too. Another thing we share - I just love storms, perhaps because here too it comes after a stifling spell, and then changes the countryside like a fairy's wand. Perhaps you can make a cake by now. I love to make cakes too, except the icings; they always go funny, and usually in the end there's more on my hands (and face) than on the cake. But still, the proof's in the eating.

Mani

12 February 1959

Your letter was read to Beloved Baba, and He has told me to reply. He who is the Source of Love, Wisdom and Compassion knows and understands. He wants you to have patience and courage and not leave your husband. That would be like jumping from the frying pan into the fire. You should face the situation, keep thinking of Baba and you will find the peace your heart longs for. Do not resist your difficulties too strongly

- remember suffering is a blessing, and when it is accepted with resignation to God's Will, it ceases to be so difficult.

Baba wishes that you do not enquire on the matter again. Keep calling to Him in your heart and He will always hear you and help you in the way He knows is best for you.

Mani

Wanting and occult experiences ...

13 May 1959

I find that people who want something in following a Master - I don't mean the inner longing, but that concentrated "wanting" - are so dead serious about it that they lose their grip on the fundamental. Theirs is not an awakening (like the opening of a flower) but a breaking open which defeats the very purpose. I find too that those who lack a sense of humor cannot hold on to Baba till the very end; just as I find that those who have extreme diet fads are never really balanced people.

Seeking pleasure in occult experiences just means that one is not mature enough for the real thing - as Baba once said about such tinsel experiences - it is like changing blue glasses for rose pink glasses; whereas a Perfect Master removes the glasses entirely so that one can perceive Reality as it is. But apart from all this, Baba (like the Compassionate Father and Mother that He is) cannot see a child heading towards a pitfall without warning and helping even though some seem determined not to be helped. As Baba once said to us all, "It is not your love for Me that is of such significance as My love for you".

Mani

Married life for Baba-lovers ...

26 May 1959

It fascinates me to think this little blue slip of paper (a marriage announcement) is going to carry tidings of momentous significance in the lives of two very dear people in Baba - a message that gives happiness to the writer knowing the happiness it will bring you. Both your letters have been read to Baba, and they have made Him very happy - I mean what your hearts have expressed. Baba says He loves you both, and knows of your love for Him. He approves of your marriage, and He says it should not be before the end of July. Baba says sometime later on when the opportunity and means arise you should both come to India together to see Him.

Thinking of your marriage, I can't help thinking of two streams merging together in a river, flowing the stronger and swifter towards the Ocean. There can be no deeper bond than two people's love for Baba which you both abundantly possess. And you have a deep friendship which is one of the nicest things you can share - it means the natural give and take of two beings in accord. Such companionship in marriage is indispensable for happiness, without which being in love is not sufficient for a life partnership. So indeed you are blessed, and I'm sure you won't let any ghosts from the past mar the joy that comes from complete and mutual trust of each other.

It's good to remember life isn't a make it or break it affair; while taking the deep happiness a union of two beings in love can bring, one should not close one's eyes to the constant little demands marriage is bound to make. When understood in that right give and take it will bring you ever closer together and to Him. So because Baba is happy and has approved of your marriage it does not mean everything will be blankly smooth, or that there can never be problems and no hurts. Baba does not sweep our paths for us, He teaches us to step over the obstacles to higher giving and loving.

Mani

23 February 1961

The other day Baba had a bath after quite some time (we would be smelling after a month's absence of soap and water, but He is *always* fragrant!) The air here is very drying to the skin; therefore instead of using soap for Him, Eruch made a concoction of lentil flour, milk, and shaving cream, and it was a grand success. I think God must have used it to cover rose petals, and now we use it for the rose-petal skin of God.

I'm sure you hear Baba tid-bits from letters of Francis (Brabazon), so I don't feel, as far as Australia is concerned, like the frantic hen that's got to see that no chick is left out of the feast. Anyway, I'll soon be thinking of preparing a family-letter dish before we march to Poona in March - though it's never seemed less like a march with our naturally sagged spirits from His Seclusion and consequent state of health. But by then we hope His body will have picked up sufficient strength for our spirits to soar like balloons.

Until some Baba-morning when I can hammer down my fond thoughts at the typewriter, always much love,

Mani

*To the parents of a young girl
experiencing difficulties ...*

Poona
17 April 1961

I have received your letter which I read with a warm understanding, and my heart goes out to you in your problem and more so to your daughter. She seems different because actually it is the world around her that is different from the one she has built up within her - and the more life fails to accommodate her world in it, the more she withdraws within herself. Unfortunately, one cannot live in a world of one's own; one has to live with one's self in a world that is generally accepted, and so the poor dear suffers. To a dreamer like her, a

dream is more of a reality than what we call real things, and when she is in a rage it is probably because of something that has opposed or been contrary to her ideas and ideals that she feels she must protect from those who do not understand. As you say, she cares too much. Her feelings go very deep, and she has more of her exposed to hurt or indifference. But of course you know all this, I'm merely thinking aloud, for it is so difficult for me to help in a practical sense from this distance without direct contact with her, and with the incomplete knowledge of her circumstances at school.

However, here are some feelers I can forward regarding her tantrums:

It is possibly a passing phase. Some children go through a difficult time of adjustment, particularly when nearing maturity.

It is possible that she has had a shock (even if not a fright) of some kind, either seeing, feeling or experiencing something unusual. Although I do not doubt her simple trust in Him will protect her from evil, it is most inadvisable for a parent to let a young girl walk two miles (possibly on a quiet road) alone by herself. As we understand from Beloved Baba, being possessed is neither an impossibility nor a myth; but the demon is usually the helpless spirit of a person who has died unnaturally, and being unable to spend its remaining *sanskaras* without the medium of a physical body, it momentarily tenants another's body to fulfill its wants. For example, a person who works himself up in anger would be ideal for a spirit's using of its own *sanskaras* of anger. As we know, even ordinarily after a burst of uncontrollable anger a person will remark, "I don't know what got into me!" Be that as it may, there is no greater demon than anger itself, and if we remembered Baba every time we saw it coming on (or even determined to take His Name before making a further remark) it would not only help the person, it would help others as well. Her big love for Baba, if handled in the right way, will help her most.

Even if it is difficult to be always understanding (which I've no doubt it is) try to always be patient, but never indifferent. It is not just that she wants more love. She has much of it to give and finds none near her to receive it to that extent.

Some helpful points:

- 1) Definitely seek sound medical advice, from a good doctor.
- 2) Slash down her protein diet, and give her plenty of fruits and milk and vegetables, and a glass of hot water every morning that she should drink after taking Baba's Name seven times.
- 3) If it is possible, give her a change of school - change of environment and people must help. She may want to start afresh which she cannot do with her old mates who have learned to respect her isolation and perhaps even to help build the wall thicker. New ones might take her fort by surprise, and this move she might welcome from unprejudiced ones.

When she is angry, anyone of the family near her at the time should remember Baba by repeating His Name.

Love knows the answer, love finds the way - and He who is Love itself will help her.

Mani

Ahmednagar
10 December 1980

You have no cause to worry or panic my dear. This empty feeling is Beloved Baba's game of hide-and-seek, an opportunity to long for Him all the more. He always answers and will make you feel full again. It is not necessary to feel Baba all the time. What is important is to be *for* Baba and trust Him as a child trusts its mother's arms. He will not drop you, and as long as you make the effort to hold on to Him you can never slip away; for, as He told us, "Even your efforts to remember Me are My Blessings." Isn't that why Baba says, "Don't Worry, Be Happy," for He takes care of His own, whom He has selected to grace with a glimpse of His Love.

If you are coming to India, don't come with any pre-conceived expectations of what you may receive; come just to lay your head at His feet and empty it of its burden, leaving the rest to His pleasure.

Mani

Meherazad
23 October 1980

Dear brother, please remember one thing which Beloved Baba has told us about praying to Him. Baba said that we should pray to Him without any expectation of material or spiritual reward. Prayer is just to remember Him wholeheartedly with deep love for Him. And, if you happen to ask Him anything after praying you can do so with love for Him and faith in Him; but do not expect any answer from Him to your asking. Just leave it to His sweet Will and Compassion. This is what Beloved Baba told us about prayers.

Mani

Ahmednagar
10 September 1980

Your letter was placed in the Beloved's *Samadhi*, at His dear feet, as that is the only place where your heart's outpouring belonged. The contents, so incredible at times, made me sad for you and reminded me of a quote -

We are not punished *for* our deeds;
We are punished *by* our deeds.

You are so fortunate to be linked with Baba. Drown your burdens in Baba's Ocean by giving them to Him totally and awaiting His Will.

Yes, you can ask Baba anything, but mercifully indeed He will give you only what you need (for your own good) and not what you may want. Wants entangle us further and cause the pain. Give it all to Baba and leave it with Him. Repentance is good, but don't waste time in regrets. Ask Baba to free your mind's burden, to grace you with more and more love for Him. Remember Baba with love and ask Him to help you. He will do it in His own unfathomable way; so don't dictate to Him in what categorical ways you want His help. Remember most of all that Baba loves you and that He is the only Reality.

Mani

On Baba's Silence ...

Ahmednagar
29 May 1980

This is a quick response to your letter and the questions it poses, which I find difficult to answer as Baba's close mandali never tried to understand Baba's Silence. In fact, we were made aware of Meher Baba's Silence only by His lovers who spoke volumes on it in letters and lectures.

As to whether Baba has broken His Silence or is yet to break it, the answers are as varied as there are mandali or lovers, but that is of no importance. Baba's Silence is so vast all the answers can be accommodated in it. There is also more than one aspect to His Silence, and the breaking of it in each heart He touches is no minor aspect. Whatever purpose Baba has planned for His Silence or for the breaking of it will take place as He has designed. No amount of our speculation is going to fathom it or change it a bit.

If in conversation with some of your friends you find that speaking of Baba's Silence provides you with an opportunity to tell them about Baba and His Life and Message of Love and Truth - then that is fine. But, again, to place a greater emphasis on Baba's Silence would detract from its purpose which is to draw us closer to Him.

Mani

Remembrance and pleasing Baba ...

Meherazad
22 April 1980

Your very intriguing dream intrigues me too, as does the priceless question: "What would please Baba?" There are as

many answers as there are lovers who desire to please Him, for the relationship between the Beloved and the lover is specifically personal and delicate, and each one has to tune in within oneself. Fortunately for us it is an unending venture, for in the constant trying is the constant remembering. And remembrance is the key: the more we remember Baba, the more we forget ourselves, until His remembrance becomes as natural and as effortless as breathing - a joyous whole in which all the daily duties and responsibilities are absorbed.

You ask for a first step in pleasing Baba. The first step is not to do anything that would displease Him. Mind may say, "How do I know what might displease Him?" But the heart always knows, and whenever you have avoided displeasing Him you will see Him smile. The effort not to displease Him is in itself pleasing to Him - when the first step is taken the next step reveals itself. In reaching the Beloved's pleasure we need to have His constant remembrance, absolute trust, and a lot of patience with Meher Baba who has such stupendous patience with us! So Baba says, "Don't worry," because once we are determined to be His, He takes care of it all.

Mani

A poem from Agoos (short for Augustus), the pet tortoise at Meherazad, in response to a birthday greeting to him from a friend in Bombay ...

Meherazad
1 January 1979

Dear doctor sweet and wise,
Although I am in disguise,
You at least know my worth
And on the day of my birth
Sent cake and wishes
And royal love dishes
To widen my smile and girth.

It is my Lord Meher's Grace
In silence I sing His praise,
And every evening I enter His room
To serve as a fortunate broom.
With my belly I sweep the floor,
Every corner and wall to door.

When His darshan I take
With emotion I quake,
At His feet I fall
With shell and all
Like a cricket ball!

You made my birthday happy and gay
Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai!!

-Agoos
(Augustus the Great)

P.S. Though we are both so busy
That it makes us dizzy
I got the time
To make this rhyme
And for love's sake
You baked a cake!
It's a wonder of wonders, is it not?
It's the wonder of His Love, that's what!

Another poem from Agoos ...

Meherazad
3 January 1982

Thank you dear friend
for the greetings you did send,
to this ancient bloke
of the Ancient One,
who knows life's a joke
but not much fun
if He were not with you,
The Friend most staunch and true.

If humans were like us,
content, steady and slow,
without flurry, hurry, and fuss,
they would soon come to know
that there's nowhere to go
except to Beloved Baba's toe!

So, at my Master's feet I rest
knowing how much I am blest,
and after 700 years
I'll greet Him with cheers!
"God-Man is back, He was never away!
AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI!!!

My love to you
dear friend so true,
and, O my!
to dear Homai!

-Agoos

On free will ...

June 1970

I cannot answer your query, "What did Baba say about free will?" because I cannot recall Baba saying anything direct on the point and I never thought of asking Him. We were kept busy in the depth of His Silence. Our main question has been to ask ourselves whether we are loving and obeying Him enough. But you have read everything of Baba's and, as you say, Baba did not mention human beings when he said, "The waves do not roll and the leaves do not move without My Will."

Baba has made it clear that the process of evolution is the development of consciousness, which becomes full when human form is attained. Once this happens, there is nothing to prevent Self-realization except the mountainous muck of *sanskaras* accumulated during innumerable lives experienced in evolutionary forms. One can be freed from that binding by binding one's self to loving, and obeying the Avatar, or by trying to make it through the interminably long way of self-effort.

So you see, as a human being, you do have the chance of a choice, particularly and immeasurably so when you have the good fortune to come into the Avataric orbit of the God-Man. When we are bound to Him - the only Reality - we are freed from Illusion. Doing what we want is enjoying liberty; but doing what He wants is gaining Freedom.

If you ask me, there is only God's Will, there is no such thing as our will, free or otherwise. We can only have free want. In the confinement of His all-pervading Will, we are free to want to do better. If it were not so, Baba would have no need to give us discourses, no need to tell us repeatedly and emphatically, "Do your best and leave to Me the rest."

Traveling through the vast maze of the Divine Plan in illusion we come to certain points where we have the choice of taking this pathway or that road. It is His compassion that again and again we are given a chance. Again and again He

comes into illusion to show us the way. We generally select what looks like the easier way, or the one that we are deluded into believing is the short cut, by following after half-baked or imperfect guides, and then we do go along the predestined pattern of the way we have chosen.

One's present life is nothing but a screening of the *sanskritic* pattern one has developed in the past life. And while it runs its course we are developing another film for the next incarnation. In as much as one's present life is concerned, one does have the freedom to make a better job of it - otherwise what is the use of the teachings given by the Great Ones? And then once in a long, long while comes the Producer Himself, God in person, to guide the passing show in the light of Reality, to guide His creation with the Love that He alone can have as Creator. He can change and edit even the present films (lives) of those who have the good fortune to come into His close connection. Therefore, once we've come into the Avatar's Love Orbit, and as long as we surrender our lives into His keeping and leave all to Him, we are moving directly under His Will. We then have nothing to worry about except to do our best and leave to Him the rest. And so Baba tells us, "Don't worry. Be happy."

And that's another thing that's often misconstrued. Being happy need not mean being merry. Happiness and pleasure are not the same thing. If we can accept every circumstance we are put in, keeping our mind unaffected by the oscillations of joy and sorrow, taking it all to be His Will, then we might be said to be happy as Baba means it. But the mind is a very obliging companion and, like a chameleon, it changes its colors to blend with its surroundings. One chap once wrote, "I'm really happy enjoying life. After all didn't Baba tell us to be happy?" Not long after that he got into grievous difficulty and wrote to say how miserable he was.

Baba once remarked that the mind is like a bird cage with its many bars imprisoning the bird. The door of the cage is the heart through which, when opened, the bird can fly to freedom so easily. But even when the Keeper comes along and opens the door, the captive bird flutters about dashing against the cage, hurting its wings and trying frantically to get out through the

many narrow openings between the bars, giving up each time. I've witnessed this a number of times with encaged birds. After a time the bird is exhausted with its efforts and collapses, dropping to the floor of the cage, looking dazed and helpless. And *finally* it sees the open door, and in a moment is out of the cage and flying to freedom.

Now that Baba has opened the door for you, you can well afford to bypass the innumerable questions of the mind that bar you from loving Him yet more and more. But of course Love for Him is also His gift, so when you come down to it, it is really His Grace that rules over all and over-rules all will. The Avataric Era is when His Grace is released. The more wide open and uncluttered we keep our hearts, the more we can receive of it.

Mani

5 September 1962

About your friend, I feel it is best not to revive the contact after your long silence, though I know it is simply the warmth of friendship that prompts you. Frankly I do not know his status, though I do believe he is called a *sant*, for India abounds with *sants* and ashrams. Baba's telling us not to visit *sants* and mahatmas, etc., is because He guides His own to fly like the swan in a straight flight, and keeps them from flitting from tree to tree like sparrows.

I must tell you of an interesting conversation that Eruch had with our dentist in Poona - a very nice man who has much respect for Beloved Baba but does not understand Him yet. He asked Eruch whether he had heard your friend's singing - how beautiful it was and how deeply its spiritual quality and significance touched the hearer - didn't he agree? Eruch replied that it was indeed possible for even a hollow bamboo reed (flute) to emanate divine music that sways one to ecstasy, but the breath that produces the music is Meher Baba's. All the saints and great people are like hollow reeds that bring forth music with *His* breath.

Wasn't that a lovely explanation!

Mani

19 May 1962

I have mentioned about dear Vishnu [Vishnu Narayan Deorukhar, one of Baba's men mandali] in the family letter; although he is most fortunate, as Baba said, we do miss him very much. The end was too instantaneous to enable him to take Baba's Name, but something most remarkable happened. As Vishnu lay dead on the sofa with his heart and pulse stopped for some minutes and his eyes half closed, Baba came over and stood beside him. One of us called out, "Vishnu, look, Baba is here!", while Baba snapped His fingers. At this command from his Lord and Master, Vishnu's eyes opened wide and, transfixed on Baba, they remained thus until later we shut them gently.

Poona has a surprise visitor on vacation - Dr. Harry Kenmore. I am asking him to carry with him the copies of the photo enlargement of the Baba-chart that Baba had Rano paint in oils (in canvas about five by eight feet) when they were in Nasik, and which was later completed in Meherabad. Each and every detail was directed personally by Baba, not only of the diagram but the color, and Rano was told not to ask questions but just to go on drawing and painting as He directed. So none of us knows what the chart means - He alone has the key, and won't tell us. But we guess it is connected with the book which is to be given after He leaves the body. All the same, it is a most fascinating diagram to say the least.

Mani

Baba's directive regarding God Speaks ...

Meherazad

1 September 1961

This letter is a special messenger bearing instructions from the Beloved. On arriving here Baba asked how many copies of

God Speaks were still lying in storage. It was discovered that there are close to 2,000 copies of *God Speaks* still unsold, of which 153 are autographed.

On hearing this, Baba has directed me to write to you to inform each Baba-lover in the U.S.A. through group-heads (and individually where necessary or convenient) that it is Baba's wish, for all those who love Him, that each of them buy a copy of *God Speaks*, and either give the book to a library, an institution, or a friend - or keep it for oneself. Where possible more than one copy may be purchased. Where each individual of a family cannot afford separate copies, a single copy may be acquired between them.

Baba sends His Love to each one.

Mani

(Baba's twin nephews often entertained Baba. The reference here is to one of the twins' impersonation of Ann Conlon whom we were expecting from New York. This hilarious hoax gave much pleasure to Baba and all present, and continued to be enjoyed over the years by the recounting of it.)

Guruprasad
19 June 1961

We still feel you so much here that greeting you on this bit of paper is like peeking round the door of our room at Guruprasad and seeing you with your eyes fixed on the One and Only from over the sea of heads - just as your heart is fixed on Him from over the Oceans.

Yes, we did feel your laughter echoing the happy song within you, and ours was the happier with your happiness. You were easy to love at first sight, and seeing the real you was quite a relief after our introduction to you of that morning we told you about.

I wish you could've seen yourself! It was the great impersonation of the year, and everyone (men and women) was fooled, except the Beloved, who had fun in aiding and abetting the

twins in the game they had begun. But I think even He had a hard time keeping a grave face when Nariman (Dadachanji) shook hands with "you" and solemnly said, "How do you do". However, I don't think the twin would have sailed through it so beautifully if we had not been psychologically so well prepared for your sudden appearance that day. We didn't tumble to it for a long while, even though we did think "you" were rather peculiar and queer in manner and talk, and in your walk, which of course we put down to your motherly figure. What a delightful contrast was the you we met that afternoon to the "you" we met that morning!

Well, I thought I'd make this a short and sweet letter, but as usual, I underestimated the length of my tongue. However, I've enjoyed the chat - and more so enjoyed your lovely letter, which seemed to say what Hafiz said before:

"I have seen none equal to the Friend; although I have placed moon and sun as mirrors before His face, they imperfectly reflect His Glory."

Happiness given is the biggest happiness received, and I can imagine your friends at seeing your long face changed to full moon on return from that date with God. Give them both stacks of love from me and don't forget to scoop a big share of it for your dear self.

Mani

Letters

ADI K. IRANI

On false masters and love for God ...

Ahmednagar
8 May 1959

Avatar Meher Baba is in Poona these days. I, therefore, send this reply to your letter from Ahmednagar. Please accept my apology for replying to you in English.

I am grateful to you on the one hand for your kind words for me and for appreciating my level-headedness. On the other hand, that very level-headedness prompts me to bring home to you a few points.

It is an irony of faith that our egos register displeasure when hurt and happiness when pleased, for we have lost our pristine equipoise. We lost it for a very definite purpose: not to dabble in, "Who is what and which is why?" but to get the real answer to "Who am I?"

Innumerable lovers of Meher Baba are spread all over the globe and I come in their direct contact. I can get many occasions to hear, if I want to, crisp and choice fairy tales and "Believe It or Not" facts concerning saints, mahatmas, and sadgurus, for there is a very rich crop of them nowadays.

Many a time I've had occasions to hear firsthand information and several stories connected with the person you mentioned. You too might have occasion to hear fantastic things, but indulgence in such gossip has never helped anyone towards the Way. I dare say that such gossips help one another to be dragged together into a pit of their own creation.

At the same time, when I have to reckon with facts of which I am sure, I tend to become stern in order to uphold the Truth. I do not wish to elaborate on this issue or on who is right and who is wrong or what is white and black. It is for individuals to find out. Truth is self-evident for the rare beings who dare face it; the same Truth is terrible for many who dare to shun it; and the very same Truth is a long rope to hang by for many more who dare to play with it.

Therefore, why should you worry about such things when

you have the one and the only important issue of, "Who Am I?" to reckon with? You have to realize your Real Self. For this, Baba wants us all to forget ourselves completely and love God with all our heart and soul. If we can but love so, we can never have time to think of what one is or what one says.

May you be blessed with the right things to help you tread the Way of Truth without stumbling or faltering.

It behooves the sincere seeker of Truth to refrain from words and thoughts of anger, hatred, greed, jealousy, lust, and, above all, hypocrisy. What has a sincere seeker of Truth to do with anyone or anything that does not help him to love God the Beloved? A seeker is never authorized to find faults in others; his paramount occupation is to rectify his own faults. Only a genuine Perfect Master - not the so-called saints and sadgurus - has the right and authority to guide others; and his ways and methods are always unique and unfathomable. He may pamper a scoundrel and abuse a saint and both may derive the highest benefit. The scoundrel is washed clean of his sins by the shower of love of the Perfect Master and is made a saint, and the saint is ironed and finished into perfection. But, my dear one, it is very rare that one is drawn towards a genuine Perfect Master. Only if the aim of the seeker is genuine can he strike a bullseye and fall at the feet of the Perfect Master; for it is said that the arrow strikes only where it is aimed.

If one goes in search of the Way to places like Rishikesh or Hardwar or Kailash, or for that matter, to any city, town, or village in India or elsewhere, one never fails to come across mendicants, *mahants*, the *gadee* (throne) holders, *pirs*, and *murshids* who are revered as *sants*, mahatmas, and even Sadgurus. Instead of being self-realised these self-styled gurus and guides are bound these days with their groups and ashrams; ceremonies, rites, and rituals are the order of the day at such places, and thousands get initiated or are given the *diksha* (initiation) every day to persuade the simple at heart to join their folds. God has been reckoned so cheap a commodity these days that even competitive rates of initiation fees or *diksha - dakshana* (gift to the initiator) are rampant. The faith and innocence of the simple folks - whether they are rich or poor, literate or illiterate - is exploited unhesitatingly without

the least fear of sin or hypocrisy - the only sin that God never forgives.

The only Royal Road to the Way is via unadulterated Love for Beloved God and the consequent intense longing for union with Him. However much one may employ various other means and whatever inner experience one may have as a result of such means and methods, one has to eventually and literally fall in love with God the Beloved to know and realise Him as He really is.

Only when one steps out of the age-old ruts of ceremonies, rites, and rituals, and shuns being an easy prey to one's disciplined ways of meditation and concentration can one fall upon the ways and means of loving God as He should be loved.

To love God is, in fact, to be really initiated. The only *dakshana* to be offered for this One, and the only initiation, is to intensely long for Union with Beloved God; and the only inner experience is the blissful agony of the pangs of separation - a separation of the lover from God the Beloved.

I am no master, guide, or guru to teach you what is right and wrong. Maybe I was prompted to write to you at length believing that you gave me a right to do so by stamping me with level-headedness. Believe me when I say that I just happen to be thinking out loud to you through these communications on some of the many salient points which Beloved Baba brings home to His lovers.

Adi K. Irani

Meher Baba's warning about other masters ...

Ahmednagar

14 February 1972

I received your letter and I am glad you wrote to me. To my view and experience I should write to you what I feel is true:

- 1) To demonstrate by a fast before the public one's concern or care for refugees is not the act of a Perfect Master. The

Perfect Master is in possession of all-power, all-knowledge, and all-bliss, and as such, he does the inner work which is most beneficial for human beings spiritually.

- 2) Deception can be of two kinds. Either one could be sincerely self-deluded to call himself a Perfect Master, or pose himself as a Perfect Master hypocritically when he is not. Both are harmful spiritually.
- 3) To be made to give up one's husband or wife and made a disciple, and then to have a physical relationship with the disciple is not the characteristic of a Perfect Master.
- 4) Meher Baba has time and again warned His lovers to be careful of the wolves who exploit and feast upon the lambs of credulity and submissiveness, and has warned the lambs to keep away from the wolves.
- 5) You should not come to India to look for a Perfect Master because Meher Baba, as the Avatar of the Age, has not pointed out at any time who and where a Perfect Master is, since, in the Avataric Period,⁸ the Avatar is the sole object of love, reverence, and worship; and a Perfect Master, whoever and wherever he is, carries out spiritually the planning done by the Avatar.

Adi K. Irani

Ahmednagar
17 January 1976

My dear brother,

I received your letter and booklet. It is highly essential that a piece of small but very effective literature come to the notice of Baba-lovers. You have done the job well in time and in earnestness. Thoughtful Baba-lovers will surely take advantage of it, and try to avoid, and even shun, the pseudo-saints and their propagators.

It is the height of hypocrisy and deceit to mislead innocent Baba-lovers. May the light of understanding shine in their clouded hearts and minds!

You have weathered a storm of political-type moves to wean

away innocent Baba-lovers to someone else who is not worth the dust of His Tomb, and that also in the name and under the pretext of being a Baba-lover.

Adi K. Irani

Ahmednagar

1 June 1976

It was delightful to read your very loving and meaningful letter. We all appreciate deeply your love, also your proper, precise, and correct understanding of Avatar Meher Baba, based on your conviction. All that you do, will do, and are doing is and will be very meaningful and praiseworthy.

Among the so-called saints and perfect masters, a Baba-lover has to hold on to Baba's *daaman* (garment) which Baba during His lifetime reiterated and impressed upon us. He warned us again and again and again to guard us against perfect masters and saints. It is incumbent on a true Baba-lover to remain attached to Baba alone.

Calling oneself a Baba-lover to put forth one's image of sainthood and perfect masterhood is a distortion of Truth.

Adi K. Irani

Ahmednagar

9 March 1978

My dear brother,

I am glad to receive your letter. I know you are firmly devoted to Avatar Meher Baba alone, and for all times wedded to a firm understanding that Baba alone is worthy of your devotion, worship, and love. I do not at all mind your going to attend the function you mention, but I wish you had not gone there. We should in no way give the least importance to such activity of a dubious and self-styled sadguru.

When one calls himself a sadguru how can he be a worker of Meher Baba? He wants to sit on the throne of Meher Baba. Throughout my five months and thirty thousand miles of travel in the U.S.A., London, and the U.K., during the one hundred talks I gave I said:

"I don't want a saint or apostle, much less a sadguru, in the family of Meher Baba workers; I want a slave and a servant of Meher Baba who knows that a slave of Meher Baba may be higher than a saint."

Please do not be led away by a thousand people attending. How can one do Baba's real work if at the outset he flouts and murders the very message, instruction, order, and wish of Meher Baba?

Your question is very appropriate when you ask why Baba allows such a state of affairs to exist and function. It is for Baba to know why He allows such deplorable things to exist. It is Baba's business. He knows why their presence is necessary.

I pray Baba gives you strength and conviction to always attend to the real work and activity of Meher Baba.

Adi K. Irani

On music and meditation ...

1 October 1978

Your view about music is appreciable, and your attempt to compose music to inspire people to soar higher in thoughts is laudable. The music should have a combination of charming notes and verses which contain spiritual truths and the pangs and joys of love. The enchantment derived from music should not end with one becoming impractical and a burden on society. However high the thoughts may soar, the feet should be on earth. This is what Meher Baba indicated regarding maintaining a balance.

Meher Baba has delineated meditation in His *Discourses*,

but He has not specifically said one should meditate. Meditation can be useful to make a man clear in his thinking and maintain health and energy, but meditation cannot solve the problems of life. Meditation cannot make one free from the bondage of illusion and give the experience of the "I am God" state unless it is aligned with the Avatar of the Age, Avatar Meher Baba. The Avatar is the same at all times born in different bodies under different circumstances, speaking different languages, giving messages which are apparently different but pertain to one Truth. Zoroaster, Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Christ, Mohammed, and Meher Baba are the same.

The difficulty with meditation to realize the Ultimate is that man is caught up in a cage of ignorance of his body, mind, and imagination. He talks about transcendental meditation. Is this about that which is beyond the mind and imagination? If it is, then it is not possible to come out of the cage and gain the freedom of the beyond-the-mind state through meditation. A man sitting in a cage meditating upon freedom outside the cage calling it transcendental does not help himself to come out of the cage unaided by the Avatar. He may meditate and meditate within the cage but the freedom that he will subjectively enjoy will be within the confines of the cage. At the most he may, by sheer force of one-pointed meditation, move hither and thither in space along with himself - the cage of his body, mind, and imagination - wherever he goes. He may get a false sense of freedom but not the freedom that could be achieved by coming out of the cage.

Adi K. Irani

Letters

BHAU

*Two letters to the same person experiencing
difficulties in trying to love Baba
(translated from Hindi) ...*

Meherazad
29 August 1961

Whatever you are feeling is perfectly natural and necessary. If someone has never seen light and always lived in darkness then why would he ever try to come out of darkness simply because of his complete ignorance of light? But if someone knows even a little about light he would definitely try to come into it by casting off the darkness which he once cherished. With the inception of his journey towards light, he now dashes against the scattered stones and thorns of his dark world which never existed for him as long as he was contented with darkness. As soon as he gets a glimpse of light he starts encountering difficulties. Similarly, with the start of the spiritual journey, the aspirant is confronted with weaknesses that he was not aware of before, and a great struggle ensues as he tries to free his soul from their deep-seated grasp.

There is no doubt that the spiritual path is full of difficulties, yet these very difficulties are in fact the vehicle for spiritual progress. Therefore, try to establish yourself in Baba and your weaknesses will automatically open for you the door of spiritual progress. So do not be afraid of your weaknesses. Be courageous. Instead of being victimized by your weaknesses try to overcome them. Have firm faith in Baba. He is always with you and will take you towards the goal by extending tremendous help.

Your boldness is praiseworthy. Only love can generate such boldness and render one's heart naked before the Beloved. Nakedness of the heart earns authority over the Beloved and in turn allows the Beloved to rule over His lover. At this point the rights of the lover and the Beloved are almost equal.

From your letter it appears that you don't need words.

Therefore continue your quarrel with your Beloved in your heart and enjoy the fight.

Bhau

Ahmednagar
11 August 1961

Baba enjoyed your loving complaints and your expression of your limitations. There is always a tug-of-war between illusion and Truth which actually gives the strength to put forward a firm step in the field of Reality. The pull of illusion is false, while the pull of Truth is real. As such, the strings of illusion gradually and automatically become loosened when one firmly establishes himself in the domain of the Truth.

Your weaknesses are really your strength, as it is these weaknesses which force you to turn towards Baba. In fact, these weaknesses will make you so weak that you'll have no other alternative except to become totally dependent on Him.

Baba wants you not to be worried, not to feel disturbed, and not to become desperate. He wants you to muster courage. His *nazar* (eye) is on you. He will definitely call you in the near future at the right time. Therefore, wait for that fortunate moment when you will have the opportunity to receive Baba's loving embrace.

Baba is happy with you and very much liked your loving complaints. Baba wants you to remember Him more and more and He will help you internally.

Baba sends His love to you and wants you to keep happy in His love.

Bhau

A group letter written by some of Baba's Indian lovers was sent to Baba in May 1966 requesting His Darshan. This reply was written by Bhau in Hindi from points given by Baba ...

Your group letter of 6th May 1966 has been received. When it was read out to Baba it appeared from the look on His face that the fire of separation from your hearts was embracing Him and His face became radiant from the pleasure of union with you.

There are always ups and downs in the life of love. The downs are necessary to make one's love firm and strong. If you cut the thorns from the stem of the rose, the rose will surely wither and die. The same holds true for the lotus blossom if it is removed from the mud that it thrives in, for the mud sustains the life of the beautiful lotus.

In the same way the separation of the lover from the Beloved is the very life of the lover-Beloved relationship. Without the feeling of separation love is utterly lifeless. This feeling of separation increases the lover's longing to see Beloved Baba in His Infinite form. And until one sees Him in this form one can never be satisfied. Even if one were to see Baba in His physical form, the thirst caused by this separation could not be quenched. This thirst can only be quenched by drinking the entire Ocean.

Whether you are near Baba's physical body or far from it, it is just the same, for it is impossible to become one with Him without first experiencing the longing caused by the fire of separation.

Baba keeps some near His physical form and others away from it for the purpose of His Universal Work. But regardless of one's physical proximity to Baba, all remain on the same point of infinity where each one can kiss infinity through the longing of separation.

Though you are being kept away from Baba's physical form, by the very fact that He is keeping you away He is really

nearest to you. This is why your hearts are decorated with the pleasure of His wish. You find distance in proximity and your hearts dance in the fire of separation.

Baba knows that His beloved nightingales are singing sweet songs in the springtime of His Advent. He knows that they are attracting others to share in the pleasure of this springtide through their songs. The fire of separation gave them pleasure, but now it gives them pain. But this pain makes them yearn for the Beloved all the more.

Although the youthfulness of spring seems to come to an end it actually has a very long life. Spring is always fresh and youthful; it only appears to grow old. It is your feeling of discouragement and disappointment which makes you feel that it has grown old. There are many links of youth and old age in the chain of the life of spring.

Therefore, Baba says, "Oh, my dear nightingales, don't be disappointed with the old age of spring but keep on singing, and while singing become so thirsty that you drown in My Ocean of Silence. Then you will find My eternally new Song. When you sing this Song you will find that spring has become young once again.

"I want to hear your song. Don't feel disappointed with the old age of spring and don't make Me disappointed in you. Drink the cup of My pleasure, and, having derived strength from it, continue singing. Allow others to hear your song too. You will be able to revive the youthfulness of spring, but to accomplish this you have to drown in My Silence and find My Song.

"All these years during the full-bloom of the springtime of My Advent you have seen My Glory in the gathering of My lovers singing together, and you have offered the flowers of your hearts at My feet. Now don't be disappointed but continue to gather together with all enthusiasm and drown in the Ocean of My Silence so that you may find My new Song. That Song will make spring burst into full bloom again, and you will happily derive the pleasure of union in the midst of separation. This separation will even swallow up time and space one day, and you will find yourself smiling in the lap of infinity. You will become eternally immortal.

"Your Baba is Baba, and He has come down on earth to give

you the cup of immortality. Your Baba is always with you; even if you wanted to leave Him you cannot do so.

"Therefore, My dear nightingales, let Me hear your song.

Your Baba wants to hear it. Will you not make Him pleased?"

Baba is pleased with you and sends His Love to all His dear ones. Jai Baba!

Bhau

Letters

BAL

Meherazad
26 January 1982

I have read, enjoyed, and appreciated the beautiful translations of Kabir's poetry that you so kindly sent. I would apologize for the delay in my responding to you, except that I find it has simply served to increase the number of occasions to remember you. So, even in delay there is delight!

Recently I came across a profound couplet of Kabir's quoted below, which has prompted this reply:

O Wayfarer! Enough of your bargaining –
buying and selling - now we are bound for
the Home of the Beloved, where there are no shops.

Perhaps if we stop our inner bargaining with the Beloved, He will bring us, too, to the land of no shops - as and when He wills.

The third section of *The Kabir Book* opens with the following lines:

The only woman awake is the woman
who has heard the flute.

And with a little change I may say:

The only human awake is the one who responds
to the silent, loving call of the Ancient One.

As I write, *Amartithi* looms on the horizon like a sun announcing its rising, as one's awareness grows with radiant light. From all the world over His lovers are coming. He has spread a love-feast of His Compassion with both hands, helping us yearn that our capacity may increase so we may absorb ever more and more of His Love - and that with His Grace we may one day drown in Him!

Bal

On teaching ...

Meherazad
22 December 1981

Your letter brings to mind when I first began teaching many years ago. At first it is always more difficult, as when you begin anything new that provides a challenge.

Beloved Baba once gestured, "Your business is to love Me; the rest is My business." I feel that this sums up everything, not only with regard to teaching, but to any and all situations we encounter in life.

From what you write, I feel you are separating the functions of loving Baba and teaching rather than integrating them. Certainly children can be difficult, but you are also having problems with unruly thoughts and feelings, not only unruly children. It is but natural; there's nothing much to worry about. But it is important that you learn the art of "shelving" thoughts, so that you can function effectively and not be so drained by your experiences in the classroom.

You have undertaken a most wonderful and exciting challenge - to transmit not only knowledge but, more important, the love of learning. Give each day to Baba; be earnest in your faith in Him. He knows best. One of the Sufi poets wrote:

When in your helplessness, you ask His help,
Your cry is, "O my God!" His, "Here I am."

And when you wholeheartedly remember Baba, as Francis Brabazon writes:

If the Beautiful Beloved were not here,
Where, O where could He be?
There is not a drop
Which does not contain Ocean's oceanity.

I am not competent to answer your questions, but if these lines help you to find the answer within you - which is Baba's Grace - that would be wonderful. As for me, I have exhausted all my impressions of teaching and now I am here as a pupil wanting to learn from one and all.

Bal

Meherazad
4 July 1982

Yes, years back, as quoted in your letter, I wrote to you about the wine of God's Grace and the cup of the heart. In relation to my brief contact with the Avatar of this Age, Meher Baba, I feel that His Grace has a matchless quality which enlarges the cup, so that it can contain more and more of His Love, the elixir of life. What I wrote to you then and what I write to you through this letter is by way of sharing my life experience with you, devoid of an "I alone am right" attitude. You are free to have your own approach; but how marvelous it would be to have no approach!

This reminds me of an incident I recently read from the life of a reputed Zen master. Many of his followers had gathered to listen to his profound exposition of the *Dharma*. The master came in the assembly and said, "All that you have learned, all that you have understood about the nature of Reality, is meaningless. Reality (*Dharma*) can never be explained or caged in words. Give up seeking." And he left the hall.

So, what is this "giving up of seeking"? What is non-seeking? It is being passively aware of how the Sought, the Reality, the Beloved, is seeking us in innumerable ways. This awareness helps one to find the natural rhythm and tunes one's activities in life to unconditional spontaneity. Then I presume a stage comes when God stays back and the world fades away; nothing exists save the Beloved - manifest and unmanifest in His incredible glory. Do words sometimes overtake the proverbial "carrot"?

Brother, you wrote, "All sages are one, only their nomenclature differs." As for sages you may be right, but Meher Baba is not a sage. He is Truth Personified; He does not speak about the Truth, but from it. After my brief contact with Meher Baba, the outer search ended and the inner quest began. In my life with Him, many a time His statements and the eloquence of His Silence knocked down my reason, but with the passage of time I found that He was invariably right. He once stated: "He who knows everything displaces nothing." Of such an enlightened One it is said:

What can anyone find who has not found You?

What can anyone lack who has found You?

Whoever is content with anything
In exchange for You perishes;
Whoever desires something
In place of You is lost.

I know you have been in J. Krishnamurti's regular contact for over four decades and have studied Aurobindo and the lives of some saints. As for me, in Meher Baba I have found what I was looking for and much, much more. Now I wait that in His time, His Grace shall descend upon me and I will lose myself in Him, the Divine Beloved, who alone exists.

After my retirement from teaching school I came to Meherazad - Beloved Baba's Home - for a permanent stay. In my spare time I continue to work on Meher Baba's life through the medium of *Glimpses of the God-Man*. Volume I and II have been published. Volume III is with the publisher in the U.S.A., and currently I am working on Volume IV. In fact, I do not label this writing as work; it is a play with Baba - the Omnipresence disclosing Itself to this mini-presence.

Bal

Meherazad
27 August 1982

Thank you for your loving letter that revived the memories of our informal talks at Meherazad. Although I do not remember the specific subjects we discussed, one thing is certain: that it was a mutual sharing in Beloved Baba's love - Baba who is the Self-evident Truth in each of us, at present experienced as one's "life" in illusion.

The immensity of Truth cannot be grasped by the rational mind and there is nothing irrational about it. Every notion or conception that one honestly and sincerely has about Baba is simultaneously true and false. Baba ever remains beyond any and all notions about Him. And this is the beauty and wonder of our journeying to Him - the ever-renewing One. Once Baba conveyed, "Whatever anyone takes me for, I am that." Baba is like a clean, immaculate mirror. Each one's understanding of Him is based on his or her limited reason, so any level of

discrimination is a form of deception. Such is His Game in illusion!

The only saving grace to come from this mess is conviction in Baba as Truth - but this too is a gift of His Grace. It depends on those who inwardly confess their helplessness to know Him as He really is. This conviction becomes the seed of Self-realization bereft of any self-deception.

You write that you continue to lead your life in relation to Baba as your Beloved Master, and yet you feel that you know nothing about Him. Dear friend, you are blessed to have this feeling. Once Baba quoted an Urdu couplet meaning:

My effulgent Presence emanates from any and every
point to My abode which is Beyond the "Nothing".

And my Game is in watching how far one dares to
sail on this infinitely uncharted course!

Sorry, but the story that you refer to in your letter and wish me to share with you again has somehow escaped me; I cannot put my finger on it. Instead, let me share another short, symbolic story that comes to mind:

Over the limitless Ocean of Space, on a little branch of Time, two birds were sitting close to each other. Once one looked up, down and sideways and said to the other, "I have not the least idea what this Ocean is although I am so close to it! I want to know what it is." The other bird stretched its neck, looked up and down, and replied, "Wait awhile. Give me some time and I will tell you all about it, or I will write you a letter that will convince you about it." Here the question may come up as to which bird was sane and which was a fool! To continue the story, just then, as if from nowhere, a third bird perched on the same branch. After listening to the query and the response, it intently looked at both of them and immediately dropped down from the branch and into the Ocean, never to be seen again. This indicates that it is not the head that matters, but a journey of the heart - the dive within - that counts.

Cheer up. Baba keeps company with us in our moments of perception, and deception too. And through a variety of experiences He guides us and leads us on to Him. This is the enviable destiny of those who come in the orbit of His love!

Bal

Poems

FRANCIS BRABAZON

*An answer, in sonnet-form, to a question Baba
often asked, "Are you happy?" ...*

When I consider how my days are spent
In company of God - singing His praise
First in my heart and then in written lays
For other lovers and sweet friends' enjoyment,
I wonder at such fortunate employment,
Such happy days, such happy, happy days
Cut in the fresco of beforetime maze
Called living - sure, clear, without argument.

These are the days that in the years to come
Men will inquire of - probing every word
He spoke, seeking the meaning of each look
And gesture recorded. Some this, and some
That, will find - some agreement; some, discord;
Some will build churches, some will write a Book!

- Francis Brabazon

Presented to Avatar Meher Baba on 4th December 1959 at
Meherazad.

From Meher Baba to Francis Brabazon ...

6 August 1959

How goes your mood?
Where goes your food?
How is your health?
Where is your wealth?

How are you son?
What have you done?
Hold fast to My skirt,
But dare you not flirt.

To Me you are dear –
Love Me without fear
You have. come very near
By coming over here.

Stay with Me till end -
I am Master and Friend.

- Baba

Reply by Francis to Baba: ...

O Baba -
Let you become the only one I love –
Here on earth and above.

Let you become my only thought –
All others are too dearly bought.

Let you become my sole desire –
All others are but burning fire.

Let you become my only hope –
All others are a hangman's rope.

You are my God, but since you are my friend
Give me the strength to hold on to the end;
And let me come again each time you come
To love and serve you - I want no other "Home".

- Francis

A Poem

ALOBA

26 July 1960

Father in heaven is Meher Baba;
You are all nations' Beloved Baba.

None else higher than Baba;
You're God on earth, O Meher Baba.

There are many and many "babas,"
But who can be as you, Baba?

They are stars, Sun is Baba;
When sun rises, the Light of Baba
Disperses at once all these "babas."

Those who have called themselves baba
Will feel dismay when they see Baba:

It's just easy task, labeling Baba;
But O my God, the quality of Baba!

It's child's play naming Baba
Unless authorized by Meher Baba.

From North to South and East to West,
Plenty babas, each say I'm best.
He who is unreal fearing the test,
Come along O man with hurry and haste.

Here is Baba, the highest and the BEST;
Hold His *Daaman*, let go the rest.

Doing so, you feel inner peace and rest;
Meher is Perfect, Real and the BEST.

Thousands love Him over East and West,
Confessing this, heart in chest.

- Aloba

Letters

WILLIAM DONKIN

On The Wayfarers ...

That this book (*The Wayfarers*) came to be written is really my fault. I *did* suggest to Baba that somebody ought to try to make a record of His work with *masts*; that was in Dehra Dun in 1946. Baba said that He'd think about it. Well - about two days later he comes over to the gardener's hut where Vishnu, Nilu, and I were dozing, catches me, and tells *me* to write a book about His *mast* work. But I've never written a book in my life, I tell him. Never mind, He says, you do it.

So I did it, my aim being only to try to make a faithful record of Baba's work with *masts* and others; His external and visible work, that is.

His real inner work He would just *not* tell us about – but then why should He?

William Donkin

Some people asked me why I have put just William Donkin as author of *The Wayfarers*. Am I, they ask, a doctor? I *am* - see note of degrees on other page, and my name is on the Medical Register in U.K.

But (in England) a doctor who writes anything (book or article, etc.) that is not strictly professional stuff, is expected by the profession and by the General Medical Council to be plain mister, and no more.

This is something to do with advertising as far as I know. Hence plain "William Donkin".

William Donkin

Letters from Meher Baba to William Donkin ...

Rahuri
19 September 1936

My dear Donkin,

I am very happy to read your letter. I know your feelings and love. Baba's mission is to awaken love, and nothing makes Baba so happy as Love and its expression.

Yes, my dear, you do belong to Me and are Mine - one of My dearest ones of the Western group. That is why you feel as you do - so sure that Baba is the Divine Self you seek and to whom you wish to give yourself up. To take care of those who have thus surrendered themselves unto Him is Baba's Work.

Your desire to come to India with the other dear ones of the group is appreciable, and I would love to have you as one of My dearest, but the plan of the coming of My dear ones is not yet fixed. It will be probably next month, when I will let you know, either directly or through dear Will or Kitty,¹¹ what you should do.

But rest assured My dear Donkin that I love you and you belong to Me, wherever I am and wherever you are. I am so glad you are trying to help My dear Will at the office, and this is but a small beginning of what I want you to do for My work in the future, in the capacity for which you are being at present trained.

Your desire to serve Me and My cause in your own capacities has made Me very happy. Let that desire grow with your love and devotion side by side with your studies.

All My love,

signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

Meherabad
2 January 1937

Dear Donkin,

I got your wire and Christmas letters. I did answer your letter re the nose operation; you probably got it after reading the wire. All will go well. Kitty wants Me to say she received the book. She is sending you the form filled in for the telegraphic address "CIRCLECROSS".

You will hear from Will Backett about My ten-day trip to Navsari and Nagpur. Go on working hard at medicine and get through as quickly as possible as I need you here very badly for My Work which is growing rapidly.

All My Love,

Signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

Kitty Davy writes under Baba's direction ...

Villa Caldana,
Montfleury,
CANNES
Cannes 905-79
21 August 1937

Dear Donkin,

Well, the enclosed will interest you! Unfortunately the letter was sent to London, and this meant several days delay.

We have spoken so much about this boy already before I left London that I feel no one is better able than yourself to now select the "Ideal Boy"¹² for Baba's work.

The boy must not be very small, but well built, good looking, vital and intelligent, and not under 14 years and not over 16 years in age.

You already know the conditions - to share our life here and in return to do anything I may want done. He has also the opportunity to learn French and English. He will have a few

shillings a week for pocket money. But these details will not be asked from you as I have already written fully, but still it may be wise for you to know and not be quite ignorant of the situation. Be tactful and diplomatic above all else and keep your mind constantly on Baba and you will surely find the best material available - even if it is not the "one". The chances are 80 per cent that you will find the right one.

Baba does not want to go to London just now, unless absolutely necessary, and I have written to London asking if they will kindly allow you to deputize for me. If this suggestion is refused then I shall have to come in person. If it is allowed, try to bring the boy with you on the 25th. If necessary, delay a few days and find somewhere for Betty to stay; the Quakers have a nice place near Euston.

I enclose the two letters by registered mail. Guard them carefully and take them to the Spanish Embassy. I will also write to the Basque Association. Wire immediately at the above address if you have been successful. Let it be clear. You could ring up Monday night at the above number if there is anything to say.

Kitty L. Davy

signed also by Baba - M.S. Irani

Cannes

30 October 1937

Dear Donkin,

I have your letters and they make Me so happy. I know how deeply you feel and want to be with Me, always, but your time too is coming. You will be with Me and work for Me, much more than you did here. But before that time comes, just go on with your studies, diligently and cheerfully and rest assured that I AM ALWAYS WITH YOU, wherever I am, for I love you and take you to be one of My nearest and dearest.

I am very happy you worked so lovingly, as instructed,

during your stay here and also performed your duty about the boy so satisfactorily. With a heart so loving and with the enthusiasm and eagerness to work for Me, you will in the future work wonderfully. Meanwhile, just remember all I have told you and mind your studies.

Write Me and report the news at your end.

All My Love,

Signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

Kitty Davy writes under Baba's direction ...

Meherabad
8 December 1937

Dear Donkin,

I have by me a list of letters to be written for Baba and I see that there are two of yours that have not been answered. My fault, so here goes. It will have to be short as it is the seventh and I have written pages to Kimco. Also Baba keeps on asking when I shall be finished writing.

Your letters are always so breezy and full of humor. They tickle Baba, I am sure, but remember to write very clearly or He won't be bothered to read them.

You are right. Really nothing gets in a mess here. All is perfectly planned and organized. I am really interested and surprised. Not only does Baba interest Himself in the smallest detail of our own life - its health, food, and general activities - but also the whole of the management up here is also in Baba's hands. Every detail on the domestic side He plans and arranges. The same, I am sure, is true of the ashram at the bottom of the Hill.

Baba told this interesting fact the other day, that all four aspects of the four great Avatars were embodied in the present Avataric period. The Buddha - with his poise, peace, calm exterior, and renunciation - is present in all Avatars whether

it shows externally or not. Today, however, the work of the Avatar has to be active. He is Mohammed in his strict discipline with the men, Krishna in his life up here with the group, and Jesus in his work with the mad-men (*masts*), washing them, feeding them, healing them, etc., at the dispensary. This I thought was very interesting. Later on, by the time you come, there will be here the leper ashram and an ashram for the distressed.

Baba is so happy here but He has caught a chill again washing all the masts. Also He has, as you say, such a sensitive body and His skin is so sensitive that the carbolic soap He uses and His having His hands so much in water does affect His skin and makes it very chapped and sore.

I hope you have not forgotten the book I asked for. There is no hurry for it. Wait till you can pick it up second-hand. Rano, too, thinks it will be very useful to Baba. I expect you will be spending Christmas at home. Will you pass this letter on to the Backetts? I will now write to them, but will not repeat what I have said to you.

Life is too wonderful up here. There is only one difficulty to be overcome, but this is fully compensated by having Baba so much with us all the day and having Him so completely Himself - no humorings, no best manners and the like. You would laugh to see Him get up on those cold mornings - half Indian and half English clothes and He does laugh at Himself. He has so much humor - more than any of us. Well this must do for now as I must write to the Backetts.

Love from Baba,
Kitty

Signed also by Baba - M.S. Irani

P.S.

Both your letters just arrived. Rano and I find your ideas helpful and interesting. Yes, selfishness is the cause I am sure, and hence if the ego is the cause there lies the reason for checking the same. Re: telegraphic address, Baba says after Christmas is quite O.K. and then not unless quite convenient

because it is used so very little and Baba does not at the moment want cables unless they are prepaid so don't do anything if it is not easy.

Cannes
21 October 1937

Dear Donkin,

I was very happy to receive your letter from Paris and glad to know you had a smooth journey. I received your telegram and was very pleased to know that you had no difficulty in getting Jose back to the colony and that he is being sent to a school in Belgium.

I know how deep and sincere your feeling and love for Me are and you grew much closer and dearer to Me this time in Cannes.

I trust you to follow My instructions and I ask you not to worry about anything and to be happy in My love for you.

Signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

Meherabad
11 December 1937

Donkin, my dear boy,

I have your beautiful letters. They not only amuse Me but make Me happy as they come from a heart that is so loving and sincere.

Don't ever bother about mind irritation. Your heart is so beautiful and belongs to Me. That is enough.

I am glad you are diligently pursuing your studies which I want you to finish soon before you come to Me, permanently for ever.

Write and give Me news from your end and don't worry about anything.

My love to all the dear ones, and to you My dearest Donkin.
Mohammed¹³ often remembers you.

Signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

25 January 1938

Dear Don,

In reply to your last letter I definitely want you to take your M.B. plus the Conjoint degrees. This is My definite wish and order, even if it delays your coming here a few months.

Work your hardest now to acquire all the scientific knowledge of your subject as you can, so that you may later use it for the benefit of humanity. .

Keep cheerful and don't worry.

All love,

signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

Kitty Davy writes under Baba's direction ...

Meherabad
1 March 1938

Dear Donkin,

Baba has received all your letters, although since the birthday they have remained unanswered. This you will understand. Now he wants me to write to you for Him and answer any questions you raise.

First to let you know He received the welcomed contribution for the Birthday Feast. Everything went off splendidly. From 6 a.m. to dusk the roads leading to the spot were filled with a stream of participants. Mostly all came by foot. They were a little different from the type we saw last year. Those were the

lame, sick, and absolutely destitute. However, this year more of the peasant type came from scattered villages around. Baba touched the feet of each and gave the symbolic *ladu*, a sweet-meat ball, to each. Then all had a meal in the tent. Apart from these 5,000, there were about 250 invited guests on the 20th. Most arrived on the evening of the 18th and left on the 21st or 22nd making four to five days of festivities. There was no detail of the arrangement Baba did not supervise and settle Himself. As always, the actual carrying out of His plans was done by His followers, but only according to Baba's instructions; consequently everything went off up here (we were 80) and down below without a hitch of any kind. There was music in the afternoon and again in the evening.

You mention in your letter how you used to see Baba after He finished washing and feeding Mohammed at Cannes. Do you know, Baba shaves and cuts the hair of one *mast* each day, and washes from head to foot six of them. All this apart from the feedings, coaxings, humorings, etc., and this in the heat here. When Baba returns up the hill between 12 and 1 you can picture how tired He must be. He goes down about 7:20 a.m. each day - Sundays too.

Yes, I too wish you could finish your training sooner and so be here to help Baba, but it is essential you are fully qualified first. Then if Baba wanted, you could even supervise a hospital, that is if Baba has such an idea in His mind. He talks of the leper colony and the home for the destitute.

In fifteen days from now we will all move, about 20 of us, to a hill station called Panchgani. Baba has taken two bungalows there. This is also known as Tiger Valley, and it is in this spot where Baba has His cave and where He spent many months fasting. The cave is kept locked. Norina, I believe, will spend some part of each day in it. Perhaps Baba too. He has not said yet what He will do there - beyond walking. This I shall enjoy. I miss this most of all here. Baba says: "Keep happy and don't worry!" He is Infinite and is with you always and He will become yours as you become more completely His. Go on loving Him more and more and this will increase your understanding of Him and His ways of working. Love alone holds the key to the knowledge of God. And Love in its highest form is God and He will give you the Grace to love Him more, as you ask.

Write Him as usual. All letters will be forwarded.

Did I tell you, Nonny, Elizabeth, Kippy, and two birds have all arrived safely from New York. At present all the western group, Kippy, and the two birds sleep in one large, very lofty room. We go to bed at 8:30 - all ready to fall straight to sleep and get up at 6. It is unbelievable that we should be ready for sleep so early. This, I believe, is partly Baba's working in some way or another.

Love and good wishes,

Signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

Kitty Davy writes under Baba's direction ...

Panchgani
4 April 1938

Dear Donkin,

Baba received your letters and wants me to write and tell you that He quite understands your moods and feelings and the restlessness that comes over you from time to time. Go on trying to control these moods because, as He says, where does control come in if you have no moods to control?

I will be sending you shortly a very interesting article on *sanskaras* that Baba dictated to us last evening. Most interesting. It is about three types of *sanskaras* and about the ones that Baba gives to His Circle of 120. The whole article was in answer to our question of how the Circle accumulates *sanskaras* if they only come back to this plane when the Avatar is here. The answer Baba gave was this interesting talk.

Now about the life here I will not speak as I have already written a long account to Will and Mary asking them to show the letter to you. How you would enjoy climbing up and down the Tiger Valley! Baba leads the way and is so full of fun on the walks. Now what will interest you is the new plan for Mysore - especially for the West. Meherabad is not ideal enough

- the climate and water conditions - and before Baba speaks He wants the big center in Mysore. There is to be a leper hospital, and a hospital for the spiritually mad, a dispensary, and a center for youth desiring to lead a spiritual life - ages 16 to 20 - of course separate. This Baba seems very keen on, so now see what work lies ahead for you. We should be in a temporary building in Mysore 6 months from now.

Is it not strange that Herbert [Davy] has been working for the past six months at a special course in our biggest mental asylum which will enable him to take a post shortly in an asylum? Now why suddenly this branch? Isn't it Baba's working behind the scenes! Anyway He said He will shortly turn the key!

signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

Meherabad
27 June 1939

Dear Dr. Donkin,

We are very glad to know from Baba that you have passed your final medical examination and I in particular congratulate you upon securing the M.B.,B.S. degree. Further, our happiness is increased by the news that you are coming here to serve dear Baba. We are all awaiting your arrival.

Baba is contemplating opening a hospital here or at Jubbulpore which will be given in your and my charge. I have learned from Baba that you are bringing surgical instruments with you, including microscope and blood-pressure instruments. I am very happy at this piece of news.

May I request you to bring all your medical books, especially those which will give practical hints in treating cases? Please buy if you can the latest edition of "Treatment" by Bellingham-Smith, two volumes, and "Ward's Book of Prescription." Please bring those books which you think will be useful to us.

With love from Baba and the mandali,

Nilkant Godse (Dr. Nilu)

Also signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

Meherabad
1 June 1939

Dear Donkin,

Today I have received your letter and telegram and am very happy with the results as I am sure you too are.

Now for future plans. Your work lies here and I have great work for you in the future.

If I send for you to come immediately, can you pay your own fare and living expenses? There will be no other expenses other than your living expenses which will be 2 pounds a week.

Even if you cannot, do not worry, but come immediately. Wire Me when to expect you.

I am very happy and send you all My Love.

signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

4 Palace Road
Bangalore
25 May 1940

Dear Baba,

Many thanks for your poem in "Chinese". Here is my reply in the same language:

O thank You for Your letter
Which has made us feel much better.
Tho' the war news is so bad;
When we read our daily paper,
Of the Allies on the caper,
We naturally feel a little sad.
But Your letter and its message,
Which bears to us a presage,
That even if the world is mad,
There's a Man who has the knack of it,
Is really at the back of it,
And so indeed our hearts are glad.

Our Babooli is the Master,
Who will save us from disaster,
In the deep dark hours of the night;
With our thoughts upon Him hourly,
We shall trust in Him entirely,
Till the dawning of the morning light.

Herewith one maund of Chinese salaams and much love from
PI-CHI ("Chinese" form of Peachy¹⁴) i.e. Donkin.

W. Donkin.

27 May 1940

Dear Pi-Chi,

Your "Chinese" poem was excellent - nay superb, and it made Me very happy reading it. Did Ghani see it? Had he any hand in it?

I am going into seclusion in June and July, and these two months will decide the turn of events of the universe.

Love to you all,

signed by Baba - M.S. Irani

20 December 1940

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to advise that Dr. William Donkin has been authorized by Me to drive My Chevrolet, a private motor car with Bombay registration number BYN 482, from Calicut to Rajputana.

The car is to carry the personal luggage of our party, which is proceeding ahead by train. The luggage contains the personal effects of our party only.

Yours faithfully,

M.S. Irani

Permanent Residence:
Meherabad Ashram,
Ahmednagar (Bombay Presidency)

21 June 1940

Dear PI-CHI,

Start immediately for Meherabad with bag and baggage and some peaches from the Bangalore market. Love to all.

M.S. Irani

Myrtle Beach
20 May 1952

Dear Don, Adi, Meherji, Nilu, Gustadji,
Avoid all temptations and most of all, lust;
Be honest and fair and noble and just.
Don't talk "Faltu"¹⁵ but of Baba talk you must,
For center night duty find a boy, not one dry as dust,
And don't "boil the flour" taking too much crust.
I do not doubt, but warn you in loving faith and trust.

Baba

Dear Don,

Read this to the others. I want you all to feel assured that it is not doubt which made Me write this, but just that I was in the mood to send you this verse, and it is also to avoid unnecessary complications unconsciously made.

Baba

"Written by Mani, Baba's sister, and sent
to me by Baba's order," ... William Donkin

A True Story

There was a bus,¹⁶ so blue was she,
No sky or hill can bluer be.
Oh, that time we met her first,
With joy my heart did nearly burst.

She travelled North, she travelled South,
East and West and round about.
Many a place she's wandered to;
She was a gypsy through and through.

Once she started, nothing could stop her.
She raced from Bangalore right to Gersoppa.
While that trip from Dehra Dun to Quetta,
Was too thrilling to express by word or letter.

She'd glide o'er valleys so green to the sight,
Or through the black jungles up to nearly midnight.
Sometimes over roads as smooth as glass,
You'd think they were really too good to pass.

Next moment such shocking roads would meet -
With rage the bus would rattle her teeth.
While the poor occupants cramped in her belly
Would shake like the finest Mc'Horton jelly.

What one couldn't help admiring was her Herculean will
Once she made up her mechanical mind to stand still.
She'd stop on a mountain or a ditch of water
Or any old place that her fancy caught her.

Or when she was tired (just a pain in the head)
She would stop to rest in a soft river bed;
And twenty bullocks with humps and all
Could but hardly make her move at all.

Or else she'd stop with her fantastic load
Right in the midst of an offensive road;
For being admired by mixed crowds of people
Made her no less elevated than St. Mark's steeple.

There were curious gazes, unbashful stares;
Delightful faces, amusing glares.
Tongues and heads and beards a-wagging,
Children's laughter with jestful bragging.

Would speak a wise one, "Upon my word,
This is the circus that we have heard
Was forthcoming soon; it is no yarn,
It's the biggest we've seen in Hindustan."

With scorn and pity would remark another,
"You're simply talking nonsense brother;
It is as plain as a needle's eye,
They're poor refugees from Shanghai."

Wherever she was put, in whatever place,
She never remarked, never made a face.
(This fact is really more than ample
For any of us to take example).

Sometimes on the journey I've heard her groan,
And squeak and clatter in every bone;
But the winters she put up with, no doubt,
May have given her a formal touch of the gout.

In spite of that she was a cheerful bird;
For whenever you wished, you could have heard
Such laughter and songs inside that'd make you
Think she was a traveling radio.

Sometimes arguments and Oh, such fuss!
I wonder what the dear old bus thought of us.
She must have been tickled quite a good bit,
For often we've heard her tyre-sides split.

What beats me is the way she always grew bigger.
Not that it made any difference to her figure.
But with *bhagulas* and pails forever increasing
And fainting and freezing, potatoes and sneezing;
Laughing, singing, shouting and stuff,
One would have thought she had had enough!

But not once did she let her dignity fall;
She'd "swallow it down" with a gulp of petrol.
And however ridiculous our number may be,
She'd remark with a smile that's cheerful to see,
"Get in my dears, and don't mind me."

But those were the days when she was younger;
And now she rests in peaceful slumber.
Soothing her shattered iron nerves,
Digesting a rest she truly deserves.

Ah! Separation has made my heart quite sore!
But I shall not endeavour to say much more.
For dear memories are never dead,
And things understood are better unsaid.

Mani

The Bus (a reply) by W. Donkin

- 1) It was a very noble rhyme
About the poor old Chevrolet
How any time in any clime
The bulky dame would ply her way.

2. So would you please congratulate
The poetess who penned the poem,
It was decidedly first rate
To those that love the bus and know'im.
(This verse has changed the bus's sex
But this should not the reader vex.)
3. How sad that in these days of war
Because of drastic petrol ration
We cannot as we did before
Take gangs of ladies in this fashion.
4. These ladies were they refugees,
A circus troupe or hockey team?
Enlighten each enquirer please
Inquisitive though he should seem.
5. The tongues of France and U.S.A.
The tongues of Gujarat, Poona
And Kaka's tongue that strives to say
What other's tongues would say the sooner.
6. Masi's knees would stiffen badly
Kitty's pots would loudly clatter
Rano's hands would gesture madly
And Margaret would glare back at'er.
7. What a lovely jovial jumble
Within the dusty Chevrolet,
O to hear her rolling rumble
Along the summer Indian way.
8. So when the war has had its day
We'll roam the country far and wide
In a new blue Chevrolet
With none but Baba as our guide.

Letters

MEHER BABA

*A letter dictated by Meher Baba to
Bhau Kalchuri for children who had written to
Him (translated from Hindi) ...*

Satara

18 September 1955

I was very happy to receive your love-filled letter in your sweet language. I love all of you. I love children. Do you know why? Because your Baba is also a child. You are innocent and so am I. My very name is Bholanath.⁹ Just as your heart is soft so is Mine. You like to play games and so do I.

Now tell me whether or not I am a child. I am old, I am young, I am a woman, I am a man, I am a mother, I am father - and I am everything. But I am more like a child. That is why you should make Me your friend. But remember this: Always keep this Friend with you. Don't forget. When you eat, remember your Friend; when you play, remember Him. When you study, that time too first remember your Friend, and then study. When you sleep, remember Me and then sleep.

All of you say that when you call Me, I never listen. It is not true; Baba is such a friend that even for a moment He is never away from you. When you remember Me I know, because I am with you all the time. When you play, I am also playing with you. When you go to school, I am also in school with you. I never leave you, but you are never aware of it. When you tell the truth - I know it; when you tell a lie - that I also know. I know everything. So listen to Me, My friends, never tell a lie, live honestly; if you don't do this your Friend will be unhappy.

Now if you ask Me how it is that I stay always with you but you never see Me, I would say that I like to play games very much, and most of all I like to play hide-and-peek. In this game I am *Ustad* (Master) because I hide and see everything. In order to see and find Me, you will have to search for Me. Look for Me, seek Me and try to find Me. Seek Me, find Me, defeat Me in this game, and you win!

But where will you look for Me? I am hiding in your heart, so

search for Me in your heart. How will you search for Me? Always remember Me, call Me, make Me your dear friend. Because I am your friend I will respond to your call immediately. Whenever people call Me I listen, but not as much as I do to children. Grown-up persons call Me a lot, they cry and they weep, but at times I remain as if I'm deaf. But if children call Me softly, I listen immediately to their sweet voices. My ears are very sharp to their call. Why is this so? Because I am so close to you and with you. That is why you should remember Me more and more. If you remember Me I will be happy. If you lie I will be unhappy, so always try to keep Me happy by speaking the truth.

Now tell Me whether you will make Me your friend. If you do I will reward you with a reward such as you have never received before. And the name of My reward is LOVE. Always ask Me for this reward, but remember it is expensive. You will ask for more and more and once you have it you won't be able to be without it. Children, your Baba has an endless store of this reward, and when you ask for it more and more, Baba will give it to you.

Meher Baba to Quentin Tod ...

Meherabad
18 December 1935

My dear Nared,¹⁰

I have all your loving letters, and know how you long to be of service to Me. You have been and will be still more, dear boy.

Why should you feel yourself unworthy and why do you think that I am pulling on you and so forth? I love you *as you are*. You have a nice, frank, receptive heart that can and does love in spite of constant reverses, as you say, from the head. And that is all I want.

When one completely depends on Me and leaves things to Me

as you have, I see that the reverses from the head gradually give way. I will order everything for the best, as you desire.

Becoming aware of your own weaknesses opens your way and leads you to rise above them. They all have to come out sometime, and the sooner the better. Things are being stirred up, and they are all brought out to prepare you for the greater future that is to be yours.

Love Me more and that will take care of everything, consuming all in its flame, till nothing but Love Divine remains. That is all I want you to do, more and more.

- Baba

Letters

PADRI

*Padri's account of the ceremony
of 15 February 1951 ...*

Pimpalgaon
16 February 1951

You know very well that I had undertaken Baba's new construction work to be finished by the night of the 14th, but luckily it was finished by 13th evening - save for a very minor detail of filling cement mortar around Baba's new cabin. This work was carried to a finish without hindering any of Baba's other work, such as bringing in His things and adjusting and preparing His cabin for His seclusion that was to start the next day. Apart from Baba, Eruch was pleased even more as he had one full day to attend to all the preliminaries before Baba took up His abode in the cabin. Eruch himself said it was good that the work was finished one day before so that we have enough time to prepare for the ceremonies to be done tomorrow. Well, on my last trip to Nagar in the Jeep I brought several things required, such as coconuts and *prasad*. As these things also arrived early and as there was one full day for the preparations, the work went on smoothly. For some time Mehera, Mani, (and who else I don't know) paid a visit through the north entrance and adjusted something for Baba and then went away. During their arrival everybody was chased out of the enclosure - including the *mast*.

As usual Baidul attends to the *mast's* needs and keeps a watch on him. They are both lodged in the smaller garage which has a rear entrance from Baba's motor cabin. The plan shows this clearly. At the same time, along with Baba entering the seclusion, circulars were sent out to some people to bring one *mast* at their own expense and deliver the same at Pimpalgaon. This circular has gone to many people but I forget their names. Baba says that till 1st January 1952 He will busy himself with these *masts*, and from 1st onwards till February 10th, i.e., for 40 days, He will work and stick to His *manonash*¹⁷ work rigidly. This He said after the ceremony

yesterday morning. Now for the ceremonies that took place before Baba started His seclusion down the hill.

Photos of *Zarathustra*, Christ, Krishna, Buddha, Babajan and Kalam from the Koran were brought for the occasion. First Kaikobad Dastur performed the *navjote* ceremony, recited prayers, and made Baba wear the *kasti*¹⁸. This took about 20 minutes in all, and on conclusion of this Zarthushti ceremony, Baba bowed down to the picture of Zoroaster, and then to the *afargan* (fire urn). This *afargan* is a model, one of five. The other four are of a *mandir*, a cross, a *masjid* and a *gurudwar*¹⁹. The last one is an exact replica of Amritsar *gurudwar* of the Sikhs. During each ceremony, Zoroastrian, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, and Mohammedan, the respective photos were put on the table in Baba's room.

After the conclusion of each ceremony, Baba first bowed down before the prophet of that particular religion and its ceremony was gone through.

During Baba's *kusti* (Zoroastrian) ceremony, the *afargan* was lighted and incense burned. At the finish Zarthusstra's photo was removed from the table but kept on one of the two shelves, specially made for keeping these pictures. The ceremonies took place in the sequence mentioned above, Zoroastrian, Hindu, Buddhist, and Mohammedan. As the Moslems have no photo of the Prophet, a photo written with Allah, Mohammed, Fatima, Hassan and Hussein was brought (such a photo can be found in any Moslem house). But along with this photo, Babajan's photo was placed beside it. Incidentally, Baba mentioned some anecdotes of Sai Baba, Upasni Maharaj, Babajan, etc., and said that Babajan was the Emperor.

During an interval when Baba came down from the hill for three days, He said that after He went into seclusion again external noise of any kind would not affect Him in the least. If you remember, I had told you this, but He then insisted that our dogs be kept quiet at night so that He could sleep well for those three nights. We succeeded in doing this but you know the program again changed, and the cabins were shifted down, and then the topic of the dogs again came up. The dogs were given to Adi Sr. till February 16, 1952. In short, Baba pointed out that a noise of any kind would be intolerable but I'd be allowed to work in the engine room and finish my motor-

bike. On the 14th, however, I was given a notice that I couldn't work in the engine room as my fitting work would give rise to noises which would hinder Baba's work. So I was given three choices: either go to Giara's bungalow, go to Nagar, or go to Meherabad, finish the job, and deliver the motorbike to Don by 1st January 1952. I preferred Meherabad, but today I changed my mind and decided to stick to Pimpalgaon and finish the job here, because taking the dismantled motorbike and also my bag and baggage for 15 days to Meherabad would have been a lot of bother, not to mention arrangements for food. As for food here, I have been allowed to eat anywhere or cook for myself what I like. I have been given the old kitchen for attending to my needs. So since yesterday my "hotel" has been shifted there. Besides, today through Pendu I sent word to Baba asking if I could work in the engine room without making any noise, barring some kind of very feeble ones. He called me and Kaka and told me I could work and He would not mind feeble noises.

So when I had decided not to go to Meherabad, my food up to the 18th was to come from inside (the woman's side of Meherabad), and from 1st January I was to look after myself. Today the judgement was made - stop food from tomorrow the 17th and cook your own. So you see I'll have to manage. This decision being very sudden I was at a loss as to how to manage, but somehow everything turned up and I'll be able to manage on my own.

When Adi Sr. came yesterday to attend the ceremony, he was feeling chilly and had a temperature from 102° to 104°. It seems he has a severe attack of flu.

Padri

I forgot to mention that before the ceremonies Baba told us to take part in them wholeheartedly and that if we did not do so we were quite likely to *misunderstand*, which would have an adverse affect on His work.

So to repeat what I said: first the photo was placed for the ceremony. On conclusion of the ceremony, Baba first bowed down before the photo and then to the show-case with the models of the five emblems of the five religions. The ceremonies started at 9 a.m. and were over by 10:30 a.m., Ramju

concluding the program. Then Baba distributed *pendas* to everybody. I forgot to mention that at the conclusion of each ceremony, Baba also bowed down to the doer of the ceremony, i.e., Kaikobad, Don, Vishnu, Nilu, and Ramju. After the conclusion of these five ceremonies, Baba asked Baidul to pray to God that whatever Baba has undertaken to do would conclude successfully. Baidul prayed in Parsi.

Then the program of the 15th ended. During the ceremonies, only male members were present, the five *pujaries*, or performers, and, among the others, Pendu, Eruch, Gustadji, Krishna, Adi Sr., and myself. During the program the *Thana mast* was kept outside in charge of Chima and Jaba, and it seems he got angry and started walking away. Chima and Jaba had a time to coax him back again. Chima received some cuffing from the *mast*. However he came back and there was no more row.

Hyderabad
28 June 1951

For the first time in many days there was serious talk by Baba. He said what He had to say in the morning by way of His manifesto. This describes what step He will take and when. An explanation of the whole proceeding is much too long to put into this letter, and we, i.e., Savak and I, can inform you of all that has happened here.

In the afternoon Baba also gave a lecture on the annihilation of the mind and how it can be brought about. To me He is repeating all His old advice and explanations given from time to time to the mandali. In fact, it is everything that I had already told you by way of being an H.M.V. (his master's voice), which I really am. From all Baba's explanations today, it seems that the New Life²⁰ may take a change for better or worse by the 16th of February 1952. Baba says that it is for the best and not for the worst. There could be nothing else. He is going to take a step on 16 October 1951, the result of which will manifest to the mandali and the world by 16th February 1952.

Padri

Baba's New Life plans ...

Pimpalgaon
14 August 1951

You must have received my letter yesterday and here is another expressly for you people giving you all the news of Baba.

You all know that Baba is taking a step between 16 October 1951 and 16 February 1952 during which He'll undergo "400 deaths". He has settled the program though October is still far off. So I'm giving you what will be given in the circular.

Baba will sit in seclusion for 30-40 days on a hill about 10 miles from Hyderabad. Then He'll go on foot to Aurangabad - a distance of about 350 miles - in 30-40 days and stay in Aurangabad for 4-5 days. Then, in the last phase, He'll either come to Pimpalgaon or go to Kolegaon near Dhond. Pimpalgaon is preferred, because Baba wants one of His old life places, and as there is already a structure on the hill, He prefers it. Mind you, as He says, He can do anything He likes; He can observe or supersede anything He has said. So, we cannot definitely say what He will do during the ensuing months. But His words today reminded me of those of old when He said that He will be near death, or that His life will literally be hanging by a thread with extreme physical suffering and His extremities distorted. Then He will speak as He has said before. I remember I told you all that it may be like this, or it may be something else. Who knows? He knows, He knows... It might be Pimpalgaon or any other place. Malu tells me that Baba had said He will break His Silence where He started it, and that is Meherabad. In short, you just cannot fathom what Baba will do tomorrow or what His intentions are. I firmly believe He will speak in Meherabad where He began his silence. But then again, He knows - He knows.

Well, Maki, how are you feeling these days? I am fine and pass my time happily and hope the time on your head does not

lie heavy. I am trying to pick up a chance for Poona but luck does not favour me as every time Sarosh goes his car has a full complement of passengers.

Padri

The ceremony of 24 December 1951 ...

Pimpalgaon
27 December 1951

Received yours of 23rd and noted, especially, about my swearing.

First let me give you the details of the doings here in sequence - forgiving my memory of course. On Friday the 21st I posted my 2nd letter. On that day I had been to Jeur with Vishnu regarding our rations. On my return I found a note from Siddhu which was an S.O.S. calling me urgently to Meherabad to attend to the pump engine which has been giving trouble for the past few days. On reading the note I had thought of going the next day, but I made up my mind to go the same afternoon on cycle, pass the night, work the whole of Saturday, and return on Sunday. While I was thinking about this, Eruch came out and brought a message from Baba asking me whether I'd be able to finish my work by the 28th. I told Eruch that I was under the impression that I was to finish the motorbike by the first of January 1952; I further added that I had to go to Meherabad to look after the engine there. Then Eruch went in and came back and said, "Baba says, 'One of us is mad. I know I had told you to finish the work by the 28th. Never mind, try your best and go to Meherabad to repair the engine there.' "

So I left Pimpalgaon at 3 p.m. arriving Nagar (Ahmednagar) at 4 p.m. There Malu told me that she too was to go to Meherabad to bring something for the women mandali and asked me to drive her. I told her that I was on push bike and that I was going to stay for two nights work. Savak

(Damania) then said that I should go in the car. Malu told Mahmud - the driver of the car - to go to Meherabad on my bike, and I drove the car. On the way we picked up Naoroji and Alu and Goolamasi. Khorshed and Dorab also accompanied us.

I worked the whole of Saturday on the engine and finished the job by lantern by about 7 p.m. I left Meherabad the next morning after seeing Mansari and arrived in Nagar by noon, had lunch, and reached Pimpalgaon by 5 p.m. Baba was to come out the next day (the 24th) so I hurried with the work and was back on the evening of the 23rd.

On the morning of the 24th, before Baba came out, He did the ceremonies of the dead and living ones, about which you must have received the circular. For this occasion, two old men were brought (on orders from Baba) by Adi K. from Nagar, and as usual they were warned not to utter a single word or disturb the ceremony in any way. They were told that Baba would wash their feet and bow down to their feet, and that while doing so they should not hinder Baba's activities. They obeyed, and the ceremony was gone through. After it was finished, Baba went inside at about 11 a.m. then came to our side about 3 p.m., called Eruch, and told him to tell us all that certain dead persons were overlooked and omitted from the list. These numbered 11 persons. Our servant, Jaba, was caught hold of, and Baba performed the ceremony again using Jaba, also giving him rupees 11 for 11 persons. The 11 persons had been remembered after the two Nagar old men had left. Then again by 3 p.m., three more dead ones were remembered, and for that occasion Jaba, the tiffin-carrier boy, was caught again and the ceremony gone through. Baba expressed that Jaba served His purpose well, as he was a boy. Baba washed Jaba's feet near our quarters, then bowed down to each one separately, finally giving him 3 rupees. This terminated the ceremonies of the dead and the living ones.

It took everybody two days to prepare the list of the dead persons. Even after two days, there were oversights. After Baba came out, we all got permission to give full volume to our loud speakers, which had been rather silent these days. Baba said that we could talk and laugh with everyone and freely move about until 1 p.m. on the 27th. On the 25th there was

nothing unusual except that Baba paid frequent calls from inside. These were over a dozen in all. On the 26th everybody was to have *palav*²¹ cooked by Maulavisab in Nagar. Baba also told me not to get my food from Nagar, but to partake with everybody. For this day Adi K. and Don remained here the entire day and in the morning at 6 a.m. the lunch was distributed by Baba Himself.

Don and Adi K. were here till 7 p.m. having arrived here at 10:30 a.m. Baba had His usual hurry with the new circulars and wanted them to reach everybody by 15th January. As Adi K. would not have been able to cope with the addresses of so many people, the names list and the envelopes were brought here and Eruch, Pendu, Don, Nilu and Adi K. did the addresses, while I attended to my motorbike which I finished yesterday. However, on trying it out in the evening, I found that it was not running properly. There remains some defect. I told this to Baba adding that I would be able to fix it soon.

For delivering the motorbike, I'll have to go to Meherabad as I have to instruct Don as to how it should be ridden, the machine being new to him. Don is going to Bombay tomorrow for his book work and is coming back in a week's time. So I've got plenty of time to attend to the bike.

The 26th ended happily with a fifteen minute play being performed for us that had been done by the women mandali. It was a short comic strip. The parts were played by Naja, Mani, Meheroo, Rano, Kitty, Goher, and Rakhma. Meheroo became a *pucca* [real] Irani lady fresh from Iran, and Goher, her husband. Their part was in *Dari* language and to understand the funny side of it you should know *Dari*. Those who know *Dari*, i.e., myself, Pendu, and Baidul, could enjoy the comic piece.

Then came Rano as a Parsi gentleman called Dhunjisha with Parsi cap and spectacles, and Kitty as a Parsi lady. The last act was *Musalmani* - with Mani as the Moslem gent and Naja as the wife. Rakhma played the station coolie and the whole drama was a scene of a railway station with these raw Iranis from Iran and the old-fashioned Parsi family from Bombay, the Parsi lady complete with head-band and the Moslem lady with *burkha* and blanket.

Rano's part as Dhunjisha was best, and her delivery of

Gujarati language very, very good and we think that Rano stole the show as Dhunjisha. She really looked like a thin Bombay Parsi gentleman with the Parsi cap and acted and delivered the words superbly. Indeed, the whole show was good, although it lasted only fifteen minutes.

In a few days you'll be receiving another circular which will tell you what Baba will be doing the last 50 days of *manonash*. He will explain what He has to do to fight the mind which has seven bad qualities - lust, anger, jealousy, back-biting, lies, greed, infatuation, etc. This He explained to us on the 25th and after telling us what the mind - the enemy - consisted of and how to fight the mind on its own ground with the opposing weapons. I was reading the board and I can't quite remember all. Eruch was writing down the dictation which will be made fair and corrected grammatically, and then put in the circular and distributed to all.

Then Baba told us all to observe silence, i.e., avoid all noise as much as possible, by giving the example of a soldier in a battlefield. He pointed me out as a soldier in a battlefield trying to kill an enemy. He said, "Say you are in a battle and around you are all sorts of armaments - tanks, machine guns firing, and planes dropping bombs. You are ready with a gun in hand, ready to shoot down your enemy. But just then a bumblebee buzzes near your ear and distracts your attention! Then what happens? Your attention is drawn away from the enemy and towards this bumblebee and at that instant the enemy gets the better of you and kills you. So, if you make any noise while I'm working for *manonash*, My attention is drawn away from the work and this hinders the progress. So try to keep silent as much as possible."

Then He gave us each a name of God to whisper everyday. Some for one hour, some for fifteen minutes and so on. I'm given Yazdan, the Hindus Parabramha, the Moslems Allah Hu, etc. I'm to whisper fifteen minutes only, any time of day. Baba's food and tea come from inside (the woman's side of Meherazad) and Goher brings it outside, gives it to Kaka, who in turn, gives it to Eruch, who takes it inside to Baba. Today at 1:15 p.m. Baba came towards us in a dark chocolate coat and salaamed us all before entering His final seclusion of 50 days.

At about 3 p.m., a *mast* from Hamirpur who was brought by

Pankhraj was brought to Pimpalgaon by Adi K. and Babadas. From the noise coming from the enclosure, I could imagine that the *mast* was prepared for a haircut and a bath after much coaxing by Eruch and Pendu. Everything is quiet now. I'll let you know further news from this side, but always make it a point of acknowledging my letters.

Padri

The special program of 23 January 1952 ...

Pimpalgaon
23 January 1952

I wrote to you last night giving you news from headquarters. I am sitting down again to write what happened one hour ago.

You were informed that Baba was going into stricter seclusion from 23rd to 1st February, but before He began this ordeal He had asked the male residents by a small circular to do the following:

- 1) Everybody including Krishna to be present at 7 p.m. sharp on the evening of 23rd of January, 1952;
- 2) Gustadji to light the *dhuni*;
- 3) After lighting the *dhuni*, Kaikobad will chant 101 names of God;
- 4) After that Kaka and Kaikobad will chant loudly, "Ya Ahuramazda" seven times; Gustadji will utter the name in *maun* (silence);
- 5) Then Pendu and Padri will chant, "Ya Yazdan" seven times;
- 6) After them Krishna, Vishnu and Nilu will chant, "Om Parabrahma Parmeshwara";
- 7) After them Eruch will chant, "Oh God Almighty - Father in Heaven";
- 8) After him, Baidul will chant, "La Illah-e-Illelah";
- 9) After that Baba will bow down to everyone present in the ceremony.

Everybody is to take note of the sequence in which they are to chant the name and attest to the same with their signature against his name given below:

Kaikobad – Gustadji – Kaka – Baidul – Eruch – Pendu – Padri – Nilu – Vishnu – Krishna.

This was the notice circulated on the 21st after I brought Tukaram to headquarters. I was the last one to sign because I was away. So, taking the chance, I pocketed the circular and showed it to your ma, Malu, Meherwan, Nergis Kotwal, and Mansari - so they could have the first-hand information - (and I have to talk less!). The circular was taken away by Eruch and I don't know where it is.

This morning I had been to Nagar and gave my last night's letter to your ma - who said, "You should have left it and written the whole episode after the ceremony was over." To which I replied, "If I write the entire thing in one letter, what shall I write in the next?" She just laughed. So the reason of posting a letter to you early is obvious: (1) You get something to read and meditate on, (2) You don't have to wait very long between letters, (3) I gather some material from time to time, (4) Sending all of which would delay the letter, and (5) Sending material soon gives me material for the next.

For today's ceremonial occasion, we all were called in last night and Baba explained how the ceremony should proceed, and also we had our rehearsal of chanting the names as mentioned above. This morning at 10:30 Baba wanted to relax, and for that He called everyone aside (I was absent then) to tell Him some funny stories, or talk about something light. At 12:30 - midday - He again called everyone to hear a *ghazal* of Hafiz in Persian. As I had just arrived, Eruch called me inside and told me on behalf of Baba, "Hear this *ghazal* of Hafiz and you'll feel less tired." Then Baba told us all, "This is what Hafiz says about God-Realization," and asked Baidul to read the *ghazal*. Vishnu was asked to take down the translation done in English by Baba. Some couplets were translated and some omitted, and they were sent inside to Mani to have them typed.

So at 7 p.m. this evening we all went inside and Baba gave us our positions around the *dhuni* in the order that the members were to chant what they were told. To begin with, Gustadji struck the match and the *dhuni* started burning. Then Baba

told Kaikobad to start the 101 names of God. After completing the names, he started to pray when he was stopped by Baba and asked to repeat the names again.

So Kaikobad repeated the names. Then Kaka and Kaikobad chanted as in number 4 in the circular. Then came Padri and Pendu, then Vishnu, Nilu, and Krishna (6), then Eruch (7), then Baidul (8). Then Baba bowed down to the *dhuni*. Baba did not put His head on the *dhuni*, but bowed down and then He called us near and bowed down to each one of us.

It seems that the women mandali also heard what went on during the ceremony. They remained within the compound and heard the words of the prayers. Then we all came out at about 7:10. At about 7:20, as I was warming my supper on the stove, Eruch tells me, "Baba wants you to wash your hands and come in." So I washed my hands and went inside again. We were all called again near the *dhuni*. While I was taking my position, Kaikobad was already again chanting the 101 names of God. But this time the procedure was different. All were called, but one of each batch, i.e., Kaikobad, Eruch, Nilu, Baidul, Pendu, Gustadji, and Baba himself. This time Baba stood in the same place - facing west - and also facing the *dhuni*. Baba held Gustadji's left hand with His right hand and the hand of each of the group by his left hand. Gustadji did not let go of Baba's hand throughout the ceremony; Baba held, and in turn let go of the hands of Kaikobad, Eruch, Pendu, Baidul, and Nilu. Each of these, in their order, were again asked to chant what they had chanted before. Then the ceremony terminated totally and completely.

But I forgot one thing. Before the ceremony was to start at 7:00, Nilu went inside with his stethoscope to examine Baba's heart and pulse, so that he could differentiate between His heart and pulse after He came out of his ordeal. Baba said, "Thank you, no. I appreciate your feelings for Me, but it is not necessary. Come what may, after this period of 7 days I may live or die, or the blood may rush to My head and crack My skull." Then He told Eruch to tell us what he found after Baba had sat for a time in the afternoon. Eruch said that after Baba had come out, Baba told him to feel His head and Eruch found it hot. So Baba implied, "Whatever is to happen will happen, do not worry about that as long as My work is successful."

After saying this we were taken near the *dhuni* for the ceremony.

This terminated our ceremony of 23rd January 1952.

Padri

Note: One week later Baba gave the following Declaration stating that He was free from all religious ceremonies ...

DECLARATION OF 31ST JANUARY 1952
BY AVATAR MEHER BABA. SOON
AFTER THE *DHUNI* WAS LIT
THE EVENING OF THE 7TH OF FEBRUARY
BABA HAD THIS READ OUT:

Oh Source of Infinite Knowledge, Almighty God, You know that I did all that was humanly possible for Me in this ordinary state and I leave the result entirely to Your Will and Sanction. For its fulfillment, may the moment, the hour, the day, the month, the year, the age (cycle) - *yuga*²² - be as You have decreed and destined. From this moment You must guide Me to declare in all truth, by the 16th February 1952, what You have decided. From now on I free Myself from the external religious ceremonies that I have observed during the New Life and Manonash Period.

To April 1953

Prologue

1. Our Guru, an Incarnate One, gave us a lead,
Poona Jhopdi 1922:
Since then, we've followed His Guide, indeed,
Manzil-e-meem: ²³
But oft He said, we very much need,
Agreements and circulars.

2. Our first circular was born in Bombay,
1922:
It said, June the month and tenth the day,
1923:
But we forgot it in the month of May,
1923.
3. Began then our training in right earnest,
At Arangaon:
Calm, serene were we, yet full of zest,
Ghamela Yuga:²⁴
Soared we high, thinking it our lives' test,
We grumbled not.

Circular *Yuga*

4. Some Wine He gave, then we partook,
Discourses:
Some paper He gave for us to look,
An agreement:
ONE look only, brought us to look,
For life.
5. As I said, of Wine we did partake,
Discourses:
These our spirits buoyant did make,
Agreements:
Besides our agreements, for others' sake
Were circulars.
6. Agreements and circulars came and went,
For 30 years:
To devotees, disciples, East, West were sent.
But April's circular had almost rent,
These 30 years'.
7. Here goes the month of April's end,
1953:
Which in November did much portend,
1952:
That it'd surely the Creation send,
Universal succour.

8. But my friends much do I regret,
About April:
For April's end never did beget,
The result:
And another circular'll make us forget,
April '53.
9. And give us time as July, October, or June
Of any year:
No doubt, we SHALL still play the tune,
And grumble too:
And e'en under the sod, won't be immune,
To future circulars.

Epilogue

10. Tho' this seems today a tale of woe,
Worry not:
For us, from Destiny, there's no go,
That's the Law:
Let's face it all, let's not say, "No,"
To our *Saqi*.²⁵
11. Let *Maya*, her utmost try to stave
The result:
Let's face *our* facts, and let her rave
As ordained:
But from our *Saqi's* tavern evermore crave
The Wine.
12. The Wine that *Maya* hates in her creed,
Illusion:
With which, her utmost tries to lead
From Truth:
The *Atma*²⁶, that anon wants to be freed
For ever.
13. 'Tis true, from Eternity He has sown
The Seed:
And fools we shall be if we moan
About time:
ONE THING to sate us, Eternity's Throne
Is His Grace.

14. The Seed was sown, I repeatedly say,
From Eternity:
Let *Maya*, her game of Illusion play,
For others:
Cheat her, defeat her, for our *Saqi's Day*
Has arrived.

Written without any malice to anyone; but presented with
profound apologies to the Saints - past, present and future -
sinners dead or alive, not excluding the poets.

by
Padri.

FOR HOME CONSUMPTION ONLY

P.S. All rights reserved by the writer himself who, due to an
impulse, lost mental balance temporarily and departed from his
life-long calling of Grease and Oil, to write something like
poetry(?).

P.P.S. As this poetry is being dispatched, he has almost
regained his normalcy(?).

Annotations

1. *Amartithi*: annual celebration of the day Meher Baba dropped His body, January 31, 1969.
2. *Daaman*: Lit., hem of a garment.
3. *Sanskaras*: good and bad impressions on the mind and body.
4. God *Venkateswara*: one of the names of God.
5. *Adi*: Adi K. Irani, one of Meher Baba's close mandali who visited the West several times in the 1970's.
6. *Ruano*: Ruano Bogislav, one of Meher Baba's early western disciples, who died in 1956.
7. The accident referred to took place December 2, 1956 near Satara. Dr. Nilu Godse was killed and Meher Baba was seriously injured. Vishnu, one of Meher Baba's earliest mandali, was a passenger in the car.
8. Meher Baba has explained that the Avataric Period lasts for either one hundred or two hundred years after the Avatar's physical passing; one hundred years if the Avatar returns after seven hundred years, two hundred if he returns after fourteen hundred years.
9. One of the names of Shankar, the prince of innocence.
10. *Nared*: the name given by Meher Baba to Quentin Tod, one of the early English disciples.
11. Will Backett and Kitty Davy, two of the early English disciples.
12. For a period of time, Meher Baba had some disciples searching for a spiritually ideal boy to live in the ashram. None of the candidates ever met the qualifications.
13. *Mohammed*: a *mast* (God-intoxicated person), still living at Meherabad.
14. *Peachy* or *Pi-Chi*: Meher Baba's nickname for Dr. William Donkin.
15. *Faltu*: useless; good for nothing.

16. The Blue Bus which transported Meher Baba and up to 22 of His followers on lengthy trips through India from 1939 to 1942.
17. *Manonash*: annihilation of the mind (self).
18. *Kasti*: sacred thread tied around the waist. Zoroastrian religion.
19. *Gurudwar*: Sikh temple.
20. New Life: A period from 1949-1950, described by Meher Baba as a period of helplessness and hopelessness, in which He and a handful of disciples left everything to wander through India.
21. *Palav*: seasoned rice.
22. *Yuga*: a cycle of time.
23. *Manzil-e-meem*: Meher Baba's first ashram in Bombay.
24. *Ghamela Yuga*: a path or yoga of hard physical labor.
25. *Saqi*: Lit., a cup-bearer. The spiritual tavern-keeper who dispenses the wine of Divine Love.
26. *Atma*: God in the Beyond.

Bibliography

Readers who wish to know more about Meher Baba are referred to the following:

God Speaks by Meher Baba. The Theme of Creation and Its Purpose. First published in 1955. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. 1973 Cloth.

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God To Man and Man to God, a one-volume edition of Meher Baba's Discourses, edited and condensed by C.B. Purdom. First published in England in 1955 by Victor Gollancz; reissued in 1975 by Sheriar Press. Paperback and cloth.

The Everything and the Nothing by Meher Baba. Discourses given in the late 1950's and early 1960's, compiled by Francis Brabazon. Available from Sheriar Press. Paperback and cloth.

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The Beloved: The Life and Work of Meher Baba by Naosherwan Anzar. A pictorial biography interweaving 165 photographs with a colorful text. Published in 1974 by Sheriar Press. Cloth and paperback.

Treasures from the Meher Baba Journals, compiled and edited by Jane Barry Haynes. An excellent selection from the 1938-1942 Journals including beautiful photographs of the life with Meher Baba during that period. Published in 1980 by Sheriar Press. Paperback.

Because of Love: My Life and Art With Meher Baba by Rano Gayley. A wide range of memories, accompanied by extensive art works, from a disciple of 50 years. Published in 1983 by Sheriar Press. Cloth.

The Dance of Love: My Life with Meher Baba by Margaret Craske. One hundred eighty pages of Margaret Craske's firsthand stories from her fifty years with Meher Baba, told with wit, warmth, and love. Published in 1980 by Sheriar Press. Paperback.

Love Alone Prevails: A Story of Life with Meher Baba by Kitty Davy. An extraordinary, detailed 700-page account of Miss Davy's 50 years with Meher Baba. Published in 1981 by Sheriar Press. Cloth.

Letters from the Mandali of Avatar Meher Baba, Volume I, edited by Jim Mistry. A collection of letters from seven of the mandali and containing varying degrees of Meher Baba's participation. A number of the letters show how Meher Baba maintained outer communication with his lovers while nurturing them to depend upon that which lies within. Others address a wide variety of spiritual issues. Published in 1981 by Sheriar Press. Paperback.

Glimpses of the God-Man, Volume III by Bal Natu. Detailed account of Meher Baba's activities from February 1952 to February 1953. Published by Sheriar Press in 1982. Paperback.

There are many books by and about Meher Baba. For a free booklist or further information contact: Sheriar Press, 3005 Highway 17 Bypass, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577.

Letters

FROM THE
MANDALI OF
AVATAR MEHER BABA
VOLUME II

This second volume of a planned series of letters is gleaned from a vast store of correspondence between Meher Baba and His lovers from the 1950's to 1969, and between eight of His close *mandali* and His lovers after 1969. Containing varying degrees of Meher Baba's active participation, these letters all project one unifying theme: no matter the topic, they invariably address spiritual issues along guidelines derived from Baba's own way of handling similar situations. Throughout they are uncompromising, but understanding; brief, but totally responsive; forthright, but lovingly worded. A series of letters from Meher Baba to Dr. William Donkin in the 1930's and 1940's highlights this new collection, which provides a matchless portrait of Meher Baba's relationship with those who are committed to following Him.

Register of Editorial Alterations

- Page 17, para 4, line 8, spirt changed to spirit
- Page 22, para 1, line 2, infinte changed to infinite
- Page 33, para 6, line 2, bridgroom changed to bridegroom
- Page 43, para 1, line 1, effect changed to affect
- Page 44, para 4, line 1, everyting changed to everything
- Page 45, para 2, line 4, thromg changed to throng
- Page 47, para 1, line 1, prevading changed to pervading
- Page 70, para 5, line 4, Sheperd changed to Shepherd
- Page 79, para 4, line 7, twards changed to towards
- Page 89, para 2, line 5, innumberable changed to innumerable
- Page 118, para 2, line 6, exisits changed to exists
- Page 118, para 4, line 4, is changed to it
- Page 136, para 2, line 4, effect changed to affect