



*Ultimately it is love  
that will bring about the much-  
desired equating of human  
beings all over the world, and  
without necessarily disturbing  
the inherently diverse traits  
of mankind.*

MEHER BABA

# SAMADHI DOORS ARE OPEN

## Prayers and Arti Resumed

OCTOBER 2021 brought very happy news to Beloved Baba’s lovers: the doors of Avatar Meher Baba’s Samadhi were open once again, in accordance with the state government’s directives for all temples and places of religious worship throughout Maharashtra, which naturally includes Avatar Meher Baba’s Samadhi. From October 2nd, Baba’s prayers and artis are now recited and sung at 7:00 in the mornings and evenings.

To continue to be cautious with regard to the pandemic, there are a number of government restrictions to keep all pilgrims safe. In keeping with these, Baba’s Samadhi doors are open, but the screen in front over the threshold remains. To enter the line for darshan, one must be masked, have

used hand sanitizer, and passed through the temperature check-up upon entering the portico. Inside the portico, those in line observe the marked social distancing of 6-feet apart when going around the portico for darshan at His doors. No one bows down at the door and there are no flowers, garlands, or prasad. On Meherabad Hill, as an extra precaution, Beloved Baba’s Cabin and all other historic rooms will remain locked, and His gaadi will not be available.

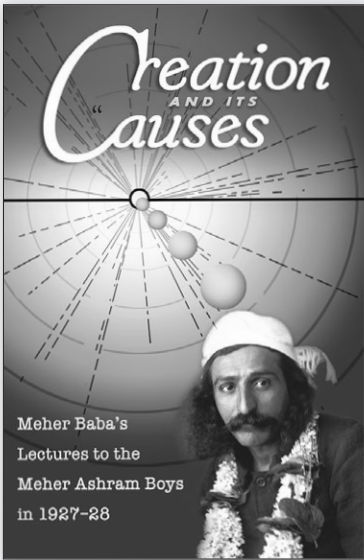
STILL, TO HAVE ARTI resuming, and to be able to gaze on His Samadhi interior once again, warms the hearts of all who venture here for His darshan. Baba’s all-inclusive love-atmosphere abides as always.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF KITTY MAUR

# CREATION AND ITS CAUSES

## MEHER BABA’S LECTURES TO THE MEHER ASHRAM BOYS IN 1927–28



EXCERPTS FROM THE INTRODUCTION  
...In the middle of 1927, the life of Meherabad underwent a sea change as Baba reoriented his activities around the newly founded boarding school, the Meher Ashram. The major body of discourse material descending from this new phase consists in the thirty-four lectures collected and typed up in a manuscript entitled “Shree’s Explanations on Creation and

the Universe and published as “Creation and its Causes.” ...Meher Baba’s lectures to the Meher Ashram boys in 1927–28 give as visionary an account of the silent Master’s “philosophy and teachings” as can be found anywhere in the body of his published writings. Broadly speaking, the subject matter is what Baba later called the “Divine Theme,” that is, the story of the soul’s journey from the moment of creation to God-realization. Yet the strange, vivid, poetic stream of Meher Baba’s exposition proves the vehicle for many startling new ideas and perspectives that we do not find in *God Speaks* and other later books. Ramjoo Abdulla, a close disciple and witness

to the original talks, recognized the significance of what he had seen and heard, and in his own book, *Sobs and Throbs* (1929), he penned an evocative description that vividly captures the flavor and essence of the experience. “It is all very novel, fantastic and fairy-tale-like,” he wrote, referring to the “small booklet” of collected lectures that had evidently been compiled by that time. “Yet it is the most logical explanation of Divinity and the whole of the creation as far as the reach of the intellect allows, that has ever been brought to light in this way. The suns and the moons, the skies and the planes, the ethereal, mineral, vegetable, animal and human kingdoms, births, deaths, heaven and hell, the subtle and the mental worlds, Saints and Prophets, and the very source of all, the Soul of souls are described, explained and shown by the Master as one would describe a city, explain the effects of wine, and show what is music after actually seeing, drinking and hearing them all. [Baba] would explain and elucidate points so very clearly and logically as would carry the hearers almost to the verge of subjective experience.\*

...As remarkable as the lectures themselves is the context in which they arose. For their audience was not comprised of seasoned disciples and mature students of Baba’s teachings...Rather, the recipients of this rarefied content were school boys....Baba regaled the approxi-

mately one hundred students...with accounts of the creation of the universe...And what an effect it was! From the outset Meher Baba’s disciples were startled by the emergence of what they called a “love-craze” among the boys. This grew...until it had swelled into a tsunami, overpowering the entire student body and precipitating in the form of uncontrolled mass weeping that went on for hours and even days at a time.  
...In its totality, *Creation and its Causes* fills an important space in the broader tapestry of Meher Baba’s spiritual philosophy over the half century of his ministry. Following *Infinite Intelligence* and *Tiffin Lectures*, it completes the trilogy of major discourse compilations from the same early Meherabad period in which Meher Baba was writing “The Book”...*Creation and its Causes* can claim a special place on strength of its extraordinary metaphysical and cosmological revelations and the visionary manner in which these are expressed. Perhaps these talks...will have an effect on the world at large...bringing together spiritual knowledge with the highest love and inspiring a New Humanity onward on the one great journey, ancient yet ever fresh, that all must eventually tread: the path to God.

*Creation and its Causes* is being published by Sheriar Foundation and will be released in early 2022 under the auspices of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust.

\* *Sobs and Throbs: Some Spiritual Highlights*, p. 15.



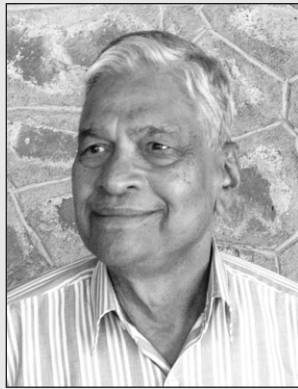
# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Baba Family,

Happily, we have been able to open accommodations at Meherabad this past October, a “soft” opening with quite a few restrictions in place. It is wonderful to have Baba pilgrims arriving once again from outside the Ahmednagar area. Although India’s COVID numbers are declining, the dangers of the pandemic are not over, and the Indian government has kept many restrictions in place to be cautious. This is a good thing, and we are really hoping that things will continue to improve and our own restrictions will start to loosen gradually. At this time, our accommodation facilities

are limited to 25% of normal capacity. In addition, we are not conducting any pilgrim activities such as films, talks, or music programs. Darshan, prayers, and arti at Baba’s Samadhi are the focus for pilgrimage now.

As announced, the Trust has had to make the decision to cancel the Amartithi program at Meherabad again this coming year. A virtual program similar to last year’s will be conducted online and is in the planning



stages now. This program was much appreciated in the Baba world last Amartithi time.

Routine maintenance at Meherabad continues as it has throughout the COVID period. Our boundary wall construction at lower Meherabad has been completed, and two of the three planned gates have been installed. Establishing the boundaries of our private Trust property will be important in the years to come.

*Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!*

Shridhar Kelkar, Chairman  
Avatar Meher Baba Trust

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PAUL LIBRION

## Selection of Yohann Noble as Trustee

On 23rd October 2021, the Board of Trustees appointed Yohann Cyrus Noble as a trustee of the Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust, the Meherazad Public Charitable Trust, and Meher Free Dispensary (Meherazad).

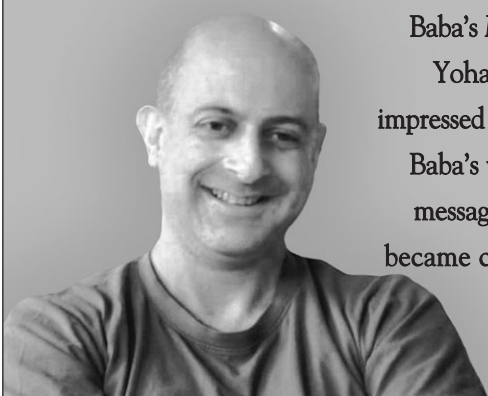
Born in January 1980 in Mumbai, India, Yohann became interested in spiritual subjects when he was sixteen; he spent his teenage years reading many books about spirituality. After visiting Meherabad with a friend and then reading

Baba’s *Discourses*,

Yohann was so impressed by Meher Baba’s words and messages that he became convinced Baba was

above any of the “masters” and “gurus” he had heard of. He was 18 years old at the time.

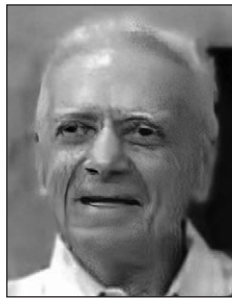
During his college years, Yohann began coming to Meherabad and Meherazad and was deeply touched by the stories he heard from Baba’s mandali. He completed his degree in Hotel Management and then worked in the hospitality and recruitment industry, but he longed to live at Meherabad. So in 2010 at the age of thirty, Yohann moved to Meherabad to serve Baba through His Trust as a full-time volunteer working in many areas, including the Young Adult Sahavas, Pilgrim Activities, and various Amartithi functions. Yohann expressed that “Accepting the position of a trustee is an added responsibility as per Baba’s wish. I hope to please Baba with this new role He has chosen for me.”



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PATRICK FINLEY

## Ali Ramjoo

ALI RAMJOO, one of Baba’s close disciples, peacefully passed away in Pune on 31st July 2021 surrounded by his loving family. He was 91 years old.



The son of Ramjoo Abdulla, one of Meher Baba’s intimate mandali, Ali was raised under Baba’s orders as a child, grew up in close proximity to Dr. Ghani Munsiff, and met Baba many times. Ali eventually married and had his own family, and worked as a Manager for the State Transport services. In fact, despite his advancing age, he insisted on coming to Ahmednagar from Pune by public bus on nearly every occasion in the past few years!

Ali was the longest serving trustee, the last remaining trustee appointed by Baba Himself in 1967 to replace Ramjoo. He was also the last man to be buried at Lower Meherabad among the men mandali.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF ROCHIT GANGWANI

## News NUGGETS

### TRUST EVENTS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

**PORTICO COVERING AT TOMB:** In late August, the leaking old tarpaulin cover over the darshan line area next to the seating area in front of Baba’s Samadhi was replaced with a green waterproof membrane.



**MEN’S GRAVES:** With the recent passing of Ali Ramjoo (the last person to be buried at Meherabad according to Baba’s instructions), work has begun restoring the tops and sides of the men mandali’s graves at Lower Meherabad. The sides had been sinking slightly due to the soft soil underneath; they will be disassembled and reassembled exactly as they are but this time on a more solid support so there will be no further sinking in the future.

**PATIENTS TREATED:** Observing all COVID safety protocols, the Meher Health Centre staff in Arangaon Village continues to lovingly serve the sick and disabled during these challenging times. Patients are treated by a variety of doctors, including medical, homeopathic, and Ayurvedic practitioners. On certain days of the week a gynecologist, dentist, and ophthalmologist also treat those in need of such treatment. Between March and August, 7,790 patients were treated, thousands of lab tests were conducted, and prescriptions were filled, all at no cost to the patients.

**VILLAGE RELATIONS:** Financial aid for digging and expanding the Seena River was provided so that in the upcoming rainy season, the Pimpalgaon Malvi village and other surrounding areas will have a more stable road and culvert near the river.

**MEHER ENGLISH SCHOOL:** As lockdown conditions are changing, students have been in and out of school. Most classes are online. Teachers have a continuous vigilance on the student’s written work and lessons sent through various links. The total number of students excluding kindergarten, is 491. After Diwali, if the conditions are favorable, seniors will return to school for personal guidance.

**PILGRIM ACTIVITIES:** There will be a gradual initiation of pilgrim activities as the Samadhi and accommodation facilities re-open following government and AMBPPC Trust guidelines. During lockdown, volunteers for Welcome and Meher Media Centre have been working to add new Baba and mandali films to the collections.

**LIBRARY:** Although the usual Library activities could not happen due to pandemic stipulations, there are two upcoming events organized as online YouTube programs for the year 2021–2022. The first is the Centenary commemoration honoring the accomplishment of Baba’s training under Upasni Maharaj at the end of 1921, tentatively scheduled for the last week of December 2021. The second will happen in February: the 12th annual Legacy program “Discovering the Avataric Treasure,” focused on Baba’s life and work in the 1954–1955 period.

**WELLS AND WATER:** Rainfall in 2021 so far has yielded 33.8 inches. The 2020 monsoon was far above average at 48.4 inches. The wells at Meherabad are filling up. Now most of Meherabad’s water comes from municipal sources, and wells are used mostly for afforestation.



*Water buffaloes enjoy a pond near Hostel A*

BOTH PHOTOGRAPHS IN “NEWS NUGGETS” COURTESY OF KITTY MAIR



# ON MEHER BABA’S COPYRIGHTS

WITH THE UPCOMING RELEASE of *Creation and its Causes*, it is important to remember Baba’s wishes for His copyrights. In every age the Avatar imparts a divine message to the world. Much of this message He gives in the form of words. In this present Avatadic advent, from the depths of Avatar Meher Baba’s Silence, we have been blessed with many articulations of this message—in the form of *God Speaks*, *Discourses*, short statements delivered on various occasions, and in other ways.

At the same time, Avatar Meher Baba made provision for the preservation and protection of the messages that He had dictated. He did this using a branch of law developed in modern civilization over the last few centuries. From as early as the 1930s through the 1960s, Meher Baba consistently put His discourses and messages under the protection of copyright. It is through the medium of copyright that the discourses and messages that He gave can be protected from corruption and rewriting, or even outright appropriation.

The most decisive step Avatar Meher Baba took in this regard happened on 17th June 1967, when He signed His “Last Will and Testament.” Of the seven clauses in this document, three have to do with the assignment of copyright. Apart from certain specific works whose copyright He had previously assigned to Sufism Reoriented, the remainder of His copyrights He gave to the Avatar Meher Baba Trust.

Since the Avatar comes for all humanity, some of Meher Baba’s lovers might wonder why He chose to bequeath the record of His words as “intellectual property” to a particular party and institution? Perhaps the reason resides in the tremendous power which the Avatar’s words exercise on posterity.

In recent years, various versions of Baba’s words and messages have been published without permission of the Trust as copyright holder. Such activity runs the risk of diluting the Avatar’s message as it is passed along to posterity. In order to safeguard against His words being distorted in the future, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, as the major copyright holder for Meher Baba’s words, has formulated a system of policies for the honest and transparent propagation of His message to the world. We hope and trust that you will support the Trust’s work to preserve His words in a reliable form, so that a future humanity can inherit and feed on these words, as faithfully as possible, as Meher Baba gave them.

To learn more about the Trust’s copyright policy visit the website page:  
<https://avatarmeherbabatrust.org/copyright-and-fair-use/>

# “Print-On-Demand”

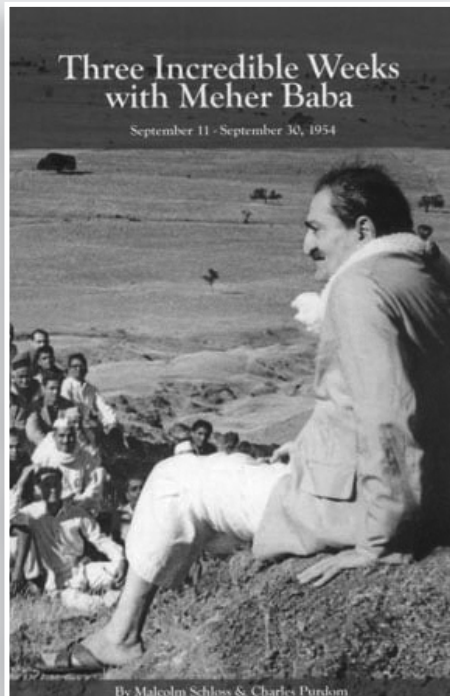
THE TRUST HAS INAUGURATED a new mode of book publication with its reprinting of *Three Incredible Weeks with Meher Baba*, an Avatar Meher Baba Trust copyright published in 1979 by Sheriar Press (now Sheriar Foundation).

It has been out of print for a number of years.

In lieu of the usual print publication press run that the Trust has used in its book publication until now, *Three Incredible Weeks* has been reprinted through a process known as “Print-On Demand,” whereby small numbers of a book can be reprinted in response to individual orders, through the use of digital technology.

For this publishing, the “Print-On-Demand” was managed by Companion Books, USA, which is acting as the current publisher. Preparation entailed a certain amount of digital remastering of the photographs and some alteration of the text (e.g., copyright credits) in the front and back matter. Sheriar Foundation collaborated fully with the Trust Publications and Companion Books in this undertaking.

*Three Incredible Weeks* chronicles the three weeks spent by some twenty western lovers of Meher Baba at Meherabad in September 1954. Edited by Charles Purdom and Malcom Schloss at Baba’s behest, it records many of the conversations with Meher Baba and messages given out by Him at that time, and it was originally prepared and published under His supervision. This edition can currently be ordered online internationally through mainstream online book vendors.

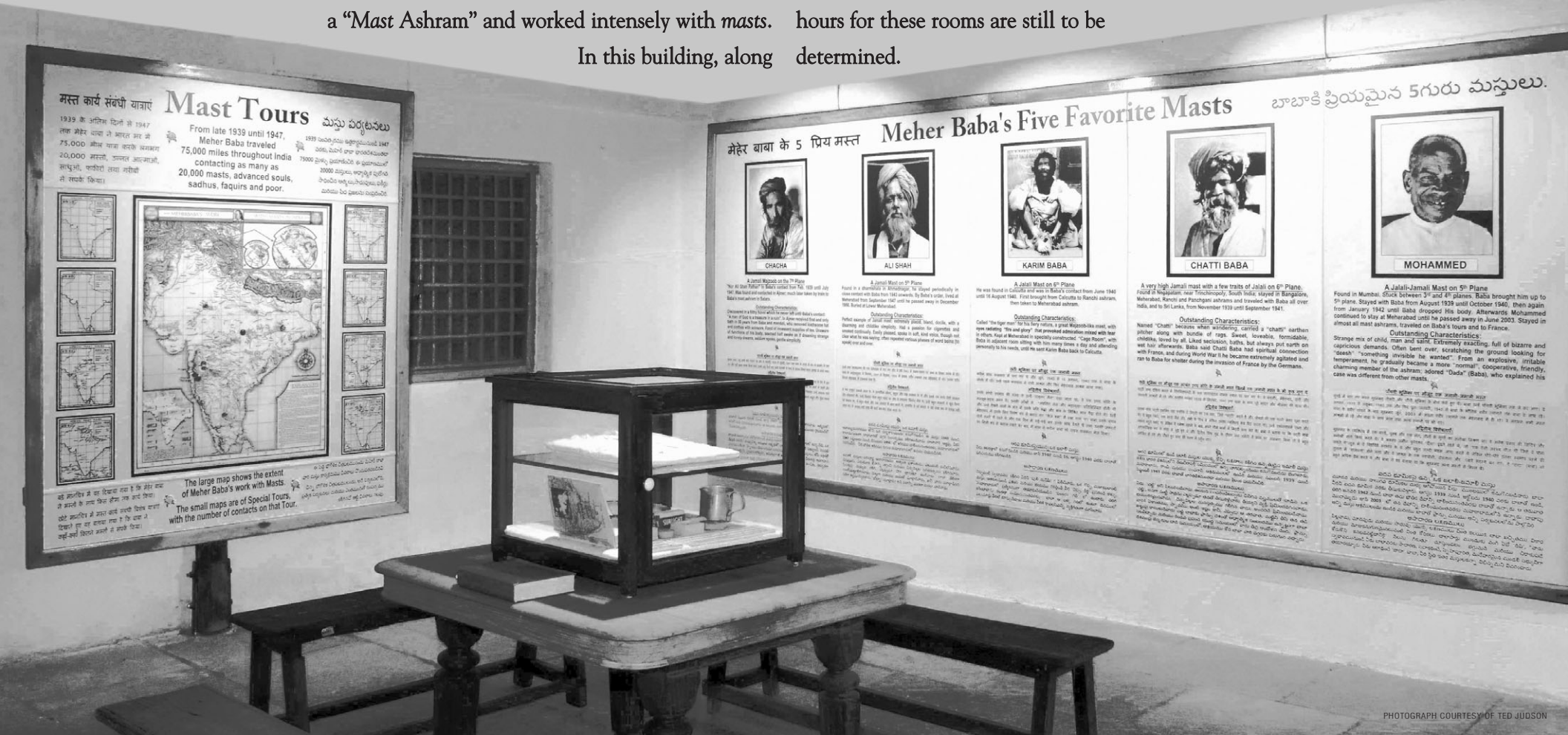


# ROOMS ALIVE WITH BABA HISTORY

Just north of Baba’s Samadhi on Meherabad Hill stands a brick building that was much used in Beloved Baba’s Advent. This year it has been set up with displays in English, Hindi, and Telegu for pilgrims to visit and learn about the work Beloved Baba did in this place.

Meherabad is the one accessible place still left in India where Baba had a “Mast Ashram” and worked intensely with *masts*. In this building, along

with the “Cage Room,” the main room has been devoted to displays detailing Baba’s work with the *masts*. Utilising photos and, where possible, furniture and objects from these times, several other rooms illustrate aspects of Baba’s work here, such as the Maternity Hospital, the *Meher Baba Journal* office, and the residence of the Kaikobad family. Visiting hours for these rooms are still to be determined.





# MEHERAZAD UPDATE

“EVERYTHING THAT HAS A BEGINNING must have an end.” This is what Baba would tell the men mandali. Today as we look back over a year and a half of this ongoing pandemic, His words strike a chord—not only of comfort and solace to know that this too shall pass—but also of gratitude for the unseen silver lining of time He has bestowed on Meherazad that was not normally available during the usual pilgrim season. The pandemic has given an unusual span of time to embark on much-needed repairs and restoration.

Here is a short list of what has been accomplished: All four original double windows in Baba’s room have been removed for archival repair and temporary windows installed. One quarter of all the fascia on the Main bungalow back verandah was lifted and reset in their original places. The original bathing and toilet area used by women servants during Baba’s and Mehera’s lifetimes was restored for archival purposes. The updated plumbing and septic work was also completed.

On the men’s side, all the mandali’s rooms adjoining Mandali Hall were treated for white ants, repaired, white-washed, and the rafters were restored and treated with linseed oil. Much of the grouting of the fascia of the Mandali Hall verandah was redone.

This is just a short list of the work that has been completed during these months of lockdown. But it is a reminder to us all that whatever happens ultimately is of benefit; whether helping us to always rely wholly on Him or giving a much-needed time period so that when Meherazad does open, His lovers will step into its sanctified atmosphere and experience the pristine beauty of His home.

## How to Contribute — Dec. 2021

IN 1959 Baba established the Avatar Meher Baba Trust. Stated in His Trust Deed are many objects including the upkeep of all the Meherabad and Meherazad facilities |supporting pilgrimage to Beloved Baba’s Tomb-shrine and home, as well as services to the public mainly through its medical facilities and the Meher English School. Trust facilities are available to anyone “irrespective of caste, creed, race, religion, nationality or sex.”

The Trust is supported entirely by love-gifts from Meher Baba’s lovers around the world. In truth, it is Baba Himself who gives through your hands, and it is Baba Himself who brings the objects to completion which He Himself laid down in the Trust Deed, when it pleases Him to do so. Please see “**How to Help**” on the Trust’s website <https://www.ambppct.org/whereContribute.php>

Another way to support the Trust is to list it as a beneficiary in your personal Legacy. (See “**Legacies:**” <https://www.ambppct.org/legacies.php>)

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

**Current news about foreign donations—Dec. 10, 2021:** All charities in India are required to register with the Government and get approval to receive donations from foreigners who are not Indian Citizens. This registration is renewed every five years. The current registration for Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust is up for renewal in 2021 but for reasons not known to us the approval is not forthcoming. We are making all efforts to get the approval renewed as early as possible. In the meanwhile, we request all foreign Baba lovers not to send any loving donations to Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust until further notice.

In His Love, Shridhar

# Wall Around Meherabad

THE TRUST HAS BUILT a 2,800-foot-long rock wall along the total length of the Meherabad boundary on the Dhuni side of the new highway. All the existing infrastructure has been shifted into the space between this new wall and the highway. The protected area around the Dhuni, the tomb of Gilori Shah, and the neem trees has increased and pilgrims say they are experiencing a new tranquility

and connection between Upper and Lower Meherabad despite the expanded highway. The Trust is planning to do the same along the west side of the Highway, but the wall will be limited to about 700 feet, running south from the new pedestrian underpass. This is sufficient length to protect the sacred Historic Meherabad sites located between the highway and the railway.



View of the newly completed wall from the Dhuni and Original Well side, looking south toward Arangaon

## Pilgrims Staying at Meherabad Again

AFTER A YEAR AND A HALF CLOSURE, Baba lovers are once again happy to stay at Meherabad accommodations at Hostel D and the Meher Pilgrim Retreat. Pilgrims aged 11-64 years are allowed (adults with at least one vaccination). Operating at 25% capacity, special sanitization measures and distancing protocols are in effect.

Baba’s lovers are seen once again streaming up Meherabad Hill to attend His prayers and arti at the Samadhi. A screen is placed so that none can enter, protecting Baba’s dear ones from the potential spread of

the COVID virus. Wearing face masks and distancing between each other, they join the queue for darshan. Reaching His threshold, each one bows internally or with folded hands.

What small sacrifices indeed are these measures, in exchange for the chance to visit Meherabad to imbibe Baba’s love atmosphere at His home. It’s the beginning of what we hope will progress toward the relaxation of restrictions and our “normal” experience of staying with Baba at Meherabad!



## WHAT IS THE AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST?

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

**Contact:** The Chairman, Avatar Meher Baba Trust, King’s Road, Post Bag 31, Ahmednagar 414001, M.S., India.  
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Or sign on via the Trust website: <http://ambppct.org/subscription.php>.

**For Reservations to Stay at Meherabad:** FOR MEHER PILGRIM RETREAT: [pimco@ambppct.org](mailto:pimco@ambppct.org). FOR HOSTEL D/DHARAMSHALA: [jaibaba@ambppct.org](mailto:jaibaba@ambppct.org).  
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