

The Silence of Avatar Meher Baba

by M.B.G. Shastri

An Avatar Meher Baba Trust eBook

Source:

The Silence of Avatar Meher Baba

by M.B.G. Shastri

Copyright © M.B.G. Shastri 1998

First Published 1998 by M.B.G. Shastri

Meher Mansion

83, Avatar Meher Baba Marg

Shantinagar, Hyderabad- 500 028

India.

All Quotes From Meher Baba © Avatar Meher Baba

Perpetual Public Charitable Trust

Printed at:

Anupama Printers

Shantinagar, Hyderabad- 28

Phone:3391364, 3304194.

eBooks at the Avatar Meher Baba Trust Web Site

The Avatar Meher Baba Trust's eBooks aspire to be textually exact though non-facsimile reproductions of published books, journals and articles. With the consent of the copyright holders, these online editions are being made available through the Avatar Meher Baba Trust's web site, for the research needs of Meher Baba's lovers and the general public around the world.

Again, the eBooks reproduce the text, though not the exact visual likeness, of the original publications. They have been created through a process of scanning the original pages, running these scans through optical character recognition (OCR) software, reflowing the new text, and proofreading it. Except in rare cases where we specify otherwise, the texts that you will find here correspond, page for page, with those of the original publications: in other words, page citations reliably correspond to those of the source books. But in other respects-such as lineation and font-the page designs differ. Our purpose is to provide digital texts that are more readily downloadable and searchable than photo facsimile images of the originals would have been. Moreover, they are often much more readable, especially in the case of older books, whose discoloration and deteriorated condition often makes them partly illegible. Since all this work of scanning and reflowing and proofreading has been accomplished by a team of volunteers, it is always possible that errors have crept into these online editions. If you find any of these, please let us know, by emailing us at frank@ambpct.org.

The aim of the Trust's online library is to reproduce the original texts faithfully. In certain cases, however-and this applies especially to some of the older books that were never republished in updated versions-we have corrected certain small errors of a typographic order. When this has been done, all of these corrections are listed in the "Register of Editorial Alterations" that appears at the end of the digital book. If you want the original text in its exact original form, warts and all, you can reconstruct this with the aid of the "register."

The Trust's Online Library remains very much a work in progress. With your help and input, it will increase in scope and improve in elegance and accuracy as the years go by. In the meantime, we hope it will serve the needs of those seeking to deepen and broaden their own familiarity with Avatar Meher Baba's life and message and to disseminate this good news throughout the world.

AVATAR MEHER BABA



MANIFESTING SOON

As the **KALKI** of the Hindus
As the **IMAM MEHDI** of the Muslims
As the **CHRIST** of the Christians
As the **MAITREYEE** of the Buddhists

THE SILENCE OF
AVATAR MEHER BABA

M.B.G. SHASTRI

Copy Right

© M.B.G. Shastri 1998

First Published 1998

By

M.B.G. Shastri

Meher Mansion

83, Avatar Meher Baba Marg

Shantinagar, Hyderabad- 500 028

India.

Tel: (040) 3391299

All Quotes From Meher Baba

© Avatar Meher Baba

Perpetual Public Charitable Trust

Printed at:

Anupama Printers

Shantinagar, Hyderabad- 28

Phone:3391364, 3304194.

INTRODUCTION

"THINGS THAT ARE REAL ARE GIVEN AND RECEIVED IN SILENCE."

- Avatar Meher Baba

Avatar Meher Baba observed Silence throughout His Avataric Work starting from 10th July, 1925 till He dropped His body on 31st January, 1969. The Silence that He observed was a medium for His Universal Work. His Work was to prepare the mankind, to shut the doors of the mind and to open the doors of the heart. Heart is the door way for spirituality. While observing Silence He worked tirelessly, to bring about the transformation in the hearts of the mankind. He sowed the seeds of Love in the hearts, to prepare the ground, to give us in Silence, what is Real. In the Silence of our perfect surrender to Him, let us prepare ourselves to become worthy to receive the Real, from the Avatar.

The Author has touched upon a delicate but important subject of the breaking of Silence by Avatar Meher Baba. Avatar Meher Baba said that what ever he has declared about the breaking of His Silence and the events that will follow it, will take place exactly as He said, except the time factor. A glimpse of the events that are anticipated before and after the breaking of His Silence are briefly described below, in the light of the utterances of Avatar Meher Baba.

Although the physical link was snapped on 31st Jan. 1969, Avatar Meher Baba's Work continues in Silence as before. The period from 31st Jan. '69 onwards is a period of humiliation. The humiliation will end when He breaks His Silence. The breaking of His Silence, the uttering of the WORD of words and His Public Manifestation is yet to take place. When on the one hand Science reaches its highest level and on the other hand anti-God elements rise to the peak, He will break His Silence and utter the WORD, releasing infinite wisdom and causing a Universal spiritual upheaval.

The breaking of His Silence will be as forceful as hundreds of thousands of atom bombs exploding together. When He breaks His Silence He will be recognized as the Avatar of the Age and He will manifest in the hearts of all. This will be followed by His glorification. In order to break the Silence and utter the WORD, the restoration or the resurrection of the physical link of Avatar Meher Baba must take place. Then He will appear at a thousand places at one and the same time. The world will be shaken out of the spiritual lethargy to bring about a realization of who He is. Then the entire world will accept Him as the Avatar of the Age. The breaking of Silence and His Manifestation will be the first and the last miracle that will be performed by Avatar Meher Baba in this incarnation, an event which has never happened before and that will never happen hereafter.

When this miracle takes place, there will be a long era of unique peace, a time of world tranquility. Disarmament will then no longer be a matter of talk, but an actual fact. Racial and communal strife will cease, sectarian hatred between religious organizations will come to an end. Avatar Meher Baba will then travel throughout the world, as everybody will be eager to see Him. His spiritual message will reach every land, every town and every village. He will bring about Universal Brotherhood, peace among men, sympathy for the poor and downtrodden and love for God, paving the way for the birth of a NEW HUMANITY.

The much awaited breaking of Silence and the Public Manifestation of Avatar Meher Baba may take place during our life time or may be afterwards. In the mean time let us keep Him in our hearts and hold fast to His Daaman, remembering Him always, making Him our constant companion. Let us keep our connection with Him, and become worthy to receive the WORD of words, when He releases it.

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI

V. SITA RAMAYYA
Chennai

Motivated by the Master

During the period 1965-1967, I was working as Government District Engineer, Chittoor District in A.P. State, and was trying hard to organise public meetings at all important towns in Chittoor District to make people aware of the physical presence of The Ancient One amongst us. The ever compassionate Baba, always helped in my efforts; and our weekly reports of the activities of AMB Chittoor Centre, were always permitted to be read out to Him, inspite of the strict seclusion maintained.

In the year 1965, Sri ACS Chari practising as Advocate in Calcutta High Court, who was also a staunch Advocate in the cause of the Eternal Divine Master, arranged BABA's 40th Silence Anniversary Celebrations in July 1965 at Calcutta in a big way, when Justice P.B. Mukherji of Calcutta High Court, delivered his best talk on the Silence of Avatar Meher Baba. This talk of the Justice Mukherji entitled "UTTERING THE ONE WORD", was got printed by Sri ACS Chari and was sent to Beloved Baba at Meherazad, besides sending copies to several centres in India and abroad. It so happened that Sri ACS Chari, forgot to send a copy to our Chittoor Centre.

On 24.3.1966 I received a letter from Sri ACS Chari, disclosing how Beloved Baba wanted ACS Chari to send a copy of the above publication to me. (Extract from the letter:)

"I also got a letter from BABA {Thro' Eruch} Yesterday, where in amongst other things, Baba has enquired if I had sent the speech of Justice P.B. Mukherji (Uttering the one word) to a few persons (giving a list of select few) and you will be pleased to know that your name is one of that list of select few. Baba has a given thought about you. I am out of stock of that booklet (1000 copies all spent) and a reprint of 3000 more is going on. Copies will be received soon. I shall send you later as many as you need".

I was really exhilarated to know from the above letter, that it was Baba's wish that I was one of the few, who should read this particular pamphlet. Later on when I received the Copy, I read it, but I did not understand much. In fact, till then, I was not well informed about Baba's Silence and all its aspects. I forgot all about this episode until 31.1.1969.

From Chittoor, I came to Hyderabad on transfer, in May 1967 and I was kept in charge of P.W.D. Survey and Investigation Division, and there was not much of official work. As part of 74th Birthday Celebrations of Beloved Baba in 1968, we organised an Exhibition stall in the Exhibition grounds near Nampally Hyderabad from 1.1.1968 to 10.2.1968, I have no hesitation to claim that our "Avatar Meher Baba Stall" had drawn large crowds of visitors, about twenty thousand every day, during those 40 days. During the year 1969, also we were allotted a stall in the exhibition grounds, and with the help of an young team of lovers and workers, we had again organised, the stall from 1.1.1969 to 10.2.1969. It was during this period, Baba has showered His full grace on all our efforts to spread His message of Love and Truth.

While we tell every visitor to our stall, that Meher Baba is not an individual finite being, but the very "Conscious Manifestation" of the Infinite, thro' a finite body, as the Avatar of this age, a majority of the visitors, just smile and some others make jeering comments. It was only a very few people, who appear to have accepted Baba as He really is, and are blessed.

On that Particular Day 31.1.1969, after the stall was closed with Arathi to Baba at about 10.00 p.m. after the time for visitors was over, I returned home. A few minutes after I reached home, one of our young Baba lovers, was sent to me by his father, to convey the news about BABA's dropping His body that day and that a telegram was sent by Adi. K. Irani to that effect. The telegram itself was not brought to me but only the news was passed on. My immediate

reaction was one of Pleasant-Surprise to realise that What BABA has foretold during the Final Declaration meeting at Meherabad on 29th and 30th September 1952, and subsequently through the three Life Circulars Called. "Clarification", "Confirmation" and "Final decision", has commenced to take shape. Particularly His Explanation of the "Humiliation" as Quoted in the Pamphlet entitled "Warning", immediately came to my mind:

"You are worshipping me for so many years. Suppose you suddenly find me eating rubbish and roaming about naked in the streets, behaving like, a mad person, what will be your reaction to this behaviour of Mine? I do not want any one of you to think or say that Baba is going to become mad. On the contrary, I have come to make the whole world mad after God and Truth".

Instinctively I felt that this act of his dropping of the physical body, without giving His WORD to the world, is His Leela (Divine Sport) to test the strength of the lover's grip of His Daaman. I prayed to Baba within "Oh' Baba, you have started your game but please help me to hold fast to your daaman". Having understood the significance of the Event of 31.1.1969, in the above manner, I comforted the boy who brought me the message, telling him that this was His wonderful game to test the faith of His lovers and that we are not to be upset at all at what had happened on 31.1.1969. The boy listened to me and went home to tell his father also about what he has heard from me.

A little later, during the same night (31.1.69) Swamy Satya Prakash, who was doing Baba work at Hyderabad from "Meher Vihar", and publishing an English monthly DIVYA VANI devoted to Avatar Meher Baba's work, came in an autorikshaw to convey the above news personally. He showed me the telegram received by him and I looked at it and read aloud. "Avatar Meher Baba Says He dropped His physical Body at 12.00 Noon on 31st January at

Meherazad to live eternally in the hearts of His Lovers, Beloved Baba's body will be interred at Meherabad, Arangaon on 1st February at 10.00 A.M. in the tomb, He had ordered to be built long ago". After the above text of the telegram was read, I drew the attention of Swamy Satya Prakash to the two words under-lined above, and remarked that this is Baba's game.

After hearing. me, Swamy Satya Prakash took back the telegram from my hands, and re-read the telegram. To him the two words "Says He" Were not there. He read aloud the telegram again and the above two words disappeared then.

He Questioned me about those two words which were not there. I again took back the telegram from him and re-read. True those two words "Says He" which were very much present when I looked into the Telegram First Time, were now not there. Then how was it that Baba put those two words only for my reading (1st time) and later on made them disappear? I now clearly saw that Baba has chosen me as a tool to be used for His particular purpose. The presence of the two words, "Says He" gives a totally different interpretation to the entire text of the telegram.

I thought to myself - what is it that Baba expects from me now? Inwardly I was prompted to study deeply every aspect of His Silence Commenced on 10th July 1925 and I was guided by His Unseen hand in a meticulous way at every stage. I was 100% Sure within my self, that Baba has not broken the Silence upto the time of His dropping the physical body.

I began to read and reread every page of His books and messages and Baba helped me in every way, to find the correct source of information to conclude that His Silence continues beyond 31.3.1969.

During the period from 1.2.69 to 6.2.69, many thousands of Baba Lovers from all over the world, were gathering at Meherabad

Tomb, to have darshan of the Lord's Physical Body before He is interred on 7.2.69 (Finally). Many lovers from Hyderabad also proceeded to Meherabad, but I did not make any attempt to go to Meherabad to see His Physical body, as His instructions in L.C. No. 71 dated: 15.1.69 clearly prohibited his lovers not to attempt to see Him, until 10th April onwards.

"No one should attempt to See Baba until 10th April onwards in accordance with Avatar Meher Baba's conditions printed in LC. No. 70 dated: 1.11.1968".

Staying at Hyderabad I was thus looking after BABA'S stall till the last-day of the exhibition (10.2.69) and during those last days, there were streams of Visitors, some of them curiously asking me, if Baba broke His Silence. I began telling every one that His Silence was not broken and that He would break it soon, at the appropriate time. In support of my statement, I had to quote Baba profusely, interpreting His statements as prompted by Baba from within myself. One Andhra Visitor from Rajahmundry was a regular Visitor to our stall for over 30 days continuously and he suggested to me that I should write down on paper all that source of information I was relying upon to make me emphatically pronounce that Baba had not broken His Silence. His name was Mr. Vidya Sagar, retired A.P. State Government Officer in A.P. State Educational Service and he offered to take my dictation if I prefer to dictate, instead of myself writing. He used to visit my house everyday in the morning and took dictation for 1-1/2 to 2 hours for about a fortnight. That written matter formed the basis, which was edited and reedited, thro' Sri Subramanyam, also working at office of the Director Higher Education at Hyderabad at that time, I strongly felt that Beloved Baba was inwardly driving me to write this Booklet since then. I am ever grateful to Beloved Baba for guiding me throughout, to bring out this publication now, even though this matter was ready for publication in 1969-70 itself. There may be some deeper significance for this book to come out now.

About 4 years back, during my Visit to Meherazad, Respected Sister Mani, was given a typed copy of this booklet for her perusal and after going through the book, she has herself asked me to add additional information, which was supplied by herself, regarding the DREAM she had on 29th January 1969 (two days prior to the Event). This piece of information was the final evidence to confirm that the Event of 31.1.1969 was Just a 'Make-Believe' and did not really happen. I express my gratitude to Respected Sister Mani, for her contribution in this publication.

I am ever grateful to my Beloved Supreme Master, MUKKAMIL, for making me His tool and for His inward prompting and Guidance from start to finish in bringing out this Publication. Really speaking, this is His book.

JAI BABA

M.B.G. SHASTRI

THE SILENCE OF AVATAR MEHER BABA

CHAPTER 1.

PREAMBLE

The lovers of Avatar Meher Baba, all the world-over, had exercised their minds for quite a time on the aspect of the "Avataric Silence" of Beloved Baba. When the event, described as dropping of the physical body by Avatar Meher Baba on 31st January 1969, occurred, the most important question that was upper-most in their minds was regarding all aspects of this "Silence" about which Beloved Baba had said to a visitor, many years ago, who remarked something about Silence being golden.

"I am silent, My Silence is not merely an observing Silence. My Silence has a purpose behind it. When I break it all will know. The breaking of My Silence will be as forceful as thousands of atom bombs exploding together"

(82 Family Letter dated: 26.8.1969 page 10).

The significance of the several remarks made by Baba about His Silence on various occasions, is, no doubt, beyond the full comprehension of the human mind. But still the nature of the human mind, being what it is, does continue to try to understand things to the extent possible. It is in this context, that an attempt is now being made to grasp the full significance of the Silence of Avatar Meher Baba, why such a Silence formed part of His Avataric Work and mission and what divine purpose was behind this great unique Silence.

CHAPTER 2

THE WHY & WHAT OF SILENCE

To a question "What relation will His speaking have to transformation predicted, and why has He been silent for 8 years". The reply of Baba as recorded by Ramzoo Abdulla may be noted.

"The GodMan neither thinks nor desires. Through Him the Divine Will flows inevitably into perfect manifestation, passing directly from the spiritual body (Which in the ordinary human being, is not developed) into physical expression. For Him the super consciousness is the normal state of consciousness. He does not convey thought, but Truth, which He either awakens in the individual whom He is helping, through deep inner experience or which He transmits directly from the super conscious to the conscious, from the spiritual to the physical, by means of either the physical eye, the physical touch or the spoken word. When He speaks, Truth is more powerfully manifested than when He uses either sight, or touch, to convey it".

So when Sri Meher Baba speaks He will manifest the Divine Will, and a world wide transformation of consciousness will result.

(page 28 of AWAKENER vol VI-No.3)

From the above it is clear that Baba, (as part of His Avataric Work which was to raise the consciousness of man to a higher level, freeing the man from the grip of selfishness or self interest, (the root cause of all man's suffering) intended to use all the above three methods namely spoken word, physical touch and physical eye sight to awaken the Truth.

To another question, "How Will Shree Meher Baba be able, by speaking, to ease the world depression, to solve the problems of unemployment, prohibition and crime?" The reply of Baba as recorded by Ramzoo Abdulla:

"Shree Meher Baba intends when He speaks, to reveal the one Supreme self which is in all. This accomplished, the idea of the self as a limited separate entity will disappear, and with it will vanish self interest. Cooperation will replace competition, security will replace uncertainty, generosity will replace greed, exploitation will disappear"

(page 29 of AWAKENER Vol. VI-No.3).

To another question "Is there any one statement that is more significant than the other?" Baba replied:

"There is one. When I break My Silence the world will come to know that I am the ONE whom they were waiting for."

(page 16 Vol. IV No.3 AWAKENER)

"Under what circumstances did you become silent. Did you have a vision of some kind, or a message?"

Baba:

"My knowledge. I do not have to think about this, I know it. When I first began Silence, I know that when I break Silence, the world will know Me, and so I began".

At this stage of reply Eruch further added:

"Do you follow what Baba says, 'It is important, Baba says'".

(page 17 of Vol. IV No.3 AWAKENER).

"Does Shree Meher Baba claim to be the Avatar of the new dispensation?".

Ans : "Such a claim would have no value until it were substantiated; and once it were substantiated, there would be no need of claims. What Shree Meher Baba is and the nature of His mission will abundantly be demonstrated at the time of His public manifestation."

(page 27 Vol. VI No.3 AWAKENER).

These above remarks and statements of Baba besides many such others, would clearly go to show that the chief method by which Baba intended to bring about the real transformation of human consciousness from that of selfishness to selflessness, was through HIS spoken WORD. It is for this divine purpose Baba began His Silence on 10th July 1925.

(Extract and quotations from "The Silent Word" Pages 245-246)

(On 9th July 1925) Before retiring Baba spoke once more to the Mandali and they, understanding that this would be the last time He spoke to them, listened with the greatest attention to His Golden Words. He said,

"Think of others more than of yourselves; use up your bodies in service. This is absolutely necessary if you want to realise GOD".

Then He hinted that one of the reasons for His going into Silence was the near passing of Babajan when He would have to assume a great spiritual burden. (Since Babajan did not drop her body for another six years, He was obviously not speaking of her physical death, but of her withdrawal from Avataric scene.) He said that soon there would be wide spread communal fighting especially in India, world

war, and natural disasters which would take tens of millions of lives. But then there would be a long season of peace and tranquility.

This Silence of Baba, one may note, was not complete Silence of all communications to the outside world. It was only an outward Silence, that is, non-usage of words through mouth, Baba never stopped communicating His messages or instruction. He was all the while conversing with one and all whoever was permitted to be in His physical presence. This conversation initially took the form of writings from 10th July 1925 till 2nd January 1927. It then took the form of communicating by means of alphabetical board which method continued till 7th October 1954 . Thereafter Baba used His own unique way of conversing through gestures, understood and interpreted by His mandali, chiefly through Mr. Eruch.

Even though He was outwardly silent without speaking, He had extensively travelled over the entire globe accompanied by the Indian and Western disciples setting His sacred feet on the soils of almost all the countries. Baba Himself revealed a number of times that His work was not confined to the physical plane alone but also extended to the subtle and mental worlds as well. His physical actions have deeper significance than they appear on the surface.

Baba said:

"So when I, with My own hands give food and clothing to the poor, the result will be that the world will gain its economic and material welfare. When I give the mad and lepers a wash, the effect will be that those of subnormal consciousness, will either get cured or their future births will be greatly minimised".

(page 31 Vol. VI No.3 AWAKENER).

Baba was seen to be physically active, going round places after places, not only In India but also in the West, contacting people of different religions, nationalities, languages and age groups, wealthy and poor, healthy and sick, between the period 10th July 1925 till 1952. Though He travelled now and then to the West and also In India after 1952, It was only to a limited extent and during what He called seclusion period. On one occasion, Baba gave an example of the construction of a power house and the laying of cables to carry the electrical power to the far off electric bulbs for lighting them.

He compared His breaking of Silence and uttering the WORD to that of switching on the main switch in the power house. Just as the electrical power flows through cables to far off electrical bulbs and lights them, the moment the main switch is put on (provided the bulbs are not fused), the effect of His breaking of Silence and speaking the WORD OF WORDS will reach every human heart in the world provided it is connected to Him. The world wide travels of Baba therefore meant for the purpose of establishing contacts, corresponding to laying of cables - so that the effect of His breaking of the Silence, whenever it takes place, will be felt universally by all.

"and I must break My Silence soon. You all who have come into contact with Me will have some glimpse of Me. Some will have a little, some a little more, and some still more. "When the power house is switched on, wherever there are electrical bulbs, and if they have connection with the power house, there will be light,. If some of the bulbs are of high candle power the light will be bright. If some of the bulbs are of small candle power, the light will be little. If the bulb is fused there will be no light at all".

(page 28 Vol. 5 No.2 AWAKENER)

"My mission is to utter this word of Truth which will pierce the mind of the world and go to its very heart."

"The Word that I will speak will go to the world as from God, not as from a philosopher; It will go straight to its heart. With the dawn of realisation of the unity of all life, hatred and dissension will come to an end. There will be unfaltering love and unfailing understanding and men shall be united in an inviolable brotherhood based on the realisation of oneness of God."

(page 1 & 2, Vol. 4 AWAKENER)

CHAPTER 3.

ROLE OF THE MASTS IN THE REDEMPTION OF MANKIND

The most important phase of Baba's external activity is said to be His work with the Masts, advanced Yogis, the poor and the mad. It is acknowledged by all Baba lovers that the work with the Masts was a unique one and the wearisome travels to all corners of India undertaken by Baba to contact these Masts numbering in thousands was all-absorbing and go to show how Baba never spared, His physical well being to complete His Avataric work, particularly with the masts.

Though the real purposes of work that was carried out by Baba through contacts with these masts is incomprehensible, one could easily notice that the purposes for which Baba made efforts to help the masts come to normal consciousness, were two-fold. One was obviously to help the masts in their involution of consciousness towards the goal and the other, though not apparent, must be to help Baba in His universal work. One will not go wrong if he were to assume that Baba was making use of these masts as some sort of "relay" stations to carry the effect of Baba's breaking of Silence whenever it might take place. These masts seem to serve the same purpose what electrical transformers and substations would do in the matter of carrying electrical power from the main generating power station to farthest place without diminishing its intensity (voltage).

That way Baba has prepared the ground fully and completely with a net-work of His own "power stations", and laid necessary cables, much in advance for that great moment of breaking of His Silence and to release His WORD Of WORDS.

Through the life circular no. 67 issued on 1st February 1968 Baba wanted *"All His lovers to realise what He has said before, that the fate of the universe hangs on His seclusion, and redemption of mankind depends upon His manifestation. He says that His having prolonged His universal work in seclusion*

is an act of His divine compassion and love preceding His manifestation". The above warning was given just 12 months only before the event of 31st January 1969. Baba had once again used the word manifestation which was linked up with the redemption of mankind. The manifestation was again linked up with breaking of His Silence. We are therefore to understand that the breaking of His Silence and His manifestation are simultaneous happenings. And as such, mankind has no hope of any redemption until the moment of His breaking the Silence.

"When I say that My manifestation is connected with the breaking of My Silence, people should not expect an outpouring of verbosity. I will utter the WORD of WORDS that will irresistibly impart to those who are ready, "The I AM God State". My mission is to utter this WORD OF TRUTH which will pierce the mind of the world and go to its very heart. It will convey the simple TRUTH and indefinable simplicity. It will mark the moment of fulfillment of the Divine Life. It will bring new hope to despairing humanity."

(page 36 Vol. 5 No. 4 AWAKENER).

"My WORD of WORDS will touch the hearts of all mankind and spontaneously this divine touch will instill in man the feeling of oneness of all fellow beings. This feeling will supersede the tendency of separateness and rule over the hearts of all, driving away hatred, jealousy; and happiness will reign."

(page 38 Vol. V No.4 AWAKENER).

In the 73rd Family letter dated: 1.6.1967, Sister Mani wrote:

"From what He tells us, we will hear His Silence only when He breaks it. What does He say will happen when He breaks His Silence? He

says "That which has never happened will happen when I break My Silence".

On 8.2.1968 Baba sent out to His lovers all over the world, who were celebrating His 74th Birth-day, the message:

"Let My lovers rejoice on My 74th birth-day, because soon after 25th March something great will happen. that has never happened before."

This "something great" that was to happen soon is the same what would follow the breaking of His Silence as would be evident from what Baba has said of the breaking of His Silence as noted down by Sister Mani in the above 73rd Family letter.

"The time has come when I shall break My Silence. The whole world will get a spiritual push but the hearts of My intimate lovers shall be opened then. Such a time will not come again and has not come in the past."

(page 22 Vol. IX No.4 AWAKENER).

"When I break My Silence, the world will be shaken into realisation of who I AM. " Babajan also said: "This child of mine, will one day, shake the whole world."

"When I break My Silence, the impact will jolt the world out of its spiritual lethargy and will push open the hearts of all who love Me and who are connected with Me. What will happen when I break My Silence, is what has never happened before."

(Divyavani Quarterly Vol. 14 No. 1 July 1963 page vi).

"When I break My Silence, the world will come to know who I am, As a rule, in the past, it has been the lot of posterity to know who the

Avatar was. But in this unique Avataric Advent, the world will know who the Avatar is, while Baba is yet on earth."

(Divyavani Quarterly Vol.14 No.2 October 1963, page 16).

Dr. Donkin was asked by Baba to convey over the microphone as this was very important. Doctor Donkin conveyed Baba's message:

Baba wants to use a simile about the atom bomb. Just as an atom bomb, which in itself is so small, when exploded, causes tremendous havoc; so when He breaks His Silence the universal spiritual upheaval that will take place will be something that no one can describe. It will happen in a second at a time when nobody expects. Just as when an earthquake takes place suddenly, when no one is ready, and no one can do anything, but every one in the affected area feels, so, a spiritual upheaval; and everyone will feel it in his heart."

(God Man page 271).

"Ages and ages ago I did perform one great miracle and the whole of this illusion of creation came from Me. I will perform another such miracle this time when I break My Silence. That will be the first and last miracle in My present incarnation. Expect no other miracle from Me".

(page 39, Vol.V. No.4, AWAKENER).

"I am the Christ ... No question of it. And when I break My Silence all the world will come to know about it."

(page 21 & 22 Vol.V No.4 AWAKENER).

"Although political, economic and sex problems are not directly connected with the divine theme, the moment God speaks, all problems all over the world, will by themselves get solved and adjusted."

(page 35 vol. V No.4 AWAKENER).

"God will make Me sing the first original song and those who love Me will be lost in that song and find Me to be in everyone. When I break My Silence, the greatest miracle of all times will happen."

(page 35 Vol.V No.4 AWAKENER).

"It reminds Me of the first song that was sung ages and ages ago and that song produced this phenomenon called Universe. God will make Me soon break My Silence and that first original song will be sung again, and the world will realise that God alone is real, and every one of us is eternally one with God."

(page 36 Vol. V No.4 AWAKENER).

CHAPTER 4.

TIME FOR BREAKING SILENCE

Did Baba say or indicate about when He would break His Silence?

"When God thinks My speaking would be universally heard, He will make Me break My Silence."

(page 35 Vol. V No. 4 AWAKENER).

"If you were to ask Me when I will break My Silence I would say: When I feel like uttering the only Real WORD that was spoken in the beginningless beginning, as that WORD alone is worth uttering. The time for the breaking of My outward Silence to utter the WORD is very near"

(page 39 Vol.V No. 4 AWAKENER).

"My Silence must break. There is no escape for it."

"Of My own I shall not break My Silence; universal crisis will make Me do so. When the crisis will reach its absolute culmination, it will make Me utter the WORD at that moment."

"Circumstances are converging and fast gathering momentum towards precipitating right moment, which will come completely unawares at any time, any hour, any day. That moment is not far away."

(page 2 & 3 Vol. VII No. 3 AWAKENER).

"Before I speak and before peace reigns, there must be a real world war, in which India will be involved 100 percent, and places under Mus-

lim rule, such as Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, Egypt will also be entrapped, while Italy, Russia and America will play a very active part."

(page 146 God Man)

"My speaking is largely connected with the world war and peace. Peace does not mean truce. Truce does not necessarily have to happen. Truce will not make me Speak."

(page 146 God Man)

"The only thing I must give is the WORD. This is the reason why I plan to stop everything next year ... I will prepare for the urge to break My Silence. It is simple, but I must have that urge. You do not know how eager I am to give that WORD . I am preparing everything. I must see to the affairs of the whole world. Meanwhile I must stress that when I give that WORD all of you who love Me will know it in your hearts. Much will be revealed to you then. God is the Truth."

(page 36 Vol. IX Nos. 1 & 2 AWAKENER).

"I must prepare for the urge to break My Silence and give My word to the world. But I have not yet prepared myself for the urge to break My Silence".

(pages 44 & 45 Vol. IX Nos. 1 & 2 AWAKENER).

"Today the antispiritual element is at its height. Tibet, once known as the seat of God, is now a military camp. Hypocritical saints abound in these times. Science has advanced in the last ten years much more than it has never done before. Hence, when all these factors are at their

highest, spirituality will also be at its highest, in order not only to balance these factors but to overrule them. The time for breaking My Silence, is very near. So hold fast to My daaman " .

(pages 22 & 23 Vol. IX No.4 AWAKENER).

"In the world today, there is pain, suffering and a gloomy depressive atmosphere everywhere. In the coming months it will become worse. Everyone will become desperate. This depressive atmosphere will begin to increase. Just as a pregnant woman has to undergo all sorts of troubles during her pregnancy which become worse during "labour", so there will be suffering for ... and it will reach its zenith when I break My Silence after ... Once the delivery is over, both the mother and baby feel relieved".

(page 23 Vol. X No.3 AWAKENER)

"Every great change must be carefully timed. How else would it be with the greatest revolution in the history of the world ... the revolution in the mind of man? The time to preach in the market place will come ... only after the world has been humbled and purified by a carnage, greater than the world has yet seen".

(page 1 Vol. X No.2 AWAKENER).

"The present world chaos is the beginning of spiritual manifestation. To illustrate, if a man develops cataract in his eye, the cataract raises a curtain over his vision and he cannot see properly; the only remedy is to remove the curtain, which means an operation by an eye specialist. But not before the doctor sees that the cataract is ripe enough for the

operation - otherwise he allows it to grow ripe ... "

"Similarly the present chaotic conditions of the world due to materialism, which has developed self interest and greed in mankind, raising a curtain which obstructs spiritual vision and development. It has grown so bad now as to create chaos all over the world, a clear indication that the cataract is quite ripe and ready for the operation. The operation is over, the disease of ignorance, greed and lust will be removed and the spiritual vision of the world will once again be restored . . . The doctor - Master (specialist) is ready for the operation awaiting only the ripening of the cataract. All preparations for this operation were carried out earlier by tours and contacts".

(page 40 Vol X No.2 AWAKENER).

'As Jesus came to impart spirituality to a materialistic age, so have I come to impart a spiritual push to present day mankind. There is always a fixed time for such divine workings, and when the hour is ripe I shall reveal My true nature to the entire world. .. "

"Remember though, that every prophet considers the times, the circumstances and the prevailing mentality of the people before His public manifestation. He therefore preaches doctrines best understood and best suited to such conditions. The time is soon coming to give mankind a universal spiritual belief which shall serve all races of people and all countries. In other words the way is being prepared to enable Me to deliver a world wide message ... I shall break My Silence and deliver My message only when there is chaos and confusion everywhere, for then, I shall be most needed; when the world is

rocking in upheavals - earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions; when both the East and the West are aflame with war. Truly the whole world must suffer, for the whole world must be redeemed . . . Be assured that I shall not leave My spiritual work undone ... There will be a long era of unique peace, a time of world tranquility".

"Disarmament will then no longer be a matter of mere talk but an actual fact. Racial and commercial strife will cease, Sectarian hatred, religious organisations will come to an end. I shall travel throughout the world and the nations will eager to see Me. My spiritual message will reach every land, every town, every village ... Universal brotherhood , peace among men, sympathy for the poor and down-trodden, Love of God - I shall promote these things ... My words can only echo the old spiritual Truth, but it is My mystic power that will bring new element into the world's life ... Once I publicly announce myself as a Messiah, nothing will be able to withstand My power".

(pages 23 to 25 Vol. X No.3 AWAKENER).

This means to say that Baba will Himself announce thro' His own word that He is Messaiah. His famous declaration known as The Highest of the High, given at Dehra Dun, was given thro' alphabetical board and not orally.

"I will break My Silence and manifest when on the one hand science reaches its highest level, and on the other hand anti-God elements, rise to their peak".

(page 24, July 1963 AWAKENER)

"There will be another world war; it will be much more destructive and extensive than the one before. Rivers of blood will flow! I will dip my kirchief in that river of blood and tie it around my head! Not until the world cries out for God I will give up my Silence".

(page 731 - 732, Vol; II, Lord Meher) Baba continued:

"You might think that the War is over in Europe but the War has now seriously begun. This War has now been created by the illusion entering its final phase. Two stages are over and the last stage has commenced. The climax is not far. Immense suffering awaits the world. Destruction, natural as well as unnatural, will begin".

(Extract from "BEHIND DOORS" page 2 of November 1986 issue of "GLOW")

"18th July 1950; Baba is not feeling too well .. He is very interested in the daily paper and hears it read everyday. He seems to imply that there will be a third world war - that it is inevitable".

(page 344 "Love Alone Prevails")

"On 17th July 1947; Donkin wrote to Will Backett:

"He (Baba) is fit and lively now but often repeats that some catastrophe will come which will wipe out three-fourths of the population of the earth. He seems to say it won't be a war".

(page 318 "Love Alone Prevails")

Chapter 5.

FINAL DECLARATION

Beloved Baba through Life Circular No.18 issued on 10.6.1954 held a meeting at Meherabad on 29th and 30th September 1954 exclusively for the male lovers above the age of 16, which He described as "the first and last of its kind before He gives up His present physical body". Baba indicated in this circular that He would make absolutely clear certain most important points regarding His present incarnation and His work in this life. The report about this meeting in full detail was got printed in the Awakener Vol. II No.3. If one were to go through this report, one would understand how immensely important this meeting was and how Baba drew the attention of all His lovers again and again to the fact of this meeting being very important.

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

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

"During the six months, November, December, January, February, March and April, these phases of the Avatar-Life will manifest themselves. First a very strange and serious disease will attack this body which will be the cause of My humiliation that I have

been speaking about. Secondly the humiliation will end in the sudden breaking of My Silence, and uttering that word which only God can utter. Thirdly glorification will replace humiliation. All the pent up infinite in Me will splash and spread over the universe ".

So declared Baba during the momentous meeting of September 1954 at Meherabad. Finding it necessary to further clarify His declaration, Life Circular No.22 dated: 20.11.1954 was issued.

*1. A strange disease attacking My body;
It was said in your language.*

*2. The humiliation that I will suffer;
It was said in your language.*

3. The breaking of My Silence and My uttering the one word of words.

It was said in My own language and simultaneously in yours, because when I utter that word it will be an audible word to you.

4. My Glorification:

It was said simultaneously in My language and yours.

5. The destruction of three-fourths of the world.

It was said in My own language alone.

6. The stab in My back

It was said in My language alone.

7. The dropping of My body.

It was said in My own language and simultaneously in yours.

"Consequently, whatever is said by Me in your language you are able to understand, know what is said, but that which is said in My own language is impossible for you to understand, however much you all may try to interpret and grasp the underlying meaning behind My words. Only the fulfillment of events can unfold to you in due course the meaning of what is said in My own language ".

Through another Life Circular No.23 dated 3.2.1955 called "confirmation of the final declaration" (of 30.9.1954), Baba confirmed once again that what He declared on 30.9.1954 would take place without any modification whatsoever unless a modification was brought about in degree and in kind.

Again through Life Circular No.24, issued on 10.4.1955 called "decision", He informed all His lovers and through them to the world at large, as follows:

"I was in Ku/dabad for nearly a week from 22nd of March. There night and day, I did My work most intensively. The intensity of My spiritual work caused great pressure on My physical body and mind and it was there that I decided that all I had declared in My final declaration must come to pass exactly in the same sequence and with the same intensity of effect but with modification in the time factor. Therefore, with the change in the time limit, the intensity, scope, shape and size of the chain of events will take place without any moderation whatsoever to bring into effect the destined plan ".

"In the meanwhile, mankind must await, as it must according to My final decision, the witnessing of all that is to come to pass as ordained by God".

In this circular of decision, Baba left no doubt in the minds of His lovers that the events were to take place, as per the time

altered by Him, in exactly the same effect. It is very significant that Baba laid stress and emphasis on the sequence of events. It was not a case of mere happenings of all the events foretold by Him, but it was the sequence of happenings mentioned by Baba that should draw our attention again and again. What is the sequence of events? This sequence was clearly given in the Life Circular No. 22 of "clarification" mentioned in the earlier paragraph. The same sequence is repeated once again here for better comprehension.

1. *"A strange disease will attack My body".*
2. *"The humiliation that I will suffer".*
3. *"The breaking of My Silence and My uttering the one word of words".*
4. *"My glorification".*
5. *"The destruction of three-fourths of world".*
6. *"The stab in My back".*
7. *"The dropping of My body".*

Closely going through the above sequence of events it is clear once again that the breaking of His Silence and His uttering the word of words (Which is mentioned as item 3 above) should take place before the dropping of His body (mentioned as item no. 7 in the above sequence) which is the last.

This would then give rise to the question as to when He broke His Silence uttering the word of words if He had dropped His body on 31st January 1969 as believed and accepted by the world. One need not struggle to place or identify the time when He would have broken His Silence prior to 31st January 1969 in view of what Baba Himself indicated in Life Circular No. 71 dated: 15th January 1969.

"This Darshan Baba says, will be the last given in Silence - the last before HE speaks HIS world renewing WORD of WORDS".

The above circular No. 71 remains the last life circular issued. The need for this circular was not felt necessary, after detailed instructions were given about the Darshan Programme through life circular No. 70 dated: 1.11.1968. If at all a circular was considered necessary, it was only to intimate any change in the scheduled programme. But in this case, the circular No. 71 was issued confirming once again that the Darshan programme would be gone through without change. This is an important point to be taken note of.

"Considering His physical condition we were apprehensive of His body standing such a strain (referring to the proposed Darshan from 10.4.1969 to 10.6.1969). But He said "It will be easy for Me to give My lovers My Darshan; so you are not to feel concerned about it. I will give Darshan reclining and that will be no strain on My body; it will be different from all previous Darshans and it will be the last in Silence. All though I will be reclining I will be very strong. A very poor man winning a rich lottery can become so excited over his fortune that he collapses and dies. My fortune will be in My work being finished and in the knowledge of its certain results. And my exultation will be great.""

The above circular No. 71 is emphatic and categorical that this Darshan programme (scheduled from 10th April to 10th June 1969) would be the last Darshan to be given in Silence, and that the breaking of His Silence would take place by speaking "The world renewing Word of Words" only after this Darshan programme was over. It is therefore abundantly clear that Baba's Silence was not broken till 10.6.1969, the last day of the Darshan programme. Some lovers hold the view that the Silence might have been broken on or before 31st January 1969

12,00 Noon. This view runs counter to Baba's own assurance that His Silence would not be broken atleast upto the end of Darshan programme, as indicated in the last para of Life Circular No. 71.

Baba said some time ago:

*"I shall not lay down My body until I
have given the word to the world."*

Since it is now clear that Baba's Silence continued without a change till the end of Darshan programme, how could the laying down of the body by Baba take place on 31.1.1969 without giving HIS WORD to the world? To grasp the full significance of the event that took place on 31.1.1969 it is necessary to have unshakable faith in Baba's several statements given at different times.

It is interesting to realise how detached such souls as Nilkanthwala can be from mundane affairs. A translation of one of his utterances in Hindi was sent to me, as follows:

The earth will split, men will become helpless and shelterless, like beasts roaming on the plateau. Men will die in large numbers and will take birth again. Due to forced circumstances men will be compelled to eat grass and leaves. Old human habitations will be wiped out and new ones will be established. The place of the indigenous languages like Hindi will be replaced by the English language. Rites, rituals and religious ceremonies will be eliminated. A very big cloud will appear.

(How a Master Works: page 340)

This remark reminds one of a very high type of yogi and adept pilgrim by the name of Jal Tapasvi, whom Baba contacted at Rishikesh in 1946. Dr. Donkin describes this encounter in his

book *The WAYFARERS* and relates that when Kaka and Eruch went for the MAST they introduced themselves to him as coming from Bombay. Immediately the Yogi asked how things went there, to which they replied that there were constant riots and . disturbances. The Yogi then said that this was quite natural and quite inevitable, and was the result of the work of the Avatar who was now alive. He said that the great men of the world, although famous and often worshipped by mankind, were mere play-things in the hands of the Avatar, who controlled them as He wished. He went on to say that these wars and disturbances would continue, and that three-quarters of the world population would be wiped out; for, He said, how could the people from hell mix with those from heaven, the former must be obliterated.

(William Donkin, "The Wayfarers", page 343).

Chapter 6.

THE EVENT OF 31ST JANUARY 1969.

The significance of His Silence and His breaking it, is to be thoroughly grasped in the light of what has been said by Baba as quoted above. It is only to help humanity to experience the Divine love, the beauty and joy of the feeling of oneness amongst themselves, overriding every other consideration of Nationality, religion, language, caste etc., that Baba began His Unique Silence. Now, the question that naturally arises in the minds of Baba lovers is whether Baba has broken His Silence or not. This question would not have been there, but for the event that took place on 31st January 1969 at Meherabad.

Sri Adi k, Irani, Disciple and Secretary of Avatar Meher Baba, sent out hundreds of cables and telegrams to all Baba centres and lovers all over the world on 31st January 1969 as follows:

"Avatar Meher Baba dropped His physical body at 12.00 noon on 31st January at Meherazad to live eternally in the hearts of His lovers. Beloved Baba's body will be interred at Meherabad, Arangaon on 1st February at 10.00 AM in the Tomb, He had ordered to be built long ago."

This above telegram conveying the unbelievable news, unbelievable because it was only on 1st November 1968 Beloved Baba had fixed His Darshan programme to take place from April 10th to June 10th 1969 and intimated to one and all - gave a shock to all His lovers. All of them were stunned to learn the above news and did not know what to think and what to do. They were so confused that they forgot all previous warnings of Baba given from time to time. In their anxiety to see Baba atleast while He was being entombed, people rushed to Meherabad and took Darshan of Baba.

His body could not be interred on 1st February 1969 at 10.00 AM as programmed by Mandali originally, but was interred on the 7th February 1969 at 12.00 hrs. i.e. after 7 days . All these 8 days Beloved Baba's physical body was kept lying in the crypt in the tomb without any scientific steps for preservation of the body from getting decayed or decomposed. In spite of non-taking of precautionary measures, Beloved's body was in the same healthy condition till the end, as was found at Meherazad at 12.15 noon on 31.1.1969. People did not seem to realise the importance and significance of this mystic event namely to find Baba's physical body in that unchanging condition from 12.15 noon of 31st January 1969 till 12 o'clock on 7th February 1969, when His body was entombed. People have offered different explanations, which do not throw sufficient light on the aspect of Baba's Silence.

"I shall not lay down My body until I have given the WORD to the world."

(page 2 Vol. VII No.3 AWAKENER)

"With in I will break My Silence; then drop My body."

(page 53 Vol. IX Nos.1 & 2 AWAKENER).

As seen from the above statements of Baba He would not lay down the body without breaking His Silence and giving His word. It would appear that Baba had broken His Silence before He laid down the body on 31st January 1969, though we cannot say exactly when.

But Beloved Baba must not have broken His Silence atleast until June 10th 1969. The basis for this conclusion is Life Circular No.71 dated: 15th January 1969. This life circular was issued in continuation of the Life Circular No. 70, dated: 1st November 1968 through which Baba has fixed a time schedule for His Darshan to take place from 10th April to 10 June 1969

at Poona. In L.C. No 71 Baba assured all His lovers that the proposed darshan between 10th April 1969 to 10th June 1969 would definitely take place at Poona according to time schedule already given in Life Circular no. 70. The note-worthy point in this circular No. 71 was indicated in the last para.

"This Darshan, Baba says, will be the last to be given in Silence - the last before He speaks His world renewing word of words."

In as much as Baba Himself clearly and unambiguously indicated that the Darshan programme upto June 10th 1969, at Poona, would take place while He continued to maintain His Silence even after 31st January 1969. The apparent contradiction between the two statements of Baba Viz.,

"I shall not lay down My body until I have given the word to the world".

"This Darshan will be the last to be given in Silence - the last before He speaks His world renewing word of words".

need to be properly explained and grasped in the light of the event that took place on 31st January 1969.

Why did Baba add at all, the last para of Life Circular No. 71? Even without this last para the rest of the Life Circular No. 71 was quite clear and emphatic that this Darshan would take place as scheduled. In view of the confusion that would follow the event that took place on 31st January 1969, Baba in His Omniscience, purposely added the above last para in Life Circular No. 71, in order to remove all doubts about the breaking of His Silence, that would arise in the minds of His lovers. It is therefore abundantly clear that the Silence of Baba was not to be broken atleast upto 10th June 1969 (the last day of His Darshan programme) much less on 31st January 1969 or earlier.

In this connection attention is invited to Baba's message given to the Westerners through 66th Family letter dated: 8.9.1965 after cancelling the scheduled Darshan programme exclusively for the Westerners to take place at Bombay in December 1965.

"Some time, somewhere, somehow, I will meet My old and new Western lovers before I break My Silence."

The only Darshan programme fixed for the Western lovers subsequent to the cancellation of the proposed December 1965 Sahavas, was the one fixed in Life Circular No. 70, dated: 1.11.1968 giving a time schedule from April 10th to June 10th 1969.

All lovers of Avatar Meher Baba in the east and the west are eagerly awaiting word from Him regarding His giving His Darshan "Some time, somewhere, somehow". Therefore Baba wanted His lovers to clearly understand that this proposed Darshan of April to June 1969 was the last one to be given before He breaks His Silence.

Then how does one explain His laying down the body on 31st January 1969 without giving the word? Since Baba would not lay down His body without giving the word and since the word was not to be given till 10th June 1969 what could be the meaning of event of 31st January 1969? In order to understand fully the significance of that event, one has to refer back to what is called His Final Declaration given on 30th September 1954.

The question therefore is asked: "Why did Baba, the All-knowing, bring about a situation knowing fully that such a situation would lead to confusion in the minds of His lovers"? Let it be understood that it was not Baba that brought about this situation. It was Maya-to which Baba had been referring over a number of occasions. Baba had been cautioning His lovers that Maya would try to make "His Words" appear to be

otherwise than fulfilled: Baba had also assured His lovers that however much Maya would try and oppose His work, His work would ultimately be successfully completed. He had therefore warned His lovers to hold fast to His daaman, not with one hand but with both the hands, with full faith in His words and what all He said during final declaration in September 1954. As early as in February 1955 through Life circular No. 23 Baba did throw a hint about this event that occurred on 31st January 1969.

"In the latter case the most important and significant point is that definitely and emphatically the link between My physical body and all My external activities, as carried on upto now, will be dropped so that if I do not drop My physical body, I will yet so to say "die" for I will then become actually dead to the world upto the end of modified period of time."

(para 8 Life Circular No. 23)

It is significant that Baba used the words "die" and to say that He would become actually dead to the world upto the end of the modified period of time. He wanted His lovers to understand that there would come a time when He would, so to say "die". What does this mean? Is there anything like, so to say, "die"? Is there anything like becoming actually dead to the world upto a certain time? If one dies, it is a permanent death and there is no question of being dead upto a certain time. But Baba wanted His lovers to understand that the so-called death that would happen to His physical body some time in future, which would be treated as actual death by the world, would not be a permanent one. How could death be temporary?

Baba hinted that He would not be physically available at all to His lovers only for a certain period of time, though the world at large would treat Him as permanently dead. His lovers should therefore carefully note the words used by Baba in the above Life Circular No. 23 and grasp the underlying meaning of these words.

In the 28th Family Letter dated: 9.9.1968 Mani wrote:

"21st May 1968 marked both an end and a beginning - end of interminable seclusion (When Baba secluded Himself from seeing His lovers), and beginning of a period referred to as exclusion (When His lovers are excluded from seeing Him). In short, on May 21st Baba came out of seclusion and stepped into exclusion, without a change of the restrictions that covered the former. And, we understand from Him, this period of exclusion is the threshold leading to Inclusion, the time that will include all to His Darshan."

The exclusion referred to by Baba, did happen at Guruprasad, Poona, between 10th April 1969 to 10th June 1969 when His lovers were excluded from seeing Him, even though it was a Darshan programme fixed by Him. That means while Baba was seeing all His lovers that gathered during the period, as per the time schedule, His lovers could not see Him because they were excluded from seeing Him. In the same way those that gathered from 31st January 1969 till 7th February 1969 at Meherabad Hill could not see Him and they could only see the physical body which was Baba's "Link" with the world and which was dropped. The lovers saw and had Darshan of the body in which Baba shut Himself up. It was like seeing the house of one who was inside with the doors closed. No conscious contact between Him and His lovers was established during the Meherabad Darshan period.

As already mentioned above, the Physical body of Beloved Baba was in a strange and peculiar condition when the body could be termed as neither living nor dead because, the chief symptoms of a living body and the chief symptoms of a dead body were both totally absent. Personally I believe that Baba referred to this situation only in His physical life, (during the Final Declaration on 30.9.1954) declaring

"A strange disease will attack My body, which will be the cause for My humiliation."

It is only by connecting up this strange disease referred to with the event of 31st January 1969, our understanding of the situation will become easier.

When Baba said that a strange disease, attacking His body would bring about humiliation to Him it was not at all clear. How could any disease by itself, however strange it might have been, be a cause for His humiliation? Any disease to the physical body would have been caused by the failure of the physical and biological mechanism of some part of the body and will have a medical background. But in all the 75 years of Baba's physical life till 31st January 1969, there was no such strange disease beyond the comprehension of the medical science, though it may be said that during the later part of 1968 and during January 1969 Baba developed very high level of blood urea, which was diagnosed and identified, and hence could not be called strange, no doubt.

This strangeness was not in the disease itself because doctors could analyse and find that the blood urea level was high. Therefore it could not be said that the disease was unknown - the name of the disease of such a condition might be unknown, but the structure and the nature of the disease ... what was ailing was known. What was strange about Baba's condition then was, not the disease but the outward symptoms and behaviour of Baba. According to the opinion of the doctors Baba could not have been conscious at all under the influence of such a high blood urea level, but Baba should have been in coma; on the other hand Baba was found to be very alert and active in mind, and conversing with every one (through gestures of course) and was even cutting jokes.

'The next day the doctor from Bombay came, and also one from Ahmednagar. By the time they

arrived a great spasm shook His body, the pulse rate fell to nothing and breathing ceased. This was at 12.15 P.M. At 12.00 noon, He had been joking with us about all the medicines which He had been given."

(page 5 of 81st Family Letter dated: 14.3.1969).

BABA was even cutting jokes when the doctors attending on Him, were amazed at Baba being in a conscious condition. Baba remarked that His physical sick condition had no medical background and it was due to His universal work and since it had no medical background there was no medical cure also.

Chapter 7.

INTERPRETATION OF THE EVENT ON 31.1.1969.

Looking at the event from a different angle, we find that since Baba's silence continued even after the event on 31.1.1969 it would be appropriate to assume that Baba has not dropped the body at all! One would be called a stupid - if such an obvious happening of Baba's dropping the body, so certified by qualified doctors, were to be treated as something else other than dropping of the body. However, let us examine all the relevant facts as reported in the "Family Letters" and in other documents.

To understand the significance and meaning of the above event one should recall to one's own mind the fact that the physical body of Beloved Baba, right from the time, which was supposed to be dead on 31st January 1969 till, it was finally entombed, after 7 days on 7th February 1969, was as fresh as ever, without the slightest signs of decay or decomposition. Let us also recall how and why the interment of Baba's physical body in the tomb at Meherabad was held-over from 1st February 1969 (when it was announced to take place) till 7th February 1969 (when it was actually done). The original telegram sent by Sri Adi K. Irani to all Baba lovers the world-over, informed that Baba's physical body was to be interred on 1st February 1969 at 10.00 AM. Why and how this proposed interment on 1st February 1969 was got postponed from time to time till 7th February 1969? It was an undisputed fact that this postponement from 1st February 1969 to 7th February 1969 was not at all premeditated nor preplanned, nor predetermined; it was purely an act of God beyond the control of the concerned persons. What exactly happened was this.

Soon after the information about the event of Baba's dropping of the body reached the peoples of all the countries, His lovers started journeying to Meherabad for their final darshan. Each party requested Sri Adi K. Irani through telegrams to keep Baba's body available for taking their darshan without entombing; and the parties began arriving at Meherabad from mid-night

of 31st January 1969 onwards. There was an incessant flow of His lovers not only from all parts of India but also from abroad, through whatever mode of transport that was available to them,. In view of the ever increasing Darshanardhis (pilgrims) hour by hour from the morning of Saturday 1st February 1969 the mandali were in a fix as to how they could complete the interment, without causing deep disappointment and resentment to hundreds of Baba lovers arriving there continuously.

. The mandali therefore decided among themselves in consultation with the doctors, that the interment should be postponed till all the Darshanarthis (pilgrims) arrived and had their darshan, or till the physical signs of decay or decomposition of Baba's physical body show themselves up, whichever is earlier. To facilitate this arrangement, two of the doctors were examining Baba's physical body every two hours and were allowing the darshan to continue, after they were satisfied about the absence of any physical signs of decay or decomposition of the body. In this manner, quite unexpectedly without any prefixation, the darshan programme continued not merely for a few hours beyond the time fixed originally for interment, but for days and days, as per the permission of the doctors who continued their examination of the physical body every two hours from 1st February 1969-to 7th February 1969. Even the interment that finally took place on 7th February 1969 was decided upon not because of the presence of any signs of decay or decomposition, but for purely different reasons. As explained by Sister Mani in her 81st Family letter dated: 14.3.1969.

"Men wanted not to leave Meherabad until the Beloved's body was interred. None could say when this would be. The time of 10.00 AM on February 1st, as first declared, was based on medical advice that as the body was not embalmed, interment would be delayed longer than 20 hours, even though surrounded by a border of ice blocks as arranged. Mehera and I felt that the Beloved Himself would give an indication of when it should be done, that as

long as His dear body remained fresh and lovely we would not have it covered up. Even after a week it was not found necessary to place the covering. But as Baba had told us on the last day, the morning of 31st January 1969, that after seven days He would be 100% free (from suffering, as we interpreted His hand gestures was to mean) we took that as an indication .. And so seven days after the event at 12.15 noon on Friday 7th of February 1969, the interment took place amid thousands of voices singing His glorious name and resonant cries of "Avatar Mehero Baba Ki Jei".

It was therefore clear that neither decay nor decomposition of the body took place even to a slightest degree inspite of the body being kept in an open crypt without any scientific protection against decay or decomposition of the body during all the days. It was also a fact which was noticed and mentioned by the same doctors, as well as by everybody else, that the "rigor mortis" did never set in at all. This was indeed a very strange and a rare phenomenon unknown to the medical history. There was never a case before, where rigor mortis failed to set in. The medical science is clear and firm that setting in of rigor mortis in the case of a dead body, will take place within hours after the life is extinguished. But contrary to all medical knowledge, here was a case, the only one of its kind till now, where there was a total absence of rigor mortis which was an important indication of a dead body.

The doctors who examined Baba's physical body at 12.15 P.M. (on 31st January 1969) and after, pronounced that Baba's body was a dead body-because they found respiration stopped, heart beat stopped and body temperature falling. Because of these indications they could and did say, that there was no life in the physical body of Baba. The medical science tells us that for a body to be said to be living there must be respiration of the lungs, heart beat or pulse, and temperature of the body maintained within the limits. It also tells us that the

chief symptoms of a dead body are, presence of decay, decomposition and rigor mortis. It may be in some cases that rigor mortis might disappear after some time but its presence must take place a few hours after death occurs. The total absence of rigor mortis after death is unknown to medical science.

As the reports go and as was made clear in 81st Family letter dated: 14.3.1969 of Sister Mani, there was no trace of decay, no trace of decomposition and no trace of rigor mortis, the presence of which symptoms alone characterise a dead body. Here was the physical body of Baba, seen by all between 31st January 1969 to 7th February 1969 without respiration, heartbeat or pulse, and without body temperature - (which are symptoms of lifelessness) and also with total absence of decay, decomposition, and rigor mortis (which are symptoms of dead body). The physical body of Baba was lying in a peculiar state - without signs of life and without symptoms of death - for continuously over a period of 168 hours (seven days). The body would have continued undoubtedly in the same condition had it been allowed. Unfortunately there was no means of verifying this assumption as the body was entombed and slab laid on the crypt in the tomb, on the eighth day.

(1) "It (His face) remained smooth shining and lustrous for all seven days. The face looked natural and Baba seemed to be sleeping. In fact, when a high ranking Government Officer came to see Baba on the sixth day, he spontaneously exclaimed, "He looks as if He is sleeping." In short, changes that should have occurred in a dead body did not occur with Baba 's body."

(page 33 The Last Sahavas - of Dr. Bharucha).

Thus till 31st January 1969 there was no incidence of any strange disease attacking the physical body of Baba. Then, which was that strange disease to which Baba referred in His final declaration? Furthermore, Baba said that this strange disease would be the cause for His humiliation.

Let us see what this humiliation means. In May 1957 and also in June 1957 Baba called for a meeting of His *lovers* and workers which was attended by lovers from Poona, Bombay and Navasari. During this meeting Baba asked the gathering whether they remembered His final declaration at Meherabad, and whether they understood and grasped the phase of His humiliation referred to in the final declaration. Baba Himself explained to the gathering on this word "Humiliation."

" Now let Me first explain what I mean by humiliation. Suppose you are loved by some one very dearly for several years and one day when you happened to meet him, he suddenly begins to abuse, kick you and spit on your face; in the context of your previous relations with him, your plight becomes an example of humiliation. In the same way, if some persons who have previously adored Me and raised Me up to the skies in adoration for years suddenly turn against Me and express extreme disdain for Me, by throwing Me in filth, will be another example of humiliation".

(Warning from Baba to His .lovers)

Baba thus made clear that the humiliation which He referred to in His final declaration would be from His own *lovers*. Many people were under the impression that humiliation to Baba would be caused by general public who did not *believe* in Him.

As. it is, it is only a very negligible fraction of the world's population that has come to *believe* in Baba. The general public were mostly either indifferent to Baba, or ignorant of Baba or non-believers in Baba. The constant reference to His "Humiliation" by Baba on every occasion, was a pointer in itself. The people who never believed in Baba were there at all times ever since Baba claimed Himself to be the Highest of the High, the Avatar of the Age. But Baba was pointing to something else. He was telling us that His humiliation would be a future event connected with the so called "dark cloud". When there were

always people who did not believe in Him, and if not-believing in Him was a humiliation, the phase of His humiliation could be said to have been commenced from the day when Baba declared Himself as *Avatar*, which people in general did not believe or accept. On the contrary, Baba declared during the Meherabad meeting on 30.9.1954, that the humiliation phase in His life would be a future event connected with a strange disease. It is therefore abundantly clear that His humiliation would take place when His own lovers, admirers, adorers and *devotees*, would *leave* Him consequent on the attacking by a strange disease, or bursting of dark cloud (in Baba's words).

As warned by Baba in 1957, we now find gradual change in the attitude of some of His *lovers*. Some of them felt the need of another living master, because of the physical absence of Baba and went to other Masters or saints (real or false, is not. Known). In the case of some of the lovers the earlier enthusiasm and ardency towards Baba began to cool off. In some cases they have reverted back to other conventional types of *sadhanas*; in some other cases, while their faith in Baba's Avatar-hood did not diminish they don't seem to have faith in what Baba had said during the final declaration meeting and subsequently. In some other cases, while they maintain that Baba is the Avatar, they believe that Baba's words have already started coming into effect. Likewise every lover seems to be having his own interpretation of Baba's words regarding His Silence, breaking of His Silence, uttering of the word, the manifestation, the effect of manifestation, the symptoms of manifestation etc. While every one is free to have his own interpretation, he should satisfy himself if such an interpretation clashed with Baba's own words. No doubt our human minds can never grasp the real meaning of our Beloved. At the same time He also assured us that only the fulfillment of events could unfold to us, in due course, the meaning of what was said by Him.

During the same meeting in 1957 where He explained about the humiliation, He also cautioned His lovers, in His

infinite compassion, about the circumstances when such a kind of humiliation (i.e., when the attitude of His erstwhile lovers would begin to change), and the circumstances under which such humiliation would take place, etc.

"I will also give you an example of circumstances under which, this kind of a thing can happen. You are worshipping Me for so many years. Suppose you suddenly find Me, eating rubbish and roaming about naked in the streets behaving like a mad person, what will be your reaction to this behavior of Mine? I do not want any one of you to think or say that Baba is going to become mad! On the contrary I have come to make the whole world go mad after God and truth."

(Warning from Baba to His lovers).

In giving an example of circumstances when the lovers are likely to cause humiliation, Baba chose a wonderful and a striking example. He cited the case of external behavior of what a mad person would do. He wanted His lovers not to be misled even to a slightest degree, by His external outward appearance and behavior. If He were to behave in the manner of a mad man, like doing such physical actions as a mad one only could do. He wanted His lovers not to take Him to be a mad person even if His external physical actions would point out that He had become mad.

"I do not want any one of you to think or say that Baba is going to become mad."

His lover who accepted Baba as Avatar and worshipped Him over a number of years, was therefore severely warned not to take Baba as having become mad even though, under certain circumstances, he might find Baba's outward behavior similar to that of a mad man. It means that even though Baba were to appear mad, He should not be regarded as really mad. Whatever madness was noticed by His lover, was only to be taken as

apparent and not real. It is very significant for Baba to imply that, at a future date, His external "behavior" would be such that it would confuse His lovers totally and during that period, He warned, that such behavior, (which would be found to be unbecoming of an Avatar!) was not to be treated as a real condition of His state; but was to be treated as a mere appearance or pretense! This example, given by Baba, is very strikingly close - in meaning and content, to what Baba said earlier, namely.

. "So that if I do not drop My physical body, I will yet, so to say "die", for I will then become actually dead to the world upto the end of the modified period of time."

(Life Circular No. 23 dated: 3.2.1955 para 8).

Here also Baba was indicating of certain circumstances when He would, though not actually drop His physical body, so to say, "die". He was indicating of a certain condition and appearance of His physical body when it would be treated as dead, though He would not actually drop His physical body! The world at large would take Him to be dead, and not His lovers and believers. Even then world would not take Him to be dead for all time, but only up to the end of the modified period of time.

When Baba warned His lovers not at all to be misled by His apparent behavior like a mad person, though the world might believe and take Him to be a mad man, considering His external behavior, He impliedly warned His lovers not to be misled, at a future date, by His appearance and behavior like a dead man, even though He would "then become actually dead to the world. Then as Baba assured His lovers that He was not going to become mad, He also assured His lovers that His becoming "Actually dead to the world" would be only up to the end of the modified period of time". .

Thus the event of 31st January 1969 which was generally understood and treated as Baba having dropped His physical

body, was the one about which Baba cautioned all the while. Here also when the event took place His external physical condition and behavior was like that of a dead person, in as much as breathing stopped, heart stopped, and temperature of the body came down. This condition of Baba was shocking to His lovers and to the world. His lovers were confused because His dropping the body without breaking His Silence and giving the word, was unthinkable and was very much contrary to their expectations.

How could Baba, The Avatar of The Age, the God in Human form, fail to keep His promise of breaking His Silence before dropping His body? How could He fix the Darshan programme from 10th April onwards (when He were to drop His physical body even on 31st January 1969?). Could not Baba, who was supposed to be All-knowing, know what was going to happen on 31.1.1969? What was all this? Such questions had surfaced themselves in the minds of His lovers at the happening of this event on 31.1.1969. This was exactly the situation about which Baba forewarned His lovers. Baba warned earlier that such a reaction as indicated in the above questions, on the part of His lovers would constitute what He termed as "Humiliation". Though the circumstances warranted arising of such questions in the minds of His lovers, His lovers should immediately recall the warning given by Baba and remember His words namely.

"So that if I do not drop My physical body, I will yet, so to say, "die", for I will then become actually dead to the world upto the end of the modified period of time."

The event of 31st January 1969 was therefore to be interpreted as an apparent physical death but not death in the real sense of the term. Not that Baba would never drop His body or that His physical death would not at all take place. Baba Himself said that He would drop His body; but not before breaking His Silence. In the Life Circular No. 22 dated: 20.11.1954, while giving the clarification to His final warning, He did mention

about the dropping of His body. But this dropping of the body were to take place as the last event in a sequence of events out of the seven events mentioned by Him. In His Life circular no, 24 issued on 10.4.1955 Baba was emphatic:

"All that was declared in My final declaration must come to pass exactly in the same sequence and with the same intensity of effect but with modification in the time factor".

The human mind could never conceive of the idea of apparent physical death.

It understands the physical death but could not conceive what apparent physical death is. It is an extraordinarily strange idea because there is virtually no difference between real death and apparent death. It is not in the experience of any human being - it never happened - that a person could be dead temporarily for only a limited period of time. There was never a case of a dead body coming to life after an interval of decades. Therefore when Baba hinted that His physical death would only be till the end of the "modified period of time" it was beyond comprehension. So it was natural for any one to interpret the event of 31st January 1969 as Baba's physical death. If it is to be a different interpretation, it could only be because of His lovers' faith in Baba and His words when He said that the Darshan to be given from 10th April to 10th June 1969 was to be "the last to be given in Silence" and that "I will not lay down My body without giving the word."

There is an episode in Mahabharatha, which may help us to understand the "apparent death", till the end of the modified period of time. During the war between Kauravas and Pandavas, one day under the leadership of Dronacharya, the armies of Kauravas took up positions into peculiar formation called 'Padma Vyuha' and challenged Pandavas to attack them, if they can! Arjuna was the only warrior who knows how to break this Padma Vyuha, but he was out to another sector in the war field. The other Pandavas do not have any knowledge as to how to attack

this peculiar army formation - they were in a dilemma. Abhimanyu, the teen-age son of Arjuna, offered himself to lead the army from Pandava side, as he learnt from his great father, the way of entry into such formation, but he pleaded his ignorance about the way to come out of that Padma Vyuha. But Bhima, Nakula and Sahadeva, uncles of Abhimanyu, promised to follow him behind and be close to Abhimanyu, and protect him, on the way. Thereupon, Abhimanyu led the army into Padma Vyuha.

There is one warrior named Jayadratha fighting on the side of Kauravas, who secured a boon from Lord Shiva, that he would be able to resist Bhima sufficiently and successfully just for one day only. This Jayadratha could therefore obstruct Bhima that day from closely following Abhimanyu, during his march into Padma Vyuha. Abhimanyu without support from Bhima and others had to fight alone against the combined might of the enemy. He was killed mercilessly by all the Kauravas together.

Learning about this tragic death of his son Abhimanyu, Arjuna became furious against Jayadratha (who was mainly instrumental in his son's death) and taken a vow that he would kill Jayadratha before sunset, the next day, or else he would throw himself in burning fire and immolate himself, Jayadratha was then carefully hidden in a secret place by the Kauravas, to thwart the attempts of Arjuna for the entire day, so that if Arjuna fails in his vow, he would commit suicide, and without Arjuna, Pandavas could not fight but surrender.

Arjuna was searching for Jayadratha the whole day but could not succeed. It was time for sunset and the sun was about to set. Arjuna acknowledging his failure to fulfil his vow, was preparing himself to commit self-immolation, for which a huge fire was getting ready. Lord Krishna, (as beloved Baba was then called) used his Mayavic Powers, and made the sun invisible to human eye by covering the sun with his celestial disc called "Sudarshan". When the sun was thus hidden behind "Sudarshan Chakra", there was total darkness and people thought that the sun did set. Kauravas were beaming with joy, at the

prospect of Arjuna committing suicide, and along with them, Jayadratha also came out of "hiding". As soon as Jayadratha was spotted by Krishna, Arjuna was instructed to shoot the arrow at Jayadratha, and kill him. But Arjuna protested that it was against his vow, as he took a vow to kill Jayadratha, before sunset and not after sunset. There upon Lord Krishna assured Arjuna, that the sun was not yet set and removed his celestial disk from hiding the sun. As soon as the "Chakra" was removed, the sun became visible again, and Arjuna immediately shot at Jayadratha with his arrow and killed him.

Thus we see, that the sun did not actually set, even though the sun appeared to have set. That is the difference between apparent sunset and real sunset. Likewise, Baba is using His 'Maya' aspect to make the world believe that He is "actually dead" till the end of the modified period of time.

"Maya being the showman displaying things that do not really exist, will make everything, including my health, body, energy, words and promises, go against me, and this will automatically test the faith of my lovers".

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

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

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

(page 349 - God Man)

Since Silence itself continued during darshan period (according to Baba Himself) till 10th June 1969 - the event of 31st January 1969 could only be termed as apparent death or "so to say death" (in the words of Baba). Perhaps this must be the

strange disease which was referred to in the final declaration.

One will not be wrong if this physical condition of BABA's body from 31st January 1969 to 7th February 1969 exhibiting neither symptoms of life (such as respiration - heart beat - body temperature) nor symptoms of death (such as rigor mortis decay and decomposition), is interpreted as "**the strange disease**" for the following reasons.

The doctors were surprised and amazed when the "coma" did not take place in spite of high blood urea - which phenomenon was contrary to medical science. During one of the occasions when Baba was undergoing severe fits of spasms a doctor from Bombay was called and when he examined Baba, He was found to be quite normal. In fact the doctor found nothing wrong with the physical condition of Baba. When the physical condition of Baba, could baffle the medical men, was not it a phenomenon contrary to all the established medical knowledge? In a similar way the physical condition of Baba which manifested from 31st January 1969 to 7th February 1969 was also unknown to the medical science.

This physical condition of Baba on 31.1.1969, could also be understood as the result of the "LINK between My physical body and all My external activities as carried on upto now," having been dropped.

(Life circular No. 23 dated: 3.2.1955)

Chapter 8.

SILENCE CONTINUES EVEN AFTER 31.1.1969.

"Despite these assurances, Baba's health became weak. But symptoms were completely confusing to the doctors were called from Poona and Bombay. His blood urea was so high that the doctors said usually an ordinary man in such a condition would go into coma, but there was not even the least sign of mental confusion or the faintest traces of uremic odour. Similarly, when muscular spasms were occurring, when a specialist from Bombay examined Him, he asked why he had been called" "There were no symptoms at all Baba's condition was quite normal".

(Page 4 of 81st Family letter dated; 14.3.1969).

'Baba says that the pressure of His universal burden reflects upon His body; and as the strain of His work in seclusion was severe, the effect on His body is consequently severe ... but though the effect is human the cause is divine, and it is therefore in His hands. We get fleeting glimpses of this at moments when unaccountably He looks more well and glowing than one in the pink of health. Indeed, in the light of the recent test made, the doctors are much puzzled and amazed by certain favourable factors that are contrary to all rules of medical science".

(pages 1 &2 of 80th Family letter dated; 26.1.1969).

"Don't forget I am God. I know all. Simply do as I say".

(page 2 of same Family letter 80 dated: 26.1.1969).

Seeing Baba's physical condition very weak and fearing that His body may not stand the strain of the proposed Darshan

during the coming April to June 1969, the mandali suggested the postponement or cancellation of the Darshan programme. Baba could not allow any such suggestions and reminded them that He is God and knows everything. This therefore indicated that Baba knew what was going to happen on 31st January 1969 and tried to help His lovers from succumbing to veils of "maya". By fixing a Darshan programme in April to June 1969, long after the event (31.1.1969), He wanted His lovers to just carry on without giving room to any doubt, confusion or apprehension that the event of 31.1.1969 might create. We were asked simply to do as He said. Remembering such instructions of Baba, the mandali later informed all lovers concerned on 8th February 1969 as :

"Despite Baba's physical absence those lovers who desire to visit Guruprasad, Poona to honour Baba's invitation for Darshan upto 10th June can still come abiding strictly to the scheduled dates and conditions as per Family letter dated; 1.11.1968".

(page 8 of Family letter No. 81 dated: 14.3.1969).

So, all said and done, Baba being fully aware of what was to follow after the event (31.1.1969), prepared His lovers totally to face the situation with re-doubled faith in Him and His words. The event (31.1.1969) was therefore to be regarded as the one *which became the cause for His subsequent humiliation* from His erstwhile lovers only, whose faith in Him would have been shaken by the event (31.1.1969) and who ran after other saints and masters, in spite of all the warnings given by Him. Since the cause of this "humiliation" was apparently the event of 31.1.1969 only, this event could now be regarded and equated to as "Strange disease which would be the cause for His humiliation".

In addition, Baba, explained the circumstances when His lovers were likely to cause humiliation. He said that if Baba were to be seen going naked in the streets of Ahrnednaqar

eating filth rolling on the ground and behaving like a mad man, the very reaction is the humiliation, if such reaction was in the nature of believing Baba to be really mad. That was why Baba had immediately clarified, while giving the above example, that He would never become mad and also that His lovers should never take Him to be mad in spite of mad-like appearance, The warning given then as to how one should react under such unbelievable circumstances applies equally to the situation created on 31.1.1969, because the event was unbelievable and caused shock to many. Just as Baba warned that He should not be regarded as mad in spite of appearance otherwise, *this apparent physical death of Baba on 31.1.1969 was also not to be regarded as a real death*. Only the "link" between His physical body and all His external activities, was dropped on 31.1.1969. This was the meaning when He said :

"So that if I do not drop My physical body, I will yet, so to say, "die", for I will then become actually dead to the world upto the end of modified period of time".

(Life circular 23 dated: 3.2.1955 para 8).

Thus every indication of Baba given on different occasions, unmistakably points out to that this event of 31.1.1969 as a temporary and an apparent affair while truth is something else. In the light of the above discussions and clarifications, and if we regard the event (31.1.1969) as the strange disease referred to in His final declaration, it follows that the present phase of Baba's Avataric life is nothing but humiliation. We now find a great change taking over the erstwhile lovers. How long this phase will continue is not known. But it is certain that this will end suddenly with the breaking of His Silence and His simultaneous manifestation.

In the 78th Family letter dated: 9.9.1968, sister Mani reported how the work done by Baba in His seclusion left its marks on His physical health.

"We had occasional crumbs for our imagination, when He was in the mood to let fall some remark on some angle of the work. From one of these we learnt what a labour it was for Baba, during these specific hours daily when He worked entirely away from the gross plane, to retain the link with His physical body, He had to take great pains, He said, to keep the thread-fine link from snapping. Another absorbing remark fell on another angle. It was at one of those times when we begged Him to be less neglectful on His health, to go slower by working less hours, and Baba said: "That would mean once again prolonging the work and postponing the date of its conclusion. If now, I allow that to happen, it will indefinitely postpone the result and set it on a different course."

Here again we find the word "Link" being used by Baba. In order to keep the "link" with His physical body and through the physical body with the gross plane, Baba was continuously thumping on His thigh with His fist, so that the "link" is not snapped before His work was completed. It was only after the completion of work, that He allowed the link with His physical body to be snapped. This statement of Baba and action, was reminiscent of an important portion of His final declaration, which was quoted already above and repeated below:

"In the later case the most important and significant point is that definitely and emphatically the link between My physical body and all My external activities as carried on upto now, will be dropped."

(para 8 Life circular No. 23 dated: 3.2.1955).

Further Baba indicated that no further postponement of the completion of the work could be permitted. The completion of His Avataric universal work which should have been culminated by April 1955, was first postponed by Baba to a date not specified then.

It is seen from the Family letter that according to Baba's hint, the work was at last completed on 30.7.1968. That means, it had taken a long time of 23 years period, for Baba to complete the work to bring about the results as divined by Him. The event of His apparent dropping of the body (31.1.1969) took place just after six months after completion of the work (30.7.1968). During the final declaration meeting on 30.9.1954 Baba indicated that certain events in a particular sequence would happen in six months after the completion, the events would have to take place in the same sequence as already indicated in His Final declaration. (page 271 GOD-MAN) Thus the first of the seven events took place on 31.1.1969, exactly six months after the completion of work on 30.7.1968. Looking at the event of 31.1.1969 from this angle, it could be regarded as the "strange disease" attacking His physical body and the link between His physical body and all the activities as carried on with His body till then, snapped. All the physical activities of the physical body must naturally include breathing, beating of the heart and blood circulation and all biological functions. The physical body of Baba was actually found to be devoid of all bodily functions including respiration and heart beat. This condition was interpreted by the medical men as 'dead" condition of the body. They should have just declared that there was absence of life. One might ask if lifelessness did not amount to death? It would not be so in the case of Avatar Meher Baba who Himself declared earlier "so that if I do not drop my physical body I will, yet, so to say, "die" for I will then actually become dead to the world up to the end of the modified period of time." Actually there were neither traces nor symptoms of death on His body for all the seven days from 31.1.1969 to 7.2.1969 when His body was lying in the crypt of the tomb till He was finally interred. It is only when we lose sight of the fact that He is GodMan, or God In Human form, we are likely to treat His case as that of an ordinary mortal. Baba's body also would have undergone the changes of decay and decomposition if that event was actually His physical death.

Being God in Human form, Baba would not allow the natural law of life to be superseded and violated. In such a case, how else one were to explain the absence of symptoms of life and also of death? What could be the reason for the lifeless body not showing signs of decay or decomposition for days together? Are we to presume that Baba brought about a miracle in His physical death? If we presume so, we would be doing great injustice to Baba . Baba has said time and again that He would not perform any miracles and the first and the last miracle would be performed only at the time of His breaking the Silence.

"The moment I break My Silence and utter that original word, the first and last miracle of "Baba" In this life will be performed. When I perform that miracle, I won't raise the dead; but I will make those who live for the world dead to the world and live in God. I won't give sight to the blind but make people blind to illusion and make them see God as Reality."

(page 23 vol V No. 2 AWAKENER).

Since Baba was not performing any miracle except at the time of breaking of His Silence, the extraordinary physical condition of Baba's body from 31.1.1969 to 7.2.1969 without showing any symptoms of life and also death-like decay or decomposition, should not be brought under the category of miracles unless it is claimed that the Silence was also broken while the event of dropping the body took place. It had already been established in the foregoing pages that Baba's Silence continued till 10th June 1969, upto which date, Baba's last Darshan at Guruprasad, Poona, continued and which Darshan Baba Himself described to be the last to be given in Silence . Therefore, since Silence could not have been broken till 10.6.1969, the extraordinary condition of lifelessness and deathlessness in which Baba's physical body was seen by one and all, could not be styled as a miracle.,, The only explanation

available is to treat this event as the strange disease only, the first of the series of seven events mentioned in His final declaration.

In order to understand and grasp the full significance of this event, we should have firm faith not only in Baba Himself, but also in His words as God's words. The key rather the clue to the whole mystery whether Baba broke His Silence or not, was given in the last para of the Life Circular No. 71.

"This Darshan, Baba says, will be the last given in Silence the last before He speaks His world renewing word of words."

Chapter 9.

"I WILL COME BACK"

It is very significant in this connection, to take note of a short piece of conversation that took place between Baba and His disciple and Secretary Sri Adi K. Irani a few days before that event of 31st January 1969. Sri Adi K. Irani was at Hyderabad some time in August 1969 and was addressing a gathering of Baba lovers at Meher Vihar, Himayatnagar, Hyderabad (residence of Sri K. Subba Rao, by the side of Gayathri Hotel). During that meeting he told that he was summoned by Baba in December 1968 permitting him to have His Darshan for a short while at Meherazad. Prior to this Sri Adiji was very much upset within himself for not being able to have Baba's Darshan since a long time though the other mandali at Meherazad were able to be in Baba's physical presence now and then in spite of Baba's strictest seclusion. So, that call from Baba cheered him up and he went to Baba at Meherazad. The conversation that took place between him and Baba then was retold by Sri Adiji during the above meeting at Hyderabad:

Baba asked Sri Adiji - "DO you really believe that I am the Avatar of the age?". This question, Adiji told the gathering, shocked him and he began protesting to Baba whether it was fair for Baba to put such a question to Adiji after such a long and close discipleship for more than a period of forty years. But Baba did not permit Adiji's counter question and demanded a firm answer. So Adiji told Baba in reply to His above question. "Yes Baba, I really believe you are the Avatar of the age.". Baba again asked "Under all circumstances?" Adiji replied: "Yes Baba, under all circumstances". Baba continued:

"Even if I go into coma?"

Adiji began protesting again as to how His going into coma would alter the fact of Baba being The Avatar. However since Baba demanded once again a firm answer Sri Adiji replied:

"Yes, Baba you are the Avatar even if you go into coma".

Then finally Baba told Adiji:

"I will go into coma but will come back. Now you can go".

Sri Adiji after relating the above conversation to the gathering, had given his own interpretation to the last statement of Baba, that Baba would be coming back again only after seven hundred years!

A Similar experience of Bro. Eruch appears very striking. Bro. Eruch related this incident some time in 1980's, though actually happened much earlier, long before the event in January 1969.

It appears that many years ago, when Eruch was asked by Baba to relate something funny to make Baba enjoy, Eruch told the story about one Tibetan Monk, which he happened to read a few days earlier.

According to that story, there was a very great Tibetan monk known to be a Master with a large following. This monk, used to go out in the morning alone and return back, by which time the disciples staying at Monk's place, clean up the rooms, prepare water for bath etc., for their master. One day the master went out as usual, and the disciples, as usual made arrangements for the master - his bath, food etc. But the master did not turn up. The disciples, unmindful of their master's not returning the previous day, prepared afresh all necessary daily arrangements for him and waited. The master did not turn up the second day also. Still the disciples continued performance of, what they considered to be their duty, and throw away the water kept for the previous day, and bring fresh water for the day. Like this, several days passed on, months passed on but the master did not return. The water kept for the master's bath daily, remained unused and water was thrown out, before water was arranged afresh for the next day. This went on, and on, and the water thrown out formed into a big tank - But this was going on. So

Baba heard this story from Eruch but did not say anything then at that time.

Some time in January 1969, one day Baba suddenly said to Eruch, "**He did not come back, but I will**". and Eruch did not immediately understand anything when he heard Baba say this. It was only in 1980's Eruch suddenly realised that Baba was referring to this great Tibetan Master, when Baba said "He did not come back but I will".

This cryptic statement of Baba made to Eruch, and His earlier statement made to Adi K. Irani, that "I will go into coma but will come back", are clear indications that Baba's manifestation would take place, even though the event of January 1969, appeared to have 'downed' the 'curtain' on Baba's physical life on earth. Baba's Manifestation and His Breaking of Silence are simultaneous.

Baba had already explained very clearly in His "God Speaks" about the periodical recurrence of God's advent as Avatar. The interim period between advent and advent, will be about 700 or 1400 years depending upon the age of the perfect masters of the cycle. In view of this, was it necessary for Baba to tell Adiji that He would come back again after 700 years, as interpreted by respected brother Adiji? Why did Baba use the word "Coma" to inform that He would come back after 700 years?

Further more, this interval of 700 or 1400 years is between two different advents and not any time interval in the same advent. The Avatar's advent again would be definitely in a different form and with different name and not necessarily at the same place. But what Baba referred to was about His going into "coma" and coming back. Does it not mean that after the "coma" is over, the same person would come back to activity? Therefore one is inclined to believe Baba's coming back again **will be in this advent itself**. It is really significant as to why Baba chose the word "coma" at a time when it was least expected of His going into "coma" and Baba never said or did

anything without a purpose. It is therefore reasonable and rational to connect up this statement of Baba, namely:

"I will go into coma, but will come back".

with His earlier statement of Life Circular no. 23 dated: 3.2.1955 para 8: namely .

"I will yet, so to say "die" for I will then become actually dead to the world up to the end of the modified period of time".

"It is all a MAKE BELI EVE"

At Meherazad, Sister Mani had this dream in January 1969, shortly before Beloved Baba dropped His Body :

Dream (as narrated by Sister Mani)

"In the dream Baba's dead body was lying on the bed with a large towel covering His face and half the body upto His hands. Mehera was standing on the right side of the bed, I myself was standing near the feet. [Without speaking, Baba told me that I must interpret to Mehera what He would now say in gestures.] As I was watching, Baba's hands uncovered themselves from beneath the towel and He gestured with both hands. Through the gestures Baba said that even though He is covered up and is not seen, it is not really so. Baba continued to say that His present condition is not what it appears to be; that it is all a Make-Believe, and I should tell this to Mehera and console her. The dream then ended".

As per indications given by Baba that on both the occasions, whatever be His physical condition which the world might understand as "dead", or as "coma", that would be only a temporary affair.

Thus Baba had taken great pains to throw hints to make His lovers grasp the significance of what was to happen on 31st January 1969.

One might wonder as to why Baba put such a question to Sri Adiji, who had more than 40 years of close discipleship with Baba, as: "Do you really believe I am the Avatar of the age?". Though the question was apparently addressed to Sri Adiji, the question is actually meant for all the Baba lovers of the world, because Adiji was the secretary of Baba, Baba addressed the entire community of lovers, through the medium of His secretary. There appears to be no other reason why Adiji alone should have been summoned from Ahmednagar for such a limited purpose as putting the above question.

Baba could have easily communicated the above hints of His going into "coma" and coming back, through any of the other resident mandall such as Sri Eruch or Sister Mani. Instead, Baba chose to summon Sri Adiji from Ahmednagar, and inform him that He would go into "coma" but would come back. Before informing the above, He also reminded Sri Adiji that they would all accept Baba as the Avatar of the age under all circumstances and even if He went into "coma".

Thereby Baba was whipping His lovers all over not to forget or overlook the fact of His being the Avatar in spite of anything happening to Him. He knew fully well the amount of confusion that would follow the event taking place on 31st January 1969. For this reason alone, Baba after giving a number of warnings in the past, once again drew the attention of His lovers through Sri Adiji, about His being God in Human form, assuring them that He would come back whatever might be His external physical condition. Perhaps for the same reasons Baba always insisted upon His lovers to hold fast to His daaman alone without running hither and thither after other saints or masters.

"I want you to know that I will definitely break My Silence, and I want you to cling to My daaman till the very end, irrespective of whether I speak or not. I am the Highest of the High and want you to love Me not for any spiritual or material gain, nor for the impending breaking of My Silence or My mani-

festation, but I want you to love Me for Myself as being God, in Human form ".

(page 355 of the God Man).

Some of the lovers often quote the above and say that Baba's Silence may not be broken at all, as Baba Himself asked His lovers to love Him irrespective of whether He speaks or not. The underlying spirit or meaning of the above saying of Baba is not that He would not speak. On the other hand He definitely wanted His lovers to know that He would definitely break His Silence. What all was urged by Baba was that His lovers should hold on to Him till the very end for the simple reason that He is God in Human form and not because of other things such as Silence or breaking of Silence, or manifestation or spiritual gains.

"My Silence must break. There is no escape for it ".

"I shall not lay down My body until I have given the word to the world".

(page 356 of the God Man).

Thus Baba assures again and again that His Silence would break. The breaking of the Silence may not be as important to His lovers who have full faith in Him and who stick to Him, as to the world at large. It is for the sake of giving a general spiritual push to the world, that God took the form of Meher Baba and became silent for releasing or uttering the WORD, as God only can utter. Therefore the argument of some of the lovers that His lovers should not bother themselves whether Baba breaks His Silence or not, does not clarify the position and meet effectively the questions raised by the general public. People having heard of Baba's claim that He is the Avatar of the age and that the world will recognise Him to be so when He breaks His Silence, are now prompted to elicit the answer from Baba's lovers whether the Silence is broken or not

Baba cautioned earlier:

"But remember one thing: Never tell others what you do not feel yourself. Tell others only what you honestly take Me to be. I am anything and everything that one can honestly believe".

(page 13 Warning from Baba to His lovers).

It becomes therefore absolutely necessary for one to face the question squarely, and express his honest opinion in this regard. No purpose would be served by side-tracking the issue. Just as a Baba lover sincerely tells others that Baba is the Avatar, he must also say with the same sincerity whether Baba's Silence is broken or not. Just as a Baba lover speaks to others about his own conviction and faith that Baba is the Avatar, so also he must tell others about his faith and conviction whether Baba broke His Silence or not. In either case the Baba lovers' concern is not whether the other man is convinced or not but whether he himself has spoken from his heart with all the conviction and faith.

Reverting back to the event of 31st January 1969 the question remains whether it was to be treated as dropping of body by Baba.

"I shall not lay down My body until I have given the word to the world".

"Of My own I shall not break My Silence. Universal crisis will make Me do so. When the crisis will reach its absolute culmination, it will make Me utter the word at that moment".

"Circumstances are converging and fast gathering momentum towards precipitating the right moment, which will come completely unawares - at any time, any hour, any day; That moment is not far away".

'As I am the pivot of the universe, the full pressure of the universal upheaval will bear on Me,

and correspondingly My suffering will be so infinitely overwhelming that the word will escape form out of the Silence".

"Remain completely resigned to My will, and do not let any circumstances or situation shake or loose your grip from My daaman. I shall not come out of My seclusion until I break My Silence. The divine moment for My giving the word is not far off".

(pages 356 & 357 of the God Man).

When Baba's seclusion referred to above is said to have ended on 21st May 1968, according to 78th Family letter dated: 9.9.1968, how is it that Baba had come out of His seclusion without breaking His Silence? Did not Baba say.

"I shall not come out of My seclusion until I break My Silence."? It should be remembered that though seclusion is said to have been ended on 21st of May 1968, the same seclusion transformed itself into what is called into exclusion, without a change of the restrictions that covered the former. The event of 31st January 1969 and the Darshan that took place from 10th April to 10th June 1969 have both happened in the extended period of seclusion termed as "exclusion".

It may be pointed out that Baba held a short meeting of His workers on 13th October 1968 for chalking out the Darshan programme proposed during April to June of 1969. Though Baba held the above meeting of His workers, it did not amount to the end of His seclusion or exclusion. It was only a temporary suspension of the exclusion for a very limited purpose of announcing His Darshan programme with details,

It may be noted as significant, that on this day of the meeting, that is, on 13th October 1968, Baba did not permit any

one of the workers that gathered to bow down to Him, or to greet Him with folded hands, or to embrace Him, or even to say Jai Baba! In fact Baba got a small red carpet spread in front of Him and cautioned every one of the gathering not to tread on the carpet even! Thus it is obvious that this meeting on 13th October 1968 was purely and strictly a business meeting and not like a meeting between Baba and His lovers, in accordance with the true spirit of the exclusion period (when His lovers were excluded from seeing Him). One may also recall that when Baba gave the sermon on the mount, Mahabaleswar on 16th October 1950, it was during the phase of "new life"; a life of hopelessness and helplessness. But Baba informed His lovers and workers who were present on 16th October 1950 that He was stepping out of "new life into His old life" for that limited purpose of giving His message and immediately thereafter stepped back into New life again. Such interruptions do not constitute as breaks of either New life or seclusion - exclusion period.

"I have been called a promise breaker. This is not true and I have endured this humiliation for a long time; But the time will come - in the next second - when those who have not fully comprehended My love nor My mission - when even they shall be re-awakened and know the meaning of My statement to mankind, namely that I love you more than you can understand and more than you can ever love your real self.

(from a message given by Baba to the GLOW and printed in Divyavani October 1968).

In the above message Baba once again clarified that He never broke any promise and that He was fully aware of the feelings of the others and their reactions towards the so-called breaking of promise by Baba.

Chapter 10.

THE WHITE HORSE AVATAR

"I am the expected one who will also be the accepted one while I am yet in this body. All will know Me when I manifest, but those who know and love Me now are the really fortunate".

(page 1 The GLOW Vol. IV No. 2 May 1969).

Baba assures us that He will be accepted as the Ancient one, the Highest of the High and God in Human form by all people while He is yet in the body. This statement of Baba clearly implies that when His manifestation takes place there shall be universal recognition of the fact that Meher Baba is the Avatar of the age and for recognising Him as such His features as Meher Baba must be available to be seen by all at the time of manifestation whenever it be.

"My real form is indescribable! When I speak, a few will experience it from within. At that time, my outward form will resemble the forms of Christ, Muhammad, Buddha, Krishna, Rama and Zarathustra. They all had my face and hair".

(page 769 Lord Meher Vol. III)

Baba Says:

"I am the expected one".

Who is expecting whom? There are mainly four religious groups in the world Hindus, Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists . The Hindus are expecting the advent of God by the name of Kalki Avatar. The expected Kalki Avatar is described as One Divine Being, mounted on a white horse, holding a sword in one hand, going round the world thrice, destroying all nonbelievers.

The Muslims are not expecting any Prophet, because, Prophet Muhammad was the last such Prophet. But they are

expecting a Divine personality bearing the name of Imam Mehdi is identical with the description given to Kalki Avatar by the Hindus.

The Christians expect the Second Coming of Christ, which is indicated in the Revelations Chapter of the Holy Bible:

"And I saw Heaven opened, and behold a White Horse and he that sat upon him was called faithful and true and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."

"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood, and his name is called the "WORD of GOD."

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword that with it he should smite the nations."

(19-11-16 St. John - Revelations)

The Buddhists, too, are expecting the return of Buddha - and a painting is seen in one of the caves of Ajantha, of the One expected by them. This painting shows a Divine Being, mounted on a white horse, with a sword in one hand.

Baba lovers, who visited Meherazad and saw Baba's room prior to 1969, did notice a picture of white horse adorning the wall inside the Baba room. Baba referred to Himself as the White Horse Avatar.

It is therefore clear that Baba is the SAME ONE, whom the different religious groups are expecting. The following extract from Lord Meher, will throw light on the aspect of the Sword in the hands of Kalki Avatar, Imam Mehdi, and Buddha and in the mouth of Christ.

"In those very early days at the Post office, Baba would some times let things slip, and many of the things that He told us then, have since come true."

"Once at this time Baba said to us 'One day I will bring out my Sword!'. We looked at Baba very startled and not knowing what He would possibly mean. In His white sadra, with His hair loose and flowing, Baba looked so lovingly and gentle. At that time we have never heard of the Kali Yuga Avatar, nor had Baba told us who He is. Now that we know that holy books call this age the Kali Yuga, and that the Avatar of this Age is always shown riding a white horse with a drawn sword in His hand, we understand what Baba meant."

(page 69 MEHERA ")

The first fortunate one to witness Avatar Meher Baba on WHITE HORSE is the Zoroastrian Priest of Ahmednagar.

The first we heard of was the experience of a Zoroastrian High Priest - He had known of Baba and revered Him, but had neither love nor belief. As told by him, Baba appeared to him in the early hours of the morning of the Event. He saw Baba, a bright light round His head, riding speedily past him on a White Horse and saying "I am going to my Manzil (Destination)." Overpowered by this vision, the priest felt compelled to visit Meherabad. There he asked permission to enter the tomb and pray for a while. After doing this, he went down the steps of the crypt and took Baba 's Darshan by reverently touching His Feet - an unprecedented act on the part of a Zoroastrian priest: On the final day too, he had a glimpse of the Be!oved's compassion. After leaving the tomb, the priest felt drawn to take yet another look at Baba, and jostled his way back through the crowd. But however much he craned over the solid front row of lover's shoulders, he could not see into the crypt.

Then, all of a sudden Baba's face appeared to his vision: The priest says that Baba actually raised His head and smiled at him, and then gradually reclined again."

(Family letter dt.14.3.1969 from Sister Mani)

"One day I had an occasion to find Baba's sister Manija, but on walking behind the curtain looking for her I encountered beloved Mehera alone. I seized my chance and asked, "Mehera, I so often hear of a white Horse in Connection with Baba. Would you mind telling me the significance of it ?"

"She replied, "You know the vast cycles in time are called YUGAS in India and there is a symbol which represents the Avatar of each Yuga. The symbol of the Avatar of this particular age is a White Horse. Baba has told us that at the time of Rama people were rather good and the world was not like it is now; but Rama told his devotees and disciples that it would not always be so; that when the KALI YUGA or Iron age came, it would be the worst and most destructive in the World's history - that there would be much war, degeneration and depravity. The word got around and all the followers came and begged, "Lord Rama, please do not let us incarnate in the dreadful KALI YUGA age' - so here we all are!"

Mehera smiled brightly. She continued, "You know, Ivy, this is why Baba has called all His lovers here to Him because he wants to fortify and protect His lovers in the bad times to come so that they can work for Him and spread His love and message in the new era!"

(How a. Master Works - page 358 - 359)

Chapter 11.

THE VERY END - HIS MANIFESTATION

Some people claimed that Baba gave His Darshan on the Meherabad Hill, in "reclining" position. (vide Dr. Bharucha's booklet "The last Sahavas") If this were to be regarded as Darshan - from 31.1.1969 to 7.2.1969 - even then, Silence would not have been broken till the last day of Darshan, as per the last para of Life circular no. 71. On the other hand, if Silence was broken on 31.1.1969 itself, this Darshan could not be regarded as the one given in Silence. If it is claimed that Baba did break His Silence either on 31.1.1969 or prior to that date, it would amount to our not placing enough faith in Baba's words when He said that the Darshan "would be the last to be given in Silence"

In the earlier days, prior to 31.1.1969 people did not interpret Baba's Silence and the breaking of His Silence in any enigmatic words or phrases, but comprehended the meaning of the word "Silence" and the breaking of His Silence in the normal way just as any normal man could understand. After the event of 31.1.1969, it is found that different interpretations are voiced about the word "Silence" and "the breaking of the Silence".

"The Silence of Meher Baba in His Man-form was the personification of the Silence of God and His being in our midst as the God-man, is the "WORD made FLESH". His having dropped the Man-form is the act of releasing the WORD (i.e. the WORD that was encaged in Man-form got released when the body, which encaged it, was dropped) which simultaneously tantamount to the act of breaking the Silence.

(Eruch Jessawala - Published in "The Day of Silence" - brochure published - by Meher Era Publications, Poona).

From the above it is gathered that Bro. Eruch feels that Baba had broken His Silence by the action of giving up the body. This interpretation is no doubt most understandable and is in accordance with the message of the Holy Bible. *But is this interpretation* (of equating the giving up of the body by Baba with the releasing of the Word) *in accordance with Baba's words?* When Baba said that His Silence would continue at least till the great Darshan programme from 10.4.1969 to 10.6.1969 (according to Life Circular no. 71) is it proper for any one to presume that He broke the Silence and released the word on 31.1.1969? Though Baba said the breaking of His Silence would take place quite suddenly and quite unawares by any body it would not happen till the scheduled Darshan programme at Guruprasad from April to June 1969, was over, because Baba Himself did say so. Had not there been the last para in Life circular No. 71, there would certainly be no objection to accept the interpretation as given above. But Baba for His own Divine purpose made it absolutely and abundantly clear to all His lovers that His Silence would definitely continue till the programmed Darshan was over by 10.6.1969. The breaking of Silence and releasing the word could happen any moment, any hour, any day, any year thereafter (10.6.1969). But to say that Baba broke His Silence on 31.1.1969 itself would be totally out of tune with what Baba Himself said.

In an earlier letter to one Dr. Deshpande Sri Eruch Jessawala answered:

"But this last physical action (Baba's dropping His body) was but the prelude to the final act of Divine drama which will close with His manifestation and triumphant glorification which He repeatedly told us about."

(page 9 - the GLOW - IV of 1970)

Eruch Jessawala, commenting on Baba's manifestation, says :*"Some came to know Him while He was still in the flesh, some came to know Him when He rested in the tomb, **giving Darshan in Silence** and the rest will come to know of Him when He will manifest in their hearts. And I believe that the time for that manifestation will not be far, it must happen soon; and I would not at all be surprised if Baba were to appear in His body, at different places to His lovers, at one and the same time or at different times giving them His Darshan. This I will consider **as His world wide manifestation.**"*

(page 6, The GLOW - November 1971.)

Here again Bro. Eruch differentiated between the breaking of Silence and His manifestation, as though they are two different and distinct events with a time lag in between. If we go through His final declaration again we will find that His breaking of Silence and His manifestation are simultaneous happenings. The very breaking of the Silence, by uttering the word of words would result in His being known to all the mankind as to who He is; and this is His universal Manifestation which follows instantly with, the breaking of His Silence.

The breaking of His Silence and His speaking the word would indicate and affirm His presence as the Avatar. When His presence as the Avatar is known, or felt because of His speaking of the word, His manifestation as the Avatar is universally established.

Till now, though He is referred to as "Avatar Meher Baba" by His devotees and lovers, the fact of His being the Avatar in the true sense, is yet to be accepted by the world at large and it is only when Baba breaks His Silence and speaks the Word of words, the whole world, without exception, will accept Him as the Avatar of the age - God in Human form. Did not Baba say that the whole world would come to know Him when He broke His Silence? This knowing by the entire world as to the true status

of Baba as Avatar, amounts to the universal manifestation. When such a universal manifestation takes place His glorification will automatically follow. Hence in the declaration among the chain of seven events, the item of glorification is mentioned immediately after the event of breaking of His Silence.

"When I break My Silence, all will come to know Me. Fortunate are those who know Me now."

"When I break My Silence, I will not only be the expected one but also the accepted one."

"My manifestation as the Avatar of the time will be of short duration. This short period will in quick succession, cover My humiliation, the breaking of My Silence, My glorification, and My violent physical end."

(Baba's final declaration P..614 How A Master Works).

"The state of humiliation to follow will be as the SMOKE that will first result, getting into your eyes and blinding you, creating confusion and trying to envelop you. Do not let it confound you or get you in a panic."

"The FIRE that will follow will clear away all the smoke of doubt and confusion, its light will reveal the One Truth that is, and all that is now will perish in its consuming flames. This is My glorification."

In the above statement of 30th September 1954 Baba said that His manifestation as the Avatar of the time would be of short duration. This statement itself implies that :

1. The manifestation would be a future event
2. The manifestation would be as the Avatar of the time
3. The manifestation as Avatar would last for a short period

Regarding (1) above :

Some of the people are of the opinion that the manifestation of Baba has already commenced and that it would take some time before the final manifestation takes place. Baba's manifestation is not to be regarded as manifestation recognised as such by a few people alone. (It appears some people here and there had visions of Baba conforming to His Avatarhood. This, they say is the beginning of Baba's manifestation) Baba clearly said:

"My present Avataric form is the last incarnation of this cycle of time, hence My manifestation will be the greatest."

(Universal Message)

If His manifestation were to be the greatest, it should be a universal manifestation - meaning all the world should come to recognise Him as the Avatar of the time. To the people at large, till now Meher Baba is only a name of somebody who claims Himself to be the Avatar - God in Human form; who claims Himself to be the same Lord Zoroaster, Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, Lord Buddha, Jesus Christ and Prophet Mohammad. If the people were to accept this claim universally they should know personally by experience, that Meher Baba is all these, and people's acceptance would be possible only by Baba's universal manifestation as the Avatar.

Regarding No. (2) :

That Baba being the Avatar should be known and accepted by the people of all religions. It is not enough if a section of the people accept and proclaim Baba as Avatar and the rest of the people were to merely keep quiet without opposing that proclamation. For instance Hindus regard Rama and Krishna as the incarnation of God but neither the Christians nor the Muslims agree with Hindus though they may not oppose the claims of the

Hindus. Similarly the claim of the Christians that Jesus Christ was the son of the Lord and Lord Himself, or the claims of the Muslims that Prophet Mohammad was the only „Messenger of God and to be the last Messenger, are not accepted by non-Christians and non-Muslims. This was the case of all the past Avatars. But Baba definitely indicated that when He manifests as the Avatar, He will be accepted as God in Human form by all peoples of the world irrespective of their religious denomination, language, nationality etc. In such a case alone, when all the people of the world accept Baba as God in Human form, there will arise a real feeling of real Brotherhood and harmony between the peoples. It is significant that while the Avatars of the past including Jesus Christ and Prophet Mohammad confined their Avataric work and activities to a particular country or countries, Avatar Meher Baba has carried on His Avataric activities throughout the world. There by, His physical contact with all the different kinds of people in the world was established; so that when He breaks His Silence and manifests Himself as the Avatar, the whole world will regard Him as "Their" God in Human form. Though His lovers all over the world would, wherever they are, accept Meher Baba as the Avatar, Baba did not actually manifest as the Avatar yet. Till now it is the faith alone and not knowledge on the part of the lovers. That Baba is the Avatar of the age, will become a Universal fact - no more a question of faith - when He breaks His Silence which is the signal for His manifestation.

"The breaking of My Silence ... the signal for My public manifestation is not far off."

(page 32 Vol. 1 AWAKENER).

"The breaking of My Silence will reveal to man the universal oneness of God, which will bring about the universal brotherhood of man."

(page 6 Vol. V No.4 AWAKENER).

"When I speak, there will be many proofs of My spiritual power and of My ability to bestow illumination."

(page 33 Vol. V No.4 AWAKENER).

"I am the Christ No question of it. And when I break My Silence all the world will come to know Me now "

(page 35 Vol. IX No.3 AWAKENER).

"Again and again, God takes Human form to suffer for His creation. I am that ONE."

(page 15 Vol. IX No. 4 AWAKENER).

"When I break My Silence, people will realise that I am GOO. All will know who I am. Blessed are those who recognise Me before I break My Silence."

(page 30 Vol. IX No.4 AWAKENER).

"When I break My Silence after the world will come to Me, for they shall then know who I am. But, there is no charm in coming to Me after I break My Silence. Blessed are those who come to Me now."

(page 20 Vol. X No.3 AWAKENER)

"Blessed are those who have recognised in Meher Baba, God in Human form"

(page 22 vol. X No.3 AWAKENER) .

"It is more important for people to come to know about Me at present, than after I manifest as the Avatar of the age."

.(page 14 Vol. X No.4 AWAKENER).

"When I break My Silence, the world will be shaken into realisation of who I am. ¹¹

(Divyavani Quarterly Vol.3 No.1 July 1963 page 24).

"As a rule, in the past, it has been the lot of posterity to know who the Avatar was. But in this unique Avataric advent, the world will know who the Avatar is while Baba is yet on earth."

(Divyavani quarterly Vol.3 No.2 October 1963 page 16)

"Meher Baba told the story about the castles in heaven to his mandali to point out an important truth. He told them that when the queen was ordered to give her necklace for the building of a castle in heaven, she gave it spontaneously, without question and without knowing whether the castle was worth it. Likewise, Baba said, the Mandali had come when He called, given up their worldly connections, made sacrifices and served Him, without calculating and without knowing that Baba was the Ancient One. But, said Baba, when He manifests, the world will come to know who He is and follow Him, but they will know why they want to follow Him, so then there is no price that they can pay - they will have to await another Advent."

"It reminds one of Jesus's Saying :

"In my Father's house many mansions ... I go to prepare a place for you."

Regarding No (3) :

Baba said that this short period as the Avatar of the time "Will in quick succession cover My humiliation, the breaking of My Silence, My glorification and My violent physical end." He explained that the humiliation would be like the smoke that

would first result in getting into our eyes and blinding us. The event of 31.1.1969 was the cause for the humiliation that followed and is still continuing, as is evidenced by the fact that one of the erstwhile Baba lovers now began to claim himself as a perfect Master, gathering around him many innocent Baba lovers. When Baba desired and instructed that every one should stick to Him alone till the very end, His erstwhile lovers leaving Him today and going to others for the so-called spiritual guidance are thus unknowingly humiliating Baba and, His Avatarhood. This humiliation is manifest in all the countries among Baba groups in some form or other. Baba has aptly compared this phase of His Avatarhood with that of smoke revealing the glowing fire later on. The breaking of His Silence will, in a similar way, reveal to all mankind the true status and Avatarhood of Baba, as foretold by Baba. The breaking of the Silence will suddenly put a stop to the humiliation and will help reveal the True and Real Baba to the world and His manifestation as the Avatar will thus become a universal fact, fulfilling all that has been ordained by God through His speaking the Word. This duration, Baba says, will be for a short period only and the people would naturally try to gather around Baba having recognised Him as the Avatar. But as Baba had already said, recognising Him and going to Baba at that stage would be of no use. For that reason alone, Baba was urging every one to accept Him as the Avatar before He breaks His Silence so that spiritual push and treasure which are to be released through His word, are to be fully experienced.

"Each is free to think of Me and interpret My work as he feels or understands best. Either My words must be presented as they stand, or if interpreted by you, you must not fail to state it is your own interpretation.... I never denied being perfect and being the Avatar but you do not know that yet. I Know that I am the one without a second, alone and matchless. You would be quite right to assert and proclaim whatever you truly believe Me to be –

never hesitate to own your faith and belief in Me and about Me. But do not claim, to know or feel what you actually do not."

(page 214 "How a Master Works").

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

"There is now no limitation to any point in time, nor contact with any point in time,. Things may happen after one month or three months, after three years or twenty years. In short, I may speak tomorrow or My Silence may be broken after ten years."

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

(page 212 - "How A Master Works").

"When I break My Silence and speak it will be this primal Oceanic M.M.M. Which I will utter through My mouth."

("Stay with God" - page 66).

Chapter 12. CONCLUSION

The author, in conclusion, wishes that all Baba lovers :

1. try their best to grasp the full meaning of what all Baba has said over the long period since 10th July 1925 till 31st January 1969.

2. place their utmost faith in Baba and His words,
and

3. hold on to His Daaman till the Very end, awaiting unfoldment of events, with the conviction, that Baba will Manifest Himself soon, as the

"SAME ONE EXPECTED BY ALL"

*"I am that 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."*

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI



Register of Editorial Alterations

Page vi, para 2, line 2, interered changed to interred

Page vii, para 1, line 2, intered changed to interred

Page 10, para 9, line 1, 74 changed to vi

Page 39, para 1, line 1, off changed to of

Page 43, para 1, line 4, empahitic changed to emphatic

Page 44, para 1, line 7, lead changed to led

Page 47, para 1, line 6, urinic changed to uremic

Page 50, para 2, line 6, off changed to of

Page 71, para 4, line 4, quite changed to quiet