

Eruch reading the alphabet board at the Final Declaration meeting, 1954

One Hundred Years 1925–2025 Meher Baba’s Silence

A LITTLE HISTORY

It has been one hundred years since Meher Baba began keeping silence on July 10, 1925. Although He told the Meherabad mandali at that time that He would maintain silence for one year, His incredible Silence continued throughout His advent, nearly 44 years.

On June 4, 1925, He declared:
“I will observe silence for one year. I will not speak to anyone. But all should hold fast to my feet. Those who stick with me until the end will be greatly benefited and highly rewarded.”^{*}

On July 9th, Baba discussed with the mandali the importance of His silence, as well as their upcoming duties and activities. When the mandali expressed the concern that, with Baba silent the world would not come to know of His teachings, Baba replied, **“I have come not to teach, but to awaken.”**



Padri, one of Baba’s mandali present at Meherabad in 1925, recalled that day, as he showed Baba lovers the Jhopdi, the small room Baba occupied.

In Padri’s words,
“This is where, in the year 1925, on the 9th of July, Baba went in talking, and came out silent on the morning of the 10th.”

For many years Baba communicated by pointing to letters on an alphabet board. His hand moved so swiftly across the board that only a few people were able to follow. Eruch Jessawala was the main mandali member who would speak out Baba’s messages by standing beside Him and reading the alphabet board. After 1954 Baba gave up the board and communicated with His eloquent gestures and facial expressions.

The Meaning of Baba’s Silence

“My outward silence is no spiritual exercise. It has been undertaken and maintained for the good of others. I bind myself with silence, that when I break it, mankind will realize what real freedom is.”[†] “My silence and the imminent breaking of my silence is to save mankind from the forces of ignorance, and to fulfil the divine Plan of universal unity. The breaking of my silence will reveal to man the universal oneness

of God, which will bring about the universal brotherhood of man. My silence had to be. The breaking of my silence has to be—soon.”[‡]

“The silence which I have been observing for the past thirty-one years is a call from the silence of unfathomable Divinity. Invite that Divinity into your hearts so that you may become permanently established in the immortality of universal life...”[§]

Did Baba Break His Silence?

Most of what Baba conveyed about His Silence over the years, hinged on His promise that He would break

His silence and the whole world would feel the spiritual benefit.

“I repeat, I lay down no precepts. When I release the tide of Truth which I have come to give, men’s daily lives will be the living precept. The words I have not spoken will come to life in them. . . . When I break my Silence, the impact of my Love will be universal and all life in creation will know, feel and receive of it. It will help every individual to break himself free from his bondage in his own way.

“I am the Divine Beloved who loves you more than you can ever love yourself. The breaking of my Silence will help you to help yourself in knowing your real self.”

Since Baba did not, in fact, speak an audible word during His lifetime from July 10, 1925, onward, it is left to His lovers to interpret what He said about breaking His silence. Some feel Meher Baba has yet to break His silence and that His manifestation to the whole world will come about at a future point. Others interpret that the God-Man breaks His silence in the hearts of individuals in an ongoing way in the present and the future.

In June, 1966, Baba released the following message for the 41st commemoration of His Silence:

“God’s first Word was, ‘Who am I?’
God’s last Word is, ‘I Am God.’

And the Word that I the God-Man will utter soon will be the sound of My infinite Silence.”

Outside the Table House, where Baba wrote The Book in 1925

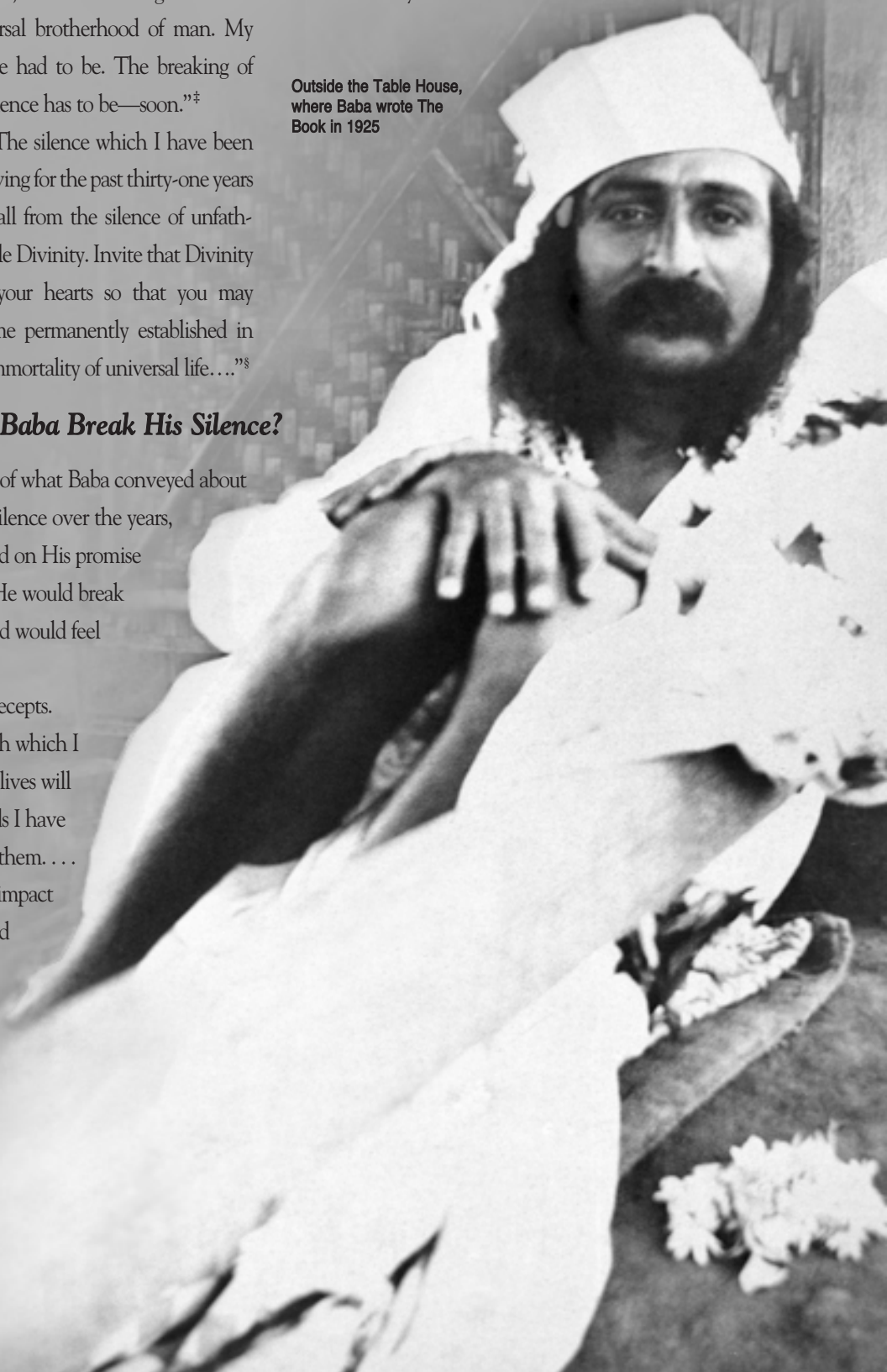


PHOTO OF MEHER BABA AND ERUCH COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS

PHOTO OF PADRI FROM “MANDALI MOMENTS” COURTESY OF STEVEN HEIN AND MICHAEL LE PAGE

PHOTO OF MEHER BABA IN 1925 COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS

^{*} Lord Meher online, p. 590
[†] The Awakener Magazine, vol. 12, no. 2 (1968), p. 13
[‡] The God-Man, p. 346, C. B. Purdom, © 1971 Meher Spiritual Center, Inc.
[§] Life At Its Best, p. 23, © 1957, Sufism Reoriented
[¶] The God-Man, C. B. Purdom, pp. 343–44
[#] Life Circular No. 63, © Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Baba family,
Jai Meher Baba!

We have not yet received the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) Registration. It's been three and a half years—what started as gentle nail-biting has now escalated to full-blown finger-chomping. But Meher Baba says:

“Patience is the most difficult thing in life and, once this is mastered, man will become the master of all difficulties. Patience, in other words, may be called the power of endurance during the absence of the desired things or conditions. They say death is the worst thing in life, but, in point of fact, patience is often worse than death. One would prefer death to patience when patience is severely tried.

“Patience is a life power. It is a spiritual power and the greatest virtue that one can have; for it is a cross and, on this, the patient one is crucified.

And, as resurrection follows crucifixion, so all success and happiness must follow the trying moments of patience.”*

On to some other uplifting topics ...
We are about to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the day Meher Baba began His Silence. The year 1925 was also the time of Baba writing The Book, His first use of the Table House, the first lighting of the Dhuni, and other events. We are anticipating 2000+ pilgrims coming to share this remembrance July 9–11th.

You will note in this issue ongoing efforts at the preservation of Baba's home, from maintenance of His Samadhi, to a new type of museum converted from our bus garage at lower Meherabad.

Simple Words, Eternal Truth
In 1967, during one of her short stays at Meherazad, Baba asked my mum (Roda Mistry) to say aloud the following lines in Gujarati:

* Lord Meher online

હસજો, રમજો, - Laugh, play,
ખાજો, પીજો, - Eat, drink,
મજાના સુજો, મજાના ઉથજો, - Sleep well, get up well,
હાલી માલી ને રેજો, મિલતી ના, - Live harmoniously,
do not quarrel,
બાબા જું નામ લેટા જજો. - Keep taking Baba's Name.

Throughout her visit, Baba had her repeat these lines several times a day in His bedroom, where the women mandali would gather to meet Him.

On reflection, it holds a profound message for us all: Spirituality is not about extraordinary feats, nor is it about severe austerities. It is about living a simple, honest life—with Baba's Name on our lips and in our hearts, woven into the rhythm of our daily living.

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI
In Baba's Love,
Framroze (Falu) Mistry,
Chairman, Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust

News UGGETS



TRUST EVENTS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Building Preservation

Work continues on the installation of French drains around archival buildings at lower Meherabad to keep the damaging moisture at bay. Drains around Baba's Jhopdi were completed last year. Currently the Dharamsala and Main Bungalow drains are being installed.

Replacing Damaged Roof Beams

The small room on the south side of Meher Retreat, previously used as the Meherabad library for many years, was repaired for termite damage. Wooden roof members were removed and replaced without taking off the original roof.

Concerts, Talks, and Discussion Groups

Pilgrims coming to Meherabad can attend the scheduled activity groups or concerts offered weekly. Musical concerts and talks by individuals sprout naturally from the heart offerings of pilgrims and

Meherabad residents. Baba book readings and discussion groups are also popular. The “Awakening to Baba Within” sharing and study group is in its ninth year, held on Friday mornings at MPR. Friday afternoons are set aside

for Mehernath Kalchuri's usual weekly talk on Baba and His mandali. Guided readings on Baba's books and messages are conducted regularly for Meherabad participants, and are posted online on YouTube. Works which have been read by groups in this way include *God Speaks* and *In God's Hand*. Another group forum meets occasionally, “Sharing Baba Experiences.”

Baba's Birthday Play, 2025

“Song of the Spirit”—a drama produced at Meherabad—played in the Music and Arts Centre to celebrate Baba's Birthday this year. The play was written and directed by

Vijay Lalwani, a Baba lover who is also a professional script writer in “Bollywood,” Mumbai.

The story follows a modern young singer who happens to get stranded outside Arangaon. He ends up staying at Meherabad in MPR. The young fellow sings at Baba's Samadhi and Baba gradually pulls him into His net until the man comes to love and accept Him in everyone and

everything. The drama was much enjoyed by all, participants and audience, a joyful tribute to Baba's Love and Presence.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SACHIN SINGH

New Gallery for Large Item Display

The long bus garage in the front driveway area of Meher Pilgrim Centre, lower Meherabad, will soon be converted into a gallery for the display of large items from Baba's life.

Work has begun to install paving pieces as flooring, and to design and install attractive grillwork in the arches, with gates on both ends. The new gallery will house the “Ratha” of Arangaon, a wooden chariot used for processions honoring deities, which Baba had sat on. It will also



Baba's Chevy

display Baba's two-toned blue 1947 Chevrolet car which has been stored on blocks of late. “Baba's Chevy” was actually Adi K. Irani's car, which Baba rode in from time to time. It was refurbished and fitted with a new engine in 1988 and Bhau Kalchuri used the car for several years. It will undergo restoration again now, to present the body of the car in as good a condition as possible.

PHOTO OF “BABA'S CHEVY” COURTESY OF TED JUDSON

Taking Care of Meher Baba’s Samadhi

Once again it is time for some much-needed preservation work on Baba’s Samadhi, to ensure the integrity of the structure that houses His precious form. Three distinct areas of work are being undertaken currently: the exterior surfaces, the murals inside the tomb, and the painting of Baba installed inside.

The work is done most beneficially in the hot and dry summer months, as moisture is the most damaging element that causes the problems.

The exterior repairs are done periodically, every few years. This work entails filling cracks and chips in the plaster, repainting damaged and discolored areas of the dome and all plaster surfaces, waterproofing all mortar joints, and maintaining guttering and drainage systems to prevent moisture from infiltrating the walls.

Inside Baba’s Samadhi, the walls are adorned with the murals painted at Baba’s direction in 1938, by Swiss artist Helen

Dahm. The colorful murals, treasured by Baba’s lovers who enter His tomb for darshan, have been susceptible to damage over the many years since their painting and have been repainted, restored, and repaired several times under the auspices of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust. In 1971 the heavily deteriorated wall

surfaces were repainted by artist Bhaiya Pandey. In 1990–1992, Baba’s sister Mani oversaw the major restoration of the murals, with the goals of restoring the artistic quality of the originals and preventing future damage to the murals. This included repairs and waterproofing of the Samadhi exterior at the same time. Further maintenance and restorations were done in 2001 and 2020, in response to the ongoing problem of moisture absorption by the walls.

This year there are areas of damage needing repair, particularly on the north and west walls. Moisture absorbed by the walls

externally, causes mineral salts to “effloresce” or “bloom.” This process pushes the paint off the surface in spots. Before the damaged spots can be repainted, moisture and salts already inside the walls must be drawn out, during the



Temporary poultices draw out salts and stabilize surfaces

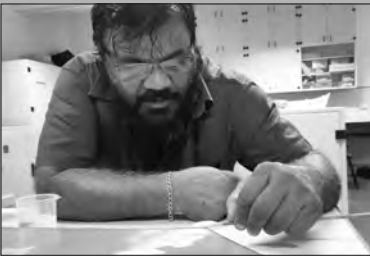
it. A stabilizing agent is then applied and touch-up painting done to restore the original appearance.

season when the air is driest. A special poultice made of cellulose fibers is applied to the wall areas needing repair, and left in place for 24 hours. When removed, the poultice brings the salt efflorescence with

Concurrent with these repairs, the painting of Baba by Charles Morton, which is installed in the back window of the Samadhi, is undergoing restorative work as well. The varnish on the painting has yellowed over time. An expert art conservator has been engaged to undertake the work of removing the old varnish, and applying a new, archival quality finish over the painting.

When finished, a new piece of archival museum glass will be installed in front of the painting to further protect it.

This preservation work is done after much study and consultation with conservation experts around the world. Caring for Baba’s Samadhi is of the utmost importance to protect and preserve the structure, which after



Expert conservator works to revive the surface of the painting of Baba

designated by Him as the housing for His form after the dropping of His body.

“How fortunate you are that you are hearing about the importance of this place in the physical presence of Him to whose Samadhi (Tomb) will flock one day, from all over the world, all the lovers of God, philosophers and worshippers to pay their homage!”

MEHER BABA
February 1958



The scaffolding is erected for repair work on the exterior

THE YEAR STARTED, as always, with our Amartithi commemoration program, our big event when Baba’s lovers from near and far join together in His remembrance, when thousands arrive by bus, train, and car to spend three days/two nights with their Beloved at sacred Meherabad.

AMARTITHI 2025

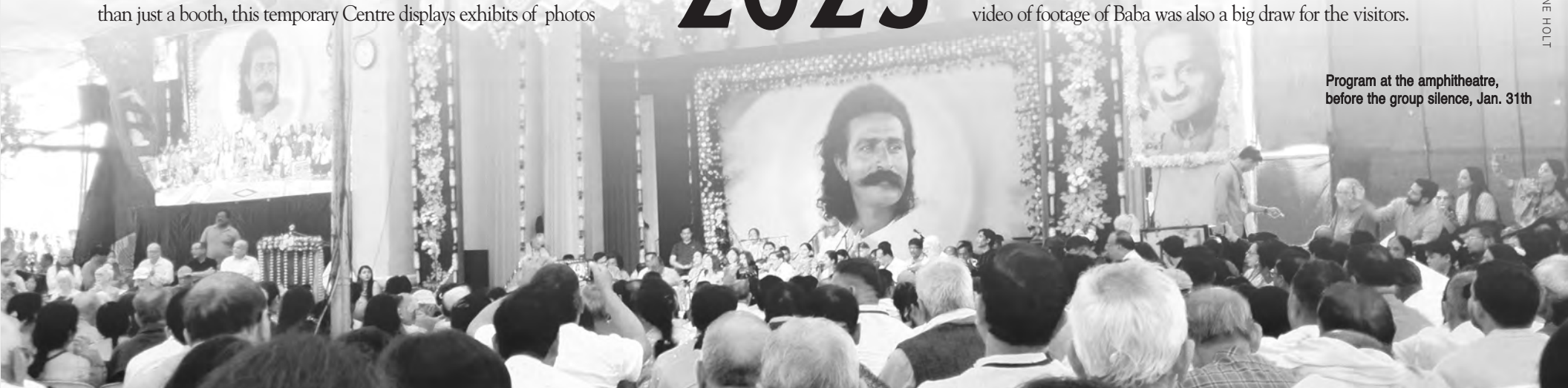
and written information on Baba’s life and work, His Theme of Creation, games Baba enjoyed, the work of the AMB Trust, and more.

Material is presented in English, Hindi, Marathi, and Telegu languages. This year QR codes were available for visitors to obtain scans of the written material; physical pamphlets were also on offer. Volunteers who manned the exhibit helped the visitors by explaining details about Baba and His life, in the various languages. A looped video of footage of Baba was also a big draw for the visitors.

The amphitheatre stage, facing the Samadhi on Meherabad Hill, was animated by love offerings in music, film, and dance, night and day throughout the program.

The “Meher Information Centre,” presented by the Trust and also on the Hill, was expanded this year to include separate sections for children’s activities, and a display highlighting Baba’s Silence. More than just a booth, this temporary Centre displays exhibits of photos

Viewing exhibits at the Meher Information Centre



Program at the amphitheatre, before the group silence, Jan. 31st

The Greening of Meherazad

By Framroze Mistry

For many years, long before becoming Chairman of Baba’s Trust, Framroze (Falu) Mistry has overseen the gardens and landscaping of Meherazad, amplifying the early garden development that Mehera created for Baba. Today Falu explains more recent developments in the forestation of Meherazad and surroundings, and the care with which this precious beautification work is done.

Guided by the vision of Mehera’s garden and her timeless love for the Beloved, Meherazad’s surrounding lands have slowly transformed into a forested sanctuary

Small Steps Yield Results

Sometimes the task feels overwhelming, either because resources are scarce or the goal just seems out of reach. But really, it just starts with one small step. Baby steps, taken with Baba’s Name (plenty of it!) and love in your heart for what you are doing and who you are doing it for. And somehow, after 15 years of these tiny steps, Meherazad is now wrapped in green woodlands around Baba’s Seclusion Hill and beyond.

It began with the purchase of land around Meherazad, intended as a buffer zone to preserve the atmosphere of Baba’s Home and to allow for future development, as outlined in the 1996 Meherazad Master Plan shaped with the Mandali’s input. Legally, the land had to be used, and forestation felt like the natural choice. It was a fitting extension of Mehera’s beloved garden for Baba. After all, the very move from Meherabad to Meherazad had been, among several reasons, about finding a place with more water so that Mehera could create a garden for her Beloved.

Trees Tell Their Stories

The initial vision was to preserve and extend the legacy of trees from Baba’s time, propagated through cuttings, grafts, seeds, and air layering. Now in 2025, their thriving progeny flourish across the woodlands.

Some trees carry unique stories. One “mast” had once offered Baba seven mangoes, which He ate. Mehera planted the seeds, and one tree survived. From it, 80 grafts were made and now grow in an orchard.

Another is the Chikoo tree planted by Sheriarji at Baba House in Pune. Baba sat in its shade, touched it, and ate its fruit. Grafts of that tree now make up the



The Baugh-e-Sheriarji (Garden of Sheriarji) orchard of Chikoo trees

Baugh-e-Sheriarji orchard of 81 trees in memory of Baba’s father, Sheriarji.

The Umber tree just outside Mehera’s window, where Baba’s image once appeared to her, has also been grafted and many progeny planted around Meherazad, each tree a reminder of His Presence.

Many fruiting trees now serve a sweet purpose, offered as prasad to pilgrims heading back to Meherabad or turned into pickles to spice up MPR and Hostel-D meals.

Toddy palms, once part of Sheriarji’s and Baba’s business, were propagated from a lone surviving

tree near Meherazad’s Green Gate. Its seeds have given rise to an avenue of Toddy palms stretching westward of Meherazad.

The Nandurgi, or Pimpri trees on the tree-lined Approach Road to Meherazad, were planted by the Mandali and watered with tin cans hanging on a bamboo pole slung across their shoulders. Today, their cuttings, now 15 feet high, line the road encircling the base of Seclusion Hill.

Additional Species Chosen to Glorify Him

Other trees were chosen for their connection to past Avataric Advents. Among them are the Myrrh, whose perfume was used by Mary to wash the feet of Christ; the Bakul, under which Lord Krishna is said to have played His flute; and the Peepal tree, beneath which Gautama Buddha is believed to

have attained enlightenment. Each bearing deep sacred associations. Indigenous species like Babul, Ber, Pangara, and Sher, along with a host of Ayurvedic plants, were thoughtfully included, evoking the old days when Goher lovingly prepared her famous Ayurvedic cough syrups and liniments in large cauldrons. Today, more than 80 species and over 11,000 trees adorn the landscape, each one rooted in the blessed soil once touched by His feet, reaching skyward in remembrance of Him.

Invitation to Celebrate the 100th Silence Anniversary

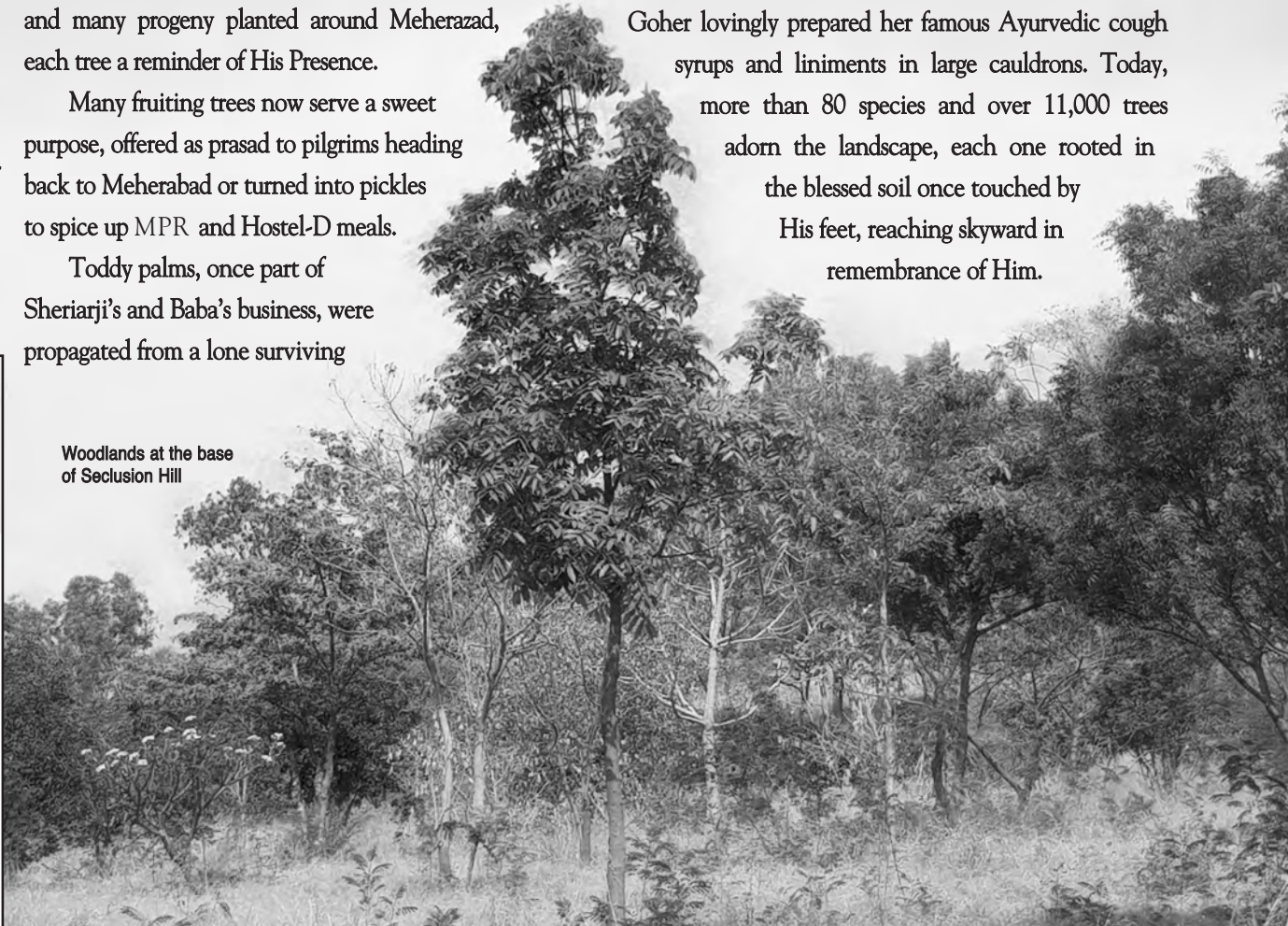
All are heartily welcome to attend the Sahavas organized by the Trust for the 100th Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba’s Silence at Meherabad from 9th to 11th July 2025.

This year also marks the centenary of several significant events in Beloved Baba’s life and work—His writing of The Book, His first use of the Table House, and the first lighting of the Dhuni at Meherabad on 10th November 1925. The programme will also include a commemoration of these momentous events.

Special accommodation arrangements are being made in the Hostels, MPC, the Pilgrim Education site, and in MPR.

The programme will feature music, presentations, skits, and special films curated for the occasion. As always, complete silence will be observed from 12:00 midnight of 9th July to 12:00 midnight of 10th July.

Woodlands at the base of Seclusion Hill



AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST

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

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Support: The Trust is supported entirely by love-gifts from Meher Baba’s lovers around the world. In truth, it is Baba Himself who gives through your hands, and it is Baba Himself who brings the objects to completion which He laid down in the Trust Deed.

How To Donate: Please see “How to Donate” on the Trust’s website: www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org/where-to-contribute/. Another way to support the Trust is to list it as a beneficiary in your personal legacy. See “Legacies” www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org/legacies/

Current news about foreign donations: Although the Trust cannot accept foreign donations at this time, we encourage Trustwallas and Meher Baba organizations to continue to collect the love offerings from Baba lovers and to keep the funds on account until such time that we will be able to accept them.

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