

Avatar Meher Baba souvenir, 31-1-84



AVATAR MEHER BABA

AND
HIS PREVIOUS ADVENTS



I WAS RAMA, I WAS KRISHNA,
I WAS THIS ONE, I WAS THAT ONE,
AND NOW I AM MEHER BABA.
— MEHER BABA.

GREAT ONES★

ORPHEUS : The gracious Lord of Beauty came to Greece in days of old,
He planted Art in the human heart and love of beauty in the soul.

ZOROASTER : He came again with another name
And the fields of Persia trod.
He taught that the pure could best endure
The living Fire of God.

BUDDHA : To India then Lord Buddha came
He taught a Law Divine,
Which moves to good when understood
And loved by all mankind.

JESUS : Then our blessed Jesus came—
As the Holy Land He trod
He taught through Love alone can man atone
And find his way to God.

MOHAMMED : To Arabia then, the Prophet came
He taught that God was One
And the Way to Him was to pray to Him
At rise and set of sun.

MEHER BABA : The Lord of Love once more is here
His call to a world in need,
Is to cease the life of endless strife
And turn to loving deeds.
O world, give heed to that clarion call
Proclaim it far and wide,
While Meher Baba walks with men
As Lover, Friend and Guide.

Mildred Kyle

(Note : Orpheus was NOT an Avatar. This was poetic licence.)

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I am the very same Ancient One, in flesh and blood, who is eternally worshipped and neglected, always remembered and forgotten; I am that Eternal One, whose Past is worshipped and remembered; whose Present is neglected and forgotten; whose Future is always much desired and longed for.

—Meher Baba

AVATAR MEHER BABA

SOUVENIR

31-1-84

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय



I belong to no religion. Every religion belongs to Me. My own personal religion is of My being the ancient Infinite One and the religion I teach to all is of Love for God.

—Meher Baba

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B. V. K. Rao

President.

Avatar Meher Baba Parel Centre

I am not come to establish any cult, society or organization, nor even to establish a new religion. The religion that I shall give teaches the Knowledge of the One behind the many. The book that I shall make people read is the book of the heart that holds the key to the mystery of life. I shall bring about a happy blending of the head and the heart. I shall revitalize all religions and cults, and bring them together like beads on a string".

—Meher Baba

INTRODUCTION

This souvenir, the only one of its kind published, gives in a nut shell about the ONE whom all seek and yet cannot find for He is no other than one's own Self. Though seated in the heart of mankind and in all animate and inanimate objects, Meher Baba revealed Himself to only a few who loved Him because He was love incarnate. Those touched by a fringe of His infinite mercy and compassion, laid down their lives to serve Him, their faith firmly anchored in their hearts that He was God in human form.

Articles in this souvenir can only depict a shore account of Meher Baba's life and activities for He remains ever beyond the definitions of the human mind. To one who has never heard of Meher Baba, this souvenir will serve the purpose of bringing into his life a warmth of love which he has never experienced before.

We live in a golden age when the Avatar, God in human form walked on this Earth showering the pollen of His love on millions. He is the Ocean who has come upstream to usher in a springtime of universal growth in all dimensions. Meher Baba has come to awaken a doctrine jaded humanity to the kernel of Truth contained in each religion and to help mankind to discard the chaff of useless tradition for He alone can touch the heart and fill it with pure selfless love for God. Sri Sita Ramayya has put his heart and soul into the making of this souvenir. It has surely brought him closer to his Divine Beloved Meher Baba. On this 15th Amartithi of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba, this souvenir will serve as a small candle lighted in His love to ignite many more candles that have not yet tasted the sweetness of His love.

This souvenir will have served its purpose if it brings home to the reader a conviction that Meher Baba is God, a conviction that is strong, unassailable and unchallengeable. A drink at the fount of celestial love of Meher Baba poured into this souvenir will surely make one thirsty for more.

Dr. H. P. Bharucha
Navsari

JAI MEHER BABA

~~*****~~

God has descended on this Earth as Avatar Meher Baba in this age. During His Advent on this Earth, He proved Himself to be the greatest Avatar. He gave us the everlasting Divine Treasure, and showed us the way to liberate ourselves from this endless cycle of births and deaths. Let each Baba - lover love Him, obey Him, surrender to Him, and hold fast to His Daaman till the very end.

JAI BABA

V. Sita Ramayya

*All religions of the world proclaim that there is but one God, the Father of all in creation.
I am that Father.*

—Meher Baba

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The greatest sin is hypocrisy. He is the greatest hypocrite, who, himself being one, asks others not to be hypocritical. I want you all to be honest. You should not pretend to be what you are not.

—Meher Baba

PRAYER

(Dictated by Meher Baba)

O Parvardigar, the Preserver and Protector of All, You are without Beginning, and without End;

Non-dual, beyond comparison; and none can measure You.

You are without colour, without expression, without form, and without attributes.

You are unlimited and unfathomable, beyond imagination and conception; eternal and imperishable.

You are indivisible; and none can see You but with eyes Divine.

You always were, You always are, and You always will be;

You are everywhere, You are in everything; and You are also beyond everywhere and beyond everything.

You are in the firmament and in the depths, You are manifest and unmanifest; on all planes, and beyond all planes.

You are in the three worlds, and also beyond the three worlds.

You are imperceptible and independent.

You are the Creator, the Lord of Lords, the Knower of all minds and hearts; You are Omnipotent and Omnipresent.

You are Knowledge Infinite, Power Infinite, and Bliss Infinite.

You are the Ocean of Knowledge, All-Knowing, Infinitely-Knowing; the Knower of the past, the present, and the future; and You are Knowledge itself.

You are All-merciful and eternally benevolent.

You are the Soul of souls, the One with infinite attributes;

You are the Trinity of Truth, Knowledge, and Bliss;

You are the Source of Truth; the Ocean of Love;

You are the Ancient One, the Highest of the High; You are Prabhu and Parameshwar; You are the Beyond-God, and the Beyond-Beyond-God also; You are Parabrahma; Allah; Elahi; Yezdan; Ahuramazda; and God the Beloved.

You are named Ezad: the only One worthy of worship.

The prayer God hears is the prayer of the heart, that suffering of the heart is what God pays attention to....

—Meher Baba

The Descent of God as Man.

1. Yada Yada hi dharmasya
glanirbhavati Bharata,
Abhyuthanamadharmasya,
Tadatmanam Srujamyaham.
O Bharata, whenever there is
decay of righteousness and rise
of unrighteousness, then I manifest
myself.
 2. Paritranaaya Sadhunam
Vinashaya cha dushkrutam,
Dharmasansthapanarthaya
Sambhavami yuge yuge.
For the protection of the good,
for the destruction of the wicked,
and for the establishment of
righteousness I am born in every age.
- Sri Krishna from Srimad Bhagvadgita
(Chapt. IV-7, 8).

MEHER BABA'S CALL

Age after age, when the wick of Righteousness burns low, the Avatar comes yet once again to rekindle the torch of Love and Truth. Age after age, amidst the clamour of disruptions, wars, fear and chaos, rings the Avatar's call :

"COME ALL UNTO ME"

Although, because of the veil of illusion, this Call of the Ancient One may appear as a voice in the wilderness, its echo and re-echo nevertheless pervades through time and space, to rouse at first a few, and eventually millions, from their deep slumber of ignorance. And in the midst of illusion, as the Voice behind all voices, it awakens humanity, to bear witness to the Manifestation of God amidst mankind.

The Time is come. I repeat the Call, and bid all, come unto me.

— MEHER BABA

*(From the booklet "Meher Baba's call", published by Shri Adi K. Irani, 1954 Copyright
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AVATAR MEHER BABA PAREL CENTRE

By Shri Pratap Ahir Bombay

ककककककककक

A seed sown in the ground grows into a big tree encompassing wider and wider area, thereby giving shade and shelter to thousands of wayfarers. Similar is the story of Avatar Meher Baba Parel Centre which was founded with the loving blessings of Avatar Meher Baba in the year 1962, in the locality called Parel Village in Bombay. Inspired by the love impact of Meher Baba, Shri B.V.K. Rao & Mrs. Kanakalakshmi Rao started the centre at their residence, under the guidance of Shri Vibhuthidas and with the help of Mrs. Shalini Kulkarni. Started with a few enthusiastic lovers of Meher Baba in the beginning, the activities of the centre went on leading to multifarious plans at hand.

Initially small meetings and bhajan programmes were started at Prabhadevi beach and Sane Guruji Park which were followed by regular meetings on every thursday at the centre. 25th February (Baba's Birthday), 10th July (Silence day), 7th October, were some of the days on which special programmes were being conducted publicly. On these occasions feeding the poor used to be the important feature.

Prominent personalities like, late Shri Adi K. Irani, late Dr. Ginde, late Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, late Shri Amarsingh Saigal, as well as Shri Aloha, Dr. H. P. Bharucha, Dr. G. S. N. Murthy, Shri Naosherwan Nalawala, Shri K. K. Ramakrishnan, Shri Rajanikant Upadhyaya, Shri L. B. Thade were amongst those who were the participants in the programmes conducted by the Parel Centre.

Every summer was a festival for Baba lovers all over the world. It was the time when Baba would come and stay at Guruprasad, Poona where people from different parts of India and abroad would gather for the sahasas of their Beloved, Meher Baba. Parel Centre availed of this opportunity to introduce many new Baba lovers to Baba to receive His love. It was during this time that the activities of Parel Centre flourished through the far off suburbs of Bombay City viz., Vidya Vihar, Borivali, Andheri, Sion-Koliwada etc.

The Centre has been closely associated with the activities of the Baba Centres in Marathwada area viz., Tirthapuri, Beed, Jalna etc.

The Centre was registered under the Societies Registration Act, Bombay Public Trusts Act and Income Tax Act, in the year 1981. It owns properties admeasuring about 6000 sq.ft. in Arangaon Village, Meherabad. The properties were donated to the Centre by Shri B. V. K. Rao, Shri E. L. Bhagiratha Rao, Shri S. M. Khapre and Mrs. Raibai L. Dalvi. The place is being developed for construction of a Dharamshala which would be available for stay throughout the year, for Baba lovers visiting Baba's Samadhi. The Centre has its Library which is equipped with most of the books by and about Meher Baba.

The Centre is doing a unique work of providing for accomodation and food every year to Baba lovers especially coming from poor families, who come to visit the Holy Tomb Shrine of Avatar Meher Baba on 31st January. It also provides for accomodation facilities to Baba lovers who visit Meherabad on any other occasion throughout the year.

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI

Those who truly love me are my 'Centres' in the world. Let each Baba-lover, wherever he or she may be, be a Baba's 'Centre' personified, radiating the eternal Message of Love Divine, living a life of love, sacrifice and honesty.

—Meher Baba

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Merwan Sheriar Irani known as Meher Baba, was born in Poona, India, on February 25, 1894, of Persian parents. His father, Sheriar Irani, was of Zoroastrian faith and a true seeker of God. Merwan went to a Christian High School in Poona and later attended Deccan College. In 1913 while still in college a momentous event occurred in His life.... the meeting with Hazrat Babajan, an ancient Mohammedan woman and one of the five Perfect Masters of the Age. Babajan gave Him God-Realization and made Him aware of His high spiritual destiny.

Eventually He was drawn to seek out another perfect Master, Upasani Maharaj, a Hindu who lived in Sakori. During the next seven years Maharaj gave Merwan "Gnosis" or Divine Knowledge. Thus Merwan attained spiritual perfection. His spiritual mission began in 1921 when He drew together His first close disciples. It was these early disciples who gave Him the name Meher Baba, which means "Compassionate Father".

After years of intensive training of His disciples, Meher Baba established a colony near Ahmednagar that is called Meherabad. Here the Master's work embraced a free School where spiritual training was stressed, a free Hospital and Dispensary, and shelters for the poor. No distinction was made between the high castes and the untouchables; all mingled in common fellowship through the inspiration of the Master. To His disciples at Meherabad, who were of different castes and creeds, He gave a training of moral discipline, love for God, spiritual understanding and selfless service.

Meher Baba told His disciples that from July 10, 1925 He would observe Silence. Since that day He has maintained this Silence throughout the years. His many spiritual discourses and messages have been dictated by means of an alphabet board. Much later the Master discontinued the use of the board and reduced all communication to hand gestures unique in expressiveness and understandable to many.

Meher Baba has travelled to the Western world several times, first in 1931, when He contacted His early Western disciples. His last visit to America was in 1958 when He and His disciples stayed at the Centre established for His work at Myrtle Beach, S. C.

An important part of Meher Baba's work through the years has been to personally contact and to serve, hundreds of those known in India as "masts". These are advanced pilgrims on the spiritual path who have become spiritually intoxicated from direct awareness of God. For this work He has travelled many thousands of miles to remote places throughout India and Ceylon. Other vital work has been the washing of the lepers, the washing of the feet of thousands of poor and the distribution of grain and cloth to the destitute.

Meher Baba asserts that He is the same Ancient One, come again to redeem man from his bondage of ignorance and to guide him to realize his true Self which is God. Meher Baba is acknowledged by His many followers all over the world as the Avatar of the Age.

Meher Baba dropped His body on 31st January 1969.

Meher Baba's tomb-shrine at Meherabad has become a place of pilgrimage for His followers all over the world. Every year on His Amartithi, which falls on 31st January, thousands of Baba-lovers from all over India & abroad gather here in all solemnity to pay their homage to the Avatar of the Age.

"Remember one thing : only God is real and I AM GOD IN HUMAN FORM."

—MEHER BABA

THIS MAN OF LOVE
by Naosherwan Anzar.
New York 1983



Three hundred years before Jesus was born, a man called Diogenes walked the streets of Athens searching for a man of love — an honest man who lived to serve mankind. He never found such a man.

But all sincere seekers today have found the true source — a man of pure, divine love — a man of true majesty — in the personage of Avatar Meher Baba — Avatar simply means the Christ or Messiah or God — Man — one who reappears in the phenomenal world from time to time throughout the long history of Creation.

While many have heard of Meher Baba and his work, some have even witnessed it, his mission as the Avatar or Christ is to awaken in man the knowledge of his own true nature. By arousing love and a passion for service in his heart, he helps man to draw closer and closer to the divine within him, and ultimately become God-realized. His mission is simply to show us in his Perfection what our Real Self looks like and of demonstrating and exhorting how we may become like him in God-consciousness, for oneness with God is the sole purpose in life, our irrevocable birthright which we must one day inherit.

It was Meher Baba's humanity that first attracted aspirants and later a process of pure, simple devotion that brought them to an understanding of his divinity. This attraction had no attachments or promises. Meher Baba simply said, "I do not change your destiny, but the one thing I do give you is inner strength, and by that inner-strength, you can fight the battle of life".

Born in 1894 in India, Meher Baba belongs to humankind. He was reared in a simple Zoroastrian home and went through boyhood, youth and adulthood as do all of us. He ate food when he was hungry and drank water when he was thirsty. He experienced cold and heat and fatigue. He also knew the agony of pain and physical suffering and, finally, death. He was, in fact, unutterably human.

In the twenties and thirties his appearance was that of a strong man, toughened by living outdoors, walking long distances, sleeping on the bare earth and facing inclement weather. As he continued to do his universal work traversing continents and awakening souls, his physical body, wracked by accidents, experienced intense suffering, but his charisma and personal magnetism remained undiminished as was his physical and spiritual power over the thousands who sought him out.

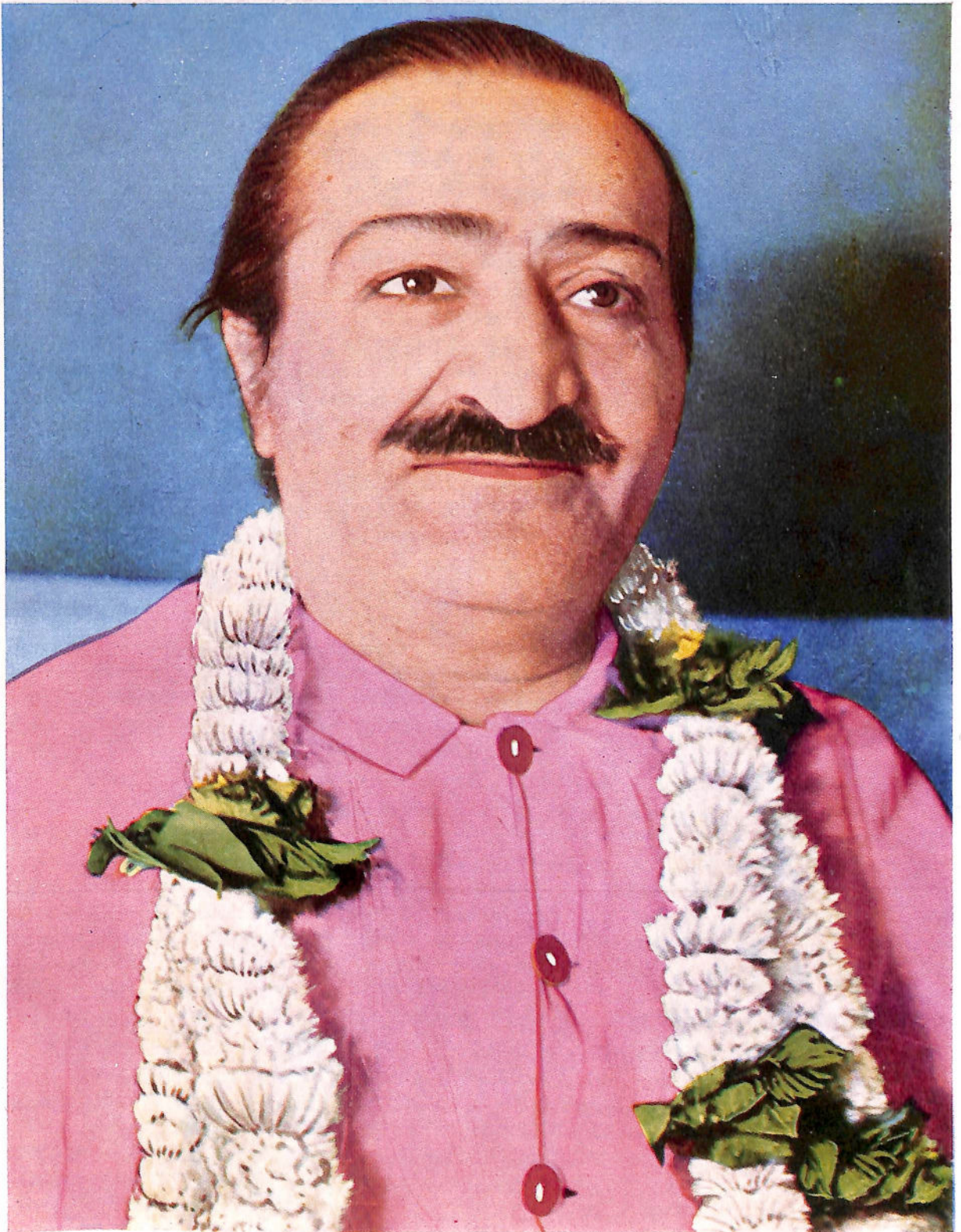
On his travels to the West, Meher Baba held interviews with selected Westerners interested in him. His work with new disciples was consistently unostentatious and very human. He rarely emphasised esoteric exercises, meditation, diet or other techniques, yet thousands of incidents occurred in his presence, incidents which brought about deep inner changes in those he met. Indeed, the most powerful impact on those who sought him was on a feeling level.

Whether or not a physical meeting was involved, it is the heart that draws people

I have come to sow the seed of love in yor hearts.....

—Meher Baba

AVATAR MEHER BABA



I belong to no religion. My religion is Love. Every heart is My Temple.

—MEHER BABA

to Meher Baba. Among the thousands of reports of internal transformation resulting from Baba's contact, the most common experience is that of love. Many who have had physical or mental contact with Baba reported special moments of inner peace, during which they experienced an encompassing abundance of unconditional love. A typical reaction of a man who first met Meher Baba: "We sat for several minutes in silence and I was aware of a great feeling of love and peace emanating from him; also a curious feeling of recognition came to me, as if I had found a long lost friend".

Another doubting Thomas, who wanted to "see" for himself before he accepted Meher Baba as the God-Man writes, "I am satisfied that if ever it was possible to "see" God on this earth, I have seen him". An Australian writer and poet, who later lived and served Meher Baba, wrote "Whether Meher Baba is the totality of Godhead or not, I have personally no way of knowing — I can only measure to my own degree. But to that degree, he is the embodiment of that ideal which I call God.

"No man or woman, no flight of thought, no aesthetic experience, no sublimity of nature, has touched the depths of me as this man has. I have met no one, or experienced no experience, which has melted my heart or sharpened my intellect as he has".

Meher Baba knew how hard it was for humanity to accept God when he manifests as the Avatar, the Christ. He said simply, "It is difficult for the Western mind to accept the concept of God in human form Though none of you understand me externally in my physical form, I am within you — **within** everybody, I am God undoubtedly If you cannot accept me as God, that should not worry you accept me as a true friend".

Whatever the form of acceptance, whether friend or Master, Father or Companion, so strong and august was this man of love that he could make the most hard-boiled individuals melt under the sway of his compassionate gestures, for he did not need to speak. He was silent. Truly it was only such a man who could bring into his fold followers by promising them a life of sacrifice, suffering and surrender — sometimes even a life of hopelessness and helplessness, for he repeatedly said, "All I give is God. I want only Love".

Many spiritual teachers promise instant bliss. Not so Meher Baba, for he was not a teacher. He was the Awakener. Indeed, one of Meher Baba's most appealing traits was his wide range of sociability. He was accessible to all kinds of people; the villagers from the hamlets of India, philosophers from the West with questioning minds, lepers whom he bathed and fed, even saints and holy men — all of them sought his companionship. The Indian political leader Mohandas Gandhi met Meher Baba several times and sought both spiritual and political advice. Only Meher Baba could elicit from the lips of Mahatma Gandhi, the words, "I am not equivalent to the dirt of his nails. If he desires he can make the sun rise in the West and set in the East, "or a London taxi-driver in whose cab Meher Baba was a passenger, "That was a remarkable gentleman. I felt it was a privilege to drive him".

At gatherings where seekers from the East and West assembled Meher Baba with silent gestures expressed love for God in a simple, direct manner, free of lofty rhetoric. Once an ordained Christian priest, who wished to lead a perfect life of love and service in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ, expressed a keen desire for Baba's guidance. "I want to behold a vision of Jesus Christ and to follow his life of love and service. I am worried because I am unable to do it" lamented the priest.

Meher baba replied, "Were you to really have that belief in him, would there be any need for you to worry about how you should carry out the teachings of Christ? Search your heart for the answer".

He continued, "You crave for a vision of Christ? It would no doubt help you to some extent to lead a life of love and service, but would it be enough by itself to help you attain the perfect life you yearn for? You are imperfect. You want to be perfect so as to lead a perfect life. But all aspirants would want what you want, and who would not want a vision of Christ? Only, you do not know that within yourself you already have what you want. Then why is it that you do not get what you want? If you look deep within yourself with complete honesty, you will find that you do not **really want** what you think and say you want.

"You own so many things, and you feel you want to get rid of them and be free. If you **really want** to get rid of them you can do so in an instant, for what binds you? It is your own self not really wanting to do so! If you want to be free, free you are; but you do not **really want** to be free, and, therefore, you continue to feel yourself bound. You want to lead a perfect life of love and service? When you **really have** that want, you will not need to worry how to lead the life — you will live it.

"Jesus wanted all his followers to want what they **really ought** to have wanted, but none, including the twelve apostles, could really want the real want." It is very difficult, so very difficult, but not impossible.

"Very rarely, one among a million can establish the real want. Only a Man of God can dare want what one ought to want.

"What you must long for is the Real Want, and this Real Want alone must be your perennial want. Once this is established, time comes when you are freed even from this singular Want and attain the Freedom that is not bound by freedom itself".

Approaching Meher Baba, accepting him with conviction is equated with surrenderance to him - the culmination of loving and obeying the Master. There are three interrelated factors in the aspirant's attempts to surrender to Meher Baba. The very first step is to resign to his will. Such resignation does not imply passivity or apathy for Meher Baba for he encouraged fulfilment of all worldly duties. It simply meant putting one's best efforts and leaving the results to Baba. It also includes complete trust in Baba, a confidence that all events, positive or negative, can be helpful for spiritual growth. Meher Baba reassured, "I want you to remain undisturbed and unshaken by the force of life's currents for whatever the circumstances, they too will be of my own creation. If you endure your lot with patience and contentment, accepting it as His Will, you are loving God".

Another tangible method in the process of surrender involves making Meher Baba the focus of one's activities — adopting the attitude of doing things for Baba, not for oneself. The purpose is to diminish the ego, not inflate it. "Do not ask me", said Meher Baba, "to bless you with a good job, but desire to serve me diligently and honestly without expectation of reward. Never beg of me to save your life or the lives of your dear ones, but beg of me to accept you and permit you to lay down your life for me. Never expect me to cure you of your bodily afflictions, but beseech me to cure you of your ignorance".

And the third aspect, total and complete surrender to Baba, achieved by the constant practice of internal dependence on Baba as one's real self. An internal process that is continuous and eternal.

To those who approached him in a spirit of surrender, Meher Baba gave the talisman of his grace. And he accepted all who came to him with love, devotion and humility. To the simple and the unlettered Meher Baba exhorted love, yet for cerebral seekers, he explained the theme of creation and its purpose, and to humanity he addressed, "the world will soon realise that cults, creeds, dogmas, religious ceremonies, lectures and sermons can never bring about real happiness — only selfless love and universal brotherhood can do it", and to a group of priests who practiced class distinction, he chided, ".....where God and His laws are concerned, there is no question of caste, creed or country. Where there is love, there is Oneness; and there can be no question of any particular religion or caste or system, superiority or inferiority".

And when press representatives in New York asked him whether he was a healer, Meher Baba said, "What really matters is the state of Christ Consciousness that I eternally enjoy and towards which I shall lead all who come to me. Spiritual healing is by far the greatest healing, and this is what I intend to give".

Although among the God-Men, Jesus travelled long distances even to India where he later laid down his body, Meher Baba travelled to many countries and continents, before the onset of the Second World War. He called these contacts, both personal and geographic, as "laying cables". Later, as and when necessary, he would revisit these spots — perhaps by a seemingly accidental visit by a disciple, or by giving a direct order to someone to go to a certain place.

Although among the God-Men, Jesus to Germany, he did send certain disciples who had social or business connections into the country to talk of him. Just a few days before Hitler's big coup in Munich, a close disciple had visited the city.

Meher Baba once told a group of his Western disciples, consequent to a discussion on the aftermath of the last war, that there was a choice of two ways to cleanse the world. "One would be a third and devastating world war, and the other way would be through small wars, earthquakes, general physical upheaval, starvation for some groups, and religious groups vying with each other, their adherents killing each other to prove that their way was the only way to God". He made no indication as to the direction in which humanity would be swept, but he emphasised on several occasions the coming of the new world order and prophesied that the new brotherhood on earth would be a fulfilled fact and nations would be united in a fraternity of love and truth.

He assured that the coming civilisation of the New Humanity shall be ensouled not by dry intellectual doctrines, but by living spiritual experience. Meher Baba asked humanity to listen and bear testimony to his words: "The New Humanity will come into existence through a release of love in measureless abundance Love has to spring spontaneously from within; it is in no way amenable to any form of inner or outer force. Love and coercion can never go together, but while love cannot be forced upon anyone, it can be awakened through love itself". "Love", Meher Baba said, "is essentially self-communicative; those who do not have it catch it from those who have it".

To love one soul is like adding its life to your own; your life is, as it were, multiplies and you virtually live in two centres.

—Meher Baba

The God-Man of this Age time and time again reassured mankind that through divine love alone will the New Humanity learn the art of co-operative and harmonious life. He said, "TRUE love will not only establish peace, harmony and happiness in social, national and international spheres, but it will shine in its own purity and beauty".

Meher Baba never founded any religious organisation, but repeatedly stressed the need to remain in the religion of one's birth, because Truth was at the heart of all the great religions. When his spiritual mission began at the age of twenty-seven, he drew together his first close disciples, and after some years of intensive training established a colony called Meherabad, about 200 miles south-east of Bombay. Here he set up a free school where spiritual training was stressed, a free hospital and dispensary, and shelters for the poor. To the disciples of different castes and religious traditions, who gathered around him, he gave training of moral discipline, love for God, spiritual understanding and selfless service.

To a group of people who came for his blessings, Meher Baba said, "The period of my glorification shall witness the fulfillment of the things I have been referring to. Those who now disbelieve in my divinity and are suspicious of it, will then be convinced about it". He then narrated a story. "A robust young man with a mission in life took a vow of celibacy for a score of years. However, as per the wishes of his old parents he had to marry earlier. In spite of this he made it quite clear that in no way would he compromise with his vow of celibacy. Years passed by and he had no child. The scandal-mongers of the town called him impotent and humiliated him. The man just remained silent and was continually engaged in his noble mission. When the stipulated period was over, he had many lovely children. This silenced the back-biters".

To this parable Meher Baba added, "When I drop this body, people will hear many loving and astounding things about my life. But now to have one-pointed faith in me and to love me as the Ancient One is the simple way of realising me the way and the goal of all for all times".

When a paralysed workman approached Meher Baba for divine help, he embraced the man and said, "it is not the paralysis of the body that matters, but of the mind that retards the soul"; and when a man bent with age handed over a written statement to Baba listing his sins, Meher Baba replied, "never think that you have fallen so as not to rise again".

Meher Baba's universal work was not limited by his silence. When Baba first began verbal silence in 1925, he told his disciples that they would not hear his voice for a long time. He did not utter another physical word for the next forty-four years. To the curious he indicated that his silence was not a spiritual discipline for himself, but a feature for his inner work. Being a humorous man, he also added that it was to compensate for so much unnecessary talk in the world. In spite of this self-imposed silence, Meher Baba did not slow down his work. He dictated books, held meetings, gave discourses and interviews and travelled much. He communicated by using at first a roman alphabet board over which his fingers flew swiftly, then from October 1954, he used a system of hand signs devised by himself. So electrifying was his personality, that no one ever felt they were in the presence of a man who did not express himself through the medium of words.

Although Meher Baba's silence was looked upon as enigmatic, it has been widely explained that his silence 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, which tantamounts to the breaking of his silence.

Meher Baba travelled to the Western world several times, visiting America for the first time in 1931 and stayed on his last visit to America in 1958 at the Center named after him at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Today there is a constant stream of visitors to the Center as well as to his Tomb in India which he predicted will eventually become the greatest place of pilgrimage. During his visits to the West, whether publicly or in private interviews, Meher Baba constantly advocated elimination of self-interest. To a sculptor who came to him and asked whether "happiness" was the goal of life, Baba replied, "That is the true aim of life, to attain real happiness, and it does not matter through what medium it is attained, but it depends on one thing, that is, forgetting one self. For those who have no self-interest, even hell is heaven".

A woman who had read reams of pages on the subject of evolution, asked Meher Baba, "would you help me to understand the process of evolution"? Baba smiled and answered simply, "Yes, it is the process through which a soul has to pass to attain the human form to realise the Truth. And human beings have also to experience suffering to realise God, which is the goal of humanity and of "Eternal Happiness".

When a Hollywood celebrity called on Baba for his help, the Beloved replied, "All the help, internal as well as external, that at times amaze you, comes to you through my inner working and guidance. Of this help you must always be rest assured. I won't let you down, spiritually, whatever happens, even if you, in your moments of desperation, leave me or turn against me. My love for you will NEVER fail".

It was for those who would slip while traversing the spiritual path that Meher Baba asked, "Hold fast to me so that I will take you where I go, otherwise you will be lost".

Meher Baba puts considerable emphasis on the guide on the path. Yet he cautions that following a false or imperfect master presents hazards that are often insurmountable. Perhaps the worst examples of imperfect masters are spiritual pretenders, those who pose as being spiritually advanced. It is against such false teachers that Meher Baba warns, "To entrust the development of your soul to the guidance of an imperfect teacher is like making a man sit on your chest with a sharp instrument in his hand".

Seekers often pursue all sorts of psychic, occult, or esoteric practices, hoping to enhance their life in some way. Some feel that these practices will aid their spiritual development; others use paranormal or mystical experiences as a measure of their progress. Although Meher Baba stresses the importance of love when he discusses spiritual methods, he also lovingly warns new aspirants about techniques and experiences that are usually harmful.

In a strong response to the explosion of drug use for spiritual purposes, Meher Baba said, "Indulgence in drugs is harmful physically, mentally and spiritually, and people should stop taking them. It is absolutely essential for a spiritual aspirant who

genuinely longs for union with God — the Reality — to shun experiments with the effects of certain drugs”.

In the same way, Baba said, occult phenomenon cannot bring about spiritual healing or uplift, which is the real thing that matters.

An important part of his work throughout the years was to personally contact and serve hundreds of those known in India as “masts”. These were advanced pilgrims on the spiritual path and for the purpose of contacting them, Meher Baba endured severe hardships and thousands of miles of arduous travel.

To the Western mind this aspect of Baba's work is at the same time fascinating and perplexing. It is also unique. To the outward eye the mast is a madman, a derelict, but of times he has no body consciousness. He is not mad, but looks like it. His mind does not function as the mind of an ordinary human being; yet his mind is not blank. Intense love and longing for God has made him like dust. He does not belong to the world, though he is in it.

They are frequently found in sordid surroundings, in a state of neglect and even filth, yet as one of Baba's disciples described one, “he is a very impressive and powerful-looking man with fiery eyes”. When a woman mast was contacted, she pleaded to Baba: “You are the Ocean. Give me a few drops from it to drink”. Another mast when brought to Baba, explained: “We have come to the garden of paradise”.

But one is apt to ask: What was the purpose of Baba's work among masts? The answer is simply this: “A mast, because of his being stationed on the inner planes is in contact with a far greater number of souls than is possible for an ordinary person A mast can, therefore, be a more effective agent for spiritual work than the most able persons of the gross world”.

And Meher Baba explains, “The masts alone know how they love me and I alone know how I love them. I work for the masts and knowingly or unknowingly they work for me”.

Other vital work of Meher Baba consisted of the bathing of lepers whom he described as “beautiful birds in an ugly cage”, washing of the feet of thousands of poor and destitute and the distribution of grain, cloth and money to them. These were the only occasions when he handled money.

Meher Baba asserted that he was the same Ancient One who had come again to redeem humanity from its bondage of ignorance and to guide humanity to realise its true self which is God. To those who gathered round him, he said, “Love God and become God. I have come to receive your love and give you mine. The divine Beloved is always with you, in you and around you”.

Meher Baba's emphasis on Love is always free from hollow cliches. To Baba, the real nature of love is synonymous with life itself. “Where there is life there is Love”, he said. Meher Baba's message, as pure love itself, has no parallel in power: “God does not listen to the language of the tongue He does not listen to the language of the mind and its routine meditations, concentration and thoughts about God. He only listens to the language of the heart and its message of love, which needs no ceremony or show, only silent devotion to the Beloved”.

Pure love is matchless in majesty, it has no parallel in power and there is no darkness it cannot dispel. —Meher Baba

Meher Baba tells us that "this love can be expressed in various ways, all of which ultimately result in union with God. The practical way for the average man to express love is to speak lovingly, think lovingly and act lovingly towards all mankind, feeling God to be present in everyone".

His message to mankind emerged loud and clear: "Trust God completely and He will solve all difficulties. Faithfully leave everything to Him and He will see to everything. Love God sincerely and He will reveal Himself. And as you love, your heart must love so that even your mind is not aware of it. As you love God whole-heartedly and honestly, sacrificing everything at the altar of this supreme love, you will realise the Beloved within you,...

Once when he was visiting a village whose inhabitants were noted for their love for him, he put it this way: "People call me the Lord of the Universe, but I am actually the Servant of the Universe. I am the Washerman who has come to clean the dirty clothing of humanity".

I first met him when I was but two months old. He took me in his arms, cuddled me, kissed me, walked around my home holding me, occasionally bouncing me on his knees. It was an early initiation, one that even today after over three decades of close contact, fills my heart with an overwhelming feeling of love — for Meher Baba was the embodiment of love and peace, emanating love and peace, transforming all those who met him or even heard his name.

After years of companionship, filled with moments of rare, indescribable experiences, just when it seemed that the Beloved of our hearts would live on forever, he quietly slipped away. Forty days before he dropped his physical body, I met him in a small room. He looked at me with compassion. I clutched his feet and embraced his body. Without any apparent reason my eyes had welled up tears, and before I could step out of the room, Meher Baba pointed to his wrist and said, "My time has come" and then making a cross with his fingers he remarked, "this is my crucifixion".

Three years ago, in 1966 to be exact, he had given me the mandate to let humanity know of his presence on earth and his mission. At the last meeting he expressed happiness with the publication of the "Glow", a journal I have been editing for 17 years now, and told me to love him more and more.

On July 31, 1968 Meher Baba announced to his disciples that his universal work had been completed one hundred percent to his satisfaction. Six months later he passed away, but shortly before his death he reminded them of some quotations that hung on the walls of his meeting room. They read: "Befitting a fortunate slave, carry out every command of the Master without any question of "Why" and "What". About what you hear from the Master, never say it is wrong because, my dear, the fault lies in your own incapacity to understand him".

It was his way of reminding humanity that God and God's ways are not attainable by the intellect, but that obedience, based on love and faith in the Master was the most tangible approach to God.

As the Avatar, Meher Baba's message was "LOVE ME", and it is this universal call that is heard even by those who have not seen him in the physical form, taking

comfort in his words that as the SELF in all selves all were equally in him and that he resided in each always. Truly, Meher Baba was a man of love, come to spread the gospel of love and it is as the Eternal Beloved that posterity will love and remember him.

I give you all my Blessing that the spark of my divine love, may implant in your hearts the deep longing for love of God

Thus spoke Avatar Meher Baba.



MEHER BABA-QUTUBE ALAM

By SAEB ASMI—Pakistan

(Translation by Shri Adi R. Irani)

Once when he was visiting a village in the mountains, he was asked to give a message to the people of the village. He said: "I am actually the servant of the universe. I am the Messenger who has come to clean the dirt."

I. MEHER BABA QUTUBE AALAM MAJHARE NOORE KHUDA
MARDE HAQ INSANE KAMIL TAJDARE DO SARA

Meher Baba, You are the Hub of the Universe. You are the manifestation of the Light of God. You are the man of God, the perfect man, and the Emperor of the Two Worlds.

II. MAHRUMA PURNOOR TERE JALWAE RUKHASARASE
DO JAHAN ROSHAN HAI TERE PARTOVE ANWARASE

MEHER BABA TOO KHUDA, TUJHME HAI JALWAGAR KHUDA
MEHER BABA SOORATE INSAN HO TO HAQNOOMA

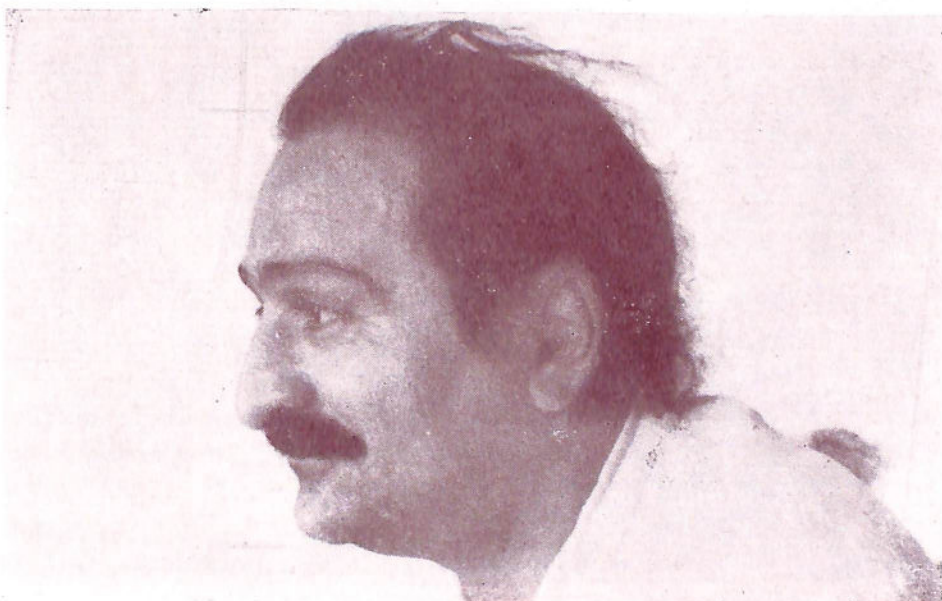
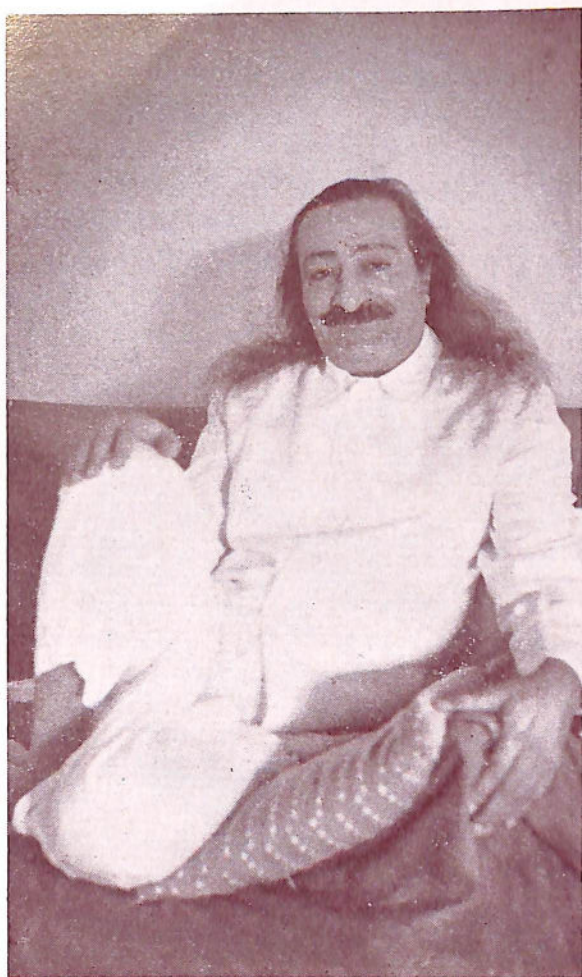
The Sun and the Moon are there because of your light. The Two Worlds are enlightened because of the reflection of your light. Meher Baba, you are God and in you is God manifested. Meher Baba, although you are human, you are verily God.

III. TOO HAI SWAMY RAMATIRATH, TOO HAI NANAK TOO KABIR
KURSIO LOHO KALAM, TERE MUHABAT KE ASEER
TOO MUHAMMED, TOO MASIHA, TOO SULEMAN, TOO KALIM
GOD TOO HAI, VAHEGURU TOO, RAM TOO HAI, TOO RAHIM
You are Swami Ramatirath, You are Nanak, You are Kabir. It is the effect of your love that God could write the destiny of the entire humanity sitting on His throne with a tablet and a pen. You are Mohammed, You are Christ, You are Solomon, You are Moses. You are God, You are Vahe Guru (of Sikhs). You are Ram (of Hindus). You are Rahim (of Muslims).

IV. AIE SHAHENSHE-E-DO AALAM, BADSHA-E-KAENAT
TERI GIRDE RAAH HO JAANEME MUJHGAR HAI NAJAAT
MANGATA HOO ROSHANI TUJHASE-AE-MEHERE TABEDAR
TOO-KE-AE MEHERO MUHABBAT KA HAI BAHARE BEKINAR
Oh King of the Two Worlds, Emperor of the entire creation, to enter the orbit of your love is sure salvation. Your obedient servant, crave from you some light, You who are the shoreless ocean of mercy and love.

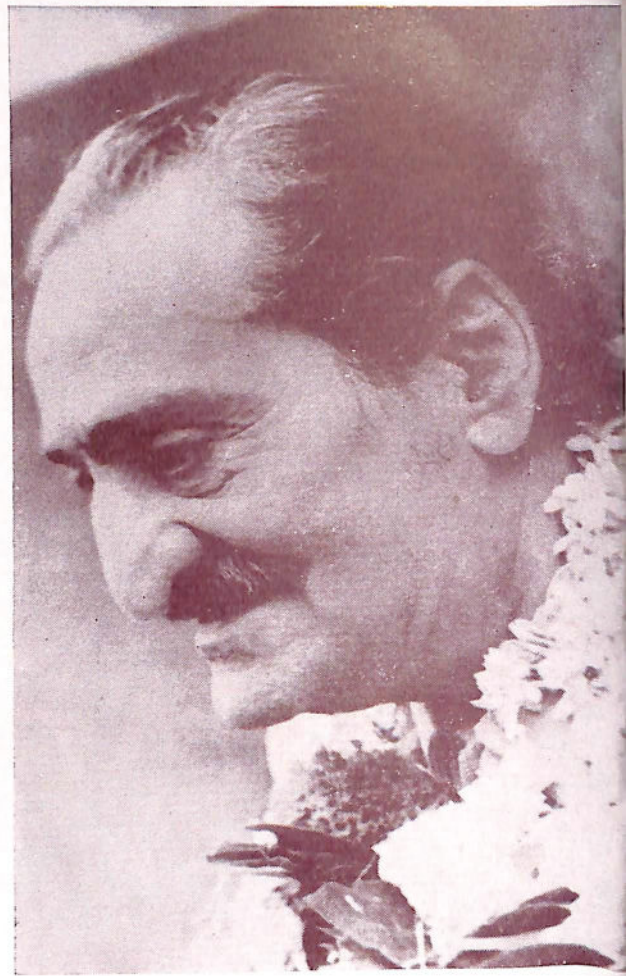
I am the song, its words and its melody, and I am the singer. I am the musical instruments and the players and listeners.

— Meher Baba



I am not this body that you see. It is only a Coat
I put on when I visit you.

—Meher Baba



Seek Me not to extricate you from your predicaments, but find Me
in order to surrender yourself wholeheartedly to My Will. —Meher Baba

MEHER BABA — THE HOPE OF MANKIND

(By Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy, M.A., Ph.D., Geeta Bhushan, Kakinada)

MEHER BABA — the personification of the Divine Principle of SILENCE, is not only the AVATAR of the AGE but a Spiritual Search Light for all time to come. He is the heart-beat of humanity. Nay, Meher Baba, is the very HOPE of mankind. Indeed, as Baba says, "Hope is to be fortified by courage, which can accept failure with equanimity...." Such a HOPE is not so easy to get. Hence, the Lord of Mercy (Meher Baba) encourages in the SILENT VOICE of assurance saying, "Have HOPE. I have come to help you in surrendering yourselves to the cause of God and accepting His Grace of Love and Truth. I have come to help you in winning the one victory of all victories — to win yourself."

Such is the wondrous Omni-potency of Mownavatar Meher Baba, the very Lord Incarnate of Love, who, despite innumerable sufferings that He has taken upon Himself for the sake of mankind, to redeem the modern world, spiritually 'awakens' the sleeping souls on this earth-planet, by silently switching on the Light of God, with frequent flashes of lightening smiles, breaking through the clouds of calamity and dispelling the darkness of ignorance from the minds of one and all. He inspires courage and confidence in the heart of a seeker of self-realization by the unfailing Power of His Silence, which is endlessly eloquent. The sweet fragrance of His Love makes one feel His immediate Presence. Baba holds the Crown of happiness in His hands and invites all lovers of God to wear it without worry and asks them to be cheerful. Never before did we come across such a Grand Figure of Living Importance, simultaneously depicting both 'CORONATION AND CRUCIFICATION' at one stretch. How queer is the fact that even after dropping His body, HE still continues to preside over the destinies of Mankind in a silent manner since the eternal Principle of SILENCE, which Baba personified, remains for ever to function in an invisible fashion!

To be at the Holy Feet of the Highest of the High, is to be at the Source of Peace. To come in contact with such a Lord of Love is to cut-short the long distance of Divine-realization and to close the current chapter of worries; and to be admitted into His Avataric Embrace is to receive the Direct Grace of God.

To-day, we are living in a dangerous Nuclear Age. The impact of science on civilization has brought about a peculiar change in outlook. All over the globe a mad race for material prosperity is going on. Personal comforts and self-centered habits have become 'the be-all and end-all' of man. The horrors of war and worry loom large on the Path of International Peace and progress. The entire structure of human society is shaking from the very foundations. A serious catastrophe is confronting the individual in a universe of tremendous tensions. Currents of cold war have crept into the very vitals of human-mind. There is thus a grave spiritual crisis. Mental agonies are multiplying. The Heart is hurt and it is bleeding with the sacred blood of humanity. The multiheaded monster of Hypocrisy has forced its entry into the House of God, where it is about to devour the very soul of man.

Mankind is standing helplessly at cross-roads and crying for protection. A Saviour is badly needed; and it is therefore high time that God must incarnate Himself

At present the urgent problem facing humanity is to devise ways and means of eliminating competition, conflict and rivalry in all the subtle and gross forms which they assume in the various spheres of life.

—Meher Baba

to save the suffering humanity from the onslaughts of annihilation, especially when the civilizations are crumbling and Religion is trembling.

But, the modern incarnation must be universal in appeal, irrespective of caste, colour, creed, sect or sex, race religion or any order of faith or faculty. Such an Incarnation must necessarily be dynamic in essence. He must awaken men and women to a sense of Reality, speaking through the Language of the Heart. A new Religion of Love must be offered.

Quite fortunately for us, there was in our midst the Personal Physical Form of Avatar Meher Baba, the brightest manifestation of Bliss. He has just saved humanity from a total collapse and after dropping His physical body, He has now hidden Himself in SILENCE revealing His Impersonal Universal Form full of Infinite Power, Energy and Intelligence. From behind the curtain of Cosmic Illusion, Baba is silently announcing : "I AM WITH YOU IN YOUR HEART. FEEL AND FIND ME THERE." If we are His true lovers, then let us remember His words, "...SILENT IS LOVE AND THE LOVER LOVES MY SILENCE AND SILENTLY ADORES ME IN SILENCE..." So it is observed that the Silent Saviour & Hope of mankind does exist in Silence with an ever-living importance.

Unlike other incarnations that represent certain isolated principles of God's nature, there is a great speciality in the Divine manifestation of Meher Baba and hence, acceptable to mankind as a whole. Let us briefly know what it is :

It seems that Prophets of one country are not always the prophets of another. The Incarnations of one age at times seem to be supplanted by those of another. It may appear that Socrates is for the Greeks, Moses for the Hebrews, Confucius for the Chinese, Christ for the Christians, Krishna for the Hindus, Mohammed for the Muslims, Zoraster for the Parsis, Nanak for the Sikhs, Buddha for the Buddhists and so on. However, as everlasting universal models, they will have to be acknowledged by all men. The need of man to-day is for a Central Figure — a Spiritual Model of Universal Mind — who includes in himself all these various embodiments of God's Self-manifestations. Meher Baba is such an Incarnation of eternal quality in whom all the divine traits of these Prophets find full self-expression. He may therefore, be considered as an Incarnation of 'UNIVERSAL HOPE'.

Never before in the history of mankind has there been a greater and more thrilling example of an Incarnation than that of MEHER BABA, who in His own life time, has led His lovers to show the Future Tomb where His physical remains are now resting, situated on the Meherabad Hill. On this sacred spot, the wordless voice of the soundless Supreme is released to vibrate in every atom of the universe with an Eternal Message of Hope to Mankind.

Tears and fears must be conquered in order to make any progress in the path of spirituality. Admittedly, it is the fear of death which is the most formidable foe of man. It stands like a stumbling block in the perpetual process of the spiritual evolution of Man. But, the Divine Beloved BABA is invisibly pervading the whole world and quietly drives away the fear of death, the root of all fears.

Swami Vivekananda once said, "It is the heart that conquers, not the brain. Books & learning, Yoga & Meditation and illumination.... all are but dust compared to

SPIRITUALITY consists in meeting life adequately and fully without being over-powered by the opposites.

—Meher Baba

Love." Meher Baba embodies such a LOVE which is a mysterious Reality. His Silence radiates that Love. Our heart receives the same. It is this LOVE that speaks to our hearts. Baba says, "I AM LOVE. LOVE MUST LOVE". Beloved Baba also says, "I am ever silent and ever-lastingly speaking...." Thus, we see that the Ever-silent Baba is now everlastingly speaking to all lovers in all planes of existence and at all levels of consciousness. Without this supreme Psycho-spiritual quality of esoteric significance, it is not at all possible to tickle the Soul and tackle the Mind of mankind. And, because such a rare combination of divine attributes is found radiantly reflected in the Transparent Personality of REAL BABA, His Transcendental Nature of help to humanity is a constant source of solace & strength to the suffering Mankind which presently stands at the cross-roads of HOPELESSNESS & HELPLESSNESS. Baba is the only HOPE and the HELP to future civilization. All that we are required to do is just to remember HIM with love & faith. The Voice of Consolation that comes from Baba gently tells us, "I am nearer to you than your own breath. Remember Me and I am with you, and My love will guide you...." Will the Mankind pay heed to such a clear CALL OF HOPE!!!



BABA LIVES

By Kavi Yogi Swami Shudhananda Bharati

* * *

Baba lives! Baba lives
In every heart that loves
like eternal Truth He lives
And like Sun-light He gives.

—2—

He lives as Love in hearts
with love let's play our parts
He took body to save
Embodied US sans treve. +

—3—

Baba gives, Baba gives
Himself who give themselves
His body sleeps down the grave
His soul animates the brave
O heroes, march onward
To fulfil his thought and word
His pure almighty Grace
Brings us all blissful peace
Open your psychic door
And with deep faith adore
Baba responds at once
The call of love intense
Hail Meher Baba, Hail
Avatar immortal.

(+ Sans treve = without respite
= always)

MEHER BABA — THE AVATAR

By Shri E. Lakshminatha Rao, Vijayawada

Divinity and pure Love are inseparable; they exist together. When Baba Lovers experience such Love, they know that Baba is Divine, for no mortal or earthly love can give the grace of such pure love.

Baba's affirmations of being God may have misled some people to give Him the semblance of Love for what He may give. Such people might have become disillusioned and got weaned away from Baba. True Love which binds Baba Lovers to Baba stands firm and unbroken even amidst trials and tribulations.

Baba's divinity cannot be questioned and debated about as if it were something which man's intellect can know and talk about. Baba's divinity or God-state is beyond the intellectual understanding of man.

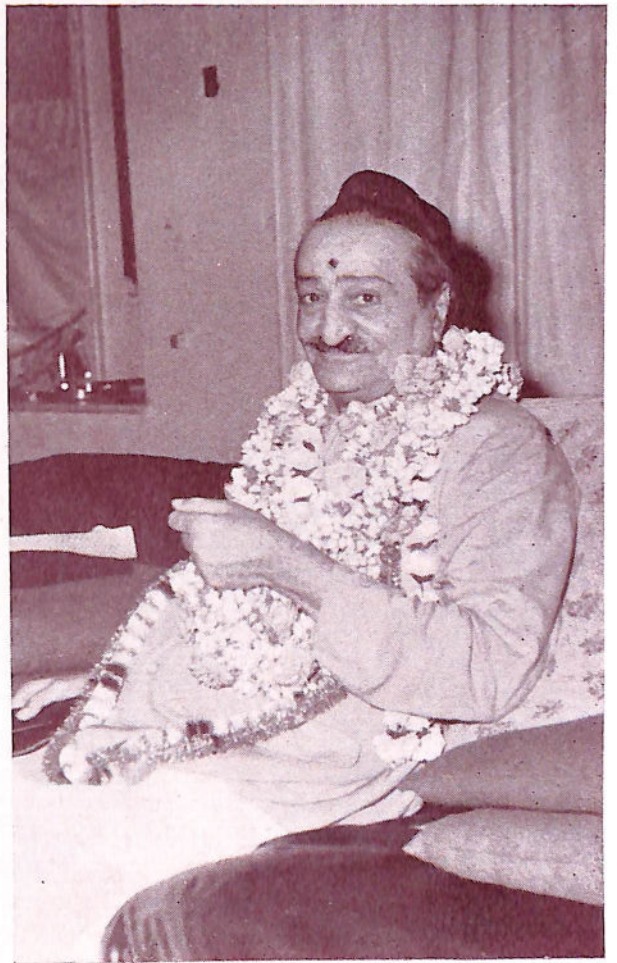
Man is in God; he lives in God and yet remains ignorant of this primary fact of existence because of being shrouded in the enclosure of an illusory separateness of self. When the illusion of separateness is broken or transcended through love, the veil which has concealed God, the eternal existence, disappears and man sees God, knows God, and lives in God.

The whole mission of the Avatâric advent of Meher Baba is to give deliverance to man from the illusion of separateness by awakening him to the intrinsic oneness of existence of all life through Love. Meher Baba has categorically rejected the idea of performing miracles to demonstrate His divinity for He was not for thousands crowding round Him. He came for those who have been consciously or unconsciously longing for Truth and have been drawn to Him in love. Baba declared Himself to be the Avatar like Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, and Mohammed.

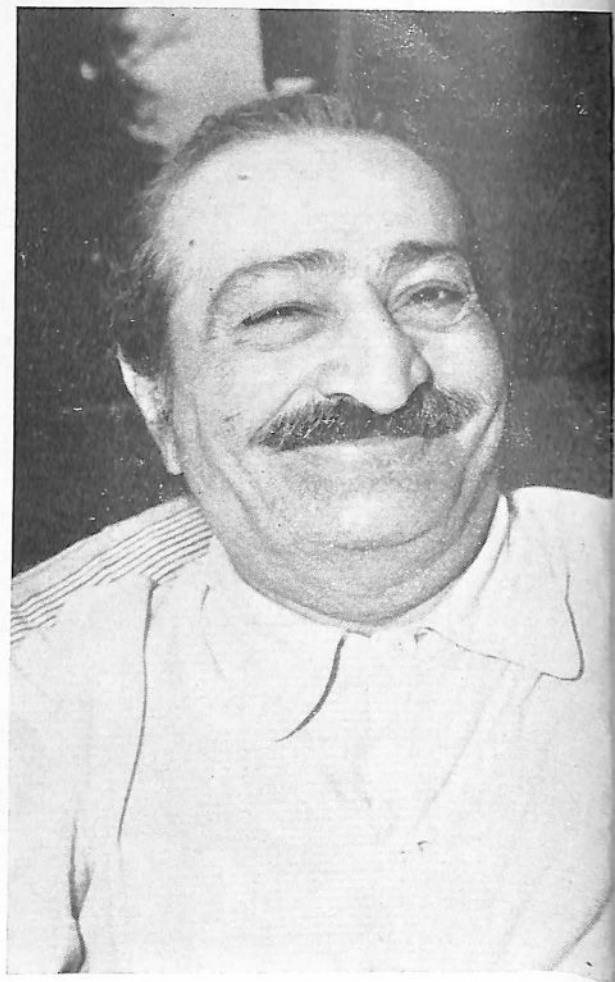
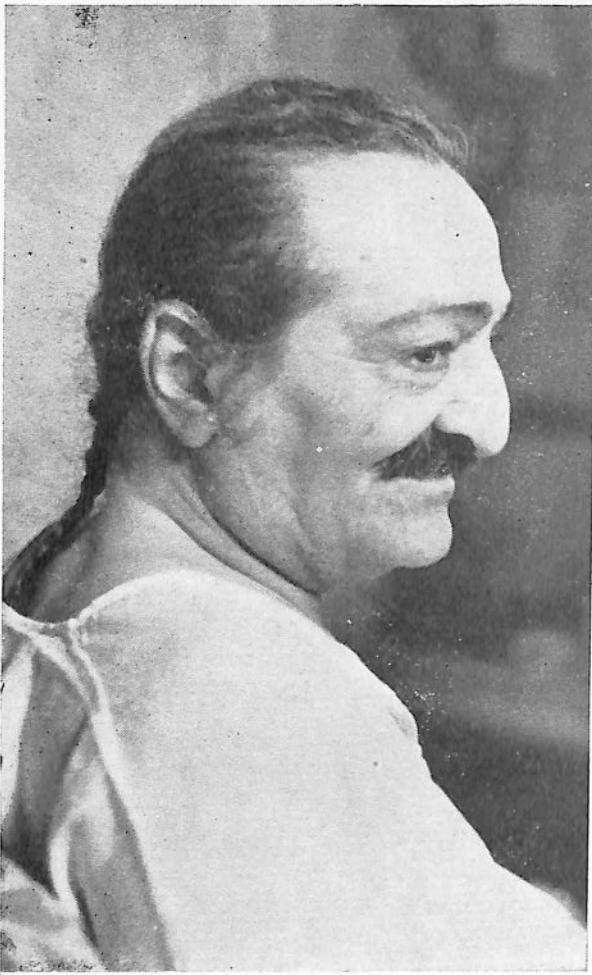
The present world situation presents portents full of peril to the preservation and perpetuation of human life on earth. Man faces the threat of total annihilation by the use of nuclear bombs with the facility of hurtling them through space with unimaginable speeds to hit the pre-determined sites or areas or targets. The war, if one is started now, can destroy the world many times over within hours of its commencement. Such are the destructive potentials of armaments shored up by the rival powers. The world has been standing on the brink of disaster without breaking into it for years and even decades. The fresh dispensation of spiritual Truth which the new avatâric advent offers must be communing in silence and love with consciousness of all, to quicken them to a new awareness of the utter futility of wars and the destruction they cause when issues have to be fought out on the battle-fronts in the minds and consciousness of men rather than through loss of life, terror, destruction, and devastation, which only harden and embitter the hearts than alleviate and redress their imbalance and distempers in the world. This new heedfulness of a hasty and precipitate plunge into the horrors of war and the utter senselessness and futility of causing wide spread suffering and loss of life for the real and lasting resolution of disputes expresses a new and refreshing element in the consciousness of men counselling patience and restraint to the minds — the belligerent minds of the decision-making rulers. In the vistas of human

I am not here just for crowds. I am here for the individuals dispersed among the crowds who silently adore me.

— Meher Baba.



Do not seek material pleasure and you will find the
spiritual treasure.
—Meher Baba.



Seek the kingdom of Heaven by not seeking the kingdom of
Earth, and you will find it. —Meher Baba

history the restraints on the impulse to use power for war has seldom been seen as it is being seen today. It is the Avatar who has been working on the consciousness of mankind to enliven it with dawning impulses of Divine Truth.

The Avatar's call of Love is drawing a few now; but its echo and re-echo through space and time will draw millions into the fold of Love and Truth. Baba's self affirmation of His Truth as the Avatar of the age is only an expression of self-awareness. His being the focus of Love of His Lovers has made it incumbent on Him to make the declaration that there is nothing beyond Him, nothing above Him, and nothing besides Him to be aspired for and realized. In the fullness of Love for Him, they will find they are He and He is they because God is in all and God is all. All else is illusion. May each and all find the redemption of His Love.

JAI BABA

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

What is a Baba Lover*?

By Dr. Harry Kenmore, New York.

(Extract from Avatar Meher Baba — the Way and the Goal.

Vol. I. No. 5 dated 25-5-1970)

In ancient times people were **worshippers** of God. Centuries passed; then they became **believers** of God. Today we are living in a turbulent and violent age. At the height of our difficulties the challenge has been issued by the Avatar — the God-Man — to a humanity asleep in its illusory world to buck-up, to hurry up, to awaken, because **now** is the time to become **lovers** of God. In **this** era, our Avatar appeals to our maturity in insisting that we become **lovers** of Meher Baba — Baba Lovers.

Now, what **is** a Baba — lover?

Almost every day people greet me with the shibboleth, "I'm a Baba-Lover". What does this mean? Now to say you're a lover of God — to say you're a lover of Meher Baba — is a very serious declaration. But the ones who use the expression really use it ill-advisedly, with vain pretention — to attract attention to themselves, or half-jesting — for frankly, I don't know **what** they mean when they say, "I am a Baba-lover." There is no way we can tell what a Baba-lover looks like. In India anyone wearing a Kafni, a gown that extends from your neck to your ankles fastened with one button at the neck, is known as **Baba**. He's a **friend**, one who is engaged in the pursuit of non-material ends. They are spiritual seekers, sannyasins. Thus, when one says he's a Baba-Lover, we may well wonder, lover of whom? What **Baba**? There are over a hundred thousand Babas in India — which **Baba** do you love? Now if you are a follower or devotee of **Meher Baba**, say so, because there's only one Meher Baba in the whole world. And this Meher Baba isn't just a friend. He is the Compassionate Father and Friend of all of us. He's the one and only Lord of the Universe. That's who this Meher Baba is. He is the Avatar of our age. Now to be a lover of Meher Baba, you must be accepted by Meher Baba as His lover. It's the Father who chooses the son — not the son who chooses the Father. It isn't your own estimate of yourself which is acceptable to God; it's God's estimate of **you** that really counts and really matters. Therefore, when we say we're Baba-lovers we're simply making an estimate of our own irritating egotism — that's all we are doing. This self-conscious effusiveness has nothing to do with love.

In His discourse **Love and Devotion**, Meher Baba, telling of love, says simply, love is not only **sublime**, but also **silent**. One who is really in love doesn't tell the whole cockeyed world about it. He **looks** it. He **beams** it. He **acts** it. **You** feel it.

When one first picks up a book about Meher Baba and reads about Him, he is a Meher Baba reader, not a Meher Baba lover. If he attends meetings and listens to talks about Meher Baba, he's become a Meher Baba listener. Of course, if one leaves the meetings and attends other kinds of meetings — cults and such — then he's a Baba-shopper. He's like the butterfly that hasn't selected the kind of flower from which it wants to get its perfume. If one comes to a lot of meetings and begins to get a little feeling about Baba, he becomes a Meher Baba candidate. When this feeling swells he may be deemed a Meher Baba enthusiast — but he's not a **lover** yet by any means. After he's disposed of the preliminaries connected with the acceptance of Meher Baba as God in human form and as his only Beloved, he begins his approach towards the spiritual path. As he obediently applies Meher Baba's rules for right living, and feels himself drawing closer and closer to Meher Baba as the Only One who is assuredly his Real Beloved, countenancing none other, Meher Baba becomes the sole Reality of his life. As his closeness to the beloved is more deeply experienced, his feeling of separation becomes more acute, longing intensifies, and yearning to bridge the gulf of separation becomes sharper and more poignant. Only when we feel a continuous burning in remembrance of our Beloved, a desperate separation, a deep and tortured longing — because this Meher Baba is some one we want Union with, because this Meher Baba has really become our One and Only True Beloved — do we begin to take on the responsibilities and obligations of a real lover. Everything in illusion is lessened and reduced to its irreducible minimum in our consideration and concern. There's only one paramount interest, one transcendent yearning — Union with this Divine Beloved. To please this Beloved and to do His Will everlastingly, we execute selfless service to our fellow man, to all living creatures in need of understanding and assistance. In every one of these beings we see this Meher Baba, because this Meher Baba lives in every being as **Soul**. We feel that He is everywhere and in everyone, and forgetting ourselves by remembering Him, we want to serve this One, who is in every one and everything. We feel this **love** can never be satiated; we can't stop serving, we can't stop giving. When we've stopped asking — when we've stopped asking others to shoulder our burdens for us, but instead, we shoulder our own burdens — that's pleasing our Beloved Meher Baba. When we actively seek to engender happiness in others we are pleasing our real Beloved.

Meher Baba emphatically states that true or real love means the complete surrender of one's self to the Beloved. One's self includes one's body, mind, affairs, attachments, and one's very life. In His "The Everything and The Nothing", Meher Baba mentions three kinds of **lovers**. First is the **maat** who knows only God, and is oblivious to himself and the world. Second : the one who lives in the world, carries out his worldly duties and responsibilities one hundred percent, but is all the time conscious that everything is passing and only God exists. He **loves** God without ever being aware of it. Third : the one who completely surrenders to the God-Man (the Christ or Avatar). He no longer lives for himself, but for the God-Man. This is the highest and rarest type of **lover**. He becomes a puppet of the Divine puppeteer.

To love Baba in hopes of achieving health, wealth, betterment of family and friends etc., is to love all these and not Baba.

—Meher Baba

Now, only when we've responded joyously to God-Man's challenge to become His real lover, and taken on the burdens of a true lover of Almighty God, can we be called Meher Baba lovers. And one who is selflessly serving never proclaims it, never gives it lip service, because what one is doing for others is the proclamation.

We have only one concern — to serve and please this Beloved. Always, people who call themselves Baba-lovers are looking for the Beloved to make them happy, to be their servant. Rather, it's the other way around. Before God can become a slave of His lovers we must first, irrevocably, become His slave. We must give up everything to this Beloved. Remember, when God gives, He gives Everything. Centuries ago, when the Perfect Masters cried out "I am God", they would have also wished to let out the secret, "You all can become God like Me, if you take the love Path that I have traveled". Even though a Perfect Master was skinned alive, he would not reveal the secret of loving the Beloved; humanity at that time was too immature to receive this revelation. But, today, God Himself, as Avatar, has proclaimed the secret to a humanity that now has the maturity to accept it.

Meher Baba has said, do not let what is in your heart come to your lips — stitch your lips and never let it leak out. Remember, one who really loves God, God annihilates him. God pounds His lover into dust and mixes him with the dust. God tests him by being cruel, by giving him false hopes, even by cutting him to pieces. To love means to loose your whole self with all its paraphernalia. It means torture, pains, longing, burning, and, if in spite of all this, one is firm in his love for the Beloved, he becomes one with the Beloved. Everyone can literally become awake to the realization that each one is Almighty God in essence. But this Almighty God in each individual is sound asleep. The Divine Spiritual Awakener, Meher Baba, has come amongst us to awaken us out of this eternal slumber, to release us from our dreaming. He holds out to us His Daaman to grasp tightly, and pledges that if we keep holding on, He will take us to where we really belong, merged in His Infinite Ocean of Divine Love. When the interminably separated love-drop becomes this Ocean, the lover becomes what he originally was and eternally is — God the beloved.

This is the Way and the Goal. To achieve this Goal you have to become a lover of Meher Baba. Therefore, let us not blithely state that we are Baba-lovers. We're Baba-readers, we're Baba-trainees, we're Baba-candidates, we're Baba-enthusiasts, we're Baba-fans, Lovers? Let's not kid ourselves. It's no joke to love the Beloved; it demands great daring. Meher Baba wants everyone in this age to know and praise Him as the Highest of the High, the Avatar, but only the select few can become His real lovers. I never heard any of the intimate Mandali (whom Baba called real lovers) say, "I love Baba" or "I'm a Baba-lover". A Baba-lover gives one hundred percent selfless service with absolutely no thought of results or rewards. This stems from a spontaneous dedication to do the Will of the Beloved and to please Him always. Therefore, let's let loving God become the cardinal aspiration of our lives. When this becomes the most serious and supreme resolution of our lives, we will become an uninvolved witness of the machinations of maya, and know that our Real Beloved, Meher Baba, alone exists.

*Out of millions only one loves God, and out of millions of lovers, only one succeeds in obeying
and finally, in surrendering his whole being to God the Beloved.*

—Meher Baba

DR. HARRY KENMORE-A LIFE OF LIVING SERVICE TO THE GOD-MAN*

INTRODUCTION

"O learn to read what silent love has writ :
To hear with eyes belongs to love's fine wit."

William Shakespeare

The above couplet by Shakespeare perfectly sums up the unique and God-gifted personality of Dr. Harry Kenmore.

He was stone blind. Yet he had incredible insight into the Truth. He was practically deaf. Yet his great heart was ever tuned to his Beloved's Silent Voice.

Though sightless, he excelled and became pre-eminent in a profession highly demanding of all the faculties, not the least of which is sight. And though his was a handicap which often requires external help and guidance, he somehow never appeared in need of any. Rather, he gave unfailing help and guidance to others.

He had the loving friendship and deep respect of many. Yet he was a man alone. Bereft of sight and nearly of sound, he walked by the light of his faith, his rock-like faith, and his mind was illumined by the wisdom that comes only from God Himself. And God Himself in the form and person of Avatar Meher Baba, gave him all this and more, because of his great and wonderful love for his Beloved.

This was Dr. Harry Kenmore. And this is his story.

As a youngster Dr. Kenmore embodied many of those qualities which were later to distinguish his adult life. He was honest, fearless, brave, big-hearted and above all, independent. He was a natural choice for president of school societies and clubs. People respected his sound judgment and clear thinking.

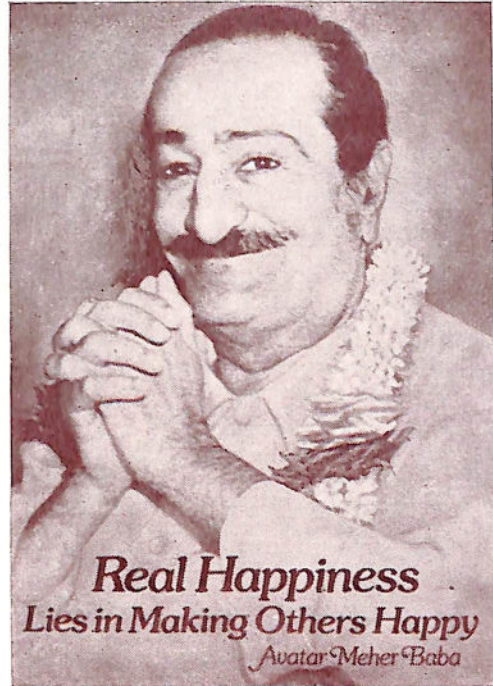
Yet the very tone and tenor of this promising life was to come to an abrupt and horrifying halt one day in his 16th year. That was the day he woke up, without any prior warning, unexpectedly and completely blind. The year was 1925... the same year Avatar Meher Baba imposed upon Himself the lifelong handicap of Silence. The form of blindness with which Dr. Kenmore was so suddenly afflicted proved to be the very worst form of blindness a human being can have. Most blind persons have some semblance of light. But Dr. Kenmore's blindness was like having a blindfold of the blackest velvet wrapped tightly around the eyes. In Dr. Kenmore's case, it was a blindfold that would never come off.

At first, Dr. Kenmore thought his blindness might have been the result of some kind of head cold or infection. But this proved to be false. Upon further examination by the best physicians, it was decided that he had somehow become suddenly, inexplicably, hopelessly blind. Dr. Kenmore had no choice but to learn to live in this darkest of worlds. A terrifying choice for a 16 year old to have to make. Yet he made that choice with the guts and gumption of a true hero. Defeatism and failure were never the way of Dr. Harry Kenmore.

Despite the obvious hardships, Dr. Kenmore went on to graduate from high school and college with distinction. It seemed there was nothing he could not excel at if he applied his great mind to the matter.

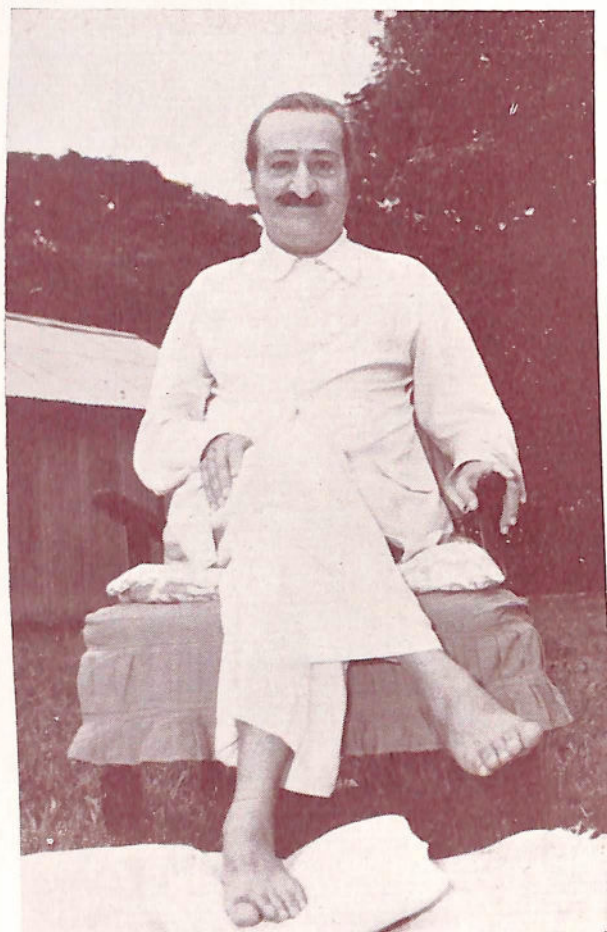


Dr. Harry Kenmore



The human form is the best of all physical forms, it is the only form in which God can be realized, and until God is realized the soul must continue with births and deaths.

—Meher Baba



MY COMMANDMENTS

1. Desire for nothing except desirelessness.
2. Hope for nothing except to rise above all hopes.
3. Want nothing and you will have everything.
4. Be *angry* with none but your own weaknesses.
5. Hate none but your own lustful self.
6. Be greedy to own more and more wealth of tolerance and justice.
7. Wage War against your desires and Godhood will be your victory.
8. Serve others with the understanding that in them you are serving Me.
9. Be resigned to My Will, and My Will will be yours.
10. Let your temptation be to tempt Me with your love in order to receive My Grace.

—Meher Baba

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And so when he chose the profession of chiropractic, it was not surprising that he should become one of its greatest practitioners, developing new techniques which were not only a great advance for chiropractic, but a great boon to all who came under his healing hands. There was only one other doctor who used Dr. Kenmore's technique. When he died, it died with him.

Notables of every profession walked into the neat, well-kept offices at 121 West 72nd Street, New York City: singers from the Metropolitan Opera, prima ballerinas, titled nobility. Yet the poor were as welcome as the rich and received no less of his loving care and attention. All his life, and perhaps because of his affliction, Dr. Kenmore had the unique and rare ability to walk in another man's shoes. As sightless as he was, he could fathom the depths of man's soul, and find within himself a deep response to that person's needs.

Dr. Kenmore was a man with an insatiable thirst for knowledge. All his life he had been an avid reader and over many years had gained an extensive knowledge of the arts, literature, music, science, history, philosophy and religion. But there still remained within him a deep hunger, a hunger which all the books in the world could not satisfy. It was a hunger for the food of Love, which can come only from God Himself.

This hunger was finally satisfied in 1956, when Dr. Kenmore met for the first time His One True Beloved, the Beloved for whom he had unconsciously yearned for so many years: Avatar Meher Baba. Though sightless, Dr. Kenmore had the inner sight to recognize Beloved Baba as Almighty God in human form, the Father of all in creation and the True Beloved of each and every heart.

Dr. Kenmore had first heard of Meher Baba in 1954. But it was through Margaret Craske, the celebrated ballet mistress and long-time disciple of Meher Baba, that Dr. Kenmore gained knowledge and information about Meher Baba's life and work. It was also Margaret who used to read Meher Baba's Discourses to him. "I would read the Discourses to him in the evening, after work," Margaret explained. "At first the Discourses were important, then Baba became important." Soon, that's all they talked about.

And so it was through Margaret that the God-Man's seeds began not only to grow, but to burgeon, until something mighty and strong and solid began to take shape within him, something that would sustain him through the dark years ahead.

A heart that loves is a heart that yearns to serve. So too did Harry's heart long to serve his Beloved. In 1957 he got that chance, a chance that would allow him to serve in the best way he knew how — with chiropractic. A year before, in December of 1956, Meher Baba had suffered his second automobile accident in which He sustained serious injury to His face and hip. Dr. Kenmore was deeply distressed when he learned of the details of the accident. He knew that he could be of some help to his Lord. When he read in a Family Letter that Baba had accepted the suggestion that He seek out chiropractic help, Dr. Kenmore cabled Baba immediately. "If you're going to a chiropractor," Dr. Kenmore said, "then I want to be that chiropractor." Baba cabled "come," and Harry closed up his office and made the first of many journeys to his Beloved.

One who does not seek my blessings, and desires nothing from me but to be able to obey me, and serve me is my true lover.

Meher Baba

In treating Meher Baba Dr. Kenmore brought to bear all the expertise at his command, elevating the practice of chiropractic into a fine art. And he applied this art with the utmost loving care and concern. He was the first Mandali to intimately handle Beloved Baba's body as His doctor. After the first treatment Baba turned to him and said, "Do you know that you have handled God's body?" Dr. Kenmore must have handled this most precious of bodies very well, for Beloved Baba later commented, "I am very pleased with Harry, both with his love for Me and his skill as a doctor. He knows his job 100%, and he has helped My work by helping My body to the extent he has. He has done his best with satisfactory results."

There are very few doctors who would close up their offices at a moment's notice and leave, possibly never to return. But such was Dr. Kenmore's dedication, commitment and surrender to the will of his Beloved "Pop," as he affectionately called Baba. Dr. Kenmore's spontaneous response of love and service was also a fine example of the true spirit of detachment. In a talk given at the Society for Avatar Meher Baba, he said, "When I left my office, when I locked up that clinic, it didn't matter one hoot whether I was ever to return or remain away from it for an indefinite time or forever. That was a time when my clinic represented virtually everything in life — it was my livelihood and everything that I had strived for. When I arrived in India to work with Baba, it didn't matter one whit when I was going to return. I didn't have the slightest bit of worry or concern. In fact I never even gave it a thought. I didn't know until the second week in India when I was to return. When I returned it didn't matter whether my office was busy or unbusy. I wasn't concerned. In other words, I came back with the attitude of leaving everything to Baba. Leave everything to Him."

On the last day of Dr. Kenmore's visit, as Beloved Baba was tenderly saying goodbye to him, Baba expressed a concern for the monetary loss Dr. Kenmore had incurred during his stay. It was Meher Baba's intention to reimburse him. Dr. Kenmore was deeply touched, but hurt at the same time. "Is it the role of a Lover to accept payment for services rendered to the Beloved?" he thought. Dr. Kenmore politely refused Baba's offer. Now it was Meher Baba's turn to be deeply touched. Beloved Baba enfolded Harry in a long embrace and kissed him as a father kisses a beloved son. And Harry indeed was like a son to Baba, for from this time forward Beloved Baba referred to Harry as "His dear son." Meher Baba also spoke of Harry as being "like Peter," Jesus' first Apostle. This was truly a fitting name for Dr. Kenmore. In Latin, the word "petros" (from which Peter is derived) means "rock."

Rock-like in faith, love and service to the God-Man was Dr. Harry L. Kenmore.

The outpouring of love which the God-Man showered upon Dr. Kenmore was a testament to the high caliber of Harry's heart. During an Indian Sahavas in which Dr. Kenmore participated, Meher Baba said of him, "He has a very good heart. He is 100% for Baba, and is the only man to whom Mehera was permitted to speak for five minutes."

It was in 1959 that Beloved Baba cabled Dr. Kenmore to be with Him in India, this time for a period of 67 days, to train as a Mandali. Thereafter Dr. Kenmore was able to visit with Baba every year.

People generally think that the blind are unfortunate. You may also sometimes think so. But it is people with eyesight who are truly unfortunate. They think that all the things they see are real; but they never see God, who alone is real.

—Meher Baba

Before Harry left, Beloved Baba composed these very special poems for His dear son. They speak volumes of Baba's Love, and the kind of love he expects from all His lovers :

"Harry dear do obey Me
as did Peter as did John.
Keeping in your heart your Daddy
you will go as if not gone.
Leave your heart in dear Meherazad
mind and body in New York.
Spiritually eating Baba,
physically steak and pork.
I will miss you
you will miss Me
But one day we will be One.
And, departing,
happy, smiling,
Know your task here is done."

* * *

"It's the law of love divine
That you must wither, you must pine,
That you must suffer but not whine
Speak no words and write no line
If you long for Valentine."

* * *

On Behalf of Harry :

"May Thy Will be done O Perfect One,
My will not prevail —
It's of no avail
Where union with Thee is concerned.
I'll toil and I'll strive while I am alive
To love and obey
All night and all day
Till Union with Thee I have earned."

* * *

In 1961 Meher Baba offered a unique opportunity to anyone who wanted to take it. In response to the silent yearning of His lovers' hearts, Beloved Baba sent a special message to His lovers all over the world, saying that He would allow anyone who wanted to come and see Him to do so for five minutes. Dr. Kenmore lost no time in once again closing up his office and speeding like an arrow toward the heart of his Beloved. He did not even take time to cable. When he finally arrived before Baba, Baba looked surprised. "What are you doing here," He asked. Dr. Kenmore replied, "I've come to see my dear Pop." Beloved Baba's response, interpreted by one of the Mandali, was : "Baba is very happy to see His dear son." Mani, Meher Baba's sister, writes in her Family Letter of 11th July 1961 : "Although he could not perceive the

All those who do not see God are blind. The only thing worth seeing is God. So even those who have physical sight may be more blind than those who are physically blind and love God within.

—Meher Baba

infinitely tender expression of Baba's face as Baba embraced him, I'm sure he felt it. And whereas Baba had put the prasad into the hand of each lover, He now unwrapped one and placed it in Harry's mouth."

The year 1962 was distinguished by a remarkable Darshan. It was the monumental East-West Gathering in Guruprasad, Poona. It need hardly be said that Dr. Kenmore was a participant.

Dr. Kenmore never lost an opportunity to be with his Beloved Pop — even if it was only for five minutes!

In 1963, Beloved Baba asked Mrs. Annarosa Karrasch (who had met Meher Baba in 1952 and then subsequently in 1956, 1958 and 1962), to leave her job as a prominent businesswoman in a New York City advertising agency and go to work for Dr. Kenmore as his secretary. This she did on 1st April 1963, where she served Dr. Kenmore with devotion and selfless service.

Dr. Kenmore visited Baba again in 1963 and every year until 1966. It was during his 1966 visit to the Beloved that Meher Baba gave Dr. Kenmore the order to produce two Public Celebrations each year: one on the Anniversary of His Silence, and the other on His Birthday. Meher Baba asked that these Celebrations be given free to the public, the cost being met by His lovers.

The first Public Celebration was given on 16th July 1966, on the 41st Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba's Silence, at the Hotel Barbizon Plaza Theatre in New York City. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Kenmore, it was an impressive two-hour program which included a Baba-movie, talks about Meher Baba and His Silence, and rousing songs with audience participation. In summing up their experience of the evening, one wrote: "As the talks and singing progressed, wave upon wave of Baba's Love swept over us all...and by the end of the program we all felt that our need of a 'recharge' had been fulfilled in a wonderful way!"

Dr. Kenmore had always maintained that he was not a public speaker. Yet that is precisely what Meher Baba had asked him to become for the occasion of Beloved Baba's first Public Birthday Celebration to be held in New York City that coming February, 1967. A few days prior to the Celebration Dr. Kenmore cabled Baba. "Pick someone else!" was the gist of his message. Baba cabled back: "You just get up on that stage and do your best. But remember, while you will be capturing their minds, I will be capturing their hearts."

The night of the Celebration Dr. Kenmore spoke as he had surely never spoken before. His powerful voice carried the conviction of his heart; his eloquent yet simple words painted a beautiful and moving picture of the God-Man's Love and Compassion, and his recitation of the Master's prayer and the Prayer of Repentance touched each heart with the finger of Love. It was exactly as Meher Baba had said. Dr. Kenmore had captured their minds, but God-Man Meher Baba had captured their hearts.

The talk he gave that evening at the Hotel Barbizon Plaza Theatre (where the Public Celebrations are held each year) was the first of many talks he would give around the country, in lecture halls and universities, and on radio, on his favorite subject: Avatar Meher Baba. The role he sought to avoid was the one for which he would be best remembered. His reputation and prominence as a fine speaker took

him east to the University of Buffalo in New York State, the Harvard School of Religion in Boston and the University of Massachusetts; as far northwest as the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; as far west as Chicago, Illinois, and as far south as the University of Miami in Florida.

For the forty-second Anniversary of Beloved Baba's Silence, the Society for Avatar Meher Baba produced and broadcast a half-hour radio program which was relayed over eight stations in the U.S.A. Directed by Dr. Kenmore and Annarosa Karrasch it was, in the words of Mani in her Family Letter of 1st September 1967, "a concerted production, unique in the fact that a number of Baba-lovers from different parts of the U.S.A. (including Elizabeth Patterson and Kitty Davy) joined their voices to it. Each of them spoke for 2 to 3 minutes about Baba, and their tape-recorded talks were played between the commentator's superb prelude and the finale of Harry's recital of 'Meher Baba's Universal Message.' It was thrilling to hear their voices in Meherazad, when the tape of the production sent by Harry was played before Baba on the morning of 10th July."

Dr. Kenmore was the first one to publicly declare, in auditoriums and on the air, that Meher Baba was God in human form. Beloved Baba said that he had a very brave heart to do this.

When Dr. Kenmore spoke it was with Real Knowledge — a Knowledge unbegotten of books. Dr. Kenmore's deep insights into spiritual Truths and his unique ability to convey those Truths clearly, simply and with humor was truly a gift from God. During one of his visits with Beloved Baba in India, Baba told Dr. Kenmore that indeed he had Real knowledge, or "chit," as He called it.

When Dr. Kenmore spoke, it was with the authority of a Mandali, and knowledge received from Avatar Meher Baba.

As Dr. Kenmore's inner life blossomed and bloomed, so did his outer life as a doctor. His office was busier than ever. But Meher Baba was not absent from this life either. Pictures of Meher Baba, given to him by grateful followers, adorned his walls. A sandalwood garland given to him personally by Meher Baba also hung in plain sight. These objects aroused the natural curiosity of patients who were not followers of Meher Baba, and gave Dr. Kenmore a further opportunity to talk about his Beloved Pop, bringing Meher Baba's Message of Love and Truth to many people from all walks of life.

This was no ordinary clinic to which they had come. Meher Baba Himself called it "Baba's Clinic," saying that all who came there to be treated were sent by Him, and told Dr. Kenmore that it was none other than Meher Baba whom he would be treating in his office each day. Needless to say, his patients received treatment of a most loving and attentive kind.

1967 was the only year Dr. Kenmore did not see his dear Pop. But his Pop was with him, nonetheless, especially for the occasion of Beloved Baba's 73rd Public Birthday Celebration, which was celebrated on 25th February at the Hotel Barbizon Plaza Theatre in New York City. The entire program of two hours' duration was taped live on the spot, and broadcast the next day via shortwave over RNYW (Radio New

The heart of each should be my shrine, and my lover the priest of that temple of love. —Meher Baba

York Worldwide) to more than a hundred countries throughout the world. Permission was received from the United States Government to beam the program directly to India, and the "Sunday Hindustan Standard" of Calcutta notified its public of the Baba-broadcast under the headline: RADIO NEW YORK HONORS MEHER BABA. Mani writes in her Family Letter of 1st June 1967, "All Baba Centers and lovers who could be informed at rush notice sat glued to their radios hours ahead of scheduled time, including the Mandali at Meherazad. And even if others were unable to make contact, the special beam directed from hearts gathered at Barbizon Plaza reached Meherazad. Despite atmospheric disturbances and overlapping stations we caught clear snatches of the Birthday program: part of a speech, a song, a comment. 'Beloved Baba' were the first words that burst through the barrier of babble from bordering stations: the last words we heard were 'Happy Birthday Baba!' To station RNYW goes the unique honor of broadcasting worldwide the Avatar's Name. To the Society for Avatar Meher Baba, to its chairman Dr. Harry Kenmore who is entrusted by Baba to carry out two Public Celebrations each year in New York, to each and all of His workers and lovers whose individual contributions make this possible, goes the reward of Beloved Baba's pleasure. Here is the text of Baba's cable to Dr. Harry Kenmore:

I AM VERY HAPPY WITH NEW YORK CELEBRATIONS OF MY BIRTHDAY.
I SEND MY LOVE TO ALL WHO SELFLESSLY CONTRIBUTE TO MY
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AND SILENCE ANNIVERSARIES, THUS
MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO FULFILL MY WISH FOR THESE
EVENTS TO BE PUBLICLY CELEBRATED EACH YEAR IN NEW YORK."

In October, 1968, Meher Baba cabled Dr. Kenmore to be with Him from 1st November to 8th November. "You are the only westerner I want to see," cabled Baba. Perhaps Beloved Baba granted Dr. Kenmore this privilege because He knew that this would be the last visit His dear son would ever make to his dear Pop.

It was while Dr. Kenmore was with Baba that plans were drawn up for the Darshan of 1969, to be held in April, May and June of that year. Meher Baba set the machinery in motion when he asked Dr. Kenmore to cable Annarosa in the United States to begin setting up charter flights (group travel arrangements at an economy fare). "But," Baba told Dr. Kenmore, "you are not to come with the Darshanees in April. I want you to come on 24th July 1969 for a private Darshan."

All during this last visit Baba had repeatedly stroked Harry under the chin, usually with the intention of discovering whether he had gotten a clean shave that day. Dr. Kenmore basked in the tender glow of the God-Man's affections.

Toward the end of his stay, Beloved Baba told Dr. Kenmore that he wanted him to resign from the Society and leave everything in Annarosa's hands. "You have done your job and done it well," said Baba. "Now I want you to take it easy." Dr. Kenmore of course agreed, but then asked, "Baba, will the Society remain?" Baba answered, "The Society has my Nazar, and it will grow and grow and grow," but stipulated that it would be in "His time." Then Baba added, "But if they ask you to speak, then give them thunder and lightening." (When Dr. Kenmore returned, he was asked to speak every Saturday night at the Society. One of these talks became "What is a Baba Lover?")

The Source of eternal bliss is the Self in all. The cause of perpetual misery is the selfishness of all.
— Meher Baba.

When saying goodbye to Harry, Beloved Baba did something he had never done before. He took Harry's hand in His and shook it vigorously, pumping it up and down. Then He stroked Harry lovingly under the chin, as He had done so often during Dr. Kenmore's stay.

Upon Dr. Kenmore's return, he told others of this singular gesture. Then he thought no more about it. But a few months later, he would have good reason to remember.

When the news came that Beloved Avatar Meher Baba had dropped His physical body on 31st January 1969, it hit Harry's heart like a hammerstroke. He was inconsolable. The only real light of his life had suddenly and unexpectedly gone out. It was like waking up blind a second time. He was like an only son whose beloved father has suddenly and without warning left him.

Dr. Harry Kenmore was once more alone in darkness.

Dr. Kenmore was above all obedient to his Beloved Pop. He obeyed Baba's order and left for India in July 1969. It was here, during his last visit to India, that Beloved God almost literally extended a loving Hand to His dear son Harry.

It happened while Dr. Kenmore was walking with fellow- Mandali and "benchmate" Eruch Jessawala. This walk was in keeping with the long tradition of walks instituted many years ago by Meher Baba when He asked Eruch to walk with Harry whenever he came to Meherazad. As they walked along leisurely, Eruch noticed a red-turbaned farmer walking toward them with outstretched arms. Eruch greeted him warmly. The farmer then asked Eruch who Dr. Kenmore was. Eruch explained that he was an American. Then the farmer did something remarkable. He caressed Dr. Kenmore lovingly under the chin. Then he took Dr. Kenmore's hand and pumped it up and down forcefully....just as Beloved Baba had done on that last day at Meherazad. With that, the farmer went on his way. When Eruch turned around to catch another glimpse of the man, there was no one there. But there was no doubt in Dr. Kenmore's mind as to who it had been. It had been none other than his dear Pop. Only Beloved Baba had caressed him under the chin that way, so lovingly, so tenderly. And with the handshake came the memory of that day in Meherazad when Beloved Baba had said goodbye to him in the special, now meaningful way. Later, Dr. Kenmore remarked how soft the man's hands were, so unlike the rough, calloused hands of a farmer.... and so like the tender-loving touch of his Lord. Dr. Kenmore had his private Darshan, just as Beloved Baba had promised.

In 1970 Dr. Kenmore was invited to speak at the University of Massachusetts for a five-way radio program reaching Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. But this was less an invitation than a challenge — a challenge thrown at him by a group of five highly educated people, each distinguished in his respective field. Among these people were a representative of a Theosophy group; a journalist from the Christian Science Monitor and the Chairman from the University's Department of Religion. Their sole purpose was to discredit Dr. Kenmore AND Meher Baba. They might have been more hopeful of their intention had they known that Dr. Kenmore had prepared no speech. Instead he took Meher Baba's Name and let God do the work, letting himself be used to capture their minds while Beloved Baba captured their hearts.

Let your own life of love for Baba be the message of Baba's love for one and all. —Meher Baba

For two hours they tried to trap him with their words and their rhetoric. But Dr. Kenmore stood his ground, speaking with the conviction which comes from knowledge, spontaneously uttering those Truths whose simplicity always disarms the convolutions of intellect. At the end of those two hours all five stood up and applauded him. "We were supposed to shred you to bits," they confessed. "But it is you who have done the shredding."

A few years prior to his death, Dr. Kenmore received an honorary Doctor of Humanities from one of the most prestigious universities in Canada. But even the bestowal of a thousand honorary degrees could not have made Dr. Kenmore more of a humanitarian. For by loving and serving with his every breath the greatest Humanitarian of all — the God-Man — he made himself a real Doctor of Humanities and a real Lover of Almighty God.

Dr. Kenmore continued to give talks at the Society for Avatar Meher Baba, attracting a great number of young people. Dr. Kenmore's uncompromising honesty and "no phoney baloney" approach appealed to them. Though these youngsters often gave the appearance of "having all the answers" (many of them already had several degrees), they were chock full of questions. And these spontaneously asked questions resulted in Dr. Kenmore's spontaneous talks.

Above all, Dr. Kenmore upheld the three principles and precepts laid down for the Society by Meher Baba: (1) No sex without marriage; (2) No drugs under any circumstances and (3) His work was not to be used for the purpose of socializing. Dr. Kenmore often quoted Meher Baba as saying that He wanted quality, not quantity. "I come for all," Meher Baba said, "but I am for the very few."

It should be noted that Dr. Kenmore did not approve of the current trend among young people to leave home and move out on their own. He sent many a wayward youngster back to his parents and back to school to finish their education. Invariably his next piece of advice to those who were sincere in their interest in Meher Baba, was to visit Meher Baba's Home in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and then to visit the Beloved's Tomb on Meherabad Hill at Amartithi. He repeatedly stressed the importance of these two places, with special emphasis on the latter. "You just get to that Tomb at Amartithi," he advised, "and put your head at His Feet." Those who took that advice were not disappointed.

Dr. Kenmore also stressed the important role of the Mandali as the last and only real authorities left on Meher Baba. He said, "The Intimate Mandali of the Avatar are His Apostles, and the ones that are living are His living Apostles. They are left to blow the trumpet, giving out to the world the greatness of their Divine Master, the Spiritual Awakener of this Age. If it were not for the Intimate Mandali, how would the world know of the greatness of the Avatar? They are the authorities that have been left by Meher Baba."

Because Dr. Kenmore set an example in his own life of how Beloved Baba should be loved and served, he expected no less from others. He was absolutely one-pointed in his love for his Beloved. This one-pointedness could not be gotten out of books, he said. Meher Baba had to be LIVED, not read. And the best way to begin LIVING BABA, he counseled, was to remember Him continuously and wholeheartedly, taking Him into our hearts as our Father, Friend and most Beloved Lord.

We cannot witness even the "threshold" of the Divine path until we have conquered greed, anger and lust.

—Meher Baba

Yes, Dr. Kenmore was sometimes gruff or harsh. But that rough exterior was a necessary covering for the intense fire of Love which burnt within him, much as a wall of stone is necessary to retain the intense heat of a brick oven. Sometimes a bit of his fire would leak out, and people would mistake the heat of Love for the heat of anger. But it was not anger they had felt. It was the heat of Meher Baba's Love which he radiated.

Over the years there have been many who have tried to follow Dr. Kenmore's role as a speaker on Meher Baba, but without the authoritative seal of the God-Man's order. Dr. Kenmore repeatedly warned against listening to the "experiences" of others. This only leads to confusion, he said. Each person needs to develop his or her own personal relationship with the Beloved, a relationship as intimate and as private as any between a man and wife. And this relationship, he said, will be unlike anybody else's. Once it is established, it should never be given tongue. "Does a lover reveal to the whole cock-eyed world how he feels about his Beloved? That's no lover!" Dr. Kenmore said. He was just echoing the words of Meher Baba: "Real Love sets a man on fire, but seals his lips so that no smoke comes out."

At the end of 1970 Dr. Kenmore faced a darkness more intense than any before his eyes. It was the darkness of illness. And that darkness was made all the more profound for the fact that his illness was incurable.

Once, when Dr. Kenmore complained about his blindness, Meher Baba said, "You have yet to face a suffering that the bravest soldier in the front line of an army would not have the courage to face."

Dr. Kenmore had cancer. It started in the pancreas and ended in the colon. And like all cancer it ravaged his body and racked it with pain. Yet, incredibly, this experience only served to heighten his faith and deepen his surrender to God's Will. Dr. Kenmore talked of how being "pounded to dust" only made him realize more poignantly the Power, Beauty and Majesty of his Beloved.

Rather than retreat to a sick-bed, Dr. Kenmore actually increased his efforts to serve his Beloved. In preparing for the Public Celebration of Avatar Meher Baba's 77th Birthday, Dr. Kenmore worked closely with members of the Society, offering valuable suggestions and helpful advice, directing all efforts and energy toward a common goal: serving and pleasing Meher Baba.

On the evening of the Celebration, Dr. Kenmore spoke movingly and inspiringly of his dear Pop, and brought the house down with his two show-stoppers "Swanee" and "Pal of Our Mandali Days." (These had been personal favorites of Baba's.)

That Birthday Celebration would be Dr. Kenmore's last. But the fine example he set lives on: in the dozens of taped talks which Dr. Kenmore bequeathed to the Society, and in the direct personal guidance of Mrs. Annarosa Karrasch, who upholds the original principles and precepts laid down for the Society by Meher Baba, and whose own personal example of love, obedience and service to the Beloved is the living example to those who remain. (An encounter with serious illness in 1981 and a recent bout with heart disease have all had the same result: a continued one-pointedness on Beloved Baba that is both a testament of love and a living example of love.)

Be content with your lot, whether rich or poor, happy or miserable. Understand that God has designed it for your own good and be resigned to His Will.

—Meher Baba

Shortly before his death, as Dr. Kenmore lay in great pain, he received a visit from the first person to fire his heart and mind with details of Meher Baba's life : Margaret Craske. As always, the main topic of conversation was Beloved Baba. It was during this conversation that a most touching scene occurred. Margaret tells the story : "When he was dying I went round to see him one day, and to my surprise there was no one there. Usually he had a lot of his friends around him, such as Annarosa. Annarosa had gone out shopping. I said to Harry, 'We're all alone now. Let's talk about Baba and nothing else. I'll come and put my head on the pillow beside you.' And he was like a little child. He said, 'You know, I never saw Him.' It was so sad. He was so sweet. So I said, 'We'll lie with our heads on your pillow and we'll describe His face, bit by bit.' And so we lay with our heads on his pillow and talked about Baba, and I described Baba's face and His beautiful hands. Physically we took Baba apart ! He was very sweet, like a child. It changed him from Harry Kenmore into a child for those few minutes."

Dr. Harry L. Kenmore passed from this life into the waiting arms of his Beloved Pop on 13th May 1971. He expired with "Baba mia, Baba mia" ("my Baba") on his lips. And now he was free, eternally. The suffering he had borne for so long was now lifted like a curtain, and the dark prison that had been his body now stood no more. Dr. Kenmore had spent his life in darkness. But now that darkness was made shining by Love...the incomparable Love of the God-Man.

Beloved Avatar Meher Baba, the Compassionate Father, had taken His dear son Harry Home.

On 25th August 1971, Dr. Kenmore's Beloved brother Mandali Sarosh K. Irani came to collect the urn which contained Dr. Kenmore's remains. He returned with it to India, where it was laid to rest at the foot of Meherabad Hill alongside the graves of Beloved Baba's stalwarts who had died in His Service.



LIST OF MAGAZINES ABOUT AVATAR MEHER BABA

1. **"GLOW INTERNATIONAL"** (English-Quarterly)
36 Lytton Road, Dehradun U.P. — 248 001
Annual Subscription : Rs. 25/-
Edited by : Shri Naosherwan Anzar & Mrs. Freiny Nalawala
2. **"THE AWAKENER"** (English)
Ms. Filis Frederick
938 — 18th Street, Hermosa Beach, CA
90254, U.S.A.
3. **"AVATAR MEHER"** (Telugu-Monthly)
Shri G. Venkateswara Rao, Publisher
Sriramanagaram, Kakinada — 533 003 A.P.
Annual Subscription Rs. 15/-
Life Subscription Rs. 200/-
4. **"MEHER PUKAR"** (Hindi-Monthly)
Meher Pukar Press Trust, Behind Allahabad Bank
Gwaltoli, Hamirpur U.P. 210 301.
Annual Subscription Rs. 15/-
Life Subscription Rs. 250/-

LIST OF BOOKS BY AND ABOUT MEHER BABA

A. Available with, Meher Nazar Books, Meher Nazar, Kings Road, Ahmednagar, 414001, and Avatar Meher Baba Poona Centre, 441/1 Somwarpeth, Poona-411 011.		
1.	82 Family Letters by Mani S. Irani.	96.00
2.	Avatar by Jean Adriel (Paper back : Rs. 53.00) Hard Cover	90.00
3.	Avatar Meher Baba Bibliography by Shri Bal Natu (1928 to 1978)	20.00
4.	Beams from Meher Baba on the Spiritual Panorama by Meher Baba	23.00
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6.	Darshan Hours by Meher Baba (Paper Back-Rs. 37.00) Hard Cover	64.00
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	(Paper Back-Rs. 12.00) Hard Cover	20.00
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11.	—do— Vol. III	85.00
12.	God Man by C. B. Purdom	76.00
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28.	Merwan — Stories of Meher Baba for Children by Ann E. Giles	53.00
29.	Love alone Prevails by kitty Davy	250.00
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Meher Baba

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Whether men soar to outer space or dive to the bottom of the deepest ocean, they will find themselves as they are, unchanged, because they will not have forgotten themselves nor remembered to exercise the charity of forgiveness. — Meher Baba

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- C. Books on Avatar Meher Baba in Telugu are available with :-
Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, Ramaraopeta, KAKINADA-533004 (A.P.)
- D. Books on Meher Baba in Hindi are available with :-
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- (1) I am the Lord of the Universe and I am the slave of My lovers.
- (2) I am Sakshat Paramatma. If any one were to get even a glimpse of My real state, one would be glad to be cut into pieces a thousand times for Me.
- (3) The Universe is My ashram, and every heart is My house, but I manifest only in those hearts in which all, other than Me, cease to live.

— Meher Baba

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When I leave this body, you, the lovers of Hamirpur and Andhra, shall ever be remembered and immortalized because of your deep love for me. The coming generations will sing of your love and make you immortal. —Meher Baba

Avatar Meher Baba Parel Centre

20 D, Parel Village, Bombay-400 012.

Registration No. BOM-820 / 80-G. B. B. S. D. under the Societies Regn. Act. Regn. No. F-6643 (BOM) under the Bombay Public Trust Act 1950. Regn. No. INS/14461 under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

* * *

The following persons have been elected as the Members of the Governing Body of the Avatar Meher Baba Parel Centre, in the General Body Meeting on 1. 1. 84.

1. Shri B. V. K. Rao	President
2. Shri V. Sita Ramayya	Secretary
3. Shri M. Apparao	Treasurer
4. Shri Pratap G. Ahir	Member
5. Shri M. H. Parandekar	Member
6. Shri Arun Y. Khanolkar	Member
7. Smt. Sakuntala Fadnavis	Member

* * *

All donations are exempted from Income Tax, Vide Certificate issued by the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bombay.

Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai

* * *

Messages of Avatar Meher Baba

1. You should have no expectation of reward for any work you do.
2. It is the height of hypocrisy to say "I alone can do Baba's work",
3. Bear in mind that you should not seek appreciation from me or others. Though this may seem easy it is very difficult to put into practice. Remember that work itself is its own reward, the moment you seek appreciation the work is undone. Therefore seek not any appreciation for the work you do for me.
4. If money is collected for the work and spent wrongly and without being accounted for, all work in the name of the Divine cause must be stopped immediately by the so called workers..... Let honesty prevail.
5. God cannot be explained.
He cannot be argued about.
He cannot be theorized.
nor can He be discussed and understood.
God can only be lived.

—Meher Baba

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI

AVATAR MEHER BABA BOMBAY CENTRE

Meher Hall, 167, Navyug Niwas, Dadasaheb Bhadkamkar Marg,
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Meher Baba's work for the suffering humanity has remained so unique in the present Age that it has touched every aspect of life of the people irrespective of caste, creed, colour, religion and nationality.

Bombay is the prominent city of India and the capital of Maharashtra where the people from all walks of life live together. Perhaps, therefore Beloved Meher Baba chose this city to commence His Avataric work in the year 1922-23.

Inspired by the love for Meher Baba, His lovers in Bombay started collective activities of spreading the message of Love of Meher Baba and their love for Meher Baba and devotion to His work fructified in the year 1962 when a Hall was acquired in the central locality of Bombay where weekly meetings and Satsang could be held.

Meher Hall was inaugurated on 25th February 1962 by H. H. Maharani Shantadevi Of Baroda. Shri Adi K. Irani, Disciple and Secretary of Meher Baba graced the occasion as His representative.

The inaugural message sent by Beloved Baba reads thus :

MAKE MEHER HALL THE HOUSE OF ALL HEARTS THAT SEEK
TO HEAR MY MESSAGE OF LOVE AND TRUTH.

Beloved Baba had very lovingly paid His personal attention to this Centre so that an atmosphere of love and brotherhood is created. He also emphasised from time to time that Bombay is a big city spread over to far off Suburbs and many more Baba Centres may come up for the sake of convenience of His lovers, but the activities of all the Centres be directed to this Main Centre.

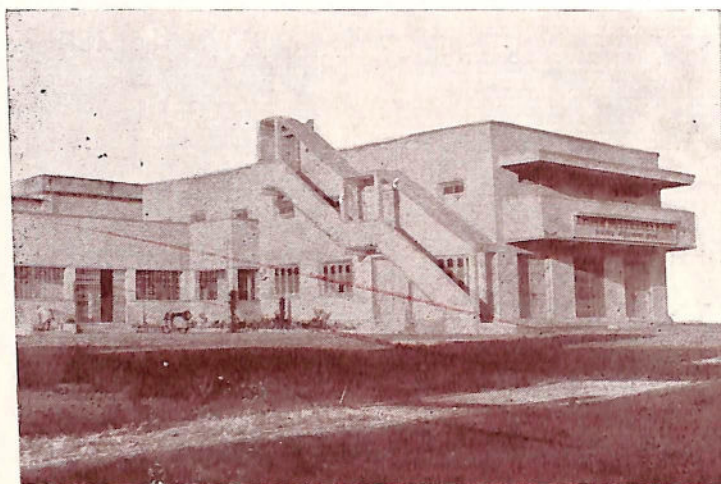
The Centre is equipped with a complete library, films and articles of Beloved Baba.

Meher Hall is open everyday from 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Weekly Satsang meetings are held on every Sunday from 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.

Avatar Meher Baba Poona Centre

441/1, Somwar Peth, Pune-411 011. Phone : 32746



A well equipped Institution to impart information about the life and work of Avatar Meher Baba at the sacred town of His birth. The only Centre, Meher Baba said, He involved Himself and helped at every stage of its establishment and took personal interest and guided its activities. The only Centre opened by the divine hands of the Avatar in our time. Baba opened the Centre Building on 1 May 1964 and walked the length of the hall over rose petals spread on a white sheet from the door to the stage on which He sat and received the love of His lovers.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE : Weekly Meeting every Monday — 7 to 8.30 P.M.
Special functions are held on :

14 January — Makar Sankrant : First Public Darshan Meher Baba gave to the citizens of Poona on 14 January 1956 at Shivajinagar, not far from the place where Baba had his hut in 1922.

31 January — His Physical Passing away from amongst us on 31st January 1969.

25 February — Seven days function in celebration of His birth-day.

22 April — Anniversary of WEEKLY NIGHT MEETING began on 22 April 1957.

1 May — Anniversary of the opening of the Centre Hall on 1 May 1964.

10 July — Anniversary of Silence He began on 10 July 1925.

7 September — The Day of declaration of His Avatarhood on 7 September 1953.

16 October — Anniversary of the New Life He began on 16 October 1949

and The Sermon on the Mount of Mahabaleshwar He gave on 16 Oct. 1950.

A Library with all the Books on Meher Baba is also maintained.

Life Membership of the Centre : Not less than Rs. 1000/-

Annual Membership Fee : Minimum Rs. 25/-

The Centre provides accommodation facilities for lovers visiting Poona to see Baba places and/or on their way to Meherabad.

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Humanity is not going to be saved by any material power — nuclear or otherwise. It can be saved only through divine intervention. God has never failed humanity in its dark and critical periods. The greatest danger to man today is not from any natural catastrophe, but from himself.

It is not possible to realize human brotherhood merely by appealing to high ideals or to a sense of duty. Something more than that is essential to release human consciousness from the clutches of selfishness and greed.

Today the urgent need of mankind is not sects or organized religions, but LOVE. Divine love will conquer hate and fear. It will not depend upon other justifications, but will justify itself.

I have come to awaken in man this divine love. It will restore to him the unfathomable richness of his own eternal being and will solve all of his problems.

— Meher Baba

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THE NEW HUMANITY

As in the great critical periods of human history, humanity is now going through the agonizing travail of spiritual rebirth. Great forces of destruction are afoot and might seem to be dominant at the moment. But constructive and creative forces, which will redeem humanity, are also being released through several channels. And though the working of these forces of light is chiefly silent, it is eventually bound to bring about those transformations, which will make the further spiritual sojourn of humanity safe and steady. It is all a part of the Divine Plan, which is to give to the hungry and weary world a fresh dispensation of the eternal and only Truth, To understand the problem of humanity as merely the problem of bread is to reduce humanity to the level of animality The New Humanity, which has to emerge out of the travail of present struggle and suffering, will of course not afford to ignore science or its practical attainments. It is a mistake to look upon science as anti-spiritual. Science is a help or hindrance to spirituality according to the use to which it is put All-sided progress of humanity can be assured only if science and religion proceed hand in hand. The coming civilization of The New Humanity shall be ensouled not by dry intellectual doctrines, but by a living spiritual experience The New Humanity shall be free from the life of limitations and allow unhampered scope for the creative life of the spirit, and break the attachment to external forms and learn to subordinate them to the claims of the spirit The New Humanity will come into existence through a release of love in measureless abundance : and this release of love itself can come through the spiritual awakening brought about by the Masters Humanity will attain to a new mode of being and life through the free and unhampered interplay of pure love from heart to heart — Meher Baba

(Extract from the message "The New Humanity" from "Messages of Meher Baba, Delivered in the East and West," published by Shri Adi K. Irani, 1945. Copyright Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust, Ahmednagar)



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