

AVATAR MEHER PRABHU CHARITABLE TRUST

Newsletter

'MEHER PRASAD'
74, Rajpur Road,
DEHRADUN (INDIA)

16-12-81

No : 2

John F. Page,

Dear Brother in Baba's Love,

Jai Meher Baba

We have the pleasure of enclosing herewith our second Newsletter on the subject, on 'Functions held in India in Baba's Love' and we hope that your good self and all the Baba Lovers at your end will enjoy the information which we could collect and include therein.

Before proceeding further, may we request you to kindly reperuse our previous Newsletter dated 16-6-81, in which you were requested to apprise us of your reactions in the form of suggestions for improvements and also your valuable comments on the present form which we have given to our newsletter reporting etc.

We quite understand that our request may have escaped your consideration because of your heavy engagements and as such, this is just to remind you, in Beloved Baba's name, to kindly do come forward with your comments and suggestions on this subject at your earliest convenience.

A perusal of our Newsletter under despatch will show that we have added therein a new item of information under the heading, "Glory of Dehradun on the Lips of Visitors". This has been considered necessary to pay due honour to the valuable opinions expressed from time to time by the visitors from the East and West about their visits to Dehradun in Baba's love. Whilst this course will not only exonerate us of our reciprocal responsibility to respond to the Love with which the visitors have expressed their opinions, but it will simultaneously go a long way in helping all Baba Lovers at your end to freely maintain contact ^{with} the members of our Trust as their own brothers and sisters.

In serving those visitors coming to Dehradun in Baba's love, it is our pleasure that all possible measures be taken in keeping each visitor perfectly comfortable whilst staying at or visiting Meher Prasad

ALAN W. ...

No. 1

Jan 1, 1961

Mr. ...

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you regarding the ...
on the ...
that you ...
information which ...
Before ...
and ...
regarding ...
and ...
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We ...
about ...
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regarding ...
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1-700786

Sincerely,

Very truly yours,
...

Brother Paul, who is the receptionist there, will always be pleased to greet anyone coming, though the timely information of the arrival of any visitors to Meher Prasad, if sent early will ensure that the best possible facilities will be provided for them.

In the end, the Trust hopes that, unlike before, you will not deprive us of your much needed constructive suggestions and comments, but rather will provide us with the impetus to run like the mail train on our line of action instead of crawling at a snail's pace along the road side.

Jai Meher Baba,

Yours in Baba's Love,

J.C. Sharma

Chairman AMPCT

Copy forwarded for information to :-

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|--|
| 1. | Brother Jack Small, c/- AMBPCT,
Kings Road Ahmednagar. | 0 | Our request made in the
above letter to Brother
Page, stands equally
extended to you and we
are sure to get a helpful
respnse from you on the
points raised therein for
favouring us with you
constructive suggestions
and comments. Thanks |
| 2. | Kitty Davy, Meher Spiritual
center, Myrtle Beach, S.C. USA | 0 | |
| 3. | Darwin Shaw, 2 Castine Street,
Schenectedy, N.Y. | 0 | |
| 4. | John Bader and David Carter,
1502 William St, Madison W USA | 0 | |

5. Shri Salig Ram Sharma, Prosecuting Officer, Avatar Meher Baba Hamirpur Centre, Hamirpur, U.P.;

We will be grateful if you would kindly consider the advisability of translating into Hindi any portion of our Newsletter and publishing it in "Meher Pukar", for the information of its readers. We are sure you will find a remarkable change at Meher Prasad on your next visit to Dehra Dun with Baba's portrait set there.

Kindly also advise us on the points raised in the above letter to Brother John Page.

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|
| 6. | Mrs. Freiny Narawalla, Editor
of the "Glow International
36 Lytton Road, Dehra Dun, U.P. | 0 | It will be appreciated
if you would kindly
consider the advisability
of including any point in
this Newsletter in your
valuable magazine which
you find would be of
interest to you readers. |
| 7. | Filis Frederick, Editor "The
Awakener Magazine", 938 18th
St, Hermosa Beach Ca. USA | 0 | |

8. To all Baba Centres in India :-

We request that you valuable suggestions and comments relating to the presnt form of Newsletter as they are issued are also directed to us and information and details of all the main

functions held in Baba's love at your places be supplied to us immediately after the function's end.

We regret to add that we did not get any response to our request made on the endorsement to the copy of our first Newsletter sent on 16-6-81, with the result that we could not include any information about the important work done and the functions held in Baba's love at the various centres. Unfortunately we do not have any whole time staff to make individual correspondence nor the means to meet the cost involved. We hiefly depend upon the loving services rendered by the workers of the "Avatar Meher Baba Worker's Association" which has been formed in early April, 81 as outlined in the Newsletter and we are happy they are living to the conditions of the Association to their entirety.

Jai Avatar Meher Baba,

(M.M. Kapoor)
SECRATARY, Avatar Meher Prabhu
Charitable Trust.

74, Rajpur Road,
'Meher Prasad',
Dehradun (INDIA)

N E W S L E T T E R

Functions held in Baba's Love at Dehradun and other places in India during 1981-82.

(By Dr.B.K.Misra,M.A., PHD)

assisted by Shri M.M.Kapoor, Secretary, Avatar Meher Prabhu Charitable Trust, Dehradun and Paul Liboiron of Canada.

Jair Meher Baba:-

The Trust has the pleasure of rendering their second report of the functions held in India in Baba's love. In the covering letter dated 16-6-81 to the first report, addressed to Brother John Page, we had asked him whether the present form of the Report was to the liking of Baba Lovers in America and had also requested him to inform us of any suggestions for modifications from his side. A similiar request was repeated in our endorsement on the copies of that letter to other centers in America, but no reply was recieved from any corner.

Similarly in our endorsement to other Baba Centers in India, we had requested them to consider the advisability of reporting details of any of the functions held in their respective areas for inclusion in our news letter. But again no response has come from any of them. So all this has caused a delay in the rendering of this news letter, against our original intention to send the report quarterly. Thus we feel that the submission of any periodical report will not be possible untill the situation improves in the meantime we will be sending the news letter as and when framed. Now follows the report on the functions held in Baba's love:

Functions held at Meher Prasad Dehra dun

1. Shifting of Kirtan from Kishen Agencies to Meher Parshad.

While staying at Dehra Dun in 1953, Baba had one day called Prakash Wati to the Mandali Quarters and after a long talk gave her orders to start His Kirtan as a duty. Whilst the full details of that talk, which would be of interest to all, will be found in Prakash Wati's Diary, " My Compassionate Father",. enough it would be to say here that:-

The kirtan was inaugurated by Baba Himself, to be done weekly.

I On one Kirtan day Baba called Prakash Wati to find out whether she did the kirtan on that day or not. She said that she had but also expressed her objection over the poor attendance at the kirtan on that day in particular. Baba told her that He was present at her kirtan and assured her of His presence at all her future kirtans, and that He would give some indication to confirm His presence there.

II The Kirtan was shifted to Kishan Agencies after Baba's departure from Dehradun.

V On the inauguration of Meher Dham in 1964, the Kirtan was shifted there. However to meet the wishes of some Baba Lovers, second Kirtan was also started at Kishan Agencies.

On the inauguration of Meher Parshad, the second kirtan was shifted from Kishan Agencies to Meher Parshad the Baba gifted house, in April 1981 with the intention of apprising new persons in that locality of Baba's love.

Installation function of Baba's portrait.

The transfer of kirtan from Kishan Agencies to Meher Parshad gave rise to the need for the installation of a large size photo there. Efforts were made to get a photo of such a size from Bombay along the same lines as the one kept at the Bombay Center, but the approximate cost involved was far in excess of the Trust's present financial capacity. Then sister Prakash Wati suggested that Baba's photo taken on the occasion of Baba's last public darshan at Poona in May 1965, be enlarged here and then painted for the purpose. A photographer from Goyal Studios was contacted sometime in September 81 and by the beginning of October, 81 the responsibility of painting the enlarged photo was given over to Shri Umesh of Roop Rekha Studios. Much to our amazement we learned that the completed portrait could be installed at Meher Parshad for a very reasonable cost, considering the exorbitant prices being asked from Bombay.

It was on the first of November 1953 that Beloved Baba was pleased to give Public Darshan in Dehradun for the second time in the same calendar year of 1953, the first being on the 23rd of March. Keeping this in view, the Baba Lovers of Dehradun, under the guidance of the oldest Baba Lover of Dehradun, Ashan Singh, unanimously agreed that Beloved Baba's portrait should be installed at Meher Parshad before the 1st of November 1981, so that it could be unveiled on that date.

Because of the short time involved in getting the photo painted and framed, everyone thought that only Baba's grace would make it possible that everything could be completed in time. Due to this situation, we were unable to inform outside Baba Lovers of the time of installation and unveiling. The photo

was however, finally installed on the 31st of October at 11.30 in the morning and no sooner had the portrait arrived at its new home., Parkash Wati sent an express telegram to Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Ahmednagar informing them about the unveiling ceremony and this memorable express telegram however, reached the Mandali at 11.45 hours on the 3rd November, 81 and brother Euruch Jassawalla sent a reply to Parkash Wati the same day at 12.30 p.m. as under:-

" Your express telegram of 31.10.81 to Beloved Baba inviting Him for His portrait installation at Meher Parshad reached Him the instant you desired to send Him the invitation."

" Of course, Beloved Baba must have graced the occasion by His presence because He is the slave of the love of His lovers, and He dare not care not for His lovers."

" We received here your express telegram half an hour ago today on 3.11.81 and hence this belated chorus from the Mandali:.

" AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI".

Extending an invitation to all as under:-

X Press Telegram Dated 31.10.81

MEHERBABA
AHMEDNAGAR

Invitation Baba's portrait installation function at Meher Parshad first November. Presence requested.

Parkash Wati.

Now that the portrait had been completed all were amazed to see the beauty of the portrait. Even the artist himself had said that the excellence of the portrait at its final stage exceeded all his expectations. He had also remarked that whilst painting the photo he did not know who was moving the brush and which colours he was choosing.

At the time of turning the portrait over to us, the painter said that he felt that his room, where he had painted it, had become empty as though something most precious was missing.

In the meantime, the newly formed Avatar Meher Baba Worker's Association had taken on the responsibility of seeing to the necessary preparations for the function. The 31st, being the last day, was a busy day for the Association as the next day at 8.00 the unveiling ceremony was to begin. The whole day from early morning to late at night was filled with the activity of procuring decorations, fitting them in the hall, making last minute changes etc. so that the hall should give an appearance befitting to the beauty of the new guest who had finally arrived. Besides this, there were also the details pertaining to arranging for Prasad, team flowers and garlands and so on. In the midst of all this, a twelve hour jap which began at six in the morning was proceeding at Kishan Agencies where Baba Lovers took turn in maintaining the jap to commemorate the Sacred occasion the next day. ~~Through~~ this continual repetition the atmosphere for the next day's celebrations was set.

By 7 O'clock on the morning of the first, the Lovers began to arrive, the first being none other than the chief guest, Sardar Varinder Singh, and his wife. Soon the hall began to fill with enthusiastic chatter as more Lovers arrived and by 8.00 A.M., the scheduled time for the beginning of the ceremonies, a nice crowd had gathered. Amongst the crowd, coming from outside of Dehra Dun were Mr. and Mrs. Sehgal & Miss Sheela from Roorkee.

Brother Paul Liboiron was entrusted with the job of conducting the programme and to the amusement of all including himself, he conducted it in his newly acquired Hindi.

The first item of the programme was the hoisting of Baba's seven coloured flag, which was performed by Brother J.C.Sharma amidst a shower of flower petals falling from the flag and loud cheers of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai! Sarva Vyapi Bhagwan Ki Jai! Priyatam Meher Prabhu Ki Jai". Brother J.C.Sharma gave a brief talk on the occasion, saying; let this seven coloured flag remind us of spreading His message of truth and honesty and let us take a vow of leading a life of love and selfless service.

And then the moment arrived; the long awaited moment, when the Chief Guest, Sardar Varinder Singhm unveiled Beloved Baba's image, while the hall rang with cheers of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai". It was as though Baba had once again appeared in body to grant public Darhsan; as though Baba was not content with remaining within the photo and was actually coming out of the photo so that the lovers gathered there would not feel that they were standing in an empty hall, but rather, so that they would feel that Baba was seated amongst them in the hall. It was indeed a charming scene to see everyone rushing towards the photo to offer his or her obeisance in presence of others. Following the unveiling of the portrait came the garlanding. The first garland of lace was placed by Sardarji around Baba's neck. On behalf of all Baba Lovers in India and abroad, Meher Kanta Bakshi placed a flower garland of over four meters in length on Baba's photo and it formed a double garland over the first. Then followed flowers, flowers bunches and garlands offered by Baba Lovers and spontaneously all began to chant "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai". No sooner the chanting subsided, then all joined in a chorus of Sub Premi Phool Barsao, Mera Meherwan aaya hai" and showered flowers on Baba's portrait.

As the Bhajans were sung, the hall filled with ecstasy and some of the Lovers, unable to contain their joy, enhanced the merriment by dancing before the Beloved. Mr. and Mrs. Kumar, Sister Prakash Wati and Party, Madan Kapoor, Mr. and Mrs. Mathur and others sang devotional songs. Keeping in tune with the happy atmosphere, Sister Sushma sang "Aaj Khushiya Manao Premion". By now the celebration had reached such a pitch that Baba's presence had come alive in the hall and so it continued for the remainder of the celebration.

Sardar Virinder Singh in his talk, addressed the gathering to love the Divine Beloved with courage, undaunted by any reason whatsoever. Brother Kishan Singh in his introductory talk pointed out the significance of the first of November, 1963 - the date on which Beloved Baba had granted His second Public darhsan at Dehra Dun. Through his graphic description, all present felt as if they were attending the same public darhsan programme. Brother B.K. Bashi in his talk, mentioned that in 1965, in Poona, when he had made a request to Baba that he could receive a gift from Him in the form of a picture, Baba acceded to his request. That photo is the photo from which the present portrait was enlarged. He then appealed to all Baba Lover not to consider it merely as a portrait of the Beloved but rather they must feel Baba's presence and the love and grace He showers upon us all.

Brother B.C.Mathur, Chairman, Avatar Meher Baba Workers Association, in his talk prayed that Baba should ~~show~~ His grace upon all Baba Lovers to work cooperatively in His name and cause.

Dr. B.K.Misra, in his talk narrated what Baba had remarked on the occasion of His last Public Darshan held in Guru Parshad, Poo na in 1965. There He had pointed out that His suffering was infinite, He was physically mentally and spiritually suffering because, even when He was free, He remained bound to all His Lovers.

Sister Prakash Wati Sharma then thanked all and everybody responsible for making the celebration a success. She thanked the photographer, the painter, the picture framer and all others contributing towards the preparation and presentation of the portrait. She thanked Sardar Varinder Singh, who inspite of his poor health, took the trouble of coming over to Meher Parshad for the unveiling of Beloved Baba's portrait on this occasion. Further she thanked sister Meher Kanta for garlanding Baba's portrait and expressed how Meher Kanta had all along cooperated and had worked hand in hand with her.. Lastly she thanked all Baba Lovers, Trustees of Avatar Meher Prabhu Charitable Trust, Dehra Dun, Members of Avatar Meher Baba Workers Association and all present who graced the function.

Brother Sehgal recited the Master's Prayer, prayer of Repentance and the Mandali Prayer. After that the Gujarati Arti, composed by Baba in 1925, beginning " Bujhave naar Jahalat nee" was sung by M.M.Kapoor.

The celebration came to a happy close after prasad distribution and tea with a resounding " Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai ".

BABA CALLS QWAALS AT MEHER PRASAD

Though with His sheer grace, Avatar Meher Baba's portrait was installed at Meher Prasad on the 1-11-81, but ever since then Prakash Wati Sharma could not stop brooding over her unpardonable lapse in arranging a Qwaali programme there, since the Beloved always liked such programmes.

On the early morning of the 22-11-81 she felt so drawn by an urge for Qwaali at Meher Prasad that "Qwaalies at Meher Prasad", "Qwaalies at Meher Prasad", "Qwaalies at Meher Prasad" started responding in her brain and it soon took the form of "Jap" for her for the day and then quickly transformed into the shape of Meditation" for the fulfilment of her wish" as an integral part of her prayers for the day. But Qwaals were at Saharanpur and their availability could not be ensured, even if a visit was paid to them there.

Baba's ways are always very mysterious. He never fails to respond to the sincere and selfless wishes of His Lovers and so he also listened to the wish of Prakashwati, in silence. Miraculously in the evening of that date there came all abruptly a party of 3 or 4 persons, who formed part of the Qwaali Group at Saharanpur, to pay a courtesy call to Prakash Wati, as they would generally do, when ever they would come to Dehradun.

Seeing that party Prakashwati's happiness knew no bounds and on enquiry from them, she was apprised of their Qwaali programme held at Dehradun on the previous night i.e. on the 21-11-81 and their stay here for the 22nd, 23rd Nov. leaving for Saharanpur after the Qwaali programme fixed for them on the 24-11-81. "What a Grace" thought Prakash Wati and she asked the Qwaali Party to give a Qwaali programme at Meher Prasad on the following day (23-11-81) which was the Kirtan Day there. Low the Qwaalies programme for Meher Prasad was instantly fixed and Prakash Wati cautioned them that she had no money available to pay them as their charges and all that they should expect to get is "Baba's Prasad" This they tentatively agreed as their Chargeman Ali Hassan was not with them. Then they were invited at Meher Prasad to be there at 3.30 P.M. on the 23-11-1981 for the aforesaid programme.

Ali Hassan, the Head Qwaal, always intimately treated Prakash Wati as his mother and so she was fully confident that the POWER that had drawn the Qwaals at Kishan Agencies would not deny her the opportunity of the well meditated though outstanding, Qwaalies Programme to be celebrated in the presence of the Beloved at Meher Prasad.

There came the 23-11-81 and Prakash Wati hurriedly packed up to be at Meher Prasad much earlier than 3-00 P.M. the fixed time to start Kirtan, to wait for the arrival of qwaals there. After starting the Kirtan at 3.00 P.M., you will find her sitting outside Meher Prasad, praying to Baba inwardly for the qwaals to turn up soon. There you find them coming at 3.25 P.M. and soon the Qwaalies programme starting at 3.30 P.M. immediately on their arrival inside the hall.

Ali Hassan the Chief Qwaal, before the commencement of the programme, invoked Baba's blessings by bowing down to His Portrait. The very first note of the Qwaals made people ^{come into} running into the hall and so it was soon packed to its full capacity. Since the Qwaal party was already well aware of Baba's Divinity having performed such programmes earlier at Meher Dham, they sang very devotional qwaalies befitting the occasion, soon the hall was surcharged with Spiritual vibrations and the eyes of all were noticed fixed upon the smiling and loving face of the Beloved. Every one was inwardly feeling Baba's presence at Meher Prasad and his own nearness to Baba. The programme which would have been prolonged longer, ended at 5.00 PM to coincide with the closing time of the days Kirtan.

On the face of all above, the sudden appearance of Qwaals at Kishan Agencies could be taken as a great miracle played by Baba, but what Beloved Baba says on miracles:

"I do not perform miracles to satisfy individual needs.....yet time and again at certain periods I manifest the infinite Power in form of miracles, but only for the spiritual upliftment and benefit of humanity and all creatures----- But I want all to know that it does not befit my lovers to attribute such ^{individual} experiences to my state of the Highest of the High". (The God-Man Page-214)

"I shall perform only one miracle when I speak the one Word - the Divine Word. That really will be a miracle" (Ibid P-227)

".....From spiritual point of view, they (miracles) are nothing but farce God created this entire phenomenal universe. That is God's miracle Had Jesus ^{miracles he would not have been crucified} not raised the dead, had he not performed, and he wanted to be ^{crucified}.... My miracle will be not to raise the dead but to make one dead to himself to live : God. (Ibid P 254)

"The only real miracle for a perfect one is to make other perfect too, to make them realise the infinite state, which he himself enjoys. That is ^{the} real miracle ... otherwise miracles have nothing to do with truth at all. (Ibid P-441.)

"I have never consciously performed a miracle"

Baba Showers His Love through His Lovers Visiting Dehradun:

Very often, Dehra Dun, Meher's Varanaban, is visited by Baba Lovers coming from different corners of our country and from abroad. It is worthwhile to describe and recount some of these visits, as these visits to Dehra Dun by Baba Lovers have resulted in strengthening the love bond existing between Baba Lovers of Dehra Dun and Baba Lovers residing outside of Dehra Dun.

In the month of May, 81 Bro. Pratap Ahir from Bombay, accompanied by his wife and children arrived in Dehra Dun on 25-5-81. Pratap's family, being a veritable storehouse of talent, and especially as/^{the} whole family has great love for Baba; their period/^{of} their stay was literally filled with programmes at Meher Prasad, Meher Dham, this one and that one's home. In the programmes, Pratap's skilful and melodious voice, which had the great privilege of entertain/^{ing} Baba himself, gave a spirited lift to the kirtan. We were particularly delighted by the acting performance given to us by Bro. Pratap's two youngest sons. They acted out a conversation between a Baba Lover and one who was anti-Baba. How these youngsters could remember their lines and the charm with which they acted their parts won our admiration. In appreciation of the fascinating performances in Baba's love given by Pratap's children, Smt. Prakash Wati Sharma, whilst thanking the party for the visit paid, rewarded them with metal plates and also a copy of her diary "My Compassionate Father". A further surprise was from Pratap's Daughter who kept us spellbound by her graceful performance of classical dance. Our only complaint was that it was too short. When Bro. Pratap and his family returned to Bombay, we were all saddened to find ourselves without the company of those who had become to us real brothers and sisters in Baba's love.

Brother Pratap is one of the existing senior Baba Lovers in whom the divine Beloved has implanted love for Him,/^{thus} molding his mind and heart towards His wish and will. He has contributed articles to journals, devoted to Baba and has been closely associated with Baba's Mandali for many years now. And the wonderful chapter of his life, which he recalls with great fondness, were the days and nights he stayed with the Godman, Meher Baba.

Bro. Pratap could not but mark and read the imprints Baba has left on the minds and hearts of Baba Lovers here in Dehra Dun. He felt Baba's presence where ever he visited and was impressed with all that Baba Lovers have done here to please their Beloved. He was all praise for the efforts made to receive and raise up Meher Prasad for a cause no other than Baba's.

In his letter to Sister Prakash Wati, which he wrote on his return to Bombay and from which an extract is included later on in this Newsletter he gives a vivid account of all that he experienced here. To Brother Pratap it strikes his mind that the days are not far off when Baba Lovers visiting Dehra Dun will rejoice to witness how Baba has fulfilled His promise of making Dehra Dun his Vrindaban; the cool and pleasant breeze flowing across the valley touching the trees and mountains, the rushing waters of springs and rivulets, all echoing the divine music, the divine name;

"Sacchidanand, Paramaanand, Meher Baba Vidyaanand.

BHAU KALCHURI VISITS DEHRA DUN

Bro. Bhau Kalchuri accompanied by Eric and Heather Nadel,

arrived in Dehra Dun on 30-7-81 in the afternoon. Truly speaking their arrival was unexpected and therefore a most pleasant surprise for Baba Lovers of Dehra Dun. At the time they were in Delhi for some Trust work and due to the nature of the work, had to wait for some days. During this period, perhaps Baba whispered in their ears, "why don't you go to Dehra Dun, My Vrindaban and pass the time amidst My Dehradun Lovers". And so, they came. They reached 82 Rajpur Road at Bro. Bal Kishan Bakshi's residence and met Bro. Kishan Singh at Kishan Agencies within a few minutes of their arrival time. They spent much of their time visiting various of Baba Lover's homes. In order that all should have a chance to meet Bro. Bhau, Programmes were held on one of the evenings at Meher Dham and Meher Prasad.

At Meher Dham, Bro. Bhau noted that the number of women Baba Lovers was greater than the number of men Baba Lovers. It reminded him that when Baba was Krishna, then too, the Gopis were in greater number than the Gopas. During His talk he gave a lively account of his experiences particularly of the year 1953, when Beloved Baba was here. Much earlier, when Bro. Bhau had met Baba at Nagpur, he was asked to continue his studies and after doing that he should come to Him. After completing his studies in accordance with Baba's wish, he came to Dehradun to meet Baba. He then pledged to obey Baba willingly and do whatever Baba asked, him to do. Thus on saying 'Yes' he joined Baba's Mandali. Baba then had said "the real thing is that the mind is so treacherous that it is impossible to obey. But obedience should be 100%.

It may be interesting to give^{an} here, for the information of the readers of this news letter, /idea of the fragrance of the dialogue which took place between Baba and brother Bhau Kalchuri in 1953 when the latter met Baba for the first time, after completing his college course. As per his appointment Bhau came here in July 1953 and he was granted a special interview on the eleventh of the same month. During the course of the interview Baba asked him:

Baba - Are you prepared, on your own responsibility, to do as I order you ?

Bhau - Yes Baba.

Baba - I might ask you to stay here or might ask you to go from place to place or ask you to do a certain work or certain things. Will you do it willingly ?

Bhau - Yes Baba.

Baba - I may ask you to go to Bombay or certain places and work for the lepers on my behalf, or go preaching, or go to Badrinath and sit there, or go begging, or go and work as a tongawala, earn and bring me the money. In short, will you do whatever I ask you to do ? I might after a few months tell you to go and stay with your family for a few months and love your wife as her husband. I might ask you to do business or attend to worldly affairs. This will mean that you will do anything I say, whether you like it or not, but do it because I ask you to do it. If done willingly, then whatever you do will be for me. Even if it is good or bad, you will do it for me.

Baba then explained to him in Hindi that if he would do as Baba ordered him, the responsibility for that action would rest with Baba. Baba added that if all orders are obeyed 100% with love, he would be free. But, if he let his mind come into the picture, it would cause great confusion. Baba then said, "The real thing is that the mind is so treacherous that it is impossible to obey. But obedience should be 100 %.

Baba then said that a man named Trambak lived with Upasani Maharaj. He used to look after everything in the ashram. Durgabai was also with Maharaj, but she would rarely do any service. One day, both had a quarrel and Maharaj asked both to go out of the ashram as both had love for money. There was another man named Mahadeo. He was a farmer, but he loved Maharaj very much. He remembered Maharaj all the twentyfour hours of the day. One day, a question arose at the ashram that Trambak worked all the day long for Maharaj but Mahadeo did no work. Maharaj then said, "Those who do nothing for years together, they do the most arduous work. To do nothing for years, is a great Tap (penance)."

Baba then added that Jawahar Lal Nehru and Churchill who hold the keys of the nation do a great deal of work. But, Nilkanthwala mast, who does nothing and remains lying down, does infinitely greater work than Jawahar Lal Nehru. What does nothing mean. To eat is a work, to fast is also a work, to sleep is work and to remain awake is also work. Then the remedy is, whatever work is entrusted to us, if done according to the wishes of the person entrusting it, we have ^{done} nothing.

After a very long discourse given to Bhau in Hindi as to how desires are stored in the mind and how the mind generally revolts, Baba said, "Now you will live for me. Stay here (Dehradun) till the 18th of July, join in the meeting which is to be held on the 21st. We will be going on mast tour for seven days. Possibly, you will also be taken with us. But, at the end of this month, I intend giving you special instructions."

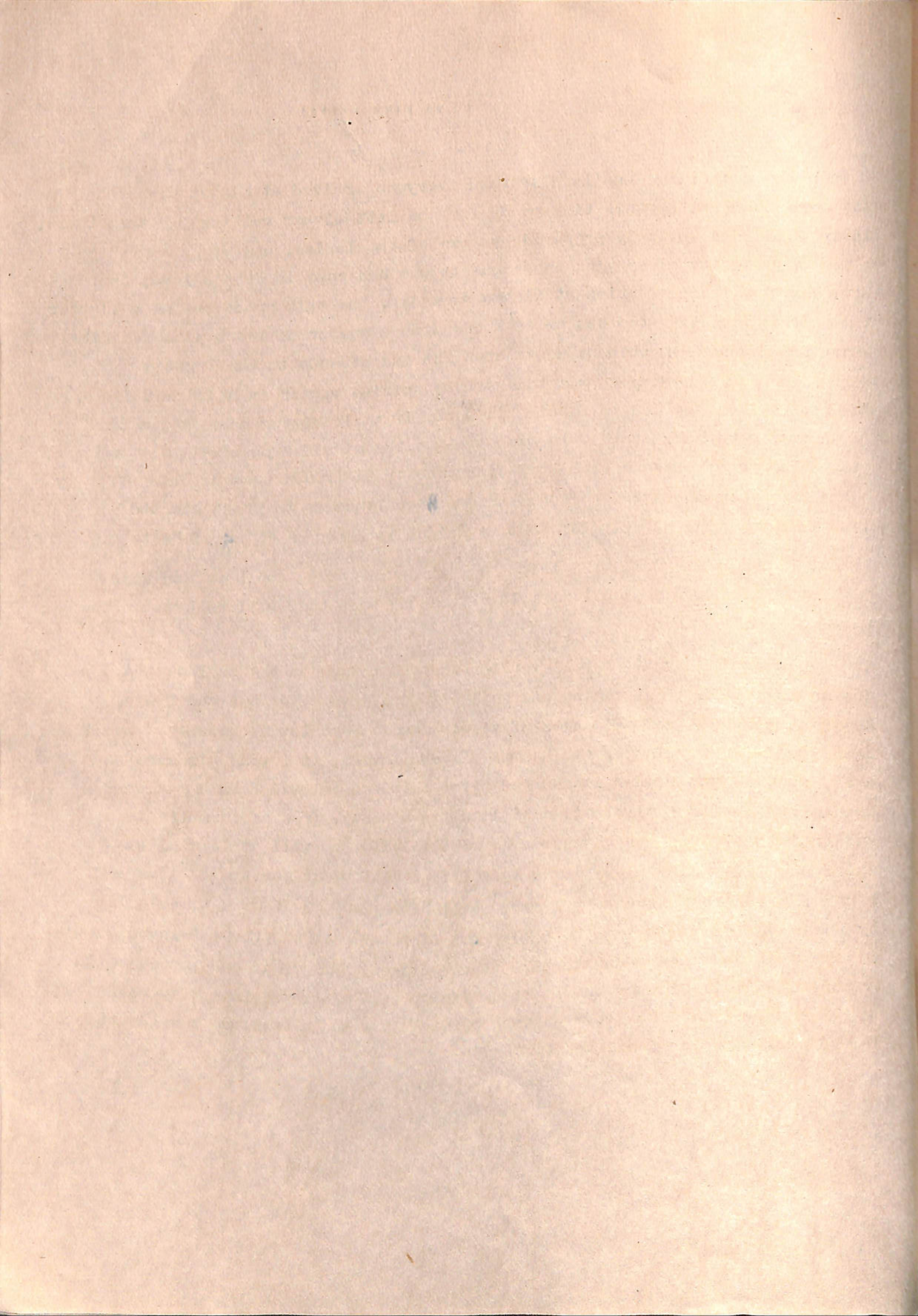
I need not mention about Bhau's love for Baba and his services for the Avatar of the Age as I have no words for that purpose. (Extracted from Kishan Singh, Dehradun diary of 1953 which has been edited by Dr. Barucha of Navsari and vetted by brother Eruch Jassawala, but is yet to be published).

From Meher Dham the crowd of Baba Lovers shifted over to Meher Prasad where Bro. Bhau and Eric and Heather Nadel were all received and welcomed by Bro. J.C. Sharma, Chairman, Avatar Meher Prabhu Charitable Trust. Here too Bro. Bhau narrated some of the experiences he had in Baba's physical and mental contact. At the end of the simple function arranged at Meher Prasad, our guests were thanked by Sister Prakash wati Sharma and after recitation of Master's Prayer, Repentance prayer and Arti, Prasad was distributed. Due to the happy atmosphere, and drawn by the opportunity of spending some time in the company of Bhau Kalchuri, many lingered on for half an hour or so to partake of the conversation which was proceeding.

When the gathering finally dispersed everyone arrived at Kishen Agencies the guests were no doubt by this time ready for the late dinner waiting for them there. A dinner which was lovingly prepared by some of the ladies, who did not wish to lose the opportunity of serving those guests who had come in Baba's love. In the course of the conversation at Kishen Agencies, the talk proceeded on a lighter vein and Bro. Bhau narrated how he is faced with a number of mischevious spirits who come to disturb him when he works at night and attends to the Trust's correspondence at Ahmednagar. Sometimes these spirits appear in different forms, to which he tells them not to disturb his work. If their disturbance is too much and he throws something at them to dispel them, the missiles pass off with no effect. However after some time they disappear of their own accord. This affinity which spirits seem to have for our dear Br. Bhau leads us to grant him the glorious title "King of spirits", just as Baidul is known as "King of Masts".

Bhau, Heather and Eric then left the next day, leaving the hope and wish in the hearts of the Dehradun lovers that some day soon they will return bearing more news of their Beloved.

Such visits of Baba lovers to Dehradun though on the surface they appear as a mechanical coming and going of Baba lovers, do not end there. Physical contacts and exchanges of views between Baba lovers becomes a healthy background for warming up the hearts of Baba lovers, in loving Him more and more, just as gun powder is charged before firing. Beloved Baba has always emphasized living a simple life of love and honesty, free of formalities and artificialities and whosoever lives this life, he will be leading the spiritual life. Baba says, "Let your life itself be my message of love and truth for others." When Baba lovers visit Meher Centers, they automatically by their way of living and by their mode of behaviour, propagate Beloved Baba's messages of Love and Truth through their actions. Thus their company comes to remind us of His company and at those times, the Beloved's living glow radiates all around and saturates the atmosphere with love and harmonious considerations for all the beings of His creation.



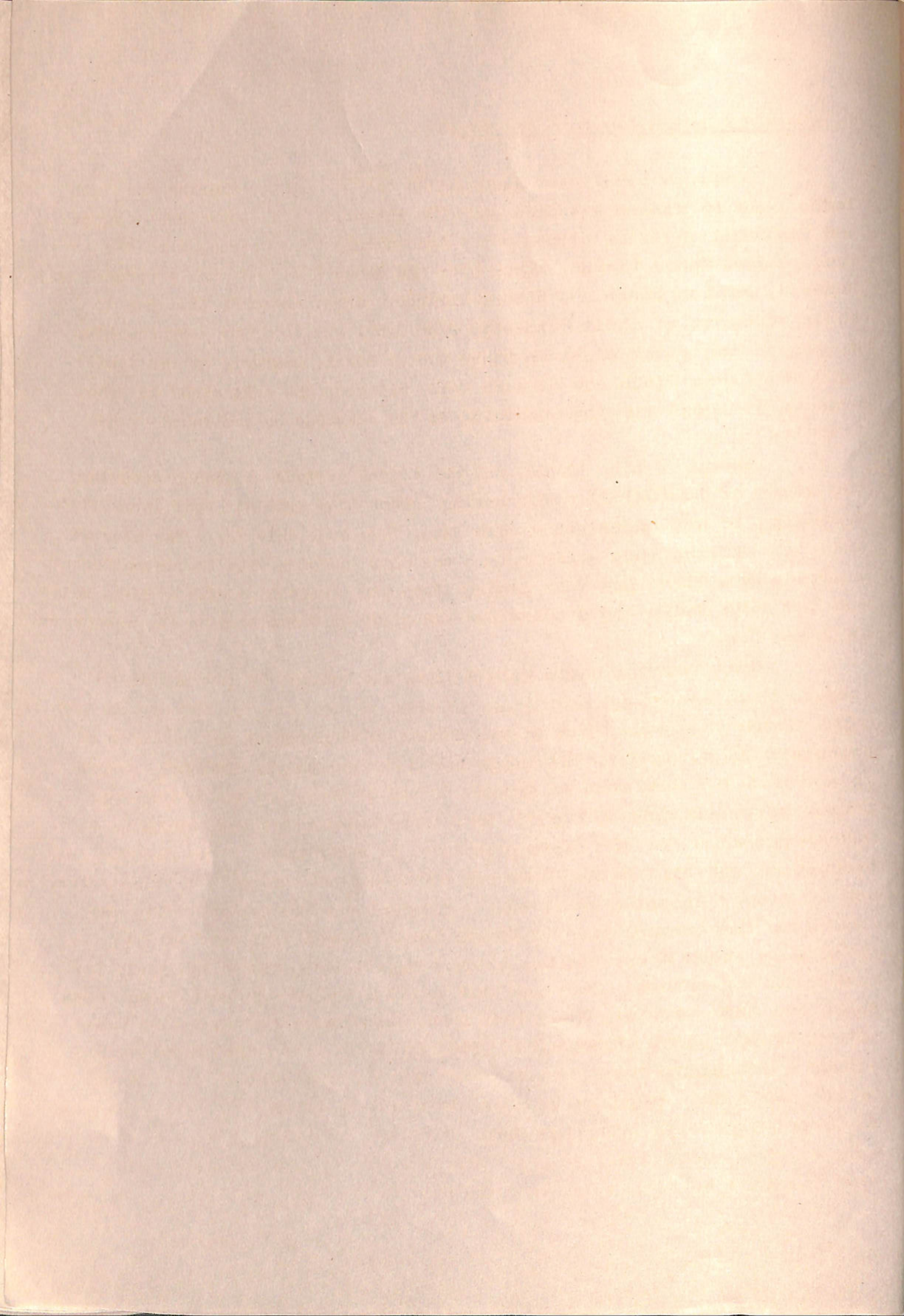
Visitors to Dehra Dun from the West:

Todd, a Baba Lover studying ^{in Benares} in the process of touring Northern India came to Kishan Agencies with the intention of meeting Baba Lovers and visiting the Baba places here. Accordingly he was brought to the various places Meher Prasad, Meher Dham and Meher Mafi and was introduced to Kumarji, Kishan Singh and Sardar Varinder Singh, where he listened to their accounts of their contacts with Baba. Due to prior arrangements, he stayed the first night in Dehra Dun at hotel, however, at the invitation of Kishan Singh and Prakash Wati, he spent the next night in Meher Prasad. The next morning according to his schedule he continued on his travels.

Nancy, a Baba Lover, and her friend arrived at Kishan Agencies, the night of 13-10-1981 after having spent some time at Freni Narawalla's listening to her experiences with Baba. They came only for a few minutes, then left saying they would return the next morning with the intention of visiting the Dehra Dun Baba places. They were travelling with a group which was touring India and staying for the night at Clementown on the outskirts of Dehra Dun.

Next morning while Kishan Singh was waiting for the guests to arrive, Paul showed up and he was informed of his duty for the day as tour guide. While they were thus in the process of deciding on the question of transportation, Bhagat, the local Baba lover who drives rickshaw, turned up and both of them went to Freni's to see if Nancy and her friend were there. Upon arriving at Freni's they found Nancy on her way out to go to Kishan Agencies for the day's programme. So after their timely meeting introduction and explanation that her friend was not coming, they then returned to Kishan Agencies where tea was served and Baba was naturally the centre of the conversation as Kishan Singh, Prakash Wati and Paul came to learn more about Nancy and her Beloved Baba. Leaving Kishan Agencies, Prakash Wati accompanied Nancy and Paul to Meher Prasad and Meher Dham. From there the next stop was Meher Mafi where our "Mister God" Shatrugan Kumar lives. As per usual treatment of visitors to his place, the guests were served a delicious lunch prepared from Kumar's prize basmati rice grown on his own farm. In paying due respect to the delicious meal, all proceeded to their respective afternoon naps. On arising to afternoon tea and more conversation about Baba, it was found that time was running short and so they returned to Kishan Agencies and from there, Nancy and Paul walked over

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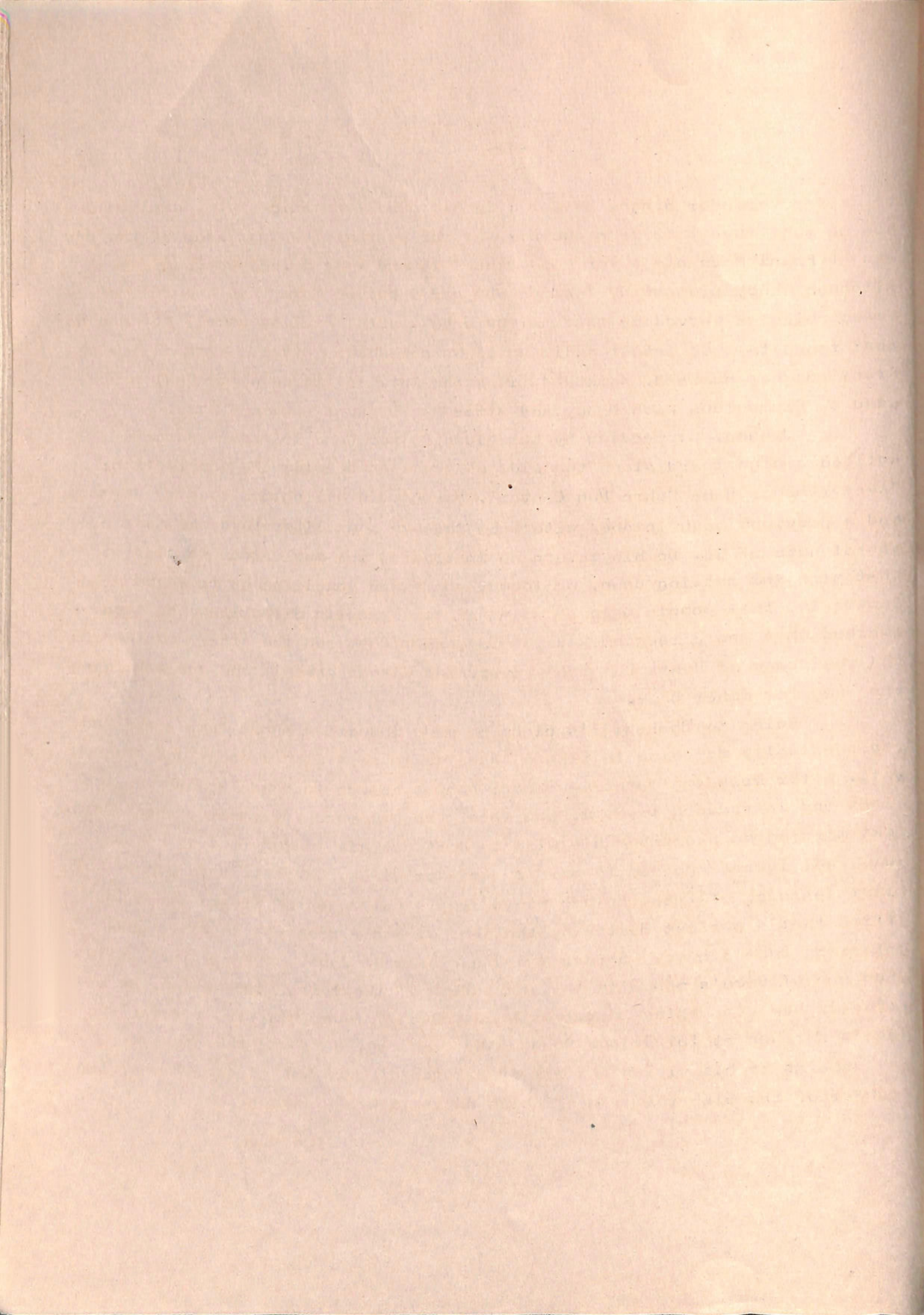


to Sardar Varinder Singh. Sardarji in his usual emphatic style, explained how we must love Baba from the core of our hearts. The last stop of the day was at Freni Narawala's for more Baba talk and some delicious icecream. Although Nancy protested, feeling she had received more than her fill of delectables as served by the various Baba Lovers, Paul as usual, offered no resistance to this latest addition to be consumed. After a nice chat with Freni and her husband, Kaikobad, it being late in the evening, Paul proceeded to Clementown with Nancy and after her arrival returned home.

Johann, proceeding by bus along Rajpur Road towards Mussoorie noticed a sign Board along the side of the road bearing the inscription; "Avatar Meher Baba Dehra Dun Center". Having, in his native country Germany, had a previous acquaintance with Baba through some literature, he made a mental note of it. On his return He instructed the bus driver to stop at that sign and getting down, he found, on making inquiries as to where this Center is, that people were pointing in two opposite directions. He soon learned that one direction was towards Meher Dham and the other was towards the residence of Dehra Dun Baba Lover, Bal Kishan Bakshi, the one retaining the key for Meher Dham.

Going to Bhakshiji's place he made inquiries about Baba there and was eventually directed to Kishan Agencies to meet Kishan Singh and Prakash Wati. After spending sometime there, he was brought to Meher Prasad for the night and introduced to Paul, who then gave his more information about Baba. Next morning he expressed his wish to continue his journey and on his way out, Paul introduced him to Sardar Varinder Singh. Sardarji told him of his first learning of Baba. He had heard from a colleague of Kishan Singh in the office that a perfect Master by the name of Meher Baba was in Dehra Dun. On hearing Baba's name, Sardarji had a vision of Baba. Sardarji then approached one of Baba's men with the intention of receiving His darshan. He was refused. However, being insistent he eventually found his way of receiving Baba's darshan at 101 Rajpur Road on the same day. He found the scene there the same as in his vision and his experience of Baba was as Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion of which Sardarji was a member.

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He further explained how the love Baba gives is a precious treasure to be guarded carefully in one's heart. No one would throw diamonds by the roadside and likewise, we must not take Baba's gift to us negligently.

After this they proceeded to the bus station where Johann caught his bus to continue his travels in India.

GLORY OF DEHRA DUN AS ON THE LIPS OF VISITORS

Baba had visited Dehra Dun several times and though He came and went, yet for the sake of His Lovers, He has left His Presence behind for them to enjoy. As a testimony of the impact Baba has had on this place, we offer what others have said about their visits to Dehra Dun in Baba's love:-

What Win Coates From USA Says

"But unfortunately words will do little justice in describing the Beauty and Presence of Beloved Baba on my trip to Dehra Dun that I experienced. Truly and veritably the whole visit was a Baba-Love Feast from start to finish...

"As Beloved Baba is Beautiful in an "unearthly" way, so is Dehra Dun reflecting Baba's Physical Beauty in quite an "earthly" way. I don't think I have ever seen a more physically beautiful place any where else. I happened to come there at harvest time and I was astonished by the beauty of the countryside at that time, especially at Deher Wafi and in Mussoorie. All this, plus the effect of Beloved Baba's presence and bliss-spilling out of every heart produces a sense of joy in my own heart that will not soon be forgotten." (Letter to K. S., 23-6-81)

"I would like to come again sometime to Dehra Dun to visit you all. It is indeed God's country." (25-8-81)

What Brother Pratas Ahir from Bombay Writes

~~extract~~ from letter dated 6-6-81 to Prakash Wati and Kishan Singh

"When we came to see you last before our departure from Dehra Dun to Bombay, we all three went while reminiscing over Baba's dropping of the body. Since that time a deficiency has come into our lives which cannot be compensated. Bro. Mahu Sudan has written a song since Baba's dropping of the body, thus;

My eyes thirst for the nectar of your sight
 O dweller of my heart; Can you hear my calling?
 My heart is made captive by the splendor of your face
 O lord, from your memory there is no escape
 without your lotus eyes and honeyed smile
 This life is confined to sorrow
 With your embrace I have found love
 A caring touch? nay divine; I became yours
 What haven I lost? what haven I found?
 Inside the tiniest atom, the limitless ocean resides
 No one can equal the love you gave
 Tell us, now who will show us mercy
 Without you there is no one to console us
 Now in the wilderness I have made my home.

Baba is always with us. He is indestructible. Yet knowing all this, whenever we meet each other feelings of grief arise and we find our tears flowing without limit. What is salvation? What is the experience of God? I knew nothing of these before coming to Baba nor do I know anything even now, nor I have I ever wished to know. All that I do know is that Baba was ours, He was and is and everything for us. We live to perpetuate the memory of his company in our hearts. These sweet experiences has prepared us to bear the sorrows and sufferings of untold lives. As I write, all this appears as a film before my mind's eye..

"Our coming into Baba's contact could not be without our connections in past lives. And as we once came into His contact, we are now once again united in this fashion. Here, in His company, all differences with respect to caste and creed are dissolved in the one fact of our being Baba lovers. Even if we should quarrel, in the end, it resolves itself with Baba's love. As a Baba Lover becomes aware of the Beloved's presence in others, she begins to feel that hurting the heart of the other is to hurt Baba's heart. Thus one cannot continue any malice or ill feeling for others. ...

"You have all established the joy of Baba's love in Dehradun of an order rare in occurrence. You both have high morale, a true approach and great courage. Baba's glory shall

prevail. We may not be in this body to witness it, but whatever we shall do, we shall set an example for the generations to come. Meher Dham at Dehra Dun is due to Baba. His grace moved Bro. Bakshi to come forward and Meher Dham was constructed. Meher Prasad is another construction, still under completion, of which Baba Lovers are sharing in its progress. This is a matter of great fortune for Baba Lovers as the motive behind its construction is unique ; to provide comfort to those Baba Lovers visiting Dehra Dun.

"Dehra Dun is Baba's Vrindaban and in preparation for the coming Lovers, the work is sure to go on in spite of any personal failures along the way. I have marked one fact, any project, personal in nature is not accomplished, but when it is motivated by sheer love for Baba, nothing can stand in the way of its completion. When Meher Dham, Nauranga came into existence, only a few knew of Babu Ram Prasad . Even today few realize that Babu Ram Prasad played a prime role in its construction.

Those who help the various projects through contributions, its value cannot be truly estimated, be it one rupee or a thousand. Lord Ram while getting a bridge constructed over the ocean, marked the love a squirrel had, who would carry the dust on her back and throw these particles of dust with the intention of helping in the construction of the bridge. How small and insignificant was her contribution in comparison with the contributions made by the monkeys who would carry huge boulders and place them where required. But how great it was in so far as it relates to the devotion the squirrel had for Lord Ram. On the other hand, when Lord Krishna lifted Gobardhan Mountain on His little finger, the cow-herds applied their staff to the mountain, and each one of them considered himself to be solely responsible for carrying the weight of the mountain on his staff. While working for Any Cause in Baba's love, we should feel like the squirrel and not like a gwal-bal (cow-herd). The power that works is other than our own, it is Baba's alone. That he has selected us as a medium for His work is a matter of our good luck. How unfortunate if this thought should make us swell-headed.

"The speed with which time flew by in Dehra Dun is beyond description. Dehra Dun has lived up to my dreams of the past. Adorned with Baba's working and Blooming in His love", was how Bro. Ramakrishnan once described his sharing in the joy of celebrating Holi at Dehra Dun. I was very much impressed by his words. Now I have experienced for myself, that mood and disposition of joy residing in the Baba Lovers of Dehra Dun for all time".

Meher Kanta Bakshi passes away.

All the Dehra Dun lovers felt the passing away of Meher Kanta Bakshi on the morning of 29.11.81, as a great loss to the center. She had come under Baba's orbit of love in 1953 when Beloved Baba was staying in Dehra Dun. She would often visit Baba and the lady Mandali in company with Prakash Wati Sharma, who was staying at their place, 82 Rajpur Road, Dehra Dun, as a tenant. She had also the privilege of having a closer contact with Baba, who had visited 82 Rajpur Road, when Baba's kirtan was started by Prakash Wati there. Once again also when Baba visited the place to participate in Prakash Wati's kirtan, though for a very short time.

Meher Kanta was not keeping good health for a long time and once Baba had advised her to go in for treatment at Delhi, which she continued till her last.

But Meher Kanta's prolonged illness was in fact of a unique type which could have been very easily washed away by Baba if He had wished for the sanguine love which she had for Him. But we recollect what Baba had one day remarked sitting with the Mandali. "There is one thing of which I am very much afraid of" Kishen Singh who was present there felt confused over these remarks and asked Baba "Could there be a thing of which God could be afraid of". Baba was quick to say "Yes". and He proceeded to elaborate His remarks by saying that:-

- a) Like the burning of a candle He, with His Universal Mind, was burning with the collective effect of the suffering of all the minds in the Universe.
- b) He distributes a part of that suffering as a Prasad to His lovers and with it, they too start burning as the effect of the Prasad so given to them- severely according to the share given to them by Baba, depending upon the degree of Love for Baba they have in their hearts.
- c) Just as the candle burns, a number of moths, who are the lovers of its flame, get burnt in it. before the candle is completely burnt like wise all the Baba lovers who are the fortunate recipients of His Prasad start suffering, some very seriously.
- d) Then what the suffering lovers do is that they come crying and praying to Baba for being relieved of that suffering, which in fact was given to them by Baba Himself.
- e) Knowing that the suffering in fact is in the best interest of the lovers concerned and is knowingly given to them by Him, Baba is then in a dilemma as to what to do in the matter. If He withdraws the suffering the fortunate recipients is doomed and in case He doesn't his love for Baba is likely to diminish.
- f) So what he generally does in all such cases, is to allow the suffering to stand, but He gives His love and Blessings to them, which gives them the strength to bear the suffering without their love being in the least affected.

Here all this long suffering by Meher Kanta Bakshi, coupled with her indomitable love, faith and belief in Beloved Baba is as shining example to us all how we should stick to Baba to the very end.

Besides her sincere and silent love for Baba, in her heart, she had spent a substantial amount of money in building Meher Dham at Dehra Dun, rather she was still busy extending it further, supervising the construction herself inspite of her protracted sickness, till early November before she left for Delhi for her last time for the last Medical Check up and treatment. It was only on 1.11.81 when Baba portrait was installed at Meher Prasad (the pilgrimage Cent at Dehra Dun for Baba lover's coming from outside to stay there) where she had garlanded Baba, on behalf of all His lovers in the East and West with a flower garland of about 4 meter long as explained elsewhere in this News Letter.

All local Baba lovers were present at their place and they recited Parvardigar and Repentance Prayers and Baba's Arti, when her body was taken to Meher Dham for offering her last respects to Baba- After prayers and Baba's Arti, the body was carried to Meher Prasad for paying her last respects to Baba there too. A flower wreath was placed over her piar by Shri J.C. Sharma, Chairman Avatar Meher Prabhu Charitable Trust Dehradun on his own behalf and on behalf of the Trustees and Advisers of the Trust, some of whom were also present there. Baba's Arti was then recited and at Kishan Singh's request the piar was placed at the place where Meher Kanta used to sit at Meher Prasad whilst attending Baba's weekly Kirtan there. And he said :- Now Meher Kanta Ji leave Meher Prasad from the same place which was always dear to you to occupy, agreeably to my previous advice to you to that like the procedure enforced at the Mandli, where the Mandli members always occupied the particular seats sitting in Baba's presence when He was in body and she should also occupy the same seat whilst sitting in Baba's presence at Meher Prasad".

Meher Kanta's body was then taken to Hardwar where it was consumed to the flame after Baba's Parvardigar and repentance prayers and Arti and continued shouts of Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai.

An Appeal to Our Readers.

The intention of this Newsletter is to create a link among the Baba lovers of the East and the West, by means of a fair exchange of views and information about events in Baba's love. The confidence we hold in the future of this Newsletter is not due to our capacity as writers or publishers, rather it is due to the sincere interest we have of learning about how our Beloved had inspired others to work in His cause and of the belief that others also share the same interest.

In the beginning for some years, our communication was limited to John Page on behalf of California Center of Avatar Meher Baba. In the last Newsletter the decision was made to expand it to include others in the West as well as also the many centers here in India. As a result we found that by the addition of the extra centers, receiving our Newsletter, the size of the Newsletter has much expanded by now we find that the size of the Newsletter has more than doubled as well as many more centers are being included on the mailing list.

We hope you will agree with us that all this is creating a strain on those here in Dehradun who are sharing the burden of the expense. As a result we foresee that to enable the Newsletter to continue in its present form, we will need assistance from other sources. This in hopes that a Newsletter of this type may continue to serve as a loving link between Baba Lovers, East and West, we invite our readers to kindly consider the advisability of contributing to help this stumbling child to stand on its feet.

Those who feel pleasure to send their contribution by mail should please address their draft or money orders in the name of Paul Liboiron, Treasurer, Newsletter, C/o Kishen Agencies, 22 Chockrata Road, Dehradun. 248001 (India).

BE LOVED BABA GOES TO THE WEST ONCE AGAIN

We are extremely happy to receive from dear Elizebeth and Bruce a copy of letter dated 16.11.81 addressed to Meher Baba Mandali, Ahmednagar, containing description of the 50th Anniversary of Baba's first visit to USA celebration held on 1.11.81. Meher Lovers of west experienced the Beloved's presence as if He has gone to West to grant once more His Darshan on the occasion of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Baba's first visit to the USA, while celebrating "Love Comes West".

At palace of fine Arts Theatre Beloved Meher Prabhu. The King of Kings goes once again. Photos exhibited no longer remained as such. But were experienced as if the Beloved was with them, in form once again. In the main theatre was displayed a large size portrait of Baba (1932- in fake fur coat) having as if a direct look on all Meher lovers. Brother Brian Narell was the master of ceremonies.

Brother Robbie Basho played on Guitar. Brother Hugh McDonald displayed his talent in giving performances in magic. Brother Patrick Meyers gave Shakesperian soliloquy. Tuck and Patty gave vocal songs accompanied by guitar.

Sister Rosalie Dunphy gave a dance recital entitled "Clouds of God" and later on presented puppet show.

All present enjoyed 'the most of the food tables' and the attendance swelled to 800 against the initial gathering of 350, at Baba's film and slide show, managed by Chriss Ott, Michel Le Page and Cheri Dreyfuss. The show was exquisite in giving a pleasant visual effect. "The audience was treated to the full spectrum of Baba's wonderful qualities- power, humour, majesty, compassion, capriciousness and Divine Ease." impressing upon the minds and hearts of all who witnessed.

People collected Baba's portrait and literature from free literature table ^{along side the} tables for sales of Baba's books.

The third sitting of theatre programme was opened by Brian Rick Chapman. He read for the citizens of USA the letter he had received from ^{from the Mandali}. This revived in the hearts of audience their love for the Divine Beloved and they recharged them for loving Baba more and more. Jeff Mylett, Debbie and Michael Campagna entertained the audience giving a thrill. The celebration was closed after Parvardigar prayer.

It is rather impossible to record the untiring efforts of a large number of Meher Lovers contributing towards the success of the celebration. Jim Migdoll, Tricia Migdoll, Liam Mullan, Doug Ross, Ron and Lisa Greenstein, Bruce Ecker, Dan Sparks, Frank Smith, Harold Jamison and others all worked in love for Baba.

The celebration has eloquently been summarised by Meher Baba League, Inc. Borkley, California as under:-

Memorable event would take many pages. It was a labor of love, an offering of love, and above all a Celebration of Love - Incarnate Avatar Meher Baba in America.

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