

Avatar Meher Prabhd Charitable Trust

Meher Prasad

74, Rajpur Road Dehradun.

By. Dr.B.K.MISRA (M.A.P.H.D) assisted by

Paul & M.M. Kapoor.

**Copy to:-**

1. Meher Baba league Inc, 2141 University, Avenue,  
Room 235, Berkeley, California, 94764 U.S.A.
2. Kitty Davy, Meher Spiritual Center, Myrtle Beach,  
South Carolina, U.S.A.
3. Darwin Shaw, 2 Castine Street, Schenectady New York,  
12309 U.S.A.
4. John Badar and David Carter, 1502 William Street,  
Madison, Wyoming 53703 U.S.A.
5. Brother Jack Small, Avatar Meher Baba Trust,  
Ahmednagar.
6. Shri Shalig Ram Sharma, Editor, Meher . . . Pukar,  
Prosecuting officer, Hamirpur.
7. Editor Glow International, Lytton Road, Dehradun.

Dear Brothers and sisters in Baba's love, JAI MEHER BABA.

We have the pleasure of enclosing herewith the 3rd News letter from the Trust here in Dehradun giving an account of the various functions held in Baba's love. The description of events focuses almost entirely on Dehradun as we have received no response from our request as expressed in our previous Newsletters. However in response to our request as expressed . . . for the readers reaction to the form in which the Newsletter had taken, we were pleased to receive from Susan Lutgendorf her comments as follows.

"We received and enjoyed reading the second Newsletter from the Dehradun center... We enjoyed . . . hearing about all the Baba activities in Dehradun, Baba's presence and hand can truly be felt in the course of activities dedicated to His name and cause, and your anecdotes illustrate this very well. Obviously a lot of work went into the writing and typing of the Newsletter and we thank you for your efforts. What I would suggest, for sending it to the west, would be that you try to make it as concise as possible. That would reduce your postage costs . . . as well as give the Newsletter a better chance of being read. Generally Newsletters here are 2 to 4 pages... I am sending you, under separate cover, a copy of the Minnesota Newsletter, both because you will enjoy reading about their activities and to see their format".

It will be noted that this present volume of the Newsletter has expanded even beyond the size of the last Newsletter. However it should not be felt that we have disregarded the above quoted comments as we received the letter only after the main work of it had been completed. In the next issue we shall try to incorporate her suggestion by striving for a more concise report. In the meantime we beg the indulgence of the reader and invite him to read the report which follows.



1-700787



JAL BHAI JOINS BABA.

Brother Jal not only had the good fortune of being Beloved Baba's brother but was His companion and close disciple as well. Along with Padri he also joined Baba from the very early days, at Manzil-E-Meen in 1922. He was among the thirteen Baba Lovers who chose to remain with Baba after Baba's announcement of closing Manzil-E-Meen.

Jal's gentle and jovial temperment made an impression on all those visiting him. He loved nothing more than to entertain Baba Lovers with his reminiscences of Baba interspersing the narrative with jokes and amusing episodes. As he was himself living in Pumpkin house (The house where Baba lived in His youth and college days) those visiting Baba's home could always look forward to being in the company of Baba's brother and those who wished to visit Baba's places could always rely on having Jal's guidance and company.

Just before passing away Brother Jal had pressed Baba's portrait with great tenderness and devotion and uttered "Baba" while breathing his last. Those present in the room felt as though Baba Himself had come to accompany Jal on his journey back to Him to finally merge and reside eternally with the Eternal Beloved, Avatar Meher Baba.

Brother Jal shall always be remembered for his unparalleled love and service to the Lord of love, for his strict obedience and utter dedication to Baba and for the heartwarming treatment he gave to all coming to call upon him. Brother Jal lives eternally in the company of the eternal companion Meher Baba.

PADRI KAKA JOINS BABA.

Padri one of the four pillars of Meherabad, (the other three being Vishnu, Pendu and Adi Senior) dropped his physical body on 13.3.82 to reside eternally with his Divine Beloved.

Padri Kaka was one of the fortunate few who had joined Baba from the very early days on 13.3.1923 when Baba had announced His intention of bringing Manzil-E-Meen to a close.

During celebrations, meetings, Bahavas programme etc. Padri Kaka played a key role in serving Baba's cause.

Padri was a man of many gifts and talents. He was a superb craftsman as well as a highly skilled and practical engineer. The New Life Caravan was in fact constructed under his able guidance. He had mastered several languages as well. His managerial capacity showed itself in his day to day life as his habit was to look into the minutest details of the work he had undertaken in Baba's service.







His integrity and day and night/<sup>labour</sup> had raised Meherabad from the stage of shambles when Baba first arrived to that of heaven on earth. On 31.3.69 when Beloved dropped his physical ~~form~~ it was a tremendous shock to all his lovers. The greatness of Padri's heart can be gauged by the fact that the shock of such an event remained within the confines of his heart without allowing the tremors of it to reach his face. Rather he continued to cheerfully manage the affairs at Meherabad at a time when it seemed that the world itself had come to an end.

During Amartithi Padri was always busy supervising the details of the necessary arrangements for the Amartithi. At the last Amarti-  
thi one could see him going about here and there on his bicycle, a sight for us all to witness. As was his regular function, he once again oversaw the lighting of the dhuni and recounted the history of the dhuni.

On 13.3.82 at 11 A.M. He was seated on his chair in his usual position with his feet on the desk and he was finishing a dictation to Bob Street for a letter. The question had arisen as to how to sign off the letter. A moments thought on the matter and the outcome was "Yours Sincerely" and with those words Padri not only signed off his letter but also his whole life as he who was sincerely His bid us all farewell with the words "Yours Sincerely".

O Padri as we recall our fortune in having met and spent time with you we list your qualifications and create an imposing figure. But how to describe your unassuming manner which silently gladdened our hearts and made us to whisper under our breaths "Yes this is the life to live. This is purity of action surrendered to Baba's wish and Will. Though you have gone yet your example burns in our hearts and sheds light is the darkness of our groping to live our lives for Baba. Your simple straight forward manner shall be sorely missed by those of us who knew you but we also know how little you cared for displays of sentimentality and so we shall try our utmost to carry on cheerfully as you did.

The information regarding Padri's passing away was conveyed to Baba Dehra Dun lovers by Sister Mani, Chairman of Avatar Meher Baba Trust Ahmednagar, in a copy of the telegram as under:-

INFORM YOUR AREA THAT AVATAR MEHER BABA'S EARLIEST DISCIPLE  
"PADRI" GRAND OLD MAN AND PILLAR OF MEHERABAD PASSED AWAY OF  
HEART FAILURE ON THIRTEENTH MARCH TO ETERNAL ABODE OF HIS  
BELOVED MASTER WHOM HE SERVED UNTIL HIS LAST BREATH WE SALUTE  
YOUR DEAR PADRI

MANIJA.

A condolence meeting was held at Meher Dham to mourn the death of Brother Padri and a telegram from all Baba Lovers was sent to Meher Baba, Ahmednagar expressing our grief.







PASSING AWAY OF PRAKASH WATI SHARMA.

The Dehra Dun Baba Lovers were shocked when the news spread throughout Dehra Dun that Prakash Wati Sharma had passed away on the 24th of March at 1.30 A.M. She played a pioneering role in spreading Baba's Message in Dehra Dun and she remained the guiding force for the Baba related activities in Dehra Dun throughout her life. During the latter years of her life she became increasingly concerned with the construction of "Meher Prasad" and the establishment of the Avatar Meher Prabhu Charitable Trust which she sponsored as the via media to carry on the activities of Meher Prasad during her life time and after. Through her persistent efforts Meher Prasad had come to shine forth as a shelter for pilgrims on their visits to Dehradun in Baba's love, Meher Prasad has since been willed over to the Trust. To coincide with the anniversary of Baba's darshan in Dehradun in 1953, Meher Prasad was inaugurated on the 23rd of March, 1980. Having completed two years of hard struggle so that the young baby should stand on its feet, she was amazed beyond her dreams that Meher Prasad should in so short a time reach such a lofty stage. And so after the completion of these two years of service, her Beloved Lord called her back to Him in the midst of her duties. The details of Prakash Wati's passing away follow.

The Annual Meher Mela had proceeded with great success and Prakash Wati was actively participating in all the events as well as staying at Meher Prasad during the night so that the guests staying there should experience no lack and feel as though they were in fact residing at their own home. The day of the 23rd was celebrated with great enthusiasm and excitement and after having drunk to her full the wine of song and praise which was flowing strong throughout the day, She departed from Dogra's residence at 11.30 P.M. Feeling exhausted from the days programs, beginning at Meher Dham in the morning, Meher Prasad in the afternoon and finally Dogra's residence in the night, Prakash Wati decided to retire at Kishan Agencies in order to avoid the strain of spending another night at Meher Prasad.

On her arrival at Kishan Agencies with her nurse Kamla, they found Kishan Singh to be still awake awaiting their arrival. They all proceeded to talk about the most magnificent programmes which had passed on that day of the 23.3.82 till 12.00 midnight, at which time Kishan Singh retired for the night. The nurse slept in the adjoining room with the door between the two rooms remaining opened. Prakash Wati's son-in-law, Major O.P. Verma, had come to Dehradun especially for the Mela and as he was to return to Meerut, his place of posting in the early hours of the next morning, she requested him to sleep in the same room near her so they could continue to talk for a while longer.

At about 12.30 A.M. on the 24.3.82, Prakash Wati got up and called her nurse telling her that she was having an experience of uneasiness of the kind she had never had before. Kamla inquired whether Babuji (as she called Kishan Singh) be awakened or not. Prakash however would not allow her as she did not wish to disturb his sleep as by then hardly an hour had passed since he went to sleep.

Kishan Singh continued to sleep till about 1:25 when he was awakened. He found Prakash Wati crouched forward in a sitting position with her arms wrapped around herself in agony. On Kishan Singh's asking her as to how she was feeling she replied that she was having a severe pain in the heart. He then asked her if he should give her a sorbitrate tablet to put under her tongue but she replied that she had already done so. In the meantime the nurse had brought her some water to drink but without a spoon which was necessary because of Prakash Wati's sitting in a crouched position feeling her omission, Kishan Singh reprimanded her and she immediately returned to the kitchen to get a spoon. He then fed the water into Prakash's mouth. As the water went down, Kishan Singh noticed the queer sound of it passing in to her system. He then made her to lie







down thinking that the water might have given her relief and she was laid down very peacefully. He then called her to ask her how she was feeling, but no reply. Trying to ascertain whether she was unconscious or not, he felt her pulse but there was none. Major Verma who was by now aware of what was happening also could detect no pulse. The family doctor was called and he arrived at 1.45 but he had arrived fifteen minutes late for Prakash Wati had left us all at 1.30 when she laid down forever. the same morning

At 2: A.M. /A phonogram was then sent to Ahmednagar as under:-

MEHER BABA  
AHMEDNAGAR  
PRAKASH WATI JOINED BABA AT 1.30 AM 24Th  
KISHAN SINGH

Information about the passing away of Prakash Wati was also conveyed to her son, Brij Bhushan Sharma, to J.C. Sharma, Shri Bal Kishan Bakshi and also his son who came to Kishan Agencies on receiving the information. After discussion over the matter it was agreed that the people staying at Meher Prasad should not be informed of the death till 6:30 AM when the time for their bed tea was over. It was the wish of all that the visitors routine, according to the Mela programme, be disturbed as little as possible. and for this reason also it was decided later that the Meher Mafi programme be held as scheduled. Only those who were needed for essential services in carrying the body to Haridwar or who had a particular desire to go, were to accompany the body. All others particularly those from outstations were requested to attend the function at Meher Mafi and those who so wished could see the body after the Sankirtan there when the truck transporting Prakash Wati's body was to pass by on the Haridwar road which runs very near to Meher Mafi.

When the news was given out the next morning, it was a stab of greif in the heart of the Dehradun Baba family and those who knew her were immediately struck by an irreparable sense of loss. Soon mourners and well-wishers came streaming into Kishan Agencies to catch perhaps one last glimpse of that great lady who had served Baba to the very end and whom all took as their mother. Many came rushing into Kishan Agencies maddened with greif and all their weeping and wailing brought little releif to their hearts burdened by the thought that one, most precious to their hearts, was no more. Yet the wall of greif could not vanquish the happy thought that yes indeed Prakash Wati's end was a glorious one, and now her heart's desire has been fulfilled both in this world and in the next. The appearance of Prakash Wati's body was as though she were sleeping and what a happy dream she must be dreaming as her face displayed a broad smile for all to witness.

Many practical details now had to be taken care of to ensure that the cremation ceremony to take place that afternoon would go smoothly. Soon two three-tonners were arranged to carry the body and to accomodate all those wishing to go to Haridwar.

Before the body's departure for its journey to Haridwar, the Master's Prayer, Prayer of Repentance and Baba's Arti was performed. The first stop in the journey was Meher Dham, where Arti was performed and then the body was taken to Meher Prasad where again Arti was performed. At the request of Kishan Singh, Prakash Wati's body was placed for a few minutes at the spot where she used to sit during Sankirtan of Meher Prasad.



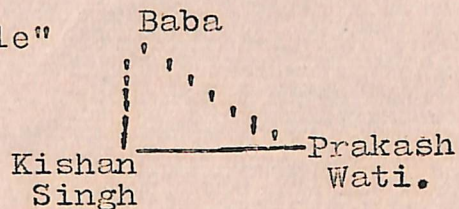




When the convey reached that point on Haridwar Road which crosses the road leading to Meher Mafi, A crowd of Baba Lovers had already gathered there waiting for the pier. At their insistance the pier was once again taken down and Baba's Arti was performed. Thus the body as it proceeded on the final stage of its journey to Haridwar, had its due honour as had never been witnessed before in Dehradun.

The body reached Haridwar at about 3:30 P.M. and for the last time Baba arti was performed and Prakash Wati's last remains were consumed to the flames amidst the shouting of the slogan "Avtar Meher Baba Ki Jai" Avtar Meher Baba Ki Jai ; Avtar Meher Baba Ki Jai...."

Here now ends the "Divine" Triangle"



which was graciously formed by Beloved Baba when he was staying here in 1953 and when on one fine morning He was pleased to say that we three ( Baba, Kishan Singh and Prakash Wati) will work jointly and so for that purpose He drew a Triangle :-

On the 31.1.69 this triangle took the form of a straight line, when Baba had dropped His Physical Body and ~~since Prakash Wati has been~~ with drawn by Him, ~~and~~ only a point now remains in the form of Kishan Singh.

#### STATEMENT BY KAMLA, PRAKASH WATI'S NURSE.

Thus Prakash Wati has merged into the infinite Prakash (light) exactly when Baba wished and the moment she had accomplished everything with cent per cent success, he called her at that very instant at 1:30 A.M., the 24.3.82 to be reunited with her Compassionate Father. However for Kishan Singh, the thought that Prakash Wati had not taken Baba's name at the last moment was plaguing his mind. That one who had surrendered her whole life to Baba, should not remember him at the last, seemed an impossibility to him. How could he escape the torment of such a thought now that the very facts were staring him in the face?,

However in that state of worry the thought crossed Kishan Singh's mind to ask Prakash Wati's nurse as to what had transpired between her and Prakash Wati before he had been awakened. On asking her she at once began to weep and said:- "When Behnji (Prakash Wati) ~~was~~ asked me to get up at 12.30 A.M, I saw that she was experiencing great pain. I asked her if I should have Babuji (Kishan Singh) get up, but she wanted that he should have more rest. She then asked me to press her body in hopes of getting some releif. She complained about some pain she was having in her heart. I again asked Behnji whether I should awaken Babuji, but still she did not agree.

"Behnji then started giving me sermons about Baba and told me that He is God and I should hold fast to His Darman till the very end. He will remove all my difficulties if I love him.

"As she was talking about Baba she suddenly said "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai" to which she asked me to repeat it. Again she said the words and I repeated it and then a third time she spoke the words "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai" and I followed suit. And again for the third time I asked Behnji whether or not I should ask Babuji or Major Om to get up to which she did not agree.

She then told me to read a pamphlet lying on the shelf near Kishan Singh's bed in which were written the Master's Prayer,







Prayer of Repentance and Baba's Arti. Having read them she asked me to bring some water for her to drink which I brought and after drinking it she said that I would find a bottle of water before Baba's photo in the adjoining room, which she had brought from Baba's Samadhi on the last Amartithi programme and I should bring that water and also awaken Bauji. As I was leaving to bring the water I asked Bauji to get up and when I returned with the water I saw <sup>him</sup> pressing her back to alleviate her pain. Bauji then asked me to press her back but as I was not pressing it properly I was made to stop and then sent to the kitchen to bring a spoon to help Prakash Wati in drinking the water and ~~he~~ <sup>she</sup> continued to press her back. But no sooner I approached the kitchen I was shocked to see a very long figure all in white standing outside the kitchen. I tried to look at the face of the figure but I found that the face kept rising as I looked up and I could not make out who it was. Gathering my courage, I took a teaspoon and brought it to Bauji who then fed some water into her mouth. A queer feeling came over me when I heard the sound of the water passing down towards her stomach. Behnji was then laid down and asked as to how she was feeling. Getting no reply, her pulse was taken but no pulse could be found. Major Om and myself also tried to find her pulse : "but with no success." Immediately the doctor was called. The doctor arrived at 1.45 and he confirmed that Prakash Wati had passed away".

Having heard Kamla's statement, Kishan felt a great relief to know that Prakash Wati had indeed remembered Baba in her dying moments.

MEHER LOVERS MOURN THE LOSS OF SISTER PRAKASH WATI.

Ahmednagar 24.3.82.

"MEHERAZAD MEN AND WOMEN MANDALI FEEL YOUR INTENSE BEREAVEMENT AT LOSS OF PRAKASHWATI'S COMPANIONSHIP BUT ALSO WE REJOICE IN OUR DEAR PRAKASHWATI'S RELEASE INTO BLISSFUL PRESENCE OF HER ETERNAL BELOVED AVATAR MEHER BABA. SHE LOVED AND SERVED HER LORD GOD WITH ALL HER HEART AND HELPED MANY A HEART TO DO SO. SHE IS INDEED BLESSED.

"ERUCH".

Poona 30.3.82.

"Prakashwati will live in the memory of Meher lovers all over the world. Prakashwati will be remembered more by those whose life she has brightened with the Prakash of Avatar Meher Baba's love. Not only in the Meher-Vrindawan of Dehradun, but in the Vindrawan of Meher Baba World that is springing up for the New Humanity to flourish. Prakashwati will be remembered and her life of love ~~for~~ and service in the cause of Meher Baba will remain ever living inspiration.

"K.K. Ramakrishnan".

BOMBAY 3.4.82.

"Smt. Prakash Wati was the Live wire for spreading the message of love of Avatar Meher Baba and single mindedly and with ~~an~~ utmost sincerity devoted herself to this task till the last. We, at the Bombay Centre had the honour <sup>visited</sup> the privilege of meeting her, when she personally <sup>our</sup> centre and gave Baba Lovers of Bombay an opportunity to







to hear her experiences and wonderful work she was doing for Beloved Baba, for Baba lovers of Dehradun and elsewhere. We will miss her terribly as will also all Baba lovers of Dehradun. In recent months within a very short spell, Beloved Baba has chosen to snatch away from us a few of the close and most devoted disciples. (Dara M. Katrak, vice President, Avatar ~~Meher~~ Meher Baba Bombay Centre).

U.S.A. 28/5/82.

"She was a very fine woman who radiated Baba's love and we are glad that we had the opportunity to spend some time with her when we were in India. We know that she was one of the pillars of the Baba work in Dehradun, and that she will be sorely missed. Her one-pointed and forceful love for Baba was inspirational to us and sometimes I found she even looked like Baba when she was talking. "Jai Baba".

(Susan Lutgengorf).

Jhansi 31/3/82.

"A Great Baba Lover and worker has been taken away by Baba.....Prakash Wati has loved Baba whole heartedly. She has devoted her every breath to her eternal Beloved Baba. She has worked a lot and enormously in Baba's Cause. We lovers will ever remember her major contribution in Baba's Cause."

(P.N. Jogdand)

Poona 28/2/82.

"In spite of her ill health, she had a strong will power to stand up to the situation so far as it concerned Baba's work. Dehradun Baba Lovers, most of whom had not seen Baba will very much miss her leadership. To me, Dehradun, without Prakash Wati is an intolerable thought....Meher Prasad will remain as a standing memory of Mataji.

(Pratap G. Ahir)

Delhi 25.4.82.

"(Parkash Wati) lived and lay her life in the cause of Baba in whom she has merged, after playing her role successfully at the most appropriate time... Baba wanted her to come to Him after her desire was fulfilled at the inauguration of Meher Prasad in the construction of which she played a major role".

(S.B.L. Saxena).

Narsari 8.4.82.

"She has sung for her Beloved Baba since twenty nine years, Baba had promised to be at the time of her singing and she has had many many experiences knowing fully well that Baba was present at the time of her Kirton. She is a blessed soul who has not gone to her heavenly abode







but has merged into the infinitude of Avatar Meher Baba.

She has been liberated from the cycle of births and deaths. She is now enjoying eternal bliss.

(Dr. H.P. Bharucha)

POONA 24.3.82

"prakash Mother resides in Beloved Baba's Daaman.  
Condolences to all. Jai Baba.

(Chopra)

DEHRADUN 24.3.82

Deedee Prakash, Prakash of and from Prakash Infinite Baba, called away from us to merge into love for Baba. Your smiles and gestures inspired us to love the lord of Love, Avatar Meher Baba more and more. O soul, residing within the physical body, recognized in the name of Prakash Wati may you find noble rest and relax peacefully and eternally in the Oversoul, Avatar Meher Baba.

(B.K. Misra)

BOMBAY 3.3.82

"So Sister Prakash Wati has won the race to Beloved Baba. She must have breathed her last serving her Beloved Master as it was the day of the Meher Majri Mela. Indeed she is most fortunate but her gain is the loss of all of us, as she is no longer with us. Sister Prakash Wati was always Baba's, is with Baba and will always be with her Beloved, whom she served with unflinching and single-minded devotion.

(Adi P. Ghaswala)



It has been found that the information of the above mentioned person is not correct. The person is not a member of the organization.

Very truly yours,

CONFIDENTIAL 3-3-82

Enclosed for the Bureau are the following documents:

(3 pages)

CONFIDENTIAL 3-3-82

Enclosed for the Bureau are the following documents:

1. A letterhead memorandum dated 1/15/82, from the New York Office to the Bureau, regarding the activities of the above mentioned person.

2. A letterhead memorandum dated 1/15/82, from the New York Office to the Bureau, regarding the activities of the above mentioned person.

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(3 pages)

CONFIDENTIAL 3-3-82

The above mentioned person is a member of the organization. The person is not a member of the organization. The person is not a member of the organization.

(3 pages)



MEHERA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

With Baba's utmost Grace, the auspicious Birthday of Mehera Ma was lovingly celebrated at Meher Prasad on the 23/22/81. A number of Baba Lovers, men, women, and children attended the function to offer their respect and regards to Mehera.

In the absense of the availability of a good photo of Mehera Ma, a young girl named Anjali, 14 years of age was requested to play the role of Mehera, as she had been regularly attending Baba's Kirtan at Meher Prasad and her appearance resembled that of Mehera Ma and it was felt that she would be the ideal girl.

The hall was nicely decorated with buntings and balloons and a large-sized flower garland was placed on Baba's portrait by Mrs. Ahir and she also garlanded the girl representing Mehera.

In memory of Meher Kanta Bakshi, a cushion was placed at the spot where she used to sit during kirtan at Meher Prasad. On it was placed a chit bearing the inscription, "reserved for Meher Kanta Bakshi"

Baba's ways are mysterious. After the kirtan had started and the program was going full swing, Kishan Singh suddenly entered the hall from outside. Raising his hands in wonderment, he asked in a very loud voice as to what was going on there with all the charming and costly decorations and with the brilliant lights fitted in the hall. The dialogue which followed is reproduced as below.

**Mata Ji (Parkash Wati):** Today is the 23rd of December, the day of Mehra Ma's sacred birthday and all Baba Lovers have assembled here in love to celebrate it.

**Babuji (Kishan Singh) :** Who is Mehera? I don't know who she is.

**Mataji :-** She is the one chosen to play the conterpart to the Avatar. Just as Radha was to Krishna and Sita was to Rama, so is Mehera to Meher Baba, the Avatar of the Age.

**Babuji:-** I have never heard of Mehera's birthday being celebrated before. Is her birthday celebrated only here in Dehradun or at other centers as well?

**Mataji:-** Yes. At many centers in India and abroad. At the time when Baba was in body it was celebrated every year at Meherazad and even now it continues to be celebrated there.

**Babuji:-** What? Have you seen it for yourself or are you misusing your talent to draw me into your cult?

**Mataji:-** I had attended one of Mehera's Birthday functions held there when Baba was himself present.

**Babuji:-** True or are you using another trick to hide the truth from me? If true then give me an idea of what you saw there.

**Mataji:-** It is true, true, 100% true. It was in 1963, on the 23rd of December, when I went to Ahmednagar with



INTERVIEW OF MR. JAMES H. HARRIS

With 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the 1st of March, 1934, I was called to the telephone by a number of calls. I was told that the telephone was being used by a man who was in the room.

In the course of the investigation of the case, I was told that the man who was in the room was a man who was in the room. I was told that the man who was in the room was a man who was in the room.

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Freni Narawala. Meher Dham was under construction then and we were carrying a marble slab and it was to be sanctified by Baba touching it with His feet before fitting it in Meher Dham below Baba's Murti (Statue).

Babuji :- I am asking you for light and you are putting me in darkness with your tall talk. What do I know about a slab and Baba's Murti? Tell me what happened at Mehera's Birthday function? Be quick about it.

Mataji:- What is the big rush. Have some patience. You want to jump to the 7th plane when you know nothing about what a plane is and how they must be crossed before arriving there. Now listen carefully. When we reached Ahmednagar, we first want to see Baba's Secretary, Adi K. Irani. On seeing us he advised us to be quick to arrive at Meherazad, where Mehera's Birthday function was in progress and so we both rushed to that place. On arriving there, as I was approaching Mandali Hall where the birthday function was being held, some members of Baba's Mandali who were standing outside met me and asked me as to how was Kishan Singh, to which I replied that he was fine. Then they said that he had a heart attack but Baba had saved him. I was under the impression that they were merely trying to tease me as brothers are wont to do to their sisters after meeting each other after long intervals and so I did not believe them.

Babuji:- What is the timing for today's function?

Mataji:- The programme is for one hour, from 4.00 P.M to 5.P.M.

Babuji:- Ha! Just as I thought, You are just trying to mark time to save your position by spinning a concocted tale. Its already 4.30 and you've been filling the time with extraneous talk about slabs and statues and about this character Kishan Singh who supposedly had a heart attack. What do I care for Kishan Singh and whether or not he had one or ten heart attacks!

Mataji:- Don't talk nonsense; I am talking about you! Have you become so old now that you don't even remember having had a heart attack on 23.12.62 and you mean to say you don't know who saved you?.

Babuji:- Hmm... Now that I think about it; yes I did have a heart attack on that date. So what of it? I am asking you about Mehera's birthday function and you are trying to confuse me by asking me about my health. Stop delaying and stick to the point.

Mataji:- I have <sup>not</sup> yet left the point. It's you, who, spending along like the mail train keep getting derailed and blame me for the results of your haste. Look here. You slow down now otherwise at your age of 81 you will surely be having another heart attack. Listen carefully. As we both entered Mandali Hall we found the hall to be most beautifully decorated. The most pleasing sight was to see Baba sitting with Mehera and the lady Mandali. Other ladies were also present, attired in costly costumes as was befitting to the occasion. All present were in a gay and festive mood, happy in the thought of being in the presence of the Lord Meher Baba and His Mehera.







On seeing me, Baba was pleased to say that both Freiny and myself were fortunate to have arrived at this most opportune time to be able to attend the function. Baba then asked me as to how was Kishan Singh and I told Him that he was perfectly well when I left Dehradun. Baba then said that Kishan Singh was suffering <sup>from</sup> a heart attack in Dehradun and seeing me worried over this information, Baba was quick to add "That I will see to. You should not worry yourself about Kishan Singh's illness but put your heart and mind in the function going on here". Now you should know O. Kishan Singhji that besides Meher's Birthday, today, the 23rd of December is also the Birthday of your heart attack and Baba's Grace which saved you.

Now listed further. Heart rending songs were being sung by various persons and then suddenly Baba asked me to sing a ghazal which I lovingly did. Dr. Goher's younger sister, Katy, gave a performance in Japanese dress, holding a Japanese fan in her hand in a delicate manner and with striking effect.

Then came the time for the cutting of the cake. It had been placed in the back of the hall in a garden type of enclosure strewn with gorgeous decorations. The cake was exceptionally long in size giving a lovely appearance. The cake was cut with Baba holding Mehera's hand while the atmosphere sounded and resounded with the Happy Birthday chorus. The first slice Mehera cut in Baba's mouth and Baba then put a slice in Mehera's mouth as all present were cheering and clapping at the scene. The other slices of cake were then distributed to all the participants by Baba Himself and the sound of "Happy Birthday to Mehera" continued to resound in the Hall. Then more sweets, both lovely in appearance and delicious in taste were served.

After most of the visitors had left the place, the time then came for us to place the marble slab before Baba with a request for him to sanctify it by touching it with His feet. Smilingly and in a very happy mood, Baba had the slab placed before Him then stood on it. Exerting a downward pressure on the slab, Baba said, "Now I am all gone in it" Bowing down to Baba and expressing our regards to all others we then retired from Mehermazad for our return journey back to Dehradun.

Babuji:- Now I see. Baba's divinity has touched me through your narration and my heart is filled with respect and admiration for Mehera and so now I also join you in the celebration of Mehera's Birthday.

After the charming drama as enacted by Kishan Singh and Prakash Wati was over, the singing of devotional songs were begun. Shushma, with her elequent voice, and with her deft hands, beating out a magical rhythm on the dholak, sang "Khushiah mano premion" (Rejoice O you Baba Lovers) to the clapping of hands by all present there. Following Shushma were two men who delighted the audience with their performance of quawali, however due to lack of time, the singing programme could not be continued longer.

Now was the time to cut the cake, which had been placed on a decorated table in the hall bearing the inscription "Happy Birthday to Mehera". With the help of Prakash Wati the girl representing Mehera cut the cake and all the Hall was filled with the Happy sound of "Happy Birthday to Mehera, May Baba grant a long life to Mehera to enable her to extend Baba's Grace and Love to us







all" and so on, simultaneously with shouts of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai;" The first slice of cake was placed before Baba's portrait by her and the next one was placed by Prakash Wati in her mouth and then the slices were distributed to all present in the hall. Next came the distribution of the birthday gifts to the children. A very large number of children had come for the occasion, about 60 in number.

Firstly our "Young Mehera" was presented with a pen and then all the children were told to line up in a queue. Advancing forward, each in turn received their gift from Mehera and returned to their seat happy in the thought that they were now the proud owner of a brand new pen all the while singing in chorus "Tu Ram Ki Sita hai, Krishna Ki Radha Hai aur Meher Baba ki Mehera Hai. The presence of so many children gave the function a real "Happy birthday" atmosphere as their spontaneous laughter filled the air in the hall.

#### Opening of Meher Baba Library at Meher Prasad.

To the assembled crowd, Kishan Singh explained that as the number of Baba Lovers continues to increase we are faced with the growing problem of providing them with sufficient Baba literature to read. The objects of the Avatar Meher Prabhu Charitable Trust enjoins upon the opening of a library in order to make available to more and more people Baba's messages of Love, His Teachings and His Philosophy and so today the library is being opened in Meher Prasad by Mehera under the name of "Meher Baba Library". A number of books have been donated by Dehradun Baba Lovers and Varinder Singh's share is appreciated. Some costly books had also been donated by Marge Liboiron of Canada. The Trust then requested Mehera to bless the library in the fulfilling of its mission in spreading Baba's message.

#### MEHERA'S BIRTHDAY FUNCTION, MEHER DHAM.

Mehera Birthday programme was also celebrated at Meher Dham after the function ended at Meher Prasad. There was a sizable crowd present in Meher Dham and after the Kirtan programme, cake was cut there by Kapur's daughter and distributed to all along with packets of sweets.

#### BABA'S 88th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

As was the usual practice in previous years Baba's birthday Function was held from 10 o'clock on the night of the 24th till 5 o'clock in the morning of the 25th. The whole night was a continuous love feast from dusk to dawn in celebration of praise for the Bounteous one. At the beginning of the function Kishan Singh addressed the crowd with a few words on Baba and had to return shortly thereafter to Kishan Agencies to attend to Prakash Wati who was unable to be present at the function due to her state of ill-health. As the night proceeded the atmosphere of merriment became infectious to all present and soon no one could resist indulging in spontaneous joking and exchanges as the discussions became more lively. Each singer engaged himself in the spirit of friendly competition as they tried to put more and more life into their expressions. During the tea and lunch break at 2.00 A.M. everyone refreshed himself and the function proceeded in its attempt to reach new heights. As five o'clock was approaching even the bravest souls of the party were showing signs from lack of sleep. However Bal Kishan Bakshi the senior member of the party seemed to put the younger members to shame as he continued to sing







ghazals with the verve and gusto of one who had freshly begun. The function finally ended as per scheduled time with arti and distribution of prasad and all proceeded back to their homes to sleep and to dream about the heavenly time which had just transpired.

Kishan Singh and Prakash Wati who as previously mentioned could not be present at the function at that time performed the Master's Prayer, Prayer of Repentance and arti in Kishan Agencies at 5.00 A.M. and followed by tha and Prasad.

The following message was received from Brother Eruch in commemoration of Baba's Birthday.

Jai Meher Baba.

My dear brothers and sisters,

Eighty-eight years ago, on this day, the Ancient One came once again as Avatar Meher Baba to walk in our midst as man amongst men.

His Advent, time and again, is the fulfilment of life, longing and hope for those who are not <sup>for</sup> themselves, but are His and His alone. For them, this day of <sup>the</sup> Birthday of their Lord and Master Avatar Baba is the day of endless rejoicing.

On this 88th Birthday of our Lord Avatar Meher Baba, all men and women mandali at Meherazad join all those gathered at different places in the world to celebrate His Birthday with heart's-chorus of AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI : ! ! We send our loving wishes of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba's love-blessing for all Baba-Lovers to enthroned Him in their hearts so that, as Beloved Meher Baba has said, we should live such a life of Love, Sacrifice, Forgiveness and Tolerance that others will love Him.

Happy Baba Birthday to all!

Yours lovingly,

(Eruch)

DEHRADUN MEHER MELA. 1982.

To keep the memory aglow of the first Public Darshan given by Beloved Baba at Dehradun on 23.3.53 and of the inauguration of Meher Dham in 1964, Meher Mela has been held here from 22.3.82 to 24.3.82.

According to the program which was drawn for the Mela celebrations, Shri Aloka Bhai, representing the Mandali of Meherazad was to be present as the chief guest.

This time it could not be visualised as to how many persons would be attending the function though a fairly large number of Baba Lovers, men, women and children were certainly expected.

In the program which was sent to the Centers in and out of India, it was stated that this year all visitors



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were to stay at Meher Prasad and they should proceed to that place on their arrival in Dehradun.

To ensure that all the basic necessities at Meher Prasad were provided for and that Meher Prasad would be in a position to extend a smiling greeting to all the arriving guests, Prakash Wati Sharma accompanied by her Nurse Kamla went to Meher Prasad in the early morning of 21.2.82, under the impression that the possibility of some of the pilgrims arriving on that date could not be ruled out. And so it proved correct when some visitors arrived soon after her reaching the place. Prakash Wati's gift of making others feel welcomed is an established fact in the hearts of all those who have visited Dehradun and she lost no time in greeting those, who had just arrived at Baba's door. "Jai Baba! Jai Baba!" rang through the air as the host welcomed each of the guests with a loving embrace. It was Prakash Wati's supreme pleasure to meet old friends and to welcome new ones and as love begets love, others could not help but feel the same pleasure. And so soon the hall was filled with lively conversation as Prakash inquired about the health of others and various other news about the respective places of the guests. And then the conversation began to draw on the inexhaustible store of personal reminiscences of Baba as each Lover inspired by the memory of some touching moment could not restrain the urge to speak out. Thus the mood for the Mela was set and the hearts of all were filled with sense of happy expectation over the events to come.

In the meantime Prakash Wati continued to supervise over the final arrangements in Meher Prasad. She remained in Meher Prasad that night to ensure that proper arrangements would be made for early morning bed tea and break fast at Bakshi's. Next day 22nd March in the afternoon Prakash and Kamla proceeded to the first programme of the Mela at Madan Kapoor's residence.

The sky was overcast and the threat of rain seemed imminent. Thus as the programme began simultaneously the activity of raising a pandal was taking place. Soon the Kirtan was well on its way, filling all with excitement. At the same time there was a mood of expectancy as to when Aloba Bhai would arrive with the Delhi group as they seemed to have experienced some trouble with their vehicle on the way. However before the programme's end, a wave of excitement suddenly filled the air as Aloba and the Delhi group began to file into the pandal. Aloba, who is always very particular about timing, immediately apologized to Baba for his late arrival, even though the cause of delay was not their fault but due to a breakdown in the vehicle.

No sooner the programme was over at Kapoor's place than everyone left for Shri Sunder Lal residence for the programme there. The programme was held on the roof and in the midst of the programme it began to rain forcing everyone to seek shelter below. However the rain soon stopped and all returned to the roof to resume the programme. At the conclusion of the programme dinner was served and all returned to their respective places. Prakash Wati and her nurse Kamla returned to Meher Prasad to retire for the night to ensure that arrangements there would proceed smoothly and the guests be ready in time for the function which was to begin in Meher Dham at 9.30 A.M. till 1.00 P.M. on the 23rd of March.

Function at Meher Dham on 23.3.82.

The function started on time and Baba's 7 colored flag was unfurled by Aloba Bhaiji. Keki Desai from Delhi then garlanded Baba. In the course of the programme Kishan Singh gave a brief account of how the Meher Mela was started at Dehradun and how Meher Dham was built as a result of the Divine



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vibrations which Baba left in His visit to this place. Kishan Singh also described the two Public Darshans given by Baba here in 1953 and also at Chorhapur (now Vikas Nagar) how He dictated the Highest of the High and the Master's Prayer and also recounted a number of visits paid by Baba to bow down to Masters, Sadhus and Saints, and their Samadhis, and how He would bow down at the feet of the poor. The programme was the main even of the day and it was found that a record size crowd of over 500 attended the celebration. Because of so many speakers and singers to be accommodated in the programme, it could not be ended at the scheduled time 1.00 P.M. In order to be ready for the programme which was to start at 3.00 P.M. in Meher Prasad, Kishan Singh and Prakash Wati left at that time and proceeded to Bakshiji's place to have their lunch and then off to Meher Prasad. When the programme finally ended all went to have their meals at Bakshiji's residence.

PROGRAMME AT MEHER PRASAD. 3.00 to 5.30 P.M.

People started assembling at Meher Prasad as and when they had their lunch and most of them joined before 3.00 P.M. On Alobaji's arrival, as at Meher Dham, he unfurled Baba's 7 colored flag. While doing so he explained that the flag has seven colours as are seen in the rainbow in the sky and how that flag was accepted by Baba when it was introduced many many years earlier. He further explained that the unfurling of the flag serves as a reminder to us how Baba's Grace is being showered over not only those who were present but in fact everywhere in the universe.

Alobaji then garlanded Baba's portrait and the function then started with Dr. B.K. Mishra M.A. P.H.D repeating 5 times "Hari, Paramatma, Allah, Ahuramazda, God, Yazdan, Hu" Bhajans by Mandali from outside Dehradun then started and continued for some time.

Prakash Wati in her brief speech, welcomed Brother Aloba and all others who had come for the functions, from India and abroad and also from Dehradun for the kind visit paid by them. She, however, expressed her regret over the lack of space in the hall, to accommodate the large gathering that had come and she apologized for the inconvenience thus caused to them.

Meher Prasad is now owned by Avatar Meher Prabhu Charitable Trust Dehradun which was actually sponsored by Prakash Wati Sharma when she dedicated Meher Prasad to the Trust, on 23/3/80. Mr. Kapoor, Secretary of the Trust, read the account of the collected donations in cash and in kind which were given by various Lovers. Brother J.C. Sharma, Chairman of the Trust, thanked the audience for the visit kindly paid by them and after the Prayer of Repentance, Aloba was in the forefront infusing the Lovers with enthusiasm, by distributing Baba's photos which the recipients were to get framed and placed on the walls at their respective residences. Immediately there was a great show of hands with people rushing to get near to Aloba in hopes of receiving Baba's photo. However Aloba seemed to have a knack for spotting those in the background, who, though not as bold as those who rushed forward, yet were nevertheless equally eager







to have Baba's Photo. In response to the wish on the part of the recipient, to love Baba more and more, Brother Aloha, while distributing the photos, explained that he was transferring to others, the love which Baba had given to him. Whenever Aloha attends any function, he always carries with himself a good number of photos to give them free and Baba's Prasad from the Samadhi. After the distribution of photos was finished, Baba's arti was performed and the function ended at 5.30 P.M. after distribution of sweets and tea to all as prasad.

The remarkable point here is that during the whole time when the function was in progress, Prakash Wati, possibly to make more room for the visitors, did not sit at her usual seat inside the hall but instead, sat on a chair in the veranda while facing and gazing at Baba's portrait, continued watching the proceedings inside the hall. All the while cheerfully, smiling with eagerness and happiness and one could not help but feel that her smile was the spontaneous expression of her inward thanks to the Lord for the fulfilment of her real inner desire.

#### FUNCTION AT DOGRA'S RESIDENCE.

From Meher Prasad the party proceeded to Dogra's house to attend the Kirtan which was to start there at 6.30 PM. Not wishing to miss even a single minute of Baba's Kirtan Prakash Wati also proceeded there with her nurse in a three wheeler.

Due to the rains the programme was held in a room inside the house. As more people began to arrive, it was found that the room was not large enough to accommodate them and so the adjoining room began to fill up with the newcomers. Brother Aloha was giving his talk at the time and those in the adjoining room could not properly hear Aloha's speech. More persons kept arriving and the saving grace was that the rains had stopped and so all joined together in the courtyard to continue the feast of music and song.

There the fervour and excitement continued to increase by leaps and bounds. Prakash Wati was so swept up by the general mood that she could no longer contain her ecstasy and at once stood up and burst into song, amazing everyone with her enthusiasm. Lost in the mood of the song, she soon found herself clapping her hands and her rapture was complete when she began to rhythmically dance and those witnessing this scene felt transported into the court of the Beloved as every movement and gesture was in itself becoming a song of praise to the Lord.

Shri Lekh Raj Ulfat, Principal of Nanya Dunya who was present at that moment, later on remarked at the condolence gathering held at Panchayati Mandir on 3.4.82, that the energy and vitality at the time of her singing that song at Dogra's place made him to forget that her age was 68 years but rather he felt that she was a girl of about 16 or 17 years of age.

The programme at Dogra's residence ended happily and all eagerly partook of the delicious feast which was then spread before all. Finally the crowd began to reluctantly disperse as though not wishing to leave the festive atmosphere lingering on after the program's end. Prakash Wati, exhausted by the day's programmes, returned to Kishan Agencies after making sure that proper arrangements would be made for the next morning's bed tea.







VISITORS TO DEHRADUN IN BABA'S LOVE :-  
JAN AND JOAN VISIT DEHRADUN.

On the afternoon of 16.2.82, Jan and Joan Sanoucci from New York arrived at Kishan Agencies. They had left Ahmednagar about a week or so earlier with the intention of visiting various places in Northern India beginning with Mussoorie and their next stop was to be Dehradun. Enroute a young lady, Km. F.K. Chaula of Prem Nagar, Dehradun, who as it turned out was also getting down at Clock tower and offered to accompany them to Kishan Agencies. Shortly thereafter she left but not before persuading Jan and Joan that they should pay a visit to her place in Prem Nagar.

After having had afternoon tea the conversation immediately focussed on Beloved Baba. Joining in the talk was J.C. Sharma, chairman of the Trust and Rajinder Sharma, son of Brij Bhushan Sharma. So engrossed were they in the talk that they did not leave until 9.00 o'clock at night at which time they were escorted in three wheeler to Meher Prasad by Rajinder Sharma and from there to Meedo Grand Hotel for their supper. After having their supper they proceeded back to Meher Prasad to retire for the night.

Early next morning they visited Meher Dham and had their breakfast with Bal Kishan Bakshi. Then they came to Kishan Agencies at about 9.30, at which time when, according to the previous day's arrangement, the girl from Prem Nagar came and brought the guests to her place. On later inquiry from Prakash Wati, it was found that the girl originally came from the same town in Pakistan where Prakash Wati had lived and strangely enough it turned out that Prakash Wati's family and her family were in some way related.

On their return from Prem Nagar, they had their lunch at Kishan Agencies and resumed their talk about Baba. The mood of the talk created such an impression in their minds that they decided to extend their stay for another day and so they changed their departure date from 17.2.82. After having their supper at Kishan Agencies, both retired to Meher Prasad after paying a brief visit to Freni Narawalla.

Next morning they returned to Kishan Agencies and once again the topic of conversation was Baba. Except for an interval of about two hours when they took tea with Freni, they spent the whole day at Kishan Agencies till 7.30 P.M. at which time they left for the railway station to Board the Mussoorie Express for Delhi.

During the course of the day's talk Joan expressed that she knew little about who Meher Baba was and the little that she did know was the result of casual talks she had had with John. Somehow the talk at Kishan Agencies opened her to express her desire to know more about Baba and she asked for some literature on Baba to read. Very pleased by her sudden enthusiasm, they gave her a compendium of the Preparatory Lessons delivered by Kishan Singh at Meher Prasad. These seemed most appropriate as they were prepared especially for those new to Baba. They quickly absorbed her interest and no sooner she had read them she asked for more literature, to which she was given a copy of Newsletter No.2 which she read with equal enthusiasm and interest. On demanding for more literature to read, she was given a copy of Prakash Wati's Dairy "My Compassionate Father" but due to lack of time she could not read much of it. She expressed her desire for a copy of all the literature she had read, however spare copies were not available. She asked why such good literature had not yet been printed and published. It was explained to her that efforts were being made for that in the East and West and that it







must be published in His time. She was however promised to be supplied with a copy of any literature issued from Dehradun.

Asked as how the visitors enjoyed their stay in Meher Prasad, both of the guests gave their appreciation and admiration of the place. John, however made the complaint that compared with the rest of Meher Prasad, the kitchen could stand lot of room for improvement. It was pointed out that the improvement of the kitchen was felt to be important, but it would have to wait for later as the funds were all being diverted into the main construction work, which was as of yet incomplete. Wishing that something be done to improve the appearance of the kitchen they showed their kindness by donating some amount with the stipulation that it be used exclusively for improvements in the kitchen. Whilst accepting their donation with thanks, the Chairman of the Trust assured the visitors that their gift of love would be used for the purpose as they wished and that they would soon be apprised of the completion of the job as soon as possible.

Then came the inevitable, the time of departure had finally arrived. As the visitors were giving their farewells, Streams of tears were flowing from the eyes of Prakash Wati and Joan. Prakash Wati repeatedly implored them for a second visit next year. Thus they left leaving those in Kishan Agencies aglow with the feeling that they had just had a dip in Baba's love.

#### THADE FAMILY VISITS DEHRADUN.

On the 8th of March, we of Dehradun were pleased to have the company of the Thade family while on their touring of Northern India. In the limited time of three days, they visited all the Baba places, i.e. Meher Dham, Meher Prasad, and Meher Mafi, and Kishan Agencies, as well as many of the Baba Lovers here. For the period of their visit they stayed at Meher Prasad.

During the Monday Kirtan at Meher Prasad, Bro. Thade gave a talk, an incident of which is reproduced here:

"In the office where I was serving it so happened that one day I received the news that I was to be promoted and would be transferred to the District of Dhulia. As it was known that the people of that area were tribals, I was apprehensive about what the living conditions would be like amongst cattle, huts, and people with strange customs. However my real worry was over the difficulty in visiting Baba once I was living at such a distance.

However in the course of my next visit to Baba, He Himself brought up the subject of my pending transfer and I explained that I didn't want to go as I would be living at such a great distance from Baba and where would I find the opportunity of having His darshan. To this Baba told me that I must go and emphatically repeated twice "I am there".

"As it was, having no choice in the matter, I left on the appointed day and took up my posting in Dhulia. Arriving there, I was surprised to find instead of cattle and huts, all the signs of a modern town; tall buildings, scooters and cars and further more. In the course of my stay there, I experienced no difficulty adjusting to their ways and my relations with the people became very affectionate. On day, I went to a nearby village of the district in connection with my duties. While visiting a particular party



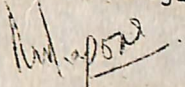




at the local temple there I was amazed to see that Baba's photo had been installed there. on inquiry, I found that there were many Baba Lovers in that village as well as in the surrounding villages. This news brought back the memory of Baba's assurance "I am there":: And how He had let me know in His own inimitable way".

JAI! MEHER BABA  
IN BELOVED BABA'S SERVICES.

Yours Lovingly,



( M. M. KAPOOR )

Secretary,

AVATAR MEHER PRABHU  
CHARITABLE TRUST  
MEHERPRASAD  
DEHRADUN



