

UM Amin Amen



Ahum I Am सोऽहम्

Avtaric Word



**Avatar
Meher Baba
Premotsav**



(Jabalpur : M. P. India – 5th & 6th May 1973)

Presidential Address By

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Brothers and Sisters : Jai Baba !

I am deeply conscious of the loving honour conferred upon me by being invited to preside over this unique global Pragnya Sammelan and Meher Premotsav. Our appreciative and loving congratulations go out to the organisers of this function and particularly to its esteemed convener Bro. Shri Girijanandanji Dubey to whom the apt title of Mahamahopadhyaya has been given by our Beloved Avatar Himself. It has been a pleasure for our Avatar

Meher Spiritual Academy to reendorse it wholeheartedly and jubilantly. I join all in lovingly welcoming our esteemed Bro. Shri Adi. K. Irani, who has kindly agreed to be our chief guest. And I need not conceal my unbounded joy to be in the midst of you all loving participants.

Invocation:- I invoke our Divine Beloved-Avatar MEHER BABA to kindly be with us all in His Divine Majesty. We establish Him in our hearts as the very Soul of souls and as God-the eternal and unfailingly sustaining essence of our very being. Even four years after His Mahaparinirvana or dropping of the physical body, lovers of the Beloved Avatar do experience His unfailing Divine Presence within their hearts and by their side and over their heads.

Gatherings of this type have undoubtedly an immense value. The Beloved Avatar Himself used to like them. They play an important role in the working out of His Divine Plan for Humanity. On the one hand, we have to maintain close contact with the world of Baba-Lovers, who directly or indirectly have drunk deep at the fountain-source of Immortality and Divine Love. On the other hand, we have to maintain our links with the evolving New Humanity at large, so that the divine dispensation of the Avatar can be passed on from generation to generation, without distortion or toning down.

Divine Wisdom in Avatar's Works:- The seething mass of present day mankind is exceptionally lucky and thrice-blessed because the lifegiving and comprehensive Teachings of the Beloved Avatar have this time got printed and published in the form of

numerous Books and Messages, during His own lifetime and by His own sanction. The critical and creative intelligence of our age has to get revetted to this perennial source of redeeming and inexhaustible Divine Wisdom. The Universities and other teaching bodies of the world will do well to get primarily and intesively interested in studying and bestowing freely the universal Teachings of the Avatar. The Torch of Light must be kept burning lest our age relapses into the dark ages immediately after the showering of redeeming Grace by the Incarnation. The Avatar as Truth and the Avatar as Love are inseparable aspects of His divinely complete personality. These creative releases in the dynamic Manifestation have to be recieved by each and all with open mind and open heart. This cooperative and harmonious functioning and equipoise of mind and heart has to be ensured by those, who do not wish to deprive themselves of any fraction of the inheritance showered on us all by the Ancient One, in His unfathomable completeness and inexhaustible infinity.

Inescapable Duty :- For those, whose sense of responsibility towards themselves or the posterity is not atrophied, it is crystal-clear that they can not avoid their inescapable duty in the present. Can we keep just idly waiting for the next Advent and merely mark time for centuries to come and sit on the fence ? The divine dynamism of the Avataric accelerating impulse to humanity has to be freely, fearlessly and widely transmitted for the benefit of that mass of humanity with which our destiny is interwoven and for the New Humanity of the future that is to come. One part of the Manifestation of the Beloved Avatar,

thus, has to be inevitably and by His will, in and through His own Lovers, who are essentially inseparable from Him.

What Next ? :- In the history of humanity, when some great spiritual Master or Leader has wound up earthly incarnation, his devotees and admirers have often been faced with the question, 'What Next?'. If he has, in his own life-time nominated a successor or successors for giving guidance to his fold, the problem is comparatively less complicated, though not always most satisfactory. There is and always will be a type of persons who need and seek some guide on the gross plane. The Beloved Avatar has often said that a Master in the gross body is indispensible to most persons on spiritual Path. The spiritual evolution of humanity proceeds not merely by certain values and principles but by the directives received through human agents stationed on different levels of consciousness.

Some significant factors in the Divine Hierarchy :- Without being apologetic about it, some significant classes of persons, particularly commissioned with spiritual working, might be briefly and passingly referred to, as a prelude to attempts at the answers to the momentous question of 'What Next?' (A) *The Master, Chargeman and His Circle of twelve*. (Adi's version of Master's description on p.71 of Perfect Master by C. B. Purdom.) (B) *The Spiritual Hierarchy* of 7000 spiritual beings (advanced or Perfect) in each *age* and (C) 56 Perfect Masters and 56 Perfect ones (Majzoobs-e-kamil) along with the Avatar in each *cycle*. (B) and (C) are mentioned by the Beloved Avatar, respectively on pages 231 & 230

of GOD SPEAKS. The *modus operandi* of the Spiritual Hierarchy also gets described. (p. 59. Jab. Ed. of Sparks of The Truth From Dissertations of Meher Baba—version by Dr. C. D. Deshmukh.) (D) *The Avatar and His Circle of 120*. I would like to quote the Beloved Avatar Himself briefly: “The process of the Incarnation of the Avatar is unique. Before taking on the physical body and descending into the world of duality, he gives to himself and the members of his circle special types of *sanskaras* known as *Vidnyani sanskaras*. The Circle of the Avatar always consists of one hundred and twenty members and all of them have to take an Incarnation when the Avatar takes an Incarnation. The taking of the *Vidnyani Sanskaras* before incarnating in the physical body is like drawing a veil upon himself and his Circle. After taking an Incarnation, the Avatar remains under this veil of *Vidnyani Sanskaras* until the time which has been fixed by himself. When the appointed time comes, he experiences his own original divinity and begins to work through the *Vidnyani Sanskaras*, which now have been transmuted into *Yogayoga Sanskaras* of the Universal Mind.

The members of the Circle remain under the veil of *Vidnyani Sanskaras* until they get realisation of God at the time fixed by the Avatar. . . .” (pp 47-48, Vol. III Discourses by Meher Baba. Sufism reoriented Inc.)

(E) **Baba's Mandali**:- Somewhat analogous is the phrase *Mandali*, which is clearly used in a very wide and liberal sense. It is the least rigid of the factors that are mentioned here. *In Life is a Jest*

(Jab. Edn. p. 58), the Beloved Avatar Himself explains Mandali in following words: "Who raised this point about the Mandali? There are so many others who are of the Mandali. What about so many who are not here? Most of them are gems. Are you not all of my Mandali? Is not your obedience equally great?"

Baba does not like pointed individual references to the Mandali members. There are so many amongst you who are gems. Look at Dr. D. M. Why should I not refer to them and many others amongst you present here? Why particular mention to some of the Mandali?

I tell you. *Those who love Baba and tell Baba's Love to others are His Mandali.* It won't make any difference whether they are near Baba or stay thousand miles away.

The functioning systems are not hypothetical but real:—The Beloved Avatar has not Himself treated the functioning systems mentioned here from A to E as assemblages of merely hypothetical entities. He allowed the 120 members of His Circle to be portrayed in His shrine, in anticipatory imagination. In Eluru Gardens, some of us were made to represent the 56 God-realised ones for the purposes of His paying His homage to them. Dr. Donkin was permitted to give names and details of many Masters in his Wayfareres. The saints, whom the Beloved Avatar contacted in Kumbh or Master Tours, in cognito, are real persons. When in seclusion, He gave orders to some, He is acting through real beings on inner planes.

General fluidity of categories of functional systems :- In theory there could be an overlapping, atleast in some degree, of the diverse categories of functional systems, mentioned by the Beloved Avatar (A to E). With the exception of Masts and a very few saints, the Beloved Avatar has scrupulously and dexterously avoided mentioning names in respect of these members of different categories of functioning systems. By resisting particularisation, even when invited to do so, he has eschewed a rigidity that is characteristic of a legal or ceremonial church-world. and kept at bay the possibility of organisations directed towards exploitation of mundane or supra-mundane power or status. The Beloved Avatar, has in His divine discretion, ensured a fair and delightful fluidity in the entire situation of his description and creation. Strange as it may seem, it is this very precious fluidity, (bestowed by the Avatar to His immediate environment) which lends infinite potency to the creative evolution of His revealed Truth. It facilitates unending and multi-dimensioned creative Manifestation of the Divine Impulse given by Him to each and all and to all these functioning systems, during His Avaric Role in the physical incarnation.

Answer to ' What Next ? ' in the light of this significant fluidity :- Let us now come back to the vexing question ' What Next ? ' The Beloved Avatar has, times without number, declared that He dose NOT want to establish sect, creed, religion, a set of dogmas, or types of organised churches with rigid rituals or ceremonies. Why then should we be surprised if the Beloved Avatar has not imitated others in naming one or more persons as solely his successors,

for carrying on His spiritual work ? He has eschewed traditional rigidity to which lesser ones have yielded. He has ensured a fluidity of developments and evolution with Avataric wisdom, trusting fully that those who have received His Truth will be able to discover its applications in changing circumstances.

Open Field :- He has given to His dear ones a vision that can not be caged, a spirit that can not be enthralled, a hope that can not be defeated, a courage that can not be cowed down, and His own refreshing spiritual companionship that admits of no functional substitutes. The fluid situation is His creation and is a real Blessing to each and all, because it has immense potency. If some people feel very close to Him, they could legitimately do so. But the right of inheritance to His spiritual treasure is thrown open to each and all, without introducing bars or prerogatives. The Beloved Avatar invites every one to come to Him, receive freely and fully His Love and Truth and realise that God alone is real. Here the field for Avataric Leela is open, ever-expanding and infinite. There is no scope for any exclusive prerogatives, jealousies or fears. Let us all turn to Him as our Divine Beloved, as the Eternal source of knowledge, bliss and power.

Points of contact in the Avatar :- Every type of person shall get a point of contact in the Beloved Avatar. I invite each and all to the High Way of the Path of Love for the Divine Revelation and Incarnation—our Beloved Avatar Meher Baba. This will automatically and inevitably initiate any one into the unlimited vastness of the Formless Beyond and the Impersonal infinity of all-inclusive divinity, because the Beloved Avatar holds within Himself the

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॥ जय मेहेर ॥



(Photo by Meelan Poona)

Love Greetings to each and all

from Meher spiritual Academy,
Gokul Peth, NAGPUR 1.

Inauguration of Poona Avatar
Meher Baba Centre Hall, Avatar
Meher Baba unveils the Bronze
Meher-Bust with Prof. Dr.
Chakrdhar D. Deshmukh
Date 1-5-1964

पुणे मेहेर केंद्र हॉल उद्घाटन :
अवतार मेहेर बाबा प्रो. डॉ. चक्रधर ध.
देशमुख के ब्राँझ मेहेर मूर्ती का
अनावरण करते हैं ।
ता. १-५-१९६४

personal and the impersonal, the manifest and the unmanifest aspects of God—the illimitable ocean of existence. However, while doing so, We have no justification to close the other paths that the Beloved Avatar has Himself thrown open to each and all, to take according to their preparedness and appeal. The Paths may appear to differ. Yet God is unchallengably one. His unity and indivisibility and supremacy remain inviolable, irrespective of diversity of appeals and experiments pertaining to the Path. But simultaneously the fact remains, that the Beloved Avatar is for all and His Message is for all. Owing to the multiple facets of His divine Personality, every type of person can get a point of contact in Him; and *this* will be his *Daaman* leading him on to the fulness of realisation.

My contact with the Beloved Avatar:— Even during Beloved Avatar's life-time, and with His knowledge and sanction, I have often been elaborately describing how Beloved Avatar Meher Baba first contacted me in 1932 in the mental world and not in the gross. He unexpectedly came and stood in front of me and looked into me.

In the clear and convincing expressiveness of His mental form, I saw Him as the Incarnation of Divinity and personification of spiritual perfection in a happy blending of light and colour. And my spontaneous adoration found its expression in rosy cloud of light-colour-vibrations of devotion, reaching out towards Him.

After this communion, Beloved Baba spoke to me in his exquisitely sweet voice of this inner plane

in clear unmistakable tones, "You are closely connected with me. You are a good man." Seeing me in a clear hesitancy in accepting this comment, He asked "Are you not?" And my response was my earnest mental prayer to Him "Good or bad, please take me up into you".

Response from the Beloved Master was quick. From the inexpressible spiritual beauty of His radiant bodily presence on this inner mental plane, there poured out on me in deep sky-blue colour-vibrations His Divine Love and Blessings, enveloping and engulfing my entire being. With it descended on me great peace and ineffable ecstasy of deep fulfilment. It was like bathing in cool clear moon-light.

The Beloved Avatar and His Divine Word :-

The Beloved Avatar Meher Baba said that the Avatars come for giving the WORD and that His mission is to give it. In and through His unfathomable and eloquent divine Silence, He has continuously given it through His Avataric Role, in many ways. In this context, He often has used a phrase 'will give', knowing full well that many of those to whom He was addressing Himself will have to wait for considerable time to understand the full meaning of His Word as TRUTH. He says :- "The state of glorification will be when I break my Silence with the divine Word-the Word that will indisputably assert the existence of God, in the mind and heart of men-that will make the world know that God not only exists but He alone exists infinitely and eternally. "The Beloved Avatar's Silence Day Message of 1966 says: "God's first WORD was 'Who am I?' God's last WORD is 'I am God.' And the WORD that I the God-man, will

utter soon will be the sound of my infinite Silence.” This last part of the Message clearly hints that His silence will be infinite and interminable and that it will itself be the sound or voice which utters or clarifies the full meaning of His WORD-I-am-God-state (सोऽहम्) delivering its Truth in Silence.

The Beloved Avatar explains that the sound like ‘UM’ which comes when any one tries to speak out anything with closed lips is the basic sound and the seventh reflection of the original sound. He demonstrated this with closed lips in His silence to His Mandali people. ‘UM’ was shown in gesture-language. U when rendered vocally is uttered either as अ (as in but) or as उ (as in put). It should be simultaneously rendered in both ways and followed by M (-म्-) giving us the cosmic rhythm of all planes. So we inevitably get OM when the ‘UM’ is vocally rendered explicit. A U M is phonetically equated with OM (ॐ). Beloved Avatar has elsewhere described OM as the creation point (My version of Sparks of the Truth-p, 74. Jab. Edn). It has phonetic unity with Amen, Amin, Ahum. I AM. It connotes God. The *meaning-aspect* of the WORD is ofcourse far more important than the *sound-aspect*. The Beloved Avatar has released the living WORD as TRUTH in Silence in His Discourses, Messages, Books, Prayers, and in all His actions as a part of His divine Game or Leela.

The Living WORD as Truth:- The living Word as Truth is irreducible to merely auditory or any sensations, being a *self-grounded integral eternally creative MEANING*, which includes all *values*. It breaks through all concepts, sensations, philosophies

or all revelations on all planes, simultaneously *super-vening* upon all of them, as the *transcendent*, unfathomable *Beyond God* or *illimitable TRUTH*.

The language of God:—The Beloved Avatar's Silence is the Silence of God. His WORD is the word of God. The breaking of the Silence is also divine. What is God's Language? The Beloved Avatar says, God understands only one language, the language of *love*. Is it a matter of surprise that God also *spoke* through this very universal, invincible, divine, Avataric language of Love in and through Beloved Baba's *Silence*. God has given God's Word in God's own way. Human words are only fragmentary shadows of God's eternal Word as Truth (Everything). The living WORD has been bursting through Beloved Avatar's Silence all the while. While breaking through it, it retains and sustains His Silence itself. Unimpaired and unhampered till the very last, the Divine WORD or Explicit TRUTH fortifies the Avataric Silence with a voice of million tongues !

The Prasad of the Apple-thrower in the Eternal Now:—The feeling in the minds of some that the Beloved Avatar did not give the WORD reminds me of a significant personality-trait of the Avatar, as manifested in the distribution of the prasad of apples or oranges. With His keen sense of humour, the Beloved Avatar would look in one direction and throw the prasad of the apple in some other direction to some lover, who had to be constantly alert for catching it. It always came to him as a surprise-gift, howsoever vigilant and expectant he may be. For those, who missed the catch, the *grace-gift* got *automatically postponed* for

their not being ready at the moment. The Beloved plays His divine game of dispensation of the WORD the Truth and God-realisation, in the same spirit of Leela, with the same sense of humour, with the same sense of realism and in the utter freedom and spontaneity of inexhaustible Love.

Catch it or miss it, the showering of His Grsce in abundance continuously goes on in the Eternal Now, baffling those, who are not ready, and completely fulfilling those who are. Though He has never renounced the use of the word 'will' in relation to His WORD or Manifestation, He has also never ceased giving it or Himself, in the Eternal Now. It is as if with a sense of humour He is aparently merely looking at the future, but actually mainly dealing with the present, giving His grace-gift to each according to his receptivity, and playing His fond game of Prasad-Apple-throwing in relation to the entire universe.

The Daaman:—The Beloved Avatar has left His gross vehicle, but He has not renounced His name MEHER. His name is the eternal link of all past and future Lovers with His eternal Presence. It is the daaman, the gateway to the eternal Baba-Truth and Baba-Presence as unfailing GOD—the only triumphant Truth of all life. Daaman means Sadara or Kafni. *He held His body like His Kafni as an instrument of His Divine Work. The Name Meher is our hold upon the Form Meher, which He took for His infinite Love for us Sing His sweet Name with Love and think of His radiant form; and we have the sure Daaman that leads to Immortality.

* The Beloved Avatar gave one such Kafni of His in my charge in 1958

Some practical proposals:- The individual has to work out his liberation in, into and for the society in which he lives. An attempt is here made to have some basic proposals for working out evolving social wellbeing, while remaining an integral member of society. (1) Understand the Teachings of the Beloved Avatar by intelligent reading of His works and Messages; and share this understanding with others. Meditation through reading has been in one context recommended by the Beloved Avatar Himself. Tape-recorders, Talkies, Schools, Forums, Discussion-classes, Lecture-rooms, Libraries could all be found useful. (2) Beloved Avatar's eternal Presence in our hearts is not merely a matter for blissful companionship but also an unfailing source of inner guidance. Bhajans, Community singing, dramatics, films etc. could help this inner contact as much as taking the Name (Japa), worship, meditation etc. (3) The Divine Example of Beloved Avatar's Leela in His Incarnation is a source of joy, inspiration and guidance. Avatar's films and Stories should be treasured (4) There may be much more in the memory of Beloved Avatar's Lovers, who directly contacted Him than is obtainable in printed books. Admirable are the efforts of some Baba-lovers who fish out this information and preserve in tape-libraries or films (5) Our principal concern is to spread and pass on the Avataric awakening, to take His Name, Love and Messages to the corners of the world and all strata of life, in diverse ways. Universities, Schools, orphanages, service-leagues, Journals, Industries and institutions can become vehicles or instruments to embody or transmit the Avataric Teaching or Impulse. The Nagpur Corporation for example is to be congratulated.

tulated for giving the name Avatar Meher Baba Marga to a street—the one in front of our residence in Gokulpeth. Other corporations of the world could take up this lead to immortalise some of the places closely associated with the Life and Work of Avatar Meher Baba. They would bring credit to the present generation by being alive to the importance of creating & conserving right values for the future. The channels of contact which thus get opened promote emotionally integrated and spiritually advanced humanity infused with refreshing Meher-Spirit.

The Beloved Avatar as The World Teacher:—

The Beloved Avatar is primarily concerned with God-realisation and individual and social wellbeing. He is first and foremost a MAN. He is a human God. and therefore inevitably becomes a World-Teacher. His Universal Message and Universal Life are all for the common man. Though enjoying the Bliss of Immortality, He takes upon Himself the limitations and sufferings of sinning, toiling, seething, groping mass of humanity and lives for allaying that suffering. His service to the Divinely Intoxicated Masts, the stark Mad, the lepers, the blind, the poor, the afflicted, the lame and the handicapped is His living Message to the whole of humanity. His New Life and His descending to the level of the aspirant show His capacity to take up any station for rendering help to man in turmoil. The Divine Love caught from Him will enable restoration of unity and fraternity, lasting Brotherhood, peace and understanding, irrespective of illusory separative divisions of nationality, sex, caste, religion etc.

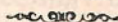
The clarion-call of the Beloved Avatar:—

Even in the midst of bursting nuclear bombs, the Silence of the Beloved Avatar *shall* be heard. His redeeming clarion call may be summed up as follows.

Avoid unnecessary wars and strife. Inherit my Truth of the inviolable unity of all life and the inalienable divinity of everything. Get out of the self-created complexes and tangles. Come to the harbour of Love, Peace, Understanding and eternally self-renewing self-fulfilment. Go to the root of all things; and seek right adjustments in respect of individuals, institutions, family, sex, society, nation and religion, by having the understanding of TRUTH. Do not ask for a catalogue of Dos and Do'nts; but have understanding and awakening, for which no codes can be adequate substitutes.

Beloved Avatar's silent Assurance:- His assurance becomes explicit in silent affirmations like these. I am and will always be with you. You are all heirs to my TRUTH. Come to Me. Have Hope. Do not worry; be happy. Think of Me. Love Me also in each other. Be courageous and inherit my lasting TRUTH, *here and now*; and share it with all. Never for a moment doubt that I am God. Know that you all too are God, that God alone is real and that all else is illusion. I am the eternal I AM, the eternal Divine Beloved.

Let us hearken to this ringing call of our Beloved Avatar and accept Him and His TRUTH without resistances with an open heart ! Priyatama Meher Prabhu Ki Jai ! Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai !



Printed By : Pradeep Printing Press North Ambazari Road, Nagpur - 10

Published By : Pranawchandra C. Deshmukh, 'Meher' Gokulpeth Nagpur - 10