

THE DAY OF SILENCE



Things that are real are always given and received in silence.

— Avatar Meher Baba

In commemoration of Fifty-Third Anniversary of
Avatar Meher Baba's Silence

—10 July 1978

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TENTH JULY 1925

PART I

Tenth July 1978. Fifty-third anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba's silence. Those who witnessed the glory of God-Man's life and work on this earth and those who have heard the WORD of his Name silently spoken into their hearts will observe a day of complete silence on this day, beginning from 12 midnight of 9th July to 12 midnight of 10th July 1978.

Why do we observe silence on 10th July? Because, it was on this day in 1925 Meher Baba began his silence and maintained it throughout his avatic life on this earth. And his lovers (those who follow him endeavouring to lead a life of obedience to him) used to observe silence on 10th July in obedience to his instructions issued through Life-Circulars from time to time. Baba allowed partial or complete fast in some years for those of his lovers who were unable to observe silence due to practical difficulties, as an alternative on 10th July. Since such an alternative was not given by Baba in the year 1968, the 43rd anniversary of his silence, the last during his life time, it is assumed by his lovers that it was his wish that his lovers should observe complete silence on 10th July in obedience to his wish as a spiritual discipline to be in communion with him on that sacred day.

Those who have been observing silence on 10th July through years know well how difficult it is to observe complete

silence even for a day. Leaving few stray incidences of humorous failure, most of his lovers all over the world observe silence on 10th July in the sense of not speaking with their tongue. But the mind of each, the source of all sound, speech, confusion, chaos and conflict in human society is active — probably more active on that day. Verbal silence is but preparatory training to silence the mind, which is the cause of all human suffering on this earth and from which all men seek freedom.

The best way to observe silence on 10th July is to keep oneself engaged in creative physical activity, remembering Baba constantly leaving no room for other thoughts to enter the mind. It has been the experience of many that they were able to do more work on that day than any other day of the year. This may perhaps be due to the fact that once we link ourselves to him through remembrance our physical bodies, which are like cells in the cosmic body of Meher Baba, draw energy direct from him, the source of infinite power, as we all do in sound sleep every night when our souls are united with him, though unconsciously.

Those who are not used to physical labour or are unable to engage themselves in physical activities can absorb themselves in intellectual pursuit ; and what better intellectual pursuit is there in this world for spiritual aspirants than to study the words of God-Man given to appease the intellectual convulsions of the mind of man ? One can discover oneself through the discourses of Meher Baba. Through his discourses Meher Baba raises the reader intellectually to his own level. To read his words is to be in his sahavas — to be in the company of God. And on the day of silence, his statements on silence are suitable subject of study, for Baba said : ‘ He who would deeply ponder over the Truth which I declare, shall eventually be initiated into the Life Eternal.’

AVENUES OF UNDERSTANDING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SILENCE MEHER BABA OBSERVED

① My consciousness sustains, covers, pierces through and provides an end to unconsciousness — which flows from, and is consumed by infinite consciousness. I assert unequivocally that I am Infinite Consciousness.

② To try to understand with the mind that which the mind can never understand is futile ; and to try to express by sounds of language and in form of words the transcendental state of the soul, is even more futile. All that can be said, and has been said, by those who live and experience that state, is that when the false self is lost, the Real Self is found ; that the birth of the Real can only follow the death of the false ; and that dying to ourselves — the true death which ends all dying — is the only way to perpetual life....

③ Unless and until ignorance is removed and Knowledge is gained — the Knowledge whereby the Divine Life is experienced and lived — everything pertaining to the Spiritual seems paradoxical.

④ God has been everlastingly working in silence, unobserved, unheard, except by those who experience His Infinite silence.

⑤ If my silence cannot speak, of what avail would be speeches made by the tongue ?

⑥ To ask whether my followers will be informed of the time and place of the breaking of my silence would be ridiculous and in itself would prove that the significance of the breaking of my silence has not been truly understood.

☉ Through endless time God's greatest gift is continuously given in silence. But when mankind becomes completely deaf to the thunder of his silence, God incarnates as man. The Unlimited assumes the Limited, to shake Maya-drugged humanity to a consciousness of its true destiny and to give a spiritual push to the world by his physical presence on earth. He uses the body for his universal work, to be discarded in final sacrifice as soon as it has served its purpose.

☉ I am not limited by this form. I use it like a garment to make myself visible to you ; and I communicate with you. Don't try to understand me. My depth is unfathomable. Just love me. I eternally enjoy the Christ-state of consciousness, and when I speak I shall manifest my true self ; besides giving a general push to the whole world, I shall lead all those who come to me toward light and truth.

☉ God in the Beyond-Beyond state is likened to a soundless, shoreless Ocean. The "Whim" of God for knowledge of Himself ("Who am I?") manifested as Sound. This Oceanic Sound is of God and is God and contains, and is, His experience of Power, Knowledge, Bliss. The emergence of this Sound through what is called the "Om-Point" or Its Creative Utterance produced the worlds of Mind, Energy and Matter. This Primal Oceanic Sound is the Root of all forms and creatures and men and they are continuously connected with It and derive their life from It.... This Original Oceanic "M-m-m" is called Brahm-Nad (Sound or "Word" of God) or Unhud-Nad (Limitless Sound or "Word"). It is continuous and is the eternal Root and continuous cause of all causes and effects.

In this present age when words, through accumulation and accretion, have become meaningless and all My previous words in the form of Precepts are neglected and distorted,

I maintain Silence. When I break My silence and speak, it will be the Primal Oceanic "M-m-m" which I will utter through My human mouth. And because all forms and words are from this Primal Sound or Original Word and are continuously connected with It and have their life from It, when It is uttered by Me It will reverberate in all people and creatures and all will know that I have broken My silence and have uttered that Sound or Word. The effective force of this Word in individuals and their reaction to It will be in accordance with the magnitude and receptivity of each individual mind.

① The first whim to know instantaneously implies a duality, an apparent differentiation (not amounting to a breaking up) into two separate aspects, both of which are infinite as aspects of the Infinite. The first aspect is that of infinite consciousness and the second aspect is that of infinite unconsciousness. The duality strives to overcome itself and to restore the apparently lost unity : the infinite unconsciousness tries to unite with infinite consciousness.... Of these two seemingly opposite but complementary aspects, the infinite consciousness plays the role of the Avatar or Divine Incarnation. The infinite unconsciousness finds its expression through an evolution which seeks to develop full consciousness through time processes.

② This whim of the Infinite is in a way comparable to an infinite question, calling forth an infinite answer. With the infinite question, there arises also the infinite answer. The infinite question is infinite unconsciousness and infinite answer is infinite consciousness.

③ 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.

☉ Throughout the years I have been giving many messages and discourses. Today I simply want to tell you who are gathered here in my love to shut the ears of your mind and open the ears of your hearts to hear my Word when I utter it.

☉ When I speak, it will be only one Divine Word ; but it will be the WORD OF WORDS or the manifestation of Truth. This word will have to be hearkened by the heart, and not merely by the mind. It will go home to you and bring you the AWAKENING. My love and Blessings.

—Meher Baba.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

PART II

God being Existence, infinite and eternal, He can never be understood by human mind. Yet, it is the nature of human mind to question, to answer, to discuss and define that which is beyond its reach. Since the question and answer involves God and His ways it is a form of meditation or communion with God.


Eruch Jessawala was with Meher Baba from 1938. His main job was reading Baba's communication on the alphabet board, and later on interpreting Baba's gestures — the mode of communication he employed since 7th October 1954. He was truly his master's voice to all those who came to Meher Baba. He gives us an angle of thought — a morsel of food for thought, for those who question on the subject of the silence Meher Baba observed :

In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God. All things were made by him ; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. In him was life ; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness ; and the darkness apprehended it not. . . . And the WORD became Flesh, and dwelt amongst us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.

—Bible : John I.

The silence of Meher Baba in His Man-form was the personification of the Silence of God, and His being in our midst as the God-Man is the "WORD made FLESH." His having dropped the Man-form is the act of releasing the WORD (i. e. the WORD that was encaged in Man-form got released when the body, which encaged it, dropped) which simultaneously tantamounts to the act of breaking the silence.

— Eruch Jessawala

 The only incomparable miracle I will perform is when I speak. I am like a Lion — but at the moment a caged lion. Those who recognise me feel the strength of my power but only in a small degree. When I speak, I will uncage myself ; and then, you will know my divine strength.

— Meher Baba — Satara, 23rd October 1955

MEHER BABA IS THE WORD

The dictionary meaning of *Word* is a spoken or written sign expressing an idea or notion. Theologically it means scripture. It also means the second person in the Trinity — the Logos.

According to Hindu conception the Trinity represents Brahma — Vishnu — Maheswara — the second person thus

is Vishnu, who is believed by the Hindus to incarnate as man on the earth whenever virtue subsides and vice prevails to re-establish the spiritual values of life in the mind-heart of mankind.

According to Christianity, the Trinity represents Father — Son — the Holy Ghost. The second person thus is the Son. '...the 'Only-begotten Son' does not mean only Jesus, for the 'begetting' is in the Godhead, it is not an earthly begetting. All who are 'born of the spirit' share in sonship...' (C. B. Purdom in *God-Man* p. 402.) Meher Baba said : 'Christ and *not* Jesus was the only Son of God. The Son of God is in every man.'

Thus the WORD means the Avatar of God — the Christ — the Rasool.

God is Infinite Silence. The WORD is the "Whim to know" or the 'will-to-be-conscious' latent in God, Who is infinite silence. The whole creation is said to have sprung up out of the 'Whim' or the infinite question (first Word of God — Who am I ?). The infinite answer (the last Word of God — I am God) is attained when God's first Word "Who am I ?" or infinite unconsciousness passes through the process of evolution, reincarnation and involution of consciousness and attains union with the infinite consciousness. The Word is thus the personification of the infinite question and the infinite answer in one simultaneously living the life of God and man on the earth. Love made the infinite consciousness and infinite unconsciousness to become enformed and finite as God-man, the Avatar. In other words, Silence is the spirit or the infinite or impersonal aspect of God and the Word is the body or the finite or personal aspect of God. Thus Meher Baba in human form was the embodiment of 'the Beyond the Beyond unconscious Paratpar

Parabrahma state of God functioned consciously as God-Man — Iswara-Purush. He was the Avatar came to awaken humanity to its birthright of Godhood. He was working as God has everlastingly been working in silence, unobserved, unheard, except by those who experience His infinite silence. Only the five Perfect Masters truly recognized him and the advanced souls had a glimpse of his glory. We were simply struck with the ineffable beauty and glory of God's manifestation as Man and we experience the bliss of His infinite love within our hearts. The silence which Meher Baba observed from 10th July 1925 to 31st January 1969 was, a call from the Silence of unfathomable Divinity. Means what ? It means that the silent life and work of Meher Baba on this earth in our time was the Highest Form of Divine Manifestation on this earth in known or recorded history. And what was that call ? Meher Baba said : Love me. Means *Love Meher Baba* or Love God. 'Invite that Divinity into your hearts so that you may become permanently established in the immortality of universal life..'

When we love Meher Baba honestly and wholeheartedly through constant remembrance of the WORD of his NAME leaving no other thought to enter our mind we will hear the WORD he had spoken into the heart of humanity. For, has he not said : 'It is not through words that I give what I have to give. In the silence of your perfect surrender, my love which is always silent can flow to you — to be yours always to keep and to share with those who seek me. WHEN THE WORD OF MY LOVE BREAKS OUT OF ITS SILENCE AND SPEAKS IN YOUR HEARTS, TELLING YOU WHO I REALLY AM, YOU WILL KNOW THAT THAT IS THE *REAL WORD* YOU HAVE BEEN ALWAYS LONGING TO HEAR. The WORD was spoken in the purest element of the soul, in the soul's most exalted place,

in the core, yes, in the essence of the soul. And the WORD will be reverberating there in the heart of the humanity redeeming the world and transforming universal consciousness by transmuting materialistic tendencies into spiritual longing.

• The WORD is MEHER BABA—Infinite Love. So when we observe silence on 10th July 1978 let us resolve to love Meher Baba in everyone and serve Meher Baba in each other. And let us rejoice and sing silently the sweeter-than-nectar-name of MEHER BABA, the WORD of God.

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I AM THE ANCIENT ONE

— Meher Baba

Before anything else existed, there was Meher Baba, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is — nothing exists that he didn't make. Eternal life is in him, and this life gives light to all mankind. His life is the light that shines through the darkness — and the darkness can never extinguish it.

God sent the five Perfect Masters to prepare for his earth-coming, and to be a witness to the fact Meher Baba is the true light. They precipitated his advent and awaited his coming taking their posts according to the divine plan. And he came. Babajan with a silent kiss of infinite bliss awakened him to the awareness of himself. Narayan Maharaj and Tajuddin Baba silently surrendered their charge of the world to him. Sai Baba hailed the Parvardigar with infinite power; and Upasani Maharaj flung open the door of infinite knowledge and set him on his mission on earth.

And thus Meher Baba became a human being and lived here on earth amongst us and was full of loving forgiveness, grace and truth. And some of us have seen his glory — the glory of the only Son of God the Father and God the Mother in One.

**compiled and prepared by K. K. Ramakrishnan
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