

My one and only Trip to India



¶§ WHO AM I? §¶



Page 48 is regarding Mehera which is totally incorrect, as Mehera never touched any man much less kiss the man! Likewise pages 38, 39 & 40 on Mohammed Meek are all exaggerated!!

MY ONE AND ONLY TRIP TO INDIA!

éZad

I AM THE HIGHEST OF THE HIGH AND IN THE LOWEST OF THE LOW!  
AVATAR MEHER BABA

DEAREST BROTHER ERUCH,  
NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL OF US TO  
LOVE BABA EVER MORE, HOLD EVEN MORE  
TIGHTLY TO HIS MOST PRECIOUS  
DAMAAN, AND WITH ALL OUR DIVINE  
LOVE, PREPARE ALL OTHERS TO HEAR  
OUR LORDS SACRED WORD!  
BISHKA AND I LOVE YOU AND  
ALL THE EASTERN WOMEN AND  
MEN VERY DEEPLY! PERHAPS WE  
SHALL MEET AGAIN SOON...

JAI

éZAD

13:13:14  
3-25-97

FOLLY BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

1997

1 THUS FAR!

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## DEDICATION

TO:

AVATAR MEHER BABA, THE FIRST AND FOREMOST JOURNEY-PERSON WHO MAKES EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BECAUSE HE IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LOVE AND WITHOUT WHOM EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING WOULD FOREVER REMAIN INCOMPLETE.



## INTRODUCTION

IT IS AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO WRITE THIS INTRODUCTION ON BEHALF OF MY SOULMATE AND MOST BEAUTIFUL PARTNER ON THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY. MY SPECIAL NAME FOR ELLISON IS "ELIAS". I NAMED HIM "ELIAS" MANY YEARS AGO, AND I REALIZED FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, THIS NAME GOES BACK TO OTHER TIMES OF BEING TOGETHER, OTHER LIFETIMES OF LOVING AND SERVING GOD..OF KNOWING AND BECOMING WHOM WE REALLY ARE!

I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN ELIAS TO BE A TRUE SERVANT AND LEADER OF THE TRUTH. HE HAS, AND CONTINUES TO LIVE, THE LIFE OF DEDICATION TO MEHER BABA, AND HE HAS ALWAYS DEMONSTRATED REMARKABLE ABILITY TO COMPREHEND, INTUITIVELY, DIMENSIONS OF KNOWING BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING. IN THIS WAY, I KNOW ELIAS TO BE A TRUE MYSTIC IN THAT HE CONNECTS THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE, INSTANTANEOUSLY, WITH ABSOLUTE REALITY AND INTEGRATES THIS KNOWLEDGE INTO HIS EVERYDAY EXISTENCE. AT TIMES, HIS HUMOR REFLECTS AN ESOTERIC QUALITY, AND I HAVE DISCOVERED, IN THE MANY YEARS OF LOVING HIM, THAT HIS FOCUS IS ON LOVING GOD AND SERVING GOD. ALL PARTS OF HIS MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL ELEMENTS ARE ALIGNED TO THIS ONE-POINTEDNESS.

THERE ARE MANY QUALITIES FOR WHICH I ADMIRE AND HONOR ELIAS , BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE IS THAT I HAVE MET FEW OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO STRIVE TO SERVE GOD IN SO MANY WAYS AS DOES ELIAS. HIS PURE LOVE FOR GOD, I ADMIRE THE MOST. IN THIS PURE LOVE, I HAVE WITNESSED ELIAS UNDERGO INTENSE HEALING AND TRANSFORMATIONS. IN THIS PURE LOVE, I WITNESS ELIAS WORKING ENDLESSLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS. IN HIS WEALTH OF LOVING GOD SO COMPLETELY, I WITNESS HIS LOVING AND DIVINE NATURE, INCLUDING THE SIMPLICITY OF A CHILD.

I AM SO GRATEFUL TO ELIAS FOR BEING MY LINK TO THE AVATAR. I AM ALSO GRATEFUL TO WITNESS HIS LIFE AS A TESTIMONY OF LOVING GOD, SERVING GOD, AND BECOMING ONE WITH GOD!

LOVE IN MEHER BABA, \*LAELA-BISHKA\*

*L*



## FORE-WORD

MY NAME IS ézad, AND LIKE MANY OF YOU, I COME FROM afar.

ézad IS A VERY SPECIAL NAME FOR ME, ALTHOUGH I GO BY SOME OTHERS, BECAUSE AVATAR MEHER BABA GAVE ME THAT NAME MANY YEARS AGO. ONE DAY, IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA, AFTER AN ESPECIALLY LONG AND GRUELLING DAY OF "REAL SPIRITUAL TRAINING" WITH BABA, I HAD ONCE AGAIN BEEN TRYING DESPERATELY AND SOMEWHAT UNSUCCESSFULLY TO LEARN HOW TO "KEEP MY HEAD IN THE CLOUDS AND MY FEET ON THE GROUND" AT THE SAME TIME FOR THE NTH TIME!

THESE "TRAINING EXERCISES", BETTER DESCRIBED AS "UNFOLDING" OR "UNVEILING" EXERCISES WHICH SERVED THE PURPOSE OF TEACHING ME MY REAL IDENTITY AND WORK IN THIS LIFETIME, HAD BEEN OCCURRING FOR MANY YEARS. AT TIMES, BOTH THE SELF-IDENTITY AND THE MISSION BECAME QUITE CLEAR, AND AT OTHER TIMES IGNORANCE REIGNED AND MY LIFE CAME APART AT THE SEAMS!

ON THIS ESPECIALLY GRUELING "UNVEILING DAY" IN 1987 IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA, I HAD BEEN TRYING WITH PERFECT DILIGENCE TO FOLLOW MEHER BABA'S INNER DIRECTIONS CONCERNING MY DEVELOPMENT, REGARDLESS OF EXTERNAL CONSEQUENCES OR "JUDGMENT" FROM OTHERS. FINALLY, HE DIRECTED ME TO READ "THE MASTER'S PRAYER", A SPECIAL, UNIVERSAL PRAYER GIVEN BY BABA FOR ALL. THIS SPECIAL PRAYER DESCRIBES, WITH MAGNIFICENCE, THE ESSENTIALLY INDESCRIBABLE GOD.

THIS MOST BEAUTIFUL PRAYER WAS USED BY BABA IN MANY WAYS IN HIS WORK TO RELEASE MAN FROM HIS BONDAGE TO IGNORANCE AND TO ESTABLISH HIS "NEW HUMANITY", THE "GOLDEN AGE" AWAITING ME AND YOU. BABA WOULD OFTEN HAVE OTHERS RECITE THE PRAYER IN HIS PRESENCE, AND HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE PRAYER IN HIS SILENCE, EVEN WHEN HE WAS SO EXHAUSTED



FROM HIS UNIVERSAL BURDEN THAT HE HAD TO BE SUPPORTED BY OTHERS WHILE THE PRAYER WAS BEING RECITED!

IN 1987, I WAS SILENTLY READING THE PRAYER, LINE BY LINE, AND SOMETIMES BABA WOULD ADD A WORD OR TWO OF EXPLANATION IN ADDITION TO THE PRINTED WORDS ON THE PAGE. I WAS READING SLOWLY AND BEING EXTREMELY ATTENTIVE TO BABA'S INNER MESSAGES BETWEEN THE LINES. FINALLY, I CAME TO THE LAST LINE OF THE PRAYER, WHICH IS, AS YOU MAY KNOW:

¶ You are named Ezad, the only One worthy of worship. ¶

AS I WAS SLOWLY READING THIS FINAL LINE, I HAD A MOST REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE WHICH IS SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE IN WRITING, BUT I WILL TRY. AS I READ THE LINE, MEHER BABA POINTED DIRECTLY TOWARDS ME AND SAID TO ME WITH GREAT POWER, TWICE:

¶ YOU ARE NAMED EZAD! ¶

THEN, HE DIRECTED ME (ALL OF THIS INWARDLY, OF COURSE) AS HE WAS SAYING THIS, TO TAKE MY PEN AND LINE THROUGH THE REMAINDER OF THE SENTENCE, "The only One worthy of worship". IN ADDITION, HE DIRECTED ME TO PLACE A VERTICAL LINE FOLLOWING THE "d" IN "Ezad", THUS PREVENTING Ezad FROM BEING ASSOCIATED WITH "the only One worthy of worship"! THEN, (I SAID THIS WAS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN! BEAR WITH ME, PLEASE...) HE ASKED ME TO READ TO THE LEFT OF THE VERTICAL LINE, AND WHEN YOU DO THIS, YOU WILL SEE THAT THE WORD "daze" IS SPELLED, WHICH REMARKABLY WELL DESCRIBED MY MENTAL CONDITION WHEN MY "HEAD WAS IN THE CLOUDS AND MY FEET NOT ON THE GROUND" DURING THESE YEARS OF "SPIRITUAL TRAINING EXERCISES WITH BABA"!

FINALLY, TO COMPLETE THIS NAMING AND AFFIRMING EXERCISE, BABA DIRECTED ME TO DRAW ONE ARROW ABOVE THE WORD, Ezad,



AND AN IDENTICAL ARROW BELOW THE WORD, Ezad, WITH BOTH ARROWS ENDING AT THE VERTICAL LINE DRAWN AT THE END OF THE WORD, Ezad! SO...THE FINAL LINE OF "MY MASTER'S PRAYER" NOW LOOKED AS SHOWN BELOW:

You are named  ~~the only One worthy of worship.~~

AS I COMPLETED THIS RESTRUCTURED SENTENCE, BABA SAID TO ME, VERY POWERFULLY:

¶ NOW, YOU ARE EZAD! NO MORE DAZE! ¶

INSTANTLY, I BECAME AWARE OF BOTH THE "NAMING" AND THE "AFFIRMING" ASPECTS OF WHAT BABA HAD DONE FOR ME! AS TO THE "NAMING" ASPECT, I KNEW THAT THIS WAS THE CHOSEN NAME THE AVATAR, MEHER BABA, HAD GIVEN ME AND THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME I HAD KNOWN THIS! AS TO THE "AFFIRMING" ASPECT OF THE EXPERIENCE, I KNEW THAT FINALLY, I WAS BEGINNING TO LEAVE BEHIND THE INABILITY OF "DAZE" TO ACHIEVE THAT MOST WORTHY GOAL OF BALANCE--TO HAVE MY HEAD IN THE CLOUDS AND MY FEET ON THE GROUND-- AND TO BEGIN TO BECOME Ezad, A TRUE WARRIOR FOR GOD!

I WROTE THE FIRST VERY ROUGH DRAFT OF THIS BOOK IN 1989, FOURTEEN YEARS AFTER MY JOURNEY TO INDIA, FELT THE MANUSCRIPT WAS TOO CONTROVERSIAL, AND ASKED ONLY A FEW CLOSE ONES TO READ IT. AFTER YEARS OF GREAT PERSONAL SUFFERING AND HEALING ON ALL LEVELS, I DECIDED TO REVISE THE MANUSCRIPT.

I ASKED BILL AND PEGGY STEPHENS TO READ THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT WHICH THEY SO LOVINGLY DID. I KNOW THEY WERE BEING VERY KIND TO SAY THAT THEY FELT IT NEEDED "SOME TIGHTENING UP"! SO...I TIGHTENED IT UP!



IN THE FINAL REVISION, WHICH YOU NOW READ, I DID HAVE SOME QUESTION AS TO WHICH OF MY NUMEROUS NAMES TO USE, AS SOME KNOW ME BY ONE NAME, AND SOME BY A "NICKNAME" ONLY. AS YOU SEE, I CHOOSE TO USE THE NAME MEHER BABA GAVE ME, EXCEPT IN THE "EPILOGUE" WHERE I USE THE PRECIOUS NAME GIVEN TO ME BY THE MATE OF MY SOUL, BISHKA. I WRITE THE NAME MEHER BABA GAVE ME AS, ézad, SO NONE WILL BELIEVE THAT I CLAIM TO BE, EZAD, MEANING "THE FIRST ONE"! THAT DISTINCTION CERTAINLY ALWAYS BELONGS TO THE AVATAR, MEHER BABA, ALWAYS!

PLEASE EVALUATE THE TRUTH WITHIN THESE PAGES--SEE IF THAT TRUTH SPEAKS TO YOU, AS A LOVER OF GOD, A TRUE WARRIOR FOR THE LIGHT, ONE WHO DESERVES TO HEAR THE TRUTH AS I NOW EXPERIENCE THAT TRUTH--ALWAYS!

SHOULD YOU, AFTER CAREFUL EVALUATION OF THIS BOOK, HAVE POSITIVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS WHICH WILL HELP US ALL BECOME MORE ONE WITH GOD, PLEASE WRITE ME AT P. O. BOX 1615, FOLLY BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA 29439.

THANK YOU...

love always ézad

X.



# MY ONE AND ONLY TRIP TO INDIA<sup>1</sup>

## PART ONE

### CHAPTER 1--"THE BEGINNING"

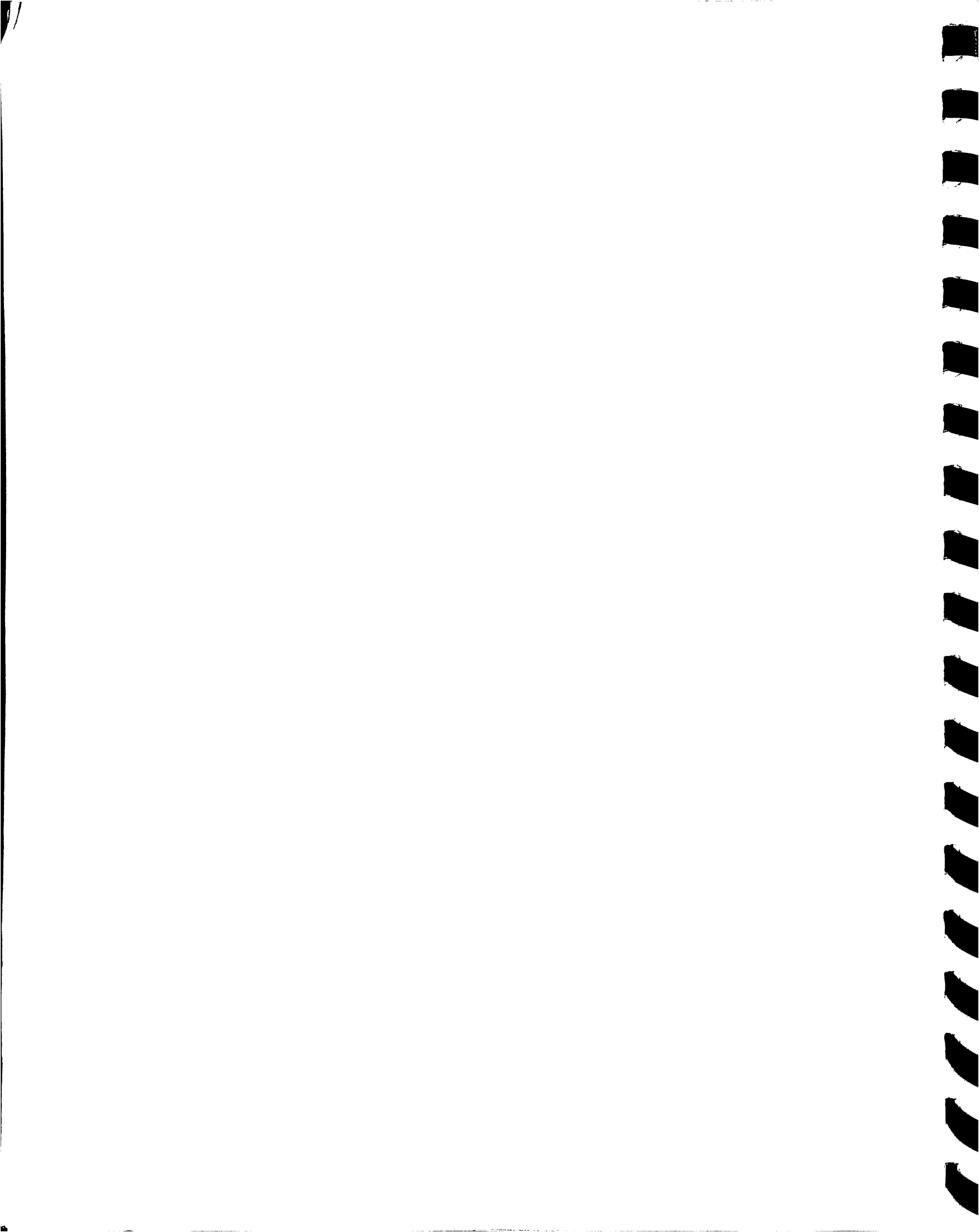
I made the Spiritual Journey to India in August of 1975. The Journey was the focal point of my relationship with Beloved Avatar Meher Baba at that time. Please allow me to share with you that experience in some detail as an excellent example of my DEVOTION to and LOVE for Meher Baba and especially, at that time, my ignorance of HOW A REAL MASTER REALLY WORKS! Speak of God's sense of Divine Humor...wait until you hear this one...

I traveled to India, specifically to Baba's tomb at Meherabad, to "pay my respects" as I "knew" that Baba had "dropped His Body" in 1969 and that His entombed Body was "lying in state" just waiting for me to visit. Does that sound a bit cocky? Indeed! I was very real and sincere and quite a bit cocky. I knew my deep love and service for Baba, and His many blessings were pouring in on my life. He had recently given me my third BEAUTIFUL Baba-child, Benjamin Ellison, to join his BEAUTIFUL sister Baba-children, Elissa Suzanne and Wendy Jane, and I had a new and exciting teaching position at Lander College in GREENWOOD, S.C. where I had been told by the President that I could teach incoming freshman basically what I wanted in the manner I wished. Suddenly, the money for such a Pilgrimage was available when it had been in short supply before. No wonder I was feeling a bit cocky!

When I left my home state of S.C. in 1961 for college, I "swore" that I would come back to S.C. only to visit. Does this type of "vow" sound familiar to anyone? Here I was in 1975 back in South Carolina with a mixture of joy and sadness but happy to be back. I had made considerable progress in many areas since "coming to Baba" in 1969 in Atlanta, and, in many ways, life was quite rosy. Certainly a "few" problems remained, but, overall, I felt matters were going quite well. So...

I carefully packed my "two 100-pound survival bags" for my flight to Bombay and taking Kitty Davy's advice [Kitty was the co-director of Meher Spiritual Center, Inc., at Myrtle Beach, S.C. until the age of 99--the

<sup>1</sup>THUS FAR



2.

Center whose green gates I rode by as a youth and wondered what was behind but did not find out until an adult at the age of 28--**SURPRISE DEJA VU]** about flying Air India to support the economy of India, I boarded the great iron bird in N.Y. with visions and high expectations! The flight was everything I could have asked for and **much, much more**. Here I was, sitting in this marvelous flying machine over God's immense ocean, and the plane was filled with **INDIANS**, not American Indians, but India Indians. Most were dressed in colorful costumes, excitement filled the air, exotic languages abounded, and most importantly, sitting on my left side was a **HINDU** with gold in her nose! The vegetarian cusine prepared by Air India was excellent, and sharing with my new, shy Hindu friend was very exciting! Imagine me, with a real Hindu, flying **DIRECTLY** to Baba's tomb, my **REAL DESTINATION**, to express my gratitude and "pay my respects" to **GOD**, none the less! My shy Hindu friend had not heard of Meher Baba, perhaps; it was somewhat difficult to determine because of our "communication gap", and perhaps because I did not clearly specify that I was going to visit Baba, Meher! I did not know there were so many "Babas" in India and that I should have been more specific when I said that I was going to visit "Baba's" tomb. **I WAS VERY NAIVE ABOUT SUCH MATTERS THEN!** Today, I **KNOW** there are many "babas" in India. I also **KNOW** there is only one Meher Baba,**THANK GOD!!!** Can you just imagine trying to find or follow or please two or more of Him?

On the way to London, our first of many "exciting stops" on our "not-so-direct" journey to Bombay, I learned much about my friend's specific branch of Hinduism and about eating food grown above the ground or below. Soon, however, we exhausted our conversation, and I settled in, as did the others, for the flight to Bombay. How long could it take, I thought, for a jet flight to Bombay? I had not yet really appreciated the **MANY** beautiful stops on the way to Bombay, nor the **MANY HOURS** until I arrived at Bombay, and certainly not how many hours until I arrived at Baba's tomb!

As the hours **DRONED** by, the flight became much less eventful and the inside of the airports the same, **EXCEPT IN BERUIT WHERE I ALMOST GOT SHOT BY A STERN, YOUNG SOLDIER WITH WHOM I TRIED TO BE FRIENDLY!** By Shannon, Ireland, I was **TOTALLY EXHAUSTED**, and I **THOUGHT I WAS READY FOR BOMBAY!** I **HAD COMPLETELY LOST ALL CONCEPT OF TIME, AND, OF COURSE, NOT SLEPT A WINK SINCE S.C.!**



## CHAPTER 2--"BOMBAY"

I arrived in Bombay thoroughly exhausted, I thought, in the wee hours of the morning, and easily passed through customs, except for my Kodak camera and many rolls of film which were confiscated before my very eyes and which I never saw again EVER! Why? I still do not know...

I was so relieved to leave the FRAGRANT air of the airport and walk out into the open air of Bombay, or so I thought at the time. Is anyone listening to this story and appreciating it so far? I certainly hope so! I know my friend Sharon is. The last time I "bumped" into her in Ann's Baba Bookstore (in North Myrtle Beach at the time) while visiting Meher Center in 1989 with my Beloved wife and Soul-mate, Laela, Sharon told me little of her most recent trip to India, except to say with slightly nervous Real Humor, that it took her a year for her to forgive Baba for that one! How about that folks? A True Lover of Meher Baba having to forgive Baba for a Spiritual Pilgrimage to His Home in the East! Congratulations to you, Sharon, for such a quick recovery from a DIVINE NIGHTMARE! J'AI BABA!!!

Back to my Journey to India, as I left the Bombay airport for the fresh air, I looked around in semi-desperation for my VERY SPECIAL friend, Ken, who had traveled by bare feet all the way from Nepal where he had served for 2 years in the Peace Corps. After his 2 years of service in helping poor villagers build primitive water systems by hand, Ken wandered all over the East, by bare foot, on his quest for The Real Meher Baba, not someone's version of the Avatar. Ken has always been a TRUE WARRIOR!

As I entered the very early morning air, "thoroughly exhausted", I was in some doubt and confusion about meeting Ken, as in our only communication by mail, he had said he would meet me at the airport, but so far as I knew, he was wandering all over the East. I know you can feel my anxiety about my situation when I left the airport without having found Ken, my EASTERN GUIDE, and having not the faintest idea how to find Arnavaz's home, where we were to spend the night which would have been the day, by now, actually...



As I stepped out into the early morning air, trying to appear CALM, you understand, I was really desperately searching for Ken. THEN, I SAW IT! WHAT DID I SEE? I SAW A SWARM OF BEGGARS RUSHING TOWARDS ME, JUST ABOUT TO OVERRUN ME! I was about to be TRAMPLED! I HAD RECEIVED SOME ADVICE FROM KITTY ABOUT GIVING OR NOT GIVING TO BEGGARS, but I assure you, I was not prepared for this! I, of course, did not turn and run away as this is just not my style; besides, my suitcases were much too heavy! Do you remember that one, oh western pilgrims to India? Just as I was about to be submerged in this suffering sea of humanity, literally, from out of nowhere, came Ken, my savior, who stuffed me into a taxi and off we sped. I was now in contact with my Tour Guide in India and all was well, or so I thought...

By the time we arrived at Arnavaz's home via the NOT-SO-SCENIC route of the GHETTOS, I was so exhausted, I could barely walk, especially with the "100-pound bags". Did I know or really care who Arnavaz was or the Dadachanji's were? All I wanted from my very low level of functioning was a bed somewhere, the sooner the better! I did discover something that was to become very important...I had very serious edema of the ankles, and my leather sandals were pure torture, or so I thought at the time. I did not then know that I would be happy to have any shoes at all on my return to Bombay from Meherabad. I was caught in the early monsoon, and one of my sandals came completely apart...

So... my visions of collapsing into a bed somewhere were shattered as it was now daylight, and, most importantly, my special friend and Indian tour guide, Ken, absolutely insisted that we go downtown Bombay while it was daylight, since "I had so little time in India" and also "for the SPIRIT OF THE CHALLENGE", et cetera, et cetera, et cetera!

You must know that I deeply appreciated, trusted, and respected Ken. He had been a student of mine at Washington State University in 1972, and he was the first person I helped lead to Meher Baba. He was taking a class from me in Developmental Psychology, and in this particular class, I had related Plato's "Analogy of the Cave" and Meher Baba's "Analogy of the Ocean" as a way of partly explaining my approach to human development. Immediately at the end of the class, Ken came up to me and said, "I do not know what you know, but I want to know that." Thus began our long and



meaningful relationship. Many years later, Ken told me that **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT HAD EVER HAPPENED TO HIM WAS WHEN I TOLD HIM OF MEHER BABA!** I NOW ASK, SHOULD WE TRY TO SHARE OUR LOVE FOR BABA WITH OTHERS? Yes, we are shy, want to respect the rights of others, and we certainly have no wish to **PROSELYTIZE**, to convert by **FORCE**, but does it hurt to try to share Meher Baba's Divine Love by **WORD** and **DEED**? Many times He said,

¶ **IT IS ENOUGH JUST TO HEAR MY NAME!** ¶

I DO TAKE THESE WORDS QUITE LITERALLY, and I try to **SHARE** His **NAME** with all **RECEPTIVE** ears, especially babies, and also those seemingly with no ears, such as rocks, flowers, garbage heaps, squashed bugs, and potatoes! My point:

§ Let us all, right now, and forever, drop all **RETICENCE** in speaking with Meher Baba's **LOVE** to **ANY**, and to **ALL**, **ANYTIME**, **ANY PLACE!** §

Now, back to my exciting travelogue with our Beloved Baba in His Real Homeland in the East...You can just imagine my **GLEE** as I stepped from the **COMFORT** of Arnavaz's home into the **BRIGHT BOMBAY SUNLIGHT**, except, I forgot the real condition of my **ANKLES**, those already huge and, I thought at the time, quite **TENDER** ankles. Little did I fully realize the **ALL DAY ADVENTURE** my special friend, Ken, had planned just for me! Little did I know that by the time I returned from **DOWNTOWN BOMBAY**, I **WOULD HAVE LITTLE AWARENESS THAT I HAD ANY ANKLES AT ALL!** I **ENVISIONED A BRIEF STROLL WITH MY TOUR GUIDE, BUT I ASSURE YOU, THAT WAS NOT TO BE THE CASE!!!** I do hope and pray that all of you out there are with me, because I assure you, I have only **BEGUN** to relate to you , the tale of **MY ONE AND ONLY TRIP TO INDIA.**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> **THUS FAR!**



## CHAPTER 3--"THE BUS"

My fantasy of a brief stroll and back to bed was **SOMEWHAT IMPAIRED AFTER MILE I STRUGGLING** to keep up with Ken. I say "somewhat impaired" because, after all, I saw myself as a **WARRIOR**, Ken was my "Baba student", and I do appreciate a **REAL CHALLENGE!** By Mile #2, I was ready to drop all pretence of being a **WARRIOR OR A "SHINING EXAMPLE"** for my **Baba-student** and flee to the **REAR!** As I turned to **FLEE**, can you imagine what happened? Can you **IMAGINE** the relief Baba sent me???



7.

A BUS!



**A BUS! YES! A BUS CAME BY IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION! RELIEVED? YES! I WAS THRILLED! Why? I was standing in the middle of the street and was not RUN OVER!!!**

I was not relieved for long, however, and you can imagine my **TOTAL SURPRISE** at what happened next...I **FOUND MYSELF CHASING THE BUS!** Ken had grabbed my hand in his **POWERFUL VISE HAND** and would not let go. He was off at a **GALLOP AFTER THE SPEEDING BUS!** What could I do? The bus was speeding in the opposite direction at least 10 m.p.h., and Ken moved into a break neck speed, certainly approaching 10 m.p.h.

I "accepted" the challenge of the day, or so I thought it was the "challenge of the day". I seriously began running after the speeding bus, or so I thought I was **SERIOUSLY RUNNING!** I had not yet begun to run nor fully accepted the "challenge of the day"! Why? Do you see the bus, Ken, and me, all chasing the **DRIVER, WHO WAS POURING ON THE STEAM?** Who, my fellow pilgrims, was whipping that **MANIACAL DRIVER** into greater and greater outbursts of speed? Ah-ha! There you have the "**QUESTION OF ETERNITY**" and the "**Point of my Story**"--SO FAR!

Can you imagine what happened next? You will not believe what happened. We caught that **SPEEDING BUS!** I say "we" caught the bus. Actually, Ken caught the bus! I was still racing after. He **LET GO** of my hand to catch the rail of the bus and **JUMP** into the bus. Do you **SEE THE PICTURE??**

Ken was and is a "Great Magician", especially with his physical strength, but I promise you, it certainly appeared that Ken was safely on the bus, and I was not, **AND NEVER WOULD BE!** Ready to **COLLAPSE INTO THE CONCRETE AT OVER 15 M.P.H. AND PLEASED TO DO SO,** do you know what Baba sent me in His Pure Compassion? What? A bird from the sky to swoop me up just before hitting the concrete at over 15 m.p.h.? **NO!** Does our Beloved Avatar really work that way? Of course not--**UNLESS HE WISHES TO!** I assure you, there was no "Bird of Rescue" for me on that fateful morning in Bombay...

[There is a story of Baba, me, and a bird, a **SEAGULL,** at the **OCEAN** at Folly Beach, S.C. in 1985, and if you think this story of my journey to India is humorous, wait until you hear "**The Seagull Story**"! That true story is



for another day. I will give you a clue, however. Have you ever WISHED to "talk to the birdies" (not to mention the shells, sand, et cetera)? Here is my clue...

§ DON'T! §

--unless, of course, you have a long, long time to stand in one spot and LISTEN! Do you see my point? Baba tells us that HE GRANTS THE SINCERE AND DEEPEST WISH FROM THE HEARTS OF HIS LOVERS! And do you know, I did not even ask to talk to the "birdies" that day on the beach in 1985. I was "strolling" along on the beach that fateful day, and HE asked me, rather nonchalantly,

¶ Do you wish to talk to the birdies? ¶

I replied, VERY INNOCENTLY,

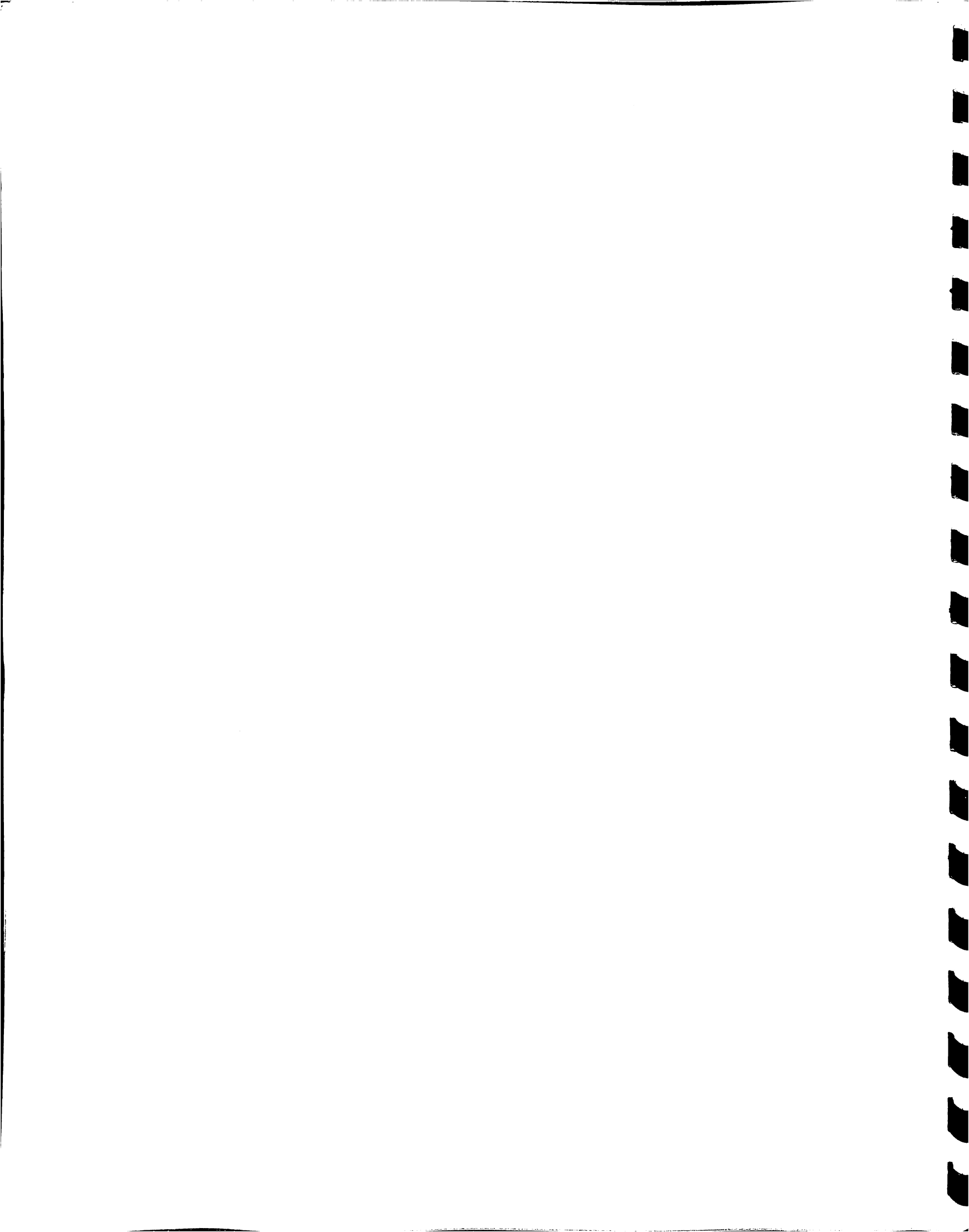
§ sure... §

and so I did...for what seemed like HOURS, STANDING IN ONE SPOT, PEOPLE WALKING BY ON ALL SIDES, LISTENING TO AND TRYING NOT TO LISTEN TO AND TRYING NOT TO TALK TO THE BIRDIES ANYMORE! Do you see my point? I certainly hope so! BE VERY, VERY CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK THE AVATAR FOR! Do you know why?

¶§ YOU SIMPLY MAY RECEIVE... §¶

I tell you in all my honesty, I did not ask to talk to the birdies that day. Or did I? Hells bells, do I KNOW FOR SURE who asked what to whom on that day on the beach? Remember the SPEEDING BUS in Bombay? That was a mild jog compared to the 3.0 mile RACE I had just completed on the beach with BABA CRACKING THE WHIP ALL THE WAY!!! Did I "wish" to "talk to the birdies" after such an experience?

§ SURE! §



10.

CHAPTER 4--"RESCUED"

Do you know what Baba--AND THERE REALLY IS ONLY ONE, AFTER ALL--sent to my RESCUE, from literally out of NOWHERE, as it APPEARED at the time? I COULD NOT BELIEVE IT...



11.

A HAND!



From the sky? No, silly! **FROM THE BACK OF THE BUS! A HAND! TWO HANDS?** No, that would have been **TOO MUCH** to ask for. After all, Baba gives me **ALL MY NEEDS** and only **SOME OF MY WANTS!**

**J'AI BABA...**

However, in my **DESPERATE** situation, **ONE HAND WAS SOMETHING TO WORK TOWARD!** **DO YOU SEE MY DESPERATE SITUATION...**

The bus was **RAPIDLY ACCELERATING**, and I was just before **RAPIDLY DECELERATING AND COLLAPSING INTO THE CONCRETE AT 20 m.p.h.!** Do I know my real m.p.h. on that morning in Bombay? Please do not ask unless you have **LOTS OF TIME** and nothing better to do--remember the "Seagull Story"? Trust me, I was **FLYING**, the bus was flying faster than I, and from the back of the bus came **ONE HAND, FULLY 5 FEET AWAY FROM MY HAND! DO YOU SEE MY ABSOLUTELY PRECARIOUS POSITION?** (I thought my position was absolutely precarious. Remember, I have not yet reached the bus and certainly not **DOWNTOWN BOMBAY.**) Please allow me to move ahead in my story and share a big **SECRET** with you. **SSH...this was only my first morning in India**, and I assure you, I had three full weeks ahead!

So...as my tale goes, at the precise moment I chose to slow my running after the bus and **COLLAPSE**, out came the hand...not just any old hand...**THE HAND OF GOD, YOU SAY?** Well, yes and no. **CERTAINLY THE HAND OF GOD-KEN-GOD.** Does not Baba teach us that we are **ALL God?** **YES! KEN'S HAND WAS STRETCHING TOWARDS ME FROM THE FLOOR OF THE BUS WHERE HE WAS LYING...**

**I WAS RELEIVED!**

In a way I was relieved, but I assure you, the situation still appeared **HOPELESS!** The bus was gaining speed, and in my instant of surrender to the concrete, I **HAD BEGUN TO SLOW DOWN**, and the 5-foot- **SPACE** between my hand and Ken's hand was **WIDENING!** Did I call on Baba in this moment of desperation? **NO! I PREPARED TO MEET THE CONCRETE!** However, **BABA DID CALL TO ME!** Ken was now able to stick his head out of the door, extend his hand further, and said with **GREAT POWER:**



13.

~ EL, YOU CAN MAKE IT! COME ON! TRY IT!!! ~

Do you know what happened then? I PUT ON A FINAL, DESPERATE  
BURST OF SPEED AND...



14.

§ I CAUGHT THE BUS! §

I ENDED UP SQUARELY IN KEN'S STRONG AND LOVING ARMS...  
J'AI BABA!



## CHAPTER 5--"MESSAGES"

What are the MESSAGES from "My One and Only Trip to India"<sup>1</sup>, THUS FAR?

1. Listen VERY CAREFULLY to Kitty's, Jane's (currently at an undetermined age, President Emeritus of Meher Spiritual Center Inc.), and your tour guide's "advice"!
2. When you travel with Avatar Meher Baba as your "Real Tour Guide", BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING!
3. Do not carry TOO MUCH LUGGAGE!
4. Do not wear tourniquet leather sandals!
5. NEVER GIVE UP! NEVER! IT IS FAR BETTER TO GO FOR THE VANISHING HAND THAN TO ACCEPT TOTAL DEFEAT IN THE HANDS OF MAN'S CONCRETE! SOMEDAY BABA WILL MAKE EVEN THE "STRONGEST WILLED" GIVE UP, BUT THAT IS ANOTHER MATTER... UNTIL BABA DOES THAT FOR YOU,

¶S\*çé^ . NEVER GIVE UP!!! .^éc\*S¶

Let us teach ALL of our children this most important TRUTH--  
SURRENDER ONLY TO THE

¶ GOD-MAN. ¶

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI J'AI.....



## CHAPTER 6--"DOWNTOWN BOMBAY"

After landing in the FLOOR of the speeding bus, literally sprawled all over the floor, I was **RELEIVED**, or so I thought at the time! I did not know of the many **COLORFUL SIGHTS, SOUNDS, SMELLS, AND STAMPEDES AWAITING MY POOR, ACHING, BODY AND PSYCHE IN DOWNTOWN BOMBAY!** Of course, my "favorite tour guide", Ken, wanted me to appreciate fully the local Indian culture as an Indian, so I assure you we did not tour all of downtown Bombay comfortably as a **TOURIST**, for God's Sake (or Mine), in a taxi, a rickshaw, on a bicycle, or even in a measly ol' **TONGA OR BULLOCK CART. NO! WE HAD TO DO IT THE REAL WAY-- ON FOOT!**

For **HOURS**, my demanding tour guide and special friend, Ken, led me **ALL OVER DOWNTOWN BOMBAY!** I say "led" me. Actually, I **RAN** after him, **SEEMINGLY NOWHERE**, and we never stopped! **OOPS!** I forgot. We did stop once. After weaving in and out of the **MADLY RUSHING RIVER** of horses, cars, buses, tongas, bicycles, scooters, and people--**SO MANY PEOPLE EVERYWHERE! MY GOD, BABA, I HAD NEVER SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE IN ONE PLACE**, except perhaps in a football stadium, but in a football stadium, everyone has his or her own seat in a neat and orderly fashion, and where if someone steps on your foot, they usually say, "Oh, **EXCUSE ME! PLEASE FORGIVE ME! I AM TRULY SORRY! DID I HURT YOU?**" Do I exaggerate **SLIGHTLY** about the "order and politeness" in a football stadium? **YES!** But I do not exaggerate in the slightest the sheer number of times my **POOR, TIRED, GROSSLY SWOLLEN FEET-- WRAPPED IN A "SNUG" TOURNIQUET OF "HIPPIY" SANDALS-- NOW BRUISED AND BLEEDING, WERE STEPPED UPON!** When I envisioned my pilgrimage to India, I never imagined that I would be standing in my sandals, in downtown Bombay, with another foot on top of my right foot and not be able to move my foot in the slightest. "Why", you ask? I ask you, **§ HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO MOVE YOUR RIGHT FOOT WHEN THE LEFT FRONT FOOT ON TOP OF YOURS BELONGS TO A 1000 LB. WATER BUFFALO? §** You do not believe me? Ask Ken who had to rescue me. Box 592, Wilsonville, Oregon 97070--**SERIOUS ENQUIRIES ONLY!**



Is this where I sat down? Oh, NO! WE HAD TO BE ON OUR WAY TO SEE "THE REAL INDIA", AND WE HAD "SO FEW PRECIOUS HOURS" TO TAKE IT ALL IN!

Where did I finally sit down in downtown Bombay? I really have no IDEA (clue?). Suddenly, I found Ken stopped, for GOD'S (I DO NOT TAKE GOD'S NAME IN VAIN...) SAKE, in front of me. Ken sat on a BENCH, a large wooden bench all by itself by the side of the crowded street-- From out of nowhere it came-- A TRUE GOD-SEND, I ASSURE YOU! KEN PATTED THE BENCH BESIDE HIM AND SAID,

~ SIT. ~

[THANK GOD, KEN DOES NOT WASTE WORDS!]

Like an obedient and exhausted puppy-dog, I sat. Just as I was about to MELT into the bench forever, Ken said,

~ LOOK! ~

I bolted to ATTENTION, still sitting, ready for the action Ken saw! I LOOKED, AS WELL AS I COULD IN MY CONDITION, WHICH NOW INCLUDED BLURRED VISION, EXTREME NAUSEA, AND PARCHED MOUTH AND THROAT! HAD WE STOPPED FOR AN INSTANT FOR A DRINK OF ANYTHING? NO! NO TIME FOR THAT! I MUST SEE THE "REAL" INDIA, AND I HAD "SO LITTLE PRECIOUS TIME"...

I desperately looked around for EXACTLY what Ken was referring to, something DIFFERENT to see among the swarming men, women, children, many buildings, et cetera, et cetera, all with such VARIETY! I saw nothing especially different, sat there in a SEMI-COMA, and was just before collapsing once again into the GOD-SENT BENCH when Ken said, with great power,

~ YOU DON'T SEE IT, DO YOU! ~



I desperately looked again, this time more carefully, as I really **WANTED** to see what my special friend, Ken saw! After a minute or two of careful searching, I did not see what I thought Ken wanted me to see. After another minute or two of careful searching, I still did not see what he wanted me to see! Turning to Ken for some slight assistance in **SEEING WHAT HE SAW**, I saw him sadly shaking his head from side to side and saw that he was in a very deep, meditative state! I started to ask him, **§ SEE WHAT?** §, but before I could, he said, sadly.

~ YOU JUST DON'T SEE! ~

Very frustrated and now **ANGRY** with my tour guide, I said,

**§ SEE WHAT, KEN? WHAT THE xxx DO YOU WANT ME TO SEE? YOU HAVE DRUG ME ALL OVER BOMBAY WITH NO SLEEP OR REST, IN MY CONDITION, NO FOOD, NO DRINK, YAKETA, YAKETA, YAKETA! JUST TELL ME. WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SEE! TELL ME, AND I WILL SEE IT!!! §**

Feeling better after my outburst of "righteous indignation", I started once again to collapse into the woodwork, to gain a well-deserved reward for my day's "stroll". Just before I did, Ken turned his head slowly towards me, fixed my "DAZE-GAZE" with his "GAZE-DAZE", and I saw a MIST in his beautiful, piercing eyes! I **KNEW** he was for **REAL** and that the day's chase was not a wild goose one! I waited eagerly for him to tell me what he saw! I **WANTED TO SEE IT TOO, SO THAT I COULD SHARE HIS REALITY.**

Ken turned his head and all-seeing eyes slowly back towards the teeming masses, buildings, et cetera. He slowly waved his right arm and hand out over the entire scene once, became silent again, slowly turned his face towards mine, caught my eyes steadily once again, and do you know what Ken, my special friend, said to me, with a slight Baba-smile? He said to me, his very best friend, and was off and gone again, before, I say **BEFORE** I could grab him by the throat and strangle him for all eternity:



19.

~ YOU ARE SEEING THE REAL INDIA!  
LETS GO! NO TIME TO SIT!  
LET'S GO!!! ~



Off he went again, running at a break-neck speed into the masses! I sprang from the bench, chased after him at a break-neck speed into the masses-- NOT TO FOLLOW BLINDLY MY VERY SPECIAL FRIEND AND "TOUR GUIDE" ALL OVER INDIA ANYMORE, BUT TO GRAB HIM AND WRESTLE HIM TO THE TARMAC! I PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE CAUGHT HIM IN MY CONDITION HAD HE NOT SLOWED JUST A LITTLE...

What did we do when I caught him, in broad daylight, in downtown Bombay, amongst the masses? WE WRESTLED, IN BABA-LOVE AND HUMOR, GOT UP, WRAPPED ARMS AROUND SHOULDERS, AND WALKED OFF "INTO THE SUNSET", BASKING IN OUR LOVE WHICH HAS BEEN OVER THE AGES AND AGELESS!

J'AI BABA!



Now, where am I in this saga, this tale of My One And Only Trip To India?<sup>1</sup> I wish to share with you this truth--I **HAVE HARDLY BEGUN TO RELATE TO YOU MY STORY, AND I WILL NOT SHARE WITH YOU ALL THAT HAPPENED TO ME ON THIS JOURNEY!**

Ken and I walked off into the sunset, so to speak. It was nowhere near sunset, and we were nowhere near Arnavaz's home. In fact, we had not yet completed our tour of downtown Bombay! Once again, I was off, following Ken, but he was not so "merciless" a leader now. I even had the good sense to ask him where we were going as he weaved in and out of the crowd a few feet ahead of me! He turned his head toward me as we were moving amongst the TUMULTUOUS crowd, and with his small, sweet smile and tiny voice said something that to me sounded like, ~ J'AI. ~

I was not quite sure I caught what he said, so I naturally asked him what he had said, and he repeated the exact same procedure of turning his head slowly back towards me and with the same sweet smile and tiny voice, said what still sounded like, ~ J'AI. ~ **IN THE TUMULT**, I was still unable to ascertain exactly what he was saying, so we repeated our procedure several times exactly, except that I was becoming more and more FRUSTRATED, and he only kept turning his head and saying, ~J'AI~!, once, each time he turned his head. Now, I was not totally naive to EASTERN MORES, ET CETERA, and I knew the word, "J'AI", as in "J'AI BABA"--every "Baba-Lover" knew that in the west, and in those days, when, for example, one "Baba-Lover" met another at the Meher Spiritual Center, Inc., IN MYRTLE BEACH, S. C., each said, "J'AI BABA" to the other so sincerely and sweetly, so I knew all about the "J'AIs" and all those sweet, old, customs! So did Ken; BUT, IT MADE NO SENSE to me for him to keep turning his head and saying, "J'AI", OVER AND OVER!

After repeating his ~J'AI~ many times and seeing his "simple" message fall on a total lack of reception, in his MERCY AND NO DOUBT WISHING TO AVOID ANOTHER "BENCH SCENE", INCLUDING ANOTHER OF MY ATTEMPTS TO "STRANGLE HIM TO ETERNITY", HE SIMPLY SAID THE WORD HE HAD BEEN SAYING OVER AND OVER AND WAS OFF AGAIN, LEAVING ME TO FOLLOW AS BEST I COULD!

<sup>1</sup>THUS FAR



Dutifully following Ken, I walked into a somewhat dark, somewhat dingy, quite fragrant, local restaurant where a number of Indians were dining. WE SAT AT A BOOTH!!! Ken was very silent, very meditative, and the MIST returned to his eyes, signalling to me that SOMETHING WAS UP! I EAGERLY WAITED TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT! IT WAS MOST DEFINITELY ANOTHER SACRED MOMENT BETWEEN MY "TOUR GUIDE" AND ME!

We sat SILENTLY for some time-- I WAS SIMPLY APPRECIATING THE SITTING, Ken was seemingly TRANSFIXED! Finally, a waiter came to our table, and Ken REVERENTLY looked up at him for some moments, and then Ken repeated that one word, several times, with some emphasis--

~ J'AI. J'AI, J'AI! ~

The waiter seemed not to understand and left. I thought PERHAPS KEN WAS LOSING IT-- TOO MUCH SUN AND WALKING BAREFOOT ALL OVER THE EAST, you know! For the first time I began to DOUBT, a bit, the "leadership" of my best friend and tour guide! The PAIN and SHOCK of the JOURNEY began to MOUNT, GREAT FRUSTRATION WAS ABOUT TO SURFACE, AND THE SITUATION WAS BEGINNING TO BE REMINISCENT OF THE EARLIER "BENCH SCENE" WHERE I WENT FOR MY GUIDE'S JUGULAR, WHEN THE WAITER RETURNED WITH THE ORDER!!! WHAT WAS THE ORDER??? BEFORE I COULD GET MY HANDS ON KEN'S THROAT, KEN LIFTED HIS CUP AND SAID:

~ CHAI, TEA,--HAVE SOME!!! ~

After the "Local Indian Restaurant" scene, Ken showed his TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PERIL TO HIS LIFE BY NOT CONTINUING TO "LEAD" ME IN HIS USUAL MANNER AND SUGGESTED WE TAKE A BUS BACK TO ARNAVAZ'S! ARNAVAZ "DETECTED" MY "CONDITION" AND PROMPTLY LED ME TO A ¶ BED ¶--the BED BABA SLEPT IN WHEN AT HER HOME, SHE TOLD ME! AT THAT MOMENT, FOR ME, I COULD HAVE CARED LESS THAT IT WAS GOD'S BED--IT WAS A BED! SO... BEYOND ALL EXHAUSTION, god returned to GOD in HIS BED.....+



## PART TWO

## "THE TOMB AND BEYOND"

## CHAPTER 1--"THE TOMB"

Although all that I have said in PART ONE is QUITE TRUE, for me it is also QUITE HUMOROUS, sometimes related to you in a "tongue-in-cheek" fashion or as one person described my humor, "LAKE-WO-BEGONE", "whatever" that means! The narration has also been amply BLESSED WITH MANY CAPITALS, STRANGE QUOTATION MARKS, MUCH UNDERLINING, SMALL LETTERS, AND MOST CERTAINLY **MUCH BOLDFACE!!!**

DEMARCATIION

NOW, we have entered the portion of the book that I refer to as SERIOUS HUMOR! Should you, the PILGRIM-READER, believe at first glance that ¶ SERIOUS HUMOR ¶ is, in itself, a contradiction in terms, I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU SPEND CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EFFORT IN LOOKING IN GREAT DETAIL AT THE LIVES OF THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE AVATAR AS JESUS, RAM, KRISHNA, MOHAMMED, BUDDHA, ZOROASTER, AND MOST ESPECIALLY, HIS MANIFESTATION AS MEHER BABA! AND PLEASE LET US CLOSELY LOOK AT HIS LESS CONSCIOUS MANIFESTATIONS AS THE REST OF US...

It will require some years of ACTIVE study and LIFETIMES OF DIRECT EXPERIENCE, but one will eventually come to understand, CLEARLY, exactly what Avatar Meher Baba means when He says:

¶ CREATION IS A MIGHTY JOKE--OF ME ON MYSELF! ¶



In this world, not to mention ALL WORLDS, there is a

¶ GREAT DISTURBANCE! ¶

It is quite clear to this participant-observer in 1997, that the ¶FORCES OF LIGHT AND DARK¶ have most certainly been released by our BELOVED AVATAR! NEVER HAS THERE BEEN A TIME OF SUCH GREAT SUFFERING AND, YES, "evil", and ALL TRUE LOVERS OF GOD SHOULD RECOGNIZE THIS FACT, STUDY IT, AND VOW TO MAKE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT -- CERTAINLY AT THE COST OF ONE'S HUMAN LIFE, IF NECESSARY--TO OVERCOME THE DARKNESS OF LUST, GREED, AND ANGER THAT CURRENTLY ENVELOP US AND THE DARKNESS OF SLOTH AND "FALSE" PRIDE THAT SOMETIMES EXISTS WITHIN EACH OF US... IT IS NO "joke", FOR EXAMPLE, THAT BABIES, CHILDREN, AND OLD FOLKS ARE ROUTINELY DISCARDED ON THE "GARBAGE HEAPS" OF OUR WORLD OF INDIFFERENCE, HATRED, VIOLENCE AT ALL LEVELS, AND HOW INSANE IS THE MAXIM THAT "we are doing the best we can..." ...and much, much, worse, the terrible spiritual distortion of:

"let baba do it!!!"

WE SHOULD NEVER BE UNAWARE OR "frivilous" ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE LEVEL OF REAL SUFFERING THAT ABOUNDS, HERE AND NOW, ON THIS PLANET, AT ALL LEVELS! "Frivilous" means, "not properly serious or sensible". MEHER BABA WAS, IS , AND NEVER WILL BE "frivilous" ABOUT SUFFERING AND DOES NOT ALLOW THAT IN HIS TRUE LOVERS!!!

¶§ THE CONDITION OF THIS PLANET IS MOST SERIOUS!!! §¶



25.

ON THE OTHER HAND, AND THIS PARTICULAR OTHER HAND  
IS A VERY BIG AND MOST IMPORTANT OTHER HAND,



¶§\*çé^ . VICTORY IS ASSURED! .^éç§¶



THE TRULY "GOOD NEWS" IS THAT:  
 ¶ NOT ONLY IS GOD ALIVE AND WELL, HE ALWAYS HAS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE! ¶ It is the various degrees of we and it that have been

"ill". I do say, "HAVE BEEN", because in the MOST DIRECT, ULTIMATELY REAL, AND PENULTIMATELY IMPORTANT SENSE, BECAUSE OF THE AVATAR'S DIVINE LOVE, SUFFERING, SACRIFICE, AND ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL PRESENCE, WE AND ALL ARE TRULY PERFECT LOVE! IT IS THIS REALITY THAT REALLY IS-- ALL ELSE IS CRITICAL APPEARANCE!

THIS ALL-IMPORTANT DISTINCTION BETWEEN REALLY REALITY AND CRITICAL APPEARANCE ("ILLUSION" FOR MEHER BABA) IS QUITE CONFUSING, ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND FOR TRUE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPOSSIBLE EVER TO ACQUIRE WITHOUT THE GRACE OF THE MASTER AND EXTREME SELFLESS EFFORT AND SACRIFICE ON THE PART OF THE "JOURNEY-PERSON". THIS ALL-IMPORTANT DISTINCTION--AND SIMILARITY--BETWEEN THE REALLY REALITY AND THE APPEARANCE (ILLUSION) OF PEOPLE, THINGS, AND EVENTS, IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW AND EXPERIENCE, AND WERE IT NOT FOR THE AVATAR [AND THERE IS ONLY ONE.] NONE, ABSOLUTELY NONE, EVER WOULD!!! THE GREAT DIFFICULTY OF ATTAINING THIS EXPERIENCE WAS PARTLY REVEALED TO ME IN 1976 WHEN AVATAR MEHER BABA SAID INWARDLY TO ME:

¶ THAT WHICH APPEARS TO BE, IS NOT!  
 THAT WHICH IS, APPEARS NOT TO BE! ¶



TO OTHERS, HE HAS SAID:

¶ THINGS ARE NOT AS THEY APPEAR...  
NOR ARE THEY OTHERWISE! ¶

In light of the above paragraphs, **SERIOUS HUMOR IS CERTAINLY THE ORDER OF THE DAY FOR ME AND MINE**, and my experiences at Meher Baba's TOMB AT UPPER MEHERABAD where His laid-aside Body is at rest, at LOWER MEHERABAD WITH MOHAMMED, ONE OF BABA'S MOST-WORKED-WITH AND FAVORITE EXTREMELY ADVANCED "MASTS" (PURELY GOD-INTOXICATED SOULS), AND AT MEHERAZAD (BABA'S FAVORITE EASTERN HOME) WITH MEHERA, BABA'S BELOVED, are MOST DEFINITELY IN THE CATEGORY OF "SERIOUS HUMOR"! IT IS FROM MEHER BABA'S DIVINELY SERIOUS HUMOR THAT MY LIFE HAS BEEN (and IS) MOST PRECIOSLY AFFECTED AND FROM WHICH I HAVE LEARNED LIFETIMES' MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS, some of which I choose to share with you NOW!



After a good night's rest at Arnavaz's home in Bombay, Ken and I took a taxi to Poona (Baba's birthplace), a bus to Ahmednagar, and a poor pony and cart to Sarosh and Villo's Villa, arriving very late at night, surprising all. As I have said, my PRIMARY OBJECTIVE in coming to India was GOING TO AND BEING AT BABA'S TOMB, AND I SAW THIS VISION IN MY MIND FROM THE VERY MOMENT IT WAS CONCEIVED BACK IN GREENWOOD, S. C., UNTIL THE VERY MOMENT I ACTUALLY PHYSICALLY APPROACHED AND ENTERED THE TOMB! THIS VISION OF BOWING DOWN TO BABA IN HIS TOMB AT UPPER MEHERABAD IN INDIA DROVE ME WITH A FURY UP TO THE VERY MOMENT I DID BOW DOWN IN HIS TOMB. This "Tomb drive" possessed me so that even after the very long and exhausting journey from GREENWOOD to Villo's Villa

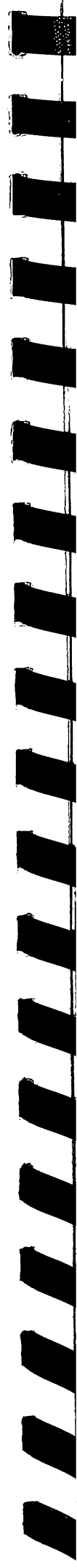


and arriving late at night, Ken and I arose early the next morning and promptly BIKED the 6 miles to Meherabad, slowing down on the way only to APPRECIATE THE PRECIOUS INDIAN CHILDREN WHO RAN TO THE ROAD, SHOUTING:

¶ J'AI BA-BA! J'AI BA-BA! ¶

WHEN WE FINALLY ARRIVED AT LOWER MEHERABAD, I WAS SO POSSESSED TO GO INTO THE TOMB THAT I DROPPED MY BIKE IN THE courtyard at LOWER MEHERABAD AND RAPIDLY BEGAN THE CLIMB UP THE HILL TO THE TOMB WITHOUT SEEING ANYONE AT LOWER MEHERABAD. I VIGOROUSLY MADE THE LONG CLIMB UP THE HILL, REALLY SEEING LITTLE ALONG THE WAY, AND QUICKLY APPROACHED THE TOMB. THERE WAS NO ONE ANYWHERE, EXCEPT FOR NANA-KER, WHO WAS WAITING TO EMBRACE ME AND WELCOME ME TO THE TOMB. I WAS SO POSSESSED TO GO INTO THE TOMB THAT EVEN NANAKER'S LONG EMBRACE WAS MUCH TOO LONG. FINALLY, HE TOLD ME THAT I COULD GO INTO THE TOMB!

I WENT THROUGH THE DOORS, WAS ALONE, RECOGNIZED THE INTERIOR, AND IMMEDIATELY FELT BABA'S PRESENCE SO STRONGLY! IN MY RUSH TO BOW MY HEAD AT BABA'S FEET--HIS BODY COVERED BY THE BEAUTIFUL GRANITE-- ...IN MY RUSH TO LAY MY LIFE AT HIS FEET...



30.

I SEVERLY BUMPED MY HEAD ON THE GRANITE!!!



31.

PRECISELY AT THE MOMENT I BUMPED MY HEAD, MEHER BABA  
SPOKE TO ME! DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID TO ME...?



¶ I AM NO MORE HERE THAN  
IN GREENWOOD  
SOUTH CAROLINA! ¶



33.

How did I feel at the moment of Baba's REVELATION to me concerning HIS REAL RESIDENCE, AFTER ALL I HAD EXPERIENCED IN THE TWO PREVIOUS DAYS OF DIVINE STRESS IN FINALLY ARRIVING AT THE TOMB, NOT TO MENTION ALL THE MANY DAYS, MONTHS, AND YEARS OF TRYING TO LEARN HOW TO KEEP MY HEAD IN THE CLOUDS AND MY FEET SOLIDLY ON THE GROUND WITH AVATAR MEHER BABA?

DID I FEEL FRUSTRATED, DISAPPOINTED, CONFUSED, ANGRY, OR ABUSED?

§ ABSOLUTELY NOT!!! ¶

§ NO! §

HOW DID I FEEL?



§ I FELT RELIEVED, JOYOUS,  
CONFIRMED, AND CERTAIN  
THAT OUR BELOVED BABA  
WAS NOT ONLY ALIVE AND WELL,

HE IS ALIVE AND WELL EVERYWHERE! ¶



Did I feel that my JOURNEY TO BABA'S TOMB was in vain? YES AND NO!

THE YES-- I DID NOT REALLY HAVE TO COME TO INDIA TO "PAY MY RESPECTS" TO MEHER BABA "LYING IN STATE" BECAUSE MEHER BABA IS, INDEED EVERYWHERE, INSIDE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US AND CERTAINLY ALL THINGS ONE OF US! FOR ME TO THINK THAT I HAD TO JOURNEY ALL AROUND THE WORLD TO BE WITH BABA, WAS, IN ONE VERY REAL AND IMPORTANT SENSE, A COMPLETE MOCKERY OF THE AVATAR'S TEACHING, A MISPENDING OF MONEY AND PRICELESS TIME WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO THOSE WHO **TRULY SUFFER** IN THIS WORLD! REMEMBER THE VIRTUALLY MISUNDERSTOOD AND ADVANCED DISCIPLE OF AVATAR BABA-JESUS, JUDAS, (as portrayed in the popular rock opera, "Jesus Christ Superstar"), WHO SINGS TO MARY, THE BELOVED OF JESUS, WHILE SHE IS LOVINGLY ANOINTING THE MASTER'S FEET IN VERY EXPENSIVE OIL:

¶ WOMAN, YOUR FINE OINTMENT COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED  
FOR THE POOR! ¶

§ I COULD HAVE BOWED DOWN IN MY HEART TO BELOVED BABA IN MY BACK YARD IN GREENWOOD, S. C. OR ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE ELSE! §

THE NO--THE JOURNEY TO AVATAR MEHER BABA'S TOMB IN MEHERABAD, INDIA, DOUBTLESS HAD SOME VANITY, BUT THE JOURNEY MOST CERTAINLY WAS NOT IN VAIN! THE LESSONS OF LOVE AND SERVICE I AM LEARNING WITH BABA FROM INDIA ARE WITH ME FOR MY ENTIRETY AND ARE EVER GROWING CLEARER! BOWING DOWN TO MEHER BABA IN INDIA IN HIS TOMB IS NOW AND SHALL FOREVER BE OF INESTIMABLE WORTH! SHOULD YOUR OPPORTUNITY COME TO MEET MEHER BABA IN HIS TOMB IN INDIA, PLEASE DO SO...



Having done so, UNTIL ¶HE¶ CALLS YOU ONCE again to HIS HOMELAND IN INDIA, PLEASE STAY AT YOUR HOME STATION AND WORK CEASLESSLY FOR HIM! ¶HE¶, is in boldface and with emphasis because sometimes we think ¶HE¶ is calling us, and in "reality", the "call" is a lower level of "us calling ourselves"! MEHER BABA SPEAKS IN MANY OF OUR OWN "VOICES" IN ORDER TO HELP US BE ABLE TO HEAR HIS REAL VOICE! BEWARE NOT ONLY OF "WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING"--ALSO BE CAUTIOUS THAT MEHER COMES IN MANY DISGUISES, ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE POOR AND THE DOWNTRODDEN WHO CONTINUALLY RECEIVE UNLOVING AND UNFAIR TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF IGNORANCE!

OF COURSE, MEHER BABA IS ALSO IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO DO THE UNLOVING AND THE UNFAIR, AND THEY NEED DESPERATELY TO BE SHOWN HIS DIVINE LOVE!!!

\* \* \*



I remained a few more silent and peaceful moments inside Baba's Tomb, observing the **MOST BEAUTIFUL MURALS ON THE CEILING OF THE DOME** painted by the famed Swiss artist, Helen Dahm. **ALL** who revere Michele Michangelo's beautiful art work on the ceiling of the dome in St. Peter's Sistine Chapel in **ROME**, **SHOULD** view the **WORKS OF ART INSIDE MEHER BABA'S TOMB!**

**INSCRIBED DEEPLY INTO THE GRANITE COVERING MEHER BABA'S "PLACE OF REST" IS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE:**

**¶ I HAVE COME NOT TO TEACH BUT TO  
AWAKEN! ¶**

**FLOWER PETALS WERE, AND STILL ARE, ARRANGED CAREFULLY, GENTLY, AND MOST BEAUTIFULLY ON THE GRANITE ABOVE MEHER BABA'S MOST PRECIOUS FORM EACH MORNING BY MEHERA, BABA'S BELOVED, MANI, HIS DEVOTED SISTER, AND ALL OF THE WOMEN MANDALI. THE FRAGRANCE INSIDE HIS TOMB IS SURELY THE FRAGRANCE OF THE GOD-MAN WHICH REMAINS WITH ONE THROUGHOUT THE AGES AND TESTIFIES TO HIS ALWAYS ETERNAL NOW!**

**§ THANK YOU, AVATAR MEHER BABA, KI J'AI!  
7X. §**



## CHAPTER 2--"PAYING MY RESPECTS TO MOHAMMED"

I stayed only a short time in the Tomb because I really felt that my JOURNEY WAS COMPLETED, MY MISSION FULFILLED! When I left the Tomb, I was in an extremely BLISSFUL state and felt very much at ONE with the Beloved! I looked around Upper Meherabad a brief time and then slowly walked back down the hill to Lower Meherabad. I had seen no one else, except possibly a brief glimpse of Mansari scurrying by, and there was NO ONE at Lower Meherabad when I returned there! AS I LOOK BACK AT THE ENTIRE AREA NOW, THERE WAS SUSPICIOUSLY NO ONE ANYWHERE! WHERE WAS EVERYONE? REALLY, EXACTLY WHERE WAS EVERYONE? EXACTLY WHERE MEHER BABA WANTED THEM, NO DOUBT!

When I entered Lower Meherabad, Baba began "leading me around by the nose" (Is this not a marvelous way to be led?). As I was casually walking around the grounds, I looked into a large room in the main building with the doors open. I saw a person sitting on the side of his bed on the far side of the room, whose head was bending downwards, and he seemed in a semi-trance state. Baba told me inwardly that the person was Mohammed, whom I then recognized. I was somewhat in awe at seeing him, and when Baba suggested that I "pay my respects" to Mohammed, I felt quite honored and also shy to pay my respects to the person whom I knew Baba had said many years ago was a 5<sup>th</sup>-Plane Saint of the Mental World! NEVERTHELESS, WITH BABA LEADING ME, I WAS NOT QUITE SO SHY, AND I ENTERED THE BUILDING...

I slowly walked around the near wall of the room, looking at and "pretending" to see the pictures on the walls, but really I was wondering how I was going to "pay my respects" to Mohammed. I MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT WISH TO DISTURB HIM! I slowly continued to walk along the wall behind Mohammed and then to his right. THE ENTIRE TIME, MOHAMMED NEVER CHANGED HIS POSTURE OR EXPRESSION! IT APPEARED TO ME THAT HE WAS IN PAIN! AS I







NOT ONLY DID MOHAMMED YELL AT ME WITH SUCH GREAT POWER, HE IMMEDIATELY LUNGED TOWARDS ME!!! HAD I NOT MADE SUCH A SPEEDY EXIT TOWARDS THE DOOR, HE WOULD HAVE CAUGHT ME!!!

MOHAMMED'S OUTBURST AND TIRADE OF VEHEMENCE AFFECTED ME DEEPLY AND CREATED QUITE A COMMOTION!! SEVERAL OF THE MEN MANDALI RUSHED IN, from out of nowhere, TO QUIET HIM DOWN! HIS OUTBURST TOWARDS ME AFFECTED ME VERY DEEPLY AND INSTANTLY! PRIMARILY THE EFFECT WAS THAT OF GREAT

¶§ SHOCK! §¶

Now, some of you very bright Baba historians may believe that I am telling you a tall tale here since you "know" that Mohammed spoke no words of the English language. IF SO, YOU ARE "FORGETTING" THAT MEHER BABA SPEAKS THROUGH OTHERS IN ALL LANGUAGES! I TELL YOU WITH ALL HONESTY THAT MOHAMMED SPOKE THOSE WORDS TO ME ON THAT VERY FATEFUL DAY AT LOWER MEHERABAD!!! CERTAINLY, THOSE WERE THE EXACT WORDS I HEARD ON THAT DAY!



In the IMMEDIATE SHOCK of the moment, I was not able to PROCESS AND ANALYZE the situation calmly and with aplomb as I was better able to do months and YEARS afterward. The EFFECT of the torrent of "abuse" from Mohammed was one of the most severe I had ever experienced, and I was quite experienced with abuse from childhood and later. Only after great healing, have I been able to assess accurately and completely the REALITY of that "LITTLE ENCOUNTER" with Mohammed in 1975. That more complete story is for another book and for another time, SHOULD THERE BE TIME FOR SUCH AN ENDEAVOR!

My story, now, is in Meherabad, and I tell you, I WAS TERRIFIED!

I WAS SO UPSET AFTER THE EXPERIENCE WITH MOHAMMED THAT ALL I WAS ABLE TO DO WAS FIND THE NEAREST BENCH, SIT DOWN, AND IMMEDIATELY LIGHT A CIGARETTE (i.e., DRUG ADDICT). I WAS VERY EMBARRASSED AT THE TERRIBLE COMMOTION I HAD CAUSED AND SIMPLY WANTED TO DISAPPEAR!!!

One of the men mandali came over after helping calm Mohammed and tried to comfort me, but I was unreachable. He did suggest a method of quitting SMOKING WHICH I HAD BEEN PLAGUED WITH OFF AND ON SINCE A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. AT THE TIME, QUITTING SMOKING WAS ONE OF THE LEAST OF MY CONCERNS, AND I DID NOT APPRECIATE HIS HELP NOR THE HARMFUL INTERFERENCE OF CIGARETTE ADDICTION TO MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH OR MY BODILY HEALTH. [CERTAINLY MEHER BABA ALLOWED SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS A RELATIONSHIP WITH CIGARETTES, BUT FOR ME, CIGARETTE ADDICTION IS MOST HARMFUL! KEN ONCE TOLD ME THAT ONE CAN NOT EVEN BEGIN THE SPIRITUAL PATH UNTIL ONE GIVES UP CIGARETTES! IT IS TRUE THAT MY GREATEST CLARITY BEGAN AFTER OVERCOMING THE ADDICTION!]

SIMPLY OUT OF CURIOSITY, HAVE ANY OF YOU EVER HAD SIMILAR EXPERIENCES WITH MOHAMMED OR ANY OTHER "GENTLE AND CHILDLIKE SOULS" IN INDIA? HOW ABOUT YOU, SHARON, WHOM I "BUMPED" INTO IN BABA'S BOOKSTORE? CONFESS NOW, GIVE ME A CALL, SO WE CAN BOTH SHARE HUMOR!



I wish I had thought of "forgiving Baba" OR AT LEAST HAD BEEN AWARE THAT EVERY EXPERIENCE HE GIVES ME IS FOR MY (OUR) GREATER GOOD, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM HIM THAT ARE SO PAINFUL AT THE MOMENT, which reminds me of a new "joke" I created recently. It is "painfully humorous" and certainly HIGH TRUTH and DIVINE HUMOR THOUGH NOT VERY "funny"! Want to hear the "joke"?

§ IF I HAD NOT THE SELF-CREATED FORCES OF DARKNESS TO PROPEL ME FORWARD AND UPWARD, I WOULD FOREVER REMAIN A ROCK!§

I said the "joke" was not very "funny", and I did not think Mohammed's "attack" of me in India was very "funny" at the time! I thought I was at fault, and I was only trying to "pay my respects", as I am quite sure Meher Baba suggested at the time! Only through much SELF-DEVELOPMENT FROM MANY YEARS OF DIFFICULT WORK UNDER THE DIVINE GUIDANCE OF THE AVATAR CAN I NOW ANSWER MOHAMMED ¶Baba¶ WITH MY OWN PECULIAR BRAND OF HUMOR:

1. "HIPPIY"-- YES, I WAS, AND STILL AM PLEASED TO BE A TRUE HIPPIY, BECAUSE A TRUE HIPPIY LOVES BABA-GOD DESPERATELY AND TRIES TO PUT HER LOVE INTO PRACTICE TO HELP ANY AND ALL BECOME PREPARED FOR BABA'S GRAND AWAKENING! WHAT DO YOU SAY, ALL YOU OLD, TRUE HIPPIES OF THE 60'S, 70'S, AND ALL OTHER AGES AND GENERATIONS? AMEN! I SAY BRING BACK SOME OF THE TRUE HIPPIES AND LET THEM RUN THE GOVERNMENTS FOR A CHANGE! EXACTLY WHY DO SOME FOLKS OBJECT TO A "COMMUNITY" OF LOVING AND SHARING PEOPLE? GREED AND SELFISHNESS IS ONE REASON--ANGER AND HATRED ANOTHER!.....SO, GIVE THIS POINT TO MOHAMMED!

2. "YOU DRUG ADDICT"-- YES, I HAVE SAID THAT I HAD A TERRIBLE ADDICTION TO CIGARETTES AS HAVE SOME OF YOU OUT THERE, AND I HAVE HAD MY EXPERIENCES WITH OTHER ADDICTIONS AS HAVE MOST OF US ON THIS LONG AND OFTEN LONELY PATH TO GOD... SO SCORE THIS ONE FOR MOHAMMED TOO!....SOBRIETY, YES!



3. "CUT-OFF JEANS"-- YES, I MUST SAY, MOHAMMED GOT ME ON THIS ONE! I WAS WEARING THEM ON THAT DAY IN 1975, AND STILL WOULD IF THEY WERE MY PREFERENCE! OF COURSE, I WAS SO CULTURALLY NAIVE ABOUT THE MORE CONSERVATIVE INDIAN DRESS OF THE AREA, AND IN THIS SENSE I WAS "RUDE" TO DRESS AS I DID!.....SCORE THIS ONE FOR MOHAMMED ALSO!

4. "WITH YOUR GUITAR"-- I TELL YOU, I HAD NO GUITAR WITH MOHAMMED ON THAT DAY! ON THIS ONE PART OF HIS (BABA'S) TIRADE, THEY WERE SIMPLY "MISTAKEN"! I HAD A CHEAP GUITAR YEARS BEFORE, BUT GAVE IT AWAY BECAUSE I COULD NOT LEARN TO PLAY WITHOUT CUTTING INTO MY FINGERS. UNLESS THEY WERE REFERRING TO THE PREVIOUS GUITAR THROUGH SOME TYPE OF "THERE IS NO PAST OR FUTURE, ONLY THE NOW", SCORE THIS ONE FOR ME!

5. "HOW DARE YOU DISTURB MY PEACE."-- YES, I DID ENTER HIS BEDROOM UNANNOUNCED AND UNINVITED BY HIM!....SCORE THIS ONE FOR MOHAMMED ALSO!

6. "GET OUT OF HERE"-- I WAS WISE ENOUGH TO RUN FOR THE DOOR,....SO, SCORE THAT ONE FOR ME!

7. "GET OUT OF HERE"-- AGAIN, SCORE THAT ONE FOR ME AS I RAN FASTER FOR THE DOOR!

FINAL SCORE: OBVIOUSLY MOHAMMED AND MEHER CLEARLY WON THE DAY, AS DID I ALSO, EVENTUALLY, FROM THE "HUMBLING" EXPERIENCE!!!....SO, MAKE THAT FINAL TALLY FOR ALL OF US ON THAT VERY DISTURBING DAY:

\* LOVE:LOVE \*

§ THANK YOU MEHER-MOHAMMED! §



MESSAGES FROM THE MEHER-MOHAMMED EXPERIENCE:

1. MEHER BABA IS **ALWAYS** THE UNIQUE **GOD-MAN**, AND MOHAMMED, YOU, AND I ARE THE UNIQUE **GOD**, ALWAYS IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING UNTIL THE BLESSED MOMENT WE **ARRIVE!**
  
2. LET US BE PREPARED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY WHEN WE JOURNEY WITH MEHER BABA, WHETHER IN INDIA OR ELSEWHERE!
  
3. PLEASE LET US ALL CAREFULLY EVALUATE ANY CRITICISM OF US AND OTHERS, **BEFORE** ACCEPTING OR REJECTING THAT CRITICISM, WHETHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, BECAUSE IN SOME SITUATIONS THE CRITICISM IS ACCURATE AND IN SOME SITUATIONS, IT MOST DEFINITELY IS NOT! (I AM A "TRUE HIPPY", BUT I ASSURE YOU, I TOOK NO GUITAR TO INDIA!)
  
4. LET US NEVER DISTURB THE PEACE OF ANYONE OR ANYTHING EVER! CERTAINLY NOT THAT OF MOHAMMED, KITTY, JANE, THE FISH OF THE SEA, THE FOWL OF THE AIR, AND CERTAINLY NOT MINE OR OURS--THE PEACE WHICH COMES ONLY AFTER MUCH, MUCH STRIVING!

¶ THE PEACE WHICH PASSES ALL  
UNDERSTANDING ¶

§ LET US ALL BE FRIENDS, REAL COMRADES  
OF THE WAY TO THE  
AVATAR MEHER BABA, KI J'AI §

thank you...éxad



## CHAPTER 3--"MEHERAZAD"

There are two detailed experiences during my visit to Meherazad which I wish to share with you. The first is my meeting with Mehera, Meher Baba's Beloved and chief woman disciple, on the veranda of their home, and the second is my visit with Baba in His room. Both are especially dear memories of my visit to India with Baba, and have become MORE TREASURED AS I HAVE HEALED AND REMEMBERED MORE IN RECENT YEARS ABOUT WHO I AM AND WHY I AM HERE!

As I approached Meherazad compound along the beautifully tree-lined road-- the picture is still vividly etched in my mind-- I wondered what I would find at Meherazad that I had not already found in my experience at Meherabad! As I have already related, after being with Meher Baba at His Samadi (Tomb), ALL MY DESIRES IN COMING TO INDIA WERE ALREADY QUITE SATISFIED, and to be very frank, my visit to Meherazad was to satisfy a lesser desire to determine, FOR MYSELF, THAT THE MANDALI WERE "BEFITTING" OF THEIR DIVINE MASTER. I WANTED TO EXPERIENCE DIRECTLY THAT THEY WERE AS BEAUTIFULLY DEVOTED IN THEIR LOVE FOR BABA AS I HAD HEARD THEY WERE IN MANY STORIES FROM CHARLES, MY LINK TO MEHER BABA, WHO "JUST HAPPENED" TO BE IN INDIA WHILE KEN AND I WERE THERE! NEVER HAVE I MET PURER LOVERS OF GOD THAN CHARLES AND HIS MOST PRECIOUS MOTHER, JANE, WHO GAVE ME MY FIRST "WALKING TOUR" OF MEHER CENTER AT MYRTLE BEACH, S. C., IN 1970!!!

[MY CLOSE FRIEND, JETHEL, FIRST TOLD ME OF BABA IN 1969 AT EMORY UNIVERSITY, AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAID WHEN SHE FIRST SHOWED ME A VOLUME OF BABA'S DISCOURSES WHICH HAD A PICTURE OF A YOUNGER MEHER BABA ON THE FRONT???

§Anyone would have to be crazy to follow someone who looks

like THAT! §]



When I arrived at Meherazad, I walked in the compound area briefly, admiring the pristine surroundings, the "humorous" Blue Bus with no wheels, a few people here and there, and having no agenda for the visit, I walked towards the big house through the lovely rose garden that I later learned was Mehera's special garden for Baba which SHE SO LOVINGLY TENDED FOR OUR BELOVED AND WHICH HE ALWAYS WALKED THROUGH ON THE PATH FROM HIS ROOM TO MEET WITH THE MEN MANDALI EACH MORNING, ESPECIALLY DURING THE LATTER YEARS WHEN HE WAS BARELY ABLE TO WALK DUE TO THE UNBELIEVABLE BURDEN OF UNIVERSAL SUFFERING HE CARRIES FOR ALL OF US--SUFFERING MADE ALL THE MORE REAL FOR HIM BY HIS TWO SEVERE AUTOMOBILE ¶accidents¶, ONE IN THE U.S. AND THE OTHER IN INDIA, IN 1952 AND 1956, RESPECTIVELY, INJURING HIS LEFT SIDE AND THEN HIS RIGHT SIDE--ALL HAPPENING AFTER HE HAD TOLD US FOR YEARS THAT:

¶ I MUST SPILL MY BLOOD ON BOTH  
EASTERN AND WESTERN SOIL! ¶

I MUST ADD, THERE IS NO BETTER SYMBOL OF THE MODERN CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION BY US THAN THE AUTOMOBILE, WHICH DAILY DRINKS THE FOSSIL-FUEL BLOOD OF THIS PLANET TO EXTINCTION AND...SOME OF US NEVER GIVE THAT EXTINCTION MORE THAN A PASSING THOUGHT...GOD FORGIVE US BECAUSE THIS PLANET NO LONGER CAN...SHE HAS GIVEN US ALMOST ALL SHE CAN...DO YOU REMEMBER THE PRECIOUS "CHILDREN'S" BOOK, THE GIVING TREE? AT LEAST THE TREE STILL HAD A STUMP LEFT FOR HIM TO SIT ON IN HIS OLD AGE!!!



**BUT...CURRENTLY, IN THIS NARRATION OF My One And Only Trip To India<sup>1</sup>, I am relating to you my experience with Baba and Mehera at Meherazad, not THE CONDITION OF ILLNESS OF OUR PLANET AND MOST OF HER INHABITANTS. HOWEVER, I WISH TO LEAVE THIS PARTICULAR PODIUM WITH THE FOLLOWING STORY RELATED TO MY UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE...**

...FOR YEARS DURING THE 70's, I always told my students in my classes in Developmental Psychology that ONE DAY a STAMPEDE WILL COME TO OUR WORLD, ONE IN WHICH EACH PERSON WOULD HAVE ONLY ONE OF TWO CHOICES--EITHER JOIN OTHERS IN THE STAMPEDE AND RUN OVER HIS/HER BROTHER WHO HAD FALLEN IN FRONT **OR STOP, BEND DOWN, AND ADMINISTER AID TO THE FALLEN BROTHER AT THE RISK OF BEING OVERRUN BY THE STAMPEDE!** THIS VERY POWERFUL TRUTH ALWAYS RESULTED IN MY STUDENTS BEING DEEPLY MOVED AND VISIBLY AFFECTED! THE CLASS MEMBERS WOULD ALWAYS SIT IN **SILENCE** AFTER THIS TRUTH WAS SPOKEN! IN ONE CLASS IN 1978, I MADE THIS POWERFUL ASSERTION, AND THE CLASS MEMBERS RESPONDED WITH THE **SOMBER SILENCE**. AFTER A FEW MOMENTS OF THIS SILENCE, A LONE STUDENT RAISED HIS HAND AND SAID:

¶ DR. ézad, the stampede has already begun! ¶

IT WAS MY TURN TO STAND IN SILENCE, AND  
**REVERENCE.**

1. I DO NOT TAKE STAMPEDES LIGHTLY! I HAVE BEEN IN TOO MANY OF MY OWN!
2. HIS VICTORY IS ASSURED, BUT...IT IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY!!



Back at Meherazad in Mehera's garden for Baba in 1975, as I said, I had no AGENDA for my visit--no one told me that I should or could go to a certain place at a certain time or see a certain person. Certainly there are RULES OF PROTOCOL now when one visits Meherazad, but on my visit, the "rules" were much more akin to "auto-pilot". I was deftly guided along the path towards the house where I noticed several women sitting on the veranda. I walked up the stone steps onto the veranda and was GUIDED to the group of three women who were sitting to my right. I approached the group, and as a Magnet is drawn to another Magnet, I FOUND MYSELF MOVING TOWARDS THE CENTRAL PERSON IN THE GROUP, WHOM I RECOGNIZED AS MEHERA. DR. GOHER WAS SEATED ON HER RIGHT AND MEHERU ON HER LEFT, BUT I REALLY DID NOT SEE THEM. AS I APPROACHED MEHERA, THE ETERNAL CHRIST'S ETERNAL BELOVED THROUGHOUT ALL AGES AND INCARNATIONS, SHE STOOD UP. STILL ON DIRECTED SELF-GUIDANCE, I APPROACHED MEHERA QUITE SLOWLY AND QUITE NATURALLY, WE LOOKED DEEPLY INTO ONE ANOTHER'S EYES, WE GENTLY EMBRACED, AND I LIGHTLY KISSED HER ON THE CHEEK, UNKNOWINGLY BREAKING THE LIFE-TIME RESTRICTION PLACED ON HER BY MEHER BABA TO TOUCH NO MAN! AS WE EMBRACED, MEHERA, BABA'S BELOVED, SAID SOMETHING TO ME THAT HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE IMPORTANT AND MORE AND MORE MEANINGFUL AND MOST CHERISHED BY ME THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. MEHERA'S GIFT FOR ME, HER GIFT WHICH HAS HELPED ME SO VERY MUCH IN UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF WHO I REALLY AM, WAS WHEN SHE WHISPERED IN MY EAR:

¶ WELCOME HOME, MY SON! ¶

IS IT NOT WONDERFUL TO HAVE SUCH DIVINE PARENTS?

ARE WE NOT ALL SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF MEHER AND MEHERA?



After Mehera's and my "chat" on the veranda, she stood up and said:

¶ NOW IS YOUR SPECIAL TIME ALONE WITH BABA ¶

Mehera then led me into Baba's beautiful pink bedroom and said again:

¶ THIS IS YOUR SPECIAL TIME ALONE WITH BABA  
TAKE YOUR TIME.  
NO ONE WILL DISTURB YOU! ¶

ΛΛΛΛΛΛΛΛΛΛΛΛΛΛΛΛ

It is my WISH that the detailed experience I now choose to share with you in no manner "OFFENDS" you. So many today take OFFENCE at such trivial matters of others while they completely overlook the "mote" in their own eyes! How many times must the Avatar say to me to ¶ GO INTO MY OWN CLOSET AND NOT ONLY PRAY, BUT CLEAN IT OUT BEFORE I DARE TO MAKE ANY "evaluation" OF ANOTHER? ¶ HOW DARE WE "BABA-lovers" and "babettes" judge another's WALK WITH MEHER BABA by saying, "baba says this" or "baba says that" or even worse, perhaps, "Eruch says this, that, or the other" or "Mani told me..." HOW DARE ANY OF US TRUE LOVERS OF THE AVATAR JUDGE ANOTHER ON THE "GENDER ISSUE" OR ANY OTHER "ISSUE" ACCORDING TO THE CRITERION OF, "SOMEONE SAYS" WHEN IN REALITY THE CRITERION WE ARE subtly ESPOUSING IS , "i say!" ? MEHER BABA GIVES US ONLY ONE CRITERION BY WHICH TO JUDGE ANYONE OR ANYTHING,



¶ LOVE ALL EQUALLY! ¶



As I entered Baba's bedroom and Mehera closed the door, I INSTANTLY EXPERIENCED THE STILLNESS AND SERENITY AND PRESENCE I FELT IN BABA'S TOMB. I HEARD NO SOUND AT ALL! ADDITIONALLY, I DETECTED THE UNMISTAKABLE FRAGRANCE PRESENT IN THE TOMB. I FELT AT HOME. I RELAXED AND MADE MYSELF AT HOME!

I SLOWLY MOVED ABOUT THE ROOM, ACQUAINTING MYSELF WITH THE VARIOUS ARTICLES PRESENT. I WAS DEEPLY MOVED BY THE SIMPLICITY AND THE PURITY OF THE DECOR. THEN, I DISCOVERED A VESSEL OF WATER AND ONE GLASS ON A TRAY ON THE BUREAU! I WAS THIRSTY. I Poured MYSELF A FULL GLASS OF WATER AND AS I DRANK THE WATER, I CLEARLY HEARD MEHER BABA SAY:

¶ THIS IS MY PRASAD--DRINK ALL! ¶

I DISTINCTLY FELT THAT THE WATER HAD BEEN LEFT ESPECIALLY FOR ME OR ANY PILGRIM WHO DARED TO DRINK. I HEARD BABA SAY, AS I WAS DRINKING THE REFRESHING WATER:

¶ YOU ARE MY SON. I AM WELL PLEASED. ¶

This reminds me of a story I heard ¶SOMEWHERE¶, perhaps from Eruch, certainly a great storyteller, but the specific source is not so important as all our TRUE STORIES come from THE SOURCE OF ALL SOURCES!

...once upon a time, there was a GREAT MASTER WHO LIVED IN THE EAST. THIS GREAT MASTER HAD BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN DISCIPLES, AND ONE FINE DAY HE HELD A TEA PARTY FOR SOME OF THE WESTERN WOMEN DISCIPLES, ALL OF WHOM WERE QUITE PROPER IN THEIR WESTERN CULTURAL MORES. THERE WAS ALSO ONE "MAD MAST" IN THE COURTYARD WHO SAT ON HIS HAUNCHES IN THE FAR CORNER, IGNORED BY ALL THE DISCIPLES IN ATTENDANCE AT THE TEA PARTY...



THE MASTER COMPLETED PREPARATION OF THE TEA, WHICH WAS IN A LARGE BOWL ON A TABLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE COURTYARD. THE DISCIPLES WERE STANDING AT A RESPECTABLE DISTANCE, WATCHING IN AWE, EAGERLY AWAITING THE "TEA AND CRUMPETS"! THE MASTER FINISHED STIRRING THE TEA IN THE BOWL, LADLED THE FIRST GLASS OF TEA, AND THEN HE SHOCKED THE WOMEN DISCIPLES BY "UNCEREMONIOUSLY SPITTING" INTO THE GLASS OF TEA! HE THEN SWIRLED THE CONTENTS OF THE GLASS WITH HIS DIVINE FINGER, THOROUGHLY MIXING THEM, AND HELD THE GLASS HIGH IN OFFER TO THE GROUP OF STUNNED, PROPER, WESTERN MANDALI! THE WESTERN DISCIPLES HESITATED, NOT WISHING TO BE IMPROPER, NOT KNOWING "HOW" TO RESPOND!

AS THEY HESITATED, THE "MAD" MAST GOT UP FROM HIS HAUNCHES, STRODE DIRECTLY TO THE MASTER, TOOK THE DRINK, AND DRAINED IT TO THE **BOTTOM!**

LESSON: THE CHOICE FOR US IS PROPRIETY,  
HESITATION, OR "MADNESS",

**IN ORDER TO FOLLOW AVATAR MEHER BABA!!!**

Is it possible that this sweet Baba-story has no relation to my story in Baba's bedroom at Meherazad? **ABSOLUTELY NOT! LET US MEDITATE ON SUCH CONNECTIONS AND LESSONS! HOWEVER, THE BOTTOM LINE FOR US IS THAT WE MUST, ONCE AND FOR ALL TIME, TAKE MEHER BABA AND BABA-JESUS DOWN FROM THE CROSS OF CRUCIFIXION THAT WE HAVE PUT HIM ON AND LIVE THEIR LOVE!**



I CAN NOT SERVE MEHER BABA VERY WELL ON MY KNEES, although (and this is a very big **ALTHOUGH!**) I MOST CERTAINLY HAD TO FIRST GO TO MY KNEES, MANY, MANY, TIMES, AND FINALLY STAY THERE UNTIL...UNTIL WHAT? UNTIL HE TOLD ME TO GET UP AND SERVE HIM ON BOTH FEET--STRONGLY PLANTED IN HIS DIVINE LOVE!!!

TODAY, I SERVE MEHER STANDING STRAIGHT AND TALL, AS I KNOW YOU DO, AND, OF COURSE, I WILL RETURN TO MY KNEES, ONE OR BOTH, ANY TIME HE WISHES! THAT IS MY FREEDOM...I AM FREE TO BE HIM SO LONG AS I DO NOT CHOOSE TO BE MY LOWER SELF!

MESSAGE: LET ME ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE STAGES IN SURRENDER OF "SELF" TO MEHER BABA; FOR EXAMPLE, IN ORDER TO ARISE FROM MY KNEES, I MUST FIRST GO TO MY KNEES! ALSO, IN ORDER TO SURRENDER "A SELF", I MUST FIRST HAVE "A SELF" TO SURRENDER. AND, IN ORDER TO HAVE A "SELF" TO SURRENDER, I MUST FIRST KNOW THAT I HAVE A HIGHER SELF THAT CAN NEVER BE SURRENDERED TO ANY "MAN". IN ORDER TO KNOW OF AND LATER TO KNOW FULLY MY HIGHEST SELF, I MUST KNOW THE AVATAR, WHICH PUTS ME SQUARELY BACK ON MY KNEES! REMEMBER THE STORY OF MY TALKING TO THE "SEAGULLS" IN "PART ONE" OF THIS BOOK?

.....LET US ALWAYS BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT WE ASK FROM BABA ON OUR KNEES, ALWAYS!



And, once we are TRULY on our knees with Meher Baba, PRECISELY what do we ask for? I have been troubled by this question for ages, and my answer to this ubiquitous and PENULTIMATELY IMPORTANT question has changed with my Spiritual Development throughout that time. When I was first AWAKENED by Baba in 1969 and after some years of CAREFUL STUDY OF ALL OF MEHER BABA'S LIFE AND WORKS AVAILABLE TO ME, I BECAME CONVINCED THAT I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT MEHER BABA WANTED ME TO ASK FOR--EXACTLY NOTHING! SO I WENT THROUGH YEARS OF EXPERIENCES, BOTH HELPFUL AND HARMFUL FOR ME, NEVER ASKING FOR ANYTHING! AND I RECEIVED PLENTY OF ALL SORTS OF BIZARRE EVERYTHINGS! CERTAINLY THIS APPROACH HAD THE VALUE OF THE LEARNING OF DISCIPLINE AND ACCEPTANCE OF ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING THAT BABA GAVE ME, BUT IT'S REAL WEAKNESS WAS THAT I DEVELOPED NO ABILITY TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN THOSE EXPERIENCES THAT WERE "GOOD" FOR ME AND THOSE WHICH WERE "BAD" FOR ME.

FINALLY, AFTER YEARS OF ACCEPTANCE OF ALL LIFE BABA HAD TO OFFER, BABA IN ME AWOKE TO A HIGHER PATH. I FINALLY REALIZED, "HEY, THIS IS REALLY DUMB! BABA CERTAINLY DOES NOT WANT ME TO WANT THAT WHICH IS HARMFUL! HE WANTS ME TO WANT THAT WHICH IS GOOD FOR ME (AND OTHERS)!" THIS REALIZATION OPENED AN ENTIRELY NEW HORIZON BECAUSE NOW I HAD TO KNOW WHAT TO ASK BABA FOR! I KNEW MANY THINGS NOT TO ASK HIM FOR, SUCH AS MATERIAL THINGS LIKE WEALTH, HEALTH, AND CHILDREN, BUT TO KNOW WHAT WAS REALLY WORTH ASKING BABA-GOD FOR WAS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER! I KNEW MANY HIGHER DESIRES TO BE ASKED FOR, AND WITH THE HELP OF PSYCHOLOGIST DR. ABRAHAM MASLOW AND OTHERS, I DISCOVERED THE ALL-CRITICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEEDS AND WANTS; STILL THE ORDER AND PRIORITY OF ASKING REMAINED A MYSTERY UNTIL BABA REVEALED TO ME THE ANSWER OF WHAT TO ASK HIM FOR!

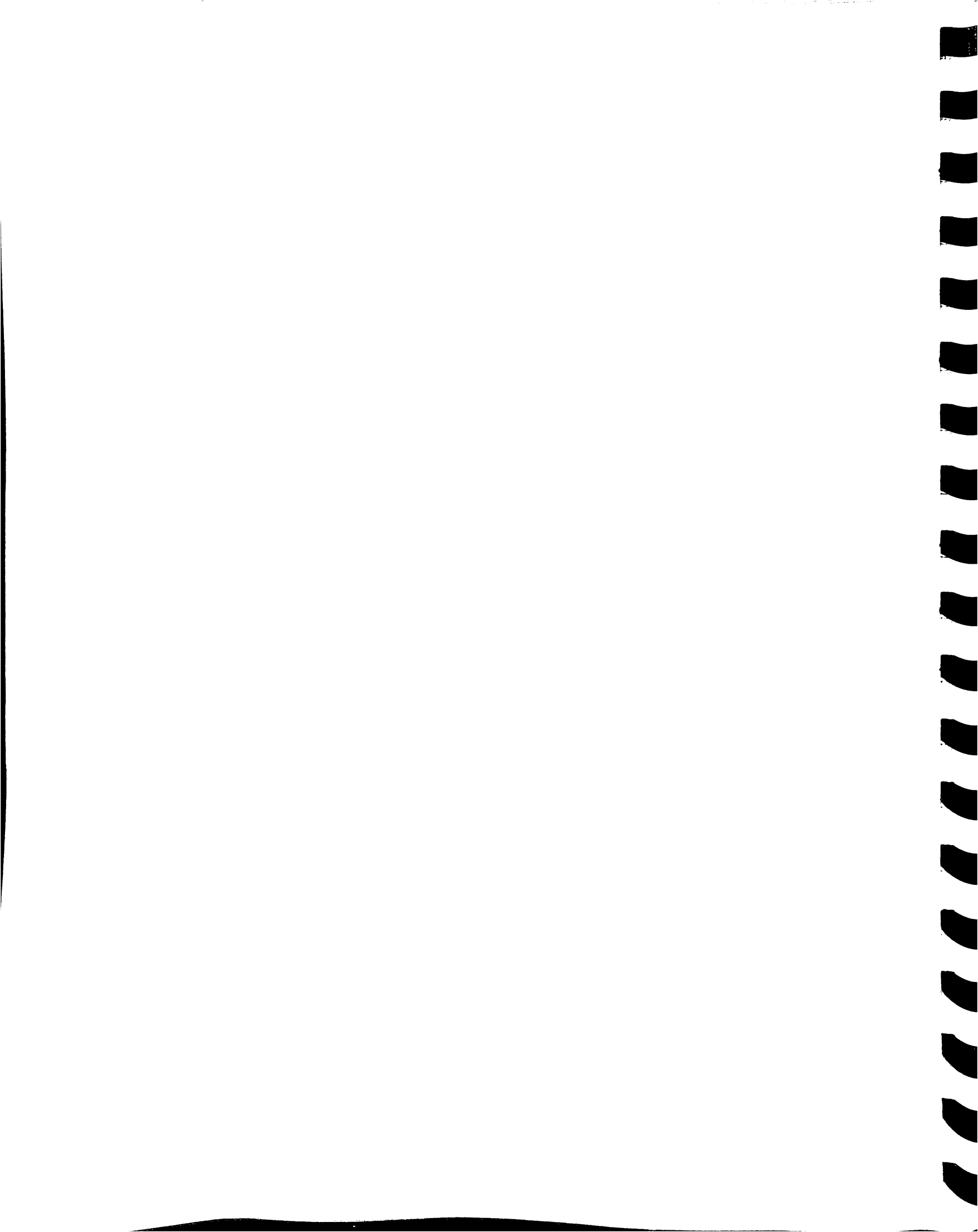


He explained to me that the ORDER OF IMPORTANCE OF ASKING IS:

1. UNDERSTANDING
2. LOVE
3. OBEDIENCE
4. SURRENDER!

SO, I CAME TO UNDERSTAND THAT SURRENDER TO THE GOD-MAN, MEHER BABA, WAS THE VERY HIGHEST DESIRE I COULD ASK FOR AND THAT THE PATH TO THAT SURRENDER WAS FIRST TO UNDERSTAND HIM, THEN TO LOVE HIM, THEN TO BE OBEDIENT TO HIM, IN ORDER FINALLY TO BE ABLE TO SURRENDER TO HIM!

SO...I ASKED BABA, FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART, FOR SURRENDER TO HIM, THE GOD-MAN, THE CHRIST, THE SAVIOR, MESSIAH, RASOOL, THE ONE IN THE MANY AND THE MANY IN THE ONE! THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK IS NOT TO SHARE WITH YOU HOW BABA FINALLY GRANTED ME THAT PRAYER OR DESIRE AND ALL THAT I HAD TO SUFFER IN ORDER TO CLAIM THAT GRACE (AND IT IS ONLY THROUGH HIS PURE GRACE, HIS GIFT, THAT WE CAN EVER FULLY SURRENDER!), BUT YOU MAY ACCEPT MY WORD THAT THERE ARE FEW WHO WOULD CHOOSE TO WALK THE WALK THAT I WALK! TRUST ME...



EVEN SURRENDER WAS NOT THE FINAL DESTINATION ON MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, NOR IS IT YOURS. THE BREAKTHROUGH CAME FOR ME IN THE ASSIMILATION OF AND ACTING UPON MEHER BABA'S TRUTH AS EXPRESSED IN THE DISCOURSE IN HIS BOOK, THE EVERYTHING AND THE NOTHING, ENTITLED, "WANT WHAT I WANT!" FOR ALL OF US, ESPECIALLY IN THESE VERY DIFFICULT TIMES, I DO SINCERELY SUGGEST THAT WE PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:

¶ DEAREST BABA, PLEASE HELP me TO WANT WHAT YOU WANT! ¶

AND BABA SAYS IN THAT DISCOURSE,

¶ I KNOW IT IS NOT EASY FOR YOU TO WANT WHAT I WANT. IN FACT, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO WANT WHAT I WANT, FOR IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO LOVE ME AS I SHOULD BE LOVED. BUT AT LEAST, DO NOT ALWAYS BE WANTING ME TO WANT WHAT YOU WANT, AND TRY YOUR UTMOST TO PUT YOUR HEART AND SOUL INTO DOING WHATEVER I WANT YOU TO DO! ¶

**SO...we can at least try to want what Baba wants!**

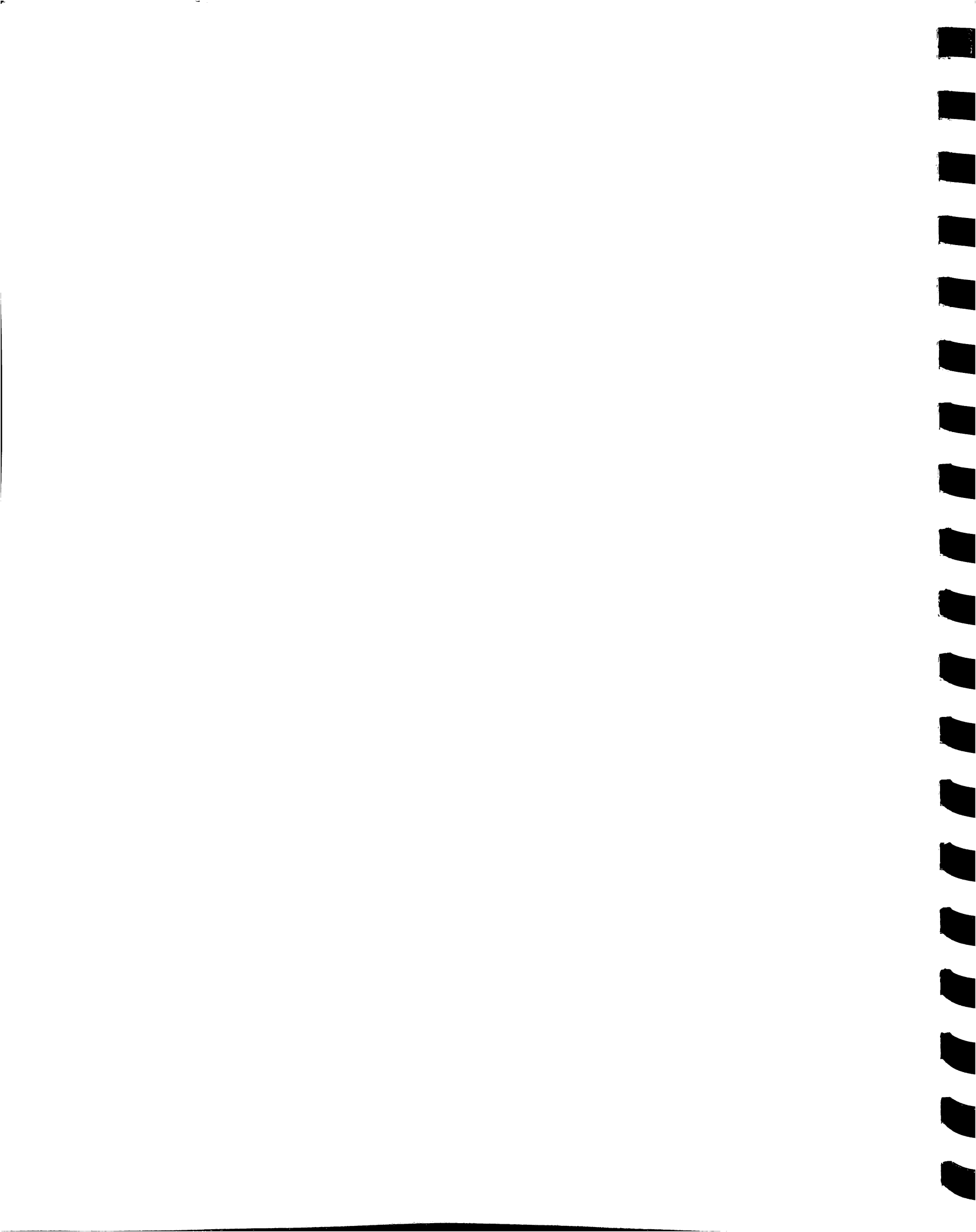
ps...A TIP FOR THOSE WHO SINCERLY AND SERIOUSLY WISH TO GIVE UP ALL TO AVARTAR MEHER BABA--EVENTUALLY, YOU MUST MAKE HIM ACCEPT! GOD DOES NOT TAKE LIGHTLY THOSE WHO DEMAND OF HIM, HOWEVER, NO MATTER WHAT SOME "NEW AGERS" SAY!!! tee,hee.

**AND...WHAT DOES THE AVATAR MEHER BABA WANT? THIS IS THE QUESTION OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE, AND EACH PERSON HAS HIS/HER OWN ANSWER(s)! HOWEVER, A VERY CAREFUL STUDY, AND ESPECIALLY THE LIVING OF**



HIS LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE EVENTUALLY LEADS ONE TO THE CONCLUSION, QUOTED BY JANE BARRY HAYNES, PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF MEHER SPIRITUAL CENTER, INC., IN HER MOST PRECIOUS BOOK OF TREASURES from the MEHER BABA JOURNALS (1980, Sheriar Press). WHEN MR. GARRET FORT ASKED, IN 1936, IN INDIA, ABOUT THE "....'presumptuous' hope of attaining Realization at this point in our journey..." THE AVATAR MEHER BABA, THE ETERNAL CHRIST, REPLIED:

¶ It is never presumptuous for anyone to hope for Realization. It is the goal of creation and the birthright of humanity. Blessed are they who are prepared to assert that right in this very life. ¶



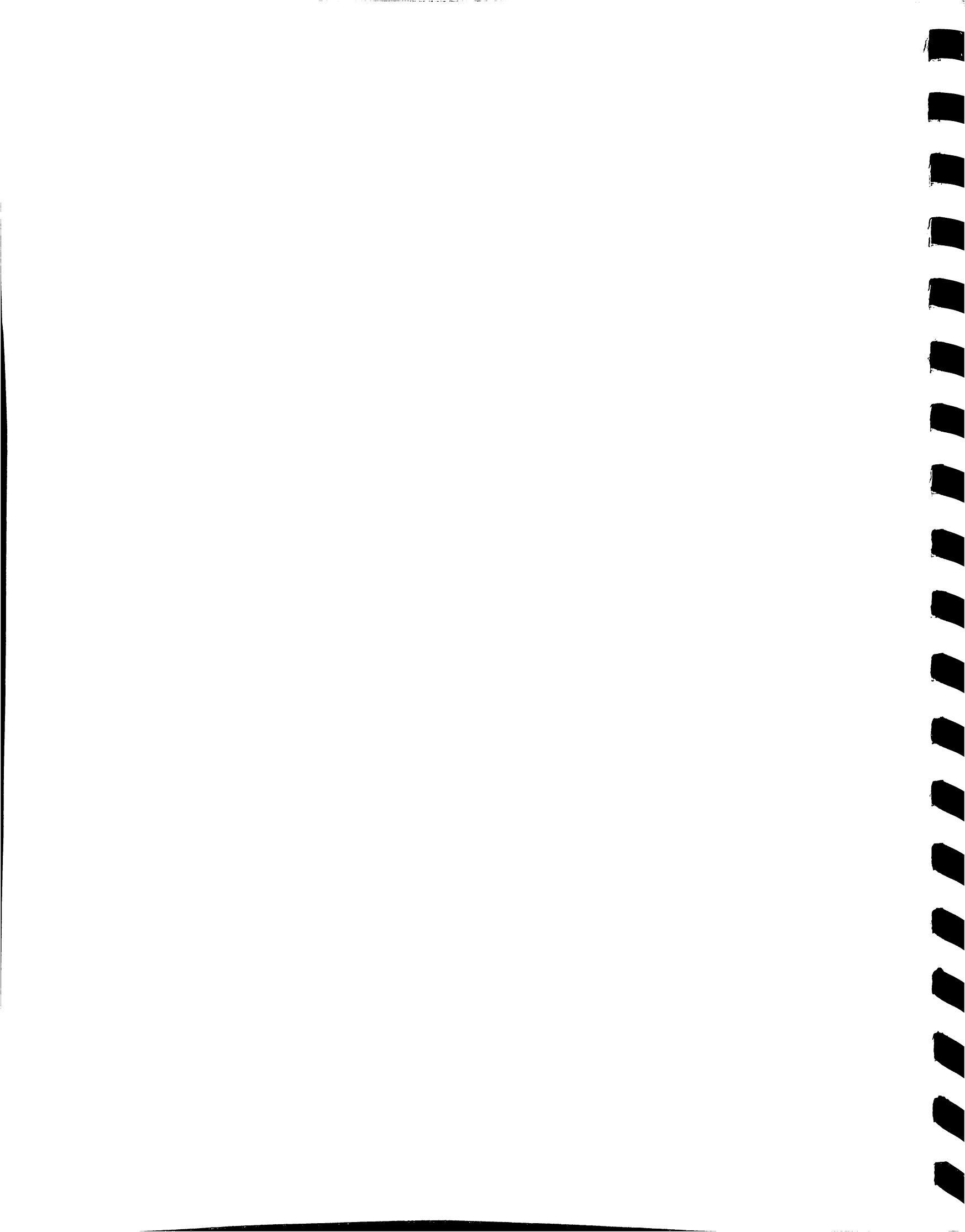
MEHER BABA ALSO SAYS:

TWICE BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ATTAIN THIS LOFTY GOAL!

THRICE BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO, AFTER ATTAINING THIS GOAL, COME BACK TO MINISTER TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET ATTAINED THIS LOFTY GOAL!

AND...

INFINITELY AND ETERNALLY BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO SERVE CEASESSLY THE ONE WHO FIRST ATTAINED THAT GOAL AND MAKES POSSIBLE THAT ATTAINMENT FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE!

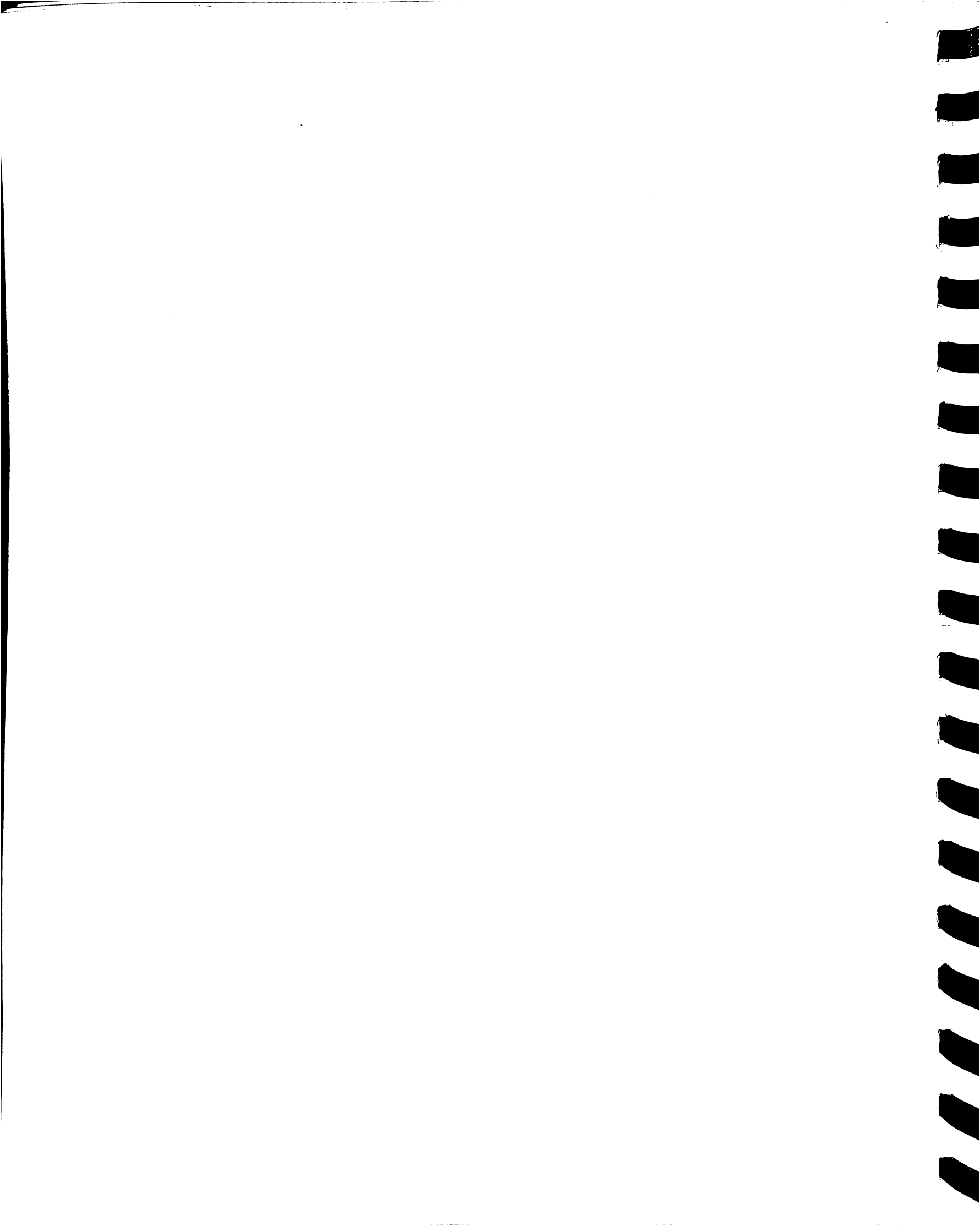


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AFTER RECEIVING MEHER BABA'S DIVINE HOLY WATER PRASAD, I SHIFTED MY ATTENTION TO HIS BEAUTIFULLY SIMPLE, FOUR-POSTED AND CANOPIED BED COVERED BY A PINK SHEET. BABA'S PICTURE HAD BEEN PLACED ON TOP OF THE SHEET NEAR THE EDGE OF THE BED. I KNELT BY THE SIDE OF THE BED, PLACED MY HEAD AND MY ARMS ON THE BED, TAKING BABA'S DARSHAN ("SEEING"), AND FINALLY LAY ACROSS THE BED IN SUBMISSION, JOY, AND TOTAL GRATITUDE FOR THE GIFTS GOD CONTINUALLY GIVES ME!

BEING NEARLY FILLED, HIS DARSHAN DID NOT REQUIRE MUCH TIME. DURING THE DARSHAN, I WISHED TO GIVE BABA A SPECIAL GIFT! THOUGHTLESSLY, I HAD BROUGHT NO SPECIAL GIFT FOR BABA WITH ME OTHER THAN MY SELF, AND I WISHED FOR SOME SMALL SOMETHING TO EXPRESS TO BABA MY DEEP GRATITUDE FOR HIS LOVE FOR ME! THEN I REMEMBERED SOMETHING I DID HAVE WITH ME--A QUITE SMALL SIGNIFICANT THING WHICH I ALWAYS CARRIED WITH ME WHEREVER I WENT--AND I REALIZED IF I GAVE THIS TO BABA WITH MY LOVE, IT WOULD BE ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS I COULD GIVE HIM!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY TO GUESS WHAT MY GIFT TO THE GOD-MAN WAS ON THAT VERY SPECIAL DAY IN HIS MOST SACRED ROOM?



60.

PLEASE TRY TO GUESS...



TO THE FIRST PERSON WHO CORRECTLY GUESSES MY GIFT TO BABA,  
I WILL GIVE THAT PERSON A NEW FIVE DOLLAR BILL, ON DEMAND!  
I WILL GIVE YOU A **BIG HINT!** UPON LEAVING BABA'S ROOM, ON  
THE WAY OUTSIDE, MEHERA CAME UP TO ME AND SAID:

¶ *HERE IS YOUR PRASAD FROM BABA AND I HAVE YOUR GIFT  
TO HIM!* ¶

NO MORE HINTS!



¶ SURRENDER! ¶



## PART THREE

## "LESSONS"

Sarosh and Viloo's Villa in Ahmednagar, 6 miles from Meherabad and 9 miles from Meherazad, was Ken's and my primary center of activity because there we engaged in many hours and days of CHARGED DISCUSSIONS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE! THESE DISCUSSIONS HAD A PROFOUND EFFECT ON MY LIFE, AND BABA CLEARLY USED THEM TO BRING ABOUT A MASSIVE CHANGE IN THE WAY I, AS A LOVER OF GOD, APPROACHED LIVING IN THE "WORLD OF ILLUSION".

I CAME TO INDIA IN 1975 AS A VERY "laid-back" BABA-LOVER WITH AN ATTITUDE OF:

"DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY, LET BABA DO IT, IT'S ALL AN ILLUSION!"

THIS ATTITUDE CREATED IN ME A GREAT LETHARGY, A GREAT PASSIVITY TOWARDS THE IDEA THAT "I,MYSELF" WAS, IN TRUTH, LARGELY RESPONSIBLE AS AN ACTER, NOT ONLY A PLAYER IN BABA'S DIVINE DRAMA! THIS ATTITUDE OF MY "PERSONAL LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY" FOR THE EVENTS AND OUTCOMES IN BABA'S DIVINE DRAMA ALLOWED ME, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN WITNESSING THE "REAL AND TERRIBLE EFFECTS OF SUFFERING AND IGNORANCE IN OUR WORLD" TO SHRUG MY SHOULDERS AND SAY, "BABA SAYS IT'S ALL AN ILLUSION! DON'T WORRY! BE HAPPY! IT IS NOT REALLY HAPPENING!" WITH RAMPANT GREED ENVELOPING OUR WORLD, I COULD SAY, (WITH SOME SMUGNESS OF KNOWING BABA'S WORDS)



64.

**“BUT, BABA SAYS GREED  
IS A LOWER FORM OF LOVE!”**

**§ DOES BABA SAY THAT?...TODAY??? §**



OF COURSE, EVERYTHING MEHER BABA SAYS IS ABSOLUTELY TRUE! HE DOES NOT LIE. HIS WORD IS THE WORD OF GOD, AND IF HE SAYS ALL THIS PAIN, SUFFERING, AND INJUSTICE IS "JUST AN ILLUSION" AND "DOES NOT REALLY EXIST", THEN MOST CERTAINLY, THAT IS PRECISELY TRUE! I DO PRAISE HIM FOR THAT MOST COMFORTING TRUTH!

HOWEVER, WE MUST NEVER ALLOW OURSELVES THE LUXURY OF ENDING THERE WITH THE TRUTH OF AVATAR MEHER BABA! BABA CLEARLY GOES FURTHER IN HIS MESSAGE OF LOVE AND TRUTH TO DECLARE SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY, VERY, IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS "ILLUSION"! HE SAYS THAT THE ILLUSION IS ALMOST REAL! IN FACT, THE ILLUSION IS SO CLOSE TO BEING REAL, WE SHOULD TREAT IT AS IF IT IS REAL! FURTHERMORE, HE SAYS THE ILLUSION IS SO CLOSE TO BEING REAL THAT ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE, CAN KNOW THAT IT IS NOT REAL!!! TO ME, ALL SUFFERING IS INDEED REAL AND FOREVER SHALL BE! AND YOU? IS "SUFFERING" REAL ENOUGH FOR YOU? OTHERS' SUFFERING?



ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT LESSON I AM DAILY AND HOURLY LEARNING WITH BABA IS WHAT HE MEANS WHEN HE SAYS:

¶ FAITH WITHOUT WORKS, IS DEAD! ¶

I CAN HAVE TOTAL CONVICTION THAT MEHER BABA IS THE AVATAR, THE GOD-MAN, THE SAVIOR, THE RASOOL, THE MESSIAH; AND, IF I DO NOT LIVE (TRY TO LIVE) THE LIFE OF DIVINE LOVE IN THE illusion, I AM NO WHERE! WHAT GOOD IS MY "CONVICTION" IF I CONTINUE TO STEP OVER MY STARVING BROTHER IN THE STREET, AS DO MOST "NORMAL" HUMANS? HOW MANY TRIPS TO MEHER CENTER OR TO INDIA OR ANY DIVINELY SPIRITUAL SPOT DO I "need" BEFORE I RECEIVE HIS MESSAGE:

¶ IF I HAVE NOT DONE IT UNTO THE LEAST OF THEM...  
I HAVE NOT DONE IT UNTO HIM! ¶

CLEARLY THE MESSAGE OF MEHER BABA FOR US IS THAT LOVE AND SERVICE ARE ONE AND THE SAME CREATURE! IS IT NOT WONDERFUL TO SEE SO MANY LOVERS OF MEHER BABA DEDICATING THEIR LIVES TO THE ALLIEVATION OF SUFFERING IN ALL FORMS RATHER THAN THE ASSUAGING OF THOSE HYDRA-HEADED spiritual egos? IS IT NOT WONDERFUL TO SEE SO MANY TRUE LOVERS OF GOD MAKING THE SAME JOURNEY? WHO ARE THE "TRUE LOVERS OF GOD"? DID BABA SAY:



¶ SOME OF MY GREATEST LOVERS DO NOT EVEN KNOW MY  
NAME ! ¶

§ DOUBLY RESPONSIBLE AND CHARGED ARE THOSE OF US...  
WHO DO KNOW HIS PRECIOUS NAME!!! §

for example...let me tell you about a dear friend of mine whom I affectionately refer to as Little ézad! Little ézad is, in many ways the PROTOTYPE of a Baba-Lover! He really has very little in this world in terms of material possessions and really wants very little of them. He is certainly not GREEDY, for Garden's sake, AND THE LITTLE HE DOES HAVE, HE SHARES WITH ALL, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO THE SHARING OF MEHER'S NAME AND FAME. Little ézad does not even have a SOUL-MATE, LIKE MOST OF US, BUT THAT DOES NOT BOTHER HIM VERY MUCH BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT BABA IS REALLY HIS SOUL-MATE! Little ézad often "pretends" that he is not real smart, but underneath that facade, he knows that he knows Baba and that is all that really matters, after all! HE NEVER GOES TO INDIA OR MEHER CENTER UNLESS HE IS DARNED SURE THAT MEHER BABA IS ASKING HIM TO DO SO! HE KNOWS ALL OF BABA'S WELL-KNOWN QUOTES, AND CERTAINLY KNOWS OF AND ABOUT ALMOST ALL OTHER BABA-LOVERS, ALL THE MANDALI AND THEIR KIN, PETS, PLACES BABA WENT, ET CETERA, ET CETERA, ET CETERA! Little ézad REALLY HAD ONLY ONE SERIOUS PROBLEM! HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW OR CARE THAT CHILDREN IN THIS WORLD ARE ROUTINELY THROWN AWAY ON GARBAGE HEAPS! IN RESPONSE TO THE TERRIBLE SUFFERINGS AND EVIL DRAINING THE LOVE-BLOOD OUT OF THIS PLANET, HE USED TO RESPOND, HUMOROUSLY, WITH:



**“JIMMY-CRACK-CORN, AND I DON’T CARE!”**

I RECENTLY TOLD MY SWEET FRIEND THAT HE WAS AN “OSTRICH WITH HIS HEAD IN THE SAND”, AND HE LAUGHED! GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR, MY LITTLE FRIEND ézad!...but, do you know what I really like BEST about my friend? HE KNOWS WHEN HE HAS BEEN HAD BY THE TRUTH OF AVATAR MEHER BABA, AND THEN HE PUTS ALL “JOKING” ASIDE AND RESPONDS FROM DEEP WITHIN HIS TRUE SELF! JUST THE OTHER NIGHT, HE AND I WERE SPEAKING ON THE PHONE, AND WE WERE “JIVING ABOUT” WITH OUR REAL HUMOR AND LOVE WE SHARE WITH ONE ANOTHER, TALKING SOME “HIGH SPIRITUAL TRASH”, BECAUSE IT CERTAINLY DOES HELP TO HAVE A DIVINE SENSE OF HUMOR ON THIS DIVINELY “INSANE” JOURNEY WITH MEHER BABA! THEN, OUT OF SEEMINGLY NOWHERE, I CHANGED THE SUBJECT OF OUR “HILIARITY” AND SAID TO HIM:

§ Little ézad, do you know what Jane Barry Haynes told Bishka and me last week that Baba told her! § Little ézad was very interested to hear exactly what Baba had told Jane, as should everyone be!

He asked, seriously, “What did Baba tell Jane Haynes?” I REPLIED THAT MEHER BABA TOLD JANE HAYNES:

¶ THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN IT WILL BE SO EASY FOR YOU TO LET GO OF MY DAMAAN. IT WILL BE SO NATURAL THAT YOU WILL NOT EVEN KNOW THAT YOU ARE LETTING  
GO OF IT! ¶

Little ézad, with not a trace of humor, said to me:



¶ god, THAT IS SCARY!!! ¶

I QUITE AGREE!



SO...LET US ALL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT NO MATTER HOW WE FEEL INSIDE, THE AVATAR MEHER BABA, THE ETERNAL CHRIST CONTINUALLY SAYS TO US:

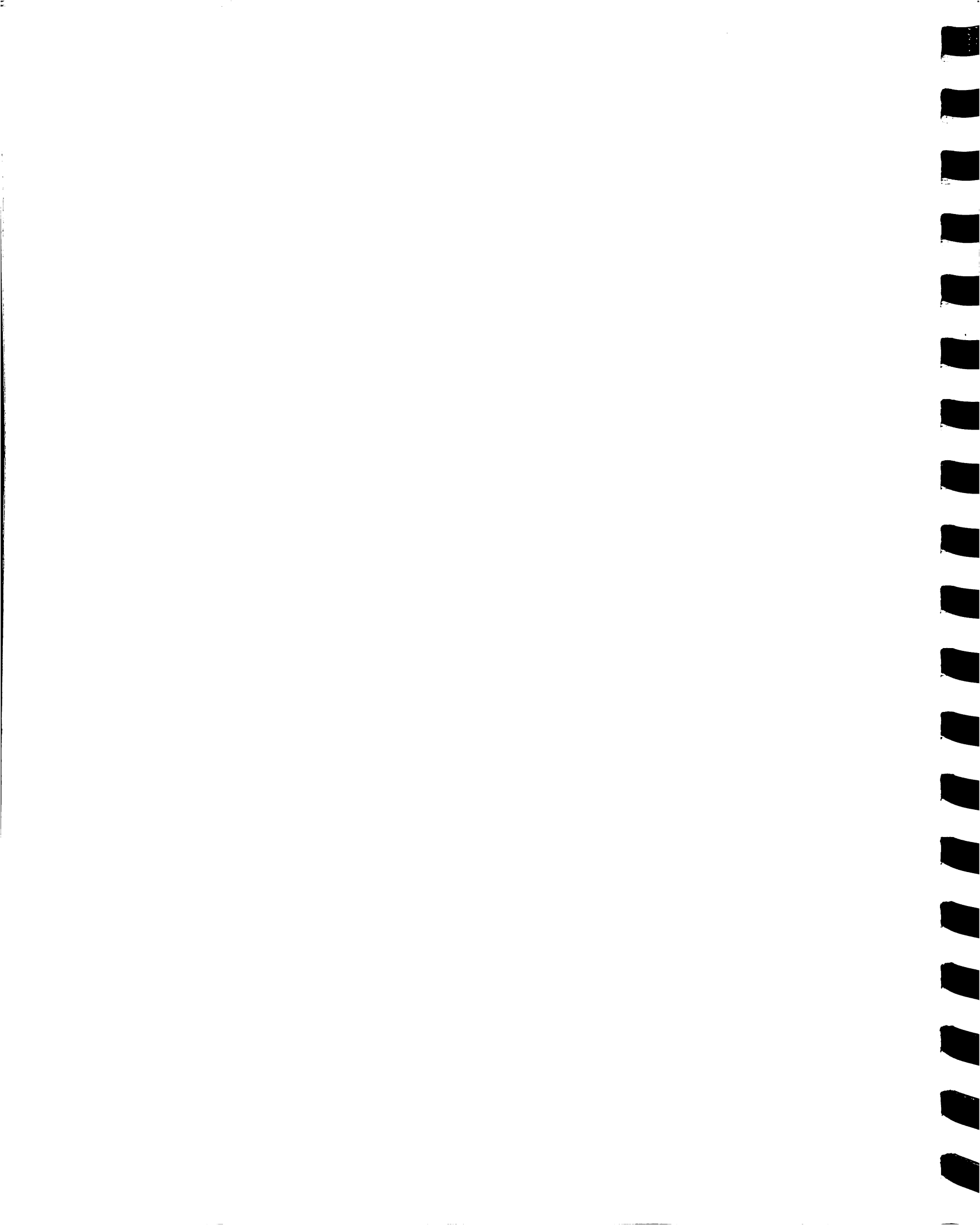
¶ ALWAYS, ALWAYS HOLD TIGHTLY TO ME! ¶

éxad, from afar, says that OUR FATHER, MEHER BABA, TELLS US THIS FROM HIS DIVINE COMPASSION BECAUSE:

¶§ SHOULD WE THINK MATTERS OUT THERE  
ARE DIFFICULT NOW  
FIVE YEARS FROM NOW  
WE WILL ALL THINK NOW  
WAS A VACATION! § ¶

THIS IS NO AFFIRMATION NOR ANY DECLARATION OF WHAT IS TO BE--WHAT éxad from afar, HAS JUST SHARED WITH YOU IS THAT WHICH HE **SEES** NOW!

SO...YES...PLEASE DO NOT WORRY...PLEASE DO BE HAPPY...BUT, YES, LET US ALL WORK OUR ASSES OFF FIRST...WHILE HOLDING ON!!!  
¶§ REMEMBER... JUST REMEMBER! § ¶



§ REMEMBER THAT WHICH IS WORTH REMEMBERING! ¶



PART FOUR

“EPILOGUE”

...LAELA-BISHKA, MY ONE AND ONLY BELOVED BRIDE, I DO DEDICATE, NOW AND FOREVER, THE FINAL LINE OF THIS BOOK TO YOU. WERE IT NOT FOR YOUR HEALING LOVE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, AND GENEROSITY, I WOULD HAVE REMAINED STRANDED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE NOTHING AND THE EVERYTHING, LOST AND ALONE!

AND, THIS LIFETIME, I ALWAYS YEARNED TO BE WITH MEHER BABA IN THE BODY, OTHER THAN MY OWN, AND BABA, KNOWING ONE OF MY DEEPEST WISHES, GRANTED YOU ME AND ME YOU! FOR THAT MOST PRECIOUS GIFT, I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL.

GOOD NIGHT, MY BELOVED, AVATAR MEHER BABA KI J'AI.

7X.

¶ I LOVE YOU! ¶

§ Elias §









