

Petals from the Rose:

This book was created because I found so many wonderful quotes that the western mind would appreciate, yet they mentioned God. But there are many who do accept God and so I created this book for them. I have also given away many of this book. And some people have even bought copies from me to give to their friends!





*petals
from the
rose*

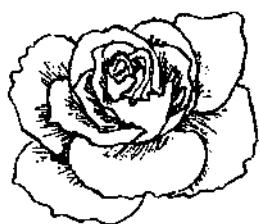
thoughts from Meher Baba

illustrated by Mardi J McCabe

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Love is the reflection of God's unity in the world of duality. It constitutes the entire significance of creation. If love were excluded from life, all the souls in the world would be superficial and mechanical. It is because of love that the contacts and relations between individual souls become significant; and it is Love that gives meaning and value to all the happenings in the world of duality.



Look for God: - God loves those who seek Him, and when we seek Him with all our hearts, we find Him in ourselves. I give you my Love, that Love which will eventually help you to find God.



If, instead of performing ceremonies and rituals mechanically as age-old customs, people were to serve their fellow-beings with the selflessness of love, taking God to be equally residing in one and all, and realizing that by so serving others they are serving God, my work will have been fulfilled.

If, instead of erecting churches, fire temples, mandirs and mosques, people were to establish the house of God in their hearts for their beloved God, my work will have been done.



Where there is love there is Oneness, and there can be no question of any particular religion or caste or system, superiority or inferiority, and touchability or untouchability. But to realize this natural quality permanently, one has to submit to the greatest law of God, which is Love. It holds the key to all problems inasmuch as under this law the infinite is realized completely for all time in every walk of life, be it science, art, religion or beauty.



God is not to be found in the skies or in the caves of the Himalayas. God is in the heart of each one. Once your heart is clean, God will shine out in it. But it is not easy to clean one's heart. It is like diving deep into a sea of fire! To love God is to lose yourself.



The greatest need of humanity today is love - love divine which is pure and selfless, which awakens man to the proper sense and understanding of his real duty in life, which is to find happiness in giving, not in receiving; in serving and not in being served; and in willfully participating in the sufferings of others more than in their happiness.

My mission in life is to kindle that divine spark of love in all.



Divine Love will perform the supreme miracle of bringing God into the hearts of men and of getting them established in lasting and true happiness; it will satisfy the greatest need and longing of mankind. Divine Love will make men selfless and helpful in their mutual relations; and it will bring about the final solution of all problems.



Spiritual Science is based on love: Science, as it is understood today, deals with energy and matter. This material science is in the domain of the mind. There is also spiritual science, which deals with the beyond-mind state. Material science and spiritual science both yield proofs ... material science brings results through intellect, spiritual science through love. When love is experienced fully, the Source of the spiritual science - God the Infinite - is realized and all else is then found to be just illusory phenomena.

Spiritual science, being based on love and being beyond systematic mental understanding, is full of ups and downs, vagaries, and contradictions which love alone can face and overcome: because whereas material science enhances the ego-life, spiritual science annihilates it.



The Supreme Soul, God, is nowhere to be searched for. He is very near you; He is with you; seek Him within. God, the real Beloved, is ever ready to enter your house, the mind; but he cannot because it is occupied by your numberless unreal beloveds, your desires: and there is no room for Him.







True religion consists in developing the attitude of mind which should ultimately result in seeing One Infinite Existence prevailing in the universe; when one could live in the world and yet be not of it and at the same time be in harmony with everyone and everything; when one could attend to all worldly duties and affairs and yet feel completely detached from all their results; when one could see the same Divinity in art and science and experience the Highest Consciousness of Indivisible Bliss in every day life.



God and Love are identical, and one who has Divine Love has received God.

Divine Love makes us true to ourselves and to others. Divine love is the solution to our difficulties and problems. It frees us from every kind of binding. It makes us speak truly, think truly, and act truly. It makes us feel one with the whole universe. Divine Love purifies our hearts and glorifies our being.

Start learning to love God by loving those whom you cannot love. The more you remember others with kindness and generosity the more you forget yourself, and when you completely forget yourself, you find God.



Love - loved for love's sake - is the Element of God that is in everything. God is our first and last love.



So long as people will continue attending to the empty shows of customs and ceremonials, they will fail to grasp the essence of substance of religion. Though creeds and theologies are many, religion is strictly speaking only one, and this one religion includes in its essence sublime character, mental purity, love for God, and longing to realize the truth.



You cannot find God until you experience God in His Essence as Infinite Love.



What else is life meant for but to love God and become one with Him? God is the only Reality; one has to go on and on until we arrive at a stage when we must love God because we know all life leads to Him.



Philosophies and intellectual gymnastics make you only intellectually certain about the existence of God. Unless and until you are possessed by that love, you can never behold illumination and vision, making you realize that Love is the Divine Verb



Through the experience of Divine Love you realize that the whole of the Universe sprang into being for the sake of Divine Love; out of it was it created; because of it does it endure. Through it will it regain its source.



The Divine Theme underlying this bewildering fantasy of our universal life is the romance of the soul with God.



I have not come to establish anything new - I have come to put life into the old. I have not come to establish retreats or ashrams. I create them for the purpose of my universal work, only to repeatedly dissolve them once the purpose has been served.

I intend to bring together all religions and cults like beads on one string, revitalizing them for individual and collective needs.

My message always has been and always will be of Divine Love. Let the world know it.



I have come to sow the seed of Love in your hearts so that the feeling of oneness through love is brought about amongst all nations, creeds, sects and castes of the world



Turn to God in complete surrenderance and receive the divine love. You are equally a part of the one indivisible divine life. There is not a single atom that does not vibrate with this divine life.



When you realize the Truth as the very core of your being you are free from all fear and helplessness, and all rivalries and conflicts reveal themselves to be meaningless, for you know yourself to be inviolably one with all that has life.



God is everywhere and does everything. God is within us and knows everything. God is without us and sees everything. God is beyond us and is everything.



My only happiness lies in making people understand not through the mind but through experience that God alone is the Beloved from whom we exist.



God is the only Reality and He is the fountainhead of all love, beauty, peace and happiness. Even in and through the "fleeting now" of the false, God is eternally inviting man to Himself, affirming Himself as the Truth of man's being. Those who dare to see and love God in everyone and everything, experience Him as the everlastingly Immediate Presence.



One who bears the music of God in his own heart - such wonderful music, for it is the original music - loses his bodily consciousness and sees God everywhere.



When one loves God, one is eternally young, because God is eternally young, infinite and everlasting, and to love Him and know Him as He is, is the goal of life. To love God, to feel God, to know God, to be one with God is the only thing that matters in life.



It is my God-ordained work to awaken humanity to the inviolable unity and inalienable divinity of all life. Know that you are in essence eternal, and heirs to infinite knowledge, bliss and power. In order to enjoy your unlimited state, all that is necessary is to shed your ignorance which makes you feel that you are separate from the rest of life. The separative ego or "I" can disappear only through divine love, which will be my gift to mankind.

Let those who hearken to my call prepare themselves to render real service to mankind. Let them make it conscious of its oneness, irrespective of the apparent divisions of class, sect or creed. I do not attach importance to beliefs or dogmas. It is not what you believe but what you are that will ultimately count.

The Truth which I want you to share with me is not a matter of opinion or belief but of direct experience which knows no contradiction, and which will make you realize that nothing in this world is worth being greedy about, and that there need not be any hatred, jealousy or fear. Then, and only then, will man launch himself upon the safe voyage of unending creativity and unfading happiness which knows no decay or fear; he will have transcended the duality of "I" and "you", "mine" and "thine".

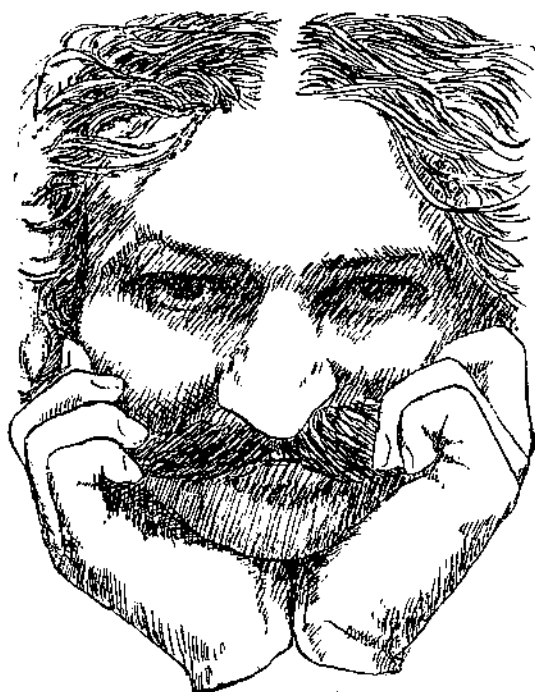


If you have rock-like faith in God and flame-like love for him, nothing in this world will affect you. Misery will not trouble you, flattery will not touch you, happiness will not humour you. Such faith and love will cause you to rise above the imaginary phenomenon and make you understand that God alone is real.

Trust God completely and He will solve all your difficulties. Faithfully leave everything to Him and He will see to everything. Love God sincerely and He will reveal Himself to you. This love needs no ceremonies and show. Your heart must love so that even your mind is not aware of it.



God and love are identical, and one who has divine love has received God.





Pure Love is the beginning and ending of everything. When only one desire remains, Love manifests in full glory, because only in the Divine Beloved is love Infinite Purity.



All differences of duality between lover and the Beloved will then be overcome and the lover realizes that he exists for the Beloved just in the same way as the Beloved exists for him. To Him, you are ever willing to offer everything - your very life.



Unless you give up the breath of your desires and die to yourself, you cannot have the breath of real life and live forever.

You can own a world as long as you do not allow yourself to be owned by any part of it through attachment.

Renunciation of desires does not mean asceticism or a negative attitude of life. Without avoiding contact with the different aspects of life, maintain complete detachment in the midst of intense activity.

If you endure your lot with patience and contentment, accepting it as His Will, you are loving God.



Start learning to love God by loving those whom you cannot love. The more you remember others with kindness and generosity, the more you forget yourself, and when you completely forget yourself, you find God.



Be content with your lot - whether rich or poor, happy or miserable. Understand that God has designed it for your own good and be resigned to His Will.



One who lives for himself is truly dead and one who dies for God is truly alive.



Though religion has come into existence to liberate man from all narrowness, it can itself become a cage when not understood properly. All the world religions proclaim the same eternal and universal Truth; yet human weakness has a tendency to carve out some limiting, narrow loyalty which closes its gates upon the shoreless and unbounded ocean of love or divinity. It is not the essentials of religions, but addiction merely to their outer forms, which has tended to divide man from man, thus thwarting the very purpose of the great founders of the world religions.

I invite man to break through all of his self-centered prisons, and taste of the unlimited life which I bring. I ask him to love divinely, fearlessly and limitlessly and to rise above the limited self of the separative ego-mind. ...

May you all ... break through the numberless cages and realize that you are one with the limitless truth of divine life. The divine Beloved is always with you, in you and around you. Know that you are not separated from Him.



Through the intensity of this ever-growing love you eventually break through the shackles of your selfish existence.



True happiness begins when one learns the art of right adjustment to other persons, and right adjustment involves self-forgetfulness and love. Hence arises the spiritual importance of transforming a life of the limited self into a life of love.



Spiritual life is not a matter of quantity but of inherent quality of living. Spiritual infinity includes in its scope all phases of life. It comprises acts that are great as well as acts that are small. Being greater than the greatest, spiritual infinity is also smaller than the smallest; and it can equally express itself through happenings irrespective of whether they are outwardly small or great. Thus a smile or a look stands on the same level as offering one's life for a cause, when the smile or the look springs from Truth-consciousness.



The spiritual journey does not consist in gaining what a person does not have, but in the dissipation of ignorance concerning himself and life, and the growth of understanding which begins with spiritual awakening. To find God is to come to one's own self.



Love God sincerely and he will reveal himself...sacrifice everything at the altar of this supreme love, you will realize the Beloved within you.



When the lover and the Beloved are one - that is the end and the beginning of life itself.



Throughout the ages men have been deeply involved in the struggle for peace and happiness. It is this struggle that lands them into chaos and misery. If they were only to become conscious of the fact that peace and happiness are not to be fought for but to be sought for within oneself, they would abandon their fighting and be at peace with themselves and the world.



Ignorance in all its forms has to disappear if the soul is to be established in self-knowledge; therefore it is necessary for man to know that which is false, to know it as false and to get rid of it.



To establish love for the truth is the beginning of right valuation and the beginning of the undoing of the constructions of the ego which exhibits itself through false valuation. Any action that expresses the true values of life contributes towards the disintegration of the ego, which is the product of ages of ignorant action. The disintegration of the ego is the condition for realizing truth.



To find God is to come to one's own self



God who is all Power, all Wisdom and all Love, all Mercy and all Bliss, resides in you all. There also reside in you all the apparently opposite aspects of these infinite qualities, like helplessness, ignorance, lust, cruelty, suffering and so on. He who desires God develops compassion, selflessness and self-denying renunciation. He who runs after transitory shadows - objects of desire - cultivates selfishness, greed and hatred. The former brings peace on earth; the latter brings wars and destruction. Give up low desires and unnecessary cravings and you will experience heaven on earth.

I have come to help you in winning the one victory of all victories - to win yourself.



The purpose of life is to realize God within ourselves. This can be done even whilst attending to our worldly duties. In the everyday walks of life and amidst activities, feel detached and dedicate your doings to our beloved God.



It is time that men had a fresh vision of the Truth that all life is one, and that God is the only thing which is real and the only thing that matters. God is worth living for; and He is also worth dying for; all else is a vain and empty pursuit of illusory values



Where there is love there is Oneness, and there can be no question of any particular religion or caste or system, superiority or inferiority, and touchability or untouchability. But to realize this natural quality permanently, one has to submit to the greatest law of God, which is Love. It holds the key to all problems inasmuch as under this law the Infinite is realized completely for all time in every walk of life, be it science, art, religion or beauty.

May the world realize this highest aspect of Divinity more and more.



Love God, then in turn you will be able to love man



17-11-1913





If you are convinced of God's existence, then It rests with you to seek Him, to see Him and to realize Him. Do not search for God outside of you; God can only be found within you, for His only abode is the heart. But you have filled his abode with millions of strangers. Unless you empty his abode of these strangers, you will never find God. These strangers are your age-old desires - your millions of wants. Honesty in your dealings with others will clear the strangers out of your heart. Then you will find Him, see Him and realize Him.



Mere intellectual understanding does not bring God nearer to you. It is love, not questioning, that will bring God to you. Questioning nourishes pride and separateness.



The moment you try to understand God rather than love Him, you begin to misunderstand Him, and your ignorance feeds your ego. Mind cannot reach that which is beyond it - God is infinite and beyond the reach of mind.

To ask for a purely intellectual proof of the existence of God is like asking for the privilege of being able to see with your ears.



Although the one sun, God, who is without a second, shines at all times without a moment's break on all forms, animate as well as inanimate, you are unable to see Him even for a moment, because you are imprisoned in a cell of ignorance coated with desires.



The conflicts upon ordinary matters are rarely brought to the surface of consciousness, so that they cast a shadow on life from, as it were, behind a screen. Such conflicts have to be brought to the surface and faced.



True love is no game of the faint hearted and weak; It is born of strength and understanding.



The West looks at things only from the standpoint of reason and logic and is skeptical about things which baffle the intellect.

Intellect is the lowest form of understanding and is developed by reading, hearing, reasoning and logic. These processes create an illusion of real knowledge. The higher state of understanding is permanent illumination through which one experiences and sees things as they are. In this state, one feels at harmony with everyone and everything and realizes divinity in every phase of life and is able to impart happiness to others. Here, one attends to all duties and material affairs and yet feels mentally detached from the world.



Those who try to understand God through the intellect alone arrive at some cold and dry concept that misses the very essence of the nature of God. It is true that God is infinite Knowledge, infinite Existence, infinite Power, and infinite Bliss; but God is not understood in His essence until he is also understood as infinite Love. In the Beyond state, from which the entire universe springs and into which It ultimately merges, God is *eternally* infinite Love.



Love in which there is no sense of restraint cannot be born of a conviction that is based upon things accessible to the mind. And where there is no love, there is no bliss or beauty of being. In fact, God's nature as the Ocean of Love cannot be grasped by the mind. God has to be known through love and not through an intellectual search for miracles.



Head and heart must go together. Physical, mental and spiritual equilibrium must be achieved to ensure permanent results. For the present crisis to pass away and matters to become normal again the West must understand the importance of spiritual development and must realize the divinity in every phase of life - in art, science and the daily routine.





When people seek spirituality apart from life, as if it had nothing to do with the material world, their search is futile. All creeds and cults have a tendency to emphasize some fragmentary aspect of life, but true spirituality is total in its outlook. The essence of spirituality does not consist in a specialized or narrow interest in some imagined part of life but in a certain enlightened attitude to all the various situations that obtain in life. It covers and includes the whole of life. All the material things of this world can be subservient to the divine game; and when they are thus subordinated, they become auxiliary to the self-affirmation of the spirit.

The value of material things depends upon the part they play in the life of the spirit. In themselves they are neither good nor bad. They become good or bad according to whether they help or hinder the manifestation of divinity through them.



I repeat, materialism and spirituality must go hand in hand. The balance of head and heart must be maintained (the head for discrimination, the heart for feeling), whereby it is possible to realize Infinite Consciousness in art, science, nature and every phase of life.



Intellectual disputations about God will not bring you any nearer to Him and may take you farther away. But persistent heartfelt prayers to Him will lower the veil that now envelopes you in darkness.



God does not listen to the language of the tongue nor the language of the mind. The language of the heart is the song of Love for the Beloved. The Beloved can only be found within you, for His only abode is the heart.



The ideal prayer to the Lord is nothing more than spontaneous praise of his being. You praise him, not in the spirit of bargain but in the spirit of self-forgetfulness.



Love and happiness are the only important things in life, and they are both absent in the dry and factual knowledge accessible to the intellect. Spirituality does not consist in intellectual knowledge of true values but in their realization. It is this knowledge of inner realization that is worthy of being called spiritual understanding, and this is far more dependent upon the heart than on the mind. Knowledge of the intellect alone is on the same footing as mere information, and being superficial, it moves on the surface of life. It gives the shadow and not the substance of reality. The hidden depths of the ocean of life can be gauged only by sounding the heart.



I do not intend to found any religion, cult, creed or society. There are already far too many of these organizations. I have come to help people realize their ideals in daily life. The widespread dissatisfaction in modern life is due to the gulf between theory and practice and between the ideal and its realization on earth. The spiritual and material aspects of life are widely separated instead of being closely united. There is no fundamental opposition between spirit and matter, or if you like, between life and form. The apparent opposition is due to wrong thinking, to ignorance. Hence the remedy lies in the continuous practice of right thinking, to permanent illumination resulting from the balance between the head and the heart.



This Truth consists in the knowledge that man, instead of being a limited, separate individual, completely bound by the illusion of time and space and substance, is eternal in his nature and infinite in his resources. ... He must see that all material expression depends and flows from spiritual being. Then he will be steadfast and serene under all circumstances.



The existence of almost all persons is under the control of the mind; but scarcely one out of ten thousand persons controls the mind and thus masters the very existence itself.



The best and also the easiest process of overcoming the ego and attaining the Divine Consciousness is to develop love and render selfless service to humanity in whatever circumstances we are placed. All ethics and religious practices ultimately lead to this. The more we live for others and less for ourselves, the more the low desires are eliminated, and this, in turn, reacts upon the ego, suppressing and transforming it proportionately.



To lead men and women to the heights of Realization, we must help them to overcome fear and greed, anger and passion. These are the result of looking upon the self as a limited, separate, physical entity, having a definite physical beginning and definite physical end, with interests apart from the rest of life, and needing preservation and protection. The self in fact is a limitless, indivisible, spiritual essence, eternal in its nature and infinite in its resources. The greatest romance possible in life is to discover this Eternal Reality in the midst of infinite change. Once, one has experienced this, one sees oneself in everything that lives, one recognizes all of life as his life, everybody's interests as his own. The fear of death, the desire for self-preservation, the urge to accumulate substance, the conflict of interests, the anger of thwarted desires, are gone. One is no longer bound by the habits of the past, no longer swayed by the hopes of the future. One lives in and enjoys each present moment to the full. There is no greater romance in life than this adventure in Realization.



God is everywhere, and in everything. Most of all He is right within yourself.



Have hope. I have come to help you in surrendering yourselves to the Cause of God and in accepting His Grace of Love and Truth.

1890
The first of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor. The
winter was also
very cold and
the snow was
very deep.

The second of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good. The
winter was also
very cold and
the snow was
very deep. The
spring was also
very cold and
the snow was
very deep. The
summer was also
very cold and
the snow was
very deep. The
autumn was also
very cold and
the snow was
very deep.

The third of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor. The
winter was also
very cold and
the snow was
very deep.



PLATE 1173

biographical note

Merwan Sheriar Irani was born in Poona, India in 1894. His family was one of many Zoroastrian Persians who had migrated to India. He had a normal childhood attending grammar school and then the Christian high school. He had just begun his college education when he had a profound spiritual experience which persisted and became the focus of his life thereafter. Not only his boyhood friends but many others began to be attracted to him for his spiritual understanding and also because of the seemingly immeasurable love he showered on anyone who came into his contact. He seemed to be able to understand the inner heart of the religion of anyone who came to him and explain it in ways that were compelling and dynamic. In searching for a name that would express how they saw him, his followers began to call him Meher Baba - Compassionate Father.

In 1925 he announced to those with him that he intended to keep silence for a year. This was a common spiritual practice in the east but those who were with him were distressed wanting to know how he could teach them spiritual truth if he was silent. In response he said, "I have not come to teach but to awaken," and at another time he said "you have asked for and been given enough words - it is now time to live them." He wanted to awaken the heart to experience spiritual truth not just to hear it with the mind. He wanted to awaken the soul to love so completely that nothing else in life would matter.

As it turned out he did not begin speaking at the end of that year, nor of the next. For the next forty-four years he spoke with his hands. At first he used an alphabet board on which he spelled out all his communications by pointing to the letters. His companions learned to read his board as his fingers flew across it and he always took several with him wherever he went. In 1954 he discarded the alphabet board and began using a gesture language of his own which those with him learned to read as well.

Yet in spite of his discipline of silence he kept up a life of intense activity, continually traveling around India and around the world, establishing and operating communities, hospitals, schools, and contacting spiritual seekers wherever he could find

them. He took special delight in personally caring for the physical needs of the lepers the mad and the children. He had the words "Mastery in Servitude" placed on his tomb to remain as his final words about the true nature of the spiritual life.

He especially enjoyed the works of mystical poets and having groups singing songs in praise of God all night long. And everywhere and always he talked of that love for God, divine love, that would transform every aspect of one's life and transform the very core of one's soul. He founded no religion and encouraged all to follow the religion of their choice, but to go beyond the outer forms and discover the heart of religion, that love for God that awakens one's own heart to live only for God, to please him and surrender all to him.

In 1969 he passed away after a long period of intense physical suffering due to various injuries and other medical conditions for which the doctors could seemingly offer him no relief. The overwhelming love and quick sense of humor which had so characterized his life continued unchanged to the end.

SOURCES

The selections for this book were made from the following sources:

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- Sparks From Meher Baba - pub. Sheriar Press, Myrtle Beach, SC. © 1968 AMB Perpetual Public Charitable Trust
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colophon

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The text of this book is brief quotations taken from the thoughts of Meher Baba selected especially for this book. They are excerpted from messages and letters he dictated, and the discourses and comments he made informally to those around him throughout his life.

*This book is no. 4/5 in this
limited hardcover edition*

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