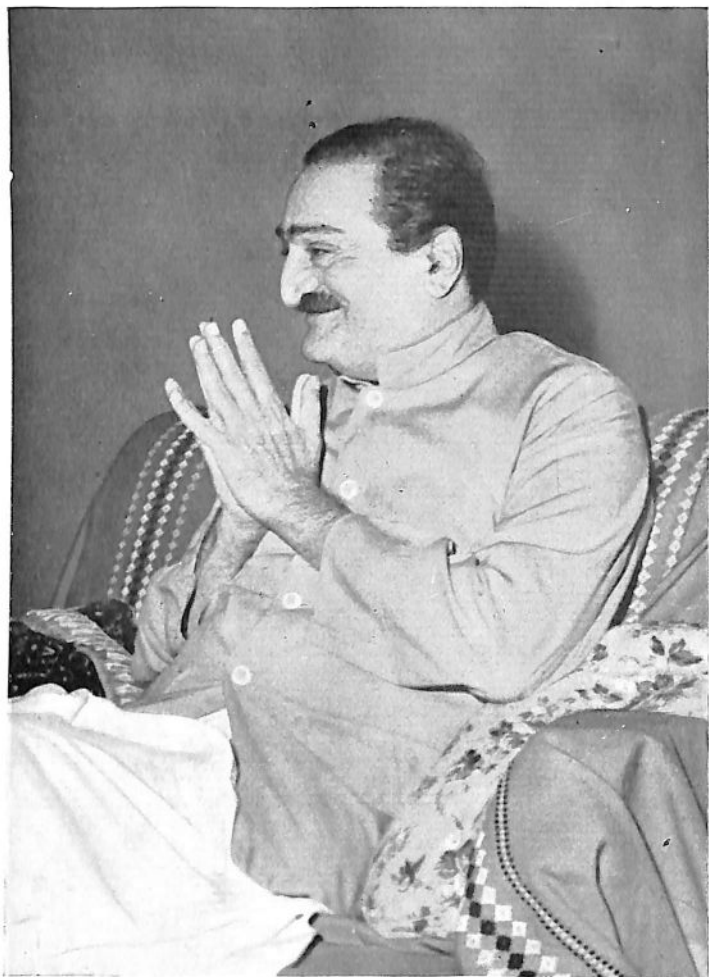


TWENTYONE FRAGMENTS
BY
AVATAR MEHER BABA



This Brochure is published to Commemorate the
65th Birthday of Avatar Meher Baba by the
Birthday Celebration Committee
Meher Baba Centre - Bombay.



AVATAR MEHER BABA

"I have come not to teach, but to awaken."

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INTRODUCTION

THE MESSAGES contained in this brochure constitute an expressed fraction of the new "Scriptures" which is being written into the consciousness of Man by the living presence in the world of the Divine Incarnation, Shree Meher Baba.

In these "Messages", realization of Truth is declared to be infinitely easy because our "own Self is nothing but God". "It is a mighty divine joke that everyone, being most powerful and blissful, feels most weak and miserable." So, "love Me as I want you to and you will find that your own Self is nothing but God." And "the practical way for the common man to express this love whilst attending to the duties of everyday life is to think lovingly, speak lovingly and act lovingly towards all mankind . . . taking God to be present in each and everyone."

On the surface, these "Messages" are expressed too simply for us. We have become accustomed to ancient messages of Truth rehashed in platitudes; or to "new messages" expressed in the catch-phrases of political self-interest, in the specialized language of science or in the structural intricacies of the essay and novel. No doubt the "Beatitudes" of Jesus and the "Good thoughts, good words and good deeds" of Zarathustra were also too

“simple” when they were given, but they were an inspiration and an unfailing guide to all those who were seeking the reality of Truth, as they have been through the subsequent ages to many who became dissatisfied with the fruitless flights of their own intellects, or weary of the bondage of changing emotion.

The words of men are like candles which burn out leaving both the speaker and his audience in darkness; but the message of the Divine Incarnation, both at the time of utterance and for posterity, is as a sun which never sets and is always available if one will but pull up the blind of prejudice and partake of its light.

— FRANCIS BRABAZON

Keil Mountain,
Woombye, Queensland,
(Australia).

What I have to say.

WHEN I SAY I am the AVATAR, there are a few who feel happy, some who feel shocked and many who hearing me claim this, would take me for a hypocrite, a fraud, a supreme egoist or just mad. If I were to say that everyone of you is an Avatar, a few would be tickled, and many would consider it a blasphemy or a joke. The fact that God being One, Indivisible and equally in us all, we can be nought else but one, is too much for the duality-conscious mind to accept. Yet each of us is what the other is. I know I am the Avatar in every sense of the word, and that each one of you is an Avatar in one sense or the other.

It is an unalterable and universally recognised fact since time immemorial that God knows everything, God does everything, and that nothing happens but by the Will of God. Therefore, it is God Who makes me say I am the Avatar, and that each one of you is an Avatar. Again, it is He Who is tickled through some, and through others is shocked. It is God Who acts and God Who reacts. It is He Who scoffs and He Who responds. He is the Creator, the Producer, the Actor and the Audience in His own Divine Play.

FROM THE HIGHEST UNTO THE LOWEST

I HAVE come down from the Highest to your level. So, take Me to be yours and naturally, automatically, you become mine. If you are poor, take Me to be poor. If you are rich, take Me to be rich. If you are illiterate, take Me to be illiterate. If you are literate, take Me to be literate. I have come down to your level and if on that level you love Me with all your heart in it, you will come to My real level of Highest because I am in you all.



SELF-ANSWERED QUESTIONS

IT IS POSSIBLE through love for man to become God. And when God becomes man, it is due to His Love for His beings.

If people were to ask Me, "Have you seen God?", I would reply, "What else is there to see?"

If they were to ask Me, "Are you God?", I would reply, "What else could I be?"

If they were to ask Me, "Are you Avatar?", I would say, "Why else have I taken this human form?"

So, the only message I could give and have ever been giving is — Love Me as I want you to, and you will find that your own Self is nothing but God.

SO MANY SEEK AND SO FEW FIND

I AM THE ONE so many seek and so few find. No amount of intellect can fathom Me. No amount of austerity can attain Me. Only when one loves Me and loses one's self in Me, am I found.

This love must be so honest that not only others should not know it, but you yourself should not be aware of it.

One of the Divine aspects is infinite goodness, so do good, but without expecting any appreciation for the same from any quarters.



WE ARE ALL ONE

WE ARE ALL ONE. Everyone of you has the Infinite within you and yet because of ignorance, everyone feels some kind of helplessness. It is a mighty divine joke that everyone being most powerful and blissful, feels most weak and miserable.

Poor, rich, literate, illiterate, small, big, all can love Me by ardently thinking of Me, which requires no ceremony or any such other efforts. You can also love Me by rendering selfless service to humanity. The term "selfless service" has been so commonly used that the purpose is lost in the very mentioning of it. You serve others only when you do it even at the cost of your own happiness and in your mind even the thought of having served does not exist.

BECOME WHAT YOU ARE

ALL STATEMENTS and messages can lead us nowhere in the spiritual Path. Reasoning and mental conviction also lead us nowhere. Even actual experience falls short of the Highest State.

The more you try to understand God, you understand Him less and less. How can He, who is beyond explanation, be expressed? His being infinitely simple has rendered Him infinitely difficult. The secret is that you have to become what you are.

You can know Me as one of you and one in you only when the veils of separateness are lifted, and this can be done if you love Me honestly and whole-heartedly.

I say with Divine Authority that I am the ANCIENT ONE and the slave of those who really love Me.

I AM NOT SILENT

IF YOU WERE to ask Me why I do not speak; I would say I am not silent, and that I speak more eloquently through gestures.

If you were to ask Me why I do not talk, I would say, perhaps, for three reasons. Firstly, I feel that through you all I am eternally talking. Secondly, to relieve the boredom of talking incessantly through your forms, I keep silence in My personal physical form. And thirdly, because all talk in itself is idle talk. Lectures, messages, statements, discourses of any kind, spiritual or otherwise, imparted through utterances or writings, are just idle talk when not acted upon or lived up to.

If you were to ask when I will break My silence, I would say when I feel like uttering the Only Real Word that was spoken in the beginningless beginning, as that Word alone is worth uttering. The time for the breaking of My outward silence to utter that Word is very near.

When a person tells others, "Be good," he conveys to his hearers the feeling that he is good and they are not. When he says, "Be brave, honest and pure," he conveys to his hearers the feeling that the speaker himself is all that, while they are cowards, dishonest and unclean.

To love God in the most practical way is to love our fellow beings. If we feel for

others in the same way as we feel for our own dear ones, we love God.

If, instead of seeing faults in others, we look within ourselves, we are loving God.

If, instead of robbing others to help ourselves, we rob ourselves to help others, we are loving God.

If we suffer in the sufferings of others and feel happy in the happiness of others, we are loving God.

If, instead of worrying over our own misfortunes, we think of ourselves more fortunate than many, many others, we are loving God.

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

If we understand and feel that the greatest act of devotion and worship to God is not to hurt or harm any of His beings, we are loving God.

To love God as He ought to be loved, we must live for God and die for God, knowing that the goal of all life is to love God, and find Him as our own Self.



WHAT COUNTS WHERE ?

IN THE MATERIAL world every pie of money counts. In the Subtle world every ounce of energy counts. In the Mental world every force of thought counts. In the Beyond State only God counts and in the Realm of God-man everything counts as nothing and nothing counts as everything.

God does not listen to the language of the tongue, which constitutes 'Japs', 'Zikra', 'Mantras' and devotional songs. He does not listen to the language of the mind which constitutes meditation, concentration and thoughts about God. He listens only to the language of the heart which constitutes love. So love God and become free in this very life. This love can be expressed in various ways, ultimately resulting in union with God. The practical way for the common man to express this love, whilst attending to duties of everyday life, is to think lovingly, speak lovingly and act lovingly towards all mankind, irrespective of caste, creed and position, taking God to be present in each and everyone.



THE OPPOSITE PULLS

REALITY PULLS YOU towards itself, and illusion pulls you towards itself.

If you let go the pull of Reality, you get drowned in the ocean of illusion.

If you lean towards both, you get crushed.

So, through love, let go the pull of illusion and become one with Reality.



THE MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

JUST AS GOD is Infinite, imagination is also infinite and all that has come out of imagination, which is called the Shadow of God, is

likewise infinite. We can imagine anything and everything *ad infinitum*.

Science, as it is understood today, deals with energy and matter. This material science is in the domain of the mind, but there is also Spiritual Science, which deals with the beyond-mind state. Material and Spiritual Science can both yield proofs — material science by bringing results through the intellect, Spiritual Science through Love. When Love is fully experienced, the source of Spiritual Science which is God the Infinite, is realized and all else is then discovered to be just illusory phenomena.

Spiritual Science being based on love alone is beyond systematical mental understanding. It is full of apparent contradictions and vagaries which love alone can face and overcome. Whereas material science enhances the ego-life, Spiritual Science annihilates it.



TRUTH OF RELIGION

I BELONG TO NO religion. Every religion belongs to Me. My personal religion is My being the Ancient Infinite One, and the religion I impart to all is Love for God, which is the Truth of all religions.

This Love can belong to all, high and low, rich and poor. Every one of every caste and creed can love God. The one and only God who resides equally in us all is approachable by each one of us through love.

Religion, like worship, must be from the heart. If instead of erecting churches, fire-temples, *mandirs* and mosques, people were to establish the House of God in their hearts for the Beloved God to dwell in supreme, My work will have been done.

If, instead of mechanically performing ceremonies and rituals because of 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 knowing that by so serving others they are serving Me, My work will have been fulfilled.



RITUALS AND CEREMONIES.

THE DIVERSE RITUALS and ceremonies of different religions and cults are intended to release Divine Love, but they mostly bind the soul to the repetitive mechanism of expressive forms. Attachment to the rigid forms of external expression of love for God not only limits the love itself, but creates separative divisions between one religion and another. Rituals and ceremonies often bind the soul to ignorance and illusory separateness and become an obstacle to real illumination. The true spiritual aspirant is, therefore, more keen about the inner life. Inner life is based on love for God, and it is this love that annihilates all desires, keeping in fact only one desire and longing — that of Union with the

Beloved God. He has no obsessions for expressing his reverence in any set forms. Such obsessions twist the real life. The free soul is never entangled in any of these unessentials, and never allows itself to be overpowered by the separative tendencies released by attachment to rituals and ceremonies.



HONESTY

I HAVE LATELY been laying stress on honesty. If we love God honestly, we become one with Him. Never before has dishonesty and hypocrisy prevailed in this world as today. If the least hypocrisy creeps into our thoughts, words and deeds, God who is the innermost Self in us all, keeps Himself hidden.

Hypocrisy is a million-headed cobra. There are today so many so-called saints who, even though they tell people to be honest and not be hypocrites, are yet themselves deep in dishonesty.

I say with Divine Authority that I am in you all, and if you honestly love God you will find Him everywhere. And remember, if you cannot love God and cannot lead saintly lives, then at least do not make a show of love and saintliness, because the worst scoundrels are better than hypocritical saints.



BE TRUE TO YOUR DUTY

I WANT YOU to make Me your constant Companion.

Think of Me more than you think of your own self.

The more you think of Me, the more you will realize My Love for you.

Your duty is to keep Me constantly with you throughout your thoughts, speech and actions.

They do their Duty who, sincere in their Faith and Love, surrender to Me, guided by their implicit belief in My Divinity as Baba.

They too do their Duty, who speak ill of Me, and condemn Me through their writings, urged by their genuine conviction that Baba is a fraud.

But they are hypocrites who at times, through false emotion, are inclined to believe in Me, and at other times indulge in slanderous gossip concerning Me.

No amount of slander can affect or change Me, nor any amount of admiration or praise enhance or glorify My Divinity.

Baba is what He is.

I was Baba; I am Baba; and shall for evermore remain Baba.



LIBERATION

GOD IS ETERNALLY FREE.

To realize God is to attain liberation from the bondage of illusion.

The greater the strife and the more intensified the struggle to attain liberation, the more the shackles of illusion are felt, as this very action brings greater awareness of the illusion

which then becomes all the more impressive and realistic.

All actions, whether good or bad, just or unjust, charitable or uncharitable, are responsible in making the bond of illusion firmer and tighter.

The goal is to achieve perfect inaction, which does not mean mere inactivity. When the self is absent, one achieves inaction in one's every action, however excessive. Karma Yoga, Dnyan Yoga and other Yogas can be instrumental in one's achieving the end to all actions by practising inaction in the midst of intense activity.

However, the only way to live a life of absolute inaction is to completely surrender to a Perfect Master, so that one dies to oneself entirely and lives only for the Perfect Master to act through and fulfil the dictates of the Beloved One.



RENUNCIATION

OUR VERY LIFE should be such as to be God's Message of Truth in the world. In our everyday life of worldly duties, if 'Love-Service-Honesty' is manifested, renunciation is achieved without renouncing the world.



THE LITTLE ONES

I REMEMBER very well, when not long back, I was just like one of you. You little ones are specially dear to Me. Children are inno-

cent and free from vain egoism. Children can have no low desires. After becoming free from all childishness, when a man really becomes childlike, he can realize God.

Whether you like it or not, you have soon got to grow up and cease to be childish. You must therefore like it more and more to let your teachers teach you and your elders lead you, while you are growing into men and women. Without your will to learn and without your readiness to obey, they cannot help you as they should like to help you.

The whole of life is like playing a game of hide and seek in which you have to find your real Self. I give you My blessings for the success of this which will make you realize life as all-time play.

God alone is real, all else is false. So you must try to love God who is within us all, and to gain this love, you children should try to be honest in your thoughts, words and actions.



TO MY FOLLOWERS

WHEN SOME of my devotees, through their zeal and enthusiasm, speak of Me in the highest terms, it is natural for us to encourage them. But if, later on, that enthusiasm wanes and they speak of Me in the lowest terms then, although we do not encourage them, we should at least not check them, harass them or try to stop them from saying what they feel.

It is not what the world thinks of us that matters, but what God knows about us that matters. Unless we are stripped of all egoistic tendencies and desires, and unless our soul attains its original naked state, we cannot embrace God the Beloved who is Eternally Naked in His Infinity.



I AM NEVER BORN; I NEVER DIE

I AM NEVER BORN, I never die. Yet every moment I take birth and undergo death. The countless illusory births and deaths are necessary landmarks in the progression of man's consciousness to Truth — a prelude to the Real Death and the Real Birth. The Real Death is when one dies to self — and the Real Birth is when, dying to self, one is born in God, to live for ever His Eternal Life consciously.

Although I am present everywhere eternally in My formless Infinite State, from time to time I take form, and the taking of the form and leaving it is termed My physical Birth and Death.

In this sense, I am born and I die when My Universal work is finished.



UNIVERSAL MESSAGE

I HAVE COME not to teach but to awaken. Understand therefore that I lay down no precepts.

Throughout eternity I have laid down

principles and precepts, but mankind has ignored them. Man's inability to love God's words makes the Avatar's teaching a mockery. Instead of practising the compassion He taught, man has waged crusades in His name. Instead of living the humility, purity and truth of His words, man has given way to hatred, greed and violence.

Because man has been deaf to the principles and precepts laid down by God in the past, in this present Avataric Form, I observe Silence. You have asked for and been given enough words — it is now time to live them. To get nearer and nearer to God you have to get further and further away from "I", "My", "Me" and "Mine." You have not to renounce anything but your own self. It is as simple as that, though found to be almost impossible. It is possible for you to renounce your limited self by My Grace. I have come to release that Grace.

I repeat, I lay down no precepts. When I release the tide of Truth which I have come to give, men's daily lives will be the living precept. The words I have not spoken will come to life in them.

I veil myself from man by his own curtain of ignorance, and manifest My Glory to a few. My present Avataric Form is the last Incarnation of this cycle of time, hence My Manifestation will be the greatest. When I break My Silence, the impact of My Love will be universal and all life-in-creation will know, feel and receive of it. It will help every

individual to break himself free from his own bondage in his own way. I am the Divine Beloved who loves you more than you can ever love yourself. The breaking of My Silence will help you to help yourself in knowing your real Self.

All this world confusion and chaos was inevitable and no one is to blame. What had to happen has happened; and what has to happen will happen. There was and is no way out except through my coming in your midst. I had to come, and I have come. I am the Ancient One.

Meherabad
10th July, 1958.



BABA IS FIRE

WHEN YOU feel cold
And sit near the fire,
It drives out your cold
And makes you perspire.

When you feel hungry
And cook on the fire,
It gives you your food
For which you aspire.

But if you, like a fool,
Try to play with the fire,
It may burn you so badly
That would make hell admire.

Composed by Meher Baba
Mahableshtar
22nd May, 1947.



These and other books about Avatar Meher Baba will be available from

Shri ADI K. IRANI

Meher Publications, Kings Road -- Ahmednagar.

Published by
MEHER BABA CENTRE
Central Building, No. 3
Bamanji Master Road, Bombay 2.