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25th January 1968

DIVYA VANI

(DIVINE VOICE)

Editor:

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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25th JANUARY 1968

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(DIVINE VOICE)

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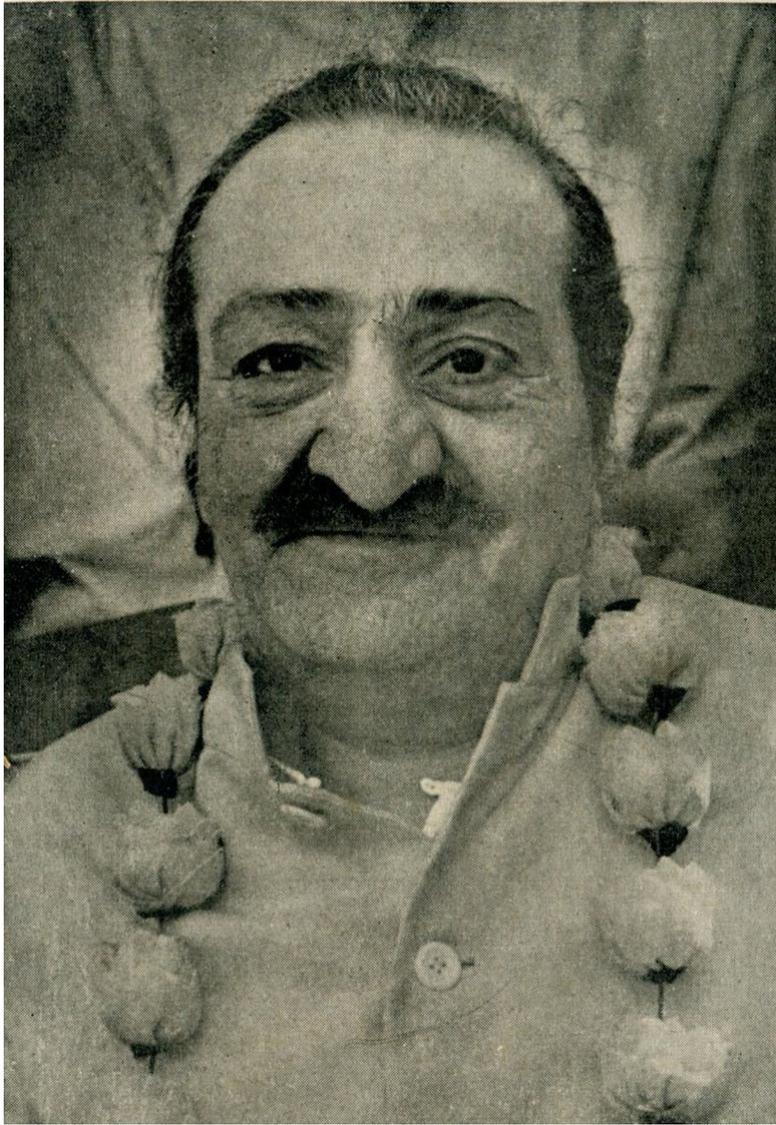
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"I AM GOD IN HUMAN FORM."

—MEHER BABA

THE MASTER'S PRAYER

(Dictated by MEHER BABA)

*O Parvardigar, the Preserver and Protector of all,
You are without Beginning, and without End;
Non-dual, beyond comparison; and none can measure You.
You are without colour, without expression, without form, and
without attributes.
You are unlimited and unfathomable, beyond imagination and
conception; eternal and imperishable.
You are indivisible; and none can see You, but with eyes
Divine.
You always were, You always are, and You always will be.
You are everywhere, You are in everything; and You are also
beyond everywhere and beyond everything.
You are in the firmament and in the depths.
You are manifest and unmanifest; on all planes, and beyond
all planes.
You are in the three worlds, and also beyond the three worlds.
You are imperceptible and independent.
You are the Creator, the Lord of Lords, the Knower of all
minds and hearts;
You are Omnipotent and Omnipresent.
You are Knowledge Infinite, Power Infinite, and Bliss Infinite.
You are the Ocean of Knowledge, All-Knowing, Infinitely-
Knowing; the Knower of the past, the present and the
future, and You are Knowledge itself.
You are All-merciful and eternally benevolent;
You are the Soul of souls, the One with infinite attributes.
You are the Trinity of Truth, Knowledge, and Bliss;
You are the Source of Truth, the Ocean of Love;
You are the Ancient One, the Highest of the High; You are
Prabhu and Parameshwar; You are the Beyond-God, and
the Beyond-Beyond-God also; You are Parabrahma;
Allah; Elahi; Yezdan; Ahuramazda; and God the Beloved.
You are named Ezad, the only One worthy of worship.*

THE PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

(Dictated by MEHER BABA)

OM Parabrahma Paramatma,

Ya-Yazdan, La ilah Illallah,

O God, Father in Heaven !

We repent, O God Most Merciful, for all our sins; for every thought that was false or unjust or unclean; for every word spoken that ought not to have been spoken; and for every deed done that ought not to have been done.

We repent for every deed and word and thought inspired by selfishness, and for every deed and word and thought inspired by hatred.

We repent, most specially, for every lustful thought and every lustful action; for every lie; for all hypocrisy; for every promise given but not fulfilled, and for all slander and backbiting.

Most specially also, we repent for every action that has brought ruin to others; for every word and deed that has given others pain; and for every wish that pain should befall others.

In Your Unbounded Mercy, we ask You to forgive us O God! for all these sins committed by us, and to forgive us for our constant failures to think and speak and act according to Your Will.

PRAYER FOR BABA'S LOVERS AND MANDALI

(Dictated by MEHER BABA)

*Beloved God, help us all to love You more and more,
and more and more and still yet more,
till we become worthy of Union with You;
and help us all to hold fast to Baba's DAAMAN till the
very end.*

***My Work**

By Meher Baba

The Way of My Work is the way of effacement, which is the way of strength, not of weakness; and through it you become mature in My Love. At this stage you cannot know what real love is, but through working for Me as you should work for Me, you will arrive at that ripeness where, in a moment, I can give you **That** for which you have been millions of years seeking.

You must always remember that I alone do My Work. Although only the one who has become One with God can serve and work for all, I allow you to work for Me so that you have the opportunity to use your talent and capacities selflessly and so draw closer to Me. You should never think that in your work for Me you are benefitting others, for by being instrumental in bringing others to Me, you are benefitting yourself.

Unless there is a brotherly feeling in your hearts, all the words that you speak or print in My Name are hollow; all the miles that you travel in My Cause are zero; all organizations for My Work are but an appearance of activity; all buildings to contain Me are empty places and all statues that you make to embody Me are of someone else.

Work undertaken with honest intent and love for God is Baba's Work, and those who do this are always His.

** With the kind courtesy of Sri Adi K. Irani, Meher Publications, Ahmednagar. The passages given here are compiled from various books.*

But the greatest work one can do for Baba is to live the life of love, humility, sincerity and selfless service in which there is no trace of hypocrisy. Baba's love is for all; and for each of His lovers to help others know this, his or her own life must be a radiating example of love so that it may become the instrument to spread Baba's love and truth of Reality. Such a life and such a love are vital and carry the highest responsibility, **for behind every thought, word and deed is the all-pervading force of Truth.**

To cultivate discipline in one's self requires self-determination and honest effort if one desires to tread knowingly and consciously the path of love.

For real spiritual service the disciple has to be prepared for all eventualities. In his work for God he must learn to adjust himself to all types of circumstances—favourable or otherwise. Others may pay no heed to him or may treat him with contempt or slander, but that should not mar his understanding or sincerity.

If you want to love Me, you should not try to create confusion among yourselves .. You will be loving Me best by loving each other. If one has to say something behind the other's back, how can you tell the world about My Love? If you all cannot love Me as I want you to love Me, it is best not to speak to the world about Me.

When you spread My eternal message of Love to others, show them first that you really love Me. Do not merely make them read My books and messages. Do more—live such a life of love, sacrifice, forgiveness and tolerance that others will love Me. If instead of doing the real work of love, you start doing organized propaganda work for Me, it is absurd. I need no propaganda or publicity. If you cannot live the life of love and honesty, you should stop working for Me.

Spiritual life is **not** a matter of quantities but of the inherent quality of Jiving. Spiritual infinity includes in its scope all the phases of life; it comprehends acts which are great as well as acts which are small.

First of all, bear in mind that you should not seek appreciation **from Me or from others**. Though this may seem easy, it is very difficult to put into practice. Remember that work in itself is its own appreciation; the moment you **seek appreciation the work is undone**. Therefore seek not any appreciation for the work you do for Me.

I don't want your money. What I want is your love and a clean heart which are beyond all the millions of rupees.

Hypocrisy spoils Baba's Work. Purity of heart and the feeling of oneness with others is required while working for Me ... We should talk less and do more work. We should be so much engrossed in Baba's work that we find no time for petty discussions ... Have 100% **honesty or keep your mouths shut**. The best judge as to whether you are 100% honest and living up to what you preach, is your own heart ... One must live what one tells others to do, otherwise **it can never impress them**. In short there must not be jealousy or backbiting amongst workers. Be 100% honest. If you have something to say of another worker, tell it lovingly to his face and not behind his back.

Let no hypocrisy enter in your doings. Do not allow your ego to be tickled. Do it with the thought that you are not doing it but that it is being done as it is God's Will. Only then will My Nazar be on you.

Life Circular No. 67

Issued : 1st Feb., 1968

Avatar Meher Baba wishes all His lovers to know that His Seclusion which was to continue until the 25th of February 1968 will continue until the 25th of March 1968, when He will complete His Seclusion.

Baba wants His lovers to know that by this date the phase of His universal work in Seclusion will end, and that there will be no further Seclusions.

Baba wants all His lovers to realize what He has said before, that the fate of the universe hangs on His Seclusion and the redemption of mankind depends upon His Manifestation. He says that His having prolonged His universal work in Seclusion is an act of His divine Compassion and Love preceding His Manifestation.

To help Him in this work, Baba wants all His lovers to recite once daily the Master's Prayer (O Parvardigar) and the Prayer of Repentance, individually or collectively, from the time they receive this Circular until the 25th of March 1968. And, also to observe complete silence for 24 hours from midnight of 16th March to midnight of 17th March 1968.

Baba wants to remain absolutely undisturbed till the 25th of March 1968. Therefore under no circumstances should any one try to visit Him unless He Himself calls any one specially for work. It should carefully be noted that the restriction on correspondence will continue and should be strictly observed.

Until such time when Baba announces that He will see His lovers or give darshan to them, no one should come of his own accord to see Him but should patiently and in Baba's Love await Baba's own announcement.

King's Road
Ahmednagar,
Maharashtra, India.

(Sd.) Adi K. Irani
Disciple & Secretary,
AVATAR MEHER BABA

PLEASE NOTE VERY CAREFULLY

Baba wishes all His lovers, Easterners and Westerners, to keep in mind that they must not come for His darshan before His announcement is circulated.

NOTICE

Pin-Lockets and Chain-Pendants with pictures of Beloved Baba, touched and blessed by Him, are available from Jal S. Irani, 765, Dastur Meher Road, Camp Poona-1, (Maharashtra State), India.

- 1) Superior quality pendant-lockets with chain, for wearing round neck. Price: Rs. 15-00 and Rs. 25-00.
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 - 6) Pretty variety of pendant-lockets for wearing round neck, with stone inset having Baba's coloured picture. Price: Rs. 1-50 and Rs. 2-00.
-

***THE WORK OF THE DIVINE HIERARCHY**

by MEHER BABA

UNIVERSE AS THE BODY OF THE MASTER: The whole universe becomes the body of the Truth-realised Master. Others who do not know his real seat or functioning, may falsely identify him with his physical body, which they see in front of them with physical eyes. This physical body is only one among the innumerable bodies in which he knows himself as dwelling. **His link with this particular body is in no way greater than with other existent bodies in the universe.** The Perfect Masters live in all and feel equally for all. They can therefore co-ordinate all Divine Work of the Spiritual Hierarchy with wisdom and justice.

FOUR BODIES: It is important to understand how the Universal Body of the Masters stands in relation to other bodies. The gross body is a sort of **reflection** of the subtle body. It is the exact **counterpart** of the subtle body. Or we might say that the subtle is a sort of **gaseous impression** of the gross. Such impression is in a very fine form in the mental body or the mind. Mental body is like a brilliant spark. When the souls, who have attained the supramental Truth, come back, they assume the Universal Mind, which has as its medium the Universal Body. Krishna showed this Universal Body to Arjuna.

** From 'Sparks of the Truth from Dissertations of Meher Baba':
Version by Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, M. A., Ph. D. (London), Nagpur.*

The Universal Body, sometimes called *Mahakarana Sharira* is thinner than every other thing. It includes and embraces all the existing bodies and pervades the Universe.

UNIVERSAL BODY: The Universal Body of the Master actually includes, in fact, all worlds and the whole creation. They are all in him. They are all within each soul; but each soul is not conscious of this because of ignorance. It is difficult to believe that huge mountains and forests and towns and even earths and worlds are within, but it is exactly so. The physical eye, which sees all these huge things, is small; yet, it sees them. It does not require a huge eye to see a huge mountain. The reason is that though the eye is small, the soul that sees is greater and vaster than all the things which it sees. In fact, it is so great that it includes them all in itself. This does not become clear until the **inner mental eye**, which really sees through the physical eyes, is **inverted**.

MENTAL EYE: It is not the physical eye that really sees. It is the mental eye, which sees through the physical eye. It is not the physical ear which hears. It is the mind, which hears through the ears. This mind, which is most aptly linked to the eye, is ordinarily extrospective, **looking outwards** and getting bound with the things that it sees. But when this mental eye is **inverted**, the universe disappears; and the **mind itself becomes the Truth. If the Truth-Mind** is again turned towards the universe, it knows itself as permeating and including within its universal body of the whole universe.

ANALOGY OF THE KITE: Through the Universal Body, the Truth-realised Master actually finds himself in the minds and the bodies of every one. It is for him no difficult task to raise the greatest of sinners to the level of the greatest of saints. The person, who plays with the kite and makes it fly freely in the skies, has in his hands the controlling end of the string. He can bring

the kite down or allow it to soar as high as he pleases. Likewise, the Perfect Master, is in **possession of all the controls of the spiritual evolution of all.**

ANALOGY OF THE SURGEON: Suppose, it pleases the Truth-realised Master to raise an ordinary person to all consciousness of the first plane. All that he has to do is to use the infinite energy of the Universal Body and draw his subtle tendency towards the first plane. Such working upon a mind which is entangled in the gross world and freeing it from its cherished bonds, can in itself be no more pleasing than the vivisections by the surgeon. The surgeon removes an inflamed appendix by cutting its attachments to adjacent portions. The process in itself can hardly be a pleasure for him. But he does his duty with extreme patience and persistence, because he knows that it is necessary for the physical well-being of the patient. In the same way, the Master has to undertake the spiritual operation, when he uses his infinite skill, knowledge, power and patience for disentangling a soul from its enmeshments. He can do so only because he is aware that what he does is for the real good and happiness of the soul on whom his grace has descended.

MASTER IS SUSTAINED BY BLISS: The ascending soul may experience much psychic agony. The Master is in sympathy with him and also knows himself as being in him; he cannot, therefore, himself escape the suffering involved in the ascent of the aspiring soul. But he is, in all that he does, **sustained by his own infinite bliss of Truth-realisation.** It cannot remain in abeyance even for a moment. What he uses is his infinite knowledge and power and love. He does not use his bliss, which is his sustaining reservoir to fall back upon in all endeavours fraught with acute mental and spiritual sufferings.

MIRACLES AND LAWS: Though the Truth-realised Masters have constantly at their disposal the infinite

powers of the Universal body, they do not always perform miracles or take recourse to super-ordinary ways of action. The reason is that the **Law-makers cannot themselves be law-breakers**. God has ordained certain laws for the universe. They are followed by the Sun, Moon and Stars and everything that breathes. These laws are not binding for the God-realised ones. But they nevertheless respect and observe these God-ordained laws, because they have become one with God. In a sense, there is no such thing as a violation of any laws. The so-called miracles are performed by using the hitherto unknown powers and forces, which operate according to their own laws. The Masters do often perform miracles. But they do so strictly for spiritual purposes. And while doing so, they do not throw off spiritual laws of the universe. **They are above all laws**. But even their super-ordinary achievements are according to the eternal Law of Truth.

REIGN OF TRUTH: The whole universe with all its laws is subject to the supreme Law of Truth. It is ever being administered impersonally as well as through the spiritual Hierarchy. To the superficial observer, it may seem that there is no reign of Truth in the universe. **The Truth does reign and reigns unceasingly and unfailingly**. Even the insignificant business concerns and other private and public institutions have their laws and cannot function without laws. Much more so is it true of the universe. This vast universe, with all of the multitudinous occurrences within it, is subject to some **self-justifying law**. Sometimes, it does appear as if sincere toil is lost or the virtuous are condemned to suffering and the vicious are enthroned with power or endowed with success. But all this is either a **fractional view** of the realities or an illusion in the garb of judgment.

LAW OF KARMA IS LAW OF JUSTICE: To one, who can take a complete and unclouded view of occurrences, the inexorable reign of Truth in all happenings, great or

small, individual or collective, is a clear and unchallengeable fact. Reign of Truth may be described in different ways as the Law of **God** or the law of **Justice** or the Law of **Karma**. It is the Law of **Cause and Effect** or the Law of **Divine Love**, according to the angle of vision or the limiting perspective, given by the particular stand-point of the intellect. But the important fact is that whatever may be the manner in which this Law of Truth is apprehended by the intellect, it unchallengeably exists. It is a supreme and self-justifying power, that unflinching and irresistibly reigns in the universe and it has no exceptions. All seers have announced the reign of this Law of Truth. It operates both impersonally and through the conscious working of the Divine Hierarchy of Masters and their Agents.

THE DIVINE PLAN: Though dwelling in the universal mind with its seat as the universal body, the truth-realised Masters do not neglect the co-ordinative and organised working required for the execution of the Divine Plan. Their plans for the world are made far in advance of the times, sometimes centuries before the time, when they are intended to be executed. They dwell in eternity; and they have in their view, the past, the present and the future. They are the custodians of God's process of self-fulfilment working itself out through the march of the variegated incidents in time.

SPIRITUAL HIERARCHY: The co-operative and organised working of the Perfect Masters expresses itself through the functioning of the **Spiritual Hierarchy**. The Masters, as one with the supreme God-Head, convey the Divine Will and impulse to the advanced souls or **Maha-Yogis** or **Pirs** of the mental world. The advanced souls catch the impulse originating in the **shoreless Truth** and pass it on from the mental world to those who control the subtle world. In the gross world, it may manifest itself through many natural upheavals, e.g,

earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, floods, changes in the structure of the earth and of the ocean-bed. It may also manifest itself through the **upheavals in the life of mankind** (e.g. rise and downfall of empires, wars, epidemics, births, deaths, catastrophies and other major episodes in the history of humanity). All happenings in the history of humanity are subject to the Divine Plan, as released and implemented by the Perfect Master through their Agents in the different worlds.

THE ROLE OF THE AVATAR: The causes of what becomes patently manifest in the gross world are to be found in the commotion in the subtle world. And the causes of the commotion in the subtle world are to be found in the directives that obtain from the mental world. And the origin of the directives of the mental world is seen as being none other than the **Will of God**, as released by the Masters, who are consciously one with God. Thus, the Masters are indirectly in charge of the execution of the Divine Plan. They make use of the infinite power and understanding to further the plan in all the three worlds. And their working gets particularly accelerated and co-ordinated during the **Avataric Periods**, **when the Avatar as the inspiring force of the Divine Hierarchy, assumes the principal directive role in the divine task of giving spiritual push to humanity.**

THE HOLY ONE

by MARY PARRY, U. K.

The Holy One bends low over all the earth
We are caught in His embrace
Because—He is near.
His advent is our everlasting joy
Our hearts are awakened because of
His brooding over us all.
His little chicks break their ego shell
and start running.
Baba is here, they say.
Come follow me, for the New Day is dawning
Unto everlasting Love, Joy and Peace.

LOVE DIVINE

by MARY PARRY, U. K.

Does your heart chime
To the tune of "Love Divine"
See nothing but Beloved within
and start humming.
Dance along—the music swells,
This happy melody resounding.
The laughter in our hearts breaks forth
Every day is mine—and this lovely chime.

"Be Present In The Presence Of Your Beloved."

By T. K. Ramanujam, B. E. (Hons.), Jabalpur

The Avataric work being at its peak in intensity, our beloved Avatar Meher Baba has kept Himself in strict seclusion. What of 'Darshan,' He has banned the correspondence even! When a man hears beloved Baba's name for the first time and is being introduced to His ways of working, his sheer ignorance makes him utter—what a cruel type of your Beloved is? He does not permit you to visit as and when you like; He does not give any sort of "Deeksha". What of 'deeksha' He does not speak even and still claims to be the Avatar of the Age!

We, the so-called Baba lovers, also may feel sometimes that our Beloved has left us alone in this chaotic atmosphere of the present times. Beloved Baba has said:—

"He who has eyes, but does not see,
He who has ears, but does not hear,
He who has a tongue but does not speak;
He can see Me as I should be seen, and
can know Me as I should be known."

The above lines may suggest to our limited minds an idea that we should become completely inactive. But it is not so. It means that we should be constantly vigilant towards the expressive beauty of the All-pervading Beloved. On this Hafiz has said— "If you want your Beloved to be present, do not absent yourself for

one moment from His Presence." If we also wish to experience that our Beloved should be present with us always, we will have to keep ourselves present in His presence, for He is omnipresent and is never absent, even for a millionth or billionth part of a second.

To keep Him knowingly with us always, we will have to keep our Beloved before us in thought, word and deed throughout our so-called waking state. For this, what ever job, we have been entrusted upon to do, we should do with the understanding that it is our Beloved's job and we are doing this job for Him only. We shall have to remove the false impressions from our minds that Beloved Baba is somewhere at Meherazad with the Mandli; because our Beloved is everywhere and is in everything. Everyone and everything is therefore equidistant from Him. Though owing to our own limitations, He appears outwardly to be present only with His Mandli. We should never forget that He being an Avatar, works on every plane of consciousness at one and the same time without any break.

Beloved Baba has recently said: "I am both divine and human. Those who live with Me feel more of My humanity than My divinity. Those whom I permit to come and see Me for a while see more of divinity than My humanity. All My intimate lovers whether living with Me or away from Me will in the end, experience My divinity." So we, who are physically away from our Beloved, should take ourselves to be more fortunate to get an opportunity to feel His divinity only. Otherwise it was quite possible that many of us would have not been able to hold to His daaman till to date, treating Him to be more human than divine. Most of us, before coming into contact with our Beloved Baba may have been devoted to Rama, Krishna, Christ, Buddha, Zoroaster or Mohammed. etc. If we just recollect those days, we ourselves wonder, how we were worshipping them with all our devotion, whom we never saw, assuming them to be omnipresent. Hence the question arises

that when it was easy for us to believe in their omnipresence, what makes us not feel the same way about our living Beloved? If we dive deep into our hearts the only reason behind this appears to be our lack of faith and love for our Beloved and that is why we become restless, feeling His absence from us.

We should remember that so many eyes are on our Beloved and many of them are keeping watch over our activities. They are always in the look out of our weaknesses and shortcomings. To be called a Baba-lover in the true sense, we will have to be rock like in our faith as regards our Beloved's Avatarhood; and to be like a burning flame in our love for Him and thus befit ourselves to receive the 'Divine Treasure' for the distribution of which the Unlimited One has taken a limited form. Is there any Baba-lover who is willing to lose this opportunity which our Beloved has given us?

The only solution to all our doubts, impatience and restlessness is the wholehearted remembrance of the Beloved and complete surrenderance of our worries to the Beloved. Love born out of unquestioning faith alone can enable one to feel the everlasting presence of the Beloved and can bring the Beloved closer and closer to him.

But unfortunately, to feed our own ego, we entrap ourselves in so many worldly activities. Likewise, we claim that we have duty towards our family, towards society, towards nation and the world and start judging the importance of Beloved Baba and His work in comparison with these worldly relations. We totally forget that these are not beyond our Beloved Baba and His work and all these are simultaneously included in our Beloved, because nothing is beyond Him.

Once our Beloved Baba said—"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. So do not ask questions but strive to become a 'Slave' of the Perfect Master." Therefore without losing this golden opportunity we should also keep in our mind that we have to serve humanity in God and not God in humanity. For this we will have to become the 'Slave' of our Master—our Beloved, who is God Himself—because service of the Master can only be done by a slave. And more over when we don't wish to become a 'Slave' we lose our right of becoming a 'Master' ourselves, which is the only 'Goal' of our life on this earth.

So if we wish to become a 'Perfect Master' ultimately, we should start our journey becoming a 'Perfect slave' of our Perfect Master, who is our Beloved. Only by becoming a slave of our Beloved, we can remember Him constantly and wholeheartedly and thus we can always be present in the presence of our Beloved, who is never absent.

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—*Editor & Publisher*

Meher Baba and His Divine Leela

by Dana Field, U. S. A.

"All this is a play of illusion. It is all My play. None can fathom Me as I really am. I am in everyone and I do everything; simultaneously I also do nothing."
– Meher Baba

"The best thing for you to do is to just love Me. Love Me honestly, work for Me; I alone endure; all else is but a passing show."
– Meher Baba

Baba's love and His Divine Leela (Play or Game) are inseparably intertwined. Baba says that the creation was originally manifested for the sake of love, that love sustains the universe, and that it is through love—Divine Love—that the Goal of all life is attained, i.e. union with the Divine Beloved. Baba has told His lovers that they should resign to His Will in love "and then see the fun!" How different is this revelation from "the strong arm of the Lord" in the religions of the West!

We are vastly entertained by the antics of a cat, a dog, a monkey. Their unself-consciousness makes them natural comedians. Children too can be very amusing in what they do and say. For the God-Man, the whole universe and humanity are an endless source of amusement: how else could it be when Reality is confronted with the spectacle of Illusion? In fact Baba once said that He considers the normal condition of humanity as madness. For that matter anyone with an understanding of Baba's Teaching can see the pettiness of ordinary actions and reactions, love and hatred, etc. The honesty of a comedian is his forte, in lampooning human nature.

When questioned, "What is life?" Baba smilingly replied:

"Life is a Mighty Joke. He who knows this can hardly be understood by others. He who does not know it finds himself in a state of delusion. He may ponder over this problem day and night but will find himself incapable of knowing it. Why? People take life seriously and God lightly; whereas we must take God seriously and life lightly. Then we know that we always were the same and will ever remain the same ... the Originator of this Joke. This knowledge is not achieved by reasoning, but it is the knowledge of Experience."

For us time, space, cause and effect are the framework for observing and judging things. For one who is Omniscient they are non-existent, hence how can we have the same viewpoint? This shows the importance of listening to One who knows and obeying Him or following His advice. For instance Baba told a tradition-bound clergyman and his friend, a doctor:

"God is within and without. Why not seek Him within? If one seeks the grace of God and God is not able to give it, what kind of God do you call Him? People talk, but do not seek His grace. God is infinite, the Soul of souls, and the individual souls are the drops of that Infinite Ocean. All this depends on outlook: you see this (pointing to a flower) as a flower; I see God in it."

No matter how often Baba has explained the difference between Himself and us, the enigma remains: the disparity between omniscience and ignorance, omnipresence and space-consciousness, omnipotence and helplessness will always remain infinite. Baba said about His

omniscience:

"In illusion, how I play My own Game none knows ... In Reality there is no scope for time and space ... Every moment of the present is the real moment. In the present is embodied the past and the future—in My Real state from eternity. I am the Ancient One and the creation is My Shadow ... What I want to tell you is that I know everything. I am in each of you and everywhere. As conscious Real 'I' in this false 'I' of yours I know everything. You exist as you were existing, because you were there, you are there and you will continue to be there. You have been caught here in the snare of Maya; and the accumulation of sanskaras makes you get more and more involved in Maya. For example, take a man who is sleeping. He dreams that a thief is trying to murder him. He wakes up in a fright. He is now afraid to go to sleep again lest he might again dream the same dream. And the real fun of it all is that all the time he knows that it was all in a dream! Even so, all this life is a dream. The past and future are not there. There is only the Eternal Now in the everlasting present."

All life, Baba says, is God's Divine Dream. So our wakeful state is God dreaming, the difference being perhaps that whereas in an ordinary dream anything and everything is possible because imagination has a free rein, our wakeful state is governed by a certain amount of restraint upon the imagination. God's Dream is controlled by law and order; whereas in our dreams, time, space and causation are suspended. Baba has made the distinction between true and false imagination.

Baba says that the individualized soul seeks—consciously or unconsciously—to become permanently established in higher values which we term variously "happiness, peace, freedom, truth, love, perfection, Self realization ... to establish an abiding reality in the midst of constant change." Baba continues:

"It is a natural desire based fundamentally on a memory, dim or clear as the individual's evolution might be low or high, of his essential unity with God; for every living thing is a partial manifestation of God conditioned only by its lack of knowledge of its own true nature. The whole of evolution in fact is an evolution from unconscious divinity to conscious divinity in which God Himself, essentially eternal and unchangeable, assumes an infinite variety of forms, enjoys an infinite variety of experiences and transcends an infinite variety of self-imposed limitations. Evolution from the standpoint of the Creator is a Divine sport, in which the unconditioned tests the infinitude of His absolute knowledge, power and bliss in the midst of all conditions."

Baba stresses the unity of all life, which follows from God's Oneness. God is love, and the very nature of love is unity. It is love that creates, sustains and destroys the universe. It is the mind and not love that creates separateness. For the mind, which is wholly within illusion, time and space are real, events are real, the body is real, its own existence is real. Baba says:

"What happened yesterday? Nothing. What will happen tomorrow? Nothing. All happens now. This experience of everything happening at this very moment is 'Dnyan', knowledge, wisdom. It has nothing to do with the mind,

reason ... He who experiences the Eternal Now, finds all doubts, worries, everything dissolved like mist, and remains in bliss."

Baba further says:

"The Divine Theme underlying this bewildering fantasy of our universal life is the romance of the soul with God. At the beginning you are conscious of nothing ...but emptiness, frustration, superficiality and the gnawing chains of bondage, but gradually you attain an increasingly fuller and freer expression of love, and ultimately merge into the Divine Beloved, to realize the unity of the lover and the Beloved in the Supreme and eternal Fact of God as Infinite Love."

Nobody can create this highest aspect of love in himself. "It is the gift of grace." When this love is born "you have only one desire; and that one desire is to be spiritually united with the Divine Beloved. Such withdrawal of consciousness from all other desires, leads to infinite purity."

Baba realistically applies the universal and divine principle of the unity of love and God even to the social problems of the day. It is the only way to abiding peace. Regarding the leadership in society, Baba said:

"Creative leadership will have to recognize and emphasize the fact that all men are already united with each other not only by their co-partnership in the great Divine Plan for Earth, but also by virtue of their all being equally the expression of One Life. No line of action can be really helpful or fruitful unless it is in entire harmony with this deep Truth. The future of humanity is in the hands of those who have vision."

In 'GOD SPEAKS', Baba demonstrates by the perfect analogy of the ocean and the drop that "Paramatma (the Oversoul) is atma in reality." We are all One, in and as God. To become fully conscious of this is the Goal. The nature of the Ocean as "shorelessness" admits of no division whatsoever, and the existence of the drop is due to the soul's own imagination, Baba explains. In a discourse, Baba said:

"How God is beyond imagination I will explain in a few words. God has no beginning ... And where there is no beginning there is no end. So you, who are experiencing illusion, how can you imagine that which has no beginning and no end? Yet you as yourself, as a drop of your own infinite ocean, have no beginning and no end. You have this form. You take birth. You have a beginning as a drop (body): you grow, you die, you end. You begin and end in illusion. You, as bodies, have a beginning and an end. You are the Infinite One, but as a body you have beginning and end: as the Infinite Ocean—of which you are the drop as body—there is no beginning and no end.

"Mind is in illusion. Mind tries to think of that which has no beginning and no end, but mind can't reach it, because mind itself is illusion.

"To experience your real Self is the goal. You are and you will ever be. There is no one else but YOU. Instantly, in a flash, you will know everything, including why you have no beginning and no end. But this knowing will have nothing to do with mind, reason, logic. It is beyond mind. You know the answer to everything; you know that nothing has happened and nothing will ever happen. You then experience bliss, you become all-powerful, all-knowing."

(To be continued)

*AVATAR MEHER BABA

By Adi K. Irani, Ahmednagar

Avatar Meher Baba—Avatar represents His Status of the Highest of the High in the realm of spirituality, Meher represents His name and Baba represents a term of reverence as used for father or any one held in reverence. We have so often heard the name Avatar Meher Baba but hardly tried to understand what each word really means. To know of Baba's real inner work as the Avatar is beyond our imagination. It could only be known by one who has the experience of His Being and His state of consciousness. To think of it as we have a right to, would only be a speculation on our part. Even such a speculation would take a life-time to be formulated in thoughts and expressed in words. His inner work has come to be known by me from what He has said about it time and again and from the different moods and changes of expressions I have seen on His face and in His movements during my stay with Him. I shall keep this subject aside for today's talk and proceed on with what He has given as His message.

His primary message to the world consists of nine words: "I have come not to teach but to awaken". In this, according to me is comprised the fundamentals or the roots of all His other messages. It precisely affirms the character and nature of work for which He has come,

* From a talk given in Marathi by Sri Adi K. Irani at Shri M. R. Dhakephalkar's house on 14th Jan., 1968 as a Preliminary to 74th Birthday Celebration of Avatar Meher Baba by Avatar Meher Baba Ahmednagar Centre.

meaning, taken the human form. It is one of "not to teach but to awaken". The act of teaching like a school teacher, a professor or a religious teacher is one that only gives understanding of particular subjects intellectually and does not comprehensively raise a man to higher stratas of consciousness and knowledge on all sides of his moral, mental and emotional make-up. The act of awakening is far too radical, deep and comprehensive.

Meher Baba's spirituality is practical. Were it not so "says" Baba, it would be no spirituality. Routine periodical method of meditation, yoga or any other so-called spiritual practice would confine a man to a periodical habit of mental and spiritual development not covering the rest of the periods of his waking consciousness left to other pursuits of his professional and domestic life. There would not be a continuity on the path of spiritual progress. Most simple, practical and an uninterrupted life of progressive spiritual development, what Baba "says" is dedication of oneself with wholehearted love—love for anything and any one held in highest esteem and reverence. Baba lays great stress upon love. Love given in worship to anything and any one is always rewarding. But love lavished upon a Personage who is consciously one with God and has the authority of the Avatar of exercising His absolute Power, Knowledge and Bliss for the benefit of humanity—its reward and response is far too great and lasting. Meher Baba is the living Avatar of the age and we should therefore love Him and go on adding up to the strength of our love for Him by remembering Him at all times of the day when the mind is free of the necessary pursuits of life.

Love is the most common, natural and practical asset in human life; but love is subjected to so many uses and interpretations, from sex to divine love, that it has lost charm of man's attention and a careful cogitation about it. Despite its many phases and degrees of expression it

is love that exists in substance in every human heart like water that exists in the form of vapour, ice, clean and dirty water. The purity of love depends upon how much unselfish it is. The impurity of love is because of the element of selfishness it sustains. The most unselfish love is divine love which consumes a man of his desires. By dedicating our lives in love and service to Meher Baba, we continue to progress and develop spiritually without going in for any of the so-called spiritual practice or sadhana. The sadhana of love is most practical, natural and easy in the present day life of stress and strain.

Meher Baba 'says': "Hold on to My 'daaman' more than ever". This is not in the literal sense of holding on to His skirt, It is to love Him and make the bond of love ever so firm and strong. The carriages that are attached to an engine will reach the destination if the couplings (of love) that held them tight to the engine are firm and do not break away—no matter what the carriages contain, either the filth of sanskaras or the gold of good deeds. Some ask curiously why Meher Baba calls Himself as the Avatar. I am sure if He did not do so, it would be easier for people to associate with Him and His writings but the fact is that it would be very untruthful for Baba to say that He is some one other than the Avatar when He is the Avatar. So let us be grateful to God for giving us an occasion to be associated with the Avatar and to love Him for our greatest good of knowing and realising our true Self as none other than God, who is Personified in Avatar Meher Baba.

HYMN TO MEHER BABA

by Maud Kennedy, U. K.

He is the power and glory of the sun.
He is the lonely beauty of the moon.
His words of wisdom are circling the world
Like the stars in brightness.
He has the levelling quality of water
And the rich depth of earth.
But His Love is the air we breathe.

PRAYER

by Maud Kennedy, U. K.

Thy will be done
Thy Name be honoured
Thy words be heard
Thy Love be shared
Thy Truth be lived
Thy bliss be known
Thy glory be seen
Thy Peace be kept
Every where.

CAN MUSLIMS ACCEPT HAZRAT MEHER BABA ?

By A. R. Abdulla, Jabbalpore

Amongst the revealed religions of the world, Islam occupies a unique position compared with the ancient ones, because it manifested in the recent past, i.e., about 1400 years ago. Due to this factor it had the natural advantage over others to adopt a dynamic approach to human problems, based on spiritual insight and thus cautiously avoiding the superstitious and ritualistic pattern of living. Due to its roots being firmly planted in spirituality, it could grow into a mighty umbrella under whose protection came many people and countries.

The religion in general was embraced by masses, who were guided by the so-called Ulemas (Learned Divines); but however, a few God-loving sought for the esoteric religion, the spiritual life. This was the hard way and naturally the self-seeking and materialistic people avoided it. While Ulemas, the self-appointed custodians of the religion exerted their influence to subjugate the masses and control their king. This gradually resulted in the suppression of the freedom of speech. Husayn al Hallaj was crucified publicly in A. D. 922 because he proclaimed: "I am the Truth (Annal Haqq)." He was accused of claiming divinity. This accusation was apparently supported by his doctrine based on the fact that God manifests Himself on earth in his saints.

Even today people hesitate to think straight due to age-old traditions and the habit of one track-mindedness and also afraid of being ex-communicated or boycotted by the fellow religionists. In a way the sub-conscious fear or to be more appropriate their inferiority complex has induced the so-called enlightened people, to accept beliefs and conventions, which they inwardly reject but do not have the courage of their conviction to lead a fearless life based on Truth and Love. Thus they continue to drift aimlessly for a distant illusory Paradise.

In 'Oriental Mysticism', which is originally based on the French Translation of a rare manuscript dedicated to Napoleon by its author, reveals the esoteric fact about the last manifestation of the present Cycle of time, It says that Prophet Muhammad was Muhar-e-Nabuvat, the Seal of the Prophets. He was the forerunner of the religions of Moses and Christ and of the earlier Manifestations; and Holy Quran is the last codified Book in the line of conventional religions. But the world has yet to wait for the descent of a World Teacher in Imam Mehedi, who for the first time will reveal the inner secrets of existence and its underlying principles hitherto undisclosed to humanity.

In this context, it would be worth while to refer to the book 'The Perfect Master' by C. B. Purdom, wherein it is disclosed for the first time that Baba had written a book in his own hand containing Divine Secrets whose disclosure at the right moment will benefit humanity immensely. Apart from this, the immortal book 'GOD SPEAKS' by Hazrat Meher Baba is a further proof of His unique personality and spiritual greatness, befitting the description of the Messenger of the Age; which also fulfils the age old prophesy about the second coming of Christ also otherwise known as Kalaki Avatar or Imam Mehedi.

Nowhere in the world is there a book wherein the Divine Theme has been so consistently presented as it is found in 'GOD SPEAKS'.

The spiritual literature of the past and present is full of anecdotes, mythological stories and admixture of Occult, Yogic, Mystical, Sufi and Psychic subjects which seldom attract the people of modern generation whose outlook is rational and scientific. No wonder Hazrat Meher Baba's discourses have attracted people of all the religions and from all walks of life to see something common in them that could be identified with the true spirit of their own faiths. Hazrat Meher Baba emphatically repeats that He has not come to teach but to awaken. He has not come to establish any new religion or cult. This plainly upholds the esoteric significance of Muhar-e-Nabooat thus putting an axe on the future manifestations of conventional religions. Baba says that renouncing one's religion and accepting another is like going from one cage to another, though the latter one may be more glittering.

The Master has further made significant revelation which is explained by a thought provoking chart in that important Urdu publication 'Daore Qalandari' by late Dr. Abdul Ghani Munsiff, a Sufi disciple of 25 years standing. Not even the best of Ulemas had ever dreamt of knowing the significance of Haqiqat-e-Muhummadi, which is the theme of the Chart. It was Hazrat Meher Baba who revealed for the first time that the Prophet of Islam while functioning as God and Man delivered the Message of Truth and Universal Brotherhood from the 7th plane of consciousness, whereas Jesus Christ delivered from the 4th plane of psychic consciousness. No wonder the genuine followers of Hazrat Muhammad were inclined to Marefat-e-Allah (Gnosis), while lovers of Christ acquired great psychic and healing powers to alleviate the sufferings of humanity.

Hazrat Meher Baba during His Mast tour had contacted the highly advanced souls, some of them were Majzoobs, Qalandars and near Perfect Ones. Some of them were Muslims and deeply respected by the Muslims of the particular town or locality. Such great mystics having come face to face with Hazrat Meher Baba burst into great joy and revealed Baba's identity as God and Man. This was witnessed by another late Muslim disciple of Baba of 45 years standing who was a blunt rationalist was drawn to Baba by a chain of strange events including the vision of the Holy Prophet.

Once Hazrat Meher Baba happened to visit a Muslim family during the holy month of Ramzan and found that the members of the family were observing fast. He was happy to learn that small children were also fasting. He instructed the members of the family to complete the remaining fasts. On another occasion Hazrat Meher Baba enquired of a Muslim disciple as to why he was not saying his prayers regularly. Hazrat Meher Baba in true Islamic traditions has always stressed on acquiring inner discipline and always instructed His disciples to keep away from sensual and baser things of life which would mislead an aspirant to never ending frustrations akin to a perpetual state of mental hell called 'Jhannam', He always emphasizes on simple living and divesting oneself of unnecessary worldly possessions but not at the cost of causing inconvenience to dependents or ignoring worldly duties. He always maintains that God is Real and all else is illusion. Truly He leads the Way which the Prophet of Islam wanted the Muslims to follow rather than entangle themselves in the illusory world of duality. The Hadith says: "Seek knowledge from cradle to the grave."

Is not Hazrat Meher Baba the greatest practicing Muslim amongst the so-called Muslims of the New Age, who in the wake of Great 'Qiamat' (Dooms Day) are busy in worshipping 'Zan', 'Zar' and 'Zameen' and ignorant

of the fact that Buth-Parasti is loathing in duality and nothing else. If we Muslims observe the decline and fall of moral values in the capitals of the Islamic world today, then we would hang our heads in shame. The Mard-e-Mujhaidis of one time have become the beggars in the real sense that they regard the problem of life as the problem of bread alone. The time demands that we retrace our steps and with an open mind accept Hazrat Meher Baba, who is —

" KHUDAI ADMIAT ME SAMAT
MEHER BABA BANI AUR PHIR JAGMAGAI
WAH KIYA QATRA KIYA QATRA BANA
AUR DARYA KO DARYA KAR DIYA."

--Composed by late Ramju Abdulla

Godliness enshrined in humanity
Became Meher Baba and shone forth.
Oh ! a drop became The Drop
And made The Ocean look like Ocean.

Note: *The writer of this article would like other Baba journals to copy or translate this article without changing the original text in order to retain the true spirit of the message contained therein. The Centres in India and abroad may also get it printed in booklet form to be given as Souvenir Gifts to their Muslim and other friends interested in Baba on the occasion of Hazrat Meher Baba's forthcoming Birth Day.*

MEHERAZAD NEWS

From one of the Mandali

Meherazad, 25th January 1968

A BABAFULL 1968 to all of us !

"I can wish me no wishes, for naught but Your wish is.
May Your wish be my wish—let that be my wishes."

An old prayer dressed up in a new year, the prayer of all lovers whose world is BABA, who strive to be less of self, the more to be full of Him.

With the stepping in of the New Year, we find a quick stepping up of Baba's seclusion work, not so much by what we can perceive as by what we can dare to conceive. Baba says "You can only see what you see me doing outwardly, but I am continually working on all planes of consciousness at the same time. As my manifestation time is closing in, the pressure of my work is tremendous. You cannot have an iota of an idea of it." We can however faintly imagine it from what His infinite tiredness reveals to us; watch it in the cauldron of world chaos that is boiling over; see it in the dawn of His Love rising gloriously over new horizons every day. But all that is happening is nothing compared to what will happen, Beloved Baba tells us. To help us imagine the measure of difference between the "is" and "will", Baba compared the small height of the Seclusion Hill at Meherazad to the awesome stature of Mount Everest!

We do not need to see what the year holds, we need only to hold fast to the Seer. All we have to do, Baba

tells us, is to hold on to Him with unshakable faith and love—all who are attached to Him, whether deserving or otherwise, are bound to reach the goal. He gave the simple illustration of a goods train: every wagon that is linked to the Engine, whether it contains gold or rubble, gets borne to the Terminus. But many are the jolts and distractions along this journey with God, and He has to keep warning us "hold fast—hold fast" as He pulls us along. He has provided us with the means to hold fast. He has given us the love that feeds our faith. Faith is like a lighted lamp, it shines only in the dark. And while its brightness is proof of darkness, its light reveals His grace that keeps it burning.

Those who deprive themselves of the light of God's grace by their blind unbelief, are nevertheless never deprived of His compassion. Baba recently commented to the mandali: "Jesus said 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do'. I say 'Father have pity on them for they know not what will happen.'" To His lovers, Baba says: "I alone Am. Remember Me wholeheartedly. Repeat My Name constantly. I am with you." Over and over again His lovers experience the sublime truth of His being the Slave of the love of His lovers. With every wholehearted call of BABA!, His reply I AM HERE materializes. He is with each one at all times, but asks us to wake Him up with remembrance. He says, "I am in each heart but I am sleeping there. It is my old, old habit. In order to awaken me you should always call out to me, saying 'Baba, Baba, Baba' continuously. Then I, who am in your heart, will not find any pleasure in remaining asleep. Let alone sleep, I shall not find time even to doze!"

With the clamour of a myriad hearts calling out BABA, BABA with one voice, Baba couldn't have enjoyed a wink of sleep during the earthquake India experienced last month! Classified as a shock of major intensity, it

rocked most of the western coast in the pre-dawn hours of December 11. Ahmednagar and Meherabad-Meherazad too were severely shaken—it was like having a 50 second ride on a roaring dragon running under the earth. It wiped out the township of Koynanagar that lay near its epicentre, but spared the mighty Koyna Dam which supplies electricity to the state of Maharashtra! That the many cities involved were also spared, seemed as incredible as the quake itself. Newspapers quoted *experts* saying that the quake could have wrecked Bombay, Poona and other cities of Maharashtra had it lasted half a minute longer. But though not wrecked the cities were badly rocked, throwing the people into an hysteria of panic and bewilderment. While crowds ran out shouting into the dark streets, Baba families kept to their homes in the shelter of His Presence, all members (from grandparents to toddlers) calling out His Name in unison—such is the real "arti" sung to the Beloved! The populace too was violently jolted into remembrance of God. The morning after, churches were crowded to overflowing; while the candles that were offered in thanksgiving and prayer were enough to have lit up the sky. The 'Poona Herald' reported, "Even the diehard people who never looked up to heaven are praying!" The milder tremors that kept following daily for weeks (and even now are felt occasionally) kept on serving as reminders. In the 'mail-bag' column of a newspaper, a reader's letter said, "Yes sir, tremor is the talk of the town, and we know not how long it will last. But this less than a minute's shock has taught us the lesson of our lifetime: how petty is man, how pettier his possessions. It has made man meeker and brought him nearer to his Maker."

There is another kind of shake-up taking place in India at this time, not an earthquake but an 'earth-wake'. It is caused by Baba Centres who are holding a continual round of public meetings, every day for seventy four days, in celebration of His 74th Birthday. And we can

imagine what it must be like in Andhra, a State which has over a hundred and fifty Avatar Meher Baba Centres! 'These people would dive into the ocean if they could tell the fishes about Baba!', a Meherazadian once remarked. The remark was made quite some time ago, when lovers of Baba in the regions of Hamirpur and Andhra (in north & south India) were pioneering areas of narrow prejudice and over-crowded tradition, ringing out His Message from the roof-top on every occasion. Since then, with each year the peals have grown in number and strength, Baba Centres everywhere joining in, so that now a carillion of His Name delights our hearts' ears. A powerful note was played last year by the Baba Stalls that His lovers put up at Fairs and Exhibitions held in India: at Bombay, Poona and Nagpur in Maharashtra; at Jabalpur in M. P.; at Hyderabad and Rajahmundry in Andhra. This last was during the two-week Pushkaram festival, a colossal affair where millions of Hindu pilgrims come from all over India for a dip in the sacred river Godavari. As reported by Dr. Dhanapathy Rao president of the 'Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, Kakinada', "Almost all the pilgrims, comprising all walks of life, rich and poor, young and old, were attracted to the Stall." And then there were the actual Baba Fairs, held in northern and central states: at Dehra Dun, Nauranga, Hamirpur, Khandarka, Bagda. The district of Hamirpur virtually becomes a Baba-Fair ground at a special time of year. There the lovers don't wait for public Fairs to have stall in—they make their own Fairs to celebrate every visit of their Beloved! There every place that is blessed by Baba's visit is a Baba Centre, where they hold the "Meher Mela" (Meher Fair) every year: at Meher Dham in Nauranga, Meher Astana in Mahewa, Meher Puri in Hamirpur town. Thousands of people from all distances come by all manner of transport to take part in the feasts of gaiety and God. No lover has returned from a Meher Mela in Hamirpur District without being drenched with the Baba-atmosphere that reigns there, where entire villages are

Baba-villages in love, where every man, woman and child greets each other at meeting and parting with 'JAI BABA'!

Delhi too has a special date with itself, in remembrance of the first public darshan that Beloved Baba gave there in December of 1952. Its eleventh commemoration was observed last month at a Public Meeting in New Delhi, with a number of M.Ps. and cabinet ministers of the Central Government among the large attendance. Inaugurating, presiding and speaking were the Minister for Irrigation and Power, Dr. K. L. Rao; the Minister for Steel, Mines and Metals, Dr M. Channa Reddy; and the Minister for Education, Dr. Triguna Sen; each garlanding the Beloved's portrait before his speech, each speaking on the need for mankind to receive and follow Baba's Message, to awaken to His Love.

"AVATAR MEHER BABA THE AWAKENER". Over a million pairs of lips uttered these words in the course of a few weeks, in an environment of gaiety and hubbub that could hardly be described as spiritual. But "as surely as His Name is a prayer, where it be spoken is a church." The church in this instance was the huge open-space of the 'Cross Maidan' in Bombay city, where the International Tourist Fair was held from October end to mid December 1967. Presenting a typical blend of the ancient and modern, inseparable profiles of India's image, the Fair proved a very fair attraction for Bombay's teeming populace and for visitors from other parts. Many spectacular stalls, national and foreign, featured art, culture, trade, industry. Dramas and dances, films and fashion shows, and a wide variety of fun and entertainment, figured largely. Pains-takingly the Fair organisers had taken into account the educational and recreational need of the people, while utterly ignoring their most urgent need—the spiritual! But then, neither had they taken into account the Baba-lovers of Bombay,

who set their hearts on getting a foothold in the Fair grounds to serve the Avatar's Message to the people. Against fantastic odds, their perseverance succeeded. And so it was that the huge cosmopolitan crowds surging on the Cross Maidan every evening (from about 5 in the afternoon till 1 o'clock in the morning) came by the Baba Stall, looking up at the big name-board that read AVATAR MEHER BABA THE AWAKENER, looking in at the beautiful full-length colour portrait of Beloved Baba facing them. Most of the lookers entered, while the remaining passed on after reading aloud His Name and staring at His portrait.

It all began a month before the Fair was to open, when Sorabjee Siganporia (of the Avatar Meher Baba Bombay Centre) read out the last family-letter at the Centre's meeting. Struck by Baba's message "now is the time to spread my Message", Sorabjee felt it was high time for Bombay to bestir itself. Calling an urgent meeting of Baba-lovers, he put forward his suggestion of acquiring a stall at the I. T. F. (International Tourist Fair) as their golden opportunity to give Baba's Message to the multitude. He hoped for encouragement from them. What he was unprepared for was the immediate and staggering response and enthusiasm with which the idea was caught up and started rolling! With Nariman and Arnavaz Dadachanji taking the lead, contributions were pledged, ideas put forth, plans sketched, problems measured. In no time all shoulders got to the yoke in a fine piece of teamwork. But although plans and work raced ahead, they could not start! Obtaining a suitable stall, or at least ground space for the building of a stall, was the king-size obstacle. At the "last minute" it was hurdled, solely through the influence and persistence of Dr. Ram Ginde, to whom the authorities in charge did not like saying 'no', and who would not take 'no' for an answer! Take one step in His direction and He will take ten steps towards you to help. The 750 square feet of

ground space that was finally obtained was not just suitable, it was the most ideally situated imaginable. Facing the central imposing structure of the Government of India pavilion and next to Air India booth, no Fair goer could miss it!

Creating of the Stall and mass printing of Baba literature were items that seemed too big to be covered by the fragment of time they now had in hand. It was done, and done superbly. The Bombay group was like a race horse that had long been nodding at the post, but at the first sharp prod had started off at a full gallop, winning with flying colours! The Baba Stall was, in the words of Burjor Mehta from Ahmednagar "Simple as God, and so grand." The credit for its elegance and beauty goes mainly to dear Arnavaz, who worked herself to a frazzle over the myriad details of planning and decor, helped by others of the large Dadachanji clan who are wholly a Baba clan in the deepest devoted sense. As one fair Dadachanji member wrote not long ago, "We heard someone remark that 'the Dadachanjis eat, drink and breathe BABA!; and Oh! how satisfying and wonderful it is, only the Dadachanjis know!" Jim Mistry took up the printing reins. Jim's biggest joy is to have his modest printing press, Mekda Corp., work in the cause of his Beloved—and never had Jim worked 'Mekda' so hard and fast as now! The "Universal Message" in English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujerati, printed by the hundred thousand for giving free to Stall visitors, was ready on time. So was the priceless little book "Who is Meher Baba?" planned by Arnavaz, sold at a very nominal price.

The grain of Sorabjee's idea multiplied into a granary of accomplishment when the lovers manned the Stall, prepared with answers to the variety of questions expected from those whom the Beloved would draw.* What the

* See DIVYA VANI, November 1967 issue, "Questions and Answers, on Meher Baba."

volunteers had least anticipated was the overwhelming attendance and interest that kept up through the weeks, from the day the Fair was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. Mrs. Indira Gandhi did not visit any stall, but rode round the grounds in an open jeep. As the jeep neared the Baba Stall, our Kishinchand Gajwani went up and drew her attention to the name-board "Avatar Meher Baba The Awakener". She responded with quick interest, reading out the Name and bowing with deep reverence to the Beloved's portrait as the jeep drove by. Some days after that Jim wrote to Eruch, "What is happening today at the Baba Stall is a tremendous mass enquiry and awareness of Baba. Waves upon waves of humanity surging into the Stall are carrying away some literature free or paid for. The 'Universal Message' in all languages is being gobbled up very fast and we'll keep printing more. I once timed a count of the people entering the Stall at the rate of 30 a minute—easily 10 to 12 thousand a day. Bombay lovers will henceforth walk tall—I hope Beloved Baba permits them to do so for some time at least!"

I'm sure Baba's smile glowed warmest on the little visitors who flocked to the Stall between 4 & 5 in the evening, the school children's hour. They would sweep in like a merry tornado, trailing clouds of dust, bubbling with exclamations and questions, determined to see everything, eager for their copy of the Universal Message, surrounding Baba's portrait and wanting to know which country He was Raja of! When told He was the Maharaja of the universe, they would stand before Him with joined hands and pray "Baba, please help us pass in our exams."

As Sorabjee said, by Beloved Baba's grace the location of the Stall was such that hardly a few unlucky ones missed seeing it. When Baba sent a telegraphic message expressing His happiness with Dr. Ram Ginde's success in

procuring the Stall space in such a good location, His dear Ram replied:

I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WIRE. STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS ARE YOUR WAYS WHICH WE IN OUR IGNORANCE DO NOT UNDERSTAND. THE BABA STALL AT THE I. T. F. IS PART OF YOUR OWN PLAN WHICH MATERIALIZED THROUGH YOUR OWN INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE TO YOUR LOVERS, AN EXPRESSION OF YOUR INFINITE AND ABIDING LOVE FOR ALL OF YOUR CREATION. JAI BABA.

In attempting to report Baba-work on the Overseas front, I don't know where to start or stop! Whereas the apostles of Jesus preached to hundreds in the crowded market-place, those of today's Avatar are reaching millions by television and radio. In the U. S. A. they're doing it so frequently, I feel I'd need a computer to keep count and track of all the shows and their sequels! Among the more recent televised talks on Baba was the Joe Franklyn show in New York, where two million viewers could see the Beloved's picture (on the book "The Everything & The Nothing"), and hear about Him at length from Judge Henry Kashouty of Virginia, a speaker of outstanding calibre. Next Henry appeared on the Allan Burke show, arranged with the help of Adele McCuen and other lovers in New York, a show that was taped and later shown in other States. The sequel? I'll quote Kitty Davy's letter of Dec. 19th, from Myrtle Beach: "We're surrounded by mail.* Nearly 300 letters to date have arrived at the Center since the weekend—all requiring answers plus the Universal Message and book lists! And all the result of Henry Kashouty's talk on Allan Burke's show. Henry tells me that this show

* *On the show, Mr. Burke gave the address of the Baba Centre in Myrtle Beach.*

retaped goes over the States also. How much love Baba must have poured out through Henry that people could write as they did! Many tuned in only the last 15 minutes of the show and yet were spell-bound, impelled to listen, to believe, to write. Not one letter was scoffing, disbelieving, cynical or ironic; all long to hear as soon as possible more, more, more about Baba!" As Dr. Allan Cohen, himself a stalwart Baba-speaker over the air, put the situation in U.S. in a letter to Adi: "It certainly is happening fast! In Baba-Love, what used to be astounding is now common-place and the chain reaction of His Truth is exploding incredibly quickly Baba is awakening the Americans to Him on all fronts. The 'minor miracles' (of newly tuned hearts) are daily occurrences. The point is passed where we can even keep up with news of broken hearts Baba-renewed, of seekers finding Him, and of He ferreting out places and people in which His Love-seed is implanted ..

How often have we seen that no matter what the seed is wrapped in—LSD, art, business, pleasure—the covering soon melts and desire is transferred to the Object. A delightful instance of this, was recently given in a letter to Francis from Bill LePage of Sydney (Australia). Resolutely and confidently Bill is going about Baba's business of igniting sparks in as many hearts as can be reached—in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart through newspaper articles, radio and television interviews, public meetings, Baba-films, group-talks. Commenting on a recent extensive trip, Bill wrote, "Everywhere I turned I found keen interest and responsiveness, and fresh contacts kept arising unexpectedly and leading to others During the talk (at Melbourne public meeting) you could have heard a pin drop the whole time, and after the film very good constructive questions..... The radio interview (at Adelaide) I've told you about. The interviewer helped me get two newspaper interviews. It is interesting that

even hardened worldly men like journalists are responding to Beloved Baba." Bill's work as an industrial personnel consultant takes him to various state capitals, and so his business walks hand in hand with work for Baba, who always walks many steps ahead! Regarding the Company that he did work for in Adelaide, Bill wrote, "The men were far more interested in talking to me about Baba than about business. They all took introductory booklets, and wanted me to arrange another business trip with the directors so that we could continue to talk about Baba! One also wanted me to give a talk at his business-men's club"

There is surely nothing more hardened than the orthodox shell of a religion, and it is wonderful to see Baba's Love penetrating the hearts of religious teachers and preachers. This miracle is often witnessed by Baba-lovers in Iran, where mullahs and tutors of Koranic doctrine are awakening the Muslim community to the divinity of Meher Baba. Jehangir Mehrabanpur, a doctor of medicine practising in Shiraz, is one of the main Baba-workers in Iran. He and his pretty wife were among the Iranian group that came to India in 1965 for Beloved Baba's darshan. In one of his letters to Ali Akbar (Aloba) the young doctor spoke of Sadruddin Mahalatti, a professor at Shiraz University who is a celebrated exponent of the Koran and holds regular Koranic meetings at various places. When one such meeting took place at the home of Haji Mohamed Saleky, a prominent businessman who is devoted to Baba, it was but natural that Dr. Jehangir was invited to attend. Dr. Jehangir did more than that—he managed to give a showing of a Baba-film to this imposing gathering of businessmen, scholars and mullahs, who had met to discuss the Koran! But more surprising was the effect it had on one and all of the audience. Their reaction to seeing Baba on the screen was reflected in varying shades of wonder, amazement, interest, reverence, and love. On Prof. Mahalatti the impact was deep. He has since seen Baba three times

in a vision, and now concerns himself with awakening Shirazis to Baba's Love. Writing a letter to Baba, he began it with: "O High Status One! O Parvardigar!"

For lack of room I cite just one other instance, reported by Khodabakhsh Kalantary, a Baba-worker in Tehran. It concerns Mohamed Sayeedi, a Mullah who is a Baba-lover. Along with his Baba-lover friend Mohamed Ali Fanayee, he went about declaring to the people the divinity of Meher Baba "the God-personified". Such apparent heresy from a representative of Islam roused a furor of angry protest amongst Muslims he was addressing at Rasht; they lodged a complaint against him and had him arrested! When Mohamed Sayeedi's case was brought to court, he was found 'Not Guilty' and was 'honourably acquitted'. The judge who tried him happened to be well acquainted with Sufic writings, and summing up the case he told the court that it was not an offence to declare the Godhood of an individual, as it was possible for man to realize: God. He said that if people had no belief in this it was because their knowledge and understanding had not advanced enough for it, but that as a judge he could not refute what he accepted to be an irrefutable fact!

In an age of speed and automation, when a modern city's life is like a spinning top that holds up simply by the force of its crazy tempo, when it pulsates in its wheels, there can hardly be a better conductor of the Avatar's message than a city bus. This occurred to Girard Brilliant of New York; and converting the thought into action he had it rolling along the streets of over a dozen cities! In his "Meher Baba's Lovers News letter" of Nov. 20, 1967, issued from the 'Meher Baba Workshop' in New York, Girard told us, "A quote from Baba's discourse THE NEW HUMANITY: 'Love is essentially communicative' has been accepted by The Traveller's Time, 880 Third Ave., N. Y. 10022, to be placed in the

buses of more than a dozen of the largest cities." Soon after that came Ella Winterfeldt's letter saying "Have just heard from dear Margaret (Craske) that the saying of BABA, with HIS BELOVED NAME, is now appearing in all city buses! It is nicely placed above the bus windows, and is ever, ever so lovely!"

At about the same time, another unprecedented and lovely happening was taking place in North Carolina, in the field of art. As a character in an E. Wallace thriller said, "Art is me second 'eart." And when such a worthy twain belong wholly to Beloved Baba, it can add up to something quite extraordinary. It did in the case of Lynn Ott, an American artist of whom Hugo Munsterberg, Professor of Art History at the State University of New York, has said: "Combining in his work the freedom of brush-work characteristic of the School of New York with the deeply moving human content derived from an earlier tradition, Lynn Ott creates paintings of rare beauty and great sensitivity." From the Meher Spiritual Centre in Myrtle Beach, where he lives at 'Sheriar Gate House' with his wife Phyllis (herself an artist) and children, Lyn's art and heart have produced a number of very beautiful paintings of Baba, paintings that were recently exhibited at the Other Ear Gallery in Chapel Hill, N. C. Named "IMAGE OF THE GOD MAN—Avatar Of Our Age", it was the first complete exhibition of Baba paintings held in America or anywhere else! Arranged entirely by the young Baba-group there, the showing was from Oct. 28 to Nov. 21 (1967). Lyn wrote: "I feel it appropriate that Chapel Hill should be the place for this exhibition to be shown. Chapel Hill is the place in the West right now where interest and love for Meher Baba has erupted on a momentous scale. In Chapel Hill love for Baba is literally spilling out on the streets, and I am proud and glad to be able to lend my work for the advancement of Baba's work in that beautiful and brand new Baba Centre."

Youth today is a spicy dish of paradoxes. Impregably individualistic and unreservedly congenial, steeped in the artificial and scorning the spurious, serenely self-confident and warring with self-complacency, rebellious of restraint and willing to relinquish all for an ideal, shunning security and seeking certainty, it is drifting to an Aim. Not content with the ready-made ideology of an older generation, the young are passionately resolved to cut out their own pattern of idealism. Driven by a sense of urgency they are restless and impatient, they want what they want to happen fast; to happen NOW. Is it surprising then that they should be the readier to receive the Now Avatar, the quicker to discern the Pearl amongst the pebbles of the human shore, the keener to share their Find with others? And yet we are amazed each time we see it happening in one light or another, reflecting individuals or groups or crowds. Using the language of youth, and with the force of their deep conviction and personal experience, Baba's young lovers are slowly turning the student world towards the Sun of Baba's Love. University campuses are becoming gathering places for Baba meetings. On the Berkeley Campus of the University of California regular meetings are held by a young Baba-group called "Meher Baba League" which was formed by Paula Gordon and Peter Brookes of Sufism Reoriented. They read from Baba's writings, give talks to University crowds, hand out Baba-literature, show Baba-films. And now we hear that some of the students have started a branch of the Meher Baba League at the San Francisco State College! Baba's young ones are decidedly on the move, stirring up the laggards wherever they go. England's youth has at last begun to wake up too. The beginning is represented by a heartwarming bunch of artists, musicians, students, who have fallen in love with Baba; who keep bringing their friends, and friends' friends, and friends of their friends' friends, to hear of Baba from His older lovers. Delia de Leon (of the earliest Baba Group in England) writes about it: "What

A thousand times in joy I have set out for your door
 Hoping you would employ my hands to sweep your floor—
 Only to find that you had spread a feast for me.
 Certainty is mine—yet never can I be sure
 Save of one thing: one day I will arrive at Nowhere,
 And you will be everywhere. And I shall sing.

Ever lovingly,
 MANDLI

P.S. An earlier circular announced Beloved Baba's permission to His lovers to publicly celebrate His 74th Birthday. Now He has made it clear that He wishes His Centres, in the East and in the West, to go all out in celebrating this Birthday on a big scale. Baba is pleased that many of them have planned to do so; and that Harry Kenmore, with the help and co-operation of other lovers, is working to make this year's Birthday celebration in New York a unique public celebration.

Note: The next letter is expected to be sent in May or June, from Guruprasad, Poona, where Baba and the Meherazad family spend three months of summer each year from April through June.

IMPORTANT

Just before this letter was posted, Beloved Baba directed a circular to be issued by Adi for the Easterners and given here by me for the Westerners. The Circular is as follows:—

Avatar Meher Baba wishes all His lovers to know that His Seclusion which was to continue until the 25th of February 1968 will continue until the 25th of March 1968, when He will complete His Seclusion.

Baba wants His lovers to know that by this date the phase of His universal work in Seclusion will end, and that there will be no further Seclusions.

Baba wants all His lovers to realize what He has said before, that the fate of the universe hangs on His Seclusion and the redemption of mankind depends on His Manifestation. He says that His having prolonged His universal work in Seclusion is an act of His divine Compassion and Love preceding His Manifestation.

To help Him in this work, Baba wants all His lovers to recite once daily the Master's Prayer (O Parvardigar) and the Prayer of Repentance, individually or collectively, from the time they receive this Circular until the 25th of March 1968. And, also to observe complete silence for 24 hours from midnight of 16th March to midnight of 17th March 1968.

Baba wants to remain absolutely undisturbed till the 25th of March 1968. Therefore under no circumstances should anyone try to visit Him unless He Himself calls anyone specially for work. It should carefully be noted that the restriction on correspondence will continue and should be strictly observed.

Until such time when Baba announces that He will see His lovers or give darshan to them, no one should come of his own accord to see Him but should patiently and in Baba's Love await Baba's own announcement.

Baba wishes all His lovers, Easterners and Westerners, to keep in mind that they must not come for His darshan before His announcement is circulated.

A Special Reference from Bro. Eruch

Copy of letter from Sri Majety Ramamohan Rao

Vijayawada,
13th January 1968

Dear Bro. Eruch,

Our Pranams to Beloved Baba,

Beloved Baba's Birthday celebrations are going on successfully by His Grace.

Please find herein enclosed a paper cutting that appeared in INDIAN EXPRESS dated 13-1-68 about Maha Rudra Yaga to be performed by Sati GODA VARI MATAJI from 15-2-68 to 21-2-68 at Hyderabad. This is for your kind information.

Please convey our loving Pranams to Beloved Baba from myself, Bros. Sarvarao, Manikyalarao, Raghavulu, Jagannadh, Ramarao and families and families of other Vijayawada lovers.

Thanking you,

Yours Brotherly,
(Signed) Majety Ramamohan Rao

Copy of Reply from Bro. Eruch

C o Avatar Meher Baba
Ahmednagar (M. S.)
16-1-68.

My dear brother Ramamohan Rao,

Your letter of 13th instant and the paper clipping of the Maha Rudra Yaga in Hyderabad from 15-2-1968 to 21-2-1968 have been received.

If hunger, droughts, destruction of crops, famine, floods, fire, accidents, earthquakes etc., can be averted by performance of YAGA in this YUGA, then there would never arise any need for the Advent of the Avatar or Divine Intervention of the God-Man! The God-Man uses Illusion to arouse slumbering humanity from "deep sleep" caused or induced as a result of Illusion! When beloved Avatar Meher Baba is among humanity in Flesh and Blood as the Divine Awakener, I feel all true lovers of the Avatar should never get involved in YAGA or Yagna and any form of rites and rituals! **Please circulate this among lovers of Avatar Meher Baba.**

Yours lovingly,
(Sd.) ERUCH

APPEAL TO OUR DEAR SUBSCRIBERS

The Annual Subscription for "Divya Vani" for the current year commencing from July '67 to June '68 is payable in advance. We would, therefore, request all our dear subscribers to kindly send the amount as early as possible, and enable us to serve them more promptly and felicitously in Beloved Baba's Cause.

We specially request our subscribers, who have not yet paid for the previous year also, to send the amounts due, immediately.

Editor and Publisher
'Divya Vani'

News:

MEHER MELA IN THE HEART OF DELHI

From W. D. KAIN, New Delhi

It was on 2nd December 1952 that Avatar Meher Baba blessed the Delhi public with His Darshan at a meeting held at the New Delhi Town Hall, followed by a tumultuous reception the same evening at the then Camp College, where over 4000 students, professors and teachers listened to this Message:

"The purpose of life is to realize God within ourselves. This can be done even whilst attending to our worldly duties. In the everyday walk of life and amidst intense activities, we should feel detached and dedicate our doings to our Beloved God.

"I give My love and blessings to one and all, for the understanding of the One Infinite God, residing equally within us all, and beside whom everything else is false and illusory."

In order to bring home the import of this message to the public in general, a Meher Mela was organised in Delhi from 2nd December to 4th December 67. The three days celebrations included Prabhat Pheries, Sankirtan, Qawalis, social gatherings and public meetings. The weather gods were not at all kind and the lashing hailstorm and splashing torrents of rains put Baba lovers to a severe test as frosty winds and biting cold conspired to keep away the surging crowds from the public meeting.

The first day's meeting, whose programme had been conveyed from door to door by the Meher Singing Group in the early hours of the day and notified by the local newspapers in their "Daily Engagements" was inaugurated at the Lajpat Bhavan Hall, New Delhi, at 6 p.m., by Dr. Triguna Sen, Minister of Education, Government of India, who after garlanding Baba's picture paid glowing tributes to Avatar Meher Baba. Sardar Amar Singh Saigal recited the Prayers in his usual sonorous voice.

Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals, who spoke next, pointing towards Baba's picture, said that whenever humanity faced difficult times, such a Power was needed to dispel the dark clouds of misery and ignorance. That Power we find in Baba. "He has been suffering all these years" he further said "because He loves everyone. Unfortunately people quarrel in the name of religion. Baba will unite them all in love. Whenever I have an opportunity to do some important task, I first invoke His blessings by remembering Him and then go ahead."

The following messages received from Beloved Baba and Eruch were then read out by Shri W. D. Kain:—

"From My deep Seclusion I send My Love and Blessings to you and to all My lovers and workers in Delhi, to Dr. K. L. Rao, Dr. Chenna Reddy, Dr. Triguna Sen and to all who gather in Meher Mela to share My Love."

—MEHER BABA

"With Mehermeelan in Meher Mela let open the flood gates of Baba love to flood the heart of Delhi and wash away its ignorance of the presence of God on earth as Avatar Meher Baba."

—ERUCH

And in obedience to the Beloved Baba's wish, inside the Hall crust after crust of base sanskaras were being rubbed off by the inspiring messages of Baba and outside the dirt of Delhi was being washed away by the stormy wrath of winter clouds. As dark clouds thundered and dazzling lightning crashed, "Jai Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai" was repeated by the love-lit lovers and devoted souls in gay abandon—It was Mehermeelan! Messages of greetings and good will from far and near, from those who could not join in Mela were pouring in by post, by wire and on the phone.

It was in this atmosphere of ecstasy that Dr. Girija Nandan Dubbey of Jabalpur Vidyapith, rose to say: "The Avatar comes when selfishness predominates, when nations rise against each other. He comes some times as Krishna and preaches complete surrender. He comes as Buddha and imparts the lesson of Compassion. Again He comes as Christ and preaches Love." "We are passing through very difficult times" he further said, "and God alone can save humanity from the boiling cauldron of suffering and misery. And so the Avatar has come. He gives Prem Diksha-initiation of love in silence. He opens the book of your heart and asks you to read it. Blessed are those who have had His Darshan because He is the Supreme Being of the Age—The Avatar."

Shri Kushak Bakula, M. P. from Ladakh, then garlanded Baba's picture and told the audience : "Let us put in practice the teachings of Meher Baba."

Dr. K. L. Rao, Minister of Irrigation and Power, during the course of his presidential address said, "Now is the time when every Indian should follow the message of Baba." Quoting from the teachings of Lord Buddha, he said, "The emptier thy boat, the easier it is for you to cross the river." He exhorted the audience to absorb and practise these teachings of the Avatar i.e., to speak the Truth, to eschew selfishness and love all.

The scene shifted next day to the President's Estate, where Beloved Baba had inaugurated the Centre on 3rd December 1952 in the presence of His Mandali and the Poona Bhajan Mandali. A Qawali programme devoted to Avatar Meher Baba made Baba lovers bask in the sunshine of His Love and they felt as if Baba was with them again. Dr. Girija Nandan Dubey spoke on the Divine Love of Baba. Baba lovers from Nagpur, Dehra Dun, Roorkee, Hamirpur and Jabalpur also participated.

In the evening, a public meeting was held at Sarojini Nagar, where the Meher Singing Group had taken out a Prabhat Pheri in the early hours of the morning. An enlightening speech by Dr. Girija Nandan Dubey on the spiritual alchemy of Avatar Meher Baba followed the devotional songs culminating in the Prayer and Arti.

Undeterred by the cold wave, the Meher Singing Group came out again the next morning just before the day dawned singing the Avatar's songs in and around Defence Colony. And in the evening the gaily lit approach to the gorgeously decorated picture of Baba at C-225 made the people stand in wonder as song after song replete with Baba's love and devotion came over the mike and made even the passers by to share in the loud cheers of 'Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai'. In the speeches made on the occasion and the poems recited in that meeting, the audience was exhorted to listen to the Divine Call of Avatar Meher Baba, remember Him and love Him more and more so that when He breaks His silence they could receive the greatest treasure from the Ocean of Grace.

(Continued from 2nd cover page)

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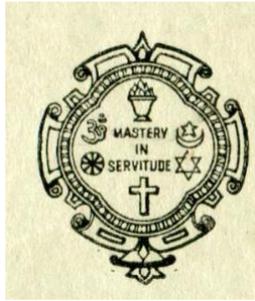
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