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October 1969

D I V Y A V A N I

(DIVINE VOICE)

Editor:

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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Volume 5]

Number 4]

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AVATAR MEHER BABA

JAI BABA !

Editorial:

IS UNIVERSAL CENTRE NECESSARY?

In our September Issue we have published a detailed report of the All India Baba-lovers' Convention held at Rajahmundry (Andhra Pradesh, India) in connection with the 6th Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust, along with the Messages of all important Baba-lovers from different places and the resolutions adopted therein unanimously. We have also published at the end Bro. Eruch's letter to Bro. Adi K. Irani. In this letter Bro. Eruch has expressed his feelings, having thought over carefully and made his views clear on his behalf and on behalf of those of the Mandali at Meherazad with regards the formation of the Avatar Meher Baba Universal Centre as mentioned there, in the resolutions passed at the Rajahmundry Baba-lovers' Convention, for which we are grateful to him. Following up our note therein for this letter, some have written to us expressing their views and many have yet to be received, for there was not sufficient time for them to think over the complicated issues raised after receiving our September Issue. Letters are coming in as yet. But now, in view of the difference of opinion expressed by Bro. Eruch and to avoid further confusion that may be caused in the field of Baba-work at this juncture, we are advised to drop the controversy on such an important issue like this, which requires unanimity. We therefore, decided to close this question without any further probe into it *on our part*. Bro. Adi K. Irani has been authorised to do the needful in the matter and we request those that would like to clarify or require any clarification to kindly refer to Bro. Adi K. Irani in this respect. We do not propose to pursue the issue, any more than clarifying the points involved in it according to our understanding of the question.

We are thankful to those who have already written to us on this issue, whether for or against, and we will surely inform Bro. Adi K. Irani their views in this matter. As advised, we refrain from publishing any thing about this issue any further and would request all those who are interested either way to be pleased to write to Bro. Adi K. Irani and not to us any more.

We, however, would like to clarify the points for the benefit of our readers with regards to this question and leave the decisions to themselves according to their free will. There will be of no use by side tracking the issues and accusing one another for right or wrong, but it will be our foremost duty as lovers of Beloved Baba and His Workers worth the name, to be fair minded and charitable in judging others in this matter. No body is to be blamed and nothing is lost, if we hold on to the principle of Truth and Love as essence of Beloved Baba's Message to be spread to all corners of the world *by the way of our own lives*, more than any thing else.

Now, the simple questions that occur to us in this respect are:

Is there any thing called "Baba's Cause and Work"? If so, is it not the promulgation of His Name and Messages? If so, do we or do we not want a Central Organisation and Authority?—If yes is the answer, where will it be conducted?—Personalities do not count in this matter. Any one who is competent, if the majority agrees he can be requested to serve the Cause. Otherwise the question can be dropped altogether until the time is ripe for correct judgement on the part of all those concerned.

For clarification we wish to state here that the names chosen by the Convention as members of the Governing Body for the Universal Centre are only suggestive and the consent has to be obtained from the concerned to make them effective and hence *they are not binding*.

As regards the suggestions made by Bro. Eruch that the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Ahmednagar can function for the above purposes and that Bro. Adi K. Irani in his *personal capacity* can be guiding us as before, we feel that they are not consistent with realities; and *the technical and legal aspects* of this suggestion may best be left to the Trustees themselves, for it is not for us to question the propriety thereof.

We conclude in appealing to all concerned to be *more realistic in their approach* and if they feel that a Universal Centre is necessary to infuse mutual love and unity of action and to strive to live as One Baba Family, they may form one such as may be agreeable to all concerned; or otherwise, we hope that anything that comes out after deep thinking and genuine feeling, will be acceptable to all in due course and Beloved Baba will Bless all such efforts to work for the progress of His Cause with sincerity of purpose and honesty in endeavour. May our Beloved Baba, the Avatar of the Age guide us and Bless us ever with steadfastness of character and Love of His Cause which is dear to us all and may He lead us kindly Light at this dark hour of our lives!

Jai Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai !

God as the Only Reality*

By MEHER BABA

The Soul gets deeply stuck in the ignorance of being the same as the physical body due to sanskaric limitations of consciousness; and its knowledge of the Reality, therefore, necessarily gets restricted to that which is given in sense-perception or that which is inferred from it. But such knowledge is, in fact, quite inadequate and even misleading in respect of the true nature of Reality. The manifold world of sense-perception (with its duality of subject and object) is false, though it seems to be quite real to those whose understanding is vitiated by identification with the body. From the point of view of the highest and the only Truth, God alone is real and is one eternal, indivisible and unlimited Being which may, for the purposes of intellectual understanding, be described as an *Infinite Ocean of Love, Bliss and Understanding*.

The realization of God, *as He is*, necessarily requires the complete surrenderance of the false individuality of the separate 'I'. All separateness and duality is only illusion; and this illusion is sustained by the sanskaras (Impressions) of the *Ego-life* which expresses itself through *Lust, Hate and Greed*. But through the pure life of selfless *Love and Service* and through *the Grace of a God-realized Master*, it is

* (Delivered by Hon'ble Justice Mr. W. R. Puranik Vice Chancellor, at the Ramkrishna Ashram, Nagpur on the afternoon of 12-11-44)

possible to brush away these limiting sanskaras and by transcending the illusory veil of separateness to know one self to be identical with God which is the sole Reality. This God-realization, which comes on the *seventh plane* of consciousness is the goal of all life; it is the final reason why the entire universe came into existence.

God-realization is, sometimes mistakenly thought to be a selfish purpose of the limited individual. There is no room for any selfishness or limited individuality in God-realization. On the contrary, *God-realization is the final aim of the limited and narrow life of the separate ego*. It not only consists in the attainment by the individual of an inviolable unity with all Life, but it also dynamically expresses this final realization of the Truth through a spontaneous and undivided life of *Love, Peace and Harmony*. The life of the God-realised Master is a pure blessing to all humanity.

Avatar Meher Spiritual Academy

Prof. Dr. Chakradhar D. Deshmukh, M.A., Ph.D. (London)

Director : Meher Academy.

Beloved Meher Baba is the Avatar. Ipso facto He is the World Teacher. After He dropped His physical body, the duty of studying and transmitting His spiritual Wisdom and Teachings, available in Books, Messages, etc., automatically devolves upon His great fortunate Lovers. All old and new Lovers of God are invited to explore and utilise and create suitable channels and instruments for this Divine Enterprise.

I have at my Gokulpeth residence at Nagpur started the Avatar Meher Spiritual Academy, on the Silence Anniversary Day (July 10th) of 1969. It is dedicated to Spiritual Wisdom, advanced Publications, Yogic Culture and courses. It is a nucleus of systematic study-circles, mobile lectures series in and outside India. It will carry on the never-extinguished Torch of Spiritual Awakening.

Meher Academy will promote the vision of the unity of all life and world-religions in God as Love and Truth. It will also hearken to the 'Songs unheard' of the Divine Master-Musician, progressively understand and creatively unfold the Truth-Manifest or Eternal Word beyond words, which it is the function of all Avatars, prophets, saints and seers to release, in their own way, The word is the complete dynamic Truth illimitable and is often symbolised by many as ॐ Om (of which 'Amen' and 'Amin' are other variants).

ECONOMICS OF MEHER LOVE

By Adi K. Irani, Ahmednagar.

(Contd. from July 1969 Issue)

Because Meher Baba dropped His body some feel to suffer from an absence of guidance and direction, It is true that Baba has given no authority to anyone to give guidance. He is our only father and guide and in Him should we find all our woes and conflicts dissolved.

Avatar Meher Baba in His Physical presence invariably gave hints and advice to His lovers to look for Him in their hearts. It is in heart alone that Baba can be felt and seen. Heart is a symbolic place Baba pointed at as an approach to Him. It is to look within. Baba is everywhere but we cannot see Him everywhere. He can be felt in heart which is so near to us. The symbolic place of love is the heart. We are said to love through heart. The source of love and feeling is the heart. How to materialize Baba's advice?

It is as easy to feel and see Baba in heart as it is difficult not to feel Him and see Him. But such a mood comes when one loves Him and loves Him intensely. We love Baba but we love so many other things. Loving things other than Baba is not tabooed. There are objects and objects of love and there are lovers. Which object do we love most and which love do we value most? This is a matter of our own choice, our own discretion and decision. Merely saying "Baba! I love you most." will not much help. Words uttered can be placed as distant as an enemy and no words uttered can be near our heart as feeling and

love as our closest friend and benefactor. To persist in being what we are and expect Baba to give us His Love and also to have us digest it is childish. Any love is a game between two persons. Greatest of all games is the love of Baba God. It is to be played wholeheartedly and without heart and not with words or any extraneous objects. When we love Baba to the exclusion of everything else then Baba must come to us and brighten our heart with His presence. We may feel Him or see Him, in an ineffable peacefulness and love or with the figure of His Being in an outline of His physical body or just an unseen presence of His oceanic love flooded with light. He can be experienced in many ways. Baba is infinite, multi-sided, multi-sighted, multi-loving. Enough for us to catch Him, any bit, anyhow, anywhere, anytime and He is there ready to manifest to us. But small is our love, our thought and our sight and His vastness may startle us or even hurt us. He has to be ever cautious not to frustrate us. Rather have Baba only in thought and at heart as much as we can take Him through our love than try to override our capacity. Wait devotedly and patiently.

Dwell we upon Him, His figure, His greatness, His messages, His love and anything and everything where He is, at all spare moments of day and night. Make Him our constant companion, an inseparable companionship without which we could not live. Let much of Him come to us and much of us disappear. Let all of Him fill us, so that all of us be purged and expunged. Who is so fortunate to be filled by His Love on all sides of us. We are too narrow, too rigid too dogmatic too slow and too hard. Our angularities make us what we are. We abhor to be talked about, criticized, advised and much less reprimanded. There is a great difficulty with us. Where our faults are concerned we look upon them with an air of triumph. Where faults of others are concerned we look at them with an eye of derision. It should be really otherwise.

But how can we upset our view? It changes but sometimes slowly and with a hard experience. Delay in change becomes expensive in terms of time work and health. We suffer and Baba-work suffers. We cannot take up to the way of escape. Sit silent and do nothing except what suits us most. Nothing will suit us and everything can suit us. Who is to decide this? Should we do it or expect others to do it ? The best way out is to ask ourselves a question. What would Baba have us do? The answer is given in His Message, if we read and act up to it.

How to love Baba is a great question for one who is very sincere. For a casual enquirer the answer could be of as less a value as the question. How do we love our mother, a man or a woman, a friend or a son? I dare say none of us asked a question how this happens. It is because such a love comes to us naturally and we don't feel to question about it. In case of Meher Baba, the Personification of God a tall interrogative stands up over head. How to love Him? The answer cannot be had by asking but creating circumstances. A child when grows up loves her mother. Supposing when born she is removed to some other woman who brings her up. Such a grown up child loves this woman and not her real mother whom she does not recognize. Circumstances are responsible in creating this love. We should similarly give ourselves a chance to love Baba by creating circumstances. Any and all methods could be taken up. Reading Baba literature, listening to Baba talks, listening to others' experiences about Baba, and attending Baba meeting. Most important is to think of Him all the time you can spare with love and devotion.

What is Baba Work Now?

By

K. K. Ramakrishnan

The question, I presume, has arisen in the context of Beloved Baba's passing away. It is but natural for man to feel temporarily incapacitated in the absence of the One who sustained his life and inspired his activities. A lightning like thought of self crossed my mind too, the moment I realized what happened on 31st January 1969. Just a flash only. This was immediately replaced by what I may call a self-renewing and self-sustaining strength that prompts me to hold on.

The question what is Baba Work Now poses another question, what was Baba Work? An introspective insight into our life of love and service to Meher Baba, during His lifetime will inform us, that there were *two aspects* of Baba work. To spread His sacred Name and His message of *Love & Truth*. One was to tell people that Meher Baba was the Avatar of the Age, He was God in Human form. It is a rare privilege and a great blessing for men to meet the Avatar, for His coming is an occurrence in 700 to 1400 years. This was to spread the sacred Name of the *God-Man*—the Avatar. The second aspect of Baba Work was to spread His message of Love and Truth. For an average worker for His Cause, this aspect of Baba work, was meant to distribute books and literatures on and by Meher Baba either freely or on a nominal cost, and to give talk on the life and messages of Meher Baba.

I have been known as a worker for the Cause of Meher Baba. I have been actively associated with what is called Baba Work in Poona for the last fifteen years. From a personal observation of the work that was going on here, and from what little I have been able to see what is being called Baba Work elsewhere and from a study of all the reports we have been receiving from various parts of India and abroad, I should say, Baba work, for most of those in the field meant bringing more and more people in the personal contact of Meher Baba. The effort of every Baba lover or worker was to insist on the largest number of people to know the advent of the Avatar amongst us and to take advantage of meeting Him. The stress was on meeting Him—to have His Darshan. There appeared to have been a sense of pride and even a spirit of competition amongst lovers and workers for the cause of Meher Baba in bringing the largest number of people to His physical presence. A lover or worker even went out of his way to spend one's own money on travel etc., for those who were inclined to go to Baba for His Darshan, but were financially incapable to do so. There was a pride of position as the 'best worker' in the Darbar of God, and amongst lovers and workers, and the *best* was adjudged against the number of people one had brought to Baba, the largest number of meetings arranged, the largest number of addresses given, the largest number of books and literatures printed and distributed and the largest number of what was known as Meher Baba Centres opened. In all activities for what was called Meher Baba's Cause, whether in a private meeting or in a public gathering, or in lectures and literatures the stress was on encouraging as many men as possible to meet Meher Baba. Why this insistence on bringing more and more people to the physical presence of Beloved Baba?

An average worker for the Cause of the Avatar was convinced that if a person was taken to the physical presence of Meher Baba, he would be convinced that

Meher Baba was what man calls God. A lover or worker was convinced that if ever God could walk on this earth as man, Meher Baba was that God. One may or may not be able to explain the spiritual technic of Avatarhood, the implications of His advent, the mysterious ways of His life and the method and meaning of His work. But there was a faith firm enough and mostly founded on one's own inner experience, that once one met Meher Baba he would be convinced of the truth that Meher Baba was God. The beauty of His physical form, His sweet smiles, His unbounded love, and His all-encompassing compassion would attract any man .. In His presence one would forget oneself. His smiles would sink deep into one's heart and stimulated what one may call intellectual insight, His love would make one's heart leap with joy and give what one may call intuitive vision of the Truth. In short an earnest seeker after Truth would find himself in the presence of the one who was the embodiment of that Truth. A honest lover of God would find himself in the presence of his beloved God. In short the lover or the worker felt confident that if he were to guide one person towards Beloved Baba, his work was done. A thirsty horse is only to be taken to the water. He felt assured that he had not only shared in the work of Meher Baba, but also had done the greatest service to that man. For in the words of Vivekananda, the greatest service one can do to another is to give spiritual light. The Avatar is the Way and the Goal of spiritual life. Thus Baba Work was to guide man to the physical presence of Meher Baba. This consciously or unconsciously was what an average Baba lover or worker was doing. This aspect of Baba Work was over on 31st January 1969. What is then Baba Work now?

The Avataric Advent is to awaken mankind to the spiritual values of life, removing from its mind the illusion of attaining lasting freedom and happiness from the pursuit of the material values of life. It means to guide man on

to the path of love for God, Who resides in the heaven of every human heart, Who is the Real Self of every man, Who sustains every man and with Whom man is indivisibly and inseparably one. DHARMA SAMSTHAPANARTHAYA: To establish Dharma (righteousness)—These Gita-Words illustrate eloquently the purpose of Avataric Advent and the task of spiritual workers. Those who work for the Cause of Meher Baba are spiritual workers and Meher Baba's work is Avataric work. *Beloved Baba had said*, "On the Path, the most important condition of discipleship is the readiness to work for the spiritual cause of bringing humanity closer and closer to the realisation of God." Those who have whole-heartedly offered themselves to share in His universal work of spiritualising the world, He said, would not only inherit for themselves the Truth which He brought, but also become enthusiastic and valiant torch-bearers for humanity, which is enveloped in deep ignorance. Because of its supreme importance for the true and final well-being of humanity spiritual work has a natural and imperative claim on all who love humanity. The spiritual workers have to redeem the world from the throes of imagined duality by bringing home to it the truth of the unity of all life. Thus the task for the lovers and workers for the Cause of Meher Baba is to redeem the world by imparting the Truth Beloved Baba had unfolded to our understanding. This in other words is to lead mankind towards Meher Baba now.

To lead man to Meher Baba now. But where is Meher Baba now? The answer to this question one can easily find in the message Shri Adi K. Irani, the Secretary and disciple of Avatar Meher Baba issued on 31st January 1969. The message reads—

"Avatar Meher Baba has dropped His physical body at 12-15 P.M. today, that is Friday, the 31st January 1969 *to live eternally in the hearts of His lovers everywhere.*"

Meher Baba now lives in the hearts of His lovers. Was He not living in the hearts of His lovers before 31st January 1969? Yes, He was. His eternal abode is every human heart. It was to make man aware that He (God) resides in the heart of everyone that He (God) had assumed a human form and walked amongst us and with us as Meher Baba. Meher Baba was a projected personification of our own inner being—personified for the only purpose of making man see the beauty of one's own Self (God) and to help him love God. He made us love Him. We love Him. And in His love and service we have helped others dear to us to love Him. Now He has dissolved the illusion of the form He had assumed out of His unbounded love and compassion for mankind and quietly withdrawn within our hearts. So, to lead man to Meher Baba now we have to lead him to our hearts, where Meher Baba now resides. This means to love man in the knowledge that Meher Baba (God) resides in every heart. *Meher Baba had said*, "I am not limited by this form. I use it like a garment to make myself visible to you. This universe is my ashram and I live in the heart of everyone. Hence love me in everyone. Serve me in everyone." *We have, thus today, to love and serve Meher Baba, by loving and serving mankind.* This is the inescapable truth we have to face.

We have had the rarest opportunity of loving the whole universe through the love of ONE Who loved the whole universe. We have had the rarest opportunity of serving the whole creation by serving the ONE Who served the whole creation. Such an opportunity comes to man only once in 700 to 1400 years. Blessed indeed are those who loved and served Meher Baba whole-heartedly,

Baba work *now* is to awaken mankind to the spiritual values of life unfolded before us through His life of long suffering and work of withering Himself for the good of His creation. We have to study calmly and deeply the various messages and discourses He gave us to prepare

ourselves to receive His WORD of words. We have neglected them. Few of us cared to read them and understand the meaning of God's Words. Now, we have to imbibe the essence of all He taught us through His life-long Silence and impart the same to all those who aspire after Truth in a language intelligible to all and in a spirit of self-effacing service to Him. *Beloved Baba had said, "Man's inability to live God's words makes the Avatar's teaching a mockery." How many of us have been able to live Beloved Baba's words?*

One may be able to spread His message of love and truth by distributing books and literatures. One may be able to spread His message of love and truth by giving talks on public platforms. One may be able to spread His message of love and truth by opening Meher Baba Centres. One may be able to give radio talks or appear on T.V. programs in order to spread His message of love and truth. Messages of love and truth of God have been given to mankind already. The Rishis, the sages and saints, the Perfect Masters and God in His Avataric advents in the past have given to man enough words. Beloved Baba had said, "It is now time to live them. 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." *So, it is now time for Meher Baba lovers to live the messages of love and truth released by Meher Baba through His Silence.*

We have to be honest. Beloved Baba in His unbounded love for us had been indulgent over the way we have been living and working for Him. His love had been shielding our weaknesses and shame. *Today we have to realise our responsibility and have to be true to "the trust He had reposed in us."* We have to be honest in our love for Him and dedicate ourselves to His Cause in the real sense of the term and use in all humility, all our talents capacities to serve the society. *What is wanted is living beloved Babe's message of love and truth in our everyday life.*

It is through a life of self-giving love for Meher Baba one can invite man to love Meher Baba. It is through a life of self-effacing service for the cause of Meher Baba, one can inspire others and invite them to serve Meher Baba and share in His mission on this earth. *So, let our prayers be, "O Beloved of all hearts, Life of all life, Meher Baba, bless us with pure love for You. Give us devotion to Your Cause. Make us worthy vehicles for Your work on this earth. Make our lives a life of living Message of Your Love & Truth to others. Help us to hold on to You till the endless end."*

JAI BABA!

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— *Editor and Publisher.*

The Word

By Mrs. Dorothy L. Levy

In the beginning was the WORD — the WORD was God.

Many ask, did Beloved Baba break His outer Silence and speak the WORD?

He has said, "If you ask Me if 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 the WORD alone is worth uttering. If you were to ask Me why I do not talk, I would say, perhaps, for three reasons. Firstly, I feel through you all I am eternally talking. Secondly, to relieve the boredom of talking incessantly through your forms.

And thirdly, because all talk in itself is idle talk."

The eyes have not seen, nor the ears heard—

Avatar Meher Baba's Divinity ... God—the Living

WORD

In Silence God Speaks through our heart ...

God IS LOVE—Oneness is all—not a part

The Ancient One is ever the Same ..

God-Man in each descent to earth takes a Name

When the world is in darkness—steeped in lust and sin—

The Avatar-Messiah-Saviour-Christ comes to earth

again ...

He IS the Light, Truth and Way, always just a breath

away.

Beloved Baba has said, "I forgive you your sins—
I have come among you again... Love is the Victory
to win."

The soul as a mirror—crystal clear—
When all sanskaras (impressions) are erased light—
appears.

The MESSAGE in this age: "Let your life itself be My
Message of Love and Truth to others."

In this Universal play in illusion—we are sisters and
brothers ...

Beloved Baba put on His pink coatwaly for us while
in our midst,

While tuning our heart-strings, not one did He miss
Jai Jai Baba"

Though we see His Beauty in the eye of another, in
the flowers,

Hear Him in, in music—the song of the birds .

To see Him, or hear Him as He should be seen and
heard ...

Comes by His Grace—God the Living WORD.
Baba Ki-Jai!

A REPORT OF WORK

By Allan Cohen

July 10, 1969.
Berkeley, Calif.

It is July 10th here—that Divine anniversary that gives us a chance to ponder even more the impact of beloved Baba's Avataric Silence upon our hearts. It feels like a good time to finish this work-report letter.

There is also the loving nostalgia reverberating from Darshan weeks, renewed each time by returning lovers. Consciousness of Baba's Love is freshened by sweet memories of the spiritual cement between East and West so magnificently solidified in April, May and June.

We heard here that Baba's beloved men and women mandali were very tired by Darshan's end, but can only hope it was a tiredness with the knowledge of jobs exquisitely done in the Beloved's service.

It will be so good for me to partake of your lovely company again, not only through glimpses of continuing inner togetherness and treasured memory, but with hope that the Beloved will allow renewed physical contact in the "future" aspect of His Eternal Now.

Following is a report (I hope not too lengthy) of this soul's activities and observations relating to work since Darshan:

It was in Honolulu where an apparent rest stop netted new lovers. In a very unlikely night club a few hours after Jean Kerr, myself and Susan Kidder arrived, Susan was approached by Stan Alapa, the giant Hawaiian. Stan was all ears and all heart—you know the rest from meeting him the last week of darshan,

Back in Berkeley, I learned that the enclosed "Decisions on Drugs" article originally written for a Chicago newspaper, had been reprinted in many of the newspapers in the U.S.A. through a wire service.

On 23rd April, I flew to San Angelo, Texas, to speak at the College there and to do a radio show that evening. The next day I spoke to 2,000 high school students, gave a talk on mysticism and Baba to 40 or so students, appeared on local TV with the Universal Message injected in the conversation. Later, a meeting with student leaders and the school administration at the President's house turned into a discussion of metaphysics and various psychic phenomena.

Back in California, April 28th brought a drug talk to 1,400 high school students and a talk on Baba's ideas at a liberal Roman Catholic discussion group. On the 30th I spoke at Solano College to 500 students on "Drugs and Consciousness." Another talk to 350 students and adults occurred on May 1 in a nearby town. On the 5th I spoke at Meher Lodge League at Berkeley on the general topic of "not hurting people's feelings."

6th May began another major trip—starting with a brief visit to a college, Bakersfield, California, where I addressed a spring Convocation of 2,000 students. Then I caught planes for Los Angeles and Chicago, arriving at Muskegon, Michigan, on the 8th. I gave a drug talk to 400 rural high school students and another to an adult group that evening.

The next day I gave two more high school talks to 1,800 more students, contacted a physician very interested in mysticism and left for Chicago. That evening, Dot Pierpont and Phil Lutgendorf had set up the "Chicago Show" on television. The TV people had run out of time, so they interviewed me and a local "Swami Kripananda" together. The announcer got confused and thought we were both Baba-lovers. Well, in the 7 minute segment, the swami was strangely silent and 4 minutes of Baba films were shown, narrated by myself; the swami only said a sentence or two and seemed "tranquilized" saying that "Baba" was a "great Avatar" on the air. But later he said he didn't believe Baba was the Avatar. After the show we were talking with the producer and he mentioned that three days later, they planned to feature one Gilbert Holloway, a renowned psychic. Almost as a whim, I showed him a "Don't worry, Be Happy" Baba-card, and lightly suggested that he show the card to Holloway on the air and see what impressions he got. Incredibly, the producer liked the idea and set up one of the most unusual Baba-shows ever witnessed. I was travelling in Ohio the night of the show, hundreds of miles away, but stopped at a hotel and was connected by phone directly to the TV show so that I could hear what transpired and then go directly on the air to comment on Holloway's statements about Baba's picture.

Holloway was shown the picture (with Baba's Name hidden) and assured the producers that he did not know who the man was (they were testing Holloway's abilities)—all he knew was that this man had "passed away." Holloway (on the air now) put the picture to his forehead and started giving impressions. Meanwhile Dot and Phil brought a large "Smile" poster so that the viewers of Chicago would see what Holloway was looking at, and the photo covered the entire viewing screen much of the show—the Chicago lovers commented that Baba's image was very

beautiful and powerful on the TV screen. Paraphrasing Holloway's dialogue, he said the following things about Baba:

1. He felt this man to be an actor, in a sense a tragedian;
2. that he had a fantastic sense of humor, but there was also great suffering, particularly in a painful last chapter in his life;
3. that he gave people much enjoyment and laughter;
4. that he was extremely generous, made a lot of "money," was very generous to his family;
5. that he took risks;
6. that he had many friends and some enemies;
7. that he had great emotional projection and strong emotions;
- 8, that somehow there was a link with Charlie Chaplin;
- 9, that many people in Hollywood remembered this gentleman (Baba),

and then, just before the time ran out, a change came over his voice and almost in surprise and a bit of awe, Holloway said, "This man was born into one religion, but by the end, why, he had *"Universalized His Spiritual consciousness!"* The producer commented that Holloway seemed like he was just "warming up," but time intervened. Then I came on air and related the points Holloway had made to Baba's Avatarhood and Avataric Role. Then Dot was on the screen and said a few words of reaction. All in all, it was quite a delightful exposure.

Backtracking a bit, after leaving Chicago, Kevin Kentfield (Second Darshan flight) drove us to South Bend, Indiana, where Baba-films were shown and narrated to a very interested group of 20. On the 11th Kevin had arranged for me to speak on "Drugs, Mysticism and Reality" at Notre Dame University.

Later, I flew to Cleveland, Ohio, for three days of conferences on drugs with nurses, 600 in Cleveland on the 12th. We drove to Columbus, Ohio, for the next day; I spoke at the second conference, had 3 television news interviews and 3 newspaper interviews.

May 14th found me in Cincinnati, doing a third conference, one TV interview, a radio interview and a newspaper interview.

Returning to Berkeley, I received a letter from England informing me that the BBC-TV mysticism show I did in Britain last year was being distributed to Holland for Dutch TV.

On May 17th, I talked on Baba and His Message to a small University of California Religion class. All during this time, Berkeley was occupied by army troops because of riots and student disturbances. As I lectured outside about the Highest of the High, helicopters flew constantly over, threatening to disgorge tear-gas bombs on people below. It seemed almost unreal for the U.S., but perhaps a sign of things to come in Maya-plagued American society.

May 19th brought a hour-long radio program in San Francisco; Paula Gordon, myself and Randy Hammond talked drugs and on Baba.

May 20th initiated a short trip to Los Angeles, where Patti Mahler (First Darshan flight) set up a talk on "Drugs and Consciousness" at ELCamino College, 300 attended. After a day talking on drug education in Orange Country (slightly south of L.A.), I did a TV show on the 22nd. This "Morning Show" is also shown in New York and Chicago and may be nationally syndicated. Although it centered on drugs, I was able to briefly mention the Beloved. Later that day I gave two more college lectures to about 1,400 people.

After returning to San Francisco for a meeting of drug educators, I reviewed a film "Escape to Nowhere,"—made by David Parker using many Baba-lovers as actors. One Interview sequence, occurring in my old office—shows a picture of Baba clearly on the wall behind—an extra added attraction for all the film-viewers.

On May 24th I went to hear Richard Alpert (Baba Ram Dass) give a talk on "Ashtanga Yoga". It was fascinating to see him fully bearded, in Indian garb, in a yoga posture. His talk was a good one—giving some basic notions of the spiritual path. A small number of us spoke to him afterward—he had obviously benefitted from the discipline given by a guru named "Maharaji," described as a "little old man who has an ashram in North Central India," and a wide following. Luckily for Alpert, he seemed to have digested the necessity of surrenderance to a teacher and seems totally committed to the spiritual path, considering his stay in the U.S.A. as temporary. He has given up drugs also, of course.

Alpert has remarked that he is still extremely attached to beloved Baba and is loving Him more. He quotes Baba in his talks, and mentioned later that he often felt Baba's Presence and state "He is Love."

An interesting anecdote related in my letter to Eruch of some weeks ago arose when Alpert wrote to Adi regarding the possibility of seeing Baba. The next morning, Alpert's guru called him, and reading his thoughts, said, "So, you plan to see Meher Baba?" Alpert replied that he would try to see Baba if He were not in seclusion. Maharaji replied (in Hindi) "He is your Guru." Alpert was startled by that reply and asked for an explanation, thinking that an aspirant had a single guru, but "Maharaji' told his translator not to repeat the statement.

On May 25th, I set out for a more leisurely three week tour of the East U.S., flying to Washington, D.C. on the

27th and 28th. There I consulted with the Government agency responsible in large measure for the fight against drugs. While there, they made two films with me lecturing to students and answering questions about drugs. They plan to offer the film for distribution to schools and perhaps use parts of it for radio and television campaigns.

The 29th found me in New York giving a talk to 750 high school students near Scarsdale, N.Y., and on the next day I gave two talks to about 1,100 students and a drug-ridden high school on Long Island.

The next few days were a delight—I had a chance to visit with many of those lovers converging on New York for the final chartered Darshan flight and saw them off. On June 2nd I spoke to the Monday Night Group in New York, things getting busier on the 3rd, doing two radio shows, mostly about mysticism, reincarnation, Baba and related subjects. I also saw a publisher's agent and had talked to a publisher's representative earlier—about their interest in certain Baba books. I see the time coming when publishers will be vying for the prospect of printing and distributing Baba's books.

Coincidentally, Peter Townshend of London was in New York at that time, and I talked with him about his recent activities—very good news indeed! His music group (the "WHO") is doing fantastically well and their new recording album has sold hundreds of thousands of copies. It is a "rock opera" with a spiritual story theme. Baba is given credit as Avatar on the back of the album cover (which was illustrated by another British Baba-lover, Mike McInnery), Peter has been interviewed frequently on important young people's radio stations in America, and had a great opportunity to talk about Baba, giving the Beloved credit for the success of the album and introducing spiritual ideas.

On June 4th, I did the Arlene Francis radio show in New York; rapport was excellent and a major part of the interview was an uninterrupted talk on the Beloved, a rare event in a highly popular radio program with many commercial messages being interspersed. I then caught a bus to Kingston, N.Y. and did a radio interview set up by Maya Andrau, spending a pleasant evening with her and the Rileys.

The next day was spent in informal conversations with New York lovers; we discussed prospects for Baba-work and the role of young people in Baba-meetings. (Bruce Hoffman was in Miami doing a radio and TV work, so I missed him, but we are in correspondence over the prospect of a young people's group in New York.)

After a brief visit with family in Western New York, I left for the Myrtle Beach Center. There again was a good opportunity for informal conversation with Baba-group leaders and workers from Indiana, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta and Miami.

Back in Berkeley, the "Baba-grapewine" informed me of the immense push in Baba-work since Darshan. A major article broke in the New Yorker Magazine, an important American publication, after a "chance" meeting of the writer at Kennedy Airport in New York. (Undoubtedly, this has been forwarded by someone.)

Stan Alapa was in San Francisco and told us of a huge surge of Baba-interest in Hawaii, some 200 people came to their second Baba-meeting.

Besides the new intensity, reports reflect excellent harmony among lovers of different groups. It seems to me that this aspect is tremendously important: that lovers must make a special effort to cooperate at this critical phase of Baba's internal connection.

On June 30th, I had to make a quick return to Washington, D.C. to act as a consultant and witness at an official government hearing regarding Church's petition to legally use psychedelic drugs for "spiritual growth." In my testimony in the hearing was an explanation of real spirituality and Baba's views and analogies on drugs and the spiritual path. The entire booklet "*God in a Pill?*" was submitted into the record and comprises an official part of the proceedings. The hearing was significant because the total testimony will be the basis of court appeals and there is a possibility that the case could wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court with important implications.

Overall, we sense an upsurge of the spread of Baba's Message here. The force of Baba's love seen in the returning Darshaners has created a new lovefare in individual Baba-centers, each heart. The side effects of His general impact can be seen in the overall spiritual enthusiasm in the young, and a happy tend toward mysticism among those raised in ritual and ceremony of orthodoxy.

A powerful build-up of familiarity with the Beloved is in the air. Perhaps we have not seen the climax. We have yet to see or hear of important criticisms of Beloved Baba, nor widespread defections from His ranks, nor the outgrowth of significant new disharmonies among Baba-groups. If and when such challenges and tests occur, we hope to be prepared with love and faith and the knowledge of His Will. If he has smoothed the way and resistances crumble, we can only rejoice.

Jai Baba to the One in us all!

THE UNENDING STREAM OF LOVE

By Dr. Sankara Sree Rama Rao

From the Beyond Beyond State
Divinity descended to earth
Clothed in beauty's garb.
The Kiss of Baba Jan
Sent Him high into the sky.
Upasani stoned Him down
To Human-Consciousness.
Sai, Tazuddin, Narayan
Swept Him with their Nazar.
Fully ripe Baba the God-Man
Started His game of pebbles
The astounding "Meher-Leela."
He built bridges between "East" and "West"
Linked the "old" with the "new"
Subdued the "Head" to the "Heart"
Separated the chaff of "Ritualism"
From the core of "Reality"
Picked up the "God-intoxicated"
From the four corners of the world
Gave a new dimension to "Love"
Wove the "Garland of Religions"
Dissolved the futility of "words"
In the ocean of "Silence"
Moulded a million lives

Into "Beacon Lights of Love"
And then—
As a climax of the great drama
On 31st January 1969
Dropped the "Mortal coil"
To live—and live for ever—
In the hearts of His lovers.
74 springs poured out
The Nectar of Love
Into a perennial stream
That to-day traverses the Universe
From one end to the other
With the music of "Divine Silence"
On its lips—
Any one, at any time
Can pick up a drop
From this "Divine Treasure"
And quench his thirst.

A HYMN

By Sister Grace

"Baba loves me this I know,
For His Words have told me so,
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Baba loves me
Yes, Baba loves me
Yes, Baba loves me
His Words have told me so."

A GLIMPSE FROM BABA SAMADHI

By S. K. Ghosh, Bilaspur

Situated about five miles away from the Ahmadnagar Rly. Station, adjacent to the village Arangaon, on top of the Meherabad Hill, a small tomb, embodied in it the mortal body of the 'Immortal One'. Having wide spread horizon, gradually taking the shape of a canopy, as if, circumscribing the celestial benignity and speaking to visiting lovers in bewitching language of self-forgetfulness.

A few Baba lovers from Bilaspur (Madhya Pradesh), reached the serene universal pilgrimage on the 9th May 1969. A memorable day for them as they could reach the celestial place to honour the invitation of God in human form. Their joy knew no bounds. Mandali had already declared that after 10th June 1969, the Mehera-bad and Mehera-zad will remain open as a pilgrimage for the Public. Then whosoever aspires to visit the places could do so without any restriction. But the memorable day, the *9th June 69*, will not come again. Blessed are they, who could reach Poona and Ahmadnagar for Beloved's formless darshan as per His invitation and imbibe the Divine ambrosia emanating unceasingly through ethereal vibration. Blessed are those thousands of Baba Lovers in the east as well as in the west who will be taking their turns as per programme fixed till 10th June 69. Blessed are the plants and vegetations in the garden of Mehera-zad who could serve the Lord with their sweet breeze, the birds who by their chirping songs, unconsciously enjoyed the living presence of the ever living one. And the most blessed are the Roses and Jasmines of the garden, for they were daily offered to the Lotus feet of the Avatar. Thus these inanimate creatures will get a lift, perhaps from unconscious inanimate to conscious animate state, as Ahalya of Ramayana.

Citizens of Poona and villagers of Arangaon and Pimpalgaon are twice-blessed, for God physically lived there for decades.

Lovers coming very near to the tomb, hear the hidden songs of pure azimuth being sung in silent resonance, producing thrill in their hearts.

Baba Samadhi is a place where one has to sit and concentrate his mind, so that the mind does no longer exist for him as an obstructing instrument, and the phenomenal world of senses and terrestrial consciousness disappear. One has to tune up with the solitude of serenity, the silent radiation of blissful atmosphere, where every atom is shining the hidden light and embracing all in oneness in perfect harmony. The lower natures hidden in man get automatically sublimated into pure and pious ones. The function of the mind becomes slower and slower and ultimately stops, when one sits in reverence inside the tomb to seek his lost self and gradually loses himself in perfect communion with the compassionate father, the Beloved of all hearts.

JAI BABA.

Pat Francese Jr., a 22 years young resident of Rhode Island, U.S.A., a contact of Rick Chapman comes the first time to have beloved Meher Baba darshan of His Shrine at Meherabad in the last week of September 1969 says:—

How I was drawn to Meher Baba?

It is like a blind man before the Aurora Borealis—somehow feeling the surging spectric-like vision, yet not actually seeing the vision. So does one who is not infinite conscious is blind, before the infinite, when it appears before he that seemingly feels only finite.

Ahmednagar,
30th Sept, 1969.

BROTHER AMAR SINGH SAIGAL, M.P's visit to Iran, Rome, Belgrade & Moscow

Left for Iran on the 28th of May '69 by Air India Plane from Delhi. All Baba Lovers assembled at the centres in Delhi the Previous day: we all had Baba reminiscences, At the airport too, many lovers came to bid me 'Bon Voyage'. and greetings of 'JAI BABA.' At Teheran airport as intimation was given by Brother Aloba of the Mandali, many old and new Lovers came, That was the day of Beloved Baba's Darshan at Poona for Iran. Some who were left behind came to airport. Shri Khudabux Kalantry was the group head. They garlanded me and gave me a rousing reception of love. Baba's love radiated their all acts. I stayed with the Baba Lovers only. I had addressed the Group in the evening. They assembled in large numbers and the function was to commemorate the 'Iran Group' Darshan programme of Beloved at Poona the same day. We recited the Paravardigar Prayer & then I addressed them in English which was also translated into Persian, about Baba's Love for Humanity. On 29th we visited many places of worship, The Temple of Zoraster and also Gurudvara and a mosque. At the mosque I was told, there lived a god-intoxicated man. The same evening there was a marriage party and I was requested to attend the same. Also I went to a place nearby where an old Baba lover lives. Here many Lovers assembled and I spoke on the Teachings of Baba "Love and Truth". Thereafter I went to a devotee's residence. He is a great scholar and Poet. I paid my respects to him. Then a dinner was attended at "MEHER". I met the host's family members, his son, daughter-in-law

and many others. We exchanged many incidents of His Life in Love for the people. But we did feel the beauty would have been more if they had the good fortune to know Him and acknowledge Him in His living presence. On 31st the devotees arranged for a service of BABA's dropping the physical body at 12-45, on Jan 31st. After prayers, Talks and usual greetings the function came to an end at 8 P.M. Large number of ladies participated. I can not explain how deep is the Love of His Lovers for Him in Iran, as I could feel it. On the 1st June Baba Lovers were coming back from India after having the Darshan of the Master. To greet them all lovers had been to airport. I also joined them, offered a bouquet of roses to all. They narrated as to how they felt His Loving presence. We had a get together where I was asked to narrate "How I came in contact of Baba". I told them that I had to wait for three long years to have His Darshan. After the same all the lovers came to me individually and kissed my hands and in love greeted me. I was feeling the love of Beloved Baba through these lovers. I had a bounty at the "LOVE FEASTS" in Teheran.

On 2nd June I left for Beirut. Before I boarded the plane at Teheran Baba Lovers presented me two beautiful flower pots, and bid me farewell "Jai Baba". I reached Beirut. Always on the tour I was putting the Tie Clip given to me by Beloved Baba. Many people were very curious to see His radiant face on the same and I know not some were compelled to ask me about the same, I used to tell all the Truth of Baba's god-hood and to a few who were eager to know of Him I gave the literature also.

The next stay during the tour was Rome.

At Rome along with the other members of the team, I had an audience with the Pope. He saw Baba's picture and told me through the interpreter "HE IS MEHER BABA". 'Yes' I said, He is our Divine Father. At the

hotel a young couple saw me at the door steps, and invited me for dinner. I accepted it without any reservation and it turned out to be a wonderful meet of spirituality-enlightened and awakened souls. Next morning we had snaps, exchange of greetings and I gave them literature. On the 7th we reached Belgrade. Mr. Atal, the Ambassador of our country knew of Beloved Baba and has great admiration of His Spiritual Teachings. At the garden party that evening at our Embassy we were introduced to Marshal Tito and other member of the presidium. Many were very eager to have some literature on Baba. During the tour, contact with people showed that many are very eager to know of Reality of Life of Spirit. And the next halt was at Moscow. Here I met some Indians—A. Kashim official in our Embassy is deeply devoted to Spiritual life and said he knew of Beloved Baba. Reached back Delhi on 18-6-'69 after staying a day at Kabul. I sent 7 sets of literature to Belgrade. All the way I had the good fortune to feel His Love Vibrate and peoples' eagerness to know of Him was noticed by me at many places; My happiness is great and I know Beloved Meher Baba the Avatar is Love incarnate.

THE MYSTERY OF DEATH

By Dr. K. M. P. Mohamed Cassim. Ph.D.

Generally one is afraid of death because one is incapable of facing the actuality of that unknown state "death" or in other words, one is—unwilling to dissociate oneself from the continuous process of sensual experiences. If one can live from moment to moment in that meditative awareness in which profound spiritual state one is not gathering worldly impressions then one is gifted with the faculty of perceiving the secret of death in the midst of diversity. If one reaches the highest realm of contemplation, then one's action is complete and there is no room for emotional fear or psychological accumulation of sensual qualities and tendencies. It is to be realized by direct experiment that there is no duality as death and living, and this sentimental demarcation line has been created by the mind. If one can die daily or empty the mind from the attachment of passionate desires, then one can experience the fact that in essence both life and death is a joint phenomena and to meet the ecstasy of death and the impacts of life simultaneously while one is in the physical plane is spiritual liberation although, this seems to be quite a paradox logically.

It is to be realized that to a true seeker on the path, the death is nothing and it does not change his freedom of search or function because the seeker who dedicates his life in the pursuit of Reality does not die, but lives eternally with the Infinite. Physical death is no way a barrier for a seeker to develop further towards the attainment of

divine perfection. Needless to say, that one's spiritual progress and evolution does not end by the occurrence of death, but on the contrary, one can proceed peacefully and silently towards his goal of SELF-DISCOVERY. The purpose of creation and the manifestation of man on the material world is not to destroy and deteriorate, but to cultivate various divine faculties so as to reach the exalted state of Enlightenment.

The nobility of man is that he is in possession of a soul which is deathless. For a man the physical body is only a vehicle to gain spiritual liberation. The most important fact that one has to realize is that the purpose of having a body is to establish a link with the Infinite while living in this mundane world. If one does not make use of the body for the realization of Reality, then one's life in this world is a waste and in vain.

People are deluded and deceived by the pleasures on the material plane, but at the time of death one will awaken from the slumber of ignorance and will see the real condition of the life lived in the world in a correct way without any distorted vision. While living in the physical world, one is not capable of analysing and assessing one's mind as it is, because of the fact that one's mode of thinking is tremendously influenced by the five senses with the agitation of carnal pressures and cravings. It is to be noted that for an aspirant this sort of obstacle will not hinder him as he is gifted with purity of heart and clarity of thought which brings the light of wisdom and ability to march cheerfully towards the path of plenitude.

If an aspirant realizes the fact that divinity can be discovered in the realm of death, then his life will be a source of inspiration and his action will be fresh and fearless. From the point of absolute Reality, death is not the cessation of life, but the continuation of soul energy in a different plane for inner development and spiritual

integration. The heaviness of sensual impressions are so much loaded into man's mind, he is unable to walk properly towards the destination of death. With the emptiness of the mind alone one can enter into the Kingdom of Death. The materialistic attitude of the mind and poisonous sensual obsession should be obliterated or rather transcended by following the method of silent meditation and deep contemplation, then only is there the possibility of perceiving the mystery of death.

BOOKS RECEIVED

LIFE IS A JEST: This book contains about 100 pages Demmy Octavo with a beautiful picture of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba – wrapper bound and the price is Rs. 2-00 only, exclusive of postage. This book is published by Sri R. P. Pankhraj, Secretary, Avatar Meher Baba Jabalpur Centre, Matru Chaya, Wright Town, Jabalpur (M. P.) India, in commemoration of the 44th Silence Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba. An attempt has been made through this book-let to present to all Baba-lovers such spiritual anecdotes, priceless sayings and sparks of the Truth, as given from time to time by Avatar Meher Baba, either in the form of discourses or during a Sahavas congregation or casually when conversing with His Mandali, to illustrate how the God-man lived His life with His lovers in order to awaken them to the Eternal Truth of Self-realization. We hope that this attempt of our esteemed brother will be appreciated and that it will serve a good purpose in working for the cause of Beloved Baba.

EDITOR.

THE SILENT FEAST

By Phillips D. Phillips

Prelude to the memory:

My son
Tells a neighbour
"Lovers of God
Will remain Silent
This day....."

"Or may not eat
Until 8 P.M."
His zealous father
Might have added?

Preaching:

SILENCE is a feed –
You may
Partake of IT
And become full

The Great Harvester
Shares IT
With Humanity!

Giving of IT,
But for the barter
Of NOISE,
Freely!

To irrigate
 An interior crop of
 Avalanching gardens
 Furrowing forth exotic
 Fruits filling ,
 the CAVE mind
 with echoes
 of EDEN for
 inner-reapingbut
 only temporary OASIS
 in the dry country
MUST WORK! SERVE! SING!

AND THEN

 THE
 RETURN ...
 Yes, at the surface
 The Tilling and Sowing
 Are complete !
 Now is the TIME
 To be gathered like
 beet-root
 In the DAAMAN-sack
 Of the Ancient Farmer
 Tumble
 in
 Beyond even EDEN!

CABALIC vision :

In Seven Seasons
 His long gnarled fingers
 Will guide the hybrid,
 Cultivates the
 GROUND ...
 Patiently and scythes ..
 With a motion as smooth as clouds
 as relentless as the MOON !

REALITY vs IMAGINATION

Through the perennial course
 We are led like blindfold-children
 In a game of pin-the-tail-
 on the burdened Donkey,
 Wandering to Jerusalem, to Mecca
 And back to the land
 Of Sanskrit and Kali ...

See the lakhs-of-lives
 Like undulating silken wheat
 Form shimmering and swaying
 In the SUN; this crop goes
 To delectable table:
 Breadfruit for Angels ...

The World New:

But If I bow
 Before the breaking bread
 Or bless truly
 Even a single beet
 This head chasms
 Some graceful deep
 Remembering ADAM !

If not, KARMIC totems
 Of STONE desires
 Then METAL minds...
 And CABBAGE- hearts
 Descend *UP* the spire
 Some REPTILE race.....
 Into INSECT space.....
 The black-snake into spider.....

In this SHARK economy,
 The warring HAWK
 Is constant sight;
 And the COW and SHEEP

Stomached!
 Makes MAN*JOB complete,
 Dreaming down the whirl- wind
 Dreaming up the SUN

The Poet at HOME.

I gaze out
 Past the field-fence
 See bayonets raised-up
 Past Peas, and goggled eyes
 And elephant snouts of
 Gas mask do please
 To lean against the bearded youths
 With rocks and sticks and dreams

THE EVENING SUN

That Aged PLOWMAN
 Is lost to sight
 Yet I sense HIM
 Working over-time
 In the Dust ...

Small Pearl Planet.

Some visitor on the hill
 In a moment's poise
 Might seem the house
 A Phantom:

 Each window ablaze
 With Light of going DAY
 The door ajar ...
 As If someone might
 Change HIS mind
 But the weight
 Of a resigned loneliness
 Pulls one into a crypt of SILENCE !

FIRE WORSHIP: this planet through ONE turning !

The cattle at trough
 No bird twitters
 Even the gnats
 Are yoked to bush
 An inactive fly preens
 The Bee to hive
 Clover rests in green
 Each dog retires .
 To cool on porch
 The chickens screened ...

No clank of dish or spoon
 Through the kitchen steam ...

Longing shared ... the arc from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M.

Would I think
 The people gone?
 Coming upon this TOMB-like SILENCE :
 Only the rush of evening
 This noiseless twelfth hour
 AMEN with the heart's bowl full
 and next the BELLY ...

END of FAST

The Dog barking,
 And my son
 Going out like a dove
 From the ARK above
 The flood of EXISTENCE,
 To tell the neighbor
 We're all right!

And what a FEAST
 We're having !
 Mom and Dad can't say
 But come to supper anyway

Curiously he comes
 Almost on tip-toe;
 And I will smile
 Offer a chair,
 While mom the extra plate;
 And as he settles
 Candles are brought
 And lit toward MID * NIGHT'S fate
 If one were not so warm and comfortable,
 One could imagine a tomb
 And I a ghost to haunt this quiet
 And my guest an unwitting victim
 Of some madness of encroaching dusk;
 Fallen in with warlocks and a WITCH
 At something like a last supper;
 But this imaged playfulness
 Is soon dispelled
 By the enormity of LIFE
 In the SIGHT of my child!
 Fumbling my lap-napkin
 I pretext to window,
 To catch the oranged-tipped BIRD
 Upon the Black horizen
 As it glides abandoned
 In the retina of my eye!

 THE OLD MAN STOP HAS LAID HIS BODY
 STOP
 TO REST IN WHITE GARLANDS STOP OF ICE
 STOP AND EVENING STOP
 LOVINGLY YOURS
 NONSTOP
 When I return to the table
 We join hands in a SILENT GRACE

News in Brief

SHRI ADI K. IRANI'S ANDHRA TOUR AUGUST 1969

1. Anakapalli: 19-8-69.

In the early hours of 19-8-1969, lovers gathered in the A.M.B. Centre, Anakapalle, stationed in the house of Bro. Dayakaram. The centre was gaily decorated and well illuminated.

At 5-00 A.M., the second anniversary celebrations of this Centre started with Nadaswaram and continued till 6-00 A.M., At 6-15 A.M. Bro. T. N. Ratho, B.A., LL.B., Secretary of Avatar Meherbaba Centre, Visakhapatnam, hoisted the seven coloured flag amidst cheers of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai". He also spoke on the importance and significance of the seven colours depicting the seven stages of spiritual advancement of a lover to reach the goal.

From 6-30 A.M., to 12 Noon, Pooja and sankeerthan was performed. Several lovers from various places participated in the celebrations and entertained the lovers with devotional songs and music. Br. N. V. Ramanaiah from Vijayawada, Br. E. Sathiraju from Kakinada, Br. Gandhi & family, Br. T. N. Ratho and family, Br. Prakasarao and other lovers from Visakhapatnam also arrived in the morning and participated.

At 12-30 P.M. a group of Lovers (Males) went in a procession raising the slogans of Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai to the Sarada River Bridge to receive Bro. Adi K. Irani, former Secretary and disciple of Avatar Meher Baba arriving by car via.; Payakaraopeta. The lovers are headed by Bro. N. V. Ramanaiah, who introduced Bro. Dayakaram to Adiji and Bro. Kutumba Sastry as they arrived at about 1-00 P.M. Bro. Dayakaram garlanded the Chief Guest and other lovers were also introduced to him. All the lovers proceeded to the Centre in a procession chanting Meher Baba Slogans in mike. The lady lovers awaiting in the centre accorded warm reception to the Chief guest. Kumari Usha Kiran, eight year old daughter of Bro. Dayakaram garlanded the Chief Guest on his arrival at the Centre and Arati was performed to Baba. The lovers then dispersed for lunch arranged by Br. Dayakaram. in his house.

Dr. T. Dhanapati Rao Naidu, President of Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, also arrived from Kakinada and was accorded warm reception.

After lunch and rest, Sahavas was arranged in the local Theosophical Lodge from 4-00 P.M., to 6-30 P.M. with Bro. Adi K. Irani. Both ladies and gents participated in the congregation. Adiji gave an account of his experiences with Beloved Baba and infused the lovers with the spirit of love. After break for half an hour for tea, a public meeting was arranged in the same premises from 6-30 P.M. to 9-30 P.M. Several people, both ladies and gents including important citizens and followers of different cults such as Theosophists. Saibabaitis, Harinathaitis etc., participated and the whole hall was over crowded and many people had to stand outside on the verandahs while others enjoyed the love messages even from a distance as there was a broadcast by loud speakers. Bro. M. Venkatarao, Vice President of the Centre welcomed the Chief Guest Br. Adi K. Irani and Dr. T. Dhanapatirao Naidu who presided over the meeting.

Universal prayer was recited in Telugu. A brief annual report of the centre for the 2nd year of its inception was read by the Joint Secretary Br. P. S. R. Swamy. Bro. Adiji spoke vehemently for three hours attracting the lovers attention with pin drop silence. He gave an account of his personal experience with Avatar Meher Baba and exhorted the audience inspiring them to accept Baba as God in human form. The emotion created by Adiji with his powerful speech was felt as easy as was almost practical. At length, he kept the lovers motionless when he explained the conviction he personally gained from Meher Baba and with the same feeling of conviction, he inspired the lovers as his wish for the transmission of the same conviction in them namely "God Is! And Meher Baba is God!"

Many a lover felt the impact of the impression gravitating to the core of their hearts. Dr. Dhanapati Rao Naidu, in his speech gave an account of his first contact as long back as 1941 and his close association with him for more than 25 years. He exhorted the lovers that Adiji is a true lover with selfless service, sincerity and surrender and one to understand Adiji is not easy and the lovers that gathered to-day are really fortunate to have his sahavas and it is a Divine Gift to Anakapalle Meher Centre.

Br. Kutumbasastry also spoke on the way of real approach to the Divinity of God with true spirit and ambition. Bro. A. V. V. Prasad Rao of Visakhapatnam, translated the whole speech of the chief guest in Telugu in a most appropriate and effective terms.

Vote of thanks was proposed by the Joint Secretary to all those gathered on the occasion. The meeting was closed with Arati to Baba and all the lovers were requested to share the "Meher-Prasad" in the dinner arranged on behalf of the Centre at the same premises.

2. Visakhapatnam: 20-8-69.

Bro. Adi attended a programme of 'Meher Bala Vihar' in the Gandhigram Colony from 10-00 A.M. to 11-30 A.M. Bro. T. Dhanapatirao Naidu, T. S. Kutumbasastry, and N. V. Ramaniah were also present. Bro. Adi inaugurated the Bala Vihar and he obliged them by singing a gazal. Addressing the Bala Vihar, Adiji said that the innocence of the children is a great boon which alone can make them love Baba and keep them in constant touch with him. As they grow older, their love due to their worldly involvement is likely to be diluted and lose its intensity. Innocence is thus a bliss to them. Adiji and his party have immensely enjoyed the Bala Vihar Programme. Sweets were distributed to the children at the end of the programme.

Later Bro. Adi and party visited the Avatar Meher Baba Free Homeo-Dispensary in Ghandhigram. Bro. T. N. Ratho, Secretary of the Centre introduced Dr. B. V. S. N. Raju, who explained in detail the working of the Dispensary since it was started on 25th February 1969. Bro. Adi was very much impressed with its working and observed in the Visitors' Book as follows:—

"I find this dispensary of drugs interesting because the Doctor has the sincerity of purpose to help out people from their suffering and may he be blessed by love of Avatar—Meher Baba."

At 2-30 P.M. on the same day Bro. Adi and party have attended Meher Mahila Mandali programme in Gandhigram Colony. After prayers and few devotional songs by Kumari Bhagha Devi Bro. Adi had related some of his experiences with Baba and how the Beloved used to play, like an ordinary man, with the Mandali and yet maintain His original state of Divine Consciousness. Thus Baba's divine play was beyond any body's conception. He was nothing but an embodiment of love. Adiji exhorted

all to keep Baba as their constant Companion. Aarti was sung and sweets were distributed as a prasadam at the end.

Immediately, Adiji addressed the workers' meeting in the same hall at Gandhigram from 3-30 P.M. to 4-30 P.M. In this meeting he explained at length the urgent need for liberal donations to Meher Baba Trust (Ahmednagar). He added that by such donations, the lover would only be fulfilling the desire of Baba, who has left behind this Trust and the beneficiaries with DEFINITE OBJECTIVES. THEREFORE HE APPEALED TO ALL TO CONTRIBUTE LIBERALLY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ESTATE AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BENEFICIARIES WHICH WAS THE WILL THE AVATAR IMPOSED ON THIS TRUST.

Bro. Adiji and party went to the Andhra University Engineering College Hostel, Waltair Uplands at 5.00 P.M and addressed the Students Forum organized by D. V. Satyanarayana of MEHER BABA LEAGUE. The concept of God and Avatar was explained in detail. The relation between the Reality and Illusion was figuratively explained illustrating the object and its shadow. Baba's declaration of His Avatarhood is nothing but the exposition and the reiteration of the same basic truth of self-realisation and awakening. Therefore, he asserted that 'God alone is Real and Meher Baba is God.' The meeting was well attended and ended with Aarti. On behalf of the League Bro. Adiji presented a Book and Photo of BABA to Dr. R. Krishnamurti who presided over this meeting.

Immediately Bro. Adiji left Andhra University for the Hotel, Ooty Auditorium Hall, Daba Gardens, where a public meeting was organised. Many elite of Vizag—both ladies and gentlemen have attended the meeting. The meeting was started at 6-30 P.M. with the recital of Parvardigar Prayer by Bro. K. M. Gandhi. Bro. T. N. Ratho

welcomed the gathering and introduced the speakers, Bros. Adi K. Irani, T. S. Kutumba Sastry and Dr. T. Dhanapathi Rao Naidu.

Bro. Adi had delivered an inspiring speech on this occasion on the aspect of God and Avatarhood with particular emphasis on the message of 'Love and Truth' of Baba. He concluded the speech with an elucidation on the aspect of breaking of silence, happening of an unprecedented event, and the manifestation of Baba. The meeting ended at 8-00 P.M. with a vote of thanks given by Bro. G. S. Prakasa Rao. The meeting was presided by Dr. T. Dhanapathirao Naidu.

Later Bro. Adi and party visited the Meher Centre at Allipuram and addressed the gathering. At this meeting Bro. Adi particularly requested the women to take more interest in the divine work as *women have a tremendous influence over the men in shaping their character*. They have a great role to play in moulding the character of men and their children too. He quoted the role of his mother 'Gulmai' as an instance. Bro. T. S. Kutumba Sastry and Dr. Dhanapathi Rao Naidu have also spoke on this occasion. Bro. Adi recorded his message in the Centre's visitor's Book as follows:—

"IF YOU THINK OF BELOVED BABA EVEN ONCE DURING A DAY WITH THE DEPTH OF A FEELING WHICH YOU HAVE FOR ANY ONE WHOM YOU LOVE MOST, THEN YOU WILL FIND THAT BABA IS NONE ELSE BUT YOUR OWN SELF."

3. Kakinada: 22-8-1969.

Shri Adi K. Irani made visits to the homes of some Baba Lovers in the forenoon. In the afternoon he was present at the Governing Body meeting of the Avatar Meher Baba

Andhra Centre, which was presided over by Dr T. Dhanapathi Rao, "Bhagavat Vatchanam" revised at the specific instruction of Sri Adi K. Irani by Sri Yellapantula Jagannadham was released by Shri Adi K. Irani at this meeting.

At 6-30 P.M. a public meeting was organized at the Suryakala Mandir under the presidentship of Shri Pyda Venkatanarayana. Many elite of Kakinada—both ladies and gentlemen have attended this meeting. Shri Adi K. Irani made a most inspiring speech on the Avatarhood of BABA, which was very much appreciated.

4. Masulipatam: 28-8-1969:

Sri Adi K. Irani laid the foundation stones at 7-30 A.M. for Meher Mandir proposed to be constructed by the Avatar Meher Baba Machilipatnam Centre in the site purchased by them a few years back.

At 4-00 P.M. Adiji visited the children's section of A. M. B. M. Centre located at Sri P. Lokanatharao's house since three years.

At 6-00 P.M. Adiji addressed a public meeting organized at the town Hall. Earlier in the day Adiji addressed the Lovers and Workers at the Centre located in Mr. Kurralla Pulliahs' residence and the Ladies Centre located in Mr. Tadepalli Basaviah's house.

5. Challapalli 29-8-1969:

Sri Adi K. Irani, and Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastri, visited Cballapalli Centre from Gudivada at 4 P.M. Along with them, Dr. T. Dhanapathi Rao Naidu, Sri Alla Sathiraju, Sri Y. V. Narasimha Rao, Secretary of Kakinada Centre, and many prominent Baba lovers of Masulipatam, Gudivada and other places also came here. They were offered

a hearty welcome with Band music at the entrance to this small town by the members and President of our Centre, Sri S. R. Y. Ramakrishna Prasad, B.A. (Hons.) B.L., and taken to our Centre hall. After some rest, in our gaily decorated Centre Hall, Baba Bhajan, Sankeertan, and Harathi were offered to Beloved Baba and Prasad was distributed, "Tea" was arranged to the guests at the newly constructed terrace building of Sri Namburi Venkateswara Rao, one of our prominent Babalovers. Later the guests visited Ramanagaram Centre, a suburb of Challapalli and after "Arathi", prasad was distributed. Sri K. Ramakrishna, M.A. is the group-head of this Centre.

Then at 6-30 P.M. a public meeting was held in the compound of our President's beautiful mansion, called "Vijayantam". After melodious Bhajan and Sankeertan for some time, the meeting began with "Parvardigar", and "Repentance" prayers. Our President heartily welcomed Sri Adi K. Irani and other guests in a fine speech. Sri. G. V. Subba Rao introduced the visitors to the audience, and narrated the noble life of pure love, devotion, sacrifice and service of Sri. Adi K. Irani to the Avatar of the Age.

Sri. Adi K. Irani in his powerful speech said that just as grain is ground into powder in a grinding wheel, so also our individual ego should be powdered into dust in this illusionary life (Maya) in order to attain our eternal Divinity. Sri. G. V. Subba Rao translated his speech well into Telugu. Sri. T. S. Kutumba Sastry explained the details regarding Avatar Meher Baba Trust to develop the Universal centre of pilgrimage at Meherazad and Meherabad. About 500 people, men, women and Children from Challapalli, Ramangaram, Mangalapuram, Ramudupalem, Yarlagaadda and other neighbouring villages attended the meeting. Rain caused some inconvenience for about half an hour, but the programme was carried through successfully.

Afterwards there was a film show, depicting Baba's Sahavas programme in 1954. After "Harathi", prasad was distributed.

Sri. S. R. Y, Ramakrishna Prasad then arranged a fine dinner to the guests and other Baba lovers in his own bungalow.

Next morning (30-8-69) in a Lover's Gathering (Goshti), Sri. Adi K. Irani answered some questions and declared that *one-pointed devotion to Avatar Meher Baba* is essential, as the other Sadgurus or Yogis only carry out the plan laid out by the Avatar of the Age. That is the special advantage and opportunity given to Baba-lovers as they *have direct link with the Avatar*.

AVATAR MEHER BABA ' .

Bilaspur Centre: 3-7-69.

The lovers of Baba have arranged a public function in the N. E. Institute of the S. E. railway at 7 P.M. The function was presided by Shri H. Gohel, the Chief Engineer (Construction). The speakers were Dr. G. S. N. Moorthy M.A. Ph.D., Shree S. P. Chatterji, Calcutta and Brother Amar Singh Saigal. Dr. Moorthy spoke of Beloved Baba's silence as the "DIVINE DIGNITY" and gave his firm conviction that Baba being God. Shri Chatterji said that Beloved Baba has come to awaken us and He did it in His own silent way. He is still awakening the masses to their inherent Oneness in the diversity of Life by spreading the message of Love through those who have come to Him while He was on earth physically. Baba has a way of working on those who have come to Him and surrendered to Him. He said that when the Secretary of the Bilaspur Centre invited him to come and participate in the functions he expressed that if it is His Wish he will definitely come.

So it is and that is how He works, I came here without any plan on my own official work. Next Shri Saigal spoke with conviction that the Avatar of the Age is Shri MEHER BABA. Shri Saigal narrated how in his recent tour to the West he met the Pope who quietly said few words of praise on Beloved Baba. He said the Love of His Lovers in Iran is matchless. Shri Gohel paid glowing tributes to Baba and said that though he has not had the good fortune to see Baba he could feel His love in the association of His Lovers.

Beautiful Bhajans and songs and poems were recited in His praise by Miss Gita Roy, Mrs. Adhikary and Shri Shukla. After Thanks-giving by Sardar Ganesh Singh and recitation of Arati, Distribution of literature was the last item. About 550 men, women, and children participated in the function. All efforts in His love were made to make the function a success by Brother Shanti Ghosh, Sardar Hem singh and many Baba Lovers.

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