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February 1970

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the "Meher Vihar Trust"

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June 2018

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Monthly:

February 1970

D I V Y A V A N I

(DIVINE VOICE)

Editor:

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

"The Meher Vihar Trust"

Volume 6]

Number 2]

DANAVAIPETA

RAJAHMUNDRY-3

(A.P., India)

[Price:

[Re. 1-00

ADI K. IRANI

KING'S ROAD,
AHMEDNAGAR,
MAHARASHTRA-INDIA
21st July 1969.

To all Brothers and Sisters,

This is an appeal made to you all Baba lovers from East and West—an appeal based on fulfilment of Avatar Meher Baba's Wish expressed to Brother Bhau Kalchuri just a week before beloved Baba dropped His body.

Baba had enjoined Bhau to write a full life account of Baba in Hindi verses. A life account of beloved Baba can be exhaustive if all events concerning Baba in connection with lovers are brought in to this work.

All lovers from East and West who lived with Baba for long or short duration of time, under His instructions are requested to send to Adi K. Irani, King's Road, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra account of events taken place during their stay with Baba.

Such events should contain descriptions of everything happened in Sahavas with beloved Baba—of duties given and performed, of humour expressed and seriousness impressed, of games played and discipline evoked, of travel made and functions held. They should contain all aspects of difficulties and ease, pleasure and pain, differences and agreements, harmony and discord—all these felt and experienced.

Kindly bear in mind not to exclude in your writing, description of how funny and awkward situations were created in dealing with people whilst obeying Baba's small orders purposefully given.

Besides Baba lovers who stayed with Baba, those lovers who paid occasional visits are also requested to send to Adi K. Irani account of their short visits to Baba.
Jai Baba!

With loving regards,

Yours brotherly,
ADI K. IRANI

Monthly:

FEBRUARY 1970

D I V Y A V A N I

(DIVINE VOICE)

AN ENGLISH MONTHLY

Devoted to Avatar Meher Baba & His Work

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SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

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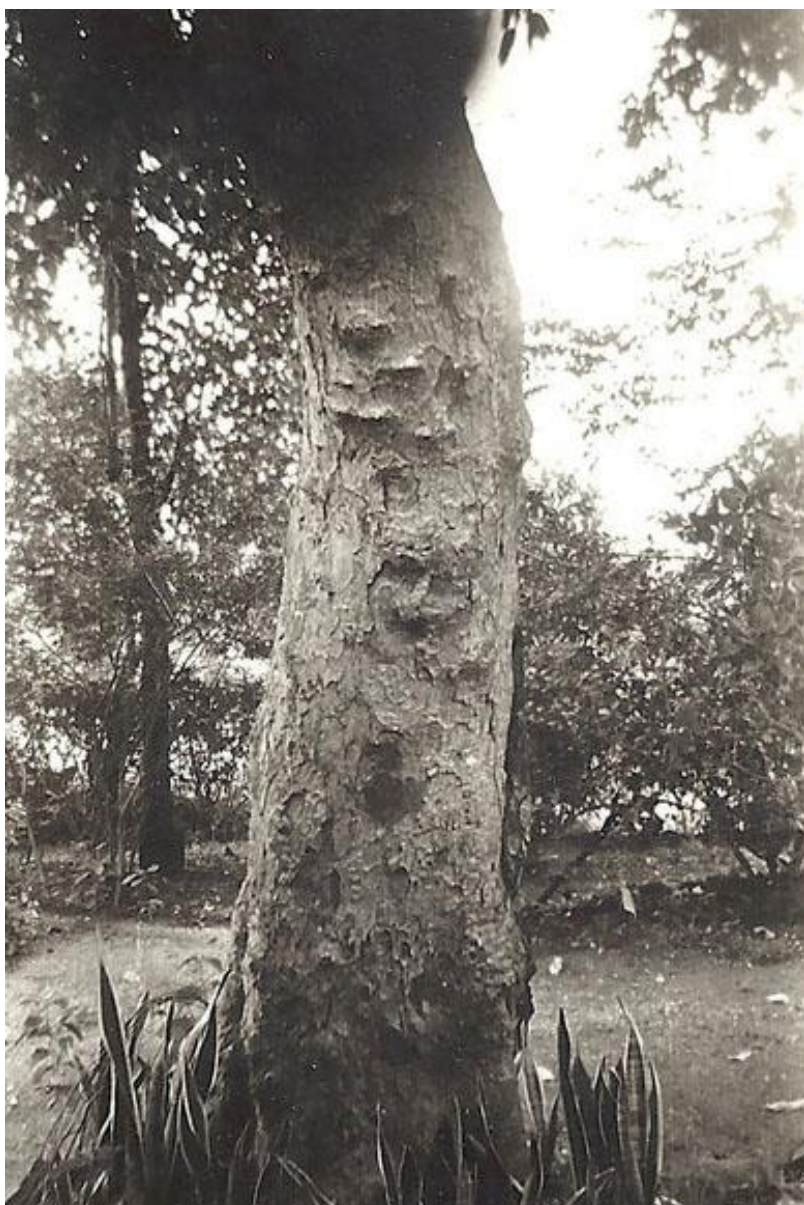
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Meher Baba appears on the Trunk of Tree behind the Window of Mehera Mai's Room

Message to Reporters and press
Representatives Aboard
"Bremen" New York
On 19-5-1932.

By AVATAR MEHER BABA

I am not come to establish any cult, society or organisation, nor to establish a new religion.

The religion I shall give touches the knowledge of the One behind the many. The Book that I shall make people read is the Book of the Heart which holds the key to the Mystery of life. As for ritual, I shall teach humanity to discriminate, express and live rather than utter it. I shall bring about a happy blending of the head and heart.

Societies and organisations have never succeeded in bringing Truth nearer. Realization of the Truth is solely the concern of the individual.

Every being is a point from which a start could be made towards the limitless Ocean of Love, Bliss, Knowledge and Goodness already with him. No Spiritual Master brings religion to the world in the form which it eventually assumes.

His very presence is a blessing and radiates spirituality. He imparts it to others by personal contact. The so-called religions are an effort to commemorate the association with a great Spiritual

Master and to preserve his atmosphere and influence. It is like an archeological department trying to preserve things which only resuscitate the past. The living spirit being absent, religions or organisations gradually lose their glamour. The result is a mental revolt against the established order. Something more substantial and practical is required which expresses the life of the spirit. There exists at the moment a universal dissatisfaction and an indescribable longing for something that will end the chaos and misery that is holding the world in its grip. I will satisfy this craving and lead the world to real happiness and peace by making people look more into things than hitherto.

As a rule, Masters help individually according to temperament and fitness of the aspirant; but this being an 'Avataric' period (which means the end of the previous cycle and the beginning of a new one), my spiritual help to humanity will be both individual and collective.

The period of junction of the old and new cycle usually connotes the advent of a Master who rejuvenates religious thought, infusing new life and meaning into the old order of things.

Besides imparting the highest state of spirituality to a select few, he gives a general spiritual push to the whole world.

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

Intellect is the lowest form of understanding and is developed by reading, hearing, reasoning and logic. These processes create an illusion of real know-

ledge. The higher state of understanding is permanent illumination through which one experiences and sees things as they are. In this state, one feels at harmony with everyone and everything, and realizes Divinity in every phase of life and is able to impart happiness to others. *Here one attends to all duties and material affairs and yet feels mentally detached from the world. This is true renunciation.* The last and highest state of understanding is the merging of the soul into the limitless Ocean of Infinite Bliss, Knowledge and Power. One who has himself attained this Freedom, can make thousands perfect like himself. I intend bringing about a great spiritual revival in the near future, *utilising the tremendous amount of energy possessed by America for the purpose.* Such a spiritual out-pouring that I visualise usually takes place at the beginning or end of a cycle and only a Perfect One who has reached the Christ State of Consciousness can make such a universal appeal. My work will embrace everything. It will permeate every phase of life. Perfection would fall far short of the ideal, if it were to accept one thing and eschew another. The general spiritual push that I shall give to the whole world will automatically adjust problems, such as politics, economics, and sex, though these are not directly connected with the original theme. New values and significance will be attached to things which appear to baffle solution at the moment.

The benefits that I shall accrue to different nations and countries, when I bring about the spiritual upheaval, will be largely determined by the amount of energy each one possesses. The greater the energy, however misapplied, the greater the response. The Master merely diverts the current into the right channel. It will be

one of my greatest miracles to bring together and blend the realistic West with the idealistic East, and the West at the zenith of its intellectual and material attainment and the East at the height of its Spiritual Manifestation in the shape of a Perfect Master, will meet without shaming or looking down upon each other. I repeat, materialism and spirituality must go hand in hand. The balance of head and heart must be maintained (the head for discrimination, the heart for feeling), where it is possible to realise Infinite Consciousness in art, science, nature and every phase of life.

I have become one with the Infinite Source of everything, This is the state of Christ Consciousness. If people call me Messiah, Saviour or Redeemer, it does not affect me, Terms and names do not matter. What really matters is the state of Christ Consciousness that I eternally enjoy and towards which I shall lead all who come to me. When I speak, my original message will be delivered to the world and it will have to be accepted.

The ability to perform miracles does not necessarily connote high spirituality. Anyone who has reached the Christ Consciousness can perform them. People must not come to me merely for help in their physical infirmities or for material purposes. *I shall perform miracles when the time and situation demand*, and not to satisfy mere idle curiosity. Spiritual healing is by far the greatest healing, and this is what I intend to give. The Highest is latent in every one, but has to be manifested.

Avatar Meher Baba Trust

An Appeal by the Chairman,
Sri T. S. KUTUMBA SASTRI

King's Rd., Ahmednagar (India),
1st February. 1970

Dear Friend,

This is an appeal to all those who love and revere Avatar Meher Baba to contribute to Avatar Meher Baba Trust.

The Trustees and I deeply appreciate the response made last year by many Baba lovers who gave contributions to the Avatar Meher Baba Trust.

The main concern of the Trustees is to see that the Trust is put on a firm basis financially so that all of Avatar Meher Baba's wishes as incorporated in the Trust Deed may be fulfilled one hundred per cent. Unless and until this basis for the stability of the Trust is established, the Trustees will find it difficult to fulfill Meher Baba's wishes.

To carry this out it is suggested that each one in the East who wishes to contribute should set aside per day the amount of 0.30 paise; if this is too much for some to do, then 0.20 paise a day, or even 0.10 paise a day. At the end of the year the amount from each donor would come to about one hundred rupees, seventy-five rupees, etc., either more or less. For those who can give more, they should set aside a sum in

Note:—Westerners are requested to take paisa as cents and Rupees as Dollars or pound sterling.

accordance with what they feel they can. Amounts may be sent once or twice yearly, or monthly, or at any time convenient to the donor. A similar suggestion is also made to Baba lovers and devotees in the west.

This suggestion is brought to your attention as it will help the Trustees to further the development and maintenance of the property at Meherabad and also take care of the beneficiaries.

Contributions should be sent to: AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST (King's Road, Ahmednagar, M.S., India), and not in the name of any individual.

If you make out your donation simply to "Avatar Meher Baba Trust," the donation will be utilized as follows:

11% for the maintenance and development of the Trust Estate, and 89% to the 41 beneficiaries as mentioned in the Trust Deed.

However, if you wish your donation to be utilized exclusively for the maintenance and development of the Trust Estate, or exclusively for distribution to the 41 beneficiaries, or on the other hand for both purposes, that is for maintenance, development and the 41 beneficiaries in any percentage desired by you, then please state your wish clearly in a covering note to the Chairman, Avatar Meher Baba Trust, when sending your donation.

If each donor would do this every year, we the Trustees, would then find that we could carry out with greater confidence the wishes of Avatar Meher Baba as laid down in the Deed of Avatar Meher Baba Trust.

None should feel compelled to contribute to the Trust; Meher Baba would never want it so. Only those who feel prompted from the heart should contribute according to the suggestions in this letter, or as they feel best suited to themselves.

For your information, Avatar Meher Baba Trust has now been registered as a Public Trust with Registration No. E/150, Ahmednagar, by the Assistant Charity Commissioner, Poona Region, Poona, India on 7th August 1969. Therefore, it is now all the more essential that all contributions and official correspondence pertaining to Avatar Meher Baba Trust be addressed directly to: The Chairman, Avatar Meher Baba Trust, King's Road, Ahmednagar, M.S., India, and no *Official* Trust matters should be included in your personal correspondence.

Warm Greetings and a hearty Jai Baba to all who love and revere Avatar Meher Baba.

In the Service of Avatar Meher Baba,
(Sd.) T. S. KUTUMBA SASTRI
The Chairman,
Avatar Meher Baba Trust. ·

Sad News

We are sorry to announce that our brother M. VADIVELU MUDALIAR of Madras passed away on 7th instant, after a prolonged illness and he had peaceful death with the name of Baba on his lips and his thoughts on Beloved Baba. He was one of the oldest and devoted lovers and workers of Madras having been in the contact of Baba ever since 1930 and his death is a distinct loss to the work of Baba Centre of Tamil Nad (Madras). It is hard to find such an earnest and loving soul who lived BABA-Love throughout and who endured all hardships of life with courage equanimity and one-pointed devotion to Baba as GOD ETERNAL.

9-2-'70

— *Editor.*

Bro. Adi K. Irani Goes on Western Tour

We are happy to announce the tour programme of our Revered Bro. ADI K. IRANI who has been invited to visit the West and has undertaken to do so, on Baba-work from 10th of February 1970, till the end of March '70 and will reach back to India by the 1st week of April 1970 after a short visit to Tokyo. We invoke on this happy occasion the Blessings of our Beloved Baba to make this visit a success in every way and convey our love and regards to all our sisters and brothers through him on our behalf and on behalf of our Eastern Brothers and Sisters with all the warmth and cordiality of one Baba-family. We hope that this opportunity will best be availed of by all those who meet him and welcome him into their midst, the experience and the lore of knowledge imbibed by him during his life-association of more than forty long years of dedicated service unto our Beloved Master, Avatar Meher Baba. We heartily wish and hope that he will bring back to us a heavy load of loving encomiums and warmest treasures of heart and head so as to infuse inspiring enthusiasm and unifying action promoting real progress. in the services to be rendered for the Cause of our Beloved Baba, which is dear to us all.

We take this special opportunity to request all our dear brothers and sisters in the Western hemisphere to kindly do their best to render support to "DIVYA VANI" the only One English Monthly Magazine, striving to serve our Beloved's Cause and subscribe to

the same on this occasion as a token of their love for the same. They may be pleased to pay the amounts to Bro. Adi K. Irani when they happen to meet him, mentioning the purpose to him and be pleased to inform us the fact by dropping a line through post for which act of love we shall be thankful ever.

We here below give the tour programme of Bro. Adi K. Irani.

**ITINERARY OF SHRI ADI K. IRANI AND
SHRI MEHERJEE A. KARKARIA
FROM 10th FEB. 1970 TO
30th MARCH 1970**

10-2-1970	Leave Poona . . .	8-00, a.m.	by Indian Airlines
11-2-1970	Leave Bombay ...	7-00 a.m.	by Air India
13-2-1970	Leave Teheran ..	1-00 p.m.	Do.
„	Leave Frankfurt	in the evening,	
14-2-1970	Leave Zurich	in the morning	
16-2-1970	Leave Bern	in the morning by Swiss Air	
„	Arrive London	Do.	
19-2.1970	Leave London		
	for New York	1-00 p.m.	
„	Reach New York...	2-40 p.m.	
		(New York time)	
19-2-1970	}	Stay at New York	
to			
3-3-1970			

2-3-1970 to 6-3-1970	}	Stay at Miami, Florida
6-3-1970 to 8-3-1970	}	Stay at New Savannah
8-3-1970 to 10-3-1970	}	Stay at Chapel Hill
10-3-1970 to 17-3-1970	}	Myrtle Beach
17-3-1970 to 20-3-1970	}	Hampton, Virginia
20-3-1970 to 22-3-1970	}	Chicago
22-3-1970 to 24-3-1970	}	Los Angeles
24-2-1970 to 28-3-1970	}	San Francisco
28-3-1970 to 30-3-1970	}	Honolulu

Mehera Mai's Address to the Meher
Pilgrims given at Meherabad Hill
on 31-1-1970

Beloved Baba! We are all gathered here in our love for you.

May we be worthy of your very dear Love for us,

Your Compassion is our strength which sustains us.

Your Love is our life - it is yours.

May we hold on to your daaman in complete surrender to
Your Will.

Dear Meher Pilgrims! JAI BABA! We are all gathered here in
love to pay homage to Avatar Meher Baba, our Divine
Beloved who loves us, more than we can ever love ourselves.
Let us forever say His Jai - not only say it with our lips but
live it in our hearts, so that our lives become a living
testimony to His Victory.

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI !

The First Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba Darshan On Meherabad Hill

(31st January 1970)

In response to the Trust Circular No. 1 issued on 1-11-1969 by Sri Adi K. Irani, the Meher Pilgrims started arriving at Lower Meherabad Ahmednagar, M. S. India, as the buses from the Ahmednagar Railway Station started plying from the after-noon of 30th January '70. Volunteers were busy helping the Pilgrims directing them to the respective places allotted to them by the management. Two huge "Pendals" were erected at Lower Meherabad behind the main building there, one for the Ladies and the other for the Gents. They are provided with bath rooms, lavatories and adequate pipe water supply. Hot water was also provided for bathing purposes. Each Pandal contained about 1000 beds, on evenly got up floor with sprinkled D.D.T. which was mixed up with the earth so as to be protected from insect pestering. Dr. H. P. Bharucha was available for any medical assistance & necessary help on the spot. Sufficient Electric Lighting is arranged and the huge Pendals looked magnificiently attractive as the Pilgrims poured in large numbers by the night of 30th January '70. Arrangements for food were made at Lower Meherabad, separately and Bro. Chagan Master was in-charge of the same completely. Every thing went off well as per programme in this regard.

At Beloved Baba's Tomb on the Hill, a beautiful "Pandal" was erected just before the Tomb which went up the wall of the quarters called "Meher Retreat" where a spacious dais was provided. The decorations were so simple and beautiful with colourful cloth canopies which could accommodate more than 2000 Pilgrims. The whole Hill was adequately Electrified and thrilling that every face was so bright with loving receptivity and cordial fraternity enthroning Baba's Love in every heart and feeling the Divine presence of our Compassionate Father in whose name all have been called to assemble.

From the early hours of 31st January '70, Meher Pilgrims in groups, walked up the Hill, had Baba darshan continuously at the Tomb forming themselves in to a "Que", The whole Pandal was full as the sun became bright and the ladies sat on the left wing, while the men occupied the right. The dais was beautifully decorated and a separate canopy was provided for Mehera Mai and other women Mandali on the left wing of the dais. Prominent Lovers that took their seats on the dais were Sri Sarosh Irani (who conducted the proceedings of the day); Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastri, Chairman, Avatar Meher Baba Trust; Sri Adi K. Irani, Secretary, Anniversary Observance Committee; Elizabeth Patterson, Kitty Davy and Dr. Harry Kenmore and others.

The Programme started exactly by 10 A.M. with singing by Bhajan Mandalies of different Centres. Prominent among them were M/s. Madhusudhan Party of Poona; Siva Ram Gandhi (Babuji) Group of Kakinada; Bhaskara Raju Party of Tadepalligudem (both from Andhra); Hamirpur. Jabalpur Groups of lovers

and those from Kanpur, Nagpur, Navsari, Bhopal, Bombay and Ahmednagar took active part in Sankeertan and other activities.

Music was stopped at 11-55 A.M. and absolute Silence was observed from 12-00 to 12-15 P.M. and with cries of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai actual celebration of the function was started. At the outset, Beloved Meher Baba's Portrait (Life Size Bust, in Sadra Pose) painted by Srimati Sarala Devi, B.A., (daughter of late I. V. Seshagiri Rao Naidu, Vice-President of Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre and wife of Sri M. V. Subba Rao, B.A., Co-operative Registrar of Amalapur, Andhra Pradesh) was duly unveiled by Smt. Mehera Mai. The portrait was so very beautifully lifelike that it attracted every body's attention and admiration on this happy occasion. Smt. Mehera Mai spoke few words choking with over powering love for the Beloved thus:

"Beloved Baba! We are all gathered here in our love for you. May we be worthy of your very dear love for us. Your Compassion is our strength which sustains us.. Your Love is our life—It is yours. May we hold on to your daaman in complete surrender to Your Will."

"Dear Meher Pilgrims! JAI BABA ! We are all gathered here in love to pay homage to Avatar Meher Baba, our Divine Beloved who loves us more than we can ever love ourselves.

Let us for ever say His Jai! not only say it with our lips but live it in our hearts, so that our lives become a living testimony to His Victory."

"Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai !"

The Speech of Mehera Mai was translated into Hindi and Marathi by Mrs. Dhake Phalkar and into Telugu by Mrs. Jagadamba.

Then, Parvardigar Prayer was recited in English by Dr. Harry Kenmore, in Hindi by Sardar Amar Singh Saigal, M. P., in Marathi by Sri K. N Soman, in Telugu by Sri K. V. Suryanarayana, in Tcmil by Sri Srinivasan, and in Bengali by another Baba-lover. Afterwords Arati was sung in Hindi and then in English. Soon after followed the Darshan Programme, by Mehera Mai taking Baba's Darshan at the Tomb followed up by other women one after the other. This programme continued till about 2 P.M. when all the Pilgrims went down the Hill and had their lunch in the Pental where tables and chairs were provided for about 5 to 6 hundred at a time. Some of them volunteered their services and served with joy and by about 4 P.M. every thing was completed. From about 5-30 P.M. they again gathered on the Hill and music parties continued singing Baba's praise. Some of the Pilgrims went to Meherazad in specially arranged taxis and buses and some have already done so on the 30th itself on their arrival. Others followed after the function here is completed.

Some of our readers might be aware of a Miracle Tree at Meherazad which can be seen just opposite to the window of Mehera Mai's room. The interesting story is this. At Meherazad a Love-miracle of Beloved Baba is being witnessed by one and all who visited the place. Soon after Mandali left Poona and settled down at Meherazad, it was observed one day by Mehera Mai that

on the trunk of the tree, (which is believed to be associated with God, Dattatrya) which is seen just about two yards distant from the window of Mehera Mai's room. Beloved Baba's Facial features could be recognised on it just as He was seen in the crypt at the Meherabad Tomb during the Great Darshan Period of 7 days in the 1st week of January 1969. It gradually developed into a real form exactly with the nose, eyes and moustaches and looks in light and shade, the bark of the tree taking the shape and appearing as it were Baba was there peeping through the tree. This has been witnessed by all Mandali and gradually streams of lovers visiting found the same and copies of photographs distributed have reached some of the lovers in other places. This phenomenon was witnessed by all those lovers who visited Meherazad and looked at the tree through Mehera Mai's room through the window. It may be that due to Mehera Mai's deep love for Beloved Baba that has caused this impression on the bark of the tree or it may be that Beloved Baba's Grace has been the cause for this Miracle which could be seen persisting even now at Meherazad for there is nothing that could not be done by His Compassionate Love so as to give solace to the heart of Mehera Mai and through her it became a blessing to us all. We do not know what more of His Manifestation we are going to witness in the near future.

At about 6-30 P.M. there was Film show of the Great event and the Last Darshan of Beloved Baba from 1st to 7th of January '69 along with some other films of Baba's western tour and Myrtle Beach Sahavas.

After dinner again there was Sankeertan by Arangaon Bhajan Party and other Marathi groups. Some of

the lovers have spent 'the whole night there at the Tomb of Beloved Baba, thinking and talking about Him and singing His praise.

On the 2nd day (1-2-'70) the programme on the Hill as programmed started from 9-00 A.M. as the gathering assembled again. Sri Adi K. Irani presided on this occasion, and some publications got up for the occasion and dedicated to Beloved Baba were unveiled by Smt. Mehera Mai and message of her was delivered through Sister Mani that she was happy to unveil on this occasion these publications dedicated to the Avatar of the Age who has suffered so much for the upliftment of humanity. These are the books unveiled:

1. Deepa Lakshmi: A marathi publication—special Issue of a Monthly—with tricoloured picture of Baba on the Title. Its Editor, Sri G. K. Taiker of Poona spoke thanking Mehera Mai for her kindness and Sri Adi K. Irani spoke a few words introducing him and the Magazine.
2. My life with Avatar Meher Baba : An English Book-let written by Dr. C. D. Deshmukh of Nagpur. Sister Elizabeth Patterson spoke a few words introducing Dr. Deshmukh and recalled how sister Norina Matchabelli used to call him as "Baba's Pen".
3. Meher Geetika; Meher Sarod & Meher Prakash: Hindi Publications in which some Gazals written by Sri Bhau Kalchuri were included, about 70 in Meher Sarod; and Meher Prakash was written by Shamlal Varma, an young advocate.

4. Avatar Meher Baba Stavam – Poems written in Telugu by Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen in 2 volumes in praise of Baba and the experiences at Guruprasad, specially got-up for the occasion. Swamiji also spoke offering his grateful thanks to Mehera Mai.
5. Meher Babatho Antima Sahavasam: Translation into Telugu of Dr. H. P. Bharucha's "Meher Baba's Last Sahavas" by D. V. Satyanarayana Murty, a student of the Engineering College of Andhra University at Waltair.

Then Sri Keshav Narayan Nigam of Hamirpur recited with great emotion "MEHER CHALISA" written by him.

Sri Adi K. Irani spoke shortly about the affairs of the Trust and the heavy expenditure incurred unexpectedly for making the arrangements for this function and providing free accommodation and appealed to lovers for love-contributions to make up the loss incurred. He said that they expected about Rs. 10000/- will be sufficient and that it now exceeded Rs. 40000/-. Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastri spoke in telugu after him explaining that the Trust has to take special permission of the Charities Commissioner as this is the 1st Anniversary of Baba's Darshan and that hereafter the lovers have to celebrate this by themselves and the Trust cannot do it. Appeal was made to the lovers to contribute their mite at their free will.

Afterwards Dr. Dhanapati Rao, President A.M.B. Andhra and Dr. C. D. Deshmukh too Spoke. Sri Prameswari Nigam (Pukar) of Hamirpur spoke about the World Fair of Baba Lovers and Inauguration of Meherpuri that is going to be held during November 1970

and appealed to all to attend the same and share the blessings of Beloved Baba and the pleasure in His service. He narrated the history of Meherpuri and its formation with Beloved Baba's approval and instructions in 1964. Dr. Bharucha about real love spoke of Baba and our dedication to His Cause. Sister Mani spoke about the difficulty in living for Baba and working for His Cause. Amar Singh Saigal appealed to all lovers of Baba to contribute to the Trust Funds liberally and support His Cause. Elizabeth Patterson and Kitty Davy delivered their speeches on this special occasion. Mr. Minoo Kharas, Smt. Roda A. Dubash of Karachi spoke about how they organised Baba Work in Pakistan and they expressed their faith that Beloved Baba will come again amongst us and then there will be His Divine Manifestation after this spell of humiliation now. Sri Alopa spoke about his recent trip to Iran and how Baba's work is being carried on there. Dr. G. S. N. Moorty then spoke expressing his hope and desire to have better environment and progress by the time of Meherpuri Celebrations than those existing now. Sri B. Bapi Raju and Balak Bhagavan too spoke before the function came to a close.

After these speeches are over Repentance Prayer was recited in all languages by the same persons who read Parvardigar prayer yesterday. After completing the Darshan Programme, Arati was sung and the gathering dispersed for lunch.

In the evening all the lovers present assembled again on the Hill in the Pandal and few others spoke in praise of Baba. Dr. Harry Kenmore spoke for a few minutes explaining the importance of the occasion and exhorted the lovers to earnestly dedicate themselves to

work for the Victory of the Cause of Meher Baba, the Avatar of the Age and rededicate ourselves on this occasion to Him, now at His Tomb and share His Blessings.

There was Film show again and the gathering dispersed for dinner. At about 10-30 P.M. Bala Gopala Bhaskara Raju & Party gave Burrakatha recital of Beloved Baba's Life in Hindi at Baba's Tomb and it was Zero hour by the time the gathering finally came to a close with cries of Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai!

Early morning on the third day i.e., on 2-2-'70, the last day of this function, all those remaining came up the Hill and the Darshan programme continued while Sankeertan was continued in the Pandal simultaneously. Bro. Adi K. Irani also took part in the Sankeertan and sang a few Gazals.

With cries of "Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai" the function came to a close and with sweet memories of the Sahavas in the hearts of all lovers they parted taking Beloved Baba with them.

Jai Baba!

New Life of AVATAR MEHER BABA

A COMPILATION OF ALL THE 34 NEW LIFE CIRCULARS
(ISSUED FROM 28th Oct '49 TO 1st Feb '52)

With an INTRODUCTION by Shri ADI K. IRANI

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The First Anniversary of the Last Darshan of AVATAR MEHER BABA

(A talk given on 31st January 1970
on Meherabad Hill by Kitty Davy)

Dear Friends-in-Baba,

It is indeed a very great privilege to be present on this memorable occasion, the First Anniversary of beloved Meher Baba's giving up His physical form, for a work that is still in touch with the world He created and loved from the beginning of time. A world in which His Presence ever remains an all-pervading, all-loving Presence, enveloping us all in an increased awareness in consciousness. Baba has said, "I go nowhere, I come nowhere, I am always here," pointing to His heart and to His listeners.

The Centre property of 500 acres at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, U.S.A., was dedicated since 1945 to Meher Baba by Elizabeth Patterson. In 1956, at Baba's wish it was incorporated as a nonprofit, religious organization named Meher Spiritual Center, Incorporated, with Elizabeth Patterson as its President and with other officers to assist.

Before Baba left Myrtle Beach in 1958, Elizabeth asked Him who should come to His Centre and Baba replied:

- (1) Those who love and follow me.
- (2) Those who know of Me and want to know more.

I have been privileged to accompany Meher Baba on His first visit to His Centre in Myrtle Beach in 1952. Since then, there has been a constant increase in the numbers of those visiting the Centre. They arrive by train, bus or hitch-hiking, travelling several days to stay for a day to be where Meher Baba once trod the soil; to sit in the Lagoon Cabin or the Barn where Meher Baba saw so many individually and collectively and gave precious discourses.

Letters come from those who have stayed at the Centre expressing their deep love and thankfulness to Baba for what He has given them and for what the Centre means to them. One such letter I received last week from a boy and his West-Indian friend Ramon, both in training at Fort Benning in Georgia. "Ramon has enjoyed it a lot and I think that last weekend was one of my most helpful visits. It takes so long to perceive the NOW. Baba seems to be ever present in my life, and He is only making me aware of it gradually through His grace."

One thing pleased me when a new-comer, upon entering the main dining room, said, "It seemed so natural to sit down and join straightaway in the conversation about Baba." It is the atmosphere of the Centre that makes this approach possible.

The abundant outpouring of Meher Baba's Love, as witnessed specially since He dropped His physical form, is so evident today in the young men and women of college and high-school age who come to the Meher Centre. This newly-awakened love seeks to serve Baba in some practical way. There is the desire to share and spread this new-found love. One way to do this, they feel, is to start their own small group in their area.

To mention but a few of many recent groups started in the U.S.A. which, I feel, have drawn their initial inspiration from contact with the Meher Centre. There is one in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, started by Marshal Hay and others; one in Savannah, Georgia, started by Lee Minchey; at Emory University, started by Charles Haynes, and at Oxford by Wendy Haynes; one in Evanston, Ill., and Chicago, started by Dede Mavris, Dot Pierpont and Philip Lutgendorf, and there are others as far off as Alaska and Mexico. The Meher Centre keeps in touch with them all.

These young workers are like dynamos in Baba's Love. with that kind of tremendous enthusiasm which could come only from meeting Baba, as I know from past experience. Now I see it present in those who have not seen Baba in the human form, truly a witness to that inner contact each has with Baba, a contact that releases this Divine Energy for His work. And what happiness this work brings to those engaged in it!

These new groups have created a tremendous demand for literature pamphlets, posters, cards, pictures, and especially books by and about Meher Baba. Pamphlets have to be made available by the thousands no longer in hundreds.

And how to keep up with this demand? Baba, as we say, is always one ahead. Sheila Krynski came to live at Myrtle Beach just at the right time. She is a printer for the local newspaper and in her spare time, on her own press, prints Meher Baba's pamphlets and Messages; and these go to the various groups free or at cost price. This is voluntary work. Rick Chapman supplies posters and cards from California. India also helps supply our needs with such books as "Sparks of

the Truth," "Life is a Jest," "Meher Baba on Love," "Spiritual Parables," "The Glow," "Divya Vani," etc. What a wonderful avenue of contact between the East and the West is this exchange of literature, visiting speakers and correspondence, just what Baba wanted; and now that we no longer have the joy of the Family Letter from Mani, this work continues to be an important contact.

I often refer to Sheila when young students visiting the Centre want to know how they should work for Baba. What kind of work? They naturally say to Elizabeth and me, 'You could always ask or write to Baba, but what about us? And I recall how Sheila two years back wrote to Baba asking whether she should remain in New York or be in Myrtle Beach. And the answer came back from one of the men Mandali, "Baba says, He no longer answers these questions. You will know from within what you should do." As it eventuated, she settled in Myrtle Beach.

There are also Lyn and Phyllis Ott, artists, who have a home adjoining the Centre and are always hospitable to those who visit the Centre. Particularly with new-comers, they are helpful in answering questions about Baba and tell of their experience of going to India to meet Baba. Now Lyn Ott paints only Baba.

There is another project connected with Meher Centre, the work with the young, underprivileged Negro boys and girls who live in the Harlem area of Myrtle Beach. Some years ago, Wendy Haynes then 14, brought six of these children to the Centre every Saturday to play and spend a few hours with them. She found they had so much love to give. The group

has now grown to 40 little ones who form "Happy Club." Similar groups have sprung up in other places such as Emory in Atlanta, Georgia, and have taken the name, "Happy Club," Meher Baba was pleased to know of this new activity.

Following on "Happy Club" activities, Wendy's mother, Jane Haynes, who goes back and forth in the Harlem area to fetch the Negro children to the Centre by car, realized how much more there was to be done to help them. Inspired by Baba's Love Jane worked hard to get organized a Get-Well Clinic and Day-Care Centre for pre-school children, both under proper supervision with doctor, nurses and voluntary helpers.

Truly, as one wrote, "We get together exchanging the flow of Love that Baba is pouring in through His New Humanity whom He has chosen for His Message to the world. "At least half of this New Humanity visiting the Centre has not met Baba in human form. They belong to that increasing number of whom it can be said, "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed."

Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai !

(A COMPILATION OF THE 67 LIFE CIRCULARS)

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A Day of Sahavas and Darshan at Poona

PART I

By BAL NATU

Avatar Meher Baba graciously consented to give a day's sahavas to the families of Baba-lovers in Poona and darshan to those who had recently heard of Him and were keenly interested in His work. The sahavas was arranged on 8th December, 1957 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and darshan was given from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the same day. The entire programme was arranged at Guruprasad, 24 Bund Garden Road, Poona-1.

The Baba-lovers assembled in the palatial Guruprasad by 7-30 a.m. Homely atmosphere was the outstanding feature of this gathering. All were happy and cheerful as the long awaited moment of Beloved Baba's arrival approached. At the stroke of eight Baba's car wheeled in the porch of Guruprasad. Wearing a cheerful smile Baba got down from the car. He wore His favourite pink coat on a white sadara and a yellow silken trousers. The eyes of all were focussed on Baba and He flashed on them a radiant smile. With two sticks in His hand, Baba ascended the steps and slowly walked over the specially prepared carpet, decorated with flowers and petals of roses.

About 300 persons, young and old, men and women, boys and girls, stood up silently in the big hall of Guruprasad to welcome Baba. Beloved Baba asked all to sit at ease and not to make any haste in placing their offerings before Him. He had previously instructed that the family atmosphere should be maintained

throughout the morning programme and one really felt that the different families formed one Baba-family.

At the beginning of the programme, Baba is always ready with a sparkling wit or humour that makes all smile and forget their worries about the world. Today, when all were seated, Beloved Baba remarked, "I know every one and every thing, but I do not know about those who are now near Me! So let each member of every family be introduced to Me. "Thus, Baba indirectly offered the opportunity of personal contact to each one in the gathering including the babies in arms. One by one, all were introduced to Baba and He spontaneously responded with love to one and all. Baba patted some, embraced a few and bathed all with His loving glance. All felt blessed.

When one lover was introduced to Him someone said, "Baba, nowadays, he is suffering from eye-trouble. It is hoped that he will be cured of this defect before the ensuing sahasras in February, 1958." Baba replied, "All those in this hall have defective sight! For, with your eyes, you see things which are not worth seeing. With the real sight you see Me every where." Baba contacted each and every member, the first to the last, with the same warmth of love. Indeed He is the unbounded and unconditioned Love Divine. At the end, Baba remarked, "Today I am happy for all of you are introduced to Me." And with a loving smile He enquired, "But am I introduced to any one as I should be! Why? I am Infinitely Infinite. "

All took their seats and were asked to maintain silence during the recitation of the Prayer. The Marathi version of the 'Parvardigar Prayer', that was originally dictated by Baba in English at Dehra Dun in August, 1953 was recited aloud.

When the recitation was over, Beloved Baba with His eloquent gestures, which Eruch interpreted, was pleased to convey the following:—

"Eternally God is the only One never changing. Everything else changes. It is all 'a passing show'. Yesterday has passed by; today will pass off; but God was, is and ever will be. Today you are a grown-up person; but once you were a child. Some years hence you will become old, drop the body; then you will be born again and will have another body. Many a birth and many a death pass by; God alone remains for ever and ever.

The mind persists through birth and through death, in spite of and in and through its changing vicissitudes. If the mind goes away God reveals Himself; and as long as one is not conscious of God as God, mind persists. When mind goes, God 'comes'. It can go only by loving Me whole-heartedly. It can also melt away through My Grace; but in order to be worthy of this Grace, you must have obedience, which consists in acting implicitly according to My wishes.

There are four types of obedience.

- (1) Obedience of a soldier or patriotic obedience.
- (2) Obedience of a servant or paid obedience.
- (3) Obedience of a slave or compulsory obedience.
- (4) Obedience of a lover or willing obedience.

In the patriotic obedience the soldier carries out the order of the Commander instantaneously. In the paid obedience there is the expectation of monetary return. The more the salary, the quicker and louder is the 'yes, sir'. The compulsory obedience is against one's own will.

The willing obedience is inspired by whole-hearted love; and it is expressed in four stages.

(a) Suppose a mother is asked by the Master to cut her son. The first stage of willing obedience is characterised by trial. She tries to obey; she gets up rather reluctantly but collapses on the ground before she performs the will of the Beloved. She again makes an effort and uses her discrimination, giving only a slight and superficial cut on his person. Her discrimination has here modified the original order in her own interest.

(b) The second stage is characterised by literal obedience. Here the mother cuts her son but is unhappy about it. It is like taking a bitter tasted medicine (castor oil), without relishing it.

(c) In the third stage, the lover seeks the pleasure of the Master. Here the mother cuts her son in order to please the Master and is pleased in doing so.

(d) The fourth, which in a sense is not a stage, consists of absolute obedience. Suppose, the Master tells the mother, that her son, who is being seen by others is absent, her absolute obedience will convert the presence of the son to the actually experienced absence of the son. She will not see him at all though he is there in front of her. Very very few can thus obey the Master with absolute faith."

Beloved Baba concluded this discourse with a smile, 'saying', "Don't be afraid, Baba is not going to ask any one to cut anybody! That was just a simile, 'To cut' is to remain detached. Now, it is the interval for refreshment and there is a happy news for you; you will have 'laddoos' too. But remember, to obey Me is not as easy as eating 'laddoos'." There was a ripple of laughter as the members dispersed from the hall.

While most of the Baba-lovers were engaged in doing full justice to the refreshment Baba called one of His lovers, from North India who was permitted to come for Baba's darshan at Poona. Baba gave him a short discourse.

Baba 'said,' "What is God? God is neither heavy nor light in weight. He is all pervading, He is absolutely independent; but everything depends upon Him. You have a body; it is matter. You have also energy and mind. Body, energy and mind—in a sense) all depend on breath. In sound sleep, body lies in bed; energy and mind are dormant; but breath continues and is ... independent of all the three.

"Breath is not God; it is only a simile for understanding God—the nature of God. He is the Infinite and limitless Ocean of 'Noor' which can only be inadequately rendered by the English terms 'Light' or 'Effulgence'. One who sees God sees nothing but God; and one who sees everything else sees the world. There is a great difference in 'seeing' God and 'becoming' God. You are God; and yet you have to become God."

By this time most of the Baba-lovers returned in the hall and Baba asked Poona Meher Bhajan Mandali to begin their singing programme. This small group entertained Baba with sweet bhajans and meaningful ghazals, Most of the songs were composed on Beloved Baba's Divinity. At the end of a Hindi song referring to the state of a Sadguru, Baba conveyed the following:—

"Now all of you are happy to hear the sweet notes of the musical instruments and the melodious voice of the singers. As for Me, I am Myself everything, the

drum and the harmonium, the notes and the tunes, the singers and the listeners too. I am everything and in everything." Presently Baba asked one of His lovers who was sitting by His side whether he understood what Baba explained about His experience. The prompt and frank reply was that he just 'heard' the words and nothing more.

At this Baba smiled and continued, "Such is the state of consciousness of the One in 'Sadguru State'. It is all 'sahaj', There is no scope for thought, since Sadguru becomes Knowledge Itself. However, though I am everything and in everything, the expression of this partial awareness is occasional."

To make it more clear Baba continued, "You know that you are in all the parts of your body but you are not all the time aware of being in each part of the body. Only sometimes you say, 'This is my nose; this is my eye'. You are your little finger and are in it. Yet ordinarily you do not become aware of it as yours.

But when the little finger is cut off. you become specifically aware of as 'mine'. The Sadguru also constantly experiences himself everything and as everything and this experience is immediate and spontaneous for Him; it is not a product of thought, just in the same way as your experience of being in the little finger. It is 'sahaj'."

The bhajan programme continued. Beloved Baba appeared pleased and appreciated the performance of the singers. At about 10 minutes to 12 noon there was 'arti', at the end of which for some moments there was complete silence in the hall. Such silent moments with the Silent One awaken the heart, through the silent communion with the Master. Beloved Baba then left Guruprasad for lunch.

He returned to Guruprasad at about 3 p.m. and held a small group meeting of Baba-workers in Poona. He expressed His happiness about the work they were doing through the Centre. At the same time He remarked that the 'heart' is the real Centre. To this group, Baba said, "I love all; but I do not necessarily need the rich, the respectable and the intelligent for My work. I need the simple, common people irrespective of their weaknesses. Simple-hearted fishermen gathered round Jesus; Krishna was happy in the company of light-hearted 'Gopal's—the cowherd companions. Was not Pendya, a lame 'Gopal' very dear to Krishna? I am happy in your company for it is only love that matters and not the 'position'."

About His lovers in the West, Baba remarked, "They too are equally dear to Me. Their spirit of obedience is admirable. Though prepared to come all the way to India by a chartered plane even for a brief sahas, they have now willingly agreed to cancel their coming in order to meet My wishes. However, in spite of the pain in My hip-joint sahas programme for My lovers in India will definitely take place in February, 1958. Pain or no pain sahas is definite. *Pain has fallen in love with me.* It has become a Baba-lover. So Baba cannot ask the pain to leave'."

Baba resumed the former discourse. He said, "what do you understand when I say that your heart should become a Baba-Centre? In your bhajans you sing of Me as being the Ancient One. I am the Ancient One. But you have not finished your part of the thing merely by singing about Me. *You have to live up to what you say or sing*; this is the true meaning of your being My Centre. You must be very careful in your everyday life, about your thoughts, words and deeds. Negligence in this respect will be dishonouring Me."

With a smile on His face, Baba continued, "One good thing that is common to you all is that you love Me and the second is that you quarrel among yourselves." At this there was a wave of laughter among those that were present. One of the workers said, "Baba, now there is an end to our quarrels. We work as a team." Baba appeared pleased to hear this but enquired if others had to say anything in this matter. At this one of the workers stood up and said, "To be frank, Baba, I wish to bring to your notice that there are still some honest differences of opinion, as regards the nature of work that we are doing at the Centre." "Yes, go on," encouraged Baba.

The worker continued, "Some from our group are of opinion that You being the Avatar, You alone can do the Avataric work. So they think that there is no need for them to work, in the way it is being done through the Centre."

"But what do you personally think about this?" asked Baba. The worker replied, "I like to run the Centre and thus spread Your Name and Message of Love and Truth to the people."

Hearing this Baba said, "I am pleased with this frank discussion. Be what you are and do what you feel best in My Love. If some of you believe in Me as the Avatar, it is as it should be. But you should honestly feel it with all your heart. Now, if you take Me to be the Avatar, I pervade and become all beings, including you all. Then it naturally follows that those who believe Me to be the Ancient One must work since I Myself work. For one, who really has the irrevocable conviction that I am the Highest of the High, work is no work. It all becomes 'sahaj'."

Baba further explained:

"Work means to love Baba whole-heartedly; you should get lost in it, so much so, that you forget yourself completely. But such a love is a gift rarely received.

"If you do not have such love, obey Me implicitly. Carry out My orders, regardless of any comments from others. And you know what pleases Me."

"If this also is not possible try, try your very best to remember Me and thus love Baba. Run Meher Centres, sing bhajans and tell others about Me and My Message. And I repeat '*Be sincere and honest to act according to what you preach.*'

"I know I am the Highest of the High. So I say unto you 'Love Me, love Me.' 'This is the only thing that matters.' The Law says, 'Live for others'. I being the One without a second, pervade all including the 'others'. So it is quite in conformity with the Law, when I say 'Love Me'. *You all are blessed to have come in My personal contact;* but make the most of it.

"Much can be said and will be left unsaid about 'work'; however, for the present, you must be very particular up to 31st March, 1958 about observing the following orders ... mentioned in the recent Life Circular.

- (1) Be determined to obey Baba.
- (2) Abstain from lustful action.
- (3) Be honest. Do not deceive or give false hopes to any one.
- (4) Don't hurt the feelings of others."

It was about 4 p.m. and one of the mandali told Baba that the people were waiting outside for His darshan. Baba left the room and occupied the specially decorated seat in front of the hall of Guruprasad. On His right hand side the local bhajan party was singing bhajans. Devotees and interested people—both male and female—were alternately led into Beloved Baba's presence. Each one had an opportunity to have a close 'darshan' of Baba. The satisfaction and joy of this contact was clearly visible on their faces.

Every precaution was taken to prevent any body from touching Baba's person. But Baba Himself, in His unbounded mercy and compassion, allowed the devotees to touch His feet. While meeting those love-hungry souls, Baba was lovingly sensitive to the spiritual needs of some and asked them to follow certain instructions.

Avatar Meher Baba's vibrant presence exchanged silent messages of love with the aspiring and deserving souls gathered in Guruprasad. At about 6 p.m. Baba-lovers of Poona devotionally performed Baba's 'arti'. Beloved Baba was lifted in a chair and brought near the car. A few handshakes, Baba's familiar loving smile and the car drove off for Pimpalgaon (Meherazad), in the loud cheers of 'Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai'.

The incredible day was over! Was it?

THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH *

By Gp. Capt. M. M. SAKHARE

Age after age, cycle after cycle when moral and the spiritual values in this world are on the decline, when virtue subsides and vice triumphs, when man in his selfishness and greed forgets the precepts of God, Divinity manifests on this Earth to redeem humanity. Shri Rama, Krishna, Zoroaster, Christ, Buddha, Mahaveer, Mohamed, Guru Nanak, Basawa and Avatar Meher Baba came to this Earth in the darkest days of human history to revive the low burning torch of righteousness. These God-men carry out the Divine Theme of guiding humanity on the spiritual path and replenishing the spiritual content of the spiritually exhausted humanity. To this realm of supreme souls belongs Baha'u'llah.

As all the Avatars and prophets have said he emphasises that God is one whether you call Him Paramatma, Iswar, Christ, Allah, Ilahi, Yezdan, Ahoormazda, Before God all men and women are equal irrespective of Nationality, religion, caste, colour and creed. They are the children of the same Father, "fruits of the one tree and leaves of one branch" as the Master says. All men and women high and low, rich and poor and black and white are equal before Him.

* (Presidential Speech By Gp. Capt. M. M. Sakhare at the Bahai Convention on 30th November, 1969 at Lingraj College Belgaum).

All religions are the same as the essence, the eternal truths and the fundamentals remain the same. As Avatar Meher Baba says they "All emanate from the same source God and lead to the same end God. Truth of all religions is love for God, the one and only God who resides equally in all of us". Age after age these prophets, God-men came at different times in different parts of the World in different environments and gave the same eternal Truth, the same message of God, the message of love and universal brother-hood in different languages, But as time passed the true religion was lost in all sorts of rituals, superstitions, prejudices priest-craft and bigotry. As Baba says "Man instead of living the life of love and compassion taught by God has given way to hatred, greed and violence. He has waged crusades and jehads in His name", So, time and again these Messiahs came to revive the true religion. We should endeavour to understand the true religion and live it in its essence and be an example of the Master's message of equality love and understanding towards all mankind and all creatures of God.

In the World of today one can see that the high moral and spiritual values are losing ground and giving way to selfishness greed and egotism, Modern generation has sunk to the depth of moral degradation. Corruption has become rampant from the highest to the lowest, black marketing, smuggling and dope peddling have become daily business. All sorts of cults and 'isms', like hippyism yippism are cropping up. Drinks, dopes and drugs are being freely consumed. Eroticism and sex are being paraded in the streets. This is because man is forgetting the higher values in life. Modern man is losing faith in the higher Being. This lack of faith has caused lack of faith in oneself and lack of respect to

the elders, consequently lack of respect and love between man and man. The height of anti-God period has been reached. Some of the Westerners say that God is dead—How can He? He is eternal, imperishable. At this juncture it is essential to revive this faith, as only faith will redeem humanity from the hatreds, pessimism corruption and materialism of our age as the Master Baha'u'llaha says:

In the World today the disparity between the rich and the poor is growing. The rich are becoming richer and the poor the poorer. In most of the countries. one sees poverty, hunger strike and struggle for very survival. The affluent countries are becoming so affluent that they produce surplus stocks and dump them in the sea to keep up their economy and their factories going, whereas millions go without even a proper meal a day. The Master has emphasised on justice as the greatest good. Is this justice? Justice has to be brought and this disparity between the high and the low and the rich and the poor has to be removed. This can only be achieved by the message of selflessness and love by international amity and understanding.

We can see the chaotic conditions in the World today. Man in his materialistic glory and intellectual arrogance has forgotten the precepts of God, the message of the Messiahs. He has become self-centred and greedy, Narrow ideologies, communalism, parochialism and racialism are growing. All over you see strife and struggle. Brothers are fighting against brothers in Viet-Nam, Laos, Middle East and many African and Latin American countries. Racial hatred between blacks and whites in Africa, America and, England;

religious bigotry between Hindus and Muslims, Muslims and Jews, Catholics and Protestants are growing into murderous frenzy. With all his scientific achievements and technological advancement man is threatening the very survival of humanity by his missiles and nuclear weapons. A nuclear war means the annihilation of human race. To avert this catastrophe World statesmen, philosophers, scientists and World organisations like the United Nations are striving hard but to no avail. It is only God's message of love and understanding transcending all barriers of Nationality, Caste, Colour and Creed that will redeem humanity.

Science and technology are nothing different from life and religion. They are part of the same knowledge of life and religion. The essence of religions is the message of love which is a scientific fact. It is love—the attraction between man and man—the attraction between planet and planet that keeps the whole universe going in this beautiful panoramic pattern. The old wise men of religion, the seers of the past know many of these sciences, astronomy, astrology and arithmetic and put them down in the ancient books. As the Vedantists have said and Avatar Meher Baba has explained that this whole Universe is one supreme conscious energy, the Adi-Shakti the primordial energy, a fact which the Western scientists are now slowly comprehending. The great Astro-Physicist, James Jeans says that the Universe now appears more as a stupendous mind than a gigantic machine. The great seers had said that even the smallest particle of matter the 'atom' has 'atma' the secret of which the Western scientists have been able to unravel only now. By splitting the atom they have been able to produce tremendous energy. So, from the olden days there has been no conflict between

science and religion. Then why should there be conflict now. Through these scientific and technological advancement many wonderful things have been produced. Man has reached the Moon and is on his way to the Mars. But instead of applying this scientific knowledge for the good of mankind some of the great nations are busy producing great means of mass destruction. They are preparing big stock-piles of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons and ballistic and orbital missiles and are ready to destroy each other and rest of the innocent World at a moment's notice. At any moment at any place any conflagration may erupt into a nuclear holocaust destroying humanity and the so-called modern civilisation.

It is stated in many of our scriptures that dissolution, a great Catastrophe, Mahapralaya is going to take place in this Kaliyuga and the old corrupt order is going to be destroyed and a new generation will rise from amidst the ruins. Avatar Meher Baba has said that a great Catastrophe is going to befall mankind and three fourths of World will be destroyed and the remaining humanity will rise to live in peace and concord. As He says "the greatest danger to mankind is not from any natural Catastrophe but from man himself. No power on Earth, nuclear or otherwise, will save humanity. It can be saved only through Divine intervention—and God has never failed humanity". So let us hope and pray that the message of the Masters, the message of Universal love and brotherhood will awaken and unify mankind, and peace and tranquility descends on this troubled World.

Truth About Meher Baba*

This very day, 75 years ago, a boy by name MERWAN SHERIARJEE IRANI was born of a poor Zoroastrian Irani family of Poona in the subcontinent. The birth of this child was perfectly normal. He grew up in a perfectly normal way as any normal child. He acquired school and college education in the usual normal manner. At the age of 19, the normal course of his life changed and his studies were interrupted when abruptly one day he met an old remarkable saintly Muslim woman by name HAZRAT BABAJAN who was then 122 years old. One night she kissed him on his forehead and he lost consciousness of his body and surroundings. His parents were deeply concerned about his state and he was placed under medical treatment, given sleeping draughts and morphia injections, but nothing had any effect. However, gradually he regained some consciousness of his body and surroundings and had an impulse to lead an itinerant life. He contacted in Dec. 1915 the famous HAZRAT SAI BABA, a Muslim Perfect Master who was revered by His disciples and lacs of followers. No sooner he was face to face with this Hazrat than he prostrated himself on the road before Him. When he rose, SAI BABA looked straight at him and spontaneously uttered just one word "PARVARDIGAR". It was there that he met UPASANI MAHARAJ, a Perfect Master, who, strange as it sounds, immediately on seeing him for the first time, flung a stone at him. The stone hit his forehead with force exactly on the same spot where BABAJAN had kissed him. Thus he was brought still further down

* See foot-note on page 51

into gross consciousness. It also made him know that he is THE ANCIENT ONE. At the end of December 1921, he was restored to full normal consciousness. Soon thereafter, in the presence of a number of people, UPASANI MAHARAJ said, "This boy will move the world. Humanity at large will be benefitted at His hands." The same renowned Perfect Master then finally called the closest one of this man and said to him, "Your friend is God Realised. Carry out every command and every desire of His". Before he left this Perfect Master, one night this very Perfect Master folded hands and said to Him, "Merwanjee you are ADI-SHAKTI (meaning PRIMAL POWER). You are The Avatar – The Awakener". Thus at the age of 22, he became a Perfect Master and started upon His Universal work. Soon people started gathering around Him and His growing number of disciples included all castes and creeds and He came to be known as MEHER BABA meaning THE COMPASSIONATE FATHER. Even BABAJAN once declared about Meher Baba "This child of Mine will shake the world to a great upheaval."

Meher Baba, from 1922 until January 31st, 1969, when He dropped His physical body near Ahmednagar, carried out His Universal Work for humanity, irrespective of caste, creed or country. No one knows exactly what His work has been. The Work has never been restricted to any place, or class or people or religion but has been the arousing of an impulse for man to surpass himself. That the Work has been physically exhaustive, there is sufficient evidence. Only recently Meher Baba said, during His prolonged Seclusion of years, "How I kept My Work going over the last stretch of its completion, I alone know, You

cannot have a seed of an idea how crushing the pressure was, for it is beyond human understanding. On the final day, the Work that walked hand in hand with the Seclusion made My body felt as though it had been through a wringer."

Meher Baba's physical outward multiple activities during these well over last 40 years consisted mainly of the establishment of His abode at Meherabad near Ahmednagar, travels through the length and breadth of the subcontinent and also mostly Iran at first and then throughout the world and the personal contacts for spiritual reasons of the highest order with God-Intoxicated souls commonly known as 'masts'. This aspect of Meher Baba's Work is one which has no parallel. Its spiritual significance and importance is beyond us. The only outward physical importance and great significance is in the fact it was spread over a period of 13 years and carried out with persistence and great hardship and that it took place during the years of intense upheaval in the world, before, during and after the second world war and in the period when independence was achieved in the subcontinent which passed through great trials. Dr. William Donkin, a disciple of Meher Baba, in his memorable book "THE WAYFARERS" has quoted verbatim what so many masts, saints, and spiritually advanced souls have spontaneously uttered on their own about the real spiritual heights and status of Meher Baba. This they have done immediately on seeing Meher Baba who always travelled incognito on these masts tours. To quote just two:—

1. CHATTI BABA—A Saint on very high spiritual plane—Said, "There will be so great a calamity in the world that no one can imagine it, even brother will kill brother and there

will be great tribulation. Then all the world will think of Meher Baba. At that time Meher Baba will draw aside the veil and all will pay obeisance to Him."

2. MAULANA SHAMSUDDIN ULEMA—An adept Pilgrim on the Divine Path—said, (when Meher Baba met him incognito in the darkness of the night.)—"In the darkness of the night I see the Light of God."

By now Meher Baba has His admirers, followers and disciples in lacs from all walks of life in almost all the countries of the world wherein centres have been established by them.

The most outstanding book by Meher Baba Himself is "GOD SPEAKS" which has been widely read by now by so many ardent spiritual aspirants and seekers of Truth throughout the world.

Meher Baba has, during all these long years, given many Messages of deep spiritual significance and some of which are those which have never been heard before by humanity. He has also made many outstanding Declarations on subjects hitherto not known and chiefly about His own Spiritual Status. Here are 2 of the many clear emphatic Declarations and Assertions made by Meher Baba regarding Himself.

1. "If you had but a glimpse of what I REALLY AM, you would forget yourself completely and be conscious only of God."
2. "I have come not to teach but to awaken. Understand therefore that I lay down no precepts, When I release the tide of TRUTH which I have come to give, men's daily lives will be the living precept. The words I have

not spoken will come to life in them. My present Avataric form is the last incarnation of this cycle of time, hence My Manifestation will be the greatest. I had to come, and I have come. I AM THE ANCIENT ONE."

The most outstanding activity of Meher Baba, as almost all of us know, has been His Self-imposed Silence which He commenced on Friday July 10th, 1925 and which He continued till the end. This is something unheard of in the spiritual history of mankind and an unparalleled event of highest spiritual significance in the living memory of mankind. Regarding His Silence Meher Baba has Declared—

1. "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."
2. "My Silence and the imminent breaking of My Silence is to save mankind from the monumental force of ignorance and to fulfill the Divine Plan of Universal Unity. The breaking of My Silence will reveal to men the Universal Oneness of God—which will bring about the Universal Brotherhood of man. My Silence had to be: The breaking of My Silence has to be soon."

Meher Baba is no longer physically amidst us from the afternoon of Friday January 31st of 1969. Doctors attending on Him; and one of them a Doctor of top eminence; have all pronounced Him 'dead' by natural death. In response to the cable requests from people all over the world, His physical body lay day and night open from Friday January 31st. till Friday February 7th. So many from all over the world rushed

and paid Homage to Him with an indescribable flow of love for Him. Finally, the physical body has been interned, according to His Wishes, in the tomb He had ordered to be built long time ago at Meherabad near Ahmednagar. People have thus actually witnessed Meher Baba as 'dead' and interned in the tomb.

Well then, what about the most spiritually significant and thundering breaking of His Silence and His uttering THE WORD of words and the Universal upheaval and transformation effect that the breaking of His Silence was to make on not only each and every human being but each and every living creature in creation? And what about Himself? That He is The Ancient One—The Highest of The High; His Advent as the Greatest Avatar, Redeemer, Awakener of our age, His Glorious Manifestation as never before and that He will prove to be The Expected One who will also be the Accepted One while He is yet in this body?

These are some of the most obvious natural questions asked by almost everyone these days. And the straightforward answers to all these questions asked are that apparently on rational commonsense basis, Meher Baba is 'dead' and that He is One in the spiritual history in the living memory of mankind who, although in Silence for so many years, has said so much but has brought about and fulfilled absolutely nothing at all.

But, pause a little. **BASED ON VERY CLEAR SPIRITUAL FACTS ALL THIS IS NOT SO AS IT PRESENTLY APPEARS TO BE.** We know that many of you will pronounce that what we tell you all today, outrages commonsense. But, we repeat and repeat most emphatically that **BASED ON VERY CLEAR SPIRITUAL FACTS ALL THIS IS NOT SO.** Meher

Baba, irrespective of HIS Spiritual Status whatever one may take It to be is definitely not an ordinary human being. There can be and there is no iota of doubt to this primary fact and for this reason alone in the beginning of our talk we have told you about the early life of Meher Baba and how from Perfect normality, He ascended to perfect supernormality. Also, surely we cannot just brush aside all that more than one renowned and revered Perfect Masters of Their time declared openly about Meher Baba and His Real Spiritual Status. And, can we also forget some of the most outstanding utterances by so many saints, masts and Advanced Souls on the Spiritual Path? All these when put together like beads on one string lead to another very important fact in regard to the Real Spiritual Status of Meher Baba who Himself has said and said so often and so very clearly. "I AM THE ANCIENT ONE. THE HIGHEST OF THE HIGH." It is beyond the scope of our human comprehension to grasp intellectually the significance of the Utterances, Declarations and Assertions of such a Personality, of Perfection like Meher Baba who is nothing short of TRUTH PERSONIFIED. It is for this reason that Meher Baba has said,

1. "Don't be hasty in forming opinions regarding My Words and Deeds. My words will prove to be true, but I alone know how, when and where. You will not understand mystical statements. Intuition is required."
2. "Everyone is free to interpret My Words in any way they think and feel. But one thing I tell you, that whenever I say a thing, I naturally use My own 'language' and whatsoever is said by Me is TRUTH. But My

'language' is such that none can understand or grasp the underlying meaning of what I say; therefore when I want to say a thing I have simultaneously to make use of your language also knowing well that you would understand nothing whatsoever if I were to make use of My 'language' alone."

It is equally important to note well the Utterances of Meher Baba in regard to the important phases of His Humiliation and Glorification—

1. "My long expected humiliation is near at hand."
2. "The love, courage and faith of my Lovers will be put to severe test, not by Me but by DIVINE LAW. Blessed will be those among you who will hold fast to Me at the zenith of this crisis and they will transcend illusion and abide in Reality. They will emerge triumphant in the Divine Glory of My Love."
3. "My Glorification will replace My Humiliation."

Finally, very recently Meher Baba said—

"THAT WHICH IS TO HAPPEN WILL BE SOMETHING GREAT, SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE, SOMETHING THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN FOR BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF YEARS."

Before we elaborate this statement, we are reminded of what Meher Baba had told us years ago. He said, "whatever I have said must and will come true. My words can never be in vain. When it appears otherwise, it is due to your ignorance and lack of patience."

In spiritual history of our living memory we have known of Noah's Ark. Even MAHAPRALAYA i.e., the total destruction of the world. We have actually witnessed something great like sight restored to the blind, worst afflicted cured by mere touch and even raising of the dead. We have also witnessed something still more great viz., a Prophet raise Himself on the Easter Morn. And so, what is this that Meher Baba has said so very clearly and emphatically almost on the eve of His present phase of Work? It is this that His Mission still continues. The dropping of His physical body is a prelude of His Glorious Manifestation which will definitely replace His present Humiliation. So this which is to happen will be something great, some thing that has never happened before, something that will not happen again for: billions and billions of years.

Note: * A talk delivered on behalf of BABA GROUP, Karachi (Pakistan) by Mr. Minoo Kharas on February 25th, 1969, at the Jamshed Memorial Hall, Karachi Theosophical Society, to celebrate the 75th Birthday of Meher Baba.

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S 76th BIRTH DAY CELEBRATIONS:

Baba Centres have Commenced Celebrating Avatar Meher Baba 76th Birth Day for 76 days as detailed hereunder:—

1. Kakinada Centre from 12-12-69 to 25-2-70
2. Masulipatanm -do -
3. Narasaraopeta 12-12-69 to 25-2-70
4. Guntur 12-12-69 to 25-2-70
5. Anakapalli -do-
6. Vijayawada from 1-1-70 to 17-3-70
7. Rajahmundry at the Meher Vihar Trust—Nama Sankirtan from 5 Am to 6 Am (from 22-12-69 to 25-2-70).

News in Brief:

Avatar Meher Baba 76th Birthday Celebrations,
Meher Centre:

A N A K A P A L L E.

On 12-12-1969 Meher lovers gathered in the Meher Centre, Anakapalle early in the morning. The centre is well decorated with appealing and attractive portraits of Beloved Baba and was shining with bright lights. There are slight showers at 5-00 A.M., when the lovers offered Arathi to beloved Baba with heartfelt remembrance of His Advent. Pooja & Sankirthan was followed for about 1½ hours. Exactly at 6-32 A.M., when the light of Sun is rising on the East, the seven coloured flag depicting the path of spiritual light is hoisted by brother M. Venkatarao, Vice-President of the centre amidst loud slogans of "AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI". Janda Vandanam song was played by lady lovers. Dr. P. S. R. Swamy Joint Secretary of the centre explained the implicated Divinity of the seven coloured flag and also the importance of performing birthday celebrations for 76 days, each day representing each sacred year of His Advent. The importance of performing the celebrations in the centre & lovers' houses with love & devotion to The Beloved has to be felt as souls' offering to Baba in His Divine presence as Beloved Baba is the President of this centre and has blessed the lovers of His Centre at its inauguration. After performing repentance prayer and Arathi Thirtha Prasadams are distributed. Again evening prayers were performed from 6 to 8 P.M. About 50 lovers participated in the morning and evening performance. The programme for performing the evening prayers every Saturday in the Bala Vihar Centre and every Sunday in Meher Centre while prayers to be performed on other days in the lovers' houses was decided and announced.

JAI BABA !

B. Dayakaram
Secretary :

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