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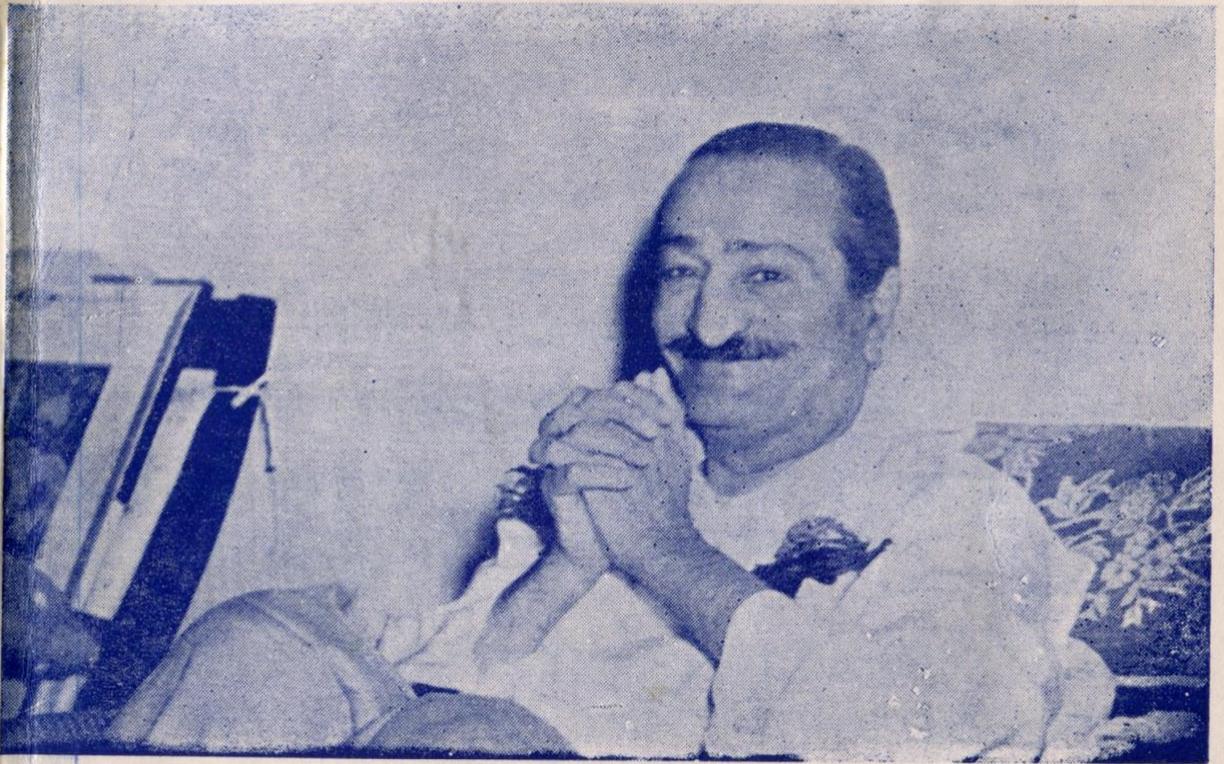
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MONTHLY

May & June 1973

divya vani

(DIVINE VOICE)



AVATAR MEHER BABA

EDITOR

SWAMI SATYA PRAKASH UDASEEN

Sole Distributors :

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Sri Nagar, KAKINADA-3. A. P. INDIA.

Number 5 & 6

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SPECIAL NOTIFICATION

In spite of our special attention and efforts to bring about the May and June issues of "Divya Vani" in due time, we regret we have to be satisfied to have a combined issue, for both the months (May & June '73) and that too late as this. We feel sorry for this kind of delay which is mainly due to the trouble in printing-press management, which we are glad to note has been amicably settled between the management and the workers finally. We hope to have the July issue of 'Divya Vani' in usual time this month and we will be having 'Divya Vani' regularly issued thereafter. We are glad to inform our readers that special arrangements are made for this purpose and in this connection, we draw the kind attention of our subscribers and contributors to the fact that all our Offices are being shifted to Kakinada, East Godavari Dt., A. P. India, permanently and that Avatar Meher Baba Mission, 2-26-4: Sri Nagar, Kakinada-3, East Godavari Dt., A, P. India, have been appointed as Sole - Distributors for all the Publications of the Meher Vihar Trust and that they will be in the entire charge of this work hereafter.

As has been announced in our Special Appeal in the previous issue of "Divya Vani" all steps necessary for ensuring timely and regular issue of "Divya Vani" every month and to make all the publications of the Meher Vihar Trust available for our readers are being taken now. We request all concerned that hereafter, all correspondence shall be addressed to our KAKINADA address (2-26-4: Sri Nagar, KAKINADA-3, A. P. India) and all Money Orders and Cheques etc., shall be sent to us to this new address henceforth, in the name of The Meher Vihar Trust or Avatar Meher Baba Mission (Kakinada-3) and NOT to Hyderabad-29., A. P.

We are happy to announce that the 10th Anniversary of the Meher Vihar Trust and the 3rd Anniversary of the Avatar Meher Baba Mission will be celebrated at KAKINADA for three days, on the 23rd, 24th & 25th of August 1973 in all

(P. T. O.)

solemnity and purity of Love, re-dedicating ourselves in absolute surrender at the feet of our compassionate Divine Father, Avatar Meher Baba and with determination to serve His Cause to the best of our abilities. On this happy occasion, we beseech and pray for the benedictions of our Silent Master, Meher Baba and all His lovers, which we hope to treasure in all humility.

We hope that difficult times are by now passing off and every thing will be in tune and in good humour with His Loving Presence and Divine guidance and that all our brothers and sisters will extend their good wishes and their helping hand as ever, for the progress of our work in the Cause of our Divine Father, which is dear to us all. We pray unto Him to Bless us all to live the life of Love and Purity and follow the Way of Life He has kindly shown us by His own and by way of His teachings.

With loving regards,

1st July '73 :
"Meher Ashram"
2-26-4: Sri Nagar,
KAKINADA-3, A. P.
India.

Yours fraternally,
Swami Satya Prakash Udaseen,
Editor: DIVYA VANI, Managing Trustee,
The Meher Vihar Trust and the Sole-
Trustee: Avatar Meher Baba Mission.

Monthly:

May & June 1973

D I V Y A V A N I

(Divine Voice)

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Editorial :

MIRACLES

Experience of miracles—a turn towards a hoped for beneficial result when humanly speaking, everything points towards a contrary ending—is what tends to make people give their faith to saints and sages, or pirs and walis, In India there has been a continuous traditions of offering honour, homage and hospitality to persons who turn away from worldly life, don the Sanyasins robes and devote themselves to other worldly joys, heedless of worldly ambitions and worldly happiness. Such people are considered as repositories of an indefinable power which can condition events that spell worldly fortune and worldly happiness to their supplicants. There are—let us call them Yogis who perform miracles masked such as gettings from nowhere as gold rings—watches—coins and what not.

Such miracles however sensational do not take one nearer to reality or God. On the contrary they mislead by promoting a belief that power is the essence of realization one has to attain. A love of power is an attribute of egotism and when by implication emphasis gets to love of power, entanglement with the illusions of ego are unconsciously reinforced and strengthened and the goal is lost. To genuine Lovers of God, power as such carries no glamour and if power is sought consciously or unconsciously for itself, then the nature is still in the grip of the ego. Purification in the sense of being freed in thought, word and deed from the corrupting taint of ego confers power; but it is a power which comes masked and used out of compassion spontaneously and unostentatiously to giving internal strength and external relief from suffering to others when they ask for the same with pure and sincere feeling.

Beloved Baba had time and again denied involvement in performing miracles in the affairs of His Lovers. But there was and there is never a Lover who in one way or another has not experienced the impact of a healing touch in personal affairs which helped to resolve inner tensions or assuage the anguish of the hearts as the starting point for their getting involved with Baba. But more than relief from trouble and anxiety, the

awakening which endears the heart to every one and every thing is the loved response that Baba evokes and which ties the Baba Lovers to Baba in indissoluble bonds of self-denying love; words fail to figure out the experience and the experience has to be had for knowing what it is or what it can be. Miracles belonging as they do to the shadowy part of our existence are not and can never be a substitute for that soul-felt inner experience.

Suffering as an experience of the strength to bear can promote self-discovery. Its avoidance can frustrate the deliverance of life from the repressive limitations of ego. But suffering is not to be courted and ought not to be courted for its own sake without making one heir to a renewed slavery to the infirmities of ego. But where the heart finds its commitment to Baba, it takes suffering in its stride, not quailing from it nor fighting against it with a retaliatory insurgence. A being which is immune to the effects of good fortune and ill-fortune is the product of Baba Love. Such a being transcends outer circumstances finding its real centre outside and away from such circumstances. The real miracle Baba performs with his lovers is the play on their inner attitudes and consciousness to transfigure them to poised non-subjection to external glours and sorrows.

It is God, the universal consciousness which is one with every other consciousness which it is the God given destiny of every Living being to aspire for and to realize. External miracles or their ostentatious display are an invitation to life in illusion and glaringly contradict the basic spiritual truth of life. To go after miracles or miracle-raising power is to lapse back into the lures of the transient and ephemeral.

What binds one to Baba belongs to the inner realms of consciousness. It has and can have no exterior counter-part in the form of miracles but miracles in another sense of a progressive deliverance of consciousness from its bondage to illusion are continuously experienced making life or a journey through it a rewarding joy.

RENUNCIATION

Asceticism has been preached and practiced for ages past in India as the sole pathway to God-realization. It meant a

retreat into solitude and constant meditation on God. While earthly power going with wealth, position or Office commanded respect, homage was given to persons who renounced society and took to austere way of living for God.

Because of the social distinctions, the faith and fidelity of men in society which an ascetic enjoyed, people without the urge for this way of life took to the pretensions of the same for an easy way of life to earn glorification at the hands of the people and incidentally perhaps the daily rounds of invitation for food and feast.

Too many of such pretenders and the progressive erosion of religious values and the secularizing of life at all levels had brought the Sanyasin's role into contempt. A Sanyasin's life is a life of idleness; it does not contribute service to society, a Sanyasin is intrinsically a parasite living on the labours of others. He cannot exist and ought not to be allowed to exist. God, you say! whatever we or any other body can have to do with him, when he can be the source of the waste of so many human lives. So the thinking runs of the modern man, who expresses the Scientific view on Men and Matters.

These are germane questions and getting round them by the verbal dialectic or taking refuge in unproven assumptions which appear dogmatic is to be guilty of evasion.

Even in a worldly way, we respect people when they are restrained, when they are unselfish and when they get actively concerned about the wellbeing of others even if it means that they have to sacrifice their own. Renunciation has no merit and can have no merit as long as it is intended for display and ostentation. 'Love thy neighbours as thyself' was the word of God Jesus. If one's heart is filled with love for others as much as or even more than for one's self, renunciation comes spontaneously, and as a matter of sheer inner necessity. The other man has to be served; you cannot therefore think of yourself. What scientific thinking in which 'you are you' and 'I am I' can help to know this power of love and this power of renunciation. They are things of the heart to which thinking can have no access. Love cannot be forced; so is renunciation. If they are

real, they are spontaneous and then they do not have to be supported by a form and a name, a pattern of dress or a monastic life.

Baba in His discourses as well as in other writings constantly stressed the merits of inner renunciation and not the external forms. Unless inner renunciation exists it cannot be supported. When the indwelling spirit reigns, there is no possession and there is no non-possession affecting one's consciousness. Everything is his and everything is not his. It is the non-attachment which is the way of the indwelling universal spirit and which one cultivates not in solitudes and seclusions but in the active trafficking in the world of senses with other persons and other things. Baba says "one has to be in the world and not of it." That is the renunciation which leads to the Kingdom of God, not renunciation which takes one out of contact with the sense world and which tends towards aloofness and separation.

JAI BABA !

(E.L.R.)

NEW HUMANITY

—T. N. Ratho, B.A., LL.B.

While I was involuntarily turning the pages of some choicest magazines spread over the table in my study, suddenly an article 'Raja Rao – on America' by Elizabeth Wohl (Span – January 1973 issue) attracted my attention. This noted Indian Philosopher in his appraisal of the contemporary American youth says "An essentially new type of man is developing. He is more interested in ideas than in objects, less dogmatically moral and more purely ethical and more anarchic in temperament without the necessity of being destructive ... about to reclaim their inheritance". To him technological advances do not represent progress. Indeed, he goes further to say, the Western concepts of Progress is an illusion. He adds "the less you are interested in objects as such, the more job you will feel". He discovers great splendour in America and said "now she is turning inward for true splendour is ever inward." I have no special fascination for America or for the philosopher; nevertheless the ideas that captivated my imagination as the frame of my mind which is by now so devised as to accept such a reality with full faith on the God-Man. With a backdrop of such indelible impressions gathered ceaselessly by deliberate and sustained efforts at the feet of the Avatar of the Age, I could immediately search and discover the slowly developing conscientious urge in me. My mind flashed back to the message given by Beloved Meher Baba at Hollywood in the early thirties in this context. To a searching and forthright question what solution had he brought for the social problems confronting the humanity, pat came the reply from the All-knowing Baba that the answer was so simple that it was difficult to grasp. Most succinctly and in simple terms, Baba traced the origin of all the so-called problems; analysed their growth and development; suggested the simple remedy in an acceptable form. In a nut shell Baba explained all these problems were offspring of our now *self-interest*.

To quote Baba, "The root of all our difficulties, individual and social, is self-interest. It is this, for example, which causes corruptible politicians to accept bribes and betray the interests of those whom they have been elected to serve; which causes bootleggers to break, for their own profit, a law, designed, whether wisely or not, to help the nation as a whole, which causes people to connive, for their own pleasure, at the breaking of that law, thus causing disrespect for law in general, and increasing crime tremendously; which causes the exploitation of the great masses of humanity by individuals or groups of individuals seeking personal gain; which impedes the progress of civilization by shelving inventions which would contribute to the welfare of humanity at large, simply because their use would mean the scrapping of present inferior equipment; which, when people are starving, causes the wanton destruction of large quantities of food, simply in order to maintain market prices; which causes the hoarding of large sums of gold, when the welfare of the world demands its circulation ...

But the elimination of self-interest, even granting a sincere desire on the part of the individual to accomplish it, is not so easy, and is never completely achieved except by the aid of a Perfect Master. For self-interest springs from a false idea of the true nature of the Self, and this idea must be eradicated, and the Truth experienced, before the elimination of self-interest is possible."

One can experience truth only by Love. Love does not need a form to adore or dedicate, nor a ritual or religion to practice. An oft-repeated ritual mechanically is lost in spirit and essence and only merges in the time bound tradition. If we trace the origin of religion it would be seen that it was an effort to commemorate the association with a great spiritual Master, and to preserve his atmosphere and influence. It is like an archaeologist trying to preserve things which only resuscitate the past. Thus it serves as an historical curiosity and perpetuates the memory. The living spirit being absent, religions or organisations gradually dwindle. Our form of understanding is developed by reading, hearing, experimenting and logic. These create an illusion of real knowledge. Baba therefore urges the

ever-erring humanity to transcend above these illusions and in the highest state one feels in harmony with every one and realizes divinity in every phase of life, and is able to impart happiness to others. Way is thus shown to a practical path—where one can discharge all his normal duties and yet feels mentally detached from the world, a true renunciation and understanding. This can be achieved only by blending the two apparently insolubles with the ever fostering glue of Love.

Baba therefore said that he is above races and religion. He is universal. He is one with God; and God is everywhere in every one. Baba's prophecy has now come true. His visits to the West, specially to America, U.K. and Continent, have now begun to bear fruits of His Avataric mission of fostering union between the materialistic West and Spiritual East. Traces of surging new humanity are appearing on the horizons of the Universe. Inspired by the events about Baba's extensive travel in U.S.A. lucidly narrated by the esteemed author C.B. Purdom in his 'God-man', the above appraisal of the Indian philosopher irked my feelings and inspired me to share few of these thoughts with my other folk.

Let the Victory be unto Him – Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai.

H I S N A M E

When He who was expected came,
 so quietly, mysteriously born,
 not knowing who He was amongst us
 until the sign was given;
 the flowering God with lotus brow, —
 Merwan was His Name.
 In every sphere, on every plane
 His forerunners went before Him to prepare,
 Babajan, Sai Baba, Tajuddin, Narayan
 and great Upasni Maharaj
 waited at Sakori—
 then the moment came!
 The God-flower opened in His heart,
 the pain of knowing who He was,
 and the bliss—a man apart:
 the Christ, the Buddha in one flame;
 impersonal, divine, beloved.
 The prayers of men were answered
 when He who was expected came,
 The moon had risen, the SUN itself,
 The Light shone all around.
 Then step by step His work began,
 with clear intent and certain tread
 His suffering bliss, the TRUTH found,
 and clear as day His life unwound.
 Now dear disciples came—
 the heroes who could live with Him;
 quick to obey, quick to feel;
 ready to lose the world and self
 and listen to the WORD of God.
 He laid his finger on their hearts
 with just one glance,
 one gesture or command
 they recognised their Master—
 Meher BABA is His Name.

—Maud Kennedy

UM Amin Amen



Ahum I Am सोऽहम्

Avtaric Word

Avatar Meher Baba Premotsav

(Jabalpur: M. P. India – 5th & 6th May 1973)

Presidential Address By :

Dr. Chakradhar D. Deshmukh, M.A. Ph.D. (London)
Director – Avatar Meher Spiritual Academy, Gokulpeth, Nagpur

Brothers and Sisters: Jai Baba !

I am deeply conscious of the loving honour conferred upon me by being invited to preside over this unique global Pragnya Sammelan and Meher Premotsav. Our appreciative and loving congratulations go out to the organisers of this function and particularly to its esteemed convener Bro. Shri Girijanandanji Dubey to whom the apt title of Mahamahopadhyaya has been given by our Beloved Avatar Himself. It has been a pleasure for our Avatar Meher Spiritual Academy to re-endorse it wholeheartedly and jubilantly. And I need not conceal my unbounded joy to be in the midst of you all loving participants.

Invocation:- I invoke our Divine Beloved—Avatar MEHER BABA to kindly be with us all in His Divine Majesty. We establish Him in our hearts as the very Soul of souls and as God—the eternal and unfailingly sustaining essence of our very being. Even four years after His Mahaparinirvana or dropping of the physical body, lovers of the Beloved Avatar do experience His unfailing Divine Presence within their hearts and by their side and over their heads.

Gatherings of this type have undoubtedly an immense value. The Beloved Avatar Himself used to like them. They play an important role in the working out of His Divine Plan for

Humanity. On the one hand, we have to maintain close contact with the world of Baba-Lovers, who directly or indirectly have drunk deep at the fountain-source of Immortality and Divine Love. On the other hand, we have to maintain our links with the evolving New Humanity at large, so that the divine dispensation of the Avatar can be passed on from generation to generation, without distortion or toning down.

Divine Wisdom in Avatar's Works:- The seething mass of present day mankind is exceptionally lucky and thrice-blessed because the life-giving and comprehensive Teachings of the Beloved Avatar have this time got printed and published in the form of numerous Books and Messages, during His own lifetime and by His own sanction. The critical and creative intelligence of our age has to get riveted to this perennial source of redeeming and inexhaustible Divine Wisdom. The Universities and other teaching bodies of the world will do well to get primarily and intensively interested in studying and bestowing freely the universal Teachings of the Avatar. The Torch of Light must be kept burning lest our age relapses into the dark ages immediately after the showering of redeeming Grace by the Incarnation. The Avatar as Truth and the Avatar as Love are inseparable aspects of His divinely complete personality. These creative releases in the dynamic Manifestation have to be received by each and all with open mind and open heart. This cooperative and harmonious functioning and equipoise of mind and heart has to be ensured by those, who do not wish to deprive themselves of any fraction of the inheritance showered on us all by the Ancient One, in His unfathomable completeness and inexhaustible infinity.

Inescapable Duty:- For those, whose sense of responsibility towards themselves or the posterity is not atrophied, it is crystal-clear that they cannot avoid their inescapable duty in the present. Can we keep just idly waiting for the next Advent and merely mark time for centuries to come and sit on the fence? The divine dynamism of the Avataric accelerating impulse to humanity has to be freely, fearlessly and widely transmitted for the benefit of that mass of humanity with which our destiny is interwoven and for the New Humanity of the future that is to come. One part of the Manifestation of the Beloved Avatar,

thus, has to be inevitably and by His will, in and through His own Lovers, who are essentially inseparable from Him.

What Next:- In the history of humanity, when some great spiritual Master or Leader has wound up earthly incarnation, his devotees and admirers have often been faced with the question, 'What Next?' If he has in his own life-time nominated a successor or successors for giving guidance to his fold, the problem is comparatively less complicated, though not always most satisfactory. There is and always will be a type of persons who need and seek some guide on the gross plane. The Beloved Avatar has often said that a Master in the gross body is indispensable to most persons on spiritual Path. The spiritual evolution of humanity proceeds not merely by certain values and principles but by the directives received through human agents stationed on different levels of consciousness.

Some significant factors in the Divine Hierarchy:- Without being apologetic about it, some significant classes of persons, particularly commissioned with spiritual working, might be briefly and passingly referred to, as a prelude to attempts at the answers to the momentous question of 'What Next?' (A) *The Master, Chargeman and His Circle of twelve*. (Adi's version of Master's description on p. 71 of Perfect Master by C.B. Purdom) (B) *The Spiritual Hierarchy*, of 7000 spiritual beings (advanced or Perfect) in each *age* and (C) 56 Perfect Masters and 56 Perfect ones (Majzoobs-e-kamil) along with the Avatar in each *cycle*. (B) and (C) are mentioned by the Beloved Avatar, respectively on pages 231 & 230 of GOD SPEAKS. The modus operandi of the Spiritual Hierarchy also gets described. (P. 59, Jab. Ed. of Sparks of The Truth From Dissertations of Meher Baba—version by Dr. C.D. Deshmukh.) (D) *The Avatar and His Circle of 120*. I would like to quote the Beloved Avatar Himself briefly: "The process of the Incarnation of the Avatar is unique. Before taking on the physical body and descending into the world of duality, he gives to himself and the members of his circle special types of sanskaras known as Vidnyani sanskaras. The Circle of the Avatar always consists of one hundred and twenty members and all of them have to take an incarnation when the Avatar takes an Incarnation. The taking of the Vidnyani, Sanskaras before incarnating in the physical body is like drawing a veil

upon himself and his Circle. After taking an Incarnation, the Avatar remains under this veil of Vidnyani Sanskaras until the time which has been fixed by himself. When the appointed time comes, he experiences his own original divinity and begins to work through the Vidnyani Sanskaras, which now have been transmuted into Yogayoga Sanskaras of the Universal Mind.

The members of the Circle remain under the veil of Vidnyani Sanskaras until they get realisation of God at the time fixed by the Avatar..." (pp 47-48, Vol. III Discourses by Meher Baba. Sufism reoriented Inc.)

(E) *Baba's Mandali*:- Somewhat analogous is the phrase Mandali, which is clearly used in a very wide and liberal sense. It is the least rigid of the factors that are mentioned here. In *Life is a Jest* (Jab. Edn. p. 58), the Beloved Avatar Himself explains Mandali in following words: "Who raised this point about the Mandali? There are so many others who are of the Mandali. What about so many who are not here? Most of them are gems. Are you not all of my Mandali? Is not your obedience equally great?"

Baba does not like pointed individual references to the Mandali members. There are so many amongst you who are gems, Look at Dr. D..... M. Why should I not refer to them and many others amongst you present here? Why particular mention to some of the Mandali?

I tell you. *Those who love Baba and tell Baba's Love to others are His Mandali.* It won't make any difference whether they are near Baba or stay thousand miles away.

The functioning systems are not hypothetical but real:-
The Beloved Avatar has not Himself treated the functioning systems mentioned here from A to E as assemblages of merely hypothetical entities. He allowed the 120 members of His Circle to be portrayed in His shrine, in anticipatory imagination. In Eluru Gardens, some of us were made to represent the 56 God-realised ones for the purposes of His paying His homage to them. Dr Donkin was permitted to give names and details of many Masts in his Wayfarers. The saints, whom the Beloved Avatar contacted in Kumbh or Mast Tours, incognito, are real persons.

When in seclusion, He gave orders to some. He is acting through real beings on inner planes.

General fluidity of categories of functional systems:- In theory there could be an overlapping, at least in some degree, of the diverse categories of functional systems, mentioned by the Beloved Avatar (A to E). With the exception of Masters and a very few saints, the Beloved Avatar has scrupulously and dexterously avoided mentioning names in respect of these members of different categories of functioning systems. By resisting particularisation, even when invited to do so, he has eschewed a rigidity that is characteristic of legal or ceremonial church-world, and kept at bay the possibility of organisations directed towards exploitation of mundane or supra-mundane power or status. The Beloved Avatar, has in His divine discretion, ensured a fair and delightful fluidity in the entire situation of his description and creation. Strange as it may seem, it is this very precious fluidity, (bestowed by the Avatar to His immediate environment) which lends infinite potency to the creative evolution of His revealed Truth. It facilitates unending and multi-dimensioned creative Manifestation of the Divine Impulse given by Him to each and all and to all these functioning systems, during His Avataric Role in the physical incarnation.

Answer to 'What Next?' in the light of this significant fluidity:- Let us now come back to the vexing question 'What Next?' The Beloved Avatar has, times without number, declared that He does NOT want to establish sect, creed, religion, a set of dogmas, or types of organised churches with rigid rituals or ceremonies. Why then should we be surprised if the Beloved Avatar has not imitated others in naming one or more persons as solely his successors, for carrying on His spiritual work? He has eschewed traditional rigidity to which lesser ones have yielded. He has ensured a fluidity of developments and evolution with Avataric wisdom, trusting fully that those who have received His Truth will be able to discover its applications in changing circumstances.

Open Field:- He has given to His dear ones a vision that cannot be caged, a spirit that cannot be enthralled, a hope that cannot be defeated, a courage that cannot be cowed down,

and His own refreshing spiritual companionship that admits of no functional substitutes. The fluid situation is His creation and is a real Blessing to each and all, because it has immense potency. If some people feel very close to Him, they could legitimately do so. But the right of inheritance to His spiritual treasure is thrown open to each and all, without introducing bars or prerogatives, The Beloved Avatar invites every one to come to Him, receive freely and fully His Love and Truth and realise that God alone is real. Here the field for Avataric Leela is open, ever expanding and infinite. There is no scope for any exclusive prerogatives, jealousies or fears. Let us all turn to Him as our Divine Beloved, as the Eternal source of knowledge, bliss and power.

Points of contact in the Avatar:- Every type of person shall get a point of contact in the Beloved Avatar. I invite each and all to the High Way of the Path of Love for the Divine Revelation and Incarnation—our Beloved Avatar Meher Baba. This will automatically and inevitably initiate any one into the unlimited vastness of the Formless Beyond and the Impersonal infinity of all-inclusive divinity, because the Beloved Avatar holds within Himself the personal and the impersonal, the manifest and the unmanifest aspects of God—the illimitable ocean of existence. However, while doing so, We have no justification to close the other paths that the Beloved Avatar has Himself thrown open to each and all, to take according to their preparedness and appeal. The Paths may appear to differ. Yet God is unchallengeable one. His unity and indivisibility and supremacy remain inviolable, irrespective of diversity of appeals and experiments pertaining to the Path. But simultaneously the fact remains, that the Beloved Avatar is for all and His Message is for all . Owing to the multiple facts of His divine Personality every type of person can get a point of contact in Him; and *this* will be his *Daaman* leading him on to the fulness of realisation.

My contact with the Beloved Avatar:- Even during Beloved Avatar's life-time, and with His knowledge and sanction I have often been elaborately describing how Beloved Avatar Meher Baba first contacted me in 1932 in the mental world and not in the gross. He unexpectedly came and stood in front of me and looked into me.

In the clear and convincing expressiveness of His mental form, I saw Him as the Incarnation of Divinity and personification of spiritual perfection in a happy blending of light and colour. And my spontaneous adoration found its expression in rosy cloud of light-colour vibrations of devotion reaching out towards Him.

After this communion, Beloved Baba spoke to me in his exquisitely sweet voice of this inner plane in clear unmistakable tones. "You are closely connected with me. You are a good man." Seeing me in a clear hesitancy in accepting this comment He asked "Are you not?" And my response was my earnest mental prayer to Him "Good or bad, please take me up into you".

Response from the Beloved Master was quick. From the inexpressible spiritual beauty of His radiant bodily presence on this inner mental plane, there poured out on me in deep sky-blue colour-vibrations His Divine Love and blessings, enveloping and engulfing my entire being. With it descended on me great peace and ineffable ecstasy of deep fulfilment. It was like bathing in cool clear moon-light.

The Beloved Avatar and His Divine Word:- The Beloved Avatar Meher Baba said that the Avatars come for giving the WORD and that His mission is to give it. In and through His unfathomable and eloquent divine Silence, He has continuously given it through His Avataric Role, in many ways. In this context, He often has used a phrase 'will give,' knowing full well that many of those to whom He was addressing Himself will have to wait for considerable time to understand the full meaning of His Word as TRUTH. He says:- "The state of glorification will be when I break my Silence with the divine Word—the Word that will indisputably assert the existence of God, in the mind and heart of men—that will make the world know that God not only exists but He alone exists infinitely and eternally. "The Beloved Avatar's Silence Day Message of 1966 says: "God's first WORD was 'Who am I?' God's last WORD is 'I am God.' And the WORD that I the God-man, will utter soon will be the sound of my infinite Silence." This last part of the Message clearly hints that His silence will be infinite and interminable and that it will itself be the sound or voice which

utters or clarifies the full meaning of His WORD-I-am-God state (सोऽहम्) delivering its Truth in Silence.

The Beloved Avatar explains that the sound like 'UM' which comes when any one tries to speak out anything with closed lips is the basic sound and the seventh reflection of the original sound. He demonstrated this with closed lips in His silence to His Mandali people. 'UM' was shown in gesture-language. U when rendered vocally is uttered either as ॐ (as in but) or as ॐ (as in put). It should be simultaneously rendered in both ways and followed by M (-म्-) giving us the cosmic rhythm of all planes, So we inevitably get OM when the 'UM' is vocally rendered explicit. AUM is phonetically equated with OM (ॐ). Beloved Avatar has elsewhere described OM as the creation point (My version of Sparks of the Truth—p, 74 Jab. Edn). It has phonetic unity with Amen, Amin, Ahum, I Am. It connotes God. The *meaning-aspect* of the WORD is of course far more important than the *sound-aspect*. The Beloved Avatar has released the living WORD as TRUTH in Silence in His Discourses, Messages, Books, Prayers, and in all His actions as a part of His divine Game or Leela.

The Living WORD as Truth:- The living Word as Truth is irreducible to merely auditory or any sensations, being a *self-grounded integral eternally creative MEANING*, which includes all *values*. It breaks through all concepts, sensations, philosophies or all revelations on all planes, simultaneously *supervening* upon all of them, as the *transcendent, unfathomable Beyond God or illimitable TRUTH*.

The language of God:- The Beloved Avatar's Silence is the Silence of God. His WORD is the word of God. The breaking of the Silence is also divine. What is God's Language? The Beloved Avatar says, God understands only one language, the language of *love*. Is it a matter of surprise that God also *spoke* through this very universal, invincible, divine, Avatatic language of Love in and through Beloved Baba's *Silence*. God has given God's Word in God's own way. Human words are only fragmentary shadows of God's eternal Word as Truth (Everything). The living WORD has been bursting through Beloved Avatar's Silence all the while. While breaking through it, it retains and

sustains His Silence itself. Unimpaired and unhampered till the very last, the Divine WORD or Explicit TRUTH fortifies the Avataric Silence with a voice of million tongues!

The Prasad of the Apple-thrower in the Eternal Now:-

The feeling in the minds of some that the Beloved Avatar did not give the WORD reminds me of a significant personality-trait of the Avatar, as manifested in the distribution of the prasad of apples or oranges. With His keen sense of humour, the Beloved Avatar would look in one direction and throw the prasad of the apple in some other direction to some lover, who had to be constantly alert for catching it. It always came to him as a surprise gift, howsoever vigilant and expectant he may be. For those, who missed the catch, *the grace-gift got automatically postponed for their not being ready at the moment*, The Beloved plays His divine game of dispensation of the WORD the Truth and God-realisation, in the same spirit of Leela, with the same sense of humour, with the same sense of realism and in the utter freedom and spontaneity of inexhaustible Love.

Catch it or miss it, the showering of His Grace in abundance continuously goes on in the Eternal Now, baffling those who are not ready, and completely fulfilling those who are. Though He has never renounced the use of the word 'will' in relation to His WORD or Manifestation, He has also never ceased giving it or Himself, in the Eternal Now. It is as if with a sense of humour He is apparently merely looking at the future, but actually mainly dealing with the present, giving His grace-gift to each according to his receptivity, and playing His fond game of Prasad-Apple-throwing in relation to the entire universe.

The Daaman:- The Beloved Avatar has left His gross vehicle but He has not renounced His name MEHER. His name is the eternal link of all past and future Lovers with His eternal Presence. It is the daaman, the gateway to the eternal Baba-Truth and Baba-Presence as unfailing GOD—the only triumphant Truth of all life. Daaman means Sadara or Kafni. *He held His body like His Kafni as an instrument of His Divine Work. The Name Meher is our hold upon the Form

* The Beloved Avatar gave one such Kafni of His in my charge in 1958

Meher, which He took for His infinite Love for us. Sing His sweet Name with Love and think of His radiant form; and we have the sure Daaman that leads to Immortality.

Some practical proposals:- The individual has to work out his liberation in, into and for the society in which he lives. An attempt is here made to have some basic proposals for working out evolving social wellbeing, while remaining an integral member of society. (1) Understand the Teachings of the Beloved Avatar by intelligent reading of His works and Messages; and share this understanding with others. Meditation through reading has been in one context recommended by the Beloved Avatar Himself. Tape-recorders, Talkies, Schools, Forums, Discussion-classes, Lecture-rooms, Libraries could all be found useful. (2) Beloved Avatar's eternal Presence in our hearts is not merely a matter for blissful companionship but also an unfailing source of inner guidance. Bhajans, Community singing, dramatics, films etc., could help this inner contact as much as taking the Name (Japa), worship, meditation etc. (3) The Divine Example of Beloved Avatar's Leela in His Incarnation is a source of joy, inspiration and guidance. Avatar's films and Stories should be treasured. (4) There may be much more in the memory of Beloved Avatar's Lovers, who directly contacted Him than is obtained in printed books. Admirable are the efforts of some Baba-lovers who fish out this information and preserve in tape-libraries or films. (5) Our principal concern is to spread and pass on the Avataric awakening, to take His Name, Love and Messages to the corners of the world and all strata of life, in diverse ways. Universities, Schools, orphanages, service-leagues, Journals, Industries and institutions can become vehicles or instruments to embody or transmit the Avataric Teaching or Impulse. The Nagpur Corporation for example is to be congratulated for giving the name Avatar Meher Baba Marga to a street—the one in front of our residence in Gokulpeth. Other corporations of the world could take up this lead to immortalise some of the places closely associated with the Life and Work of Avatar Meher Baba. They would bring credit to the present generation by being alive to the importance of creating & conserving right values for the future. The channels of contact which thus get opened promote emotionally integrated

and spiritually advanced humanity infused with refreshing Meher-Spirit.

The Beloved Avatar as The World Teacher:- The Beloved Avatar is primarily concerned with God-realisation and individual and social well-being. He is first and foremost a MAN. He is a human God, and therefore inevitably becomes a World-teacher. His Universal Message and Universal Life are all for the common man. Though enjoying the Bliss of Immortality, He takes upon Himself the limitations and sufferings of sinning, toiling, seething, groping mass of humanity and lives for allaying that suffering. His service to the Divinely Intoxicated Masts, the stark Mad, the lepers, the blind, the poor, the afflicted, the lame and the handicapped is His living Message to the whole of humanity. His New Life and His descending to the level of the aspirant show His capacity to take up any station for rendering help to man in turmoil. The Divine Love caught from Him will enable restoration of unity and fraternity, lasting Brotherhood, peace and understanding, irrespective of illusory separative divisions of nationality, sex, caste, religion etc.

The Clarion-call of the Beloved Avatar:- Even in the midst of bursting nuclear bombs, the Silence of the Beloved Avatar *shall* be heard. His redeeming clarion call may be summed up as follows.

Avoid unnecessary wars and strife. Inherit my Truth of the inviolable unity of all life and the inalienable divinity of everything. Get out of the self-created complexes and tangles. Come to the harbour of Love, Peace, Understanding and eternally self-renewing self-fulfilment. Go to the root of all things; and seek right adjustments in respect of individuals, institutions, family, sex, society, nation and religion, by having the Understanding of TRUTH. Do not ask for a catalogue of Dos and Don'ts; but have understanding and awakening. for which no codes can be adequate substitutes.

Beloved Avatar's Silent Assurance:- His assurance becomes explicit in silent affirmations like these. I am and will always be with you, You are all heirs to my TRUTH. Come to Me. Have Hope. Do not worry; be happy. Think of Me. Love Me also in each other. Be courageous and inherit my lasting

TRUTH, *here and now*; and share it with all. Never for a moment doubt that I am God. Know that you all too are God, that God alone is real and that all else is illusion. I am the eternal I AM, the eternal Divine Beloved.

Let us hearken to this ringing call of our Beloved Avatar and accept Him and His TRUTH without resistances with an open heart! Priyatama Meher Prabhu Ki Jai! Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!

HIGH ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP

High on the mountain tops—are the windows of gold—
A bright morning sunrise, and an evening sunset is a sight to
behold!

Avatar Meher Baba standing there with outstretched arms...
To His children in the valley—where Maya has charmed...
High on the mountain tops; or in the valleys below
Mother nature casts her charm where all things can grow—
God sends the rain drops to water the earth—warm breezes
blow—

The Creator, Sustainer, and Destroyer our evolution knows,
When the Sun goes down like a great golden ball—
Casting rays that burnish the windows of homes so small
The Kingdom of God—The Great Shining Light ...
Shines over the earth day and night
Not to be found in some distant place somewhere—
God IS as close as a silent prayer ...
For, He is on the mountain top, and in the valley below
The search for Him ends, and begins when we know—
To look for Him and find Him within—Jai Baba!

—Dorothy L. Levy

GLIMPSES OF MEHER

(Life-Story of Avatar Meher Baba in Historic Present)

By Dr. C. D. Deshmukh, M.A., PH.D. (LONDON)

Director, Avatar Meher Spiritual Academy, Nagpur.

(Continued from December Issue)

It is during this 1931 visit of Beloved Baba to England that the author of this narration of his life-story, first hears about him in London through a news-paper report, in the Daily Herald, releasing an impressive Photo of his, and an interview calling the West to get rid of aimlessness in life,

Looking at the eyes of this photo, he finds in them, just that assurance of divine guidance, which he has been looking for.

The expression in his meaningful eyes brings to him the tidings of the Truth—

that far-off unseen land, with the realisation of the Source and Goal of life.

During this first visit of Baba England,

Purdum meets him at Devonshire, to become his loving biographer.

The London papers, with their fabulous circulation, widely refer to Meher Baba as the Messiah from India, giving free publicity to his photos, teachings and mission.

On October 2nd, Baba leaves England for Constantinople remaining there for nine days and proceedings to the

United States

by 'Rome', to spend three weeks at Harmon and one week at New York.

At Harmon Baba pays visit to 'Sing Sing' jail, where, he says, one of his agents lives, doing excellent work for him.

On the 2nd of January, 1931, Baba is back to India, again to leave for the West in March, by the 'Conte Rosso'.

The interview which Baba grants to James Douglas

is released by London's 'Sunday Express' in April,
 'Daily Mirror' also responding to his Messages.
 Beloved Baba's arrival to the shores of England
 gives a new momentum to the groping West.
 Baba goes to Devonshire and then to Lugano,
 wherein he may learns about the passing away of Sheheriarji,
 but being in the knowledge of the mysteries of life and death,
 Baba proceeds with his spiritual undertaking,
 going to England again for four days.
 During this visit of Baba to England,
 the author of this narration cancels his trip
 in the Lake District in mid-way,
 rushing to London to meet Beloved Baba.
 However, he cannot meet Beloved Baba on this occasion
 as Baba is to leave for America within a few days,
 and he has to postpone meeting the Master
 till his next visit to England,
 having however the privilege of staying
 at Baba's Spiritual Retreat during this interval,
 bringing to him an *inner* dream-contact
 with Beloved Avatar Meher,
 to gather new meaning from the Teachings
 of Krishna, Buddha and Christ.
 In Beloved Avatar Meher, we see fullness of life.
 Every look of his and every gesture springs forth
 spontaneously vibrating the Truth.
 Meeting him is a deep experience
 of being the fortunate recipient of his Love Divine,
 of initiation into the path.
 In the middle of May, Meher Baba leaves by "Bemen"
 for New York, where his arrival is flashed forth
 all over the States in head-lines.
 And Baba's Messages are received there with an enthusiasm
 unsurpassing.

In Hollywood, Baba meets many film-stars,
 inaugurating the spiritualisation of the film-world,
 and opening a new dimension of working in this field,
 which today chiefly dominated by the pursuit

of the cheap entertainment of sensation and excitement.
 Baba tells one Meher-lover in New York 'Don't worry'
 thereby importing new strength and tone of love.
 It is easy for any one to give to others
 the counsel of not allowing worry to eat into the mind;
 but when Beloved Meher asks his lovers not to worry,
 it is altogether different,
 for the spirit is now fortified against the greatest of calamities.
 Meher Baba's Messages to California and New York
 make it unambiguously clear that he does not want
 to found any new religion, cult, sect, institution or
 organisation,
 but heal the cleavage of mind and heart,
 imparting the Truth hidden in every one.
 The institutionalism of organised religion has failed.
 Real and lasting brotherhood can be attained
 not by talking of love but by practising it.
 Avatar Meher awakens this love in all who meet him.
 The dire need of the world is real love—
 not the love of romantic literature,
 not the love born of philosophical speculation,
 but love which is selfless and pure, strong and steady,
 without corruption or limitations,
 taking stock of realities,
 standing the test of practical life.
 Those who meet Meher Baba with a pure heart
 receive from him the precious gift of love—
 the love not of desperate effort,
 the love that can not be taught in schools,
 but is caught from One who has it,
 being a spontaneous unfoldment of the spirit,
 which is growing towards the sense for the unity of all life.

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(To be Contd.)

THE VISION OF GOD

P. V. P. Mrutyunjaya Rao, B.A.,
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What's that which, ere I spake was gone!
So joyful and intense a spark,
That, Whilst o'er head the Wonder shone.
The day, before but dull, grew dark?
I do not know; but this I know,
That, had the splendour lived a year,
The truth that I some heavenly show,
Did see, could not be now more clear.
This know I too, might mortal breath,
Express the passion then inspired,
Evil would die a natural death,
And nothing transient be desired,
An error from the soul would pass,
And leave the senses pure and strong,
As sun beams. But the best, alas,
Has neither memory nor tongue!
—Coventry Patmore: **Life of Life.**

Once a question was put to Holy Mother Saradamani Devi, the Divine consort of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, thus: "How does one get the vision of god". The Mother replied, "It is only through his grace. But one must practice meditation and japa. That removes impurities from the mind. One must practice spiritual discipline such as worship and so forth. As one gets the fragrance of a flower by handling it, or as one gets the smell of sandalwood by rubbing it against a stone, in the same way one gets spiritual awakening by constantly thinking of God."

From the words of the Holy Mother we can gather that removal of impurities from the mind is an essential pre-condition for the descent of the grace of the Master. Time and again great saints, sages, Avatars have all stressed on the purity

of Heart. In His Sermon on the Mount Lord Jesus Christ had said "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God". Samartha Sadguru Sri Sai Baba of Shirdi has also declared that "Persons who merely read and memorise many works without making their hearts pure, pour out precepts at debates, cavil at others and are full of self-adulation. These are not Vivekis (intelligent) and they do not attain Brahma-Jnana Knowledge of God".

Shri Meher Baba had also very often emphasized the purity of Heart. Baba said "To those whose hearts are pure and simple, true love comes as a gift through the activating grace of a Perfect Master and this Divine love will perform the supreme miracle of bringing God into the hearts of men. In this love are embodied all yogas known to saints and seekers". Elsewhere He has stated "Those who cleanse their hearts of embittering poison of selfishness, hate and greed shall find God as their own true self". "Only when the heart is cleaned out and the mind completely emptied, can they become instruments hollow as flute or drum to give forth Divine Music."

How can, then, one achieve this purity of heart and cleaning of mind which have such a vital role to play in the spiritual development of an individual? The methods suggested by the Holy Mother are 1) Meditation 2) Japa and 3) constant thinking of God. Meditation is a process in which mind is concentrated on the Divine form, attributes, and glory of God. The nature of mind is to think. It has to keep on thinking of some object or other. The mind often dwells on several issues like personal problems, politics, or society matters. Both good and bad thoughts cross the mind. Sometimes, we may get angry with a particular individual; sometimes we may think ill of a person. All this pollutes the mind. Similarly thoughts of jealousy, hatred also vitiate the mental serenity. When the mind feeds itself on such low thoughts, it becomes impure, just as a person who takes unwholesome food becomes sick. It is evident that to keep the mind in its pure and healthy state one should keep the mind engaged with good thoughts.

Let us also understand the various methods and processes suggested by spiritual Masters for the purification of heart. In this connection, beloved Baba had advised "For the purification

of your heart, leave your thoughts alone, but maintain a constant vigil over your actions. When you have thoughts of anger lust or greed, do not worry about them, and do not try to check them. Let all such thoughts come and go without putting them into action. Try to think of counter thoughts in order to discern, to discriminate, to learn and above all to unlearn the action which are prompted by your impressions." Bad thoughts are not to be checked, for in the process of checking a lot of psychic energy is to be spent. Alternatively, bad thoughts are to be allowed to be wasted away and are not to be translated into action. It is perhaps the intention of Baba that when a bad thought is translated into action, its impression becomes deep. When one is in the fit of a depressing anger, will it be possible for one to think of counter elevating thoughts? This is very rarely possible and that too for persons of a high spiritual advancement. The other process given by Baba is to entrust the mind to His care by constantly remembering Him and by repeating His name silently as often as we can. "When you entrust your mind to me by constantly remembering me, there are no thoughts left on which the mind can feed. This fasting is the true and essential fasting. Starving the stomach may benefit the health but it does not necessarily help spiritual advancement".

What really happens in the process of Meditation? This can be better explained only in the words of blessed Lord Sai Baba "The mind is turbulent. Effort must be made to make it steady. Just as a fly flies and sits on all objects, but turns back, when it sees or approaches or tries to see God, it turns away its face. When thus the unruly mind does not merge with God, samsara (worldly existence or re-birth) is inevitable. For Dhyana (meditation), meditate on me either as in form or formless, mere Ananda. If such formless contemplation is hard, then think of my form, just as you see it here. Think of it night and day. With such meditation the mind dissolved into unity (i.e, attains Laya), The difference between subject and object (me and you) in the act of contemplation will be lost". In Bhagavad Geeta, Lord Krishna had advised Arjuna thus "Therefore, fix your mind on Me and establish your reason in Me alone, thereafter you will abide in Me. There is no doubt" (Ch. xii-8). This is the result of meditation, which merges the

mind with God. Meditation is one of the ways, perhaps the best way, to clean the heart. This method is also a bit difficult, as amidst our intense day to day activity, it may not be possible for us to spare long hours for contemplation. There is one method, suggested by Shri Meher Baba, which is no doubt possible for one and all to follow. Further in this method there is no conscious effort. "The Best way of cleansing the heart is by leading a normal worldly life. That would help you to live in the midst of your day to day duties and responsibilities, the likes and dislikes, etc. All these can become the very means for the purification of your heart." In this method there is no repression or indulgence. This is the Golden middle course. This is analogous to the path of 'Yuktahara & Vihara' (proper nourishment and proper entertainment) of Beloved Lord Krishna.

The second process which the Holy Mother gave is 'Japa' i.e. repetition of God's name. Several Masters like Guru Nanak and Thakur Haranath Baba have eulogized the efficacy of God's name. It is said by Sant Tulasidas that a person who utters the 'Ramanama' even in his dream once, is sure to be liberated quickly. Holy Mother had said categorically "Man becomes pure repeating the name of God. So repeat His name always". Such is the potency of God's name. God's name is an infallible means to achieve purity of Heart. It is good if a person can repeat the name of the God whole-heartedly. Holy Mother says "To pray to God and meditate on Him even for two minutes with full concentration is better than doing so for long hours without that". Even if one is not able to put his heart into it in the beginning, one should not be discouraged. Here again Mother's words are relevant. "Even if you feel no attraction for the Lord, you will succeed by only repeating His name. Whether you jump into waters or are pushed into it, your cloth, will get drenched. Will it not? Meditate every day, since your mind is yet immature. The practice of meditation will make the mind one pointed". "Even if the mind is not concentrated do not give up the repetition of the holy word". It serves One's Purpose, if God's name is repeated with or without concentration of mind, but better with concentration of mind.

In the later part of her answer, Holy Mother had stated that the spiritual awakening is possible through 'constant think-

ing of God'. Shri Meher Baba has advised us all to think of Him whole-heartedly and constantly and not be worried about anything, but to keep thinking of Him constantly. He said "Think of me more and more and all your worries will dwindle into nothing for they are really nothing and my will works out to awaken this in you, and in all." "Do not worry about evil thoughts, lust etc. Let them come and go. Do worry so that you may not forget Me! If you always remember me nothing will touch you—harm you. When you feel anger or get lustful thoughts at once remember me whole-heartedly. Let My name serve the purpose of a net around you so that like mosquitoes the thoughts may keep buzzing round you yet they will not be able to 'bite' you". In so many words has Baba emphasized the need to think of Him constantly.

Discoursing on Bhakti (worship), Baba has stated as follows: "The second stage, which is intermediate, concerns itself with the constant remembrance of God. The worshipper, through constant mental or physical repetitions (Nam Smaran or Zikra) of any one name of God, without the medium of any ceremony. In other words, when person's thoughts are always directed towards God through the waking state, even while eating or talking, he may be said to be in the second stage of Bhakti, This kind of constant remembrance of God must not be confounded with meditation. In meditation one makes an attempt to achieve fixity of thought whereas one who reached the second stage of Bhakti already possesses the one sole and single thought for God and therefore has no more need of organized thinking. Just as a variety of thoughts come to an ordinary man even without the intention on his part to have them, the Bhakti in the second stage simply cannot help thinking about the Lord, wherever and however he may be. This fixity of thought on God is higher Bhakti or worship. The third stage which is advanced concerns itself with divine love and longing of a high order. **"The higher Bhakti of the second stage ultimately leads the aspirant to this third or highest stage of Bhakti; in other words to the highest Bhakti and the true love."** From the words of Baba, we can conclude that the threshold to the highest stage of Bhakti i.e., attainment of true love, lies in the second stage of Bhakti where the aspirant constantly remembers God. Thus when the Holy Mother has advised

us to constantly think of God, she is pushing us into the second stage of Bhakti from the first stage which consists of ritualistic worship. From the second stage it is possible for one to advance to the third stage quickly.

Apart from its bestowing on the aspirant, the gift of true love, 'constant thinking of God' has one more important purpose to serve. According to Hindu Philosophy, whoever utters God's name at the time of his/her leaving mortal coil, attains God-head. Baba has also told us with His Divine authority that whoever takes His name on his lips at the time he or she breathes his or her last comes to Him. And to be able to do so Baba cautioned us saying "Unless you take My name on your lips, remember Me from now on constantly, you cannot remember Me and keep My name on your lips at the time you drop your body".

Thus constant thinking about God not only bestows the vision of God, but ultimately enable one to remember God in One's last moments. The advice given by Holy mother is of immense significance to all aspirants. It has threefold effects, 1) it enables one to get vision of God, 2) it takes one to the third stage of Bhakti where true love is gained, 3) helps one to remember God in his last moments and thereby attain salvation.

Beautiful and attractive Meher Baba Latest Buttons, Plastic Design Locket, Rings, Magnetic Medallions for Car etc., Please contact:

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POONA – India.

The Meher News Exchange

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December, 1972

A 'first' Christmas with Meher Baba

(The following is an excerpt from a family Letter by Meher Baba's sister, Mani, describing Christmas at Meherazad in 1964.)

"No Christmas carol is sweeter than the one that is sung by an awakened heart—and here is one from a 'new' lover of Baba in the U.S.A. who heard of him recently at the Baba-booth in the New York World's Fair."

"He wrote to dear Fred and Ella Winterfeldt: 'On this, my first Christmas with Baba, I am so happy I could shout for joy. For so many Christmas-times I sought Him but could not find Him. The abstract concept for God was not enough. I wanted Him in human form; and now, in Meher Baba, I have found Him. He is now so real, so warm and human, so close to me. He is now so real to me that I almost expect Him to pop around the corner at any moment, so grand, so loving, with the twinkle in His eye—and that warm embrace. How I envy you who have experienced this in the flesh! And yet I am grateful that I have found Him in spirit. Oh my friends, His Love in me is so great that it flows forth to you who helped me to find Him.'"

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Lexington, Ky. has had a Meher Baba Center since last April. Meetings are held once a week, according to Sher Green, and literature about Baba has been distributed on the campus of the University of Kentucky. Baba lovers travelling through

Lexington are invited to get in touch with the group by writing to Sher at Rt. 3, Box 310, Lexington, Ky, 40505.

The Chicago Meher Baba Group hopes to open a Meher Baba Information Center, which would stock literature on Baba and provide a reading area.

Baba Lovers travelling through Paris would be welcome at meetings of the Meher Baba group there. The group meets every two weeks. Don Stevens leads the meetings with talks on Baba's "Discourses".

If you plan to be in Paris, you may write to: Mme. Y. Antoni, 76 Avenue des Champs Elysees, 75008 Paris, France.

A **Spanish** edition of "Sparks" has been prepared and is on sale in Panama. according to Delia De Leon.

Casts of Meher Baba's feet are now available from the sculptor, according to Fred Marks of England. The casts have a bronze finish and are made of a plastic which is extremely light but almost unbreakable. Those interested may write to: Gur Gif Sathus, 436 34th Street, Miami Beach, Fla.

The Entertainment Company of the Meher Baba Association of London gave its first performance of a production based on Meher Baba's Call, "Come Unto Me." The production consists of music and Baba's words.

Dr. Allen Cohen gave several talks on Meher Baba in London during November and also spoke at the University of Cardiff, Wales, and at Brighton.

Craig san Roque spoke on Baba during a series of dialogues on different religions in London last month. The series was "an attempt to understand other faiths as they contribute towards the perfecting of the community of man, as together we converge towards the Godhead of all creation."

The series was opened by the archdeacon of Westminster.

Michale Milburn of London is planning an anthology of Poetry about Baba, with publication set for mid-summer, 1973.

The Meher Baba League of Berkeley, Calif., held a two-hour mini-festival of films covering 30 years of Meher Baba's life December 5 at the University of California.

The White Pony Players, a group of Baba lovers, presented "Jamesena Turquoise," an allegory of the spiritual path portrayed through puppetry, at the University of California December 10.

Meher Baba League of Berkeley is sponsoring regular study classes on Baba's "Discourses." The classes are conducted by volunteers,

The Tampa, Fla. Meher Baba group hopes to sponsor a joint talk by Dr. Allen Cohen and Baba Ram Das (Richard Alpert) at the University of Tampa this winter.

Darwin Shaw of Schenectady, N.Y., a long-time follower of Meher Baba, spoke December 1 at Harvard University's Divinity Hall on "Meher Baba and His way of Truth and Love."

Christmas at the Center

Christmas at Meher Spiritual Center will include four days of special programs.

On Friday night, December 22, there will be a program at 8-30 p.m. in the Meeting Place: Slides of Meher Baba with music (donated to the Center by the Meher Baba House),

Saturday, December 23 there will be three events, The Happy Club children's party, including a visit by Santa Claus, will be held at 1 p.m. at the Meeting place.

At 8 p.m. the Society for Avatar Meher Baba will present a video tape program at the Saroja Library (originally given on cable television in New York last July 10).

Simultaneously there will be in the Meeting Place a Musical Variety Show, originally given for the mandali in India by a number of the Myrtle Beach group who were visiting.

At 9 p.m. there will be a repetition of these programs in order that every guest at the Center, as well as the nearby community, a total of about 120, can each see both programs.

On Sunday, there will be tapes, films of Baba and a program of music by the Myrtle Beach Madrigal Society, composed of Baba followers.

On Christmas Day, children of the nearby community will present a program at 11:30 at the Meeting Place. At night, there will be a program of Meher Baba's words and music by the Madrigal Society. A light buffet supper will be served.

New Book for Children

A new book for children of all ages, "Meher Baba's House," by Govinda, with illustrations by Dot Lesnik, has been published by Sheriar Press, Inc.

The book of poems, written at the Meher Spiritual Center last summer, are accompanied by watercolor sketches. A picture of Baba with a group of children is included.

The two-color 40 page hard-cover book is available from Sheriar Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1023, N. Myrtle Beach, S.C.

New York Program

Meher Baba House in New York will have a Christmas program to include music, a skit and a film of Baba.

Music will be provided by Dusty Schen's musical group.

News & Notes

Avatar Meher Baba Hyderabad (Koti) Centre

The inauguration function of A.M.B.H. (Koti) Centre (a new hall built at the above address) will be held on 14th and 15th July 1973 as per programme. You are cordially invited with your family and friends to participate in the BABA LOVERS gathering and make the function a real feast of BABA'S LOVE AND TRUTH.

Bro. P. D. PUKAR Meherpuri, Hamirpur Dt. U. P. has Kindly consented to be the Chief Guest and conduct the proceedings under the benign love of the presiding deity, BELOVED BABA.

Every care is being taken to make your stay here comfortable and a word in advance, if not out of place, would enable us to exert our attention to individual needs.

HIS WILL BE DONE
EVER IN HIS SERVICE
N. S. Prakasa Rao
(Convener)

Avatar Meher Baba – Srikakulam Centre.

Avatar Meher Baba's Seventy Ninth Birthday was celebrated very successfully on 25th February 1973.

The day commenced with the offering of 'Aarathi' at 5 a.m. to Baba. With his portrait mounted on a Jeep, there was a procession round the streets with Sankeerthan. At 12 noon, there was poor feeding with the help rendered by Sri A.V.K. Hanumantha Rao. At 4-30 p.m. a programme of music was gone through with Sri Mukhalinga Rao singing accompanied by Srimati Bharati Mani on the Violin and Sri M.K.R. Prasada Rao Mridangam. It was followed by a solo performance on Veena by Mrs. M. Appala Naidu.

At 6 p.m. there was free distribution of clothes to poor with the help of local Merchants' Association. A public meeting was held under the presidentship of Sri K. Seetaramayya, B.A., B.L., Advocate when Sri T.N. Ratho Public Relations Officer, Hindustan Ship Yard, Visakhapatnam gave a discourse on the life and message of Avatar Meher Baba. P. Ramachandran, Lecturer, Govt. Polytechnic spoke on 'Divinity and my experiences'. The meeting was concluded with a film of Dharshan programme of Baba in 1965.

Ladies and gentlemen in hundreds attended the meeting and made it successful.

Bhopal centre, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)

Avatar Meher Baba, Bhopal centre, Bhopal celebrated Birthday of Beloved Baba from 24th to 28th Feb. 73 and 3rd and 4th March 1973.

The celebrations were marked with simplicity but had great impact on the whole area of Taty Topoy Nagar (Bhopal)

through the melodious songs of Brother Madhusudan of Poona (Maharashtra) who had come here for a day. Beautiful decoration of Baba photo was done at various places and specially at stadium Hall. The details of the programme are given below.

24-2-73 At 7-30 p.m. Cinema show by the Courtesy of State Government Information and Publicity Department.

25-2-73 At 5-00 a.m. up to 7-00 a.m. Arti and Bhajan by Sri Kashyap Brothers & Prasad distribution.

At 12-00 Noon Narayan Seva in which Food packets were distributed to about 70 poor.

At 3-00 p.m. Bhajan by Datta Mahila Samaj, Bhopal. Smt. Shakuntala Nafde told about Beloved Baba's Five Masters and a short true incident about a Mandali member to illustrate the necessity of concentrated faith on one Master. With Haldi Kum Kum and prasad distribution the programme was concluded. At night, 9-00 p.m. Bhajan by Avatar Meher Baba Bhopal centre and Sri Kashyap Brothers of Bhopal, and Prasad distribution.

26-2-73 At 9-00 p.m. Bhajan by Sai Nath Bhajan Mandali, Bhopal.

27-2-73 Shri Madhusudan of Poona received at Bhopal Railway Station at 6-00 a.m. At night 9-00 p.m. by his melodious Bhajans whole of Tatyia Topey Nagar (Bhopal) area was filled with joy.

28-2-73 Departure Br. Madhusudan to Poona in the Afternoon.

At 9-00 p.m. Bhajan by Shri Gurudev Seva Bhajan Mandal, Bhopal.

3-3-73 From 5-00 p.m. "Akhand Baba-Nam-Jap" for 24 hours and Feast to Baba Lovers on 4-3-73 After-Noon.

Dowlaishwarm Centre (E. G. Dist)

Baba's 79th Birth Anniversary Report

Beloved Baba's 79th Birth Anniversary was celebrated most enthusiastically for 79 days from 9-12-72.

On 25-2-73 the programme commenced with 'Namasmaran' for 79 minutes from 3-36 a.m.; at the stroke of 5 'Parvardigar' prayer was recited. Sri Ch. Subba Rao of Kakinada spoke to a new group of admirers and Baba lovers on love and Truth messages of Baba. Baba's 7 coloured Flag was hoisted by Sri A. Somaiah, Manager, Godavari Barrage circle project and Sri Ch. Subba Rao explained the significance of 7 colours, After Aarati to Beloved Baba, the lovers took darshan of Baba's Sadra, Nails, Hairs and Kafni etc.

In the afternoon 48 Sadhus were fed. Evening programmes commenced with rendering of Baba songs by Shri Ch. V. Subba Rao and party (All India Radio Artists). A public meeting was arranged at 7-30 p.m. under the presidency Sri A. Somaiah and Ch. Subba Rao inspiringly spoke about his contact and experience with Beloved Baba etc. Later 'Drohi' Drama was enacted by Meher Baba Bala Samajam. The function ended with Aarti and distribution of prasad. All Baba Lovers and elite of the public actively participated in the function.

Avatar Meher Baba Centre – Bilaspur:

"Silence is the climax of sound" with this caption I have come across an advertisement in English Paper regarding a new wave film "KOSHISH". I am here on my job and staying in hotel. I wanted to fill up the gap of time in between and so had been to this picture. It is really lovely and educative picture and I could feel "BABA'S NEW LANGUAGE" OF SIGNS & GESTURES was vividly portrayed on scene. What impressed me most was the Silent sufferings of both the HERO & HEROINE quietly facing the hazards of life. Though their lack of speech was due to their deaf and dumb creations their love (not carnal) was dynamic and full of Pathos. I could feel the presence of 'BABA' and felt how agonising was His life in love for all His creation in spite of all His Blissful state. Back to my room I felt silent vibrations, and felt like writing this Baba Birthday report without any further delay.

UNDER the auspice of Viswa Adhmya Parishat Avatar Meher Baba Bilaspur Centre celebrated His Birthday on 25th

Feb. 1973 at 7 p.m. in RISHI KUTIR. Shri RISHI who was away to Japan reached back on 24th evening to be in time to participate in the celebration. Raisaheb Krishnanand Verma, M.A., LL.B., Supreme Court Advocate, presided over the function. The function started with prayers (Master's and Repentance) in English by Brother Ghosh followed by devotional Bhajans by Kir Binaroy and party. The attraction of today's gathering K.V. Saroja Bala. She is the widely known 'PRODIGY' who is now in her teens and from her 5th year started lecturing and giving discourses on spiritual topics very fluently specially on Ramayana & Gita; usually in her tours she draws crowds ranging from 2 to 10 thousand men, women and children. Not only Gita & Ramayana but she quotes all scriptures. She in her normal life 'off the platform' simple fun loving girl and it is really thrilling to see her talk on the stage with connection on spiritual subjects. Though I have my own reservation and keep her "just at that" people talk of her as a divine Vibhuti. I spoke to her (and as she stays with Rishis, knows my devotion and admiration and love for Beloved Baba) she agreed to talk on "AVATAR". No briefing was done, nor any details on His life given to her by me. But it was wonderful to hear her speak on Baba with eloquence quoting Ramayana "JAB JAB HO HI DHARAM KI HAN!" etc., and impressively, (may be prompted inwardly) she told her listeners about Baba's Deity, His love-life full of sacrifices. Rai Saheb K. N. Verma dealt about His life and Mission and conveyed in a reverential way this admiration to the Avatar of Age.

Mr. RISHI was all in praise for Baba and he pointed out that the devotion, Love and their steadfast belief in Baba, by His lovers is really admirable and in these days when people go on adhering to Master only on account of miracles or orations, it is very heartening to see how Baba lovers hold on the Damdan of the silent master. Rama Rao read out the messages received from Dr. Hiralal Chopra of Calcutta, Dr. Bharucha of Navsari and Brother Eruch.

Brother S. Ganesh Singh in his extempore thanksgiving speech narrated about recent Baba Amarthirth where His young New humanity gathered and asked the audience not to lose

any more time but to know of the Master. Master V. Narayana Rao, prasad distribution and after tasty snacks sweets and loving hospitality of RISHIS and enjoyable drinking of the sugarcane juice offered in abundance by Bro. Chaddha those gathered for their home with a leaflet, booklet and photos and the sweet memories of the meet.

P.S.: Later Kum. Saroja Bala was presented at Meher Niwas Adarsh colony, some good books on Baba's life, and teachings. Everything and nothing (V. Hindi by Sri Bhan)—a copy was given. Now she gives in her talks all over India briefly about Baba Philosophy of Love and Universal Brotherhood Brother S. K. Ghosh, Harinarayana Singh, Shri Chadda, Shri Mukherji too all interest in these functions.

ERRATUM

The editor regrets the occurrence of the following errors in print in the Last issue of Divya Vani and offers with apologies the corrections.

On page 13, under the title of the poem 'Peace on Earth', the name of the author should be read as Delia de Leon and not as Maud Kennedy.

On page 43, the title should be read as 'Late Sri T. S. Kutumba Sastri' instead of Late 'Sri N. S. Kutumba Sastri'

—Editor

MEHER VIHAR TRUST

Publications ready for Sale:

<i>English Publications</i>	<i>Inland</i>	<i>Foreign Sea Mail</i>
1. The New Life of Avatar Meher Baba and His Companions – Calico Binding.	Rs. 9-00	\$ 1.50
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4. <i>Divya Vani</i> – Back Issues (From April 62 to April 72) Each Copy	Rs. 1-25	\$ 0-50

N.B. (i) All the prices are inclusive of Postage by Book Post.

(ii) All Foreign orders to accompany cheques drawn in favour of "Meher Vihar Trust".

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9. Do Do	(Part II)	0-25



1. I belong to no religion. Every religion belongs to me. My religion is love.
2. I am the divine beloved that loves you more than you can ever love yourself.
3. I am the Lord of love and Servant of My lover.
4. Let *Principle* in work and *honesty* in life prevail.
5. One penny extracted, in My name, without true basis is dishonesty and will be the cause of *millions of births*.
6. Think well of those who think ill of you.
7. If you truly and in all faith accept your Baba as the Highest of the High, it behooves you to lay down your life at His feet.

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unconsciously	unconsciously	3	2	6
and and	and	3	2	14
ostentations	ostentatious	4	3	4
ephimeral	ephemeral	4	3	7
practice	practiced	4	5	1
transcened	transcend	9	1	1
riveted	riveted	12	2	7
recieved	received	12	2	17
compari- tively	comparatively	13	2	6
Himsef	Himself	13	3	17
knowlege	knowledge	16	1	13
welbeing	well-being	20	2	4
neuclear	nuclear	21	3	2
TURTH	TRUTH	22	1	1
sandlewood	sandalwood	26	2	8
Shiridi	Shirdi	27	1	3
cleans	cleanse	27	2	7
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