

Telegram: '**MEHERBABA**' Ahmednagar

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## **AVATAR MEHER BABA PERPETUAL PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST**

Post Bag No. 31, King's Road, Ahmednagar – 414 001, Maharashtra State, INDIA  
REGD. NO. E - 150A UNDER THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950  
Registered Under Section 12 - A of Income Tax Act, 1961 No. CH –P – ANGR –1487 – 75 – 76  
80 – G Certificate issued by the Commissioner Income Tax, Nasik,  
Regd. No. 083720042 Under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976  
**PAN AAATA 3271B**

Shri V. S. Kalchuri  
CHAIRMAN

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Dear Baba Lovers,

Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai.

We are writing to bring you up to date on many things concerning the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust.

As most of you know, the Trust was established by Meher Baba Himself in 1959. A great deal of important background and history regarding the Trust can be found at our website: [ambppct.org](http://ambppct.org).

While Baba signed the Trust Deed on April 6, 1959, the Trust remained inactive for the remaining ten years of His Life. In the 1960's, Baba gave certain instructions to the trustees for the future about spiritual training and educating the public about His message and life. These were later incorporated into the Trust Deed.

As a part of the Trust Deed, Baba also specified that, after He had passed away, the Trust should maintain and care for His Tomb at Meherabad, create facilities for pilgrims there, foster spiritual and cultural activities relating to the spreading of His message, and carry out certain charitable activities for the benefit of humanity irrespective of caste, creed, religion, sex or nationality.

For most of its history since 1969, the Trust has been led first by Baba's sister and intimate disciple, Mani, and then by Bhau Kalchuri, also a member of Meher Baba's mandali. With the leadership of the Trust vested in a mandali member trained by Meher Baba, a great deal of respect was naturally given to the experience and authority that came from a life of close personal service given to the Lord.

There is no doubt that an enormous amount of remarkable work has been accomplished by the Trust over the last few decades. Against the many systemic challenges that governmental regulations have entailed, with Baba's help and guidance, Bhau, in particular, has made many things possible for the Trust that were considered virtually impossible. Before Mani left us, she personally reached out to Bhau to become the next Chairman of the Trust. Much good work has been done with Bhau as our Chair for the last fifteen years.

With the failing and fragile nature of Bhau's health since the beginning of the year, we want you to know that Bhau is no longer able to attend to the day to day matters of the Trust. There is no doubt that this is a moment of significant transition for the Trust and as such, it represents a critical moment in time. It is a moment in which deep thought and self-examination is appropriate to define and determine how the Trust can best uphold the charge given to it by Meher Baba.

As such, the remaining trustees have been working on the many adjustments that will come as the Trust moves out of an era when its Chairperson was a mandali member. Each of us has been managing different aspects of the Trust for many years. The time has come now for us to create a new “post-mandali” culture in managing the affairs of the Trust enriched by legacy of the mandalis’ life of love and service to their Lord.

To share with you a few such changes: We now have increased the number of Board Meetings and meet more often informally to keep ourselves abreast of the changing needs of the Trust. The Board has been developing a more defined financial policy for over a year with a particular focus on an enhanced system of checks and balances to safeguard the financial integrity of the Trust. A small working group has also been formed to develop and implement this policy. We are currently formulating a formal code of ethics to provide transparency. And while the Trust already shares its financial information on an annual basis and is also subject to strict auditing under Indian government regulations, we will be exploring new ways in which we can share financial information with the community of Baba's lovers.

In addition, we are restructuring our committees and activities so that at least two Trustees together with other Residents are on each committee. When Eruch was asked about how the Trust should manage its affairs in the light of what Beloved Baba had said about the New Humanity he said, “Best is joint responsibility.” We believe this is true as it will help in the sharing of information and accountability. We are also implementing new policy initiatives where needed. One such example is in the selection of sponsorship to join the Spiritual Training Program. Selection once was in the hands of the Mandali, now the entire Board participates in the approval of sponsorship and visa renewal.

As we have been busy facing this new world of change, in the last few months, we have received correspondence expressing questions, concerns and misgivings about a wide range of subjects regarding different aspects of the way in which the Trust functions. While many excellent questions have been raised, we have also been on the receiving end of various rumors, allegations and unsubstantiated accusations that are simply not true. Many people have reported on what they have heard second or third hand or on something that has no attribution at all.

We do not take any of these issues lightly and consider all of this communication to be motivated by a heartfelt concern for the well being of the Trust. However, in order for us to engage in a meaningful response, we need to hear about people's first hand, direct experiences.

Most of the concerns that we have recently received revolve, in one way or another, around how the Trust deals with donations.

As a matter of principle, we state categorically, that we do not believe anyone should ever be pressured to make a donation to the Trust, that no trustee should receive any financial benefit from being a trustee, that every donation should be acknowledged with a receipt and that donations accepted for a particular purpose should be used as designated.

Concerning land, both Mani and Bhau were very focused and eager to purchase all land around Beloved Baba's Samadhi for the Trust. They also asked certain close Baba Lovers to join in and help with this endeavor. All land purchased for this purpose has long since been given to the Trust. Although, this is a significant achievement, there are still many acres of land near the Samadhi that need to be purchased by the Trust in order to secure the whole area soon to become a place of pilgrimage for the world.

It would be most productive for the Trustees to hear from people who have first hand, direct experience with the Trust that has left them troubled. The best way to do this is in a personal conversation with its opportunities for a true exchange, rather than through email or other written forms of communication. You may contact any of the Trustees without hesitation and you will have our full support and thanks in doing so. To do this, first contact any of us through email in order to set up an appointment on the phone. You may find our emails on the Trust Web Site at <http://www.ambppct.org/> under "Contact Us." However, in order to streamline this process, as primary points of contact, you may communicate with Craig Ruff, Heather Nadel, Falu Mistry or Shridhar Kelkar. Craig's email address is [craig@mail.ambppct.org](mailto:craig@mail.ambppct.org). Heather's is [heather@ambppct.org](mailto:heather@ambppct.org). Falu's email is [framrozemistry@gmail.com](mailto:framrozemistry@gmail.com) and Shridhar's is [shridharkelkar7@gmail.com](mailto:shridharkelkar7@gmail.com).

While we continue to learn and grow in managing Baba's Trust, please know that the trustees are wholeheartedly engaged in working to make the future of the Trust something that Baba Himself would be pleased to see in action.

In the Love and Service of Avatar Meher Baba,

Ali Ramjoo  
Jal P. Dastoor  
Jehangir. M. Sukhadwala  
Mehernath. B. Kalchuri  
Framroze. J. Mistry  
Shridhar Kelkar  
Craig I. Ruff  
Ramesh L. Jangle  
Heather F. Nadel

The Trustees,  
Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust  
Ahmednagar, India

PS. This letter is meant to be shared with all Baba Lovers. Please circulate it.