



IN HIS SERVICE

JANUARY / 2014

A NEWSLETTER FROM MEHERABAD

Bhau Kalchuri, 1927—2013

On 23rd October at 11:17 p.m., Bhau Kalchuri, one of Meher Baba's close mandali and the Chairman of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, passed away in Jehangir Hospital in Pune, after protracted illness. He was in his 87th year.

Known and widely beloved among followers of Meher Baba around the world, Bhau lived a life that was extraordinary by any measure. From 1953 through 1969, a time when Meher Baba had scaled back the size of His ashrams and was allowing only a very few to live with Him, Bhau was admitted to the ranks of His resident disciples and stayed with Baba in Dehra Dun, Satara, Guruprasad, and Meherazad. After the passing of Baba's sister Mani in 1996, Bhau was selected the Chairman of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, an office that he occupied for seventeen years.

As the last of the resident mandali and the final mandali Chairman, Bhau's death marks the end of an age, not only for his family and the immediate circle of those closely associated with him, but for the world of Meher Baba's lovers at large.

EARLY LIFE. Vir Singh Kalchuri was born on 13th January 1927 into a wealthy kshatriya family in the town of Katangi in Madhya Pradesh, 115 miles from Nagpur. A fine student, Bhau was awarded his bachelor's degree in agriculture and enrolled in the graduate program in public administration at Nagpur University, earning a master's degree in 1953. But after a visit to the tomb of Tajuddin Baba, a restlessness awoke, and Bhau started to take an interest in spirituality.

This culminated in Bhau's first darshan with Meher Baba, on 31st December 1952, in the town of Saoner. Despite the huge crowds, four days later Bhau managed to secure a personal interview with Baba, who accepted him as one of His resident disciples. Completing his exams, Bhau joined his Master and Divine Beloved in Dehra Dun the following May and remained with Him until the end.

LIFE AS A MANDALI. Only a fortunate few ever enjoy the privilege of living with the Avatar as one of His resident disciples. Bhau's reminiscences, in writings and talks, offer a treasury for those of future generations who want to learn what it means to be with Him and to try to please Him.

Among his many other jobs, Bhau numbered among those who served as night watchman. Except when in seclusion, Meher Baba was almost never alone; even while He slept, He kept one of the men with Him. Yet the difficulties of this job go far beyond what one might suppose! As Bhau often related, the watchman had to remain completely silent and unmoving, even when being swarmed by mosquitoes. Baba often slept restlessly, waking with requests for a glass of water or massage, sometimes engaging in conversation or other bits of exchange. Many poignant dramas played themselves out during the late night and early morning hours, as Bhau has narrated in his book of anecdotes on the subject, *While the World Slept*.

During the 1960s, Baba began to employ Bhau in another capacity, one for which he had no prior preparation or ambition: as a writer! During those years, at Baba's directive, Bhau

wrote plays, books of songs, ghazals, and translations. Almost all of this writing Bhau carried out in Hindi, his mother tongue. (Most of it has subsequently been published in English translation.)

And while engaged in this literary work, Bhau served as the channel for Baba's Hindi correspondence with His lovers in north India. For many of Baba's Indian lovers, Bhau was a key link during those years when Baba was increasingly retiring into seclusion and unavailable for darshan.

LORD MEHER. A few days before dropping His body in 1969 (as Bhau has movingly related), Baba instructed him to write His biography. For the next three years Bhau was completely immersed in this monumental work. It resulted in *Meher Prabhu*, a large single-volume biography in Hindi verse, and *Lord-Meher*, the 20-volume, 6000-page narrative that now serves as the standard account of the life of the Avatar of this age.

SERVICE TO THE AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST. In 1973 Bhau became a trustee of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, and over the next two decades he played a chief role in transforming a small family-style operation into a full-scale charitable trust capable of fulfilling Meher Baba's directives in the Trust Deed. Much of Bhau's early work was directed toward acquiring land, a formidable task indeed in the context of India's land-use restrictions. Bhau was the prime architect of many of the Trust's programs, and he developed and established much of the legal and administrative vehicle through which the Trust operates today. Even spiritual training, referenced in the Trust Deed, became a reality through Bhau's efforts. It now provides the framework under which many resident volunteers

live and work at Meherabad, Meherazad, and Meher Nazar.

Shortly before she passed away, Baba's sister Mani designated Bhau as her successor, and since 1996 he has occupied the office as Chairman of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust. Readers of this newsletter will be acquainted with the enormous, multi-faceted development which the Trust has undergone over the past seventeen years.

At the same time, from the mid-1980s through 2010, Bhau traveled annually all over the world, talking to Baba groups, spreading Baba's message to the general public, and inspiring many newcomers on the path to the Beloved's feet.

BHAU'S INTERMENT. Early Friday morning on 25th October, two days after his passing, Bhau's body was driven from Pune to Meherabad, where it was brought before Baba at His Samadhi. Throughout the morning into the early afternoon it lay "in

state" in Mandali Hall, Lower Meherabad, while streams of friends and visitors filed by to pay their respects. At 5 p.m. his body was interred in the men's cemetery, while a crowd of many of hundreds watched. His grave now stands beside that of Jangle Master, who passed away in 2006.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS
Feram Workingboxwala was the original translator of Lord Meher and other of Bhau's books from Hindi to English.

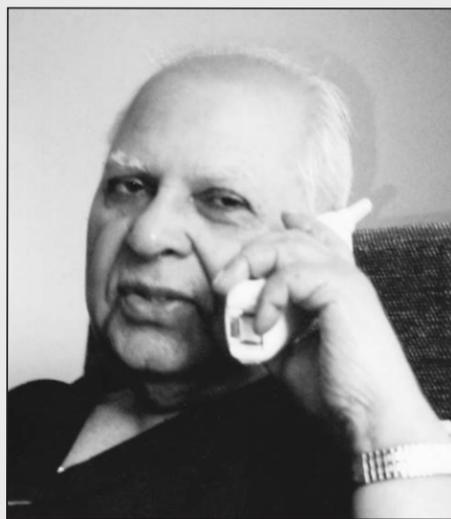


PHOTO COURTESY OF LYWOOD SAWYER
Bhau taking care of Trust business on the phone.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS
Bhau with Pendu on the men's veranda in Meherazad.

Trust Elects New Chairman

At a special meeting on Sunday, 15th



Shridhar Kelkar

December 2013, Mani's birthday, the Board of Trustees of the Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust has selected Shridhar Kelkar as Chairman.

Also, in response to the needs of changing times, the Board has resolved that henceforth the Chairman will serve a term of five years, and can be re-elected by the Board for another five-year term, not exceeding ten years in total as Chairman.

With Beloved Baba's help and guidance, and the good wishes of the Baba world, may Shridhar serve his Lord and Master, Avatar Meher Baba, in a way that is pleasing to Him.

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!

The Board of Trustees of the Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust
15th December 2013

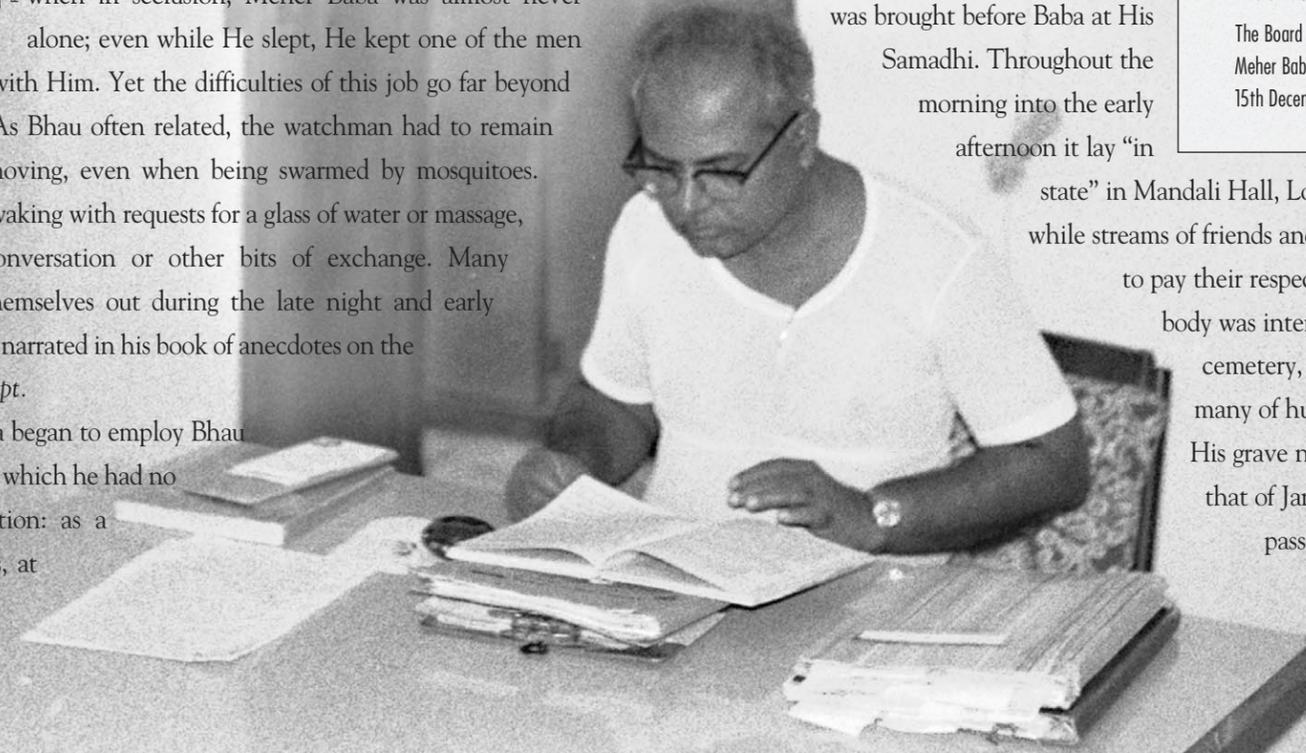


PHOTO COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Beloved Avatar Meher Baba's Worldwide Family,

I am deeply honored, and at the same time humbled, to have been selected as the new Chairman of the Trust created by our Lord Avatar Meher Baba. In truth, as Beloved Baba Himself has told us, He alone does His own work. Since He dropped His physical form in 1969, His own mandali have given us the light and the example of how to try to serve and please Him. With Baba's help, I will try my very heartfelt best to uphold His wish and to fulfill the responsibilities of the new job that He has given me.

With our dear Bhauji's recent passing, what was so long anticipated has at last arrived, and we find ourselves in a post-mandali era. Their lives for Him will always serve as immortal stars and inspirations to us. At the same time, we recognize that no one can emulate those matchless souls whom Baba Himself chose as His own intimate companions, including our recent mandali Chairmen Mani and Bhau. It is for us to discover afresh ways of fulfilling His wish, particularly as expressed in the Trust Deed, according to the needs and conditions of the present moment, through the Ray of His guidance that always shines there.

In that spirit the Board of Trustees has adopted new rules and regulations relating to term limits for

Trustees as well as for the Trust's Chairman. You will find a statement of these elsewhere in this newsletter. My own term extends for five years. I believe that this framework of limitations will help bring out the best. It sets a proper foundation for the continuing fulfillment of His charge to the Trust, which will draw on the heartfelt service, love, and creativity of many selfless workers for generations to come.

In taking on this task of the Chairmanship I am reassured in the knowledge that Beloved Baba Himself upholds His Trust, and that the loving support from all of His lovers in His worldwide family will help to make Meherabad, Meherazad and Meher Nazar continue to grow and flourish as He intends. I well understand how difficult it will be to match up to the standards set by those who have gone before, and I shall try my utmost and give my sincere honest efforts to live up to the expectations that you, His lovers, may have, born out of your own love for Him. All fulfillments are in His hands, and whatever is accomplished is done by Him alone, our Lord and Eternal Beloved.

In Baba's Love, and with my deepest heartfelt salutations to Him in all of you,

Shridhar

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!

SHRIDHAR KELKAR was born on 28th March 1938 on the coast of Maharashtra in Guhagar village, Ratnagiri district. When working in Mumbai, Shridhar met Perviz Talati, whose parents were Dina and Naval Talati, very close disciples of Meher Baba since the 1920's. Perviz grew up under Baba's direct orders, and she and Shridhar were married with Baba's approval in 1966. Shridhar first had Baba's darshan in Pune during the East-West Gathering in 1962 and in December 1968, attended the occasion of Mehera's birthday and Dara and Amrit's wedding in Meherazad. Perviz and Shridhar were among the few who were called up onto the porch for Baba's embrace at that time. The Kelkars had two children, Meherman and Manije. Shridhar moved to Meherabad in 1997 and served at the Meherabad Trust Office, becoming a trustee in 2001. He is now the Chairman of the Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust "Firstly," and the Meherazad Public Charitable Trust.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL LIBORON

Rules and Regulations for Term and Age Limits of Chairman and Trustees: Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust

AGE AND TERM LIMITS FOR NEW TRUSTEES:

- 1) A trustee will be elected for a term not exceeding 5 years by majority vote of the existing Board.
- 2) The trustee can stand for re-election on completion of each term.
- 3) The retirement age of a trustee is 80 years.
- 4) The maximum number of years as a trustee cannot exceed 20 years, inclusive of all terms as trustee and Chairman, or 80 years of age, whichever comes first.

AGE AND TERM LIMITS FOR NEW CHAIRMAN:

- 1) A Chairman will be selected by the Board from one amongst the existing Board of Trustees.
- 2) The retirement age of a Chairman is 80 years.
- 3) A Chairman will be elected by majority vote for a term not exceeding 5 years.
- 4) On completion of the first term the Chairman can be re-elected by majority vote for a second term.
- 5) The maximum number of years as a Chairman cannot exceed 10 years or 80 years of age, whichever comes first.
- 6) After the term of the Chairman is completed the incumbent can continue to serve as trustee subject to being re-elected as a trustee.

AGE AND TERM LIMITS FOR CURRENT TRUSTEES:

The retirement age limit applicable to the new Chairman is not applicable to current trustees. However, the maximum limit of 10 years as Chairman for a term not exceeding 5 years with re-election after the first term is applicable to current trustees.

The 20-year limit for new trustees is not applicable to current trustees. The retirement age limits applicable to the current trustees are noted below.

As the current trustees were appointed on the basis of trusteeship for life, the following exceptions are made for current trustees only:

- 1) As he was appointed as a trustee by Meher Baba in 1967, **Ali Ramjoo** may serve as a trustee for life, health permitting.
- 2) Health permitting, the following trustees may serve as trustees:
 - a) **Jal Dastoor** until Feb. Board Meeting, 2019.
 - b) **Jehangir Sukhadwala** until Feb. Board Meeting, 2020.
 - c) **Shridhar Kelkar** until Feb. Board Meeting, 2022.
- 3) Health permitting, the following trustees may serve as trustees until they reach 75 years of age: **Mehernath Kalchuri, Framroze Mistry, Craig Ruff, Ramesh Jangale, Linda Nadel.**

RE-ELECTION PROCESS FOR CURRENT TRUSTEES:

Ali Ramjoo will serve as a trustee for life without re-election. All other current trustees will come up for re-election, as noted below, for a term not exceeding 5 years by majority vote of the Board existing at that time.

The re-election process will start for the current trustees in a phased manner:

Jal Dastoor will come up for re-election in February 2014.

Jehangir Sukhadwala will come up for re-election in February 2014.

Mehernath Kalchuri will come up for re-election in February 2015.

Framroze Mistry will come up for re-election in February 2015.

Shridhar Kelkar will come up for re-election in February 2016.

Craig Ruff will come up for re-election in February 2016.

Ramesh Jangale will come up for re-election in February 2017.

Linda Nadel will come up for re-election in February 2017.

The trustee can stand for re-election on completion of a term subject to the retirement dates and age limits established above.

Digital Archives Launched on the Trust Web Site

AFTER MANY YEARS of hard work and painstaking preparation, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust has launched the first rendering of its digital archives. In its 29th August 2013 announcement, the archives team described the history and vision of the project thus:

Since the Archives itself was “launched” by the Mandali in the mid-1990s, sharing has been an important responsibility hand-in-hand with preservation. After creating facilities at Meherabad and Meherazad in which to work, we spent much of the ensuing years physically stabilising the tangible legacy that Baba has left us. This legacy includes His personal belongings, the documents kept by His secretaries, the still- and moving-image reproductions of His physical form, the audio recordings of His life’s story related by close ones, and the preservation care of the buildings and grounds where He lived and worked. This stabilising aspect of readying the collection for sharing is essential and was prioritised to prepare for responsible sharing.

Now, with the many technological advances which have become part of our everyday life, combined with the care taken in rehousing, scanning, and the beginning of indexing some of the hundreds of thousands of documents kept by Baba’s two secretaries, Chanji and Adi Sr., it is possible to provide all of you with the opportunity to look through an early section of this collection.

This is just the beginning of what we hope will be a many-faceted access to the items in the Archives that can be digitised. Several years ago, after careful research and testing, we chose an open-source software program called Collective Access and with it created a database that currently resides on a “cloud server.” Several thousand of the already digitised documents, mostly consisting of correspondence to and from Baba in the 1930s, have been uploaded to this database, and with the help of Archive volunteers, basic indexing has been

assigned to an initial section of these, allowing for simple research access and browsing.

There were many, many steps in this process, which resulted in what you see on the digital website, and there is much more planned for the future to continue to enhance the site. But we are bursting at the seams to share it with you now—today—and not take a moment longer! So what you see is a nearly raw form of what the Archive team has been seeing as each file, binder, box, trunk, etc., is opened and taken through the steps from re-housing to digital access. As we continue to develop other forms of access and presentation, we will update the website and keep you informed.

The link below will take you to the Archives section of the Trust website and the gateway page into the digital collection. There you can also read more about how the document collection is being archived and made ready for web access. As time permits, other types of collection items will also be added to the database and website, but for today please have a Baba-full visit to this unique legacy Meher Baba has left us!

The documents now available for your viewing consist mainly of correspondence to Baba from the early 1930’s. Much of this comes from western followers who had previously met Him in Europe and America and were writing at His request to give personal and family news; at the same time, they were asking Baba about arrangements for His further visits to the West and giving relevant information from their end. You will recognise many names of His early disciples—such as Anita Vielliard, Delia De Leon, Elizabeth Patterson, Josephine Ross, Kitty Davy, Malcolm and Jean Schloss, Margaret Craske, Norina Matchabelli, Quentin Tod, and Will and Mary Backett. But you will also find beautiful, touching letters from people who clearly knew Baba for who He is but are not otherwise known in Baba history.

Currently there are over 1500 documents to be viewed, comprising more than 5000 individual scans.

This body of material will be added to, of course, as the archival work continues.

Over the years and decades to come the Trust’s digital archives will almost certainly become one of the most important resources for students of Meher Baba’s life and work and a “gateway” indeed for those who want the first-hand experience of immersing themselves in the original records of His Advent.

The digital archives can be accessed at ambppct.org/gateway.php.

An Improved Monsoon Still Leaves Water Shortages

After two consecutive mediocre monsoons, the 2013 monsoon season delivered good rainfall, adding up to almost twenty-three inches at Meherabad, about six inches better than average.

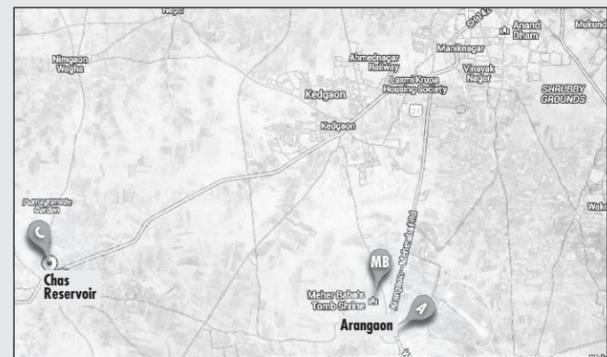
Unfortunately this rain did not come in the heavy, sustained showers that produce runoff and the collection of water in percolating ponds and lakes. In consequence, the aquifers and wells have not yet fully recharged, and Meherabad-Meherazad faces prospects once again of water scarcities when summer sets in March-April-May 2014.

Perennial water shortages have, of course, made for a way of life at Meherabad since Baba first established the ashram in 1923. Yet when annual rainfalls only slightly below the average

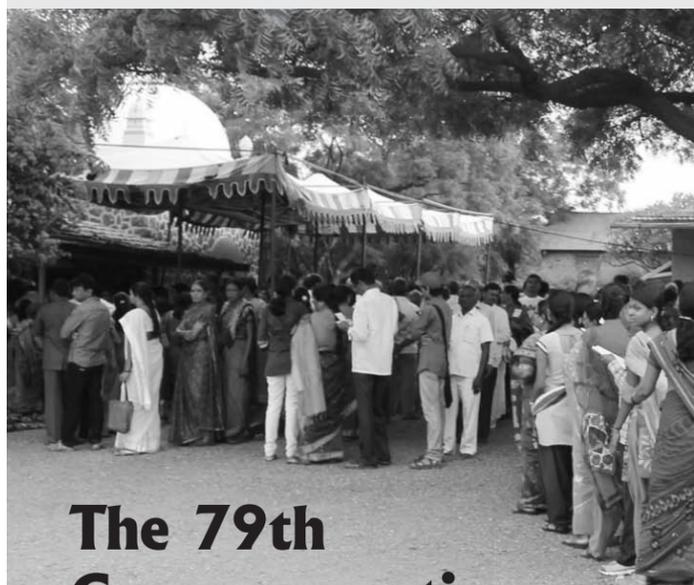
create near-crisis conditions, as has happened over the last several years, plainly the problem has a structural dimension. That is to say, Meherabad and Meherazad water needs currently exceed what the local climate typically delivers. Trust leadership realizes that it will have to continue to explore creative new approaches toward water procurement and conservation, in the near future and over the long haul.

INCHES RAINFALL

2004	25.6
2005	24.1
2006	32.2
2007	28.4
2008	29.7
2009	23.7
2010	39.8
2011	17.8
2012	14.8
2013	22.6



The Trust is currently studying plans for dredging and restoring the Chas Reservoir, whose percolation would feed underground streams and recharge wells in the Arangoon vicinity.



The 79th Commemoration of Meher Baba's Silence

Silence Day has emerged in recent years as one of the major events on the Meherabad calendar, second only to Amartithi on January 31st. This year a total of over 1200 pilgrims traveled to Meherabad for the event, about 800 from Andhra Pradesh, 350 from Maharashtra, and 50 from other places.

Avatar Meher Baba Trust Digital Archives - Meherabad

AMBPPCT HOME DIGITAL HOME BROWSE ADVANCED SEARCH ABOUT

Letter: From Kitty Davy to Baba

Welcome to the Avatar Meher Baba Trust Digital Archives - Meherabad. Here you will find documents which have been digitised from the Trust's collections of paper documents kept by Avatar Meher Baba's secretaries and His close ones.

The greater majority come under the category of correspondence, mainly including letters and telegrams. There are also other types of documents including lists, notes, poems, etc. and eventually others such as manuscripts and diaries.

As the collections are being digitised, as soon as documents have been prepared for screen viewing, they will be uploaded here. So the materials you can view will be regularly increasing - please check back often to view new materials.

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HOME SCREEN for the Avatar Meher Baba Trust Digital Archives where entry into the vast world of archival materials about Meher Baba is becoming available.

Centenary of Meher Baba's God-Realization

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, in January 1914, the Perfect Master Hazrat Babajan bestowed on Meher Baba His experience of God-realization. That momentous stroke of enlightenment altered the nineteen-year-old Merwan's state of consciousness and catapulted Him into the beginning stages of His role as God-Man.

In honor of this august occasion, the Trust will host a program commemorating the 100th anniversary of Baba's unveiling by Hazrat Babajan in Poona, January 1914. As part of the Trust's ongoing "Discovering the Avataric Legacy" series, the two-day event will be held at Meherabad 14th and 15th February 2014 in the MPC Meeting Hall. All Baba lovers are invited to attend.

How to Contribute

THE AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST is supported entirely by love-gifts from Meher Baba's lovers around the world. In truth, it is Baba Himself who gives through your hands, and it is Baba Himself who brings these objects to completion, objects that He Himself laid down in the Trust Deed, when it pleases Him to do so.

For those who have not taken the opportunity to contribute, here is how. In the UK, please send your tax-deductible contribution to Avatar Meher Baba Association, c/o Sue Chapman, 2 Chapel Hill Row, Craster, Northumberland NE66 3TU, tel. 01 665 57 69 57, e-mail suchapman@hotmail.com.

In the United States, persons who wish to make tax-deductible contributions or wish to name the Trust as a beneficiary in their will, 401K, IRA, or insurance policy should contact Emory and Susan Ayers P.O. Box 398 Mystic CT 06355 (tel. 860-535-0370, e-mail TrustPlan@ambppct.org). They will send you relevant information along with a list of eight Meher Baba tax-exempt organizations that have grants in place to support the Trust. These include a Trust Development Plan grant, an Operating Expense grant, and a grant for the construction of the Memorial Tower.

Baba lovers from other parts of the world should send contributions directly to the AMBPPC Trust, Post Bag No. 31, King's Road, Ahmednagar 414001, Maharashtra State, India.

A fuller public accounting on Trust finances is provided annually in the Trust Financial Report, sent out with the June letter of this newsletter and posted on the Trust web site. The Financial Report details and breaks down information on Trust receipts—including current donations to the three grants—and expenditures; it provides as well a current and projected expenditures report for the Trust Development Plan.

More information can be found in the Trust's web site at www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org.

Night Watchman

OVER THE YEARS OF HIS MINISTRY Meher Baba always kept one of His men on night watch when He slept. From the late 1950s through 1969 it was often Bhau who had this job. After Baba dropped His body, Bhau used to relate poignant stories from this night watch experience, which provide vivid glimpses into this intimate and rarely seen aspect of the Avatar's work. We reproduce below three selections from Bhau's book *While the World Slept*, which records a number of these anecdotes.*

Whenever I went for night watch, Baba always stated three instructions. They were: "Don't make any noise. Don't move. And keep awake." One night in Satara, Baba repeated these injunctions about four or five times. Then he told me to go and sit outside. I went out, closed the door behind me, and sat like a statue on the chair.

Usually, throughout the night, Baba would clap every fifteen or twenty minutes, and the night watchman would open the door, go inside and attend to him. But that night Baba did not clap. Not after fifteen minutes, not after half an hour, not after one hour, not even after two hours! And there were plenty of mosquitoes furiously pestering me! I became stiff from sitting rigidly in one

position, but I kept comforting myself with the thought that Baba would clap and I would get some relief.

Finally I heard Baba snoring loudly. I thought, "Ah, at last, here is my chance. I must at least change my position. He is sleeping soundly and won't hear me."

Very gently, without making the slightest sound, I started to lift my leg. The instant I began lifting it, Baba clapped and I went inside. Baba asked, "Why did you move?" I was wonderstruck. I hadn't made any noise. The door and windows were tightly shut. He was snoring. How could he have known?

Baba gazed at me and explained: "You moved thinking I was asleep. But remember, my eyes roam the entire universe even in sleep! When I can see so far, can I not see you who are so near to me? My sleep is conscious sleep. I am always awake."

* * *

BABA NEVER LIKED DRAFTS; and in the later years he used to keep the windows to his room closed, even during the torrid Indian summer months. The room, as Bhau relates, would become as hot as an oven. On one such night at the peak of summer at Guruprasad, as Bhau relates, "I was wondering why Baba wished to have the doors, windows and ventilators closed as soon as he retired for the night. I felt like I was being cooked!"

Baba looked at me and commented, "I am feeling very cold tonight."

I was taken aback and immediately replied, "No, Baba, it is terribly hot. It is hot in here!"

"I'm telling you I'm cold," he insisted. "It's very cold tonight!" and he repeated this several times.

I argued, "Baba, it is hot, ask anyone. I'm feeling very hot and uncomfortable." But Baba kept exclaiming how cold it was.

Finally, Baba got completely fed up with me and gestured, "What do you take me to be?"

I could see that he was serious and answered, "God. You are God."

"You take me to be God, and yet you do not believe what I say," he replied. "If I am God, I am the Truth. The Truth can never speak a lie. Truth always speaks

the truth." "If you have this conviction," Baba concluded, "then you will feel cold because I say it is cold. I always speak the Truth."

* * *

BABA USED TO REQUIRE of His night watchmen absolute silence and motionlessness, irrespective of itches and body position discomfort and the need to cough or sneeze, irrespective of mosquitoes and other nuisances. On one of these nights, as Bhau relates, he noticed that Baba's mosquito net was not



Bhau in the 1950s.

properly tucked in, "and if left as it was, mosquitoes would get in and pester him. Slowly, I stood up being very careful not to make the slightest noise, and I began to take a step toward Baba's bed."

Baba sat up and asked, "Why did you move?"

I said, "I didn't make any noise, Baba."

He replied, "I heard the rustling of your trousers."

Then Baba began scolding me and with a disgusted look, he gestured, "Go back to your home! Don't stay with me! I don't want to see your face!"

I was amazed. "Baba," I said, "trains are running nearby, buses, cars and trucks are running on the roads — they are making a lot of noise. Occasionally there are even loudspeakers blaring outside. You don't complain about that, but you complain about the slightest fluttering of my trousers!"

Baba answered, "Tell me whether I have chosen the trains, buses, trucks and cars to serve me, or have I chosen you for this purpose? Whom have I chosen? I am concerned with you because I allow you to serve me. What concern do I have with trains, trucks or anything else?"

I realized my mistake, and felt extremely touched by Baba's concern for me and fortunate for having been given the privilege of being allowed to be near him.

* *While the World Slept: Stories from Bhau Kalchuri's Life with Avatar Meher Baba* (North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina: Manifestation, 1984); the selections appear on pp. 15, 52, and 53.

WHAT IS THE AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST?

CREATED IN 1959 under Meher Baba's direction and bearing His signature on its Deed, the Avatar Meher Baba Trust had at its founding two purposes: to provide means of subsistence to certain named disciples of Meher Baba, and to fulfill certain charitable objects. Today, the first of these functions is discharged under "Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Firstly," and the second under "Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust."

The Trust Deed calls for maintenance of Avatar Meher Baba's Tomb and the creation of pilgrim facilities; for educational, medical, veterinary, and other charitable services; for estate development and procurement of sources of water; for the promulgation

of Avatar Meher Baba's love-message through melas, lectures, publication, and the arts; and for spiritual training. The Trust's current Development Plan focuses on the creation of new facilities for pilgrim accommodation at Meherabad and other goals.

Inquiries and contributions can be sent to: The Chairman, Avatar Meher Baba Trust, King's Road, Post Bag 31, Ahmednagar 414 001, M.S., India. Subscriptions to this newsletter can be sent to that address or to: Avatar Meher Baba Foundation, PO Box 398, Mystic, CT 06355-0398, USA (tel. 860-535-0370, email Eayers88@comcast.net). To subscribe to Tavern Talk (the Trust's electronic newsletter), send an email to Listserv@ambppct.org

and include in the text of your message the words: "subscribe tavern-talk." Pilgrims seeking accommodation at Meherabad can address their emails to pimco@avatarmeherbabatrust.org (to stay at the Meher Pilgrim Retreat) or to jalbaba@ambppct.org (for Hostel D). Other information can be found on the Avatar Meher Baba Trust's web site at www.avatarmeherbabatrust.org (or www.ambppct.org).

In His Service is the newsletter of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust; all articles and other material are compiled under the direction of the Chairman. Issued biannually, it is designed and published by Sheriar Press, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA. All articles are copyrighted © 2014 Avatar Meher Baba P.P.C. Trust, Ahmednagar, India.

Donations and inquiries should be sent to: The Avatar Meher Baba Trust, Post Bag No. 31, King's Road, Ahmednagar 414 001, Maharashtra State, India.