

AVATAR MEHER BABA BIBLIOGRAPHY

1928 to February 25, 1978

Mastery
In Servitude

Compiled by

Bal NATU

"The book that I shall make people read
is the book of the heart that holds the
key to the mystery of life..."

MEHER BABA

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1928 to February 25, 1978

Works by and about Meher Baba in
English and other European languages

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Bal NATU

Edited & Prepared for Publication by

J. Flagg KRIS

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AVATAR MEHER BABA
A Short Biographical Sketch
By
ADI K. IRANI

Born in Poona, India, on February 25, 1894, Merwan S. Irani, known as Meher Baba, received His education in the town of His birth. As a boy He is said to have been both active and gentle, mischievous and unselfish. His loving nature made Him popular among His friends and acquaintances. He excelled in sports and took a great interest in literature and poetry.

While studying at the Deccan College, Poona, at the age of 19, He was touched and blessed by one of the Perfect Masters of the age, Hazrat Babajan of Poona. She transformed His life so completely that Meher Baba lost human consciousness and became merged in the Ocean of Divine Love.

Another of the God-realized Masters, Upasni Maharaj of Sakori, brought Meher Baba down to the level of human consciousness, making Him fully equipped with the all pervading knowledge of Creation and preparing Him for His role as the Avatar of the Age. This Avataric mission started in 1921 with the

gathering together of His first disciples, who gave Him the name "Meher Baba" or "Compassionate Father."

Soon after, Meher Baba started a colony near Arangaon, about six miles from Ahmednagar, called Meherabad, where He had a tuition-free school admitting boys of all castes and creeds, and a boarding school called the Prem Ashram for those boys who were most intense in their love for the God-Man. In addition, He established a free dispensary and shelters for the poor.

Meher Baba told His disciples that from July 10, 1925, He would observe silence. From that day He maintained this Silence, even till the relinquishing of His body on January 31, 1969. His many spiritual discourses and messages have been dictated by means of an alphabet board. On October 7, 1954, Meher Baba discontinued the use of the alphabet board and reduced all communication to unique hand gestures interpreted by His disciples.

The history of man's search for his Self has produced few original works dealing with the technique for the Self's discovery. Meher Baba's Discourses are a major contribution to that small body of literature. In this work, given to His close disciples in the period 1938-1943, He describes the means for incorporating daily life into one's spiritual ongoing. In His classic work, *God Speaks*, Me her Baba describes in detail the theme and purpose of Creation. It is dedicated "To the Universe-the Illusion that sustains Reality." The following lines are quoted from the beginning of *Cod Speaks*

I am not come to establish any cult, society or organisation; nor even to establish a new religion. The religion that I shall give teaches the knowledge of the One behind the many. The book that I shall make people read is the book of the heart that holds the key to the mystery of life...

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A persistent theme of Meher Baba's ministration in India, especially in the 1940's, had been the contacting of God-intoxicated souls, known as masts (pronounced musts). These are advanced pilgrims on the spiritual path who have become spiritually intoxicated from direct awareness of God. In *The Wayfarers*, by Dr. William Donkin, these contacts and visits have been recorded, and Meher Baba also contributed messages revealing the states of God-intoxication and its spiritual significance. Other vital work had been the washing of the lepers, the washing the feet of thousands of poor, and the distribution of grain and cloth to the destitute.

Meher Baba travelled to the Western World many times and visited several countries. His first of six visits to the United States was in 1931. Meher Baba also journeyed extensively throughout India by train, car, bullock cart, and foot, giving His darshan and messages of Love and Truth to thousands of His followers.

Meher Baba devoted most of His time during the last years of His life to intense work in seclusion. He said that one of the main purposes of His last seclusion of a year and a half's duration, during 1967-1968, was to give His Love to the world. It was during this period that the fire of enthusiasm in Avatar Meher Baba's message of Love and Truth began to spread. Today more and more people are coming to recognize and to feel Avatar Meher Baba as the Personification of God and the Divine Spiritual Awakener of our era. In one of His messages, Meher Baba stated:

I was Rama. I was Krishna, I was this One, I was that One, and now I am Meher Baba. In this form of flesh and blood, I am that same Ancient One who alone is eternally worshipped and ignored, ever remembered and forgotten. I am that Ancient One whose past is worshipped and remembered, whose present is ignored and forgotten, and whose future (Advent) is anticipated with great fervour and longing.

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PREFACE

Scope. As the title suggests, this is a bibliography of works by and about Meher Baba in English and other European languages, covering the years 1928 through February 25, 1978. A glance in the index will show numerous titles listed under Meher Baba as author, but it should be noted that Baba stopped writing on January 1, 1927. All of these titles are actually transcriptions, compilations, selections, and excerpts from Baba's discourses and messages given over the years by means of the alphabet board and later by gestures. The material is best described as having been "written under Baba's name."

Most of the entries are in English, with a few in other European languages. However, several titles are actually bi- or multilingual and were included if one of the languages was English. The other European languages represented are Czech, French, German, Russian, and Spanish; the Indic languages included, from the multilingual material, are Gujarati, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, and Telugu. To find listings for these languages, check the index under the name of the language.

The date of coverage was extended, from the earliest publication in 1928, through Meher Baba's birthday, February 25, 1978, which allowed the inclusion of several works appearing in the first quarter of 1978.

An attempt was made to see an actual copy of every title in the bibliography, but this proved impossible. Thus, entries are given with as much information as was available, and those items not actually seen are noted "unavailable for review." Undoubtedly some incorrect information has been presented in this way, but it was opted for error on the side of inclusion rather than omission.

Intended omissions are non-European language material, very ephemeral items, such as brochures, broadsides, posters, and works dedicated to or inspired by Meher Baba but which contain no direct reference to Him. Periodical articles have also been omitted.

Arrangement. The entry element for all items is under title. The arrangement of the titles, as well as index entries, is straight alphabetic, letter by letter, word by word. Titles beginning with numbers are filed before other entries in numerical sequence; numbers spelled out as words are filed alphabetically. Entries with exactly the same title are subarranged by subtitle, author, or place of publication, as appropriate.

Format of Entry. The form of entry follows a slightly modified version of the International Standard Bibliographic Description, as adopted by the library world in general and by many national bibliographies. The unusual punctuation is part of the standard and should not cause any problems in reading the citations. The number in the upper right-hand corner of each entry is simply a control number for internal record keeping.

The double asterisk (**) before some control numbers is an indication that the item was commercially published or is otherwise available for purchase (and thought to be still in print). The symbol was added to this category of material to distinguish it from the bulk of entries which were issued for limited distribution among followers of Meher Baba or have gone out of print.

Sections. The bibliography is divided into four sections by format: monographs, serials, sound recordings, and motion pictures. The monograph section (that is, material not published

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serially) contains 381 titles, including books, pamphlets, prayers, calendars, diaries, playbills and scripts, commemorative volumes, children's books, and analytics (chapters on Baba contained in books not about Baba). Twenty-three periodicals relating to Meher Baba are listed in the serials section, including newsletters of various Baba groups. The sound recording section contains 14 phonograph records, mostly songs and music inspired by Meher Baba. The 44 films included under motion pictures offer views of Meher Baba, His Mandali (close disciples and followers. Separate entries have not been given when a film was issued in more than one dimension, e.g. 16mm. and super 8mm., but notes are provided in such cases. Unfortunately, none of the films were available for reviewing while editing the entries, consequently the bibliographic information was taken from lists of films at Meherazad (Ahmednagar).

Index. Since all entries in the main sections are under title, the index includes all other access points: authors, co-authors, editors, compilers, illustrators, publishers and producers (if obviously Meher Baba-oriented), series, variant and additional titles, languages, and selected subject headings. Note that the exact relationship of a title listed under a person or organization can only be ascertained by referring to the citation in the main sequence. Few subjects are given, since all the works relate to Meher Baba in some way, and listing everything under Baba as subject would not be very useful. Only when a work specifically covered an aspect of Baba's teachings or life, described itself as biographical, or dealt with a special happening, gathering, or location, were subjects assigned. Form headings were also given for special types of material, such as "calendars & diaries," "playbills & programs," "songs & artis," "poetry," "drama," etc. All subjects are given in capital letters. Cross references are given for variant names, titles, subjects, from cities where organizations are located, and for anything under which the user might search for a work.

Acknowledgements. Special appreciation goes to the many followers of Meher Baba who volunteered to help Bal Natu to type and organize preliminary lists and citations. A vast amount of technical advice and help has come from the editor's friends and colleagues at the U. S. Library of Congress Office in New Delhi, who have been more than generous with their personal time, making it possible for this manuscript to get through the printing stage.

Adi K. Irani, one of Baba's closest disciples, was most kind to write the introductory life-sketch of Meher Baba.

To help put this bibliography into its true perspective, the following quotes of Meher Baba, conveyed through His graceful gestures, are offered to emphasize His concern for awakening our hearts rather than producing still more words

I have come not to teach but to awaken.
If my Silence cannot be heard, of what avail words?

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ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

A - analytic (i.e. a chapter or part of a larger work)
b. & w. - black & white
CD - calendars & diaries

col. - color
CZE - Czech
ed. - edition(s)
ENG - English
et al. - and others
FRE - French
GER - German
ill. - illustration(s)
illus. - illustrator
ISBN - International Standard Book Number
ISSN - International Standard Serial Number
LC - Library of Congress card number
min. - minute(s)
mm. - millimeter(s)
MP, (MP) - motion picture, Motion Picture Section
no. - number(s)
p. - page(s)
pt. - part(s)
port. - portrait(s) (photos or drawings)
PP - playbills & programs
RUS - Russian
S (S) - serial, Serial Section
sd. - sound
SD - sound disc (i.e. phonograph record)
si. - silent
s.l. - sine loco (without place of publication)
s.n. - sine nomine (without name of publisher)
SPA - Spanish
(SR) - Sound Recording Section
v., vol. - volume(s)
** - Indicates items commercially published or otherwise available, and thought to be still in print
= - Equals sign, used to separate parallel titles (e.g., titles in two languages)
/ - Slash used to separate the title of a work from the author or statement of responsibility