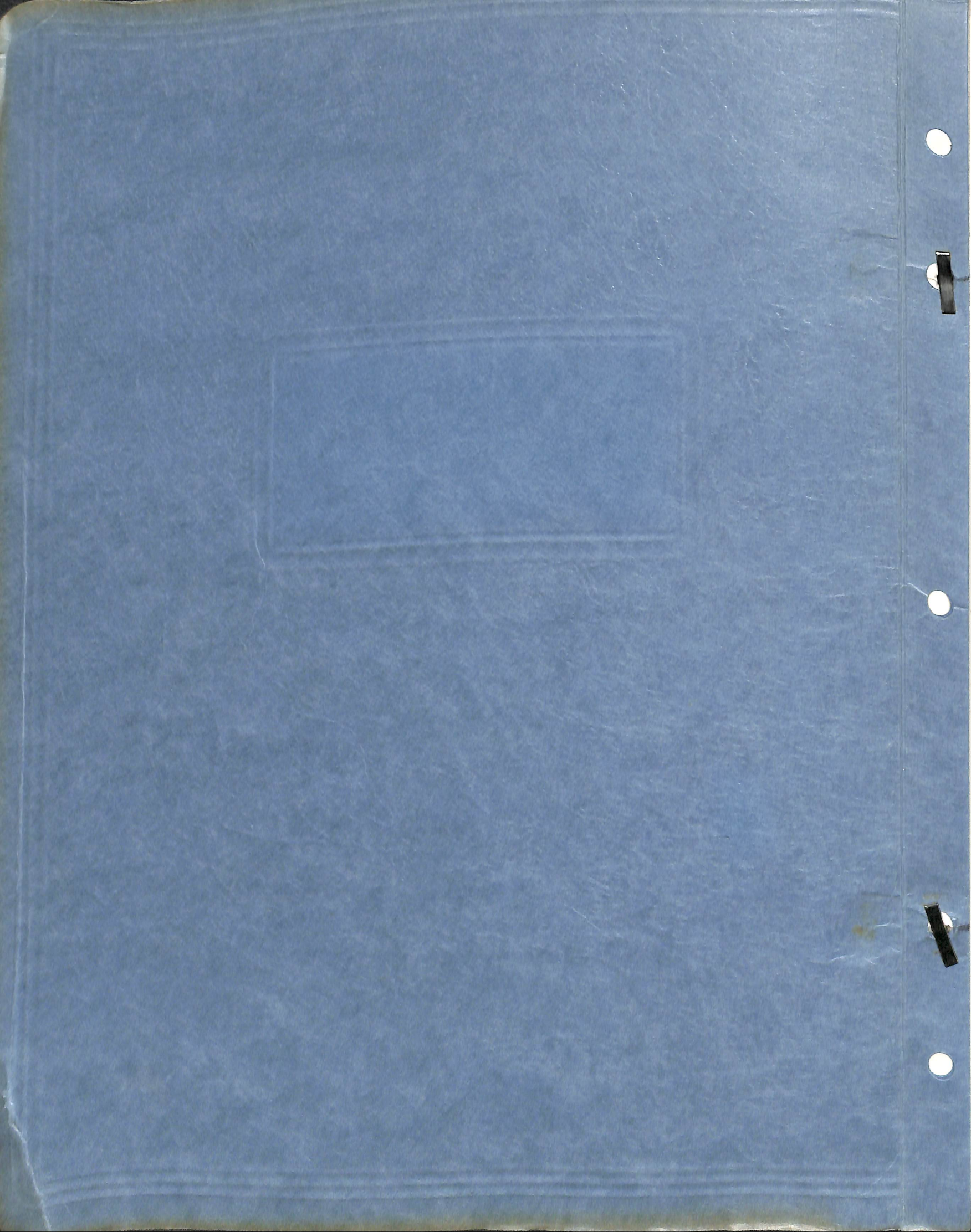


MANI'S
FAMILY - LETTERS
THE ^{TO} WEST
FROM 1967 ~ 1969



SEVENTY-FIFTH FAMILY LETTER FROM MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI.

RECEIVED BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S. C.

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Meherazad, 7th October 1967

Dearest Family,

As wished by Beloved Baba, a special Circular has been issued by Adi and sent to all in the East. Baba wants the Circular to reach all of His Western family. I reproduce it here for you dear ones:

Issued on 1st October 1967

Avatar Meher Baba wishes all His lovers to know that His Seclusion will not end on 21st November this year, but will continue until the 25th of February 1968.

Meher Baba says that the fate of the universe hangs on His Seclusion, and the redemption of mankind depends upon His Manifestation, and He wants to remain absolutely undisturbed; and so under no circumstances should anyone try to see Him unless He Himself calls anyone specially for work, or until He Himself announces that He will give darshan to His lovers.

It should carefully be noted that the restriction on correspondence continues. Baba will not attend to any correspondence, including cables and wires. Also, none should write to me or to members of the resident Mandali regarding their personal affairs or the affairs of others.

After 25th February 1968 Baba will announce when He will see His lovers. Meanwhile, no one should come of his own accord to see Him - but should await Baba's own announcement.

Adi K. Irani

King's Road
Ahmednagar (M.S.)
India

Disciple & Secretary
Avatar Meher Baba

Note: Avatar Meher Baba lovingly permits all His lovers to celebrate His 74th Birthday on 25th February 1968 at the Meher Baba Centres or otherwise publicly. Those who wish to celebrate Baba's Birthday should do so without expecting another intimation. As His 74th Birthday coincides with His coming out of Seclusion, it should be an occasion of great rejoicing.*

* We gather that Baba-Centers are already shaping plans for the Birthday, and no doubt Harry Kenmore is straining at the leash to go all out on another public celebration!

1-700 814

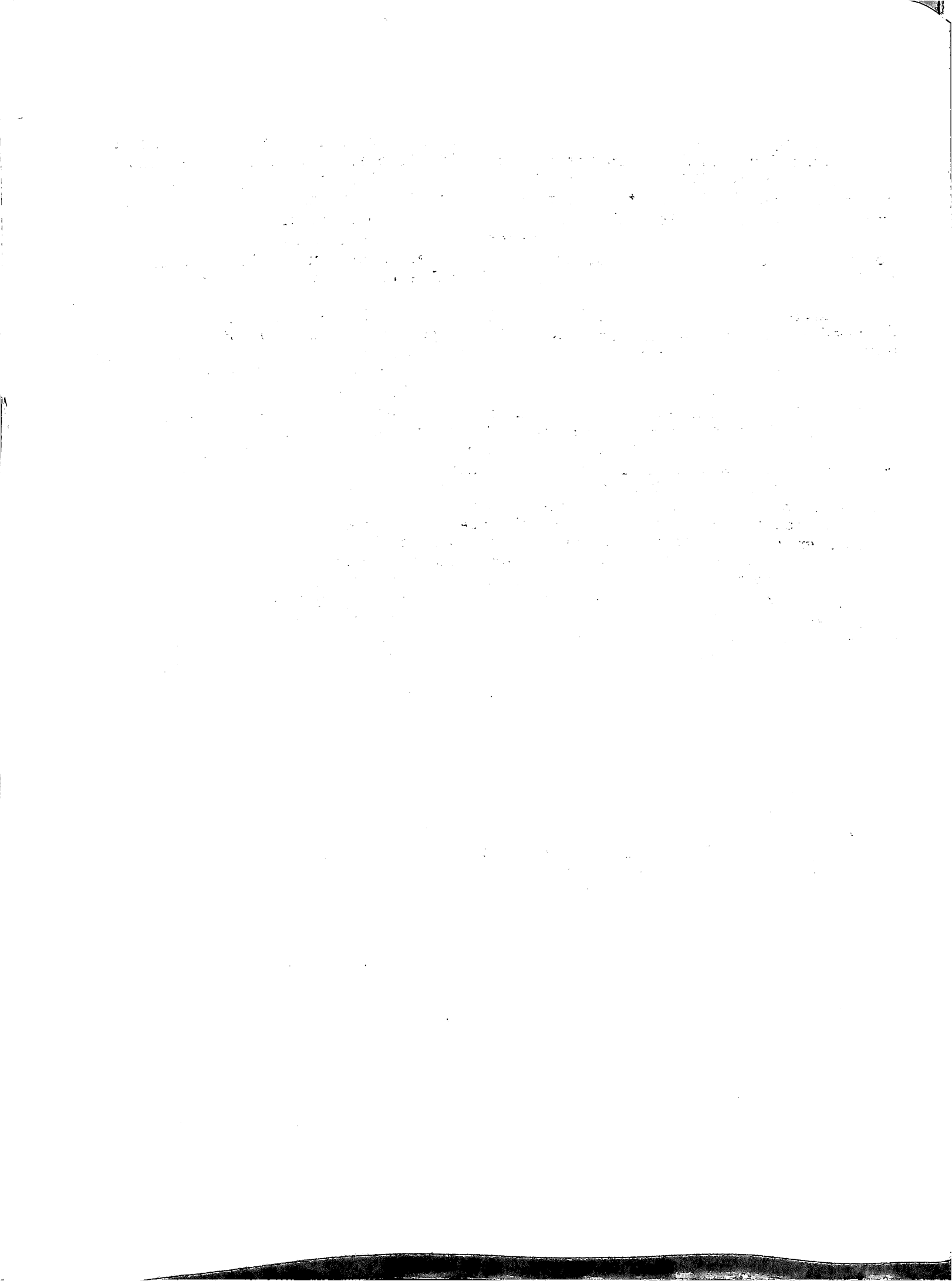
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Perhaps the Beloved's stretching His Seclusion limit to three more months will cause disappointment in the hearts of His lovers. Or, perhaps the lines of a mystic poet will voice their feelings: "Since I have been to the funeral of my desires, I live by the breath of Your desire." Wistfully we realize that until we can reach this sublime state of living we must remain wanting in that love which Baba wants from us, and which He alone can inflame in us! We realize too that loving us as He does, He places our need above our wants. Knowing our real need, which He has come to fulfil, He tells us: "Want what I want."

Having to send out this Circular-letter, I might as well make it a regular family-letter and chat on home news. As always there is a crowd of things to say; choosing from them is the head-scratching part of it. Half the time I find myself looking out into the garden, watching the bulbuls and robins pecking away at the bird-dish and feeding their chicks, or splashing boisterously in the water bowls laid out each morn. As I sit typing this I can see scores of butterflies hovering about the clumps of flowers that light up the garden in brilliant flashes. This time there appear to be so many butterflies, perhaps because there are so many flowers. The shrubs and bushes are richer in blossom this year than usual. Even the 'Christ's Cradle', the large and fragrant cactus flower that blossoms only for a night, outdid last year's count. As many as forty blossomed on the vine in a single night -- a breathtaking sight at midnight when these ethereally white flowers open to their fullest, decorating the arch of the cactus like a festoon of wax lotuses. However, the prize for profusion must go to the jasmine. Day in and day out the jasmine shrubs have been studded thickly with flowers like stars in a green sky, filling the air with their perfume. To make room for more, these milky flowers come down at night and spread like a carpet to welcome the morning. Later, before the gardener's broom can sweep them away, some are seen escaping with the morning breeze to the most unlikely parts of the grounds, or form a trail on the path where the Beloved's 'palanquin' must pass on His way to the mandali.

Among those awaiting Baba's coming each morning to the mandali's hall, is a newcomer whose devotion to the Master is glaringly evident. The moment he hears the whistle which summons the boys with the lift-chair for Baba, this ardent lover sits with his nose glued to the door of the hall, waiting for His arrival, making impatient noises if he is not let in soon enough. Baba has named him Rammu (Rum-moo), and not only tolerates such puppy-love but seems very pleased with it. Rammu is a Baba-pet literally, a multi-breed pup of about two months, who wandered in from the village in search of food and found a home with God. When he first came around, this stray starveling looked all limbs and eyes -- a miniature Twiggy of the canine world. But with Baba's inveterate habit of overfeeding pets Rammu is filling out fast, except for his stringy tail that he twirls about in the most intricate loops when he is petted or fed by Baba. We had feared the reception he would get from Baba's old and beloved pet Mastan, a huge half-mastiff who has been with us for eleven years; but we need not have worried. Their relationship was clear from their first conversation -- Rammu greeted the veteran with excited barks, Mastan replied with an enormous yawn!

While papers reported floods in many places, we were praying for rainfall. For over a month it was like being on an island -- too much water around, none here. With outspread arms the expectant fields pleaded in vain for rain, but the sun glared at them fiercely and straying clouds paid no heed -- until the



evening of 20th September. Then the clouds gathered thick and fast and soon were weeping softly over the land's plight. Before long they broke down completely and poured copiously for days till both Meherazad and Meherabad were saturated, and prayers had to be switched over to sunshine! Looking back it seemed to us that the Beloved had held up the skyburst until after the film-maker from Holland had completed his filming by the afternoon of 20th September, the last day left open to him to visit Baba. As I described it in my letter to Elizabeth Patterson, Myrtle Beach:

" Two days after I posted my letter to you (of 12th Sept.), Adi received a cable from Louis van Gasteren in Holland, saying he was arriving in Bombay with his film crew on 17th and coming to Ahmednagar on 19th for the filming. The time limit given by Baba was 20th September, so you can see what a close shave it was! All the same, as he did keep faith with Baba's word and made it in the given time, Baba gave His permission happily. Baba called Louis to Meherazad at 9 o'clock on 19th morning to see Him for five minutes, and also to look over the site for next day's filming. Starting very early from Poona with his crew and accompanied by Jal he arrived on time and was taken in to see Baba. Baba gave him 40 minutes instead of 5, and some very beautiful explanations in that time -- and by that time he had really begun to love Baba. One could say that he came for his own film and stayed for Baba's film; for he later confessed that his intention had been to film a few hundred feet, but now he was determined to take in as much as he could for the world to know of Baba through his film. As Eruch later remarked, Louis met the mandali as a film-maker and parted as a brother. Jan and Peter, the two boys who accompanied him as cameraman and sound man were equally in love with Baba at first sight, and became as members of the family during their two visits. The Meherazad family found Louis a most unassuming and congenial person, sincere and earnest, painstaking in his work, and not just a film-maker but a real artist. However, all these qualities would appear as ciphers were it not for the unit of his newborn love for Baba that makes them add up to a fine figure. Louis put consideration for Baba's comfort and wishes before his filming convenience every time. At one point when some alteration had to be made to suit Baba, Louis assured Him with a spacious gesture of his arms, "We will adjust it Baba, it will be no problem, don't worry." With a marked twinkle Baba said to those present, 'My only worry is that I cannot worry'!

"From his talks with Eruch and Francis, Louis got a much better understanding of Baba's role in his film; and Francis' powerful explanation of why Baba cannot be compared to any other personality no matter how great he might be in the world, impressed him deeply and cleared up a lot of things in his mind.

"Admiring their efficiency at the filming which took place on 20th September at Meherazad, Baba said "Louis and his men know their job." That became clear to all who watched them work with their beautiful cameras and latest accessory equipment. The film is to be in colour and equipped with sound. They filmed beloved Baba washing the feet of the lepers -- seven lepers, He finally decided. They filmed Baba in the garden against the luscious bougainvillea vines, and Baba discoursing under the shade of the twin 'babul' trees which stand in the field with the Seclusion Hill in the background. They filmed the Meherazad scene, including a sunset from top of Seclusion Hill. And they visited Meherabad and filmed that place of Baba's also.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for the integrity of the financial system and for the ability to detect and prevent fraud. The text also mentions the need for regular audits and the role of independent auditors in ensuring the reliability of financial statements.

2. The second part of the document focuses on the role of the accounting profession. It highlights the need for accountants to adhere to high standards of ethical conduct and to maintain their professional competence through continuous education. The text also discusses the importance of transparency and the need for accountants to provide clear and concise information to their clients and the public.

3. The third part of the document addresses the challenges facing the financial system. It identifies several key areas of concern, including the need for improved risk management, the importance of strengthening regulatory frameworks, and the need for greater international cooperation. The text also discusses the impact of technological advancements on the financial system and the need for innovation in financial services.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the role of the government in the financial system. It emphasizes the need for a strong and independent regulatory body to oversee the financial system and to ensure that all participants are held to the same standards. The text also discusses the importance of public confidence in the financial system and the need for the government to take steps to restore and maintain that confidence.

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the role of the private sector in the financial system. It highlights the need for the private sector to take responsibility for its actions and to work in partnership with the government to address the challenges facing the financial system. The text also discusses the importance of innovation and the need for the private sector to develop new and improved financial products and services.

6. The sixth part of the document discusses the role of the international community in the financial system. It emphasizes the need for greater international cooperation and coordination to address the challenges facing the global financial system. The text also discusses the importance of international standards and the need for the international community to work together to ensure the stability and integrity of the global financial system.

7. The seventh part of the document discusses the role of the public in the financial system. It emphasizes the need for the public to be informed and to hold financial institutions and the government accountable for their actions. The text also discusses the importance of public participation in the development of financial policies and the need for the public to have a say in the way the financial system is run.

"During their two days at Ahmednagar, Louis and his party were guests of Sarosh and Villoo as wished by Baba. So was Shri Jagat Murari, Principal of The Film Institute of India and friend of Louis. But it was not because of this that Baba permitted him to be present at the filming; it was because of his love for Baba -- he and his wife have become devoted to Baba since the day Jal brought them to see Him at Guruprasad two years ago. Jagat Murari wants to have a Documentary on Baba made and released throughout India some day, and with this in mind he brought along his group of film-boys and Shri Gopalan (Professor of Cinematography) to take what shots they could of Baba at Meherazad -- they bagged quite a fair amount. Jagat Murari cancelled an important engagement in Bombay to rush home to Poona and on to Ahmednagar to be in time at Meherazad on the 20th -- Baba said He was very happy that he came.

"I must put down beloved Baba's remarks on Louis van Gasteren's visit and the film he came to make. On the morning after Louis' departure Baba said to the mandali:

'I felt happy with Louis van Gasteren not only because he is an artist but because he has a good heart. He was impressed very much by my Love, as were his two assistants. Louis is a genius in his art. Because of this, and because of his love for me, I cooperated 100% and he made the most of this opportunity.' Referring to the filming done under the 'babul', Baba said, 'To me it was like again giving a sermon on the Mount. In the two days that Louis spent here and at Meherabad, I could see that he came to understand a bit about me, and he expressed his love for me by speech and action. I know that he will try his best to have the film shown all over the world. He worked at it with all his heart, and I cooperated with all my heart. So this must bear good results.'"

Among the gems that Louis received from Baba, was the following discourse. On his first day's visit, Baba said to him:

"I am alone even when surrounded by thousands of people because I see only myself in them all.

"As for you, if you were in the Himalayas you would not be alone even there because thousands of thoughts and desires would be your constant companions."

In the stillness of Baba's seclusion we are kept moving fast, in time with the work carried on everywhere by those clearing the way for His manifestation. "I haven't got time" is an oft used sentence in the five languages spoken at Meherazad. The other day when Baba again referred to the Time fast approaching, Eruch's delightful rejoinder was, "While you say the Time is coming fast, we find that time is fast receding from us -- we never seem to catch up with it!" It is so with His workers everywhere. The work itself is no different -- doing what each can with given opportunity and capacity to share with others what one has received from Him. The difference is in the multiplication, as more and more individuals are linked in awareness of His Love and seek to know more and more of Him from His people. The individuals in turn set out to make their fellowmen aware of what they're missing, and the ones who catch on enliven yet others -- so the branches spread and flourish wondrously. To the 'old' lovers

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities.

2. It is essential to ensure that all data is entered correctly and consistently to avoid any discrepancies or errors.

3. Regular audits and reviews should be conducted to verify the accuracy and integrity of the information.

4. Proper documentation and storage of records are crucial for long-term preservation and accessibility.

5. The second part of the document outlines the specific procedures and protocols to be followed during the data collection process.

6. It is important to establish clear communication channels and roles for all participants involved in the project.

7. The document also addresses the ethical considerations and potential risks associated with the data collection and analysis.

8. Finally, the document provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations for future research and practice.

9. The overall goal of the document is to provide a comprehensive guide for conducting high-quality data collection and analysis.

10. It is hoped that this document will serve as a valuable resource for researchers and practitioners alike.

11. The document is intended to be a living document, subject to revision and updates as new information and insights emerge.

12. We encourage all stakeholders to provide feedback and suggestions for improving the document's content and structure.

13. Thank you for your attention and interest in this important topic.

the quick response of the 'new' ones often appears amazing. Commenting on the rising stream of college folk (from Chapel Hill, Durham, Atlanta and elsewhere) perpetually inflowing to Myrtle Beach Center, Kitty Davy writes: "The search amongst the students is great, men specially, quite a few of whom are Jews. These young people seem to have so little difficulty in accepting Baba!" Ivy Duce on the west coast reports the same surge of youth-interest in Baba, and to cope with the consequent need for Baba-literature, Sufism Reoriented are reprinting a number of books.* Perhaps it is not so strange that these offspring of the Avataric Age are ready to receive Him; perhaps their living has been a waiting for this moment of His Call from one direction or another. Letters from many newly awakened testify to this. As a 26 year old from Fresno, California, said in his letter to Baba: "It is as if my whole life consisted of a series of steps in Your direction."

My last report on Baba-work was woven on the radio and television loom, with the various threads of information that came to hand. But although the design was shown in detail, I now find that the motif was far from complete! The pattern described with Rick Chapman's letters turned out to be just a border, while the dominant piece was working out in U.S.A. even as I was composing my report. In his letter of August 25, Moochewala described to his Beloved the work done in Los Angeles with help of Filis Frederick and of Nick Lamprino who made superb arrangements for the radio and TV appearances. Rick said:

"Opportunities in Los Angeles have been extraordinary. On August 19th Allan (Cohen) and I appeared on a radio program for two hours which reaches a million persons in this area. On August 22 we taped a radio interview with Joe Pyne, whose show is nationally syndicated and reaches several million. The following day we participated in his television show, which reaches about fifty million across the nation -- and not a drop of cynical venom for which the show is famous appeared during our interview. He asked about Your Silence, why You keep it, what You predict for the future of humanity, whether You claim to be like Jesus and Buddha, whether You have disciples like Jesus did; and the rest of the show was occupied with Your views on LSD and drugs in general."

He also mentioned an interesting incident that took place during the show: "Remarkably, a snake charmer was the guest on the show just preceding our appearance, and before we appeared Joe Pyne had both a boa constrictor and a dove in his hand. A hippie who had been called up to defend LSD before the camera, fainted with a strange shaking while he was talking."

Following it up in his letter of 13th September, Moochewala says: "By now the Joe Pyne TV show has appeared both in Los Angeles and in New York. It will follow a syndicated schedule around the country, appearing one week in one major city, the next week in another."

In the same letter Rick covers the rest of the happenings during the Los Angeles visit, showing that in Baba's bounty opportunities are not given, they are poured! Here are some excerpts from it:

* GOD SPEAKS, LISTEN HUMANITY, and the DISCOURSES - the original set of Discourses, economically bound in three volumes, now under print.

and the... (faded text) ...

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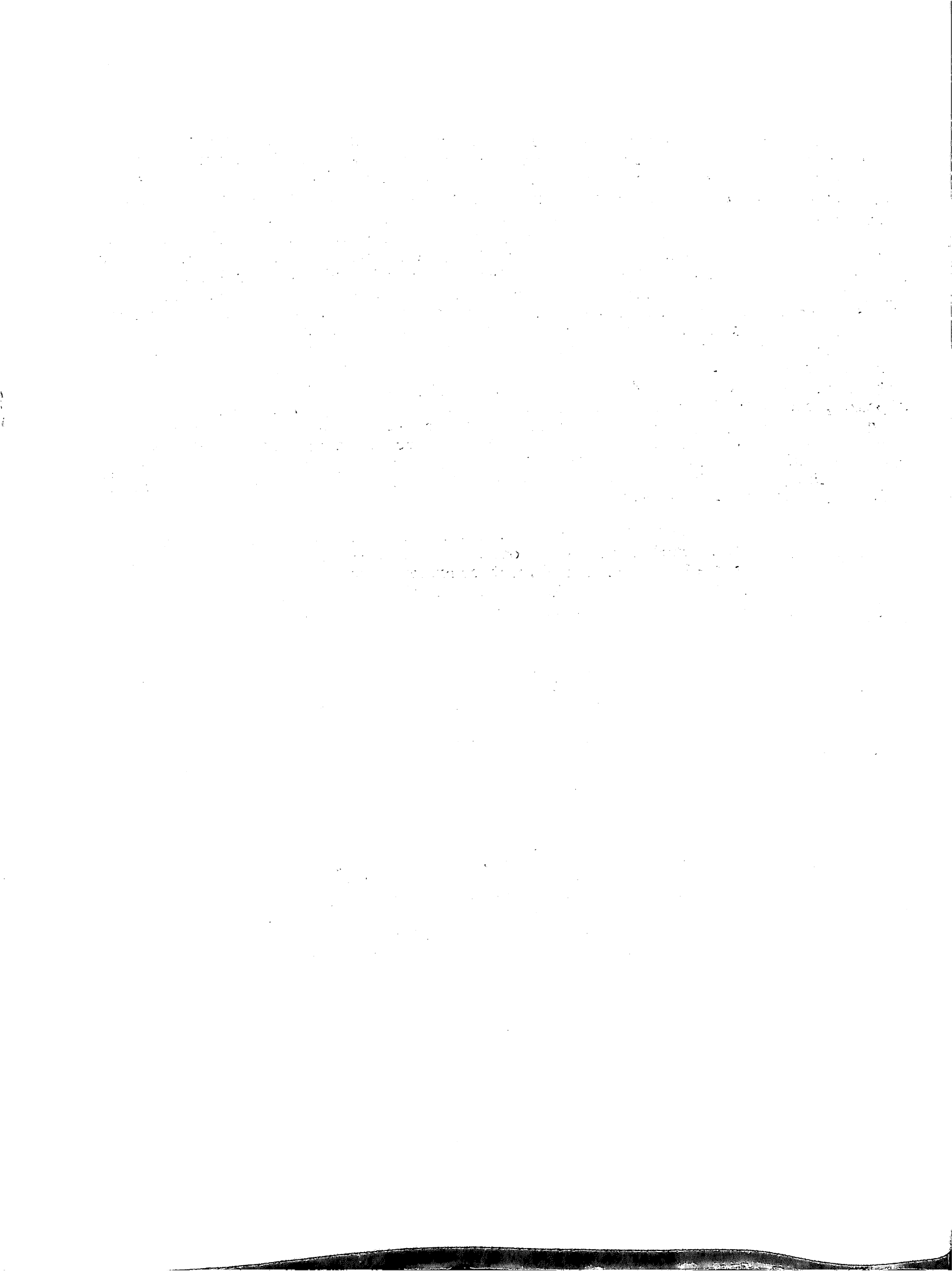
... (faded text) ...

"The two and a half weeks which Allan and I spent in Los Angeles were extraordinary. One contact begat another until soon we were hard-pressed to keep up with the various opportunities we had while we were there.... Before two weeks elapsed, we were guests on radio shows of almost every conceivable format: afternoon talk shows, all-night talk shows, special interest interviews, one program aimed specially at the youth and the hippies; and finally a show on which it was possible to talk at length about You with a man who was responsive and knowledgeable and curious, asking about Your life, Silence, and the significance of Your Avatarhood to the people at large.... One rare thing: the interviewers and broadcasters of almost every program Allan and I appeared on became visibly intrigued, sometimes deeply interested in You. Stan Bohrman, of the first show we did, asked us out to dinner that first night and over to his home several times -- full of questions. Stan helped us to get in touch with Eliot Mintz whose night-time show is very popular with young people and hippies, and Dona Sadock who produces the Eliot Mintz show and has her own program called Gemini, on which Allan and I appeared a total of four times. As for our final show with Peter Bergman, who is interested in Sufism and who will soon be making a film in the Middle East, he read through most of The Everything and the Nothing* before we appeared on his show, and he read the first discourse from that book over the air!

"Last Sunday (the 10th) I gave a talk, and another comes up next Sunday, to study groups connected with the Association for Research and Enlightenment. These people base their search for Christ-consciousness on the psychic readings made by Edgar Cayce, an American clairvoyant in the earlier part of the century. These people seem unusually responsive, eager to read and hear more."

This last item of news was of special interest to me, as I had just been reading the book on Edgar Cayce, 'The Sleeping Prophet', sent by Ivy. Edgar Cayce, who died in 1945, is referred to as the sleeping prophet because his amazing revelations and predictions were made while he lay in a trancelike sleep state, in answer to questions from people in all walks of life. One of the most striking passages in the book relates to the Avatar's advent "in this day and generation." Cayce foretold the coming of great holocausts and earth changes before the new era begins. When he was asked "How should we regard those changes that do come about?", he answered: "What is needed most in the earth today? That the sons of man be warned that the day of the Lord is near at hand, and that those who are unfaithful must meet themselves in those things which come to pass in their experience." Asked what boded the day of the Lord is near at hand, he said: "That as has been promised through the prophets and the sages of old, the time and half-time, has been and is being fulfilled in this day and generation, and that soon there will again appear in the earth that One through whom many will be called to meet those preparing the way for His day in the earth." And when would this implied Second Coming materialize? "When those that are His have made the way clear for him. Don't think there will not be trouble, but those who put their trust wholly in the Lord will not come up missing, but will find conditions, someway and somehow, much to be thankful for."

* Published in Australia by "Meher House Publications."



Years ago Mike Loftus sent me a copy of "Cosmopolitan", a monthly magazine published in New York, which contained an article headed: IF CHRIST WALKED THE EARTH TODAY, wherein ten noted Christian thinkers expressed their views as to what they think it would be like if indeed Christ walked the earth today. For us who have the advantage of knowing He IS among us, it is both interesting and amusing to check their individual theories, with the facts as we know them. It is also revealing to see how close to the mark some of them make it in some of their speculations. I quote here a few passages for your interest.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale: "In the event of such return I am sure many would recognize and follow Him. There were a few such spiritually perceptive souls in Judea and Galilee. There would be many more this time."

Dr. Ralph W. Sockman: "What would people think of Him and His message? The sublime purity and perfection of Christ's character will always impress those who stop long enough to ponder. But many in our power-mad age would look upon Him as an idealist whose principles will not work. They would dismiss His doctrine of universal love as too good for this world of cruel realities. It takes time and much trying to discover how tough true love is. Those who gave themselves to Christ's way of life, as the first disciples did, would find its supreme worth. Christ would not feel at home in many of the churches erected in His name, because they have allowed ecclesiasticism and worldliness to destroy the simplicity and sincerity of His original gospel. But though Christ's judgements on our society would be stern, I cannot think of Christ returning as an angry judge.... His would be the judgements of love and the methods of love, for God is love."

Dr. George N. Shuster: "If Christ were to appear amongst us today! I fancy He would have to spend a great deal of time concealing Himself from reporters, television scouts and similar folk. The report that He had changed water into wine would crowd summit conferences off the front page..... Therefore I believe He would come quietly and that His miracles would be in the form of spiritual and mental healing, for which there is so insatiable a need. There would be black and white men among His disciples. Certainly those who elected to follow Him would have to give up precisely the things which so many of us covet: more money than we need, bigger cars, mink coats, and chances to be hypocrites and get by with the pretense. But there would be a good many people around who would feel His presence and thank God for His companionship."

Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell: "It is doubtful that Christ would introduce any new teaching beyond that which He set forth during His first advent. There would be no necessity for such additions since His principles are ageless and timeless. His doctrine of the Fatherhood of God, from which alone we have the right to infer the brotherhood of man, is itself sufficient to provide a firm bases on which to build enduring peace and goodwill towards men."

Dr. Billy Graham: "He would perpetrate no social revolution, but would bring about an inner revolution of the heart. He would tell men that their greatest enemies are within: greed, pride, selfishness, and lust for power. He would rebuke them for harboured prejudices, hatreds, and intolerances. He would tell them that they should love each other as their heavenly Father loves them Little children would respond to His compassion, for they have a way of knowing who loves them sincerely."

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work. It is followed by a detailed account of the various projects and the results achieved. The report concludes with a summary of the work done and the prospects for the future.

The second part of the report deals with the financial aspects of the work. It gives a detailed account of the income and expenditure of the organization and shows how the work has been financed. It also discusses the financial position of the organization and the measures taken to ensure its financial stability.

The third part of the report deals with the administrative aspects of the work. It gives a detailed account of the organization's structure and the work of its various departments. It also discusses the measures taken to improve the organization's efficiency and the results achieved.

The fourth part of the report deals with the social aspects of the work. It gives a detailed account of the organization's social work and the results achieved. It also discusses the measures taken to improve the organization's social work and the results achieved.

The fifth part of the report deals with the future prospects of the organization. It discusses the organization's plans for the future and the measures taken to ensure its long-term success.

The sixth part of the report deals with the organization's relations with other organizations. It discusses the organization's relations with other organizations and the measures taken to improve these relations.

The seventh part of the report deals with the organization's relations with the public. It discusses the organization's relations with the public and the measures taken to improve these relations.

Aldous Huxley: "In the twentieth century things would be very different. There would be newsreels, press interviews, television appearances, pocket book biographies, articles in the Sunday supplements."

Prof. Richard Sullivan: "If Christ -- and I don't mean a 'good' historical figure but God the Son, Second Person of the Holy Trinity, incarnate as man -- appeared among us today, I suppose that we would respond in pretty much the same way that people have responded these past two thousand years. We haven't changed much.... Yet, because of the time we've had to ponder His sharing our two-legged human nature, thus unspeakably dignifying it, and because of His sacramental presence, I think that if He appeared today more of us would believe, love, and adore Him...."

"In His first entrance into history as man, Our Lord did not seem concerned with passing judgement on any of the highly considerable civilizations of His times. He was quite obviously concerned with people -- or rather, with persons. He was divinely preoccupied with the minds and hearts and wills of individual human beings, each of whom He left quite free to adore, to revile, or to be indifferent. Such things as ancestry, profession, colour, social standing, credit rating, or current creed seem not to have interested Him at all.

"If a caterpillar were to speculate, seriously and in print, upon the effects of radiation on the wings of future moths, it would be a creature much less presumptuous and unknowing than a man speculating upon the ways of God. But -- as, figuratively, a caterpillar who has been asked some questions -- I suppose that if in a sudden hypothetical visitation Christ came to us today He would be no more inclined to judge our civilization than He was before; but I am sure His unimaginably believable love would still go to every last one of us...."

"One day He is to come to judge us each as separate yet commingled persons. But if He came today I think it might be not to judge but to enliven in us, in the mystery of faith, the oldest act of adoration, which is sacrifice, an act of love and of prayer. He shared our nature at Bethlehem not to judge but to uplift us, inexpressibly, in His own sacrifice later upon Calvary. I do not think His love, God's love, changes its direction, in time or out of it."

As it happens, some of the above quoted philosophers and scholars were sent a copy of 'God Speaks' and other literature on Baba, but were unable to respond. Although equipped with vast and sincere foresight, they were not granted the insight to recognize Him when He is here, nor the good fortune of many an unlettered person who is blessed to know Him.

This letter is getting to be too long a chat, but now I don't expect to be dropping in again till January, unless Baba has a message for you before then -- one never knows with The One who knows all! Before ending it, I must tell you of the letter received from the Principal of St. Vincent's High School, Poona, asking Baba for a message to the school. Rev. R.D'Souza wrote:

"Your Holiness,

On the occasion of the Centenary of St. Vincent's High School, it is an

1919
The following is a list of the names of the persons who were members of the
Board of Directors of the National Board of Fire Underwriters in the year 1919.

ALBION B. BROWN, President
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JAMES H. BROWN, Vice President
JOHN H. BROWN, Vice President
EDWARD H. BROWN, Vice President
FRANK H. BROWN, Vice President
GEORGE H. BROWN, Vice President
HENRY H. BROWN, Vice President
JAMES H. BROWN, Vice President
JOHN H. BROWN, Vice President
EDWARD H. BROWN, Vice President
FRANK H. BROWN, Vice President
GEORGE H. BROWN, Vice President
HENRY H. BROWN, Vice President

WILLIAM H. BROWN, Vice President
JAMES H. BROWN, Vice President
JOHN H. BROWN, Vice President
EDWARD H. BROWN, Vice President
FRANK H. BROWN, Vice President
GEORGE H. BROWN, Vice President
HENRY H. BROWN, Vice President
JAMES H. BROWN, Vice President
JOHN H. BROWN, Vice President
EDWARD H. BROWN, Vice President
FRANK H. BROWN, Vice President
GEORGE H. BROWN, Vice President
HENRY H. BROWN, Vice President

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JAMES H. BROWN, Vice President
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JOHN H. BROWN, Vice President
EDWARD H. BROWN, Vice President
FRANK H. BROWN, Vice President
GEORGE H. BROWN, Vice President
HENRY H. BROWN, Vice President

WILLIAM H. BROWN, Vice President
JAMES H. BROWN, Vice President
JOHN H. BROWN, Vice President
EDWARD H. BROWN, Vice President
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HENRY H. BROWN, Vice President

WILLIAM H. BROWN, Vice President
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honour to remember that you once were a student in this Institution. It would be a great pleasure to have you present at the Inter Faith Thanksgiving Service which we will celebrate on October 2nd (1967) at 9 a.m.

The school will be honoured by a message from you on this occasion."

For its 100th birthday, the school that is blessed for all time to have been attended by Him at one time, received the following message from Beloved Baba:

"Schools help sincere students to equip themselves with knowledge and to become worthy citizens of society. And those students are wise who take full advantage of educational institutions and their facilities.

"But this knowledge is not the be-all and end-all of learning. And there comes a time when one longs to reach the Source of knowledge. The journey to this Source can only be undertaken when one learns to love in all simplicity and honesty the One whom the pride of intellect veils.

"When mind soars in pursuit of the things conceived in space, it pursues emptiness; but when man dives deep within himself he experiences the fullness of existence."

Ever lovingly,

MANI

It is requested that you send a statement in this connection to the
Director of the Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C., as soon as possible.
The Bureau will be pleased to receive a statement from you at this time.

The Bureau is also interested in the activities of the Communist Party
in the United States and in the activities of the Communist Party in
the United States.

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The Bureau is also interested in the activities of the Communist Party
in the United States and in the activities of the Communist Party in
the United States.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

SEVENTY-SIXTH FAMILY LETTER FROM MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

RECEIVED BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S. C.

© UNIVERSAL SPIRITUAL LEAGUE IN AMERICA INCORPORATED (NEW YORK) 1968.

Meherazad, 25th January 1968

Dearest Family,

A BABAFULL 1968 to all of us!

"I can wish me no wishes, for naught but Your wish is.

May Your wish be my wish -- let that be my wishes."

An old prayer dressed up in a new year, the prayer of all lovers whose world is BABA, who strive to be less of self, the more to be full of Him.

With the stepping in of the new year, we find a quick stepping up of Baba's seclusion work, not so much by what we can perceive as by what we can dare to conceive. Baba says "You can only see what you see me doing outwardly, but I am continually working on all planes of consciousness at the same time. As my manifestation time is closing in, the pressure of my work is tremendous. You cannot have an iota of an idea of it." We can, however, faintly imagine it from what His infinite tiredness reveals to us; watch it in the cauldron of world chaos that is boiling over; see it in the dawn of His Love rising gloriously over new horizons every day. But all that is happening is nothing compared to what will happen, Beloved Baba tells us. To help us imagine the measure of difference between the "is" and "will", Baba compared the small height of the Seclusion Hill at Meherazad to the awesome stature of Mount Everest!

We do not need to see what the year holds, we need only to hold fast to the Seer. All we have to do, Baba tells us, is to hold on to Him with unshakable faith and love -- all who are attached to Him, whether deserving or otherwise, are bound to reach the goal. He gave the simple illustration of a goods train: every wagon that is linked to the Engine, whether it contains gold or rubble, gets borne to the Terminus. But many are the jolts and distractions along this journey with God, and He has to keep warning us "hold fast -- hold fast" as He pulls us along. He has provided us with the means to hold fast. He has given us the love that feeds our faith. Faith is like a lighted lamp, it shines only in the dark. And while its brightness is proof of darkness, its light reveals His grace that keeps it burning.

Those who deprive themselves of the light of God's grace by their blind unbelief, are nevertheless never deprived of His compassion. Baba recently commented to the mandali: "Jesus said 'Father forgive them for they know not what they do.' I say 'Father have pity on them for they know not what will happen.'" To His lovers, Baba says: "I alone Am. Remember me wholeheartedly. Repeat my name constantly. I am with you." Over and over again His lovers experience the sublime truth of His being the Slave of the love of His lovers. With every wholehearted call of BABA!, His reply I AM HERE materializes. He is with each one at all times, but asks us to wake Him up with remembrance. He says, "I am in each heart but I am sleeping there. It is my old, old habit. In order to awaken me you should always call out to me, saying 'Baba, Baba, Baba'

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Washington, D.C.

1954

IN RE: [Name]

[Address]

[City, State]

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[Text]

[Text]

continuously. Then I, who am in your heart, will not find any pleasure in remaining asleep. Let alone sleep, I shall not find time even to doze!"

With the clamour of a myriad hearts calling out BABA BABA with one voice, Baba couldn't have enjoyed a wink of sleep during the earthquake India experienced last month! Classified as a shock of major intensity, it rocked most of the western coast in the predawn hours of December 11. Ahmednagar and Meherabad-Meherazad too were severely shaken -- it was like having a 50 second ride on a roaring dragon running under the earth. It wiped out the township of Koyanagar that lay near its epicentre, but spared the mighty Koyna Dam which supplies electricity to the state of Maharashtra! That the many cities involved were also spared, seemed as incredible as the quake itself. Newspapers quoted experts saying that the quake could have wrecked Bombay, Poona and other cities of Maharashtra had it lasted half a minute longer. But though not wrecked, the cities were badly rocked, throwing the people into an hysteria of panic and bewilderment. While crowds ran out shouting into the dark streets, Baba families kept to their homes in the shelter of His Presence, all members (from grandparents to toddlers) calling out His Name in unison -- such is the real "arti" sung to the Beloved! The populace too was violently jolted into remembrance of God. The morning after, churches were crowded to overflowing; while the candles that were offered in thanksgiving and prayer were enough to have lit up the sky. The 'Poona Herald' reported, "Even the diehard people who never looked up to heaven are praying!" The milder tremors that kept following daily for weeks (and even now are felt occasionally) kept on serving as reminders. In the 'mail-bag' column of a newspaper, a reader's letter said, "Yes sir, tremor is the talk of the town, and we know not how long it will last. But this less than a minute's shock has taught us the lesson of our lifetime: how petty is man, how pettier his possessions. It has made man meeker and brought him nearer to his Maker."

There is another kind of shake-up taking place in India at this time, not an earthquake but an 'earthwake'. It is caused by Baba Centres who are holding a continual round of public meetings, every day for seventy-four days, in celebration of His 74th Birthday. And we can imagine what it must be like in Andhra, a state which have over a hundred and fifty Avatar Meher Baba centres! "These people would dive into the ocean if they could tell the fishes about Baba!", a Meherazadian once remarked. The remark was made quite some time ago, when lovers of Baba in the regions of Hamirpur and Andhra (in north and south India) were pioneering areas of narrow prejudice and over-crowded tradition, ringing out His Message from the rooftop of every occasion. Since then, with each year the peals have grown in number and strength, Baba Centres everywhere joining in, so that now a carillion of His Name delights our hearts' ears. A powerful note was played last year by the Baba Stalls that His lovers put up at Fairs and Exhibitions held in India: at Bombay, Poona and Nagpur in Maharashtra; at Jabalpur in M.P.; at Hyderabad and Rajahmundry in Andhra. This last was during the two-week Pushkaram festival, a colossal affair where millions of Hindu pilgrims come from all over India for a dip in the sacred river Godavari. As reported by Dr. Dhanapathy Rao, president of the 'Avatar Meher Baba Andhra Centre, Kakinada', "Almost all the pilgrims, comprising all walks of life, rich and poor, young and old, were attracted to the Stall." And then there were the actual Baba Fairs, held in northern and central states: at Dehra Dun, Nauranga, Hamirpur, Khandarka, Bagda. The district of Hamirpur virtually becomes a Baba-Fair ground at a special time of year. There the lovers don't wait for public Fairs to have stall in -- they make their own Fairs to celebrate every visit of

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their Beloved! There every place that is blessed by Baba's visit is a Baba Centre, where they hold the "Meher Mela" (Meher Fair) every year: at Meher Dham in Nauranga, Meher Astana in Mahewa, Meher Puri in Hamirpur town. Thousands of people from all distances come by all manner of transport to take part in the feasts of gaiety and God. No lover has returned from a Meher Mela in Hamirpur District without being drenched with the Baba-atmosphere that reigns there, where entire villages are Baba-villages in love, where every man women and child greets each other at meeting and parting with "JAI BABA"!

Delhi too has a special date with itself, in remembrance of the first public darshan that Beloved Baba gave there in December of 1952. Its eleventh commemoration was observed last month at a Public Meeting in New Delhi, with a number of M.P.s and cabinet ministers of the Central Government among the large attendance. Inaugurating, presiding and speaking were the Minister for Irrigation and Power, Dr. K.L. Rao; the Minister for Steel, Mines and Metals, Dr. M. Channa Reddy; and the Minister for Education, Dr. Triguna Sen; each garlanding the Beloved's portrait before his speech, each speaking on the need for mankind to receive and follow Baba's Message, to awaken to His Love.

"AVATAR MEHER BABA THE AWAKENER." Over a million pairs of lips uttered these words in the course of a few weeks, in an environment of gaiety and hubb that could hardly be described as spiritual. But "as surely as His Name is a prayer, where it be spoken is a church." The church in this instance was the huge open space of the 'Cross Maidan' in Bombay city, where the International Tourist Fair was held from October end to mid December 1967. Presenting a typical blend of the ancient and modern, inseparable profiles of India's image, the Fair proved a very fair attraction for Bombay's teeming populace and for visitors from other parts. Many spectacular stalls, national and foreign, featured art, culture, trade, industry. Dramas and dances, films and fashion shows, and a wide variety of fun and entertainment, figured largely. Painstakingly the Fair organisers had taken into account the educational and recreational need of the people, while utterly ignoring their most urgent need -- the spiritual! But then, neither had they taken into account the Baba-lovers of Bombay who set their hearts on getting a foothold in the Fair grounds to serve the Avatar's Message to the people. Against fantastic odds, their perseverance succeeded. And so it was that the huge cosmopolitan crowds surging on the Cross Maidan every evening (from about 5 in the afternoon till 1 o'clock in the morning) came by the Baba Stall, looking up at the big name-board that read AVATAR MEHER BABA THE AWAKENER, looking in at the beautiful full-length colour portrait of Beloved Baba facing them. Most of the lookers entered, while the remaining passed on after reading aloud His Name and staring at His portrait.

It all began a month before the Fair was to open, when Sorabjee Siganporia (of the Avatar Meher Baba Bombay Centre) read out the last family-letter at the Centre's meeting. Struck by Baba's message "now is the time to spread my Message," Sorabjee felt it was high time for Bombay to bestir itself. Calling an urgent meeting of Baba-lovers, he put forward his suggestion of acquiring a stall at the I.T.F. (International Tourist Fair) as their golden opportunity to give Baba's Message to the multitude. He hoped for encouragement from them. What he was unprepared for was the immediate and staggering response and enthusiasm with which the idea was caught up and started rolling! With Nariman and Arnavaz Dadachanji taking the lead, contributions were pledged, ideas put forth, plans sketched, problems measured. In no time all shoulders got to the yoke in a fine piece of teamwork. But although plans and work raced ahead, they

The first part of the report is devoted to a description of the general situation in the country. It is based on the results of a survey conducted in the first half of 1957. The survey was carried out in a number of districts and was designed to determine the general state of affairs in the country. The results of the survey are given in a table. It shows that the country is generally well governed and that the people are generally satisfied with the way things are going. There are, however, some areas where the situation is not so good. These are the areas where the people are poorest and where the government is least effective. The report also discusses the reasons for these differences and suggests ways in which they might be improved.

The second part of the report is devoted to a discussion of the economic situation in the country. It is based on the results of a survey conducted in the second half of 1957. The survey was carried out in a number of districts and was designed to determine the general state of affairs in the country. The results of the survey are given in a table. It shows that the country is generally well governed and that the people are generally satisfied with the way things are going. There are, however, some areas where the situation is not so good. These are the areas where the people are poorest and where the government is least effective. The report also discusses the reasons for these differences and suggests ways in which they might be improved.

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could not start! Obtaining a suitable stall, or at least ground space for the building of a stall, was the king-size obstacle. At the "last minute" it was hurdled, solely through the influence and persistence of Dr. Ram Ginde, to whom the authorities in charge did not like saying 'no', and who would not take 'no' for an answer! Take one step in His direction and He will take ten steps towards you to help. The 750 square feet of ground space that was finally obtained was not just suitable, it was the most ideally situated imaginable. Facing the central imposing structure of the Government of India pavilion and next to Air India booth, no Fair goer could miss it!

Creating of the Stall and mass printing of Baba literature were items that seemed too big to be covered by the fragment of time they now had in hand. It was done, and done superbly. The Bombay group was like a race horse that had long been nodding at the post, but at the first sharp prod had started off at a full gallop, winning with flying colours! The Baba Stall was, in the words of Burjor Mehta from Ahmednagar "Simple as God, and so grand." The credit for its elegance and beauty goes mainly to dear Arnavaz, who worked herself to a frazzle over the myriad details of planning and decor, helped by others of the large Dadachanji clan who are wholly a Baba clan in the deepest devoted sense. As one fair Dadachanji member wrote not long ago, "We heard someone remark that 'the Dadachanjis eat, drink and breathe BABA'; and Oh! how satisfying and wonderful it is, only the Dadachanjis know!" Jim Mistry took up the printing reins. Jim's biggest joy is to have his modest printing press, Mekda Corp., work in the cause of his Beloved -- and never had Jim worked 'Mekda' so hard and fast as now! The "Universal Message" in English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujerati, printed by the hundred thousand for giving free to Stall visitors, was ready on time. So was the priceless little book "Who is Meher Baba?" planned by Arnavaz, sold at a very nominal price.

The grain of Sorabjee's idea multiplied into a granary of accomplishment when the lovers manned the Stall, prepared with answers to the variety of questions expected from those whom the Beloved would draw.* What the volunteers had least anticipated was the overwhelming attendance and interest that kept up through the weeks, from the day the Fair was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. Mrs. Indira Gandhi did not visit any stall, but rode round the grounds in an open jeep. As the jeep neared the Baba Stall, our Kishinchand Gajwani went up and drew her attention to the name-board "Avator Meher Baba The Awakener." She responded with quick interest, reading out the Name and bowing with deep reverence to the Beloved's portrait as the jeep drove by. Some days after that Jim wrote to Eruch, "What is happening today at the Baba Stall is a tremendous mass enquiry and awareness of Baba. Waves upon waves of humanity surging into the Stall are carrying away some literature free or paid for. The 'Universal Message' in all languages is being gobbled up very fast and we'll keep printing more. I once timed a count of the people entering the Stall at the rate of 30 a minute -- easily 10 to 12 thousand a day. Bombay lovers will henceforth walk tall -- I hope Beloved Baba permits them to do so for some time at least!"

I'm sure Baba's smile glowed warmest on the little visitors who flocked to the Stall between 4 and 5 in the evening, the schoolchildren's hour. They would sweep in like a merry tornado, trailing clouds of dust, bubbling with exclamations and questions, determined to see everything, eager for their copy

* See DIVYA VANI, November 1967 issue, "Questions and Answers, on Meher Baba."

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of the Universal Message, surrounding Baba's portrait and wanting to know which country He was Raja of! When told He was the Maharaja of the universe, they would stand before Him with joined hands and pray "Baba, please help us pass in our exams."

As Sorabjee said, by Beloved Baba's grace the location of the Stall was such that hardly a few unlucky ones missed seeing it. When Baba sent a telegraphic message expressing His happiness with Dr. Ram Ginde's success in procuring the Stall space in such a good location, His dear Ram replied:

I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WIRE. STRANGE AND MYSTERIOUS ARE YOUR WAYS WHICH WE IN OUR IGNORANCE DO NOT UNDERSTAND. THE BABA STALL AT THE I.T.F. IS PART OF YOUR OWN PLAN WHICH MATERIALIZED THROUGH YOUR OWN INSPIRATION AND GUIDANCE TO YOUR LOVERS, AN EXPRESSION OF YOUR INFINITE AND ABIDING LOVE FOR ALL OF YOUR CREATION. JAI BABA.

In attempting to report Baba-work on the Overseas front, I don't know where to start or stop! Whereas the apostles of Jesus preached to hundreds in the crowded market-place, those of today's Avatar are reaching millions by television and radio. In the U.S.A. they're doing it so frequently, I feel I'd need a computer to keep count and track of all the shows and their sequels! Among the more recent televised talks on Baba was the Joe Franklyn show in New York, where two million viewers could see the Beloved's picture (on the book, "The Everything and The Nothing"), and hear about Him at length from Judge Henry Kashouty of Virginia, a speaker of outstanding calibre. Next Henry appeared on the Allen Burke show, arranged with the help of Adele McCuen and other lovers in New York, a show that was taped and later shown in other States. The sequel? I'll quote Kitty Davy's letter of Dec. 19th, from Myrtle Beach: "We're surrounded by mail.* Nearly 300 letters to date have arrived at the Center since the weekend -- all requiring answers plus the Universal Message and book lists! And all the result of Henry Kashouty's talk on Allan Burke's show. Henry tells me that this show retaped goes over the States also. How much love Baba must have poured out through Henry that people could write as they did! Many tuned in only the last 15 minutes of the show and yet were spell-bound, impelled to listen, to believe, to write. Not one letter was scoffing, disbelieving, cynical or ironic; all long to hear as soon as possible more, more, more about Baba!" As Dr. Allan Cohen, himself a stalwart Baba-speaker over the air, put the situation in U.S. in a letter to Adi: "It certainly is happening fast! In Baba-Love, what used to be astounding is now commonplace and the chain reaction of His Truth is exploding incredibly quickly.... Baba is awakening the Americans to Him on all fronts. The 'minor miracles' (of newly tuned hearts) are daily occurrences. The point is passed where we can even keep up with news of broken hearts Baba-renewed, of seekers finding Him, and of He ferreting out places and people in which His Love-seed is implanted...."

* On the show, Mr. Burke gave the address of the Baba Center in Myrtle Beach.

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* In the show, Mr. Burke gave the address of the Red Center in Little Beach.

How often have we seen that no matter what the seed is wrapped in -- LSD, art, business, pleasure -- the covering soon melts and desire is transferred to the Object. A delightful instance of this, was recently given in a letter to Francis from Bill LePage of Sydney (Australia). Resolutely and confidently Bill is going about Baba's business of igniting sparks in as many hearts as can be reached -- in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart -- through newspaper articles, radio and television interviews, public meetings, Baba-films, group-talks. Commenting on a recent extensive trip, Bill wrote, "Everywhere I turned I found keen interest and responsiveness, and fresh contacts kept arising unexpectedly and leading to others.... During the talk (at Melbourne public meeting) you could have heard a pin drop the whole time, and after the film very good constructive questions.... The radio interview (at Adelaide) I've told you about. The interviewer helped me get two newspaper interviews.... It is interesting that even hardened worldly men like journalists are responding to Beloved Baba." Bill's work as an industrial personnel consultant takes him to various state capitals, and so his business walks hand in hand with work for Baba, who always walks many steps ahead! Regarding the Company that he did work for in Adelaide, Bill wrote, "The men were far more interested in talking to me about Baba than about business. They all took introductory booklets, and wanted me to arrange another business trip with the directors so that we could continue to talk about Baba! One also wanted me to give a talk at his business-men's club...."

There is surely nothing more hardened than the orthodox shell of a religion, and it is wonderful to see Baba's Love penetrating the hearts of religious teachers and preachers. This miracle is often witnessed by Baba-lovers in Iran, where mullahs and tutors of Koranic doctrine are awakening the Muslim community to the divinity of Meher Baba. Jehangir Mehrabanpur, a doctor of medicine practising in Shiraz, is one of the main Baba-workers in Iran. He and his pretty wife were among the Iranian group that came to India in 1965 for Beloved Baba's darshan. In one of his letters to Ali Akbar (Aloba) the young doctor spoke of Sadruddin Mahalatti, a professor at Shiraz University who is a celebrated exponent of the Koran and holds regular Koranic meetings at various places. When one such meeting took place at the home of Haji Mohamed Saleky, a prominent businessman who is devoted to Baba, it was but natural that Dr. Jehangir was invited to attend. Dr. Jehangir did more than that -- he managed to give a showing of a Baba-film to this imposing gathering of businessmen, scholars and mullahs, who had met to discuss the Koran! But more surprising was the effect it had on one and all of the audience. Their reaction to seeing Baba on the screen was reflected in varying shades of wonder, amazement, interest, reverence, and love. On Prof. Mahalatti the impact was deep. He has since seen Baba three times in a vision, and now concerns himself with awakening Shirazis to Baba's Love. Writing a letter to Baba, he began it with: "O High Status One! O Parvardigar!"

For lack of room I cite just one other instance, reported by Khodabakhsh Kalantary, a Baba-worker in Tehran. It concerns Mohamed Sayeedi, a Mullah who is a Baba-lover. Along with his Baba-lover friend Mohamed Ali Fanayee, he went about declaring to the people the divinity of Meher Baba "the God-personified." Such apparent heresy from a representative of Islam roused a furor of angry protest amongst Muslims he was addressing at Rasht; they lodged a complaint against him and had him arrested! When Mohamed Sayeedi's case was brought to court, he was found 'Not Guilty' and was 'honourably acquitted'.

The judge who tried him happened to be well acquainted with Guitic writings, and summing up the case he told the court that it was not an offense to declare the Godhood of an individual, as it was possible for man to realize God. He said that if people had no belief in this it was because their knowledge and understanding had not advanced enough for it, but that as a judge he could not refuse what he accepted to be an irrefutable fact!

In an age of speed and automation, when a modern city's life is like a spinning top that holds up simply by the force of its crazy tempo, when it pulses in its wheels, there can hardly be a better conductor of the Avatar's message than a city bus. This occurred to Grand Brittain of New York; and converting the thought into action he had it rolling along the streets of over a dozen cities! In his 'Mehar Baba's Love Newsletter' of Nov. 20, 1967, issued from the 'Mehar Baba Workshop' in New York, Grand told us, "A quote from Baba's discourse THE NEW HUMANITY: 'Love is essentially self-communicative... has been accepted by the Traveler's Time, 880 Third Ave., New York 10022, to be placed in the buses of more than a dozen of the largest cities.' Soon after that came Ella Winterfeldt's letter saying 'Have just heard from dear Mehara (Grace) that the saying of BABA, with HIS BELOVED NAME, is now appearing in all city buses! It is nicely placed above the bus windows, and in every so lovely!"

At about the same time, another unprecedented and lovely happen taking place in North Carolina, in the field of art. As a character Wallace Phillips said, "Art is my second 'self.' And when such a worldly being wholly to beloved Baba, it can add up to something quite extraordinary." It is in the case of Lynn Ott, an American artist of New York, who said: "Combining in his work the freedom of abstract expressionism of the School of New York with the deeply moving human content derived from an earlier tradition, Lynn Ott creates paintings of rare beauty and great sensitivity." From the Mehara Spiritual Center in Myrtle Beach, where he lives at 'Gharat Gate House' with his wife Pippa (herself an artist) and children, Lynn's art and heart have produced a number of very beautiful paintings of Baba, paintings that were recently exhibited at the Other Bar Gallery in Chapel Hill, N. C. Named "IMAGE OF THE GOD-MAN -- Avatar of Our Age", it was the first complete exhibition of Baba paintings held in America or anywhere else! Arranged on-ly by the young Baba-group there, the showing was from Oct. 28 to Nov. 21 (1967). Lynn writes: "I feel it appropriate that Chapel Hill should be the place for this exhibition to be shown. Chapel Hill is the place in the West right now where interest and love for Mehara Baba has erupted on a momentous scale. In Chapel Hill love for Baba is literally spilling out on the streets, and I am proud and glad to be able to lend my work for the advancement of Baba's work in that beautiful and grand new Baba Center."

Youth today is a spicy dish of paradoxes. Incredibly individualistic and unreservedly congenial, steeped in the artificial and wearing the garb of rebellion, cynicism and warring with self-complacency, rebellious of restraint and willing to relinquish all for an ideal, shunning security and seeking certainty, it is drifting to an aim. Not content with the ready-made teachings of an older generation, the young are passionately resolved to cut out their own pattern of idealism. Driven by a sense of urgency they are restless

and impatient, they want what they want to happen fast; to happen NOW. Is it surprising then that they should be the readier to receive the now Avatar, the quicker to discern the Pearl amongst the pebbles of the human shore, the keener to share their Find with others? And yet we are amazed each time we see it happening in one light or another, reflecting individuals or groups or crowds. Using the language of youth, and with the force of their deep conviction and personal experience, Baba's young lovers are slowly turning the student world towards the Sun of Baba's Love. University campuses are becoming gathering places for Baba meetings. On the Berkeley Campus of the University of California regular meetings are held by a young Baba-group called "Meher Baba League" which was formed by Paula Gordon and Peter Brookes of Sufism Re-oriented. They read from Baba's writings, give talks to University crowds, hand out Baba-literature, show Baba-films. And now we hear that some of the students have started a branch of the Meher Baba League at the San Francisco State College! Baba's young ones are decidedly on the move, stirring up the laggards wherever they go. England's youth has at last begun to wake up too. The beginning is represented by a heartwarming bunch of artists, musicians, students, who have fallen in love with Baba; who keep bringing their friends, and friends' friends, and friends of their friends' friends, to hear of Baba from His older lovers. Delia de Leon (of the earliest Baba Group in England) writes about it: "What a stirring up is taking place! I feel I have plunged into a whirlpool of young people. What is amazing is their natural understanding of Him without wordy explanations, the way they seem to know and accept Him. It is wonderful!"

And so the Beloved's minstrels in many lands, East and West, in different tongues and in different tunes, sing of Him. His Love is their music, their hearts His instrument.

At Meherazad Baba's bard, Francis, sings to Him the songs he makes for Him -- songs in which the words tell of the lover's delight in the Beloved and of the difficulties which the lover experiences, in which the melodies so fit the words that the flavour of the words is fully brought out. Many a song he weaves for Him from the sunbeams of His Love, that the burden of his songs may ease the Beloved's burden to the extent of each refrain. And at the end of each song Baba tells him, beaming with pleasure, "This one is the best you have done Francis -- this time you have surpassed yourself!" Here is but one of the many "best" songs that Francis has sung to Him:

A thousand times I've said: What a beloved you are!
A thousand times I've fled from your glances Meher --
Only to return to the shelter of your smile.
Certainty is mine -- yet never can I be sure
Save of one thing: one day I will arrive at Nowhere,
And you will be everywhere. And I shall sing.

On that glad day of Grace when my song has become one note --
The pure note of your Name, the heavens will tremble
And blush with shame because they caused me to dissemble
Before you, beloved Meher.

and I think, they want what they want to happen fast; to happen NOW. Is it
 surprising when they should be the reader to receive the new Avatar, the
 pleasure to discern the Party against the pebbles of the human shore, the keeper
 to make them find with others? And yet we are amazed each time we see it
 happen. In the light of another, reflecting individuals or groups or crowds.
 Below the language of youth, and with the force of their deep conviction and
 general experience, Baba's young lovers are slowly turning the student world
 into the form of Baba's love. University campuses are becoming gathering
 places for Baba's disciples. In the Berkeley campus of the University of
 California the first meetings were held by a young Baba-group called "Mother Baba-
 reading group" were formed by Baba Gordon and Peter Brooks of Sutter La-
 crosse. "I've read Baba's writings, give talks to university crowds,
 and I'm still reading, now Baba-Lina. And now we hear that some of the
 students are still a part of the Mother Baba Group at the San Francisco
 State College. The young men are teaching on the move, sitting up the
 late night sessions that go on through the youth bus at last began to wake up too.
 The students are now in a beautiful bunch of artists, musicians,
 and poets. They are all with Baba; who keep bringing their friends
 and family members. They are all with Baba, to hear of Baba
 and his teachings. They are all with Baba (of the earliest Baba Group in England)
 and his teachings. They are all with Baba. I feel I have plunged
 into a beautiful world. What is amazing is their natural understanding
 of Baba's teachings. They seem to know and accept

... in their music, their
 ... lines to him the songs he makes for
 ... in the beloved an
 ... out. I have a soul
 ... in the heart you have
 ... there is not one of us
 ...

... that a beloved soul
 ... your spirit
 ... I will
 ... and I

A thousand times in joy I have set out for your door
Hoping you would employ my hands to sweep your floor --
Only to find that you had spread a feast for me.
Certainty is mine -- yet never can I be sure
Save of one thing: one day I will arrive at Nowhere,
And you will be everywhere. And I shall sing.

Ever lovingly,

MANI

P.S. An earlier circular announced Beloved Baba's permission to His lovers to publicly celebrate His 74th Birthday. Now He has made it clear that He wishes His Centers, in the East and in the West, to go all out in celebrating this Birthday on a big scale. Baba is pleased that many of them have planned to do so; and that Harry Kenmore, with the help and co-operation of other lovers, is working to make this year's Birthday celebration in New York a unique public celebration.

NOTE: The next letter is expected to be sent in May or June, from Guruprasad, Poona, where Baba and the Meherazad family spend three months of summer each year from April through June.

I M P O R T A N T

Just before this letter was posted, Beloved Baba directed a circular to be issued by Adi for the Easterners and given here by me for the Westerners. The Circular is as follows:-

Avatar Meher Baba wishes all His lovers to know that His Seclusion which was to continue until the 25th of February 1968 will continue until the 25th of March 1968, when he will complete His Seclusion.

Baba wants His lovers to know that by this date the phase of His universal work in Seclusion will end, and that there will be no further Seclusions.

Baba wants all His lovers to realize what He has said before, that the fate of the universe hangs on His Seclusion and the redemption of mankind depends on His Manifestation. He says that His having prolonged His universal work in Seclusion is an act of His divine Compassion and Love preceding His Manifestation.

To help Him in this work, Baba wants all His lovers to recite once daily the Master's Prayer (O Parvardigar) and the Prayer of Repentance, individually

and every day we are... I have never before... I will be everywhere...

Every day...

111

An... of... I have never before... I will be everywhere...

Every day... I have never before... I will be everywhere...

Every day...

Every day... I have never before... I will be everywhere...

Every day... I have never before... I will be everywhere...

Every day... I have never before... I will be everywhere...

Every day... I have never before... I will be everywhere...

Every day... I have never before... I will be everywhere...

or collectively, from the time they receive this Circular until the 25th of March 1968. And, also to observe complete silence for 24 hours from midnight of 16th March to midnight of 17th March 1968.

Baba wants to remain absolutely undisturbed till the 25th of March 1968. Therefore under no circumstances should anyone try to visit Him unless He Himself calls anyone specially for work. It should carefully be noted that the restriction on correspondence will continue and should be strictly observed.

Until such time when Baba announces that He will see His lovers or give darshan to them, no one should come of his own accord to see Him but should patiently and in Baba's Love await Baba's own announcement.

Baba wishes all His lovers, Easterners and Westerners, to keep in mind that they must not come for His darshan before His announcement is circulated.

MANI

or collectively, from the time they receive this Circular until the 25th of March 1968. And also to observe complete silence for 24 hours from midnight of 17th March to midnight of 17th March 1968.

For a further 24 hours absolutely uninterrupted till the 25th of March 1968. Therefore during no circumstances should anyone try to visit Him unless He Himself calls anyone specially for work. It should carefully be noted that the only contact or correspondence will continue and should be strictly observed.

With each time when His messages that He will see His lovers or give directions to them, no one should come of his own accord to see Him but should patiently and in Baba's love wait Baba's own announcement.

Now what are His lovers, Kachhawas and Wastawars, to keep in mind that of course not come for His favour unless His announcement is circulated

WANI

Meherazad, 1st March 1968

Dearest Family,

Beloved Baba has given a message that He wishes all His lovers to receive. It is being circulated by Adi to all in the East, and given here by me for all in the West.

The following message is from Avatar Meher Baba to His lovers, given from His Seclusion.

I want all my lovers to know that my Seclusion will not end on 25th March 1968. My Seclusion will have to be prolonged for two months because the work that I am doing in seclusion cannot be completed before the 21st of May 1968. My Seclusion which was to end on 25th March 1968 will therefore have to continue until the 21st of May 1968. This is unavoidable.

None can have the least idea of the immensity of the work that I am doing in this seclusion. The only hint I can give is that compared with the work I do in seclusion all the important work of the world put together is completely insignificant. Although for me the burden of my work is crushing, the result of my work will be intensely felt by all people in the world.

I want all to bear in mind that what I have declared in my Birthday Message will come to pass -- the only difference being that what was to happen soon after 25th March 1968 will now happen soon after 21st of May 1968.

I repeat, something great will happen that has never happened before. But now it will not be until soon after 21st of May 1968.

I also repeat that the fate of the universe hangs on my Seclusion and the redemption of mankind depends upon my Manifestation.

All I ask of my lovers is to help me to complete my work by 21st of May 1968, so that by this date my universal work in seclusion will end and there will be no need for further seclusions.

To help me in this work, I want all my lovers to continue to recite once daily the Master's Prayer and the Prayer of Repentance, individually or collectively, until the 21st of May 1968; and also to observe complete silence for twenty-four hours on Sunday the 19th of May 1968 -- i.e. from midnight of 18th May to midnight of 19th May. (On this day, the Prayers should not be recited aloud, but prayed silently). Consequently, the silence on Sunday the 17th March should not be observed.

I stress that I wish to remain absolutely undisturbed till the 21st of May 1968. Under no circumstances should any one try to visit me. If I want any one specially for work I will call him. The restriction on correspondence that I have imposed, must continue and be strictly observed.

Until such time when I announce that I will see my lovers or give darshan to them, no one should come of his own accord, but should patiently and in my love await my announcement.

- MEHER BABA -

* * * * *

Please circulate the above message from Beloved Baba as early as possible to all concerned in your contact.

PLEASE NOTE VERY CAREFULLY:

Baba wishes all His lovers, Easterners and Westerners, to keep in mind that He wants to remain completely undisturbed and that they must not come for His darshan before His announcement is circulated.

Baba will be in Poona from April to the end of June 1968. As usual Baba will stay at "Guruprasad", 24 Bund Road, Poona-1.

While at Guruprasad, His work in seclusion will continue uninterrupted and therefore He wants to remain completely undisturbed during His stay there.

Ever lovingly,

MANI

1870
The first of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The second of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

The third of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The fourth of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

The fifth of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor.

The sixth of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH FAMILY LETTER FROM MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

RECEIVED BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S. C.

Baba wants this Family Letter to reach all concerned, new lovers and old lovers, as early as possible, also in the West.

Mani is giving here text of notification sent out by Adi to the group-heads in India. This also applies to group-heads in the United States:

"I request you to see that the text of this very important 'News Letter' is made known as soon as possible to all lovers of beloved Baba, who are in your contact, so that they come to know of Baba's Message regarding the Observance of Silence on 10th July 1968, as well as His wish that His lovers should NOT come to Him for His Darshan until His permission is announced through a Circular.

Yours brotherly
signed: Adi"

*This applies to letter dated
12th May 1968*

(NEW YORK) 1968.

12th May 1968

lovers it has come with to the surface the 1st May? Only Baba has infinitely Knowing, the His lovers:

the agony of your longing

I know when the time call you. Until that I want you all to be complete faith in my Love announce that I will me, none of you must ask sad or at Meherazad, you all such a circular is sh.

proclaim to the world my love which has helped me Love to you."

from place to place, often s Message to the masses. efforts as long as they must the lovers be so o listen to what Baba children and Baba tells group in India's nes, who came to Poona f Baba repeatedly saying m to 'demand' His darshan d! It fell to the lot of way, that we who are disobey. When at last sage they were no doubt

he means we are given to ted and strengthened. A step I take in Your Love, steps that alone lead t. But He is always

In the West there are countless men and women who have given Him their love and their obedience, who have yet to see Him and who silently long to see Him. Sometimes this longing escapes in words, touching

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a header or address.

Handwritten text below the top section, possibly a date or recipient information.

Handwritten text in the middle section, possibly a name or address.

Main body of handwritten text, appearing to be a letter or document content.

Vertical handwritten text on the right side of the page, possibly a signature or reference.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH FAMILY LETTER FROM MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

RECEIVED BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S. C.

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Guruprasad, Poona, 12th May 1968

Dearest Family,

The month of May has come. Into the world of Baba-lovers it has come with a gale of promise, stirring hope in all hearts, bringing to the surface the question in all minds: Will Baba see His lovers after 21st May? Only Baba has the answer. And Baba, the Beloved, the All Knowing, Infinitely Knowing, the Knower of all minds and hearts, gives this message to all His lovers:

"I know how you feel. I know your love. I know the agony of your longing to see me. I know what I am doing and what I have to do. I know when the time will be right for you to see me, and at that time I will call you. Until that time comes, until I announce that I will see my lovers, I want you all to be patient, to wait with complete trust in my word, with complete faith in my Love for you, with complete obedience to my wishes. Until I announce that I will give my darshan to my lovers, none of you must try to come, none of you must ask to come, none of you must come. Whether I am at Guruprasad or at Meherazad, you will receive my announcement through a circular; and until such a circular is sent out you must all wait in perfect obedience to my wish.

"I am happy with your love for me which makes you proclaim to the world my message of Love and Truth. I am happy with your obedience which has helped me in my work for the universe. I am with you. I give my Love to you."

More and more we hear of lovers who travel about from place to place, often in groups, telling all men about God on earth, giving His Message to the masses. And we see the Beloved's smile reflected in their love-efforts as long as they are kept unclouded by the breath of disobedience. Never must the lovers be so busy telling the people about Baba, that they can fail to listen to what Baba tells them! This is not impossible, for in love we are children and Baba tells us that Love is no child's play. Take the instance of a group in India's northern province -- some two dozen lovers, mostly new ones, who came to Poona with the determination to have Baba's darshan in spite of Baba repeatedly saying that none must come. Their longing to see Him moved them to 'demand' His darshan by staging a silent rally outside the gates of Guruprasad! It fell to the lot of Poona veterans to convince them that this was not love's way, that we who are given the grace to love Him cannot ask for the right to disobey. When at last they left to continue their tour of spreading Baba's Message they were no doubt sadder at heart, but infinitely wiser we hope!

"Obedience is a gift from Master to man." It is the means we are given to express our love, the means by which our love may be tested and strengthened. A line from one of Baba's favourite ghazals says: "Every step I take in Your Love, is a test of my love for You." Obedience is a flight of steps that alone lead to His Darshan, steps that we must climb of our own effort. But He is always beside us, holding our hand, helping us on to Himself.

In the West there are countless new lovers of Baba, men and women who have given Him their love and their obedience, who have yet to see Him and who silently long to see Him. Sometimes this longing escapes in words, touching

Gurprasad, Poona, 12th May 1968

Dearest Family,

The month of May has come. Into the world of Baba-lovers it has come with a gale of promise, stirring hope in all hearts, bringing to the surface the question in all minds: Will Baba see His lovers after His May? Only Baba has the answer. And Baba, the Beloved, the All-Knowing, Infinitely Knowing, the Knower of all minds and hearts, gives this message to all His lovers:

"I know how you feel. I know your love. I know the agony of your longing to see me. I know what I am doing and what I have to do. I know when the time will be right for you to see me, and at that time I will call you. Until that time comes, until I announce that I will see my lovers, I want you all to be patient, to wait with complete trust in my word, with complete faith in my love for you, with complete obedience to my wishes. Until I announce that I will give my darshan to my lovers, none of you must try to come, none of you must ask to come, none of you must come. Whether I am at Gurprasad or at Maharashtra, I will receive my announcement through a circular; and until such a circular is sent out you must all wait in perfect obedience to my wish.

"I am happy with your love for me which makes you proclaim to the world message of love and truth. I am happy with your obedience which has helped in my work for the universe. I am with you. I give my love to you."

More and more we hear of lovers who travel about from place to place in groups, telling all men about God on earth, giving His Message to the world. And we see the Beloved's smile reflected in their love-efforts as long as they are kept unclouded by the breath of disobedience. Never must the lovers be so busy telling the people about Baba, that they can fail to listen to what Baba tells them! This is not impossible, for in love we are children and Baba tells us that love is no child's play. Take the instance of a group in India's northern province -- some two dozen lovers, mostly new ones, who came to Poona with the determination to have Baba's darshan in spite of Baba repeatedly saying that none must come. Their longing to see Him moved them to 'demand' His darshan by staging a silent rally outside the gates of Gurprasad! It fell to the lot of Poona veterans to convince them that this was not love's way, that we who are given the time to love Him cannot ask for the right to disobey. When at last they felt to continue their tour of spreading Baba's Message they were no doubt sadder at heart, but infinitely wiser we hope!

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In the West there are countless new lovers of Baba, men and women who have given Him their love and their obedience, who have yet to see Him and who are already long to see Him. Sometimes this longing escapes in words, sometimes in

the hearts of those who catch it. When a new young lover wrote of separation's pain and his longing to see beloved Baba, it moved Francis to write to him in reply, a beautiful reply which I quote here in part:

"We all, dear Bob, are in the same boat. We have entangled ourselves with a Beloved we cannot measure -- who is the Ocean of our dropness; a Beloved whom we cannot see -- who is the sun of our match-flames; a Beloved whom we cannot feel -- whatever our hands touch is not Him.

"Those of us who live with Him are no better off than those who, because of His order, live away. No doubt you think that we are immeasurably more fortunate than you: you have not yet even seen Him physically, while we see Him every day. But we do not see Him whom we desire to see. We are as far away from Him as you are; our separation is as vast as yours.

"The only way out of our plight is to become perfect in waiting. Let others become perfect in whatever quality they wish; let us become perfect in waiting until our Beloved has the Whim to end our separation. And, in the meanwhile, busy ourselves in His service, telling all we can about the fact of His being here, about the fact that He loves us more than we can ever love ourselves.

"Wait, and work. Wait in obedience to His word and will; work because one has to fill in the days of waiting. Obedience is greater than love. So beloved Baba has told us over and over again."

We will be at Guruprasad for eleven days longer than our usual limit of stay, for Baba has decided to leave Poona for Meherazad on the 12th of July. The favourable weather in Poona has helped to make Baba's work easier. Even April, our hottest month, has been cool and pleasant for the most part. Perhaps the weather has also contributed toward His health which has kept well on the whole, despite the familiar fluctuations. Now we see Him looking so well and radiant, moving with such a swift stride that the mandali have a hard time keeping up with Him. Now we see Him weighed down and so infinitely tired, that they move along at snail's pace to keep in step with Him. Baba tells us that these ups and downs in His physical health are caused by the shifting pressures of His universal work.

As I sit typing on the palatial verandah of Guruprasad, I can see a fraction of the city's life coursing along the Bund Road a little distance from where we are. There is the ceaseless criss-cross of pedestrians, cyclists, buses, cars, taxis, scooters, jingling horse carriages, rumbling bullock carts, peddlers' hand carts, droning auto-rickshaws (which we call bumble-bees), back-firing motorcycles, and trucks and lorries that thunder by them all. This current of movement and sound sweeping past us all day, is a storm when compared with the stillness which abides within Guruprasad: no visitor steps in, none of us who are with Baba step out; absolute quiet is maintained during the hours when Baba does His work in the solitude of His room, so that we practically speak in whispers and move about on tiptoe. No matter how loud the cacophany of traffic from the road, the roar of a plane overhead, the piercing cheep-cheep of sparrows right at His door, the least sound from any of us near His room would

also... of... to... of... to... of... to...

...the... of... to... of... to... of... to...

...the... of... to... of... to... of... to...

...the... of... to... of... to... of... to...

...the... of... to... of... to... of... to...

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disturb Baba in His work. The quiet prevailing in Guruprasad is a continuation from Meherazad. Thus in effect, except for the change of environment, we are still at Meherazad! A letter I wrote shortly before we came to Poona, tells how it was at Meherazad: "While I'm writing this Beloved Baba is sitting in the Hall, alone, for the special work He does every morning and afternoon, when we must not make the least noise. During these hours of utter quiet it is startling to hear a crow caw, or the sudden rattling of a window when the wind comes up. To walk on the gravel paths by the Hall is like walking on eggshells; and as a sneeze from dear old Baidul is a threat to the sound barrier at any time, he is made to sit a good distance away under the mango tree. While we go about our daily chores 'fast fast' as usual, we are constantly reminding one another "softly, softly". And when these soundless sessions are over and we are again with Baba, another kind of quiet is maintained: no correspondence can be read to Him, no questions asked, no argument or excuses offered in carrying out the smallest of His day to day orders, no cause given for the least disturbance -- so fragile is the container of His momentous seclusion. But strong is the love and obedience of His lovers helping to keep it intact, for Beloved Baba informs us from time to time: 'My work is being done very satisfactorily'."

The lovers in Poona have helped supremely in this, temptingly close as they are to the place where their Master resides. One of them wrote to Adi, "Just that our Beloved will be in Poona, is the greatest thing for us. We are content to breathe in the air charged with His presence and fill our lungs to bursting point!" He could've been speaking for them all, so united has been their resolve to help by not approaching Guruprasad in any manner. How the children too have been no less aware of the strict seclusion can be imagined from an amusing incident that concerns Merwan, Baba's three year old grand-nephew living in Poona. It happened a few days after we arrived at Guruprasad. Merwan was out for a walk with his daddy, Jehangir Sukhadwala, when they came across a dead crow lying on the road. Inevitably the toddler's volley of questions began: "What is this?" "A crow" said daddy. "What's the matter with it?" "It has been shot." "Why doesn't it move?" "Because it is dead and gone." "Where has it gone?" "It has gone to Baba." At this, Merwan halted in his tracks and excitedly demanded, "What?! When Baba is in Seclusion? How come a crow can go to Baba and I can't?" I'm still wondering how daddy managed to get out of that!

What with literally a hundred and one passenger buses throughout Poona carrying Baba's picture and His message given by the 'Avatar Meher Baba Poona Centre', and the Poona press coming out in a rash of Baba-news, the mandali have had to be vigilant for possible inquirers and seekers. The Marathi papers gave the two recent Circulars in complete or condensed form. "Poona Herald", the English daily, gave condensed versions and topped them with eye-catching headlines. It gave the latest Circular declaring the continuing of Avatar Meher Baba's Seclusion until the 21st of May 1968, with the heading: CALAMITY DATE POSTPONED! -- thus inadvertently conveying a sense of the Avatar's compassion for all. On the other hand the "Free Press" of Bombay, publishing the item in its 'Talk of the town' column, headlined it: COMING CATASTROPHE! Although Baba has never actually referred to the "something great" as a calamity or a catastrophe, the newspapers' interpretation is a natural one, reflecting the world's condition which not only makes it easy for people to anticipate

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disaster but makes it a dreaded conclusion. Knowing it is all in the hands of the Compassionate Father, whichever way we look at it we see it as nothing less than a Blessing. But no matter how it is interpreted, how far we stretch our guesses as to the form the Blessing will assume, we are bound to fall short of the mark because Baba tells us it will be something that has never happened before. As He said to His mandali a few days after we arrived here:

"That which is to happen after 21st May 1968, will be something great, something that has never happened before, something that will not happen again for billions and billions of years."

Baba further remarked that the 'something great' will happen of a sudden, not in developing stages. People will go about their daily affairs unaware till the moment of its happening.

On the morning of 20th February, the day Baba told us of His decision to continue the Seclusion till 21st May, an extraordinary thing happened at Meherazad. A large monkey, black faced and long limbed, appeared as it were from nowhere and was seen sitting on the goldmohur tree by the house just as Baba entered His room on returning from the mandali. This lone monkey was obviously an exile from its tribe. At sight of it there was an excited chorus of suggestions from us women: "Shoo it away or its commotion will disturb Baba"; "leave it alone it will go away"; "give it a banana it must be hungry"; "don't go too near it's sure to attack"; "keep away or you'll frighten the poor thing". As it turned out, each suggestion was followed, beginning with the banana offering placed discreetly on the roof so as not to scare it. That didn't improve relations. 'The poor thing' gnashed its teeth and furiously shook the branches, using the same brand of contempt for all friendly moves. In the end we decided to try the "leave it alone" formula, ignoring Monkey completely. Nothing could have been worse, as we soon found out. After an hour of peaceful indifference, Monkey suddenly went mad. Leaping on to the main house, it jumped about with astounding speed and force, from roof to roof to roof, of rooms on both floors, sending tiles flying and crashing. The climax of this swift crescendo of sound and fury, came when Monkey leapt down from the topmost point of the house on to Baba's room below with a tremendous crash and impact. Baba was resting in His room at the time, and the mandali members who were with Him said they felt the ceiling would cave in! After that of course the "shoo away" operation was immediately put into effect -- a fantastic chase involving more than a dozen Meherazadians waving bamboos, brooms, branches, umbrellas, round and round the compound as Monkey dodged from treetop to treetop, roof to roof. It was not far to sunset time before Monkey made up its mind to give up, making for the village of Pimpalgaon about a mile away. There, as we heard the villagers tell, it settled down quietly for over a month before vanishing as suddenly as it had appeared.

Interesting as this Monkey episode is, ordinarily it might not have been given space here. What makes it profoundly news worthy is Beloved Baba's comments after it was over. Baba said that the havoc played by the monkey on the roof of His room on the day He had decided to lengthen the Seclusion, was deeply significant to His work and that which is to happen after 21st May.

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"That which is to happen after Six May 1968, will be something great, something that has never happened before, something that will not happen again for billions and billions of years."

Baba further remarked that the 'something great' will happen of a sudden, not in developing stages. People will go about their daily affairs unaware till the moment of its happening.

On the morning of 30th February, the day Baba told us of His decision to continue the Geclusion till Six May, an extraordinary thing happened at Meherabad. A large monkey, black faced and long limbed, appeared as it were from nowhere and was seen sitting on the Koldanur tree by the house just as Baba entered his room on returning from the mandali. This lone monkey was obviously an exile from its tribe. At sight of it there was an excited chorus of suggestions from us women: "Shoo it away or its commotion will disturb Baba"; "leave it alone it will go away"; "give it a banana it must be hungry"; "don't go too near it's sure to attack"; "keep away or you'll frighten the poor thing". As it turned out, each suggestion was followed, beginning with the banana offering placed discreetly on the roof so as not to scare it. The didn't improve relations. The poor thing, gnashed its teeth and furiously shook the branches, using the same brand of contempt for all friendly moves. In the end we decided to try the "leave it alone" formula, ignoring Monkey completely. Nothing could have been worse, as we soon found out. After an hour of peaceful indifference, Monkey suddenly went mad. Jumping on to the main house, it jumped about with astounding speed and force, from roof to roof to roof, of rooms on both floors, sending tiles flying and crashing. The climax of this swift crescendo of sound and fury, came when Monkey leapt down from the topmost point of the house on to Baba's room below with a tremendous crash and impact. Baba was resting in his room at the time, and the mandali members who were with him said they felt the ceiling would cave in! After that of course the "shoo away" operation was immediately put into effect -- a fantastic chase involving more than a dozen Meherabadians waving bamboo, broom, branches, umbrellas, torch and round the compound as Monkey dodged from tree-top to tree-top, roof to roof. It was not far to sunset time before Monkey made up its mind to give up, making for the village of Pimpalgaon about a mile away. There as we heard the villagers tell, it settled down quietly for over a month before vanishing as suddenly as it had appeared.

Interesting as this monkey episode is, ordinarily it might not have been given space here. What makes it profoundly new worthy to believe Baba's commands after it was over. Baba said that the havoc played by the monkey on the roof of his room on the day he had decided to launch the Geclusion, was deeply significant to his work and that which is to happen after Six May.

After this, it was natural for us not to dismiss as 'coincidence' a couple of incidents that made a tailpiece to the Monkey chapter. One was, that just two mornings prior to our arrival in Poona a large black-faced monkey visited Baba House in Poona, the house where Baba's brother Beheram lives with his family, where Beloved Baba lived as a youth. As reported by His niece Gulnar, the monkey settled down on the roof of Baba's Room. It sat there for quite a while, seeming content and very much at home, enjoying the fruits it found on trees in the patio of the house. Then it loped off gracefully over the network of neighbouring rooftops, and has not been seen around since then. The other incident relates to the Irani New Year, 'Jamshedi Navroz', which falls on 21st March when day and night are of equal length. Signifying the season of Spring and a day of thanksgiving, Jamshedi Navroz is believed to be Persia's most ancient festival dating back to over 10,000 years, and is observed with much rejoicing in the home of every Irani. The turn of each new year is worked out with astronomical precision: the exact time it will begin to turn, the colour it will signify, the form of animal it will symbolically assume. And this year, Navroz has assumed the form of a Monkey! This is predicted to indicate a lot of world trouble and chaos in the current year.

Predictions from astrologers, clairvoyants and the like, make irresistible reading in magazines and Sunday papers everywhere. What news space is not devoted to violence and disasters, seems devoted to the predicting of worse to follow. Amid the black clouds of these many forecasts, it is refreshing to see a brilliant star heralding hope for the world, as seen through the eyes of Mir Mr. Bashir, renowned palmist of London. The 'Poona Herald' of 7th March 1968 gives Mr. Bashir's prediction under the heading: A NEW PROPHET TO COME SOON.

It goes on to say, "Mir Bashir, the internationally known palmist clairvoyant, who claims Indian princes and British politicians and other prominent people among his clientele, has made an important announcement on the eve of a pilgrimage to Mecca. Mir Bashir said:

'While I shall devote myself to the religious significance of the haj, I am hoping that I shall experience something specially significant relating to the coming of a great personage of tremendous spiritual stature.

'For many years I have been seeing signs in the hands of countless people I have met in all parts of the world, that there will be a great awakening -- a great spiritual regeneration coinciding with the appearance of this personage. I have seen the signs most often in the hands of children.'

He predicted that the arrival of the 'person' would have great global impact on people of all faiths."

Signs hidden in countless hands and revealed to countless hearts, they point to Beloved Baba's words: "The whole world will come to know who I am when I break my Silence." Baba has also said that "The fortunate ones are they who know me now, before I manifest universally." Many years ago, when His Silence was in its teens, Baba told His disciples (to the effect) that "Now I am like a Lion that is caged -- people come to see it and admire it, can afford to trifle with the majesty of its power, are indifferent or ignorant of its might.

But none would be left in ignorance or doubt were the lion to spring from its cage! When I come out of my Silence, my Divine Identity will be manifest to all, my Glory will reveal itself, the impact of my Love will be felt universally."

The number of 'fortunate ones' is growing every day, everywhere, along with their longing to spread His word. In U.S.A., as a letter informs us, "Beloved Baba's Message is moving like an avalanche. There are Baba Groups coming into existence everywhere, especially those formed by University students, most brilliant and loving young people who are taking Baba spontaneously into their hearts and lives." The more His Family grows, the more frequently we receive a 'birth announcement' telling us of yet another Baba Group or Baba Centre born in some part of some country. Round the world, the rejoicers of Avatar Meher Baba's 74th Birthday represented many countries, many religions. "People of various faiths" figured conspicuously in reports from Iran, Pakistan, Africa, and Centres in other Eastern countries. In multi-religioned India they figured in celebrations everywhere. They were there among the 30,000 at Ahmednagar who took part in the six-hour procession winding through the maze of streets to the accompaniment of music, dancing and fireworks; they were there in the mammoth processions at Nagpur, Kanpur, Dehra Dun, Masulipatam, and in the more intimate ones at other places; they were there at Bombay's function presided over by a renowned cricketer; at Poona's function presided over by the Speaker of Maharashtra's legislative assembly; at Delhi's function led by three Ministers of the Central Government. Everywhere, in gatherings and processions, at entertainments and Prayers, at bhajan-singing and feast-giving to the poor in His Name, they were there -- people of various faiths, of various communities, from various walks of life, rejoicing in the birth of the birthless One. The message that Baba sent to His lovers on the Day, was:

ON THIS MY APPARENT PHYSICAL BIRTHDAY
I SEND MY HOMAGE AND OBEISANCE TO MY LOVERS
WHO LIVE FOR ME AND WOULD IF ORDERED DIE FOR ME.

All that His lovers in the West and East put into making this Birthday an occasion 'befitting to the Avatar' could be added up to the one word: BABA. And the result, whether judged in size or form, can be simply called colossal. It certainly cannot be put into the nutshell of a letter, nor will I try. One refrain heard in most of the reports was "We wished it would go on and on, that the Day would never end." A child was heard to ask his mother "Why can't we have Baba's Birthday every day?" Well, many lovers in India did just that. In the states of Andhra, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, a fair number of Baba's Centres publicly celebrated the Birthday for 74 days, some keeping it up for over a 100 days!

But if the universal celebrating of the 74th Birthday is properly described as gigantic, it was not a giant that sprang up overnight to honour the Occasion. It was a structure made up of 365 days and built with the love and energy of His lovers, a culmination of their labours in bearing His Message to all peoples at all times of the year. And with the impetus of the rising body of His new lovers, His Message is being borne over every land, spreading so swiftly that it is difficult to focus on any single area of progress to report on! As an impartial editor put it in a recent publication, "the world is on the threshold of a new BABA ERA".

But none would be left in ignorance or doubt were the lion to spring from its cage! When I come out of my silence, my Divine Identity will be manifest to all, my glory will reveal itself, the impact of my love will be felt universally."

The number of 'fortunate ones' is growing every day, everywhere, along with their longing to spread His word. In U.S.A., as a letter informs us, "Beloved Baba's Message is moving like an avalanche. There are Baba Groups coming into existence everywhere, especially those formed by University students, their brilliant and loving young people who are taking Baba spontaneously into their hearts and lives." The more His family grows, the more frequently we receive a 'birth announcement' telling us of yet another Baba Group or Baba Centre born in some part of some country. Round the world, the rejoinders of Avatar Maharaj Baba's 74th Birthday represented many countries, many religions. "People of various faiths" joined conspicuously in reports from Iran, Pakistan, Africa, and Centres in other Eastern countries. In multi-religious India they figured in celebrations everywhere. They were there among the 30,000 at Ahmednagar who took part in the six-hour procession winding through the maze of streets to the accompaniment of music, dancing and fireworks; they were there in the massed processions at Nagpur, Kanpur, Dehra Dun, Masulipatan, and in the more intimate ones at other places; at Poona's function presided over by the Speaker of Maharashtra's Legislative Assembly; at Delhi's function led by three Ministers of the Central Government. Everywhere, in gatherings and sessions, an entertainment and Prayers, at bhajan-singing and feast-giving the people of various faiths, of various communities, from various walks of life, rejoicing in the birth of the One. The message that Baba sent to His lovers on the Day, was:

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All that His lovers in the West and East put into making this Birthday an occasion 'belonging to the Avatar' could be added up to the one word: BABA. And the result, whether judged in size or form, can be simply called colossal. It certainly cannot be put into the nutshell of a letter, nor will I try. One refrain heard in most of the reports was "We wished it would go on and on, that the Day would never end." A child was heard to ask his mother "why can't we have Baba's Birthday every day?" Well, many lovers in India did just that. In the words of Avatar, Maharaj, Mahatma, Mahiya Prasad and their Pradeshi, a fair number of them a Centre publicly celebrated the Birthday for 74 days, some keeping it up for over a 100 days!

...of the universal celebration of the 74th Birthday is properly described as a miracle. It was not a giant that sprang up overnight to honour the Occasion. It was a structure made up of 74 days and built with the love and energy of His lovers, a culmination of their labours in bearing His Message to all peoples at all times of the Year. And with the impact of the rising body of His new lovers, His Message is being borne over every land, spreading so widely that it is difficult to find on any single area of progress to report on, as an important which put it in a recent publication, "the world is on the threshold of a new era."

Until some years ago, finding a mention of Baba in the press was as unexpected as coming across a daisy in a field of withered grass. Now the daisies are dotted all over the field, springing up in the toughest patches. Around this Birthday time more than a few Indian papers and magazines printed news of Baba. Those in Marathi (language of Maharashtra) covered pages with His messages, circulars, biography, articles by His lovers, and reports of His Birthday celebration -- including some of the most notably conservative papers! When I remarked to a Maharashtrian Baba-lover that this was surely a surprise, he said that the more correct word would be a 'miracle'. Birthday time is also a favourite time for His lovers to present a fresh bouquet of Baba-material in various languages: books, booklets, folders, pamphlets, posters, cards. Among the rare flowers of this year's offering is 'Dari Be Sooye Abadiyyat' (Door To Eternity), an extremely well printed book published by Baba-lovers of Teheran and Shiraz, Iran. Written by Dr. Jehangir Meherabanpur, it is the first book of its kind in Persian, giving the life and works and discourses of Meher Baba and having colour portraits of Him. Of the five thousand that were printed, the lovers sent individual copies to all the religious heads of Iran.

Throughout the vast background of India's spiritual history there have been rishis, maharishis, yogis, mahayogis, mahatmas, gurus, sants, sadhus, and the like. India still abounds with them. Like the shells swept ashore when the Tide comes in, at Avataric times they appear in profusion. A few among them are genuine. I recall how, when we were watching a conglomeration of 8,000 of them at Benares in 1939, Baba turned to us and gestured, "Of these 8,000, only 8 are real." False and real, wherever they are found, whatever their titles and claims, they are folds of the veil that help the Avatar hide Himself from us. As such, their stirring and billowing out into public prominence at the present, shows that the moment is nearing for the Avatar to emerge from behind the veil and reveal Himself. But in the meantime, lest we get involved in these folds that veil Reality, Beloved Baba again and again reminds us and warns us to keep away from any and all of them.

As in the market of drugs, the wares of maharishis, mahatmas and others, offer many palliatives that give one a feeling of relief from pain of material problems, that deaden one's sense of frustration or boredom. But when the momentary effect wears off, the ghosts rise again and loom bigger than ever. Only the Divine Surgeon -- the God Man, Perfect Master -- can remove the root of all symptoms. The average searcher finds the sugar-coated palliatives easy to swallow -- they lull him gently into the belief that they are a cure, they add to his false sense of security, they do not remove the burden that he groans under and hates to part with, and the price to his ego is cheap. Babajan, one of the five Perfect Masters who brought about the present Avatar's advent, said shortly before she dropped her body, "It is time for me to leave now -- work is over -- must close shop." A devotee protested, 'Do not say that Babajan, we need you with us.' With a quizzical look Babajan said: "Nobody wants my wares -- nobody can afford the price -- I've turned the goods over to the Proprietor." And right now, while the Proprietor has the Shop's doors wide open for all, how many who enter can yet afford the 'price'? We may yet walk in and ask the Highest of the High for material boons worthy of a ten-cent store -- like walking into the biggest jewellers and asking for a packet of pins. Of course we can have our pins, for God-Shop is All-Complete and there are all things for all customers. Once in a while comes one who recognizes the Jewel and is prepared

to denude himself of his 'self' for its possession, to eventually discover that it is only by the grace and mercy of the 'Shop Keeper' that he can attain the Gem of no price. How immeasurable our good fortune that the Shop Keeper of our time is Mercy Incarnate, as even His Name reveals either way we look at it: MEHER means compassion or grace; REHEM means mercy. All He asks of us is all of our imperfect love, from which may be born perfect obedience and perfect patience.

Over and over again Baba tells His lovers: I AM WITH YOU. His lovers are given the opportunity to realize this more and more, as attested by them. It is as if the farther He goes into seclusion the nearer He is to His lovers, the more they remember and feel and experience that He is with them!

One morning the mail brought a postcard from a very young Baba-lover in Jabalpur, a boy named Raju. In a laborious scrawl Raju had written in English:

Dear Baba

on 25 Feb I took part in your
birthday celebration. I gave a small speech +-

Baba is our Father
Baba is our Mother
Baba is our Brother
Baba is our Sister

But

Baba is my dear Friend
because He plays with me
He eats with me
He sleeps with me
He walks with me

He always with me.

Reading my letter through I find that it is as usual a surprisingly long letter. And as usual I assure myself it is better this way, in case the next letter is much delayed or too short. For the lazy ones, however few, who might glide across the central expanse of this letter, the messages of utmost importance are placed at both ends of the letter where none can miss them.

BABA'S MESSAGE TO HIS LOVERS:

"I want all my lovers to continue reciting the Parvardigar Prayer and the Prayer of Repentance every day till the 9th of July 1968. On the 10th of July,

to denote himself of his 'self' for its possession, to eventually discover that it is only by the grace and mercy of the 'Shop Keeper' that he can attain the Gem of no price. How immeasurable our good fortune that the Shop Keeper of our time is Mercy Incarnate, as even His Name reveals either way we look at it: MEHER means compassion or grace; BHEEM means mercy. All He asks of us is all of our imperfect love, from which may be born perfect obedience and perfect patience.

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HABA'S MESSAGE TO HIS LOVERS:

"I want all my lovers to continue reciting the Paramjitkar Prayer and the Prayer of Repentance every day till the 31st of July 1968. On the 10th of July

the 43rd anniversary of my Silence, I want all my lovers to observe complete silence for twenty four hours, from midnight of 9th July to midnight of 10th July 1968."

Please note that Baba has given no option of a fast for those who may find it impractical to observe silence. His lovers know what their Beloved's wish is, and it is left to them how they can manage to carry it out. None must write concerning it to any of us here or at the Ahmednagar office.

Moreover, Baba desires the present restriction on correspondence to continue as now and be more strictly observed. The "more strictly" applies mainly to those of His lovers in India who have been increasingly forgetful of the restriction and have lapsed into pre-restriction letter writing.

To those who receive this letter before 19th May, I would like to make it clear that apart from the silence on 10th July the silence to be observed on Sunday the 19th of May (as per Circular sent out in March) stands good.

Ever lovingly,

MANI

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Ever lovingly,

MAMI

Meherazad
22nd July 1968

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!

Dear Ones,

As you know, Baba's very dear lover Beryl Williams, passed away during the end of last month, in New York.

When the news reached Meherazad, Beloved Baba said:

BERYL WAS AND IS MINE FOR EVER.

THOSE WHO ARE MINE NEVER DIE. MY BERYL LIVES IN ME ETERNALLY.

Being among the chosen ones who are blessed to be wholly His, Beryl has come to her Beloved. Supreme gain for Beryl! But a painful personal loss for us who knew her, loved her, and were privileged to work with her. It has made me realize anew, how deep is a relationship formed in Baba's Love and service!

For over thirteen years Beryl partnered me in the work of distributing photos of Baba to His lovers all over U.S.A., and of late the work had grown by "leaps and bounds" as Beryl joyfully announced in her last letter to me. Devotedly hardworking and happy Baba-worker that she was at all times, she had the glad fortune to be in harness to the end. During the last two to three months she had asked for and received from me a large quantity of photos requested urgently by a number of His lovers in U.S.A. I feel sure that these Baba-photos blessed by His touch, have reached His lovers before His Beryl reached Him.

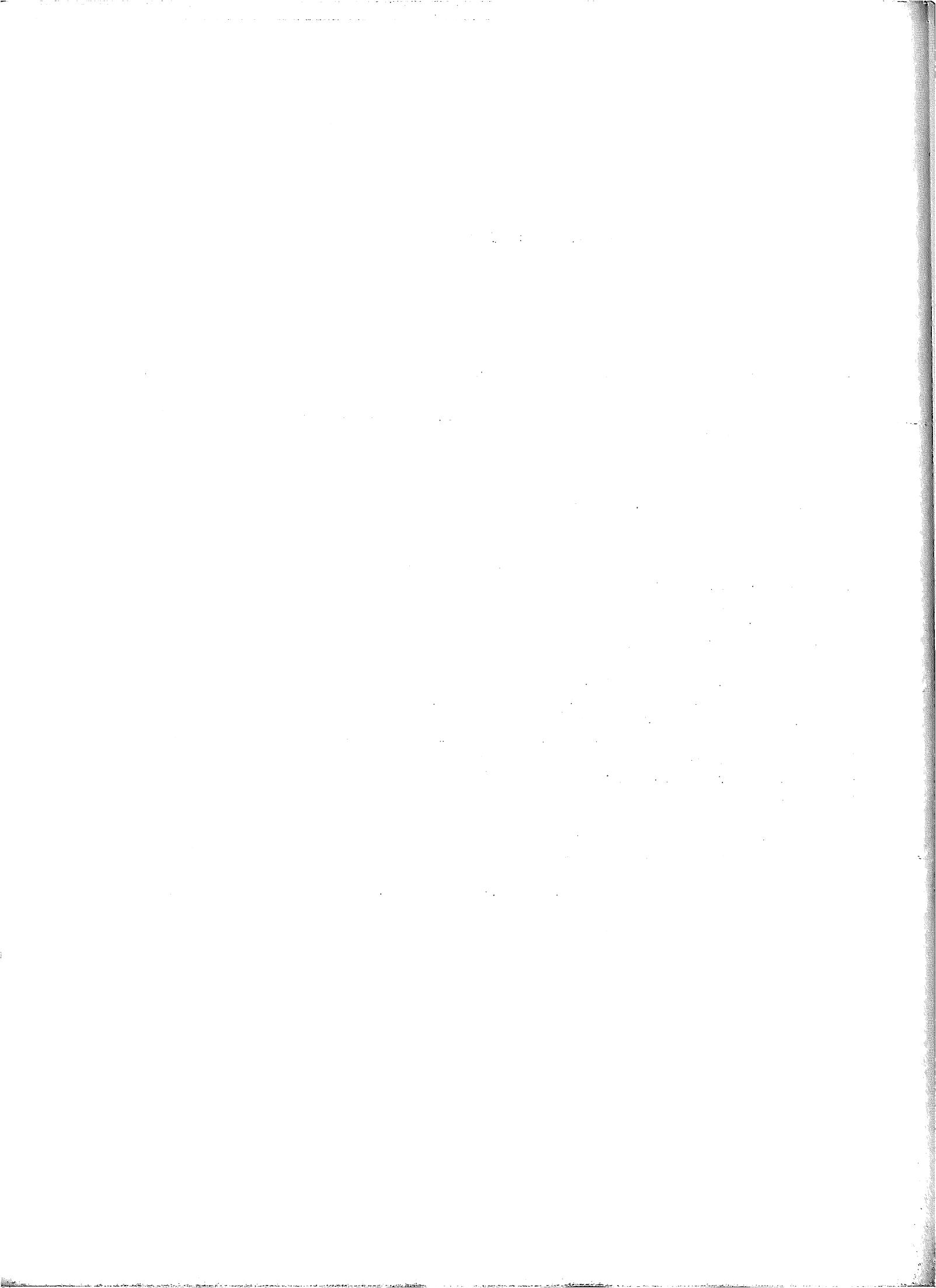
In picking up the reins from where my darling partner had to drop them, I ask all dear lovers to please send to Fred Winterfeldt whatever amount any of you may owe to Beryl for Baba-photos received from her.

Please pass on this request to everyone in your group, for whomever it may concern.

Lovingly,



MANI.



SEVENTY-EIGHTH FAMILY LETTER FROM MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

RECEIVED BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

Ⓒ UNIVERSAL SPIRITUAL LEAGUE IN AMERICA INCORPORATED (NEW YORK) 1968.

Meherazad, 9th September 1968.

Dearest Family,

By the many calendars at Meherazad and other gentler reminders, I know that you are waiting to receive this letter. I, too, have been waiting to write it, waiting till I might capture the only news that you are waiting to receive: that Baba has announced He will give Darshan. But alas, this much wooed announcement continues to elude, appearing joyfully close at hand and painfully out of reach, seemingly near but far off as the horizon. While the world of Baba-lovers is suspended in the vacuum of a breathless waiting, while the lovers yearn for His smile and strain for His call, Beloved Baba gives no indication yet as to when they will see Him. He tells them:

BE PATIENT. WAIT IN MY LOVE. THOSE WHO WAIT FOR ME

NEVER WAIT IN VAIN. YOU WILL SEE ME, BUT WAIT TILL I CALL.

HOLD ON TO MY DAAMAN - AND WAIT FOR MY CALL.

The 21st of May 1968 marked both an end and a beginning -- end of the interminable seclusion (when Baba secluded Himself from seeing His lovers), and beginning of a period referred to as 'exclusion' (when His lovers are excluded from seeing Him). In short, on May 21 Baba came out of Seclusion and stepped into Exclusion without a change of the restrictions that covered the former. And, we understand from Him, this period of exclusion is the threshold leading to Inclusion, the time that will include all to His darshan!

The Work that walked hand in hand with the seclusion, did not stop when the seclusion did -- it went on till the end of July. "How I kept it going over the last stretch to its completion, I alone know!" Baba told us. He said, "You cannot have a seed of an idea how crushing the pressure was, for it is beyond human understanding. On the final day my body felt as though it had been through a wringer." We had at least some measure of visual evidence of the impact borne by the body, when He looked so infinitely tired after the work. And we had occasional crumbs for our imagination, when He was in the mood to let fall some remark on some angle of the work. From one of these we learnt what a labour it was for Baba, during these specific hours daily when He worked entirely away from the gross plane, to retain the link with His physical body. He had to take great pains, He said, to keep the thread-fine link from snapping! Another absorbing remark fell on another angle. It was at one of those times when we begged Him to be less neglectful of His health, to go slower by working less hours, and Baba said: "That would mean once again prolonging the Work and postponing the date of its conclusion. If now I allow that to happen, it will indefinitely postpone the result and set it on a different course."! And so He kept working on, while we were in Poona and for weeks after we returned on 1st July to Meherazad.

Meherabad, 9th September 1968.

Dearest Family,

By the way, calendars at Meherabad and other gentler reminders, I know that you are waiting to receive this letter. I, too, have been waiting to write it, waiting till I might capture the only news that you are waiting to receive: that Baba had announced He will give Darshan. But alas, this much wooded announcement continues to elude, appearing joyfully close at hand and painfully out of reach, seemingly near but far off as the horizon. While the world of Baba-lovers is suspended in the vacuum of a breathless waiting, while the lovers yearn for His smile and again for His call, Beloved Baba gives no indication yet as to when they will see Him. He tells them:

THE PATIENTS WAIT IN MY LOVE. THOSE WHO WAIT FOR ME
NEVER WAIT IN VAIN. YOU WILL SEE ME, BUT WAIT TILL I CALL.
HOLD ON TO MY DAMAN - AND WAIT FOR MY CALL.

The 15th of May 1968 marked both an end and a beginning -- end of a determinable exclusion (when Baba excluded Himself from seeing His lovers) and beginning of a period referred to as 'exclusion' (when His lovers are excluded from seeing Him). In short, on May 21 Baba came out of Seclusion and stepped to Exclusion without a change of the restrictions that covered the former. We understand from Him, this period of exclusion is the threshold leading to Exclusion, the time that will include all to His darshan!

The word that walked hand in hand with the seclusion, did not stop when a seclusion did -- it went on till the end of July. "Now I kept it going for the last stretch to the completion, I alone know!" Baba told us. He said we cannot have a seed of an idea how crushing the pressure was, for it is not human understanding. On the final day my body felt as though it had been caught in a spring. We had at least some measure of visual evidence of the in-formation by the body, when He looked so laboriously tired after the work. And had occasional crumbs for our imagination, when He was in the mood to let some remark on some angle of the work. From one of these we learnt what it is like for Baba, during these speeded hours daily when He worked entirely away from the gross plane, to retain the link with his physical body. He said great pains, he said, to keep the thread-line link from snapping! He said that he fell on another angle. It was at one of those times we learnt Him to be less neglectful of His health, to go slower by working slowly, and Baba said: "That would mean once again prolonging the work and putting the pace of its conclusion. If now I allow that to happen, it will be a different course."! And so the work was not, while we were in Rome and for weeks after we returned on July 15th.

While the universal Master slaved for His creation, we struggled to be worthy slaves to His wishes. With all the bans and restrictions on visitors and correspondence, we were yet unable to punch a hole in our work-lined days for a breath of idle leisure. We were occupied as ever, doing the endless little nothings that are everything when they are done at the Master's bidding. There wasn't much difference in the duties allotted usually to each. The difference was in the mettle of our obedience, obedience that was constantly tested and sharpened against our thousand weaknesses. Baba does not mow down one's shortcomings -- He often makes them serve one in serving Him. When He accepts the 'all' that we surrender to Him, He accepts the myriad weaknesses that bind us and makes them serve Him for our release. In His hands, our chains become reins. How often have we seen this transformation! As a single instance, take the inordinate inquisitiveness that is part of our Baidul's nature, a weak point that exasperates those around him. That weak point became his strong point in serving his Master, in his years of arduous service as an expert Mast-hunter. Baidul's nosy nature was an indispensable asset in ferreting out from ones of the Path) whom Baba wished to contact during His many Mast-tours - information that often was jealously guarded by the masts' devotees! And so, in diverse ways, He lets our imperfections serve His perfect plan. As Baba once remarked to the disciples around Him, with a twinkle that He could not hide, "You are all nothing but broken-down furniture. But, it is I who have selected you, so you must be what I want."

It was on Tuesday the 30th of July 1968, that the Work was concluded. On that evening Beloved Baba declared:

MY WORK IS DONE. IT IS COMPLETED 100% TO MY SATISFACTION.

THE RESULT OF THIS WORK WILL ALSO BE 100% AND WILL

MANIFEST FROM THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

At the time when we crossed the date-line of May 21, we barely glanced at it. But later when we looked back and saw it receding rapidly, we were surprised to see that it had raised no dust storm from agitated minds. Beloved Baba's statement that something great will happen soon after 21st May had filtered through newspapers to the public's ear. So it was hardly surprising that a number of His lovers were apprehensive about being questioned and challenged by individuals they met, and armed themselves with answers. But when they were questioned, as sure enough they were and still continue to be -- by friends, neighbours, acquaintances, strangers -- they found themselves disarmed, for the question most often put to the lovers was the same one that the lovers were asking themselves: "When will Meher Baba give darshan?!!!"

The greatest event for Baba-lovers is being with Baba. In their heart-scales no event can weigh more. Knowing their longing, as only the Beloved can who suffers His separation in them, Baba says: "I know that they are impatient to see me. And what about me? I also am impatient for them to see me. But the time has yet not come -- so my lovers and I, we must wait a while longer."

While the universal Master slaved for his creation, we struggled to be
 only slaves to his wishes. With all the pains and restrictions on visitors and
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 northern industrialism that is part of our Bahai's nature, a weak
 that compares those around him. That weak point became his strong
 in serving the Master, in his years of arduous service as an expert Mast-
 . Bahai's holy nature was an indispensable asset in ferreting out from
 always correct, the whereabouts and history of masters (God-intoxicated
 of the earth) whom Baba wished to contact during His many Mast-tours -
 after that often was zealously guarded by the master's devotees! And so,
 one way, he left our investigations serve His perfect plan. As Baba
 wanted to the disciples around him, with a twinkle that he could not
 (You see all nothing but broken-down furniture. But, it is I who have
 of you, so you must be what I want."

It was on Tuesday the 10th of July 1948, that the work was complete
 which followed Baba declared:

MY WORK IS DONE. IT IS COMPLETED LOOK TO MY SATISFACTION.

THE RESULT OF THIS WORK WILL ALSO BE LOOK AND WILL

MANIFEST FROM THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

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 and what about me? I also am impatient for them to see me. But
 had not come -- so my lovers and I, we must wait a while longer."

With the expectancy rising higher, the impatience sometimes spills over, specially from the Western sea of His young lovers whose eyes thirst for their first glimpse of Him. To be nearer to His abode when His call comes, a number of these young ones have hitch-hiked from America, and from France and Australia. Some have hung on to the outskirts, waiting out their vigil close to Delhi and managing to renew their visas again and again. Some have come up to the threshold, to Adi's office at Ahmednagar. Each one's longing, conveyed in a letter to Adi, reached Baba. Each one received from Baba a message and instructions. The message was a treasure of His Love, the instructions were a test of their love. One and all proved true lovers. Rubbed against the Beloved's flint-hard instructions to return home without seeing Him, to wait till He calls them, their love was not found wanting. They carried out the instructions, not just on the whole but in each part. We old-timers bow down to these young ones' love that has the strength to bow down to His will so completely. To give a breath of the agony of longing and obedience that came in all their letters, I quote from one boy's letter. J.P., waiting in Delhi since many months, wrote in reply to Adi's advice to return to U.S.: "My heart has been so long set on seeing Beloved Baba that it won't listen to reason. I have been longing to proceed south to be nearer to Baba. Leaving India, turning even my physical back on Him, is beyond my powers at this point. But I am not saying I won't go home or can't go home or that I wish in any way to go against Beloved Baba's wishes. I wish to do exactly what Baba wishes me to do. If it is His Will that I return, then I have faith that it will be revealed to me and that Baba will help me carry out His Will. Avatar Meher Baba Ki Jai!"

If the longing of His lovers is mounting, so is their number. In East and West, the number has grown to such an extent that we cannot imagine the next Darshan being arranged on the lines of any gathering or sahasvas held in the past. We wonder how it is going to be managed when Baba's call bursts the dam of waiting to let His lovers in! But there is an old saying "When God tells you to ride, He will provide a horse." When the Beloved calls, His lovers will be shown the way. At times we find that in answer to their call, some are shown the way to His darshan within them. As we have come to know over the years, such experience is not so very rare among newly awakened ones -- and quite a few times it has happened to individuals who had never heard of Baba! Each time we come to know of someone having received His darshan inwardly, we are reawakened to the fact that He is everywhere. Take the instance that was mentioned in a letter received by Jal from James Taylor, one of the Baba-boys in the U.S.A.: "The other day a recent vintage Baba-lover in Berkeley told us that he and a friend had planned to go to India to see Baba. They were going to write to Adi to that effect, when one night Baba gave them His loving Presence internally ... they were so overwhelmed by His shower of Love ... they now know He is everywhere."

Some others He has called to Himself in eternal darshan. They lived for Him and now live in Him, for Beloved Baba tells us:

THOSE WHO LOVE ME NEVER DIE. THEY LIVE IN ME ETERNALLY. Baba also says:

NO ONE COMES AND NO ONE GOES, AND NONE KNOWS HAPPINESS OR WOES.

...the young man of his young lovers those eyes that for their
 ...to be named in the book when his call comes, a number
 ...and from France and
 ...waiting out their with close
 ...and again, some have come up
 ...conveyed each one's feelings
 ...received from Baba's message and
 ...of the love, the instructions were a
 ...against the
 ...without waiting him to wait
 ...They carried out the
 ...in each part, we did not know how down
 ...to him to go down to his will do
 ...of the agency of looking and observing that came
 ...4.9, waiting in Delhi
 ...to return to G.S. 1.11
 ...that is not listen to
 ...to be nearer to Baba, leaving
 ...in power to his point
 ...or that I wish in my way
 ...what Baba wishes we
 ...that I will be
 ...the will be carry out the will. Ameer Mohan

...in my mind, in the
 ...to be named in the book when his call comes, a number
 ...and from France and
 ...waiting out their with close
 ...and again, some have come up
 ...conveyed each one's feelings
 ...received from Baba's message and
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 ...the will be carry out the will. Ameer Mohan

The occasion that gave birth to this rhyme was a cable recently received from His dear lovers Adi & Dolly Arjani of Pakistan, conveying news of the fatal accident to His teen-age lover, their son Faredoon. Every now and then we receive a telegram or a cable, from inland or overseas, informing us that some lover and worker of Baba has dropped his or her body -- the body that housed His Love-flame and served as a beacon for others. Within two months, two of His beloved and dedicated workers in the U.S.A. -- Beryl Williams, and Warren Healy -- have come to Him. So also has His stalwart worker in England, Douglas Eve. "Beryl was and is mine for ever." "Warren's love for me was unique." "Douglas is eternally blessed." These are the first words we received from Beloved Baba when the cables concerning their passing away were read to Him -- words from the Eternal Source -- undying testimony of their love for Him, of His Love for them.

For the world, while oblivious of it, the greatest event is when God visits the earth as Man. Of all the planets in all the galaxies among all the universes, Earth alone is where this miracle happens, again and again. But when it happens, poor Earth is unconscious; it is like a king who is crowned in his sleep and misses his coronation. The God-Man (Avatar) visits the Earth when it is dark in pain and sorrow. He comes in the dead of night, and only a few see Him by the light of His Love and follow Him in adoration. The Dawn comes after He leaves, and with it comes the growing awakening, the remorse, the agonized waiting for His return, the resolution not to miss Him the next time ... many a 'next time' slipping through many a worn out resolution ... until, at last, that time is here. It is in this time, now! This God-visit is to be different. Our Earth-world will not be left asleep in darkness. The Compassionate One will shake it awake, and it will witness His Love's rising in the dawn of His Word. All the world, our God-Man tells us, will know Him when He breaks open His silence and gives to it The Word.

Already we see it is different this time. In bygone Advents it was after the God-Man dropped His body that His faithfuls set out with His message across and over the lands, brought out books on His teachings and life, made pilgrimages to the places where His feet had walked, set up houses of worship in His name and service. In the present Advent, all of this is being done now -- all this and much more, while God is among us in the Man-form of Meher Baba.

Meher Baba's Message-carriers, His "workers", starting out in handfuls are now moving on in landfuls. They are a continually expanding body covering many lands, its thousand limbs moving forward with a swiftness that astonishes them. As a reporter, I find it more bewildering than astonishing. It is not possible any more to keep up with the agility of each limb, one can only follow the movement of the whole! Phrases in the reports that come in, phrases like the ones I am quoting here, give an idea of the course His Love is taking in different lands (Australia): "... the flow and movement of beloved Baba in Australia is quickening, the root structure is strengthening and spreading." (England): "It is amazing how Baba has brought things about -- His work is indeed speeding up, and there is an extraordinary sense of urgency!" (Iran): "In the Love of beloved Hazrat Meherbaba, Muslims and Zoroastrians get together, work together, eat together, as children of the

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One Father, as members of His ever growing Persian family -- what can one call this except a miracle?" (U.S.A.): "There is a growing sense of Baba-consolidation and a firming of deeper love and commitment in more and more individuals, while the general public is becoming more familiar with the Name of the Highest of the High." "The many new lovers that are cropping up in all places in every corner of the United States, are clearly the Beloved's children, in the Beloved's family." We see many countries coming to life, part by part, with Baba's Love-touch. The world is like a huge mansion at night, and window after window lights up as the switch is turned on in each room. The latest window we see lit up in His brilliance is the state of Texas in U.S.A., where a Baba-group has formed -- a sturdy young group of boys and girls who have set out to proclaim His Message through "HEMISFAIR 68" being held in San Antonio, Texas. A group newly born, whose first step is a stride!

The books on and by Meher Baba, so far published, are over a hundred. Avatar Meher Baba Centres are all over the world -- the 'houses of worship' that have the fragrance of His living presence -- trees in bloom, not pressed flowers from the pages of a past. Each Baba Centre, the product of the joint love of His lovers, is christened with His Name combined with its birthplace or some expression of the lovers' love-fancy. His Name is woven into their personal lives too, as when naming their home and children. For example, place-names: Meher Cottage, Meher House, Meher Manzil (abode), Meher Astana (threshold). And, personal names: Meher-prasad (boon), Meher-kumar (son), Meher-prem (love), Meher-jyoti (flame), Meher-dil (heart), and so on. As there are many young lovers by the name of Meherwan (or Merwan), in our conversations we refer to them by their parents, like 'Rhoda's Meherwan' or 'Gaimai's Meherwan' or 'Burjor's Merwan'! In Satara we knew a Christian carpenter who named his first grandson after Baba, We were so proud to hear that, so happy to see the bonny baby boy -- and so startled to hear grandma calling him 'Meherbaba'! It took quite a bit of gentle persuasion to convince the family that this was not the way to do it, that the name should simply be Meherwan. Either they could not remember or pronounce the name properly, but a happy compromise was reached and the boy was named Meherban (associated in their minds with 'meherbanee', an Indian word for 'thanks').

The Beloved's Name is not confined to heart and home. It often enters His lovers' business or public interests. Today, in different parts of India, there are private businesses and public establishments that are registered under these names: Meher Pharmacy, Meher Tea Shop, Meher Foundry, Meher Agencies, Meher Cloth Shop, Meher Dispensary, Meher Farm, Meher Park, Meher Market, Meher Cafe, Meher Nagar (township), Meher Puri (housing colony), Meher Vihar, Meher Academy and Tutorial College, Meher Poultry Farm, Meher Gardens -- and perhaps others that I am not aware of. And now there is to be a Meher Cinema! Being constructed in Agra (near Delhi) by His devoted Krishna Prasad family, the 'MEHER' Cinema will be equipped for showing 70 mm films, the first of its kind in the U.P. (northern India). Lastly, I must mention one locality named after Him which was not named by His lovers, but by a governmental body. In Poona, the locality where Baba's childhood home is situated, the section with the alleys where Baba played as Meherwan, was officially named "Meher Moholla" by the Board of Poona Cantonement a number of years ago.

This Advent, this God-Man era, is indeed different!

In a message to His lovers, Beloved Baba said:

"Love makes the Formless and Infinite become enformed and finite as the God-Man among men. Love me more and more because for the sake of Love I have come among you."

Baba tells us to love Him more and more, for to love Him is to love our Self. He has come to awaken us to the knowledge of what Love means, for we have forgotten. We have forgotten to love our neighbours because we have forgotten to love our selves -- else, there would be no room in us for the greed and hatred and jealousy and fear that is lording over men and nations. When Baba refers to the world and its affairs, His fingers form a cup-like hollow circle denoting a Zero -- the nonentity that points to the Entity, the illusion that is the clue to Reality. Smilingly, Beloved Baba also refers to it as a Potato. Surely, we tell ourselves, He has a rotten potato on His hands at the moment, with a lot of cutting and cleaning out to do! But He is being infinitely patient, as He was telling the mandali a few days ago. Baba said: "Of all my Advents, in the present one I am exercising my patience to the utmost!"

Since the Beloved completed His work on 30th July, we receive more of His company. Every morning and afternoon He spends some hours in the Hall with His men. Before settling in the chair, Baba takes a walk up and down the Hall, with dear Kaka waddling beside Him like a protective hen. This touches and delights Baba. Kaka also provides a variety of light-hearted entertainment every day, with some act of merriment, or with his many mispronunciations of names and words that he cannot remember. Undaunted by his loss of memory for the commonly used words, Kaka has practically invented a new language which he speaks with supreme confidence and relish. A further touch of jollity is added when Francis gives his own translation of the Kaka-language. More than once Baba has said, "While everybody adds to my burden, Kaka removes a fraction of it!" When Baba leaves the Hall, it is at the time appointed by Himself. No matter how keenly He may appear to attend to discussions that come up or listen to articles and news items that are read out, He never fails to keep an eye on the wall clock. Baba's punctiliousness in the matter of time has always amazed us. But, as one lover puts it: the Eternal One, having bound Himself in Time, observes the minute rules of the game! Although Baba does not give spiritual discourses or explanations on these days, the mandali receive an occasional pearl from the ocean of His whim. This is sometimes in the shape of a rhyme. Among the ones received in the last two months, are the following.

One morning in July, His fingers moving rapidly to spell out words read by Eruch, Beloved Baba said:

"GOD ALWAYS EXISTED

GOD WILL ALWAYS EXIST.

HE IS NEVER CHANGING, EVER THE SAME -

AND ILLUSION IS HIS ETERNAL GAME."

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"I have made the formless and infinite become enfolded and finite as the God-Man among men. Love me more and more because for the sake of love I have come among you."

Baba calls us to love Him more and more, for to love Him is to love our self. He has come to awaken us to the knowledge of what love means. For we have forgotten. We have forgotten to love our neighbors because we have forgotten to love our selves -- else, there would be no room in us for the good and hatred and jealousy and fear that is lorded over men and nations. When Baba refers to the world and its affairs, His fingers form a cup-like hollow circle denoting a Zero -- the nonentity that points to the Entity, the illusion that is the sine to reality. Smilingly, Beloved Baba also refers to us as a Zero. Surely, we tell ourselves, He has a rotten potato on His hands at the moment, with a lot of cutting and cleaning out to do! But He is being infinitely patient, as He was telling the world a few days ago. Baba said: "Of all my Advaita, in the present one I am exercising my patience to the utmost!"

Since the Beloved completed His work on 30th July, we receive more of His company. Every morning and afternoon He spends some hours in the Hall with His devotees. Before sitting in the chair, Baba takes a walk up and down the Hall, with dear Kaka waddling beside Him like a protective hen. This touches and enlightens Baba. Kaka also provides a variety of light-hearted entertainment every day, with some sort of performance, or with the very miscellaneous assortment of songs and words that he cannot remember. Undisturbed by the loss of memory, which when Kaka gives his own translation of the kaka-language, Baba has said, "While everybody adds to my burden, Kaka removes it!" When Baba leaves the Hall, it is at the time appointed by the matter how readily he may appear to attend to discussions that are taken to articles and news items that are read out. He never fails to be on the wall clock. Baba's punctiliousness in the matter of time always amazed us. But, as one lover puts it: the Eternal One, having himself in time, observes the minute rules of the game. Although Baba does not give editorial discourses or explanations on these days, the world receives an occasional pearl from the ocean of His wisdom. This is sometimes in the form of a rhyme. Among the ones received in the last two months are the following:

One morning in July, His fingers moving rapidly to spell out words read

By Eruch, Beloved Baba said:

"GOD ALWAYS EXISTED"

GOD WILL ALWAYS EXIST

HE IS NEVER CHANGING, EVER THE SAME -

AND ILLUSION IS HIS ETERNAL GAME."

This one was given by Baba in August:

"EVERLASTING, NEVER ENDING
NEVER CHANGING, EVER THE SAME
AND HIS ONENESS IN ITS FULLNESS
PLAYS IN MANYNESS HIS GAME."

At another time, His fingers spelt out:

"Coming, Coming, Coming -- CAME!

One of the mandali said it sounded like the auctioneer's call in reverse!
With a smile in His eyes, Baba said: "None of you can know what it means."
A few days later Beloved Baba added on another line, making it:

"COMING, COMING, COMING -- CAME!
I AM TIRED OF THE ILLUSION GAME."

!!! Jai Baba!

Lovingly,

Mani.

This one was given by Baba in August:

"EVERLASTING, NEVER ENDING
NEVER CHANGING, EVER THE SAME
AND HIS OWNERSHIP IN ITS FULLNESS
PLAYS IN MANKYESS HIS GAME."

At another time, his fingers spell out:
"Coming, Coming, Coming -- CAME!"

One of the medals said it sounded like the auctioneer's call in reverse:
With a smile in his eyes, Baba said: "None of you can know what it means."
A few days later Baba added on another line, making it:

"COMING, COMING, COMING -- CAME!
I AM TIRED OF THE ILLUSION GAME."

!!! Jai Baba!

lovingly,

Mani.

SEVENTY-NINTH FAMILY LETTER FROM MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

RECEIVED BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

Ⓒ UNIVERSAL SPIRITUAL LEAGUE IN AMERICA INCORPORATED (NEW YORK) 1968.

Meherazad, 1st November 1968.

Dearest Family,

This unexpected letter following on the heels of the last one, is a momentous messenger carrying momentous tidings: the announcement from Beloved Baba for which His lovers have been waiting, waiting, waiting. That which seemed so far away such a short while ago, is now so close and large that the years of waiting appear small beside it. The first hint Baba gave us of it, was scarcely a month before His announcement was finalised and formulated in a Circular to reach all His lovers. The Circular, issued on 1st November 1968, is being sent out by Adi to all lovers in the East, and given here by me for all lovers in the West:-

On the 13th October some local workers and a few from other places were called to Meherazad to hear this new circular (Life Circular No. 70) informing Avatar Meher Baba's lovers all over the world of His decision to give them His darshan next year from 10th April to 10th June in Poona.

Baba said: "No doubt you people and my lovers everywhere have been wondering why, when my period of intense Work in seclusion has finished, I have still not allowed my lovers to see me.

"The strain of that 18 months' Work was tremendous. I used to sit alone in my room for some hours each day while complete silence was imposed on the mandali and no one of them was permitted to enter the room, during those hours every day. The strain was not in the work itself although I was working on all planes of consciousness, but in keeping my link with the gross plane. To keep this link I had to continuously hammer my right thigh with my fist. Now, although my health is good, and I would like to fulfill immediately the longing of my lovers to come to me - many to see me for the first time - it will yet take some time for all traces of the strain to disappear and for me to be 100% fit to see them all; and so because of this, and for practical considerations also, I have decided to give my darshan only to my lovers but not to the general public.

"This is the time for my lovers. The time for the world's crowds to come to me will be when I break my Silence and Manifest my Divinity.

"The 1962 East-West Gathering was nothing compared with what this Gathering will be. For while I was working intensely in seclusion, my worker-lovers all over the world were intensely active telling the world about me, and my Message is spreading in many parts of the West now as a forest fire before a strong wind - as it had already done in many areas of India.

"I will give my darshan daily for two hours in the morning and for two hours in the afternoon to small numbers up to 500 (Five hundred) at a time, but I will not see any of my lovers individually or give private interviews, for it would not be possible. This is my part of the bargain. How the lovers come to Poona and are accommodated will be the concern of each one who comes."

* * * * *

... the part of the Circular (Life Circular No. 70) which is directed by Avatar Meher Baba as directed by

... Baba in the East and the West, are eagerly ... giving the darshan "sometimes, somewhere,

... He will give darshan to His lovers, ... in this Circular.

COMMITTEE FOR DARSHAN

AVATAR MEHER BABA

10th June 1969

1) ... for a fixed number of hours each day,

2) ... at St. Paul's

3) ... old and new, Western and ... THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

4) ... in the morning to Western ... Morning ... will be from 5 to 6 P.M.

5) ... exclusively for His lovers ...

6) ... His lovers in the East ...

7) ... P.M. up to 5.30 P.M.

8) ... for not more than 2 weeks ...

9) ... should stay in Room for no ...

10) ... in Room for a ...

- 9) Lovers residing in Poona should see Baba only ONCE during the Darshan period.
- 10) Baba will not see any one individually.
- 11) Baba will NOT give any private interviews, and no one should ask Baba for any advice or directive on their personal affairs, group activities or spiritual matters.
- 12) Group-heads may introduce new lovers to Baba. For the purpose of identity of Baba-lovers and to prevent infiltration of the public, group-heads of zonal centres should devise and issue tokens to all in their zone coming to Poona for the Darshan.
- 13) As the Darshan will be given solely in the Hall of Guruprasad bungalow, only a limited number of lovers can be accommodated at a time. Hence the Eastern lovers are divided into zones, and each zonal group must abide by the date allotted to it. The term "Eastern lovers" includes those coming from Pakistan, Iran and Africa, and they must keep to the dates fixed for their seeing Baba and arrive in Poona accordingly.

To enable all of them to have Baba's darshan, particular dates have been fixed for particular groups in the particular zones. Group-heads in their respective zones should divide the number of Baba-lovers in their zone into one or two or more groups according to the number of groups each zone contains, as follows:

<u>ZONES</u>	<u>Afternoon hours from 2 to 4 P.M.</u>	<u>GROUPS</u>	<u>1969</u>
a) POONA (and suburbs and Panshet).....)	)	Group I ---	10th April
	)	Group II --	11th April
	)	Group III -	12th April
b) BOMBAY (and Parel Village and suburbs..)	)	Group I ---	13th April
	)	Group II --	14th April
	)	Group III -	15th April
c) GUJERAT .....	)	Group I ---	16th April
d) PAKISTAN ... (for TWO days) .....	)	..	17th and 18th April
e) HAMIRPUR (and Jalaun Dist. only).....)	)	Group I ---	19th April
	)	Group II --	20th April
	)	Group III -	22nd April
	)	Group IV --	23rd April
f) UTTAR PRADESH (Kanpur, Jhansi, Varanasi)	)	Group I ---	25th April
(Dehra Dun, Agra, Lucknow)	)	Group II --	26th April
(Allahabad, Saharanpur, )	)	Group III -	27th April
(Sultanpur, Mokimpur,))		
(Aligarh, Mathura,))		
(Roorkee, etc.))		
g) DELHI, KASHMIR, W. BENGAL, HARYANA )	)	Group I ---	29th April
PUNJAB, BIHAR, ORISSA .....	)	Group II --	30th April
	)	Group III -	1st May

... in rooms should see Baba only ONCE during the program

MEMORANDUM

... and individually.

... private interviews, and no one should ask Baba for ... on their personal affairs, group activities or

... Baba. For the purpose of identity ... of the public, group heads of ... and Baba should be in their zone during

... in the Hall of Gurpreet Bunglow, ... can be accommodated at a time. Hence the ... and each social group must abide by ... "Eastern lovers" includes those coming ... and they must keep to the dates fixed for ... accordingly.

... Baba's program, particular dates have been ... in the particular zones. Group heads in ... the number of Baba-lovers in their ... to the number of groups each

GROUPS	1969
Group I -- 10th April	}
Group II -- 11th April	
Group III -- 12th April	
Group I -- 13th April	}
Group II -- 14th April	
Group III -- 15th April	
Group I -- 16th April	}
Group II and 16th April	
Group I -- 17th April	}
Group II -- 18th April	
Group III -- 19th April	
Group IV -- 20th April	
Group I -- 21st April	}
Group II -- 22nd April	
Group III -- 23rd April	
Group I -- 24th April	}
Group II -- 25th April	
Group III -- 26th April	
Group I -- 27th April	}
Group II -- 28th April	
Group III -- 29th April	
Group I -- 30th April	}
Group II -- 1st May	
Group III -- 2nd May	

- h) NAGPUR (and Saoner and rest of Maharashtra)
 (State.)
) Group I --- 3rd May
 Group II -- 4th May
 Group III - 5th May
- i) MADHYA PRADESH (Jabalpur, Raipur,)
 (Bilaspur, Bhopal,)
 (Indore, etc.)
) Group I --- 7th May
 Group II -- 8th May
 Group III - 9th May
- j) ANDHRA PRADESH (Srikakulam, Vizagapatnam)
 (and East Godavri Dists. ...)
) Group I --- 11th May
 Group II -- 12th May
 Group III - 13th May
- k) ANDHRA PRADESH (West Godavri Dist.)
) Group I --- 15th May
 Group II -- 16th May
- l) ANDHRA PRADESH (Krishna Dist.)
) Group I --- 18th May
 Group II -- 19th May
- m) ANDHRA PRADESH (Guntur Dist.)
) Group I --- 21st May
 Group II -- 22nd May
- n) ANDHRA PRADESH (Hyderabad, Secunderabad,)
 (and rest of Andhra, Madras,)
 (and Kerala States)
) Group I --- 24th May
 Group II -- 25th May
 Group III - 26th May
- o) IRAN AND AFRICA ... (for TWO days)) .. 28th and 29th May
- p) AHMEDNAGAR DIST. (Patherdi, Kup, Bhaloni, Pimpalgaon, Arangaon, etc.)
 (Baba will fix the dates of these places later.)

- - x x x x x x x x x x x - -

- 14) Western lovers should try and spread out their arrivals in Poona over the two months of the Darshan period. This is in view of the shortage of good hotels and accommodation suited to Western needs, and to help avoid crowding in Guruprasad Hall at darshan time.
- 15) Baba wants all His lovers, both Eastern and Western, to return home directly on leaving Poona after seeing Him. Therefore, any who plan to do sightseeing in India or outside of India should do so before coming to Poona.
- 16) Only those who can afford to make the trip for His darshan should do so, and it must be on their own responsibility in all respects and without risk to health or livelihood.
- 17) No one from abroad should come for Baba's darshan without guaranteed passage for their return home soon after the week's stay in Poona.
- 18) Baba wants all of His lovers coming for His darshan from overseas, to transact their financial dealings through the Indian banks and authorised agents according to the law of the country.

Group I --- 3rd May
Group II --- 17th May
Group III --- 28th May

1. The first group of experiments
concerned the effect of
temperature on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

b)

Group I --- 7th May
Group II --- 8th May
Group III --- 9th May

2. The second group of experiments
concerned the effect of
concentration on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

i)

Group I --- 11th May
Group II --- 12th May
Group III --- 13th May

3. The third group of experiments
concerned the effect of
catalysis on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

j)

Group I --- 15th May
Group II --- 16th May

4. The fourth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
surface area on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

k)

Group I --- 18th May
Group II --- 19th May

5. The fifth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
pressure on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

l)

Group I --- 21st May
Group II --- 22nd May

6. The sixth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
pH on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

m)

Group I --- 25th May
Group II --- 26th May
Group III --- 27th May

7. The seventh group of experiments
concerned the effect of
ionic strength on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

n)

Group I --- 29th May
Group II --- 30th May
Group III --- 31st May

8. The eighth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
solvent on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

o)

Group I --- 1st June
Group II --- 2nd June
Group III --- 3rd June

9. The ninth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
temperature on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

p)

Group I --- 6th June
Group II --- 7th June
Group III --- 8th June

10. The tenth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
concentration on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

1a)

Group I --- 12th June
Group II --- 13th June
Group III --- 14th June

11. The eleventh group of experiments
concerned the effect of
catalysis on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

1b)

Group I --- 18th June
Group II --- 19th June
Group III --- 20th June

12. The twelfth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
surface area on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

1c)

Group I --- 24th June
Group II --- 25th June
Group III --- 26th June

13. The thirteenth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
pressure on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

1d)

Group I --- 30th June
Group II --- 1st July
Group III --- 2nd July

14. The fourteenth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
pH on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

1e)

Group I --- 6th July
Group II --- 7th July
Group III --- 8th July

15. The fifteenth group of experiments
concerned the effect of
ionic strength on the rate of
reaction between hydrogen
peroxide and potassium
iodide.

1f)

- 19) Baba does not wish any of His lovers to bring gifts for Him or for any of His people.
- 20) No one should seek or expect to receive any special permission or instructions from Baba about coming for His darshan. Any lover who wishes to come, and who can afford to come, and who is well enough in health to come, is free to do so. Each one visiting Poona for Baba's darshan must understand that he or she comes on his or her own responsibility in every respect.
- 21) Baba does not wish His lovers to write to anyone at Meherazad, or to Adi K. Irani, on any problems or queries regarding their visit to Poona for the Darshan.
- 22) Baba wants all His Eastern lovers visiting Poona for His darshan to make their own arrangements as regards conveyance, stay, food and other personal comforts. These arrangements must be seen to by individuals or their own group-heads concerned without seeking the least aid from Meherazad Mandali or from Adi and his office.
- 23) Western lovers may seek help in fixing hotel accommodation for their stay in Poona from Meherjee who has been appointed to this task by Baba. For this, the individual Western lovers should intimate Meherjee by a short letter as soon as passage has been booked, informing him of date of arrival in Poona and duration of stay in Poona, with his or her full name and address given in clear block letters. Please note his home address: Meherjee Karkaria, Meher Villa, Salisbury Park Road, Poona -1, India. Cable address is: WHITECLOUD, Poona, (India).
- 24) As appointed by Baba, His brother Jal will be in charge as general assistant and guide to the Western lovers during their stay in Poona. Taking the help of some Eastern lovers, Jal will, on request, assist in arranging transport to and from Guruprasad or a sightseeing drive of Baba-places in Poona for the Western lovers who wish it.

(To facilitate arrangement for transport to and from Guruprasad, the Western lovers should also intimate Jal, after passage has been booked, their date of arrival in Poona and duration of stay in Poona, giving full name and address in clear block letters. Address: Jal S. Irani, Meher Moholla, 765 Dastur Meher Road, Camp Poona -1, India).
- 25) Baba says that those who want to come and cannot come to Poona for His darshan should not feel upset or disheartened but remain resigned to His Love knowing that "sometime, somewhere, somehow" His darshan is assured to them also.
- 26) Baba wants the present restriction on correspondence to continue as now and be **MORE STRICTLY OBSERVED**.

Kindly share all the information given in this Circular with all lovers of Avatar Meher Baba in your sphere of Baba-work. Please NOTE that this Circular is NOT meant for the GENERAL PUBLIC as Baba has made it quite clear that this

DARSHAN is ONLY FOR HIS LOVERS old and new.

* * * * *

The above Circular was read out to those gathered before Baba at Meherazad on 13th October. Among them was Baba's beloved 'Child', Kishinchand Gajwani, called from Bombay along with Sorabjee Sigantoria -- the twins in His service, as Baba has always referred to them. On the 16th, at his home in Bombay, right after his morning prayer and worship before the Beloved's picture, our Kishinchand Gajwani passed away from sudden heart failure. In the message that was cabled to the Gajwani family, Baba said:

My child Kishinchand Gajwani was fortunate to see me physically just before his coming to me for eternal rest in my divine Bliss. His deep love for and faith in me has made his whole family blessed.

I'm wondering how to shape the ending of this letter. Happily no comments are needed to frame such a letter as this one, nor would they stand up before the dazzling content of the Circular. The light of Beloved Baba's message will set aglow the hearts of His lovers who can come to Poona to be in His presence, and of His lovers who cannot come but have His presence in their hearts in the eternal assurance of His Love.

At the darshan-discussion gathering in Meherazad, Beloved Baba said:

"I have been saying: the Time is near,
it is fast approaching, it is close at hand.

Today I say: the Time has come. Remember this!"

JAI BABA!

Ever lovingly,

MANI

EIGHTIETH FAMILY LETTER FROM MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

RECEIVED BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S. C.

© UNIVERSAL SPIRITUAL LEAGUE IN AMERICA INCORPORATED (NEW YORK) 1969.

Meherazad, 26th January 1969.

Dearest Family,

A prosperous 1969 to all of us -- prosperous in the wealth of Baba's Love which thrives on poverty of the lover's self!

We stand on the last step of the 1960's, arms laden with gifts of His Compassion, hearts singing in tune with these lines from a lover in the West:

Amidst the holiday conventions of giving
and receiving gifts, more and more hearts are rejoicing
in the only Real Gift.

God has given Himself to His Creation.

The glory of this Gift is that the joy of
receiving is the joy of giving. Receiving the Beloved
means giving Him love. Giving Him love means receiving
His Love. Receiving the Love of the Beloved means
sharing it with all. Sharing Beloved's Love means
receiving Him in all.

O God, most Beloved Baba, may we show our
gratitude for Your supreme Gift of Yourself by receiving
Your Love and giving Your Love and living Your Message
of Love in our lives.

Although 1969 begins with clouded skies -- the clouds of personal trials and tribulations in the lives of a number of His close ones, the clouds of world-wide disunity and violence -- for His lovers there is the resplendent silver lining promising fulfilment of the long longed-for darshan of their Beloved. Even through the great cloud of Baba's health, there is a small soft light shining. I wrote to Fredella some days ago: "Beloved Baba's health has not been at all good for some time, from the tremendous strain of His Seclusion work. And although the extreme anaemia (which a recent routine test showed) has been promptly remedied, His physical condition is very weak. Goher and the other doctors strongly feel there should be a thorough check-up done. As this is not possible at Meherazad-Ahmednagar, we're trying to persuade Baba to make an early move to have it done in Poona. We are hoping He will agree."

Baba did NOT agree. He refuses moving to Poona before the usual date, which is about the end of March, in time for the Darshan beginning 10th April. Baba says that the pressure of His universal burden reflects upon His body; and as the strain of His work in Seclusion was severe, the effect on His body is consequently severe -- but though the effect is human the cause is divine, and it is therefore in His hands. We get fleeting glimpses of this, at moments

FAMILY LETTER FROM MEMBER BABAS'S SISTER, MAMIE,

AT MERTLE BEACH, S. C.

THE LEAGUE IN AMERICA INCORPORATED (NEW YORK) 1962

Moharand, 26th January 1962

Dear all of us -- prosperous in the wealth of Baba's love
and the lover's self!

The days of the 1960's, since laden with gifts of His
love in time with these lines from a lover in the West!

And just the holiday convolutions of giving
and giving, more and more hearts are rejoicing
in the love of His.

But has given himself to His Creation.

The giving of love is that the joy of
giving is the joy of giving. Receiving the beloved
and the love. Giving the love means receiving
the love of the beloved means
receiving the beloved's love means

And you, dear Beloved Baba, may we show our
love to you through the love of yourself by receiving
the love of your love and living your message
of love.

It is an ancient story -- the clouds of personal trial
and a number of His close ones, the clouds of
trials -- For His love there is the recipient
of the love of the long journey of their
great cloud of Baba's health, there is a small soul
of the health of Baba's health has
from the friendship of His health
which a recent reading had shown)
His physical condition is very weak. Gohar and the
love that would be a thorough check-up done. As this
was being done, we're trying to persuade Baba to make
the trip to India. We are hoping he will agree."

He is always working to know before the usual date
of the year for the German beginning 1962 April
of the physical health reflects upon His body
and in the health was better, the stress on His body
through the stress in human the cause is divine
and. We are living glimpse of His, as

when unaccountably He looks more well and glowing than one in the pink of health. Indeed, in the light of recent tests made, the doctors are much puzzled and amazed by certain favourable factors that are contrary to all rules of medical science!

Baba tells us that He is both God and Man. Seeing Him undergo sickness and accidents and suffering, are stark reminders that He is Man, that He has said: "I have taken on the form of Man to take on the suffering of man." And when, tending to His body to the utmost of our ability we feel over-anxious or worried, He reminds us: "Don't forget I am God. I know all. Simply do as I say." We bow to His Will.

I did not expect to write to you before February. What actually launches this letter on its course round the world at this time, is another circular just issued by Adi -- Life Circular No. 71, which I give here for all of His Western family:

Beloved Avatar Meher Baba wishes all His lovers to know that His three years of intense work has shattered His health.

In spite of this He has invited His lovers from all over the world to come to Him for His darshan next summer, for it is the time for them to come to Him and receive His Love.

It is the time; and the place, Guruprasad, Poona has been fixed.

But with the present condition of His health, how beloved Baba will give His darshan to the thousands who will come, yet remains to be determined; but it will be. He will give His darshan.

This darshan, Baba says, will be the last given in Silence -- the last before He speaks His world-renewing Word of words.

- NOTE:
- 1) No one should write, telegraph or cable for Baba's blessings for persons or events or programs, but remain content in the knowledge that His blessings are continually with His lovers. No such communications will be conveyed to Baba and so cannot be acknowledged.
 - 2) No one should attempt to see Baba until 10th April onwards in accordance with Avatar Meher Baba's conditions printed in Life Circular No. 70 dated 1st November 1968.
 - 3) No one should write to Baba or to the resident mandali and Adi about problems of Baba-work or conduct of Centres, or of inquiry about Baba's health, as time and circumstance will not permit our attention.

where the doctors were well and glowing than one in the pink of health. In the light of recent tests made, the doctors are much puzzled by certain favorable factors that are contrary to all

and the fact that he is both God and Man. Seeing Him undergo sickness and pain, are stark reminders that He is Man, that He has taken the form of Man to take on the suffering of man. And we are reminded of the utmost of our ability we feel over-whelmed as: "Don't forget I am God, I know all."

What actually launches the world at this time, is another circular letter, No. VI, which I give here for all of His

all His lovers to know that His three

has loved His lovers from all over the world to

condition of his health, how beloved Baba will

will be the last given in Silence --

will be the last given in Silence --

- 4) Change of postal and telegraphic address only should be communicated to Adi.

* * *

Remarking on this last darshan to be given in Silence, Baba said it will not only be last but it will be unparalleled. This he tells us from His omniscience. But viewed even from our angle it appears so, when we compare it with just the figures of past darshans. Taking a single point: At the one week of East-West Gathering held in Poona in 1962, the total number of His lovers from overseas was less than 200. For this 1969 Darshan of eight weeks' duration, in the first week alone, the number of Western lovers expected is 250 -- the limit laid down for each week! It is astonishing but not surprising, for His Family has grown massively in the last few years. His children have waited long for this homecoming, and now that the way is open they are toiling towards the means. Baba's Moochewalla (Rick Chapman, U.S.A.), directed to write to Him, wrote after receiving the last Family-letter:

"The latest Family Letter has made a tremendous impact on the Family of Your lovers, who have so long been so eager for a glimpse of their Beloved. While most Western lovers look with awe at the love of Your Eastern lovers, many of whom will journey long distances at great hardship to see You, only once, they seem to give no second thought to the prospect of settling down to five months of hard working and tight saving to fly to India for a mere week, and that at knowing they will see none of the 'sights' in India. Powerful evidence of the love in so many of these new lovers, who have their sights on One Sight only and will do anything they can for a few moments with their eternal Beloved.

"May we all come to You, dear Baba, with our hearts in our hands, with no expectation and no purpose except to be totally resigned to Your Perfect Will of Love, to obey You down to the last thread of the Daaman, to take Your Love with us in our hearts to every corner of the world, as evidence that the Christ has come."

There are the many who know the Christ has come, and adore Him; the many who know but cannot believe; the many who do not know and await Him; and those who sit on the fence, waiting. Not so long ago Baba said to a sincere visitor: "I am the Expected One who will also be the Accepted One while I am yet in this body. All will know me when I manifest, but those who know and love me now are the really fortunate." That in this Advent the privilege of accepting the Expected One will not be left to History, but given to the people of today's world, is witnessed by us constantly. Among the most recent happenings that testify to this, is the public and official cognizance given to the place where He was born. As one who heard reports of it remarked: That the AVATAR is honoured in His lifetime and in His hometown, honoured not only by the people but by the People's Government -- this is surely unique!

On a wall of one of the cottage-wards standing in the grounds of the Sassoon General Hospitals in Poona, is a marble slab with these words engraved on it in English and Marathi: "AVATAR MEHER BABA WAS BORN IN SASSOON GENERAL

HOSPITALS on 25th February 1894." Sanction to install this marble inscription was given telegraphically by the Government of Maharashtra. Its unveiling, done by the deputy Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, was attended by dignitaries and staff of the Hospital, by representatives of the Press, and of course by lovers of Baba. This was on 9th December 1968 -- it was the second honouring of the place honoured by our Beloved's birth. The first, inaugurated by the Dean of the Sassoon Hospitals, was on 1st December 1968 -- the first of the ten days when the Hospital was celebrating its 100th year. On that day, Baba-lovers from all parts of Poona assembled in the Auditorium of the B. J. Medical College (adjoining Sassoon Hospital) where the Parvardigar and Repentance prayers were recited, speeches made by some of His lovers from different parts of India, a Baba-film shown, and the Arti sung. A proud day for the assembly of Baba's lovers, particularly for His brother Jal who was responsible for the idea and labour of bringing about these unique events that mark an Event of universal importance.

Adi, who played a chief role on both occasions, has given a detailed account in the Christmas issue of 'Divya Vani'. English and vernacular newspapers also recorded the events in words and pictures -- some went as far as to give pictures of Baba, of His parents, and of the maternity cottage where He was born. A number of papers, which surprisingly included the Times Of India, published this message given by Baba for the occasion of the hospital's centenary:

I GIVE MY BLESSINGS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE
MEDICAL AND WORKER STAFF OF THIS HOSPITAL
IN WHICH I, THE DELIVERER OF THE WORLD,
WAS DELIVERED TO THE WORLD.

-MEHER BABA-

The message was in response to a letter from Prof. Dr. G. S. Mutalik, Organizing Secretary for the Centenary celebrations of the Sassoon General Hospitals, asking for His blessings on the occasion.

In 1894, before the expansion of the hospital had begun, the main building with its adjoining cottages and private wards was known as the David Sassoon Hospital. The wall that now bears the marble engraving shows the ward where seventy-five years ago a sixteen year old girl named Shireen gave birth to the God-Child. His birth was heralded by a strangely prophetic dream which the young mother had the night before He was born. Sheriar, the father, on hearing his wife's dream had exclaimed "Shireen, you do not know Who this Child is that is to be born unto us!" I might add here, that even now when Baba speaks of His father, He says "There was none like him. It was because of him that I was born as his child."

Dreams and visions -- beloved Baba discourages us from attaching importance to them, for all life is a dreaming that the Soul must go through before awaking to Reality. But dreams and visions are also His servants who may serve to awaken hearts to His Love. Over the years, as we have known from personal

Sanction to install this marble inscription
 the Government of Maharashtra. Its unveiling
 the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, was attended
 by representatives of the Press and
 on 25th December 1958 -- it was the second
 by our beloved's birth. The first, inaugurated
 was on 1st December 1955 -- the first of
 was celebrating the 100th year. On that day,
 the Assembly of the B.S. where the Parivarikar and
 speeches made by some of his lovers from
 the show, and the first anniversary. A good day
 particularly for his brother Lal who was
 of bringing about these unique events that

on both occasions, has given a detailed
 English and vernacular news-
 words and pictures -- some went as far as to
 and of the material collage where he
 which included the Times of India,
 for the occasion of the hospital's

THE ADMINISTRATIVE

AND WOMEN STAFF OF THIS HOSPITAL

THE DELIVERER OF THE WORLD

TO THE WORLD

-MEMOR DABA-

to a letter from Prof. Dr. G. S. Muralik,
 the celebration of the 100th anniversary
 on the occasion.

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 and private wards was known as the David Basso
 the marble engraving shows the ward where
 year old girl named Bitten gave birth to the
 by a strangely prophetic dream when the
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 you do not know who this child is that
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recountings and letters, a number of individuals who are Baba-lovers were first awakened to Baba through a vision of Him. Of late we've been hearing of such episodes more often, which is what inspires me to touch on the subject and to give this small selection of accounts heard at different times:

The following experience, as narrated to us by Eruch's family, was had by a woman living in Aden. A staunch and pious Zoroastrian, she had heard of Baba but refused to entertain the preposterous idea that He could be the same as Lord Zoroaster (the Christ)! One morning, while she was praying before a framed portrait of Zoroaster, she saw the picture fade away before her eyes and in its place appeared a Face she had never seen before -- it wore an expression of ineffable love, and hair that was down to the shoulders of a brown fur coat. For a long time she believed it to have been a vision of St. Peter, until one day she saw a picture of Baba in the home of a dear friend in India, a head study that seemed to her a replica of her vision -- and then she knew that it was Meher Baba she had seen in Zoroaster's picture! She and her family are devoted Baba-lovers.

Another instance is of a woman in U.S.A. who hadn't even heard of Baba. She was lying critically ill in hospital, when she saw the form of a man approach her bedside. He was dressed in a soft white robe, bathed in a light that was dazzling but cool. Smiling with love, He bent down and placed a hand on her brow that soothed her to sleep. Years later she came across a picture of Baba in some magazine, and recognized her Visitor of the hospital! As far as I recall, this was related to us by Norina (Princess Matchabelli) during the years she was with us in the ashram at Meherabad.

Among the very recent we have heard of, is the experience of a man in Bombay, a Parsi who denied and challenged Baba's divinity whenever he heard his acquaintances and friends talk about Him. One night, in an agonizingly vivid dream, he saw a sky overcast with dark clouds. While he was gazing up, a great light shot out from the clouds like a big sun, from which a figure emerged walking towards him. Dazed, the man moved forward and kneeling before the figure he bowed his head to the ground and cried out "Meher Baba, forgive me for all that I have said about you; it was said in my ignorance. O forgive me!" The Figure then bent over him and caressed his back for a long while, until he felt his back was beginning to bleed. Looking up he found himself alone, and woke up. His wife related this dream to a Baba-lover family she visited in Ahmednagar. Understandably, both man and wife are very keen to have Baba's darshan. They have been asked to await April.

This last I quote from a letter to Baba received last month from a man in U.S.A., a complete stranger to us till now who addressed the cover of his letter so incorrectly that it's a marvel it reached us! As the letter was personal I omit his name, but I feel sure he will understand my wanting to share its heartwarming contents with the rest of the Baba Family. Beginning his letter to Baba with "Excuse my ignorance, I do not know how to address you properly", he writes on:

"I am sure that you know about me, and that what I will tell you is not new for you. After much reflection and hesitation I have decided to communicate first with you, since from what you will read you will see that I have some justification. I have been in the U.S.A. since 1967. I was born in,

...number of individuals who are Baba-lovers were first ...vision of him. Of late we've been hearing of such ...inquiries me to touch on the subject and to ...of someone heard at different times.

...as narrated to me by Kancha's family, was had by ...and shows Gorostran, she had heard of Baba ...she could be the same as Lord ...while she was giving before a friend ...the day before her eyes and in the ...it was an expression of ...of a person the next day ...to have seen a vision of St. Peter, until one ...of a best friend in India, a head ...and then she knew that it ...She and her family are

...in U.S.A. who hadn't even heard of Baba ...in hospital, when she saw the form of a man ...in a soft white robe, bathed in a light ...with love, he bent down and placed a hand ...later she came across a picture ...her vision of the hospital. As far ...Princess Matchabell) during the ...London.

...heard of, in the experience of a man in ...Baba's divinity whenever he heard ...him. One night, in an agonizing ...with dark clouds. While he was asleep ...like a big man, from which a light ...she saw forever and kneeling ...the ground and cried out "Mother Baba, ...it was said in my language. ...and entered his back for a long ...to bleed. Looking up he found that ...this dream to a Baba-lover family; ...both man and wife are very keen ...to await still.

...Baba received last night from a man ...who addressed the cover of his ...it reached me. As the letter was ...he will understand my wanting to ...of the Baba family. Beginning ...I do not know how to address you

...and that what I will tell you is not ...I have decided to communicate ...you will read you will see that I have come ...I was born in ...the U.S.A. since lady.

...gives ...a ...Zoo ...port ...pic ...the ...for ...day ...and ...was ...de ...She ...the ...on ...of ...a ...ve ...B ...h ...y ...a ...m ...t ...n ...w ...e ...y ...h ...t ...e ...h ...p

Bulgaria, where for 23 years I experienced all the horrors and difficulties that people have who are characterized as enemies of the state. In addition, I was accused of having taken part in sabotage Later it was proved that I was innocent, but that did not ease my situation.

"I first quite tangibly observed help from 'invisible helpers'; when escaping, they conducted me together with my wife across the frontier in daytime, at 2:30 on a bright sunny day through wire entanglements, among mines and heavily armed guards. When I arrived in U.S. I began to work, but on July 19 I fell down the stairs and my spinal column was injured and my left arm atrophied. I was immediately operated. Two months later my wife underwent a very complicated operation for a tumour. Medical care here may be the finest in the world, but at the same time it is terribly expensive..... A few days ago I was told that I would soon have to undergo the same operation again. This was truly a great trial for me. Then unexpectedly there occurred what is actually the subject of this letter. I don't know whether to call it a miracle or a vision, and if I had not been fully conscious I would not have believed it myself.

"During the night of November 26-27 I was awakened by a strange noise; the next moment the room was filled with a blinding light, in the center of which I saw a completely normal human figure, which pronounced in pure Bulgarian: 'DO NOT FEAR. DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?'

'Yes' I answered mechanically, 'YOU ARE MEHER BABA'.

"I must confess that I had known nothing about the bearer of that name although it is true that about four months ago I merely heard it pronounced, without any other details. What led me to answer immediately thus I can still not understand.

"The human figure with a kind glance and meek words continued: 'BELIEVE FIRMLY, I SHALL HELP YOU.'

"It became dark again; I heard the same strange noise, which also awakened my wife. She found me in a state of feverish excitement which lasted two days -- like a frenzy or trance. All this impels me to seek a means to get in touch with you. I now already believe deeply that you will help me. I will joyfully wait to receive your instructions. My greatest hope is, if I can, to be of service to you.

Yours sincerely,

....."

And so another lover is born, from the womb of suffering into a life of His Love. In replying to his letter, Adi conveyed this from beloved Baba: "Meher Baba wants you to know that your sufferings have brought you to Him He says that He has been with you in your dark hours, and will continue to be with you and help you if you hold firmly to Him."

This does not always imply that Baba removes our material sufferings, but when His Love is our strength they are lighter to bear. A man, badly

I experienced all the horrors and difficulties that
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... I was awakened by a strange noise;
... with a blinding light, in the center of
... which I was lying, which pronounced in pure
... DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

... THE MEMBER BABAI

... that I had heard about the death of that name
... about you, and I hereby bear it pronounced,
... had me to answer immediately that I can still

... with a kind glance and seek words continued
... BELIEVE

... I heard the same strange noise, which also
... in a state of fervent excitement which
... All this I believe to be a great
... already believe deeply that you will help me
... My greatest hope is, if

Yours sincerely,

... from one word or uttering into a life of
... and answered that from behind Babai
... your feelings have brought you to this
... in your dark hours, and will continue to be
... to him.

... have passed through material willings
... to bear. A man, being

crippled, once wrote to Baba: For fourteen years I have been confined to a wheel chair. Since a year I have come to know of you, and believe in you. I am still confined to my chair, but it is not the same any more because you are with me. Now I not only can bear my affliction without bitterness, I know it to be the tool that prepared me to receive your Love."

I don't know when the next letter will be going out, but at least I know it cannot be before the Darshan in Guruprasad -- unless of course another Circular causes a premature delivery like this one! Although this letter is pretty long it is not complete, in that it fails to include a report of the work that Baba's lover-workers in the East and West are doing in reaching out His Love to others. But this is not because there is little to report, it is because there is too much! And even that is but a part of the whole, for what we know of is what we gather from stray reports and printed matter (invitations to Baba-gatherings, News letters, posters and cards with the Beloved's pictures and sayings, pamphlets from the various Meher Baba Information outlets); and from what we see through the windows of regular Baba-magazines that store the precious grains of words and works relating to Him: "The Awakener" and "The Glow" and "Divya Vani" (in English), "Meher Pukar" (in Hindi), and "Avatar Meher" (in Telegu). In recent issues, through an account given by May Lundquist we have shared the joy and glory of an unprecedented Baba-procession in this year's Warana Spring Festival of Australia; and of the dynamic visit to England by (Dr.) Allan Cohen who crashed barriers of official and human reserve, reaching His Message to the people through radio and television, bringing the Beloved closer to His growing family of young lovers. We only wish more accounts, as well written, were sent in to the editors of Baba-magazines by lovers in different countries for all the Family to feast on.

In this happy Birthday season welcoming Meher Year 75, which has begun with a number of His Centres observing seventy-five days of celebration of His Birthday, the Baba-magazines will have a bumper crop I'm sure. But they are waiting, as His lovers are, for the touch that will give life to the fields of their endeavours in loving and serving Him -- a message from the Beloved. Beloved Baba has given the message. I convey it here; please circulate it among all His lovers in your locality before the 25th of February:

(see following page)

...for fourteen years I have been confined to a
...I have come to know of you, and believe in you. I
...but it is not the same any more because you are
...affliction without bitterness, I know it
...to receive your love."

...letter will be going out, but at least I
...in progress -- unless of course
...delivered like this one. Although this
...in fact it fails to include a report
...in the East and West are doing to reach
...is not because there is little to report
...And even that is but a part of the whole, for
...from stray reports and printed matter
...news letters, posters and cards with the
...from the various Hebrew Baba Informa-
...through the windows of regular babas-
...of words and works relating to Him
...and "Divya Vani" (in English), "Kehar Yehonatan" (in
...in recent issues, through an account
...the joy and glory of an unprecedented
...Festival of Australia; and of the
...who created patterns of official
...to the people through radio and TV
...to his growing family of young lovers. We
...were sent in to the editors of Baba-
...for all the family to read on.

...welcoming Menor Year 75, which has begun
...observing seventy-five days of celebration of
...will have a bumper crop this year. But to
...for the nation that will give life to the
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...I convey it here; please
...in your locality before the 15th of the

(see following page)

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AVATAR MEHER BABA'S MESSAGE

on the occasion of

His 75th Birthday -- 25th February, 1969

TO LOVE ME FOR WHAT I MAY GIVE YOU IS NOT LOVING ME AT ALL.
TO SACRIFICE ANYTHING IN MY CAUSE TO GAIN SOMETHING FOR
YOURSELF IS LIKE A BLIND MAN SACRIFICING HIS EYES FOR SIGHT.
I AM THE DIVINE BELOVED WORTHY OF BEING LOVED BECAUSE I AM
LOVE. HE WHO LOVES ME BECAUSE OF THIS WILL BE BLESSED WITH
UNLIMITED SIGHT AND WILL SEE ME AS I AM

-MEHER BABA-

Ever lovingly,

Mani.

AMERICAN AIRWAYS SYSTEMS

to receive only on

with the Director -- (see Exhibit 100)

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AMERICAN AIRWAYS

AMERICAN AIRWAYS

AMERICAN AIRWAYS

CABLE RECEIVED FEBRUARY 1, 1969

ELLAWIN NEWYORK

AVATAR MEHER BABA DROPPED HIS PHYSICAL BODY TODAY FRIDAY
JANUARY 31ST AT NOON AT MEHERAZAD TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE
HEARTS OF ALL HIS LOVERS EVERYWHERE STOP BELOVED BABAS BODY
WILL BE INTERNED AT MEHERABAD ARANGAON ON 1ST FEBRUARY AT
10 O/CLOCK MORNING IN THE TOMB HE HAD ORDERED TO BE BUILT
FOR IT LONG AGO

ADI IRANI

QUOTE IT WILL BE EASY FOR ME TO GIVE MY LOVERS MY DARSHAN SO YOU
ARE NOT TO FEEL CONCERNED ABOUT IT STOP I WILL GIVE DARSHAN
RECLINING AND THAT WILL BE NO STRAIN ON MY BODY STOP IT WILL BE
DIFFERENT FROM ALL PREVIOUS DARSHANS AND IT WILL BE THE LAST IN
SILENCE STOP ALTHOUGH I WILL BE RECLINING I WILL BE VERY STRONG
STOP MY PHYSICAL CONDITION NOW IS BECAUSE OF MY WORK BUT BY THEN MY
WORK WILL BE COMPLETE AND MY EXULTATION WILL BE GREAT STOP A VERY
POOR MAN WINNING A RICH LOTTERY CAN BECOME SO EXCITED OVER HIS
FORTUNE THAT HE COLLAPSES AND DIES STOP MY FORTUNE WILL BE IN MY
WORK BEING FINISHED AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF ITS CERTAIN RESULTS BUT
MY EXULTATION WILL NOT CAUSE MY COLLAPSE DASH IT WILL BE MY GLORY
UNQUOTE PARA DESPITE THESE ASSURANCES BABAS HEALTH BECAME WORSE
STOP BUT THE SYMPTOMS WERE COMPLETELY CONFUSING TO THE DOCTORS WE
CALLED FROM POONA AND BOMBAY STOP HIS BLOOD URIA WAS SO HIGH THAT

RECEIVED FEBRUARY 1, 1969

RECEIVED

... DECIDED HIS PHYSICAL BODY TODAY ...
... AT MEMPHIS TO LIVE ...
... FOR ...
... ON FEBRUARY ...
... TO BE ...

Hand.

CABLE RECEIVED FROM ADI K. IRANI, AHMEDNAGAR, INDIA

HEADING 2ND DAY 50TH WEEK MEHER YEAR 74 STOP THIS IS THE TRUE
ACCOUNT OF AVATAR MEHERBABAS DROPPING HIS BODY ACCORDING TO THE
RESIDENT MANDALI PARA THE THREE YEARS OF INTENSE WORK IN SECLUSION
HAD AN UNTOLD EFFECT UPON HIS BODY AND A FAINT REFLECTION OF THIS
ON US CAUSED A DEEP DEPRESSION AMONG US STOP BUT BELOVED BABA
WARNED US THAT THIS WAS DISOBEYING HIS ORDER TO BE ALWAYS CHEERFUL
IN HIS PRESENCE STOP AND HE QUOTED AS HE HAD MANY TIMES OVER THE
YEARS HAFIZ COUPLET QUOTE BEFITTING A FORTUNATE SLAVE CARRY OUT
EVERY COMMAND OF THE MASTER WITHOUT ANY QUESTION OF WHY AND WHAT
UNQUOTE PARA ON 13TH OCTOBER 1968 BABA TOLD US THAT HE WOULD GIVE
HIS DARSHAN TO ALL HIS LOVERS ALL OVER THE WORLD FROM 10TH APRIL TO
10TH JUNE 1969 STOP CONSIDERING HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION WE WERE
APPREHENSIVE OF HIS BODY STANDING SUCH A STRAIN STOP BUT HE SAID
QUOTE IT WILL BE EASY FOR ME TO GIVE MY LOVERS MY DARSHAN SO YOU
ARE NOT TO FEEL CONCERNED ABOUT IT STOP I WILL GIVE DARSHAN
RECLINING AND THAT WILL BE NO STRAIN ON MY BODY STOP IT WILL BE
DIFFERENT FROM ALL PREVIOUS DARSHANS AND IT WILL BE THE LAST IN
SILENCE STOP ALTHOUGH I WILL BE RECLINING I WILL BE VERY STRONG
STOP MY PHYSICAL CONDITION NOW IS BECAUSE OF MY WORK BUT BY THEN MY
WORK WILL BE COMPLETE AND MY EXULTATION WILL BE GREAT STOP A VERY
POOR MAN WINNING A RICH LOTTERY CAN BECOME SO EXCITED OVER HIS
FORTUNE THAT HE COLLAPSES AND DIES STOP MY FORTUNE WILL BE IN MY
WORK BEING FINISHED AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF ITS CERTAIN RESULTS BUT
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UNQUOTE PARA DESPITE THESE ASSURANCES BABAS HEALTH BECAME WORSE
STOP BUT THE SYMPTOMS WERE COMPLETELY CONFUSING TO THE DOCTORS WE
CALLED FROM POONA AND BOMBAY STOP HIS BLOOD URIA WAS SO HIGH THAT

HE... 20TH WEEK MEHER YEAR 74 STOP THIS IS THE TRUE
 ALL... DROPPING HIS BODY ACCORDING TO THE
 RE... THE THREE YEARS OF INTERIOR WORK IN SECLUSION
 HIS... UPON HIS BODY AND A FAINT REFLECTION OF THIS
 OF... DEPRESSION AMONG US STOP BUT BELIVED BABA
 WAIT... WAS DISOBEYING HIS ORDER TO BE ALWAYS CHEERFUL
 TO... AND HE QUOTED AS HE HAD MANY TIMES OVER THE
 YES... BRITTING A FORTUNATE SLAVE CARRY OUT
 THE... MASTER WITHOUT ANY QUESTION OF WHY AND WHAT
 IN... 1988 BABA TOLD US THAT HE WOULD GIVE
 HIS... LOVERS ALL OVER THE WORLD FROM 10TH APRIL TO
 FOR... HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION WE WERE
 STOP... SUCH A STRAIN STOP BUT HE SAID
 TO... MY LOVERS MY DASHAN SO YOU
 ABOUT IT STOP I WILL GIVE DASHAN
 BE... NO STRAIN ON MY BODY STOP IT WILL BE
 THE... DASHANS AND IT WILL BE THE LAST IN
 THROUGH I WILL BE RECALMING I WILL BE VERY STRONG
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 AND MY EXULTATION WILL BE GREAT STOP A VERY
 HIGH LOTTERY CAN BECOME SO EXCITED OVER HIS
 AND DIES STOP MY FORTUNE WILL BE IN MY
 AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF ITS CERTAIN RESULTS BUT
 THAT CAUSE MY COLLAPSE DASH IT WILL BE MY GLORY
 THESE ASSURANCES BABA'S HEALTH BECAME WORSE
 WE WERE COMPLETELY CONFUSING TO THE DOCTORS WE
 STOP HIS BLOOD PRESSURE WAS SO HIGH THAT

THE DOCTORS SAID USUALLY AN ORDINARY MAN IN SUCH A CONDITION WOULD GO INTO A COMA BUT THERE WAS NOT EVEN THE LEAST SIGN OF MENTAL CONFUSION OR THE FAINTEST TRACE OF UREMIC ODOUR STOP SIMILARLY WHEN MUSCULAR SPASMS WERE OCCURING WHEN A SPECIALIST FROM BOMBAY EXAMINED HIM HE ASKED WHY HE HAD BEEN CALLED BECAUSE THERE WERE NO SYMPTOMS AT ALL DASH BABAS CONDITION DETERIORATED STILL FURTHER AND WE WANTED TO TAKE HIM TO POONA SO THAT FURTHER TESTS COULD BE CARRIED OUT BUT HE REFUSED TO GO AND WARNED US THAT WE SHOULD NOT TRY TO TAKE HIM AGAINST HIS WISH STOP HE SAID QUOTE IF YOU WANT ME TO DROP MY BODY NOW THEN TAKE ME TO POONA STOP MY CONDITION HAS NO MEDICAL GROUNDS AT ALL IT IS DUE PURELY TO THE STRAIN OF MY WORK STOP DO NOT CALL THE DOCTORS AGAIN UNTIL I TELL YOU UNQUOTE STOP AND SO HELPLESS BEFORE HIS WILL WE HAD TO OBEY HIS WILL PARA OVER THE LAST DAYS BABAS BODY MANIFESTED SEVERE SPASMS AND HE TOLD US QUOTE THIS IS MY CRUCIFIXION UNQUOTE TWO DAYS BEFORE HE DROPPED HIS BODY HE TOLD US TO CALL THE DOCTORS STOP THE ONE FROM POONA CAME THE NEXT MORNING AND SAID HE COULD DO NOTHING UNTIL FURTHER TESTS WERE DONE SO THAT A DEFINITE DIAGNOSIS COULD BE ARRIVED AT AND THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE IF BABA WENT TO POONA STOP BABA SAID TO HIM QUOTE MY TIME HAS COME UNQUOTE PARA THE NEXT DAY THE DOCTOR FROM BOMBAY CAME AND ALSO ONE FROM AHMEDNAGAR STOP BY TIME THEY ARRIVED A GREAT SPASM SHOOK HIS BODY THE PULSE RATE FELL TO NOTHING AND BREATHING CEASED STOP THIS WAS AT 12.15 PM AT 12 NOON HE HAD BEEN JOKING WITH US ABOUT ALL THE MEDICINES HE HAD BEEN GIVEN PARA IN THE EVENING WE BROUGHT HIS BODY TO MEHERABAD STOP THE SUN WAS SETTING AND THE MOON WAS RISING AS WE PLACED IT IN THE TOMB FOR HIS LOVERS TO TAKE HIS DARSHAN FULFILLING BELOVED BABAS WORD THAT HE WOULD GIVE HIS DARSHAN RECLINING STOP PLEASE CABLE IDENTICAL TO IVY DUCE AND ELIZABETH PATTERSON

ADI

THEY WERE VERY UNUSUALLY AN ORDINARY MAN IN SUCH A CONDITION WOULD
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THERE WAS NOT EVEN THE LEAST SIGN OF MENTAL
CONTROL OR AT LEAST TRACE OF UREMIC ODOR STOP SIMILARLY WHEN
MAY BE REPORT OCCURRING WHEN A SPECIALIST FROM BOMBAY EXAMINED
HIM HE HAD BEEN CALLED BECAUSE THERE WERE NO SYMPTOMS
AND HIS CONDITION DETERIORATED STILL FURTHER AND WE
WANTED TO POONA SO THAT FURTHER TESTS COULD BE CARRIED
ON WE WENT TO GO AND WARNED US THAT WE SHOULD NOT TRY TO
WISH STOP HE SAID QUOTE IF YOU WANT ME TO DROP
TO POONA STOP MY CONDITION HAS NO MEDICAL
VALUE IS PURELY TO THE STRAIN OF MY WORK STOP DO NOT
AGAIN UNTIL I TELL YOU UNQUOTE STOP AND SO HELPLESS
WE HAD TO OBEY HIS WILL PARA OVER THE LAST DAYS
HE HAD SEVERE SPASMS AND HE TOLD US QUOTE THIS IS MY
TWO DAYS BEFORE HE DROPPED HIS BODY HE TOLD US
STOP THE ONE FROM POONA CAME THE NEXT MORNING
STOP UNTIL FURTHER TESTS WERE DONE SO THAT A
COULD BE ARRIVED AT AND THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE
STOP BABA SAID TO HIM QUOTE MY TIME HAS COME
THE DOCTOR FROM BOMBAY CAME AND ALSO ONE
BY TIME THEY ARRIVED A GREAT SPASM SHOOK HIS
STOP TO NOTHING AND BREATHING CEASED STOP THIS
NOON HE HAD BEEN JOKING WITH US ABOUT ALL THE
GIVEN PARA IN THE EVENING WE BROUGHT HIS BODY
HE WAS SETTING AND THE MOON WAS RISING AS WE
FOR HIS LOVERS TO TAKE HIS DARSHAN PURSUING
HE WOULD GIVE HIS DARSHAN RECLINING STOP

TO IVY DUCE AND ELIZABETH PATTERSON

CABLE RECEIVED FROM AVATAR MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

ON FEBRUARY 20, 1969:

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI FROM BABA'S MEHERAZAD MEN AND WOMEN MANDALI TO ALL OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF BELOVED BABA'S WESTERN FAMILY. THE LOVE THAT POURED IN THROUGH LETTERS AND CABLES FROM MANY OF YOU HELPED TO DROWN OUR ANGUISH AT SEPARATION FROM GOD'S BELOVED PHYSICAL FORM WHICH MADE HIS INFINITE LOVE AND COMPASSION TANGIBLE TO US. I BELIEVE THAT HIS DROPPING THE BODY IS TO RELEASE HIS WORD TO HIS CREATION BEFORE HIS MANIFESTATION BECAUSE A DAY BEFORE DROPPING THE BODY BABA SAID THAT ALL HIS SUFFERING HAD BEEN A PREPARATION FOR THE ONE WORD. MAY WE NEVER BE ABSENT IN OUR FAITH AND LOVE TO RECEIVE IT FROM HIM WHO IS ALWAYS WITH US.

MANI.

5-01y.

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contd.....

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DO hereby certify that
[Name] is a citizen of the United States of America
and that he is entitled to the rights and privileges of citizenship
under the Constitution and laws of the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the United States of America at the City of Washington, this [Date] day of [Month], 19[Year].

[Signature]

[Title]

CABLE RECEIVED FROM ADI K. IRANI, AHMEDNAGAR, INDIA, ON FEBRUARY 9, 1969.

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AFTER TENTH JUNE ANYONE CAN MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO POONA AND BABA'S TOMB INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE ON ONES OWN. ALL CONCERNED YOUR AREA. JAI BABA

ADI K. IRANI

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JAI BABA

ADI K. IRANI

...THE NEXT MORNING ... UNTIL FURTHER TESTS WERE DONE SO THAT A ... BE ARRIVED AT AND THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE ... BABA SAID TO HIM QUOTE MY TIME HAS COME ... THE DOCTOR FROM BOMBAY CAME AND ALSO ONE ... BY TIME THEY ARRIVED A GREAT SPASM SHOOK HIS ... AND BREATHING CEASED STOP THIS ... AT 12 NOON HE HAD BEEN JOXING WITH US ABOUT ALL THE ... IN THE EVENING WE BROUGHT HIS BODY ... THE SUN WAS SETTING AND THE MOON WAS RISING AS WE ... FOR HIS LOVERS TO TAKE HIS DARSHAN FULFILLING ... HE WOULD GIVE HIS DARSHAN RECLINING STOP

...IVY DUCE AND ELIZABETH PATTERSON

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The three years of intense work in seclusion had an untold effect upon His body, and a faint reflection of this on us caused a deep depression among us. But beloved Baba warned us that this was disobeying His order to be always cheerful in His presence. And He quoted, as He had many times over the years, Hafiz' couplet: "Befitting a fortunate slave carry out every command of the Master without any question of why and what."

On 13th October 1968 Baba told us that He would give His darshan to all His lovers all over the world from 10th April to 10th June 1969. Considering His physical condition we were apprehensive of His body standing such a strain. But He said, "It will be easy for me to give my lovers my darshan, so you are not to feel concerned about it. I will give darshan reclining and that will be no strain on my body. It will be different from all previous darshans and it will be the last in silence. Although I will be reclining I will be very strong. My physical condition now is because of my work, but by then my work will be complete and my exultation will be great. A very poor man winning a rich lottery can become so excited over his fortune that he collapses and dies. My fortune will be in my work being finished and in the knowledge of its certain results; but my exultation will not cause my collapse -- it will be my glory."

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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The next day the doctor from Bombay came, and also one from Ahmednagar. By the time they arrived a great spasm shook His body, the pulse rate fell to nothing, and breathing ceased. This was at 12.15 p.m. At 12 noon He had been joking with us about all the medicines He had been given.

In the evening we brought His body to Meherabad. The sun was setting and the moon was rising as we placed it in the tomb for His lovers to take His darshan, fulfilling beloved Baba's word that He would give His darshan reclining.

5th February 1969.
King's Road,
Ahmednagar.
Maharashtra, India.

ADI K. IRANI

AVATAR MEHER BABA'S MESSAGE

on the occasion of

His 75th Birthday -- 25th February, 1969

I LOVE ME FOR WHAT I MAY GIVE YOU IS NOT LOVING ME AT ALL.
 NO EFFORT ANYTHING IN MY CAUSE TO GAIN SOMETHING FOR
 YOURSELF IS LIKE A BLIND MAN SACRIFICING HIS EYES FOR SIGHT.
 I AM THE DIVINE BELOVED WORTHY OF BEING LOVED BECAUSE I AM
 LOVED BY WHO LOVES ME BECAUSE OF THIS WILL BE BLESSED WITH
 PERFECT SIGHT AND WILL SEE ME AS I AM

-MEHER BABA-

Ever lovingly,

Mani.

CABLE RECEIVED FEBRUARY 1, 1969

ELLAWIN NEWYORK

AVATAR MEHER BABA DROPPED HIS PHYSICAL BODY TODAY FRIDAY
JANUARY 31ST AT NOON AT MEHERAZAD TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE
HEARTS OF ALL HIS LOVERS EVERYWHERE STOP BELOVED BABAS BODY
WILL BE INTERNED AT MEHERABAD ARANGAON ON 1ST FEBRUARY AT
10 O/CLOCK MORNING IN THE TOMB HE HAD ORDERED TO BE BUILT
FOR IT LONG AGO

ADI IRANI

QUOTE IT WILL BE EASY FOR ME TO GIVE MY LOVERS MY DARSHAN SO YOU
ARE NOT TO FEEL CONCERNED ABOUT IT STOP I WILL GIVE DARSHAN
RECLINING AND THAT WILL BE NO STRAIN ON MY BODY STOP IT WILL BE
DIFFERENT FROM ALL PREVIOUS DARSHANS AND IT WILL BE THE LAST IN
SILENCE STOP ALTHOUGH I WILL BE RECLINING I WILL BE VERY STRONG
STOP MY PHYSICAL CONDITION NOW IS BECAUSE OF MY WORK BUT BY THEN MY
WORK WILL BE COMPLETE AND MY EXULTATION WILL BE GREAT STOP A VERY
POOR MAN WINNING A RICH LOTTERY CAN BECOME SO EXCITED OVER HIS
FORTUNE THAT HE COLLAPSES AND DIES STOP MY FORTUNE WILL BE IN MY
WORK BEING FINISHED AND IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF ITS CERTAIN RESULTS BUT
MY EXULTATION WILL NOT CAUSE MY COLLAPSE DASH IT WILL BE MY GLORY
UNQUOTE PARA DESPITE THESE ASSURANCES BABAS HEALTH BECAME WORSE
STOP BUT THE SYMPTOMS WERE COMPLETELY CONFUSING TO THE DOCTORS WE
CALLED FROM POONA AND BOMBAY STOP HIS BLOOD URIA WAS SO HIGH THAT

RECEIVED FEBRUARY 1, 1969

111

... BABA PROPTED HIS PHYSICAL BODY TODAY FRIDAY ...
... AT NOON AT MEMORAND TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE ...
... HIS POWERS EVERYWHERE STOP BELIEVED BABA'S BODY ...
... AT MEMORAND ARRANGON ON 1ST FEBRUARY AT ...
... IN THE MORNIG HE HAD ORDERED TO BE BURIED ...

AND THAT

Ever joyfully.

Mant.

CABLE RECEIVED FROM ADI K. IRANI, AHMEDNAGAR, INDIA

HEADING 2ND DAY 50TH WEEK MEHER YEAR 74 STOP THIS IS THE TRUE
ACCOUNT OF AVATAR MEHERBABAS DROPPING HIS BODY ACCORDING TO THE
RESIDENT MANDALI PARA THE THREE YEARS OF INTENSE WORK IN SECLUSION
HAD AN UNTOLD EFFECT UPON HIS BODY AND A FAINT REFLECTION OF THIS
ON US CAUSED A DEEP DEPRESSION AMONG US STOP BUT BELOVED BABA
WARNED US THAT THIS WAS DISOBEYING HIS ORDER TO BE ALWAYS CHEERFUL
IN HIS PRESENCE STOP AND HE QUOTED AS HE HAD MANY TIMES OVER THE
YEARS HAFIZ COUPLET QUOTE BEFITTING A FORTUNATE SLAVE CARRY OUT
EVERY COMMAND OF THE MASTER WITHOUT ANY QUESTION OF WHY AND WHAT
UNQUOTE PARA ON 13TH OCTOBER 1968 BABA TOLD US THAT HE WOULD GIVE
HIS DARSHAN TO ALL HIS LOVERS ALL OVER THE WORLD FROM 10TH APRIL TO
10TH JUNE 1969 STOP CONSIDERING HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION WE WERE
APPREHENSIVE OF HIS BODY STANDING SUCH A STRAIN STOP BUT HE SAID
QUOTE IT WILL BE EASY FOR ME TO GIVE MY LOVERS MY DARSHAN SO YOU
ARE NOT TO FEEL CONCERNED ABOUT IT STOP I WILL GIVE DARSHAN
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STOP MY PHYSICAL CONDITION NOW IS BECAUSE OF MY WORK BUT BY THEN MY
WORK WILL BE COMPLETE AND MY EXULTATION WILL BE GREAT STOP A VERY
POOR MAN WINNING A RICH LOTTERY CAN BECOME SO EXCITED OVER HIS
FORTUNE THAT HE COLLAPSES AND DIES STOP MY FORTUNE WILL BE IN MY
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STOP BUT THE SYMPTOMS WERE COMPLETELY CONFUSING TO THE DOCTORS WE
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THE TRUTH IS THAT THIS IS THE TRUE
 REASON WHY MY MASTER MEHRABABAS DROPPING HIS BODY ACCORDING TO THE
 REASON THAT HE HAD TO LIVE FOR THE THREE YEARS OF INTENSE WORK IN SECLUSION
 WHICH HAD TAKEN EFFECT UPON HIS BODY AND A FAINT REJECTION OF THIS
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 IT WILL BE EASY FOR ME TO GIVE MY LOVERS MY DASHMAN SO YOU
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 DESPITE THESE ASSURANCES BABA'S HEALTH BECAME WORSE
 THE SYMPTOMS WERE COMPLETELY OBTUSING TO THE DOCTORS WE
 AND HOWEVER STOP HIS BLOOD PRESSURE WAS SO HIGH THAT

THE DOCTORS SAID USUALLY AN ORDINARY MAN IN SUCH A CONDITION WOULD GO INTO A COMA BUT THERE WAS NOT EVEN THE LEAST SIGN OF MENTAL CONFUSION OR THE FAINTEST TRACE OF UREMIC ODOUR STOP SIMILARLY WHEN MUSCULAR SPASMS WERE OCCURING WHEN A SPECIALIST FROM BOMBAY EXAMINED HIM HE ASKED WHY HE HAD BEEN CALLED BECAUSE THERE WERE NO SYMPTOMS AT ALL DASH BABAS CONDITION DETERIORATED STILL FURTHER AND WE WANTED TO TAKE HIM TO POONA SO THAT FURTHER TESTS COULD BE CARRIED OUT BUT HE REFUSED TO GO AND WARNED US THAT WE SHOULD NOT TRY TO TAKE HIM AGAINST HIS WISH STOP HE SAID QUOTE IF YOU WANT ME TO DROP MY BODY NOW THEN TAKE ME TO POONA STOP MY CONDITION HAS NO MEDICAL GROUNDS AT ALL IT IS DUE PURELY TO THE STRAIN OF MY WORK STOP DO NOT CALL THE DOCTORS AGAIN UNTIL I TELL YOU UNQUOTE STOP AND SO HELPLESS BEFORE HIS WILL WE HAD TO OBEY HIS WILL PARA OVER THE LAST DAYS BABAS BODY MANIFESTED SEVERE SPASMS AND HE TOLD US QUOTE THIS IS MY CRUCIFIXION UNQUOTE TWO DAYS BEFORE HE DROPPED HIS BODY HE TOLD US TO CALL THE DOCTORS STOP THE ONE FROM POONA CAME THE NEXT MORNING AND SAID HE COULD DO NOTHING UNTIL FURTHER TESTS WERE DONE SO THAT A DEFINITE DIAGNOSIS COULD BE ARRIVED AT AND THIS COULD ONLY BE DONE IF BABA WENT TO POONA STOP BABA SAID TO HIM QUOTE MY TIME HAS COME UNQUOTE PARA THE NEXT DAY THE DOCTOR FROM BOMBAY CAME AND ALSO ONE FROM AHMEDNAGAR STOP BY TIME THEY ARRIVED A GREAT SPASM SHOOK HIS BODY THE PULSE RATE FELL TO NOTHING AND BREATHING CEASED STOP THIS WAS AT 12.15 PM AT 12 NOON HE HAD BEEN JOKING WITH US ABOUT ALL THE MEDICINES HE HAD BEEN GIVEN PARA IN THE EVENING WE BROUGHT HIS BODY TO MEHERABAD STOP THE SUN WAS SETTING AND THE MOON WAS RISING AS WE PLACED IT IN THE TOMB FOR HIS LOVERS TO TAKE HIS DARSHAN FULFILLING BELOVED BABAS WORD THAT HE WOULD GIVE HIS DARSHAN RECLINING STOP PLEASE CABLE IDENTICAL TO IVY DUCE AND ELIZABETH PATTERSON

ADI

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MANI.

8-10-17.

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Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

Main body of faint, illegible text, appearing to be several paragraphs of a document or letter.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
5712 S. UNIVERSITY AVE.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637
TEL: 773-936-3700
FAX: 773-936-3701
WWW: WWW.PHYSICS.UCHICAGO.EDU

PHYSICS 435
LECTURE 10
SPECIAL RELATIVITY
PART 2

2nd Day, 50th Week, Meher Year 74

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Despite these assurances, Baba's health became worse. But the symptoms were completely confusing to the doctors we called from Poona and Bombay. His blood uria was so high that the doctors said usually an ordinary man in such a condition would go into a coma, but there was not even the least sign of mental confusion or the faintest trace of uremic odour. Similarly, when muscular spasms were occurring, when a specialist from Bombay examined Him, he asked why he had been called, because there were no symptoms at all -- Baba's condition was quite normal.

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Over the last days Baba's body manifested severe spasms, and He told us, "This is my crucifixion." Two days before He dropped His body He told us to call the doctors. The one from Poona came the next morning and said he could do nothing until further tests were done so that a definite diagnosis could be arrived at; and this could only be done if Baba went to Poona. Baba said to him, "My time has come."

contd.....

... of Avatar Master Baba's dropping His body, ...

... work in seclusion had an untold effect ...
... of this on us caused a deep desire ...
... that this was disobeying His ...
... And He quoted, as He had ...
... "Believing a fortunate slave ...
... the Master without any question of why and ...

... He would give His darshan to ...
... from 10th April to 10th June 1969. ...
... we were apprehensive of His body ...
... "It will be easy for me to give my ...
... I will give ...
... I will be no strain on my body. It will be ...
... My physical condition ...
... and it will be the last in ...
... I will be very strong. My physical condition ...
... but by then my work will be complete and ...
... A very poor man winning a rich lottery ...
... that he collapses and dies. My ...
... and to the knowledge of the ...
... it will ...

... Baba's health became worse. But ...
... to the doctors we called ...
... so high that the doctors ...
... would not take a case, but ...
... confusion or the latest ...
... signs were occurring, when ...
... he had been called, he ...
... condition was quite normal ...

... a condition ...
... that further tests ...
... that we should not ...
... you want us to drop ...
... no medical grounds ...
... call the ...
... we had ...

... manifested ...
... we had ...
... we had ...
... we had ...
... we had ...

The next day the doctor from Bombay came, and also one from Ahmednagar. By the time they arrived a great spasm shook His body, the pulse rate fell to nothing, and breathing ceased. This was at 12.15 p.m. At 12 noon He had been joking with us about all the medicines He had been given.

In the evening we brought His body to Meherabad. The sun was setting and the moon was rising as we placed it in the tomb for His lovers to take His darshan, fulfilling beloved Baba's word that He would give His darshan reclining.

5th February 1969.
King's Road,
Ahmednagar.
Maharashtra, India.

ADI K. IRANI

...from Bombay came, and also one from ... they arrived a great spasm shook his body, the ... and protesting ceased. This was at 12.15 p.m. ... with us about all the medicines he had been

... brought his body to Meherabad. The sun was setting ... we placed it in the lap for his lovers to take ... Babal's word that he would give his daughter

ADI K. IRANI

At ...

He ...

It ...

EIGHTY-FIRST FAMILY LETTER FROM AVATAR MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

RECEIVED BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S. C.

© UNIVERSAL SPIRITUAL LEAGUE IN AMERICA INCORPORATED (NEW YORK) 1969.

Meherazad, 14th March 1969.

Dearest Family,

"Although I am present everywhere eternally in my formless Infinite state, from time to time I take form. This taking of the form and leaving it is termed my physical birth and death. In this sense I am born and (in this sense) I die when my universal work is finished."

- MEHER BABA -

On 30th July 1968, Baba said:

"My work is done. It is completed 100% to my satisfaction."

Two weeks after this, Baba remarked that there were a few touches He had to give to His completed work before releasing it and setting it in motion.

On 13th October 1968, Baba said:

"Today I say: THE TIME HAS COME. Remember this!"

On 30th January 1969, Baba reminded us, saying to a visiting doctor:
"My Time has come."

On 31st January 1969, news went out from Adi's office to Baba's lovers all over the world:

AVATAR MEHER BABA DROPPED HIS PHYSICAL BODY AT TWELVE NOON

31 JANUARY AT MEHERAZAD TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE HEARTS

OF ALL HIS LOVERS. BELOVED BABA'S BODY WILL BE INTERRED

AT MEHERABAD ARANGAON ON 1 FEBRUARY AT 10 A.M. IN THE TOMB

HE HAD ORDERED TO BE BUILT LONG AGO.

Most Baba-lovers' first reaction to this news was utter disbelief -- they could not believe it. Some thought a prankster had wired them false news in Adi's name, and they frantically wired back 'Please confirm news'. Ironically, a message confirming the news was wrongly relayed in some instances and

LETTER FROM AVATAR MURDER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S. C.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE IN AMERICA INCORPORATED (NEW YORK) 1962.

(C)

Maharaj, 12th March 1962.

Dear

I am present everywhere eternally in my
infinite state, from time to time I take form.
of the form and leaving it is earned my
birth and death. In this sense I am born and
(I die when my universal work is finished).

- MURDER BABA -

It is completed I see to my satisfaction."

Baba remarked that there were a few benches he had to
visit before releasing it and setting it in motion

Baba said:

I say: THE TIME HAS COME. Remember this!"

Baba reminded us, saying to a visiting doctor:

... went out from Adi's office to Baba's lovers all over

BABA BROKE HIS PHYSICAL BODY AT TWELVE NOON

AT MAHARAJ TO LIVE ETERNALLY IN THE LIGHT

HOWEVER, BELIEVED BABA'S BODY WILL BE INTERRED

IN WASHINGTON ON 1 FEBRUARY AT 10 A.M. IN THE TOM

... TO BE BUILT LONG AGO.

... first reaction to this news was that ...
... thought a preacher had died ...
... asked back 'Please confirm ...
... was widely relayed in some ...

complicated matters. Adi and his small staff were busy night and day coping with phone calls and telegrams to and from inland and overseas. Disbelief at the news was followed by shock and anguish -- many thousands of individuals felt orphaned by this Event. They longed to rush to Meherabad to pay their last respects to the beloved body of the Ancient One. Lovers from Bombay and Poona and other parts of Maharashtra state got there long before sunrise. Lovers from distant states in India entreated us to postpone interment till they could reach Meherabad. The declared time of interment - February 1, 10 a.m. - caused confusion, deterring many from starting out as they thought they would be too late. But many, regardless of this, came from different parts of India and from abroad, to lay their heads at the threshold of the place where rested the body of their Beloved. And they found that even at the last their Beloved obliged them, that He was indeed the slave of the love of His lovers. For seven days Beloved Baba lay in the open crypt of the Tomb, His face softly radiant, looking as though He were simply asleep. For seven days and nights Baba gave His silent darshan to thousands of His lovers, gave His darshan "reclining" as He had said He would do. It was Darshan indeed -- an unforgettable week of Darshan on Meherabad Hill where His lovers thronged to bow down at His feet, offer Him garlands of roses, songs of praise, tears of love. As they filed out after having His darshan in the Tomb, many a lover was heard exclaiming: "Oh, how beautiful He looks! How young He looks!" We saw Baba shining from their tear-drowned eyes, Baba who said "I am Love". Language was no problem, just "Baba" "Baba" "Baba" was complete exchange for hearts eloquent with His Love. The breath that stirred this gathering of lovers of various religions and tongues, was not so much a sighing of 'Come, let us weep together' but a crying of 'Come, let us adore Him!'

Meherabad*, down-the-hill and up-the-hill, Baba's first headquarters created by Him in 1922, was for many years the stage of His divine play as God-Man. There unfolded the scenes of His activities with the early disciples, with the boys of Prem Ashram and Babajan School, with the masts and the mad, the poor, the lepers, the sick, the villagers and the untouchables. There on Meherabad Hill is the Tomb which Baba had ordered to be built for the burying of His body when He dropped it -- the Tomb in which He stayed in seclusion twice, once for a period of six months. (When it was built in 1927 it had an ordinary tin roof; in 1938 this was replaced by the dome as it now stands, and its interior painted with pictures by the Swiss artist Helen Dahm.) Since 1944 when Baba moved to Meherazad**, His second abode where He has stayed longer than at any other place, Meherabad gradually 'retired'. Except for the glorious periods of sahasras and darshan, the last of which was held on 10th July 1958, it stayed in retirement -- basking in the glory of its past, waiting for a visit

* Meher-abad ('abad' meaning prosperous), on the outskirts of Arangaon village, is five miles south of Ahmednagar.

** Meher-azad ('azad' meaning free), outside Pimpalgaon-Malvi village, is nine miles north of Ahmednagar.

...the first of these ...
...the second of these ...
...the third of these ...
...the fourth of these ...
...the fifth of these ...
...the sixth of these ...
...the seventh of these ...
...the eighth of these ...
...the ninth of these ...
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...the ninth of these ...
...the tenth of these ...

from the Master, peering dimly into the future that would fulfil His words: "Meherabad will one day become the greatest place of pilgrimage on earth."

The 'future' began at sunset on the 31st of January 1969, when we placed the body of our Beloved in the Tomb on Meherabad Hill. Overnight Meherabad was transformed from an isolated retreat into a crowded pilgrimage-ground. It swarmed with people, buses, cycles, taxis, cars, tongas, bullock carts. Padri, who has looked after the place all these years, had a tough job trying to accommodate the hourly growing number of lovers. Every foot of indoor and outdoor space was used for their camping in during those days and nights. A 'Meher Baba Restaurant' sprang up by the roadside; and a signpost pointed to the footpath leading to the Hill. A railway track runs between upper and lower Meherabad, and trains obliged by stopping there to disgorge their load of lovers from Bombay and Andhra. Throughout the seven days, and for days after, we could hear passing trains give a long whistle as they went by the Hill -- the drivers were saluting the Avatar of the Age.

Meherabad has no electricity, but there was enough light. There was God's lantern lighting the way for His pilgrims -- the full moon shone in a clear sky during the entire Week. Neon lights blazed around the Tomb, shining with the love of His lovers of Vijayawada (Andhra) who had a generator installed and working all night throughout the Week and after. Crowded at all times was the improvised shade put up near the Tomb to shelter His lovers from the blistering sun. Outside the Tomb's east window is a stone platform where the Prem Ashram boys often gathered to hear the discourses the Beloved gave them through the window, at the time when He was there in seclusion and did not step out. Now the platform was serving as a stage for groups of Baba-bhajan singers from Arangaon village, Ahmednagar, Poona, Bombay, Nizamabad, Navsari, Andhra State, and other places. The singing and music went on from evening till four in the morning, and we thought of the smiling remark the Beloved had made on His return from His Andhra tour years ago: "My lovers sang outside my window all night while I rested." They were doing the same thing now.

None wanted to leave Meherabad until the Beloved's body was interred. None could say when this would be. The time of 10 a.m. on February 1 as first declared, was based on medical advice that as the body was not embalmed the interment could not be delayed longer than 20 hours, even though surrounded by a border of ice-blocks as arranged. Mehera and I felt that the Beloved Himself would give an indication of when it should be done, that as long as His dear body remained fresh and lovely we would not have it covered up. Even after a week it was not found necessary to place the covering! But as Baba had told us on the last day, the morning of 31st January, that after seven days He would be 100% free (from suffering, as we interpreted His hand gestures to mean), we took that as an indication. And so, seven days after the Event, at 12.15 noon on Friday the 7th of February 1969, the interment took place amid thousands of voices singing His glorious Name and resonant cries of AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI!!!

For all the lovers physically absent and eager to know details about the Beloved's dropping His body, a written account of the facts was among the tasks of first importance. Francis took it over and did a wonderful job. The account was circulated by Adi to all in India and abroad. I reproduce it here:

... bearing daily into the future that would fulfill his words: "The day will come when the greatest place of pilgrimage on earth."

... began at sunset on the 31st of January 1909, when we placed the Beloved in the Tomb on Mehraabad Hill. Overnight Mehraabad Hill was an isolated retreat into a crowded pilgrimage-ground. It was a place all these years, had a tough job trying to grow a number of lovers. Every foot of indoor and outdoor space was used for their camping in during those days and nights. A "campment" sprung up by the roadside, and a signpost pointed to the Hill. A railway track runs between upper and lower Mehraabad, and stopping there to change their load of lovers. Throughout the seven days, and for days after, we could see a long white line as they went by the Hill -- the drivers of the Avatar of the Age.

... no electricity, but there was enough light. There was God's light for his pilgrims -- the full moon shone in a clear blue sky. Noon lights blazed around the Tomb, shining with the lovers of Vijayawada (Andhra) who had a generator installed and put up near the Tomb to shelter his lovers from the blistering sun. The Tomb's east window is a stone platform where the Press Ashram members gathered to hear the discourses. The Beloved gave them through the window when he was there in meditation and did not step out. How he was serving as a stage for groups of Baba-bhajan singers from Ahmednagar, Poona, Bombay, Mysore, Madras, Andhra State, and elsewhere. The singing and music went on from evening till four in the morning. The smiling remark the Beloved had made on his re-entrance four years ago: "My lovers sang outside my window all day long." They were doing the same thing now.

... to leave Mehraabad until the Beloved's body was interred. This would be. The time of 10 a.m. on February 1 as I had been on medical advice that as the body was not embalmed the Beloved would be delayed longer than 30 hours, even though surrounded by black-cloaks as arranged. Mohan and I felt that the Beloved himself should be done, that as long as his dear Beloved and I would not have it covered up. Even after a necessary to place the coverlet! But as Baba had said us the morning of 31st January, that after seven days he would be interred, as we interpreted his hand gesture to mean, we found necessary to place the coverlet. And so, seven days after the event, at 12.15 noon on the morning of 7th February 1909, the interment took place and thousands of devotees gathered to witness the Avatar MEEHAR BABA KI JATI.

... physically spent and eager to know details about the body, a written account of the facts was written. The Beloved took it over and did a wonderful job. I was satisfied by all that had happened. I was satisfied by all that had happened.

2nd Day, 50th Week, Meher Year 74

This is the true account of Avatar Meher Baba's dropping His body, according to the resident mandali.

The three years of intense work in seclusion had had an untold effect upon His body, and a faint reflection of this on us caused a deep depression among us. But beloved Baba warned us that this was disobeying His order to be always cheerful in His presence. And He quoted, as He had many times over the years, Hafiz's couplet: "Be-fitting a fortunate slave carry out every command of the Master without any question of why and what."

On 13th October 1968 Baba told us that He would give His darshan to all His lovers all over the world from 10th April to 10th June 1969. Considering His physical condition we were apprehensive of His body standing such a strain. But He said, "It will be easy for me to give my lovers my darshan, so you are not to feel concerned about it. I will give darshan reclining and that will be no strain on my body. It will be different from all previous darshans and it will be the last in silence. Although I will be reclining I will be very strong. My physical condition now is because of my work, but by then my work will be complete and my exultation will be great. A very poor man winning a rich lottery can become so excited over his fortune that he collapses and dies. My fortune will be in my work being finished and in the knowledge of its certain results; but my exultation will not cause my collapse -- it will be my glory."

Despite these assurances, Baba's health became worse. But the symptoms were completely confusing to the doctors we called from Poona and Bombay. His blood urea was so high that the doctors said usually an ordinary man in such a condition would go into a coma, but there was not even the least sign of mental confusion or the faintest trace of uremic odour. Similarly, when muscular spasms were occurring, when a specialist from Bombay examined Him He asked why he had been called, because there were no symptoms at all - Baba's condition was quite normal.

Outwardly, to our eyes, Baba's condition deteriorated still further, and we wanted to take Him to Poona so that further tests could be carried out, but He refused to go and warned us that we should not try and take Him against His wish. He said, "If you want me to drop my body now, then take me to Poona. My condition has no medical grounds at all; it is due purely to the strain of my work. Do not call the doctors again until I tell you." And so, helpless before His will, we had to obey His will.

Over the last days Baba's body manifested severe spasms, and He told us, "This is my crucifixion." Two days before He dropped His body He told us to call the doctors. The one from Poona came the next morning and said he could do nothing until further tests were done so that a definite diagnosis could be arrived at; and this could only be done if Baba went to Poona. Baba said to him, "My time has come."

The next day the doctor from Bombay came, and also one from Ahmednagar. By the time they arrived a great spasm shook His body, the pulse rate fell to nothing, and breathing ceased. This was at 12.15 p.m. At 12 noon He had been joking with us about all the medicines He had been given.

In the evening we brought His body to Meherabad. The sun was setting and the moon was rising as we placed it in the tomb for His lovers to take His darshan, fulfilling beloved Baba's word that He would give His darshan reclining.

* * *

Of the Meherazad men and women mandali who accompanied His body on that unbelievable journey to Meherabad, the role of Baba's beloved Mehera was the hardest. But she played it supremely, surrendering the anguish of her heart to the wish of her Beloved who had asked her to "Keep courage". And even now, through her overwhelming pain of separation from Him, He helps her to keep courage.

Although we started out from Meherazad on that Friday evening with hearts numbed and empty, our hands had been kept occupied in doing the things that the Beloved would want us to do. In the midst of many practical details that Eruch was seeing to, he reminded me to take along our gramophone and the record of 'Begin the Beguine'. Eruch said that Baba had told him, many times over the years, to play this song by His side when He dropped His body. And so on that night of 31st January, and the next day, seven times I played the song of Begin the Beguine by His side -- at first in the Cabin where His body rested for a while and later in the Tomb. And while the song played, it seemed to convey to us His message that this was not an end but the beginning -- the beginning of His completed work bearing fruit. A day before dropping the body, even while the movement of His fingers brought on a renewed spasm, Baba told us, "All this, all that I have been through all along, has been a preparation for the Word -- for just the One Word!" And with a quizzical smile He added "Just imagine!"

Being wiser after the Event, we now see deeper significance in the message that beloved Baba had dictated on 17th January 1968, His message for the 43rd anniversary of His Silence to be released on 10th July 1968. It was not released, and Baba did not have any other message sent out in its place. Feeling that perhaps it was meant to be released now, I give it here:

DIVINE FATHER HELP YOUR BELOVED SON TO CARRY OUT
ALL YOUR WORK THIS YEAR, FOR JULY OF THIS YEAR WILL
MARK THE LAST YEAR OF HIS SILENCE.

- MEHER BABA -

...the doctor from Bombay came, and also one from ... By the time they arrived a great squam shook his body, ... and pressing ceased. This was at ... 12 noon He had been joking with us about all the ... had been given.

... evening we brought his body to Meherabad. The sun was ... the moon was rising as we placed it in the lamp for ... to take his darshan, fulfilling Babu's word that ... his darshan reclining.

* * *

... men and women ... the role of Babu's beloved Mehera was the ... it supremely, understanding the anguish of her heart ... who had asked her to "keep courage". And ever now ... pain of separation from him, he helps her to keep

... from Meherabad on that Friday evening with ... our hands had been kept occupied in doing the things that the ... of my practical details (the French ... along our surroundings and the record of ... Babu had told him, many times over the ... he dropped his body. And so on that ... the song of Babu ... the next day, seven times I played the song of Babu ... at first in the Gopin where his body rested for a ... side -- the song played, it seemed to convey to ... the Tomb. And while the song played -- the beginning of ... this was not an end but the beginning -- the beginning of ... bearing first. A day before dropping the body, even while ... brought on a renewed squam, Babu told us, "All this ... through all along, has been a preparation for the word ... And when a spiritual entity he asked "Just imagine!"

... after the Event, we now see deeper significance in the message ... dictated on 17th January 1908. His message for the 3rd ... on 10th July 1908. It was not to ... any other message sent out in the place, feeling ... to be released now, I give it here:

THE FATHER HELPS YOUR BELOVED SON TO CARRY OUT
YOUR WORK THIS YEAR, FOR THIS YEAR WILL
BE THE LAST YEAR OF HIS LIFE.

MEHER BABA

... to ...

... the ...

... the ...

The Silence of Meher Baba -- as unheard, as un-understood, as unfathomable, as ever. And as ever, more than ever, His lovers talk about His Silence. They ask themselves, so that they might answer the sceptics: Has the Silence been unbroken? Has the Silence been broken and not been heard? Baba said He will break His Silence while in the body -- which body does it mean? Did He mean His universal body? Will the breaking of His Silence be manifest in the shape of events to come, rather than in Sound form? A hundred questions, having as many answers as there are lovers. Not only has each lover his or her answer, each lover is an answer. That the questions don't question the breaking of His Silence, but simply seek to know 'when' and 'how', is enough answer for the sceptics of the world. In His lovers' unwavering faith and love, Baba's Silence is heard continuously.

The 10th of July, a day for the world to observe in honour of the Silence observed by God as Man for men. As beloved Baba had wished His lovers to observe silence (without the option of a fast) for twenty-four hours on 10th July of last year, 1968, so we feel that all His lovers must observe silence from midnight of July 9 to midnight of July 10 of this year, 1969 -- and for all years to come. There will not be any circular going out in regard to this -- please do not expect or await any.

Meher Year 75 was celebrated by His lovers everywhere. Never was the Beloved's presence felt as much as it was on this 75th anniversary of His Birth, felt by His lovers and by the people who witnessed its celebration. The scale on which it was celebrated is not in measure to the size and shape of the celebration -- although in many instances these were tremendous by any standard -- but to the force of love that moved it. It was as though the dam of past prejudices and problems had burst, and Baba's Love went out to all. This was very evident in the Birthday activities of many Baba-Centres, including Ahmednagar and Poona.

It is customary in India to give a "bhandara", a feast for the poor, in the name of a Master. On this 25th of February, the Baba-Centre at Ahmednagar gave a massive bhandara in beloved Baba's Name. Some twenty thousand people, from Ahmednagar city and neighbouring villages, came to the Centre that Day and had their fill of the feast which continued for twelve hours! They feasted on the delicious food prepared and served by the lovers, they feasted on His Name that rang to the skies in 'Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai', they feasted on His Love that brought them there. The citizens of Poona had a feast of another kind. Their eyes had never feasted on such a sight as greeted them on the streets of Poona on that evening of February 25. They were witnessing the Baba-procession planned by Baba's Centre in Poona. It was a jubilant procession of 2000 men, women and children, starting from the Centre at 7 o'clock and winding through the streets of the city for nearly four hours, streets that were lined thick with spectators who outnumbered the procession! People crowded the windows and balconies of their homes, watching the Beloved's lifesize portrait riding in a four-horse chariot decked with flowers and lights, listening to the accompanying music and bhajans, fascinated by the 'lejhim' danced by groups of men, amazed that Meher Baba's lovers were even now celebrating His Birthday. One young group of lovers who spontaneously joined in the dancing, consisted of Iranis including Baba's twin nephews. They danced

of Mohar Baba -- as unheard, as un-understood, as un-fathomable, more than ever, his lovers talk about His Silence. They ask that they might answer the question: Has the Silence been broken and not been heard? Baba said he will be in the body -- which body does it mean? Did he mean the breaking of His Silence be manifest in the shape of a human form in some form? A hundred questions, having as their answer, 'Not only has each lover his or her answer, that the questioner's question the breaking of His Silence, is enough answer for the world, in His lovers' unwavering faith and love, Baba's continuously.

July, a day for the world to observe in honour of the Silence. As beloved Baba had wished His lovers to observe the occasion of a last) for twenty-four hours on 10th July 1969, we feel that all His lovers must observe silence from midnight of July 10 of this year, 1969 -- and for all others will not be any circular going out in regard to this -- do not or wait any.

was celebrated by His lovers everywhere. Never was the celebration as much as it was on this 10th anniversary of His Silence. The people who witnessed the celebration, and by the people who witnessed the celebration, it was celebrated in many instances these were mentioned by any -- although in many instances these were mentioned by any. It was as though the force of love that moved it. It was as though the dam and problems had burst, and Baba's love went out to all. In the birthday activities of many Baba-Centres, including Poon.

in India to give a "bandana". A least for the poor, the Baba-Centres at Ambedkar. On the 25th of February, the Baba-Centres at Ambedkar in beloved Baba's name. Some twenty thousand people, city and neighbouring villages, came to the Centre that day. They continued for twelve hours. They prepared and served by the lovers, they looked to the sides in 'Avatar Mohar Baba Ki Jai', they that brought them there. The citizens of Poon had a kind. Their eyes had never looked on such a sight as the streets of Poon on that evening of February 25. They Baba-procession planned by Baba's Centre in Poon. It was of 5000 men, women and children, starting from the Centre, winding through the streets of the city for nearly four hours. They lined thick with spectators who surrounded the procession. The windows and balconies of their homes, watching the lovers, in a low-horse chattering decked with flowers and lights, accompanied by the 'Avatar Mohar Baba Ki Jai'. The young group of lovers who spontaneously gathered around Baba's lovers were everywhere.

non-stop, danced rapturously as though intoxicated, as Ramakrishnan later told us. Eruch's brother Meherwan wrote: "At every crossroad the procession stopped while the lejhim was danced, and traffic came to a halt in all directions, while shouts of 'Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai' continually rent the air. By the end, we had all shouted ourselves hoarse!"

This is the spirit in which His lovers at many places, in the East and West, celebrated their Beloved's 75th Birth Day. The lovers of Andhra continued their daily celebration for 75 days without a break -- Baba could drop His body, but He could not drop out of their hearts! "In short", as Eruch wrote in a letter, "it is obvious that the lovers of Baba believe that Baba is in their midst, although His physical presence is out of sight. He seems to have come into their hearts more forcefully than ever before. They feel His presence without seeing Him, and I can quite believe that, because I too feel that way. Although I miss Him, I feel His presence without seeing Him -- the same as when Baba used to send me away on some errand, He being where He was."

Baba's presence was felt very much by us on the 25th. Meherazad celebrated the Day as usual -- the decorations, the birthday cake with the one candle for the One Beloved, all of us calling out 'Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai' at the stroke of 5 in the morning; then the Arti, the Prayers, the Birthday song, the gramophone music played over a loud-speaker hired from the village. We had a dear guest with us that day: Maharani Shantadevi of Baroda. One unusual item was our visit to Meherabad, to Beloved Baba at the Tomb. There we witnessed His lovers of Arangaon celebrating His Day. All night they sang songs composed for Him, all morning they played their drums and cymbals while they danced for Him -- we never saw such exultant and rhythmic dancing! The whole village seemed to have turned up for Baba's darshan. Young and old, in tatters and in finery, the villagers came up the Hill and filed into the Tomb for Baba's darshan. On the stone floor at His feet they placed their heads in obeisance, and taught their children to do the same (sometimes with the help of a firm hand on their heads). The garlands of jasmine and roses piling up beside Him, were a fragrant reminder of His words: "I will give Darshan in silence."

On an earlier visit to Meherabad, a visitor asked me whether we felt that Baba's dropping the body at this time had been a 'miscalculation' on His part. The answer was an emphatic NO. It is we who hadn't reckoned for it, were completely unprepared, taken entirely unawares. And yet, looking back, we find that beloved Baba had prepared us, had given us many hints that now stand out glaringly in the light of the Event. But what He had disclosed with one hand, He had covered with the other. As for instance, on the morning of that Friday the 31st of January (1969) Baba said to us, "Today is my crucifixion". But several times in the past He had said, "Christ was crucified once. I am crucified daily." In November (1968) Baba told a visitor to Meherazad, "Come again in the month of July. Don't wait for me to call you; come without being called." We assumed it was His way of assuring the lover that his coming would not be postponed. Long before the Darshan circular went out, Baba casually remarked that soon when He started giving His darshan to His lovers, it would not be for a limited period but for all time. We interpreted this in different ways. Whenever some lovers came to Meherazad hoping to see Him, Baba sent them word "Come for my darshan in Poona -- I will not be in seclusion then."

1948

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation in the country at the end of 1947. It is a very interesting and detailed account of the economic and social conditions of the time. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material which is presented in a clear and concise manner.

2. The second part of the report is devoted to a study of the agricultural sector. It is a very thorough and well-organized study which covers all aspects of the industry. The author has done a great deal of field work and has gathered a wealth of material which is presented in a clear and concise manner. The study is a very valuable contribution to the knowledge of the agricultural sector in the country.

3. The third part of the report is devoted to a study of the industrial sector. It is a very thorough and well-organized study which covers all aspects of the industry. The author has done a great deal of field work and has gathered a wealth of material which is presented in a clear and concise manner. The study is a very valuable contribution to the knowledge of the industrial sector in the country.

4. The fourth part of the report is devoted to a study of the social and economic conditions of the country. It is a very thorough and well-organized study which covers all aspects of the social and economic conditions of the country. The author has done a great deal of field work and has gathered a wealth of material which is presented in a clear and concise manner. The study is a very valuable contribution to the knowledge of the social and economic conditions of the country.

Just before the last family letter went out, Eruch pointed out to Baba that (considering the condition of His health) if He wished to cancel the approaching Darshan it was yet possible to do so. Baba smiled and said "No, it is not to be cancelled. I will give my Darshan to my lovers. I will give it on my own terms."

And we find that many of His lovers in the East and West*, those who had planned to come to Poona for the Darshan, are going ahead with their plans, honouring His invitation to them which said:

"... how beloved Baba will give His darshan to the thousands who will come, yet remains to be determined; but it will be. He will give His darshan. This darshan, Baba says, will be the last given in Silence -- the last before He speaks His world-renewing Word of words."

In response to the lovers' wish to come to Poona for the Darshan, Adi had sent out this intimation to all concerned on February 8:

DESPITE BABA'S PHYSICAL ABSENCE THOSE LOVERS WHO DESIRE TO
VISIT GURUPRASAD POONA TO HONOUR BABA'S INVITATION FOR DARSHAN
UP TO TENTH JUNE CAN STILL COME ABIDING STRICTLY TO THE
SCHEDULED DATES AND CONDITIONS AS PER FAMILY LETTER DATED
FIRST NOVEMBER. JOURNEY WILL NOW INCLUDE HALF DAY VISIT
TO MEHERABAD TO PAY HOMAGE AT BABA'S TOMB.
AFTER TENTH JUNE ANYONE CAN MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO POONA AND
BABA'S TOMB INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, UNDERSTANDING THAT
ALL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE ON ONE'S OWN. INFORM ALL
CONCERNED YOUR AREA. JAIBABA.

The Meherazad mandali too, men and women, will be going to Poona for the Darshan. As usual, from April beginning till June end, we will be at: Guruprasad, 24 Bund Road, Poona-1.

* Each Western lover coming to Poona, please remember to bring a wide-brimmed hat to protect you from the Indian summer sun; and a flash-light for use when electricity fails (or is turned off during thunderstorms in May and June).

Often has Baba told us, "I am not this body that you see". Now we cannot see that which He was not, that which made God's infinite Love and Compassion tangible to us, that which was our constant companion. Often have we written to His many lovers who were physically absent from Him, "Beloved Baba is with you every moment. Baba says He is with His lovers always." Now the Meherazad mandali are learning to live these words, while occupied in the daily routine of duties which continue as before. Of the mandali at Meherazad (women mandali: Mehera, Mani, Goher, Naja, Meheroo, Rano; men mandali: Eruch, Pendu, Bhau, Francis, Aloba, Kaikobad, Kaka, Baidul), Kaka is no longer with us.

Twenty seven days after the Beloved dropped His body, His very dear Kaka passed away from heart failure and was buried at Meherazad as was Baba's wish. Kaka's passing away was sudden and swift, while he was resting in his easy-chair outside his room. Moments before, he was pottering about the compound in his endearing "hobbit" manner. Kaka has had a damaged heart for years, and his continuing to live so actively was a constant amazement to Goher and the other doctors. It was as if Kaka had willed himself to live for as long as he could serve his beloved Master -- which he did to the last. Even on 30th January he had made Baba 'laugh' with his usual daily entertainment, lightened Baba's burden as he had always done. The evening before he left us, Kaka repeatedly and forcefully declared what he had been telling us for days: "Baba has not gone away. Baba will come, will come. Remember, remember. Baba will come! Kaka says so. Remember!" We remember.

All the dear letters and cables that the Meherazad family has received from the Beloved's world Family, are a testimony to His IS-ness. They make it clear that for Baba's lovers Baba is and always will be. In fact it seems that Baba is with His lovers more than ever; that the jolt of the Event has thrown them closer in the unity of His Love, bound them firmer in their resolve to live His Message. Beloved Baba completed His Work. Now the lovers have work to do. As Francis said in a cable to Australia, "Let us now begin the real work of loving Him as He should be loved."

That the Beloved's lovers are testifying to His Presence is not surprising. But we find strangers doing so too -- men and women who had not known of Baba, who were simply acquainted with His Name! Several individuals tell of having seen Baba since He dropped the body, and personally recounted their experiences to Baba's lovers who have recounted them to us. The first we heard of was the experience of a Zoroastrian High Priest -- he had known of Baba and revered Him, but had neither love nor belief. As told by him, Baba appeared to him in the early hours of the morning of the Event. He saw Baba, a bright light round His head, riding speedily past him on a white horse and saying "I am going to my Manzil (destination)." Overpowered by this vision, the priest felt compelled to visit Meherabad. There he asked permission to enter the Tomb and pray for a while. After doing this, he went down the steps of the crypt and took Baba's darshan by reverently touching His feet -- an unprecedented act on the part of a Zoroastrian priest! On the final day too he had a glimpse of the Beloved's compassion. After leaving the Tomb, the priest felt drawn to take yet another look at Baba, and jostled his way back through the crowd. But however much he craned over the solid front row of lovers' shoulders, he could not see into the crypt. Then, all of a sudden,

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work done during the year. It also contains a list of the names of the members of the committee and a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to various positions.

The second part of the report deals with the financial statement of the committee for the year. It contains a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to various positions and a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to various positions.

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Baba's face appeared to his vision! The priest says that Baba actually raised His head and smiled at him, and then gradually reclined again.

Since then we have heard the experiences of a number of people in different parts of India. A few days ago when Nana Kher came from Nagpur, he told us how beloved Baba had been seen within the last month by three different citizens of Nagpur residing in different localities. Visiting the Baba-Centre in Nagpur for the first time, each of the three had related his and her experience, declaring that "Meher Baba is not dead. Meher Baba can never die. Meher Baba is alive. We have seen Him, seen Him in the body." These persons were not lovers of Baba, they were not even acquainted with lovers of Baba. Their only contact with Baba was that they had at some time heard the name of Meher Baba. This is a sketch of their accounts as heard by me:

On 3rd February (1969), a clerk working in a Sales Tax department, was sitting in his bedroom before starting out for the office. While seated there, he saw a jeep approach and stop by his front door. From it he saw Baba step out with a few other men, stopping to converse with them for a while. The clerk also saw and heard some people standing around the jeep calling out "Meher Baba has come", and instantly he bowed down with reverence and love that surged over him. Just then Baba turned His face towards him and smiled. The clerk says that he was fully awake at the time; that until this scene before his eyes disappeared, he took it to be an actual occurrence.

The second man who had a similar experience, is a deputy collector. An ardent devotee of Lord Rama, he daily meditated before Rama's picture and recited Sanskrit couplets which invoke Rama's protection and guidance. On the 7th of February, while he was doing this, he was confronted by a blinding light. Opening his eyes he saw a man before him, a man whom he instinctively recognized as Meher Baba. Filled with a happiness he had never experienced, he gazed adoringly at Baba. This went on for over an hour, during which Baba appeared in various garbs and headgears -- now in a sadra, now in Western suit, now in a kafni, now wearing a scarf, now a fez cap. It continued even after his wife interrupted by coming in to remind him that it was long past supper time. Although she managed to coax him away for a while, when he returned Baba was again with him for nearly two hours more. It amazed him to learn that his wife had not seen Baba when she had entered the room, had seen no one in the room beside her husband! This deputy collector now tells others, "Meher Baba is the Avatar - He was Rama, He is Meher Baba. He is the one and the same Avatar. He is, and always will be."

A middle-aged housewife was the third person -- she had come across Baba's name in some booklet, years ago. Recounting her experience she said that on 25th February she had been busy all day attending to a sick relative. Returning home, she tried to catch up on her neglected household chores and started at the sink. Being fond of devotional singing, she sang while she washed the dishes. Suddenly the room lighted up with a dazzling light. She turned to see what had caused it, and beheld a smiling figure reclining on a tiger skin, the right hand forming the sign that means "Good!". Instinctively she knew that this was Meher Baba. Bathed in a bliss she didn't know could exist, she bowed low before Him. She felt inspired to compose a song for Him, and wrote it down then and there -- a song that touched the hearts of Baba's lovers to whom she presented it at the Centre. There at the Centre she saw

the picture of beloved Baba that is exactly as He had appeared to her at her home. She had never set eyes on it before, nor on any other picture of the Beloved.

Hearing of these and other experiences had by other people, makes us feel that perhaps, in a way, the Darshan has begun. If so, it seems that Baba is starting from the fringe of the outermost circle and that His lovers' turn will follow. Recently a lover asked me if any of us had had any extraordinary experience since the Event, whether Baba had appeared to any of the mandali in a Vision. Perhaps he was startled at my reply that "Nowadays Baba does not appear even in our dreams". I went on to tell him what the Beloved had explained long ago, giving us the simile of a lighted lantern placed on the floor. While the lantern sheds light all over the room, the circle close to its base is in shadow. Beloved Baba had said: "When I give my close circle that which I have to give, it will be the real thing." As again Baba said, in His last message to His lovers:

"I AM THE DIVINE BELOVED WORTHY OF BEING LOVED
BECAUSE I AM LOVE. HE WHO LOVES ME BECAUSE OF THIS
WILL BE BLESSED WITH UNLIMITED SIGHT AND WILL
SEE ME AS I AM."

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!

Ever lovingly,

Mani.

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EIGHTY-SECOND FAMILY LETTER FROM AVATAR MEHER BABA'S SISTER, MANI,

RECEIVED BY ELIZABETH AND KITTY, AT MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.

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Meherazad, 26th August 1969.

Dearest Family,

JAI BABA to you from all your brothers and sisters at Meherazad. We returned from Poona on July 1, as we have done each year with Baba. And I am writing to you dear ones as I have been doing each time on our return, but I find it is not the same. To write an account of what has most occupied our days and hearts, means to make a word picture of the indescribable Darshan -- and what word colours can paint that Master-piece, what can I recount that you yourselves have not experienced or shared from personal accounts? At best I can make it a chat, a thinking aloud, a reminiscing on behalf of dear Mehera, all men and women Mandali, lovers, workers, volunteers - each of us who was privileged to share with many of you the Beloved's darshan given on His terms, at the time and place appointed by Him: Guruprasad, Poona, from 10th April to 10th June 1969. It goes out to every one of you who was at the Darshan in heart, for not all could be present in person. Some could not make it due to binding commitments or ill health, or lack of funds; some sacrificed their coming so as to make it possible for others -- these too have deeply shared in the Darshan. And some had planned to come and could have come, but missed their appointment with God -- this too is surely His Will.

You who came, honouring God-Man's invitation, accepting His terms without knowing what they were, not expecting anything or not knowing what to expect, you received more than you could contain. That which you received, we saw it flow over from your eyes reflecting His beloved image. We heard it flow over from your lips making His Name resound wherever you went. In buses, on your way to Baba places, at railway stations, at aerodromes, wherever you started from and wherever you got down, your cries of AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI rang out His victory! Never had Poona such plentiful showers of His Name, never had such numbers of visitors from foreign lands poured into its hotels at a time -- and in the middle of summer too, when foreign residents usually leave to seek the cool air of hill-stations! Your call of 'Jai Baba' wherever and whenever you greeted a lover, on or across the streets and in shops or hotels, was so familiar to hotel staff and taxi drivers and shop keepers and railway porters that they refer to you as the JAI BABAs. To the glorious history of Guruprasad you added a unique chapter. It made its gracious owner, Maharani Shantadevi who never missed a Darshan held there in the past, remark to Mehera at parting: "Baba did not let His lovers down. This was indeed a Darshan of Darshans!"

From the first day, when over 200 of you came from the west coast of U.S.A., you set the tone and tempo that made the Darshan months an unbroken symphony. Morning after morning when you arrived to keep your date with God, our hearts thrilled to see the long line of buses and cars bringing you through the gates and down the driveway of Guruprasad amidst your thunderous cries of AVATA MEHER BABA KI JAI! Sweet music of His Name that pierced our hearts every time we heard it, that soaked into the very walls and lofty ceiling of Guruprasad Hall which you filled each day. That His Presence was so powerfully felt by you and us, that our Beloved gave so much of Himself during those two months, remains an experience that only His Silence can contain. Shallow word-platters cannot hold it. Just as one of you said in your letter after Darshan, "I am striving to write the unwriteable, because it is not possible to say what Love I was the receiver of."

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Nor is it possible for the receivers to fully realize it, not yet. Parched tree-beds thirsting for water, you were filled with His grace-rain and sparkled in the sunshine of His darshan. And your hearts said in wonder and in fear "This cannot be true! Oh, will it last?" On the surface it cannot last, if it is to be lasting. The water is for the roots. It must soak deep into the earth to reach the heart of the tree, for its beauty to be made known to all men by the strength of its limbs and the richness of its leaves, by the fragrance of its flowers and the sweetness of its fruits. For this the Divine Gardener prepares the beds. He labours to make the hardened earth receptive, hoeing it thoroughly with the prongs of His Compassion. It hurts at the time and we cry out in pain, but He suffers it for our sakes, He allows us to endure it in the knowledge that nothing endures except His Love.

Men, women, children, you represented His family in miniature; a model that He created for building of the world Baba Family. You came from many lands across oceans; you came by charter flights, group flights, independently, by ship, over land, and hitch-hiking. Blessed is every country whence His lovers came from and returned to, even when it was a single lover. Our record file shows the overseas countries and the numbers of lovers coming from them, as follows:

U.S.A. : 562, Australia : 47, England : 17, France : 4,
 Switzerland : 2, Germany : 2, Lebanon : 2, Israel : 1, Hawaii : 3,
 Hong Kong : 1, Taiwan : 1, So. Korea : 1, Philippines : 2, Africa : 3,
 Iran : 10, Pakistan : 37.

Total : 695. (men: 349, women: 320, children: 26)

Rivers and streams answering the Ocean's call, you crossed much rough ground and rocky obstacles to bring yourselves to Him. For many of you an impassable mountain was the problem of money, as few could afford the expense of such a distant journey. You scrimped and saved and toiled arduously; you borrowed, to work harder on your return and repay the loans; you sold whatever you possibly or impossibly could, sometimes the very means of your livelihood! You came to Poona to return straight home. Your trip to the Ancient One promised no glamour of India's ancient features. You did not come to see such wondrous things as the Taj Mahal or the Golden Temple or the Himalayas - the wonder of Baba's Love engulfed them all. Your sight was trained on Guruprasad where your Beloved was awaiting you, as He said He would be. Your sightseeing was Baba-places in Poona, Meherazad, Meherabad, Ahmednagar. You denied yourselves many a shopping temptation in order to spend more on books and photos and lockets of Baba, and to contribute towards the Avatar Meher Baba Trust (Ahmednagar). You learnt and sang Baba-bhajans. To sing out His Message in more and more forms of music, you took with you so many Indian instruments - sitars, tablas, dholaks, bells, flutes - that the music shops in Poona ran out of stock, and one owner said he did four years' business in two months! Over sixty sitars accompanied the 156 lovers on the last charter flight; and when a volunteer expressed concern over the problem of space, the answer was "There's always room for more music"!

Beloved Baba told you not to bring Him gifts. The time for toy-gifts was over, now nothing less than the gift of your self would do for the Highest of the High. Being rich in His Love, you brought Him the offering that He had gifted to you. You brought Him your heart filled with His Name, pouring it out to Him in song and poetry, touching His Heart that He opened for you, bathing His feet with

your tears of love, winning His smile with your performances. You entertained Him superbly with plays of spiritual content and wondrous humour, with musical concerts and puppet shows, with delightful skits and jokes. We heard many instruments play Begin The Beguine, many voices sing the Arti in English.* You brought all kinds of instruments with you to regale Him with music: guitar, violin, banjo, flute, recorder, trombone, saxophone. Although there was not much room for words in your hearts and ours, how beautifully you spoke of His Love in the language of music, the language that helps to make His Silence heard!

We thank our Beloved for His gift of the Family.
We bow down to His Love for you.
We bow down to your love for Him.

At this banquet which the Beloved had spread for the Family homecoming, He surprised us with all manner of gifts. At His table we saw the perfect merging of all shades of religion and colour. To see His family contain equally as many Christians as Jews, to see His beauty shine equally from a dark or fair face, was to see the oneness of Baba's Love which never asks for uniformity -- it asks only for unity. Over and over Baba had said that this Darshan was to be only for His lovers, old and new. It was not for strangers. So it was in fact, as it was figuratively. The lovers appeared to have no room in their hearts for any 'strangers' that had been there before. These strangers that our Beloved shies from, got drowned in a drop of His wine. At His table we witnessed the miracle of words coming to life. 'Family' became a reality; 'darshan' an experience. We of the mandali who had taken part in many a darshan without being part of it, we found ourselves having His darshan a thousand times over - receiving it with each lover who knelt before the Chair on which God's man-form had sat to receive thousands in the past, with each dear head that bowed in adoration or obeisance at the feet of the Unseen Beloved. In you younger ones, His "Boys and Girls" who formed the main body of this gathering, in you we heard the first strains of His 'New Life' song. From His Ocean you brought to us a breath of the New Humanity which will awaken a dead world to His Life. You who carried His Message from heart to heart and land to land, who did not see His Man-form because of your complete obedience to His command to wait till He called, of you Baba often spoke with the glowing pride of a Father and the touching love of a Mother. By making Baba's pleasure your treasure, you made Him say of you: "They who sacrifice their longing to obedience of my word, they will receive the more." To us it seems that already you received more, else you would not be the stalwart Message bearers He chose you to be and come for your first darshan of Him after He dropped the Form you had waited to see! "All merciful and eternally benevolent", our Beloved is indeed as bountiful as He is beautiful.

This Darshan was "darshan of darshans" as much for the eighty percent who had not seen or embraced the God-Man's form, as it was for the rest of you who had done so. Heart-language made this glowingly evident, tongue-language attested to it. We overheard a twelve year old who was here for her first darshan, happy eyes shining through a veil of tears, telling herself in an intense whisper "Am I glad I came, Oh boy am I glad!!" A young couple said to us at parting "Baba has dipped us in such divine colours, we will never be the same again!" And an old-timer, a doctor who came with his family from the U.S.A., remarked more than once "Had I not come, it would have been the saddest mistake of my life!" Again and again we heard the joyous refrain, in different words, from different lips, in the voice of the 'new'

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and the 'old. Though most of you were of the Now Age, many ages from 7 to 99 were represented. There were a number of children, and there would have been more if Baba had not restricted their age to 7. Actually however, there were more - but not visibly. By far the youngest of all, these invisible lovers came in their mothers' wombs - and each group was blessed with several of them! The oldest among you was Baba's courageous "soldier" from Myrtle Beach Center, Ruth White who celebrated her 100th birthday a few days after the Darshan! We salute you dear Ruth in beloved Baba's Love, loyally you have served the Cause of your Master. A hundred times JAI BABA to you!

Addressing you all on your arrival in Guruprasad, Francis faithfully expressed the Mandali's feeling when he spoke these lines:

"Who but the Beloved of Beloveds, could speak his Word silently in your hearts and make you come from across the world to take his darshan, to bow down to him in your hearts? Such a thing has never happened before. I have been at Mass-darshans where tens of thousands came and bowed down to his Man-form. But to come thousands of miles to bow down to him in one's own heart, that is of an entirely different order of devotion.

"Why has beloved Baba given you people this extraordinary privilege? Because he required a few to do what the many, what everyone, must eventually do: journey across the world of illusion to take darshan of him in their hearts. What a Beloved is our Beloved; what a mighty Beloved."

You had the Beloved's darshan. And you had His sahas, seated for hours before Him in Guruprasad, communing with Him in silence and in speech. Often you crowded the Hall, yet you were never a crowd to us. It was not a sea of faces we saw, but so many shining drops in His Ocean. Every face we dearly remember, and every name we know, but we're not always able to put the right two together! This makes us wish we had asked you each to leave with us a photograph of yourself (a spare passport picture perhaps), to cherish along with Darshan thoughts and feelings that you left for us in the Pink Book - so called because of its pink sheets that have captured some of your heart-rays from His Love-sun. In the privacy of an unoccupied hour, one or the other of the mandali opens it and basks in the warmth of these rays which melt the illusion of separation and reveal His abiding presence. Where reams could not express the Darshan your lines have done it, and I'm tempted to steal some for this letter. But it's impossible to choose from so much beauty, so I've picked these few passages somewhat at random (quoting without giving names):

To say we received Baba's Love is the least we can say. I can't imagine any of us, the new lovers, even those fortunate ones who had been with Baba before, having any idea what Baba's Darshan would be like. It was enough to drown even the best swimmer!

The memory of the past five days will live with me for the next 700 years!

I really feel that now I actually know that Meher Baba is Love.

To travel half way round this gross globe to be with you Baba, has filled my heart with love of you Beloved Baba and the Mandali and the whole world.

The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the position of the various groups. It is a very interesting and well-written account of the country and its people. The second part of the report deals with the political situation and the various parties and groups. It is also very interesting and well-written. The third part of the report deals with the economic situation and the various industries and sectors. It is also very interesting and well-written. The fourth part of the report deals with the social situation and the various social groups and issues. It is also very interesting and well-written. The fifth part of the report deals with the cultural situation and the various cultural groups and issues. It is also very interesting and well-written. The sixth part of the report deals with the environmental situation and the various environmental groups and issues. It is also very interesting and well-written. The seventh part of the report deals with the international situation and the various international groups and issues. It is also very interesting and well-written. The eighth part of the report deals with the future of the country and the various future groups and issues. It is also very interesting and well-written. The ninth part of the report deals with the conclusion and the various conclusion groups and issues. It is also very interesting and well-written. The tenth part of the report deals with the appendix and the various appendix groups and issues. It is also very interesting and well-written.

The report is a very comprehensive and well-written account of the country and its people. It covers a wide range of topics and provides a detailed and up-to-date overview of the country's situation. The report is written in a clear and concise style and is easy to read and understand. It is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the country and its people. The report is also a very good example of how to write a comprehensive and well-written report. It is a model for anyone who wants to write a report that is both informative and interesting. The report is a very good example of how to write a report that is both informative and interesting. It is a model for anyone who wants to write a report that is both informative and interesting.

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Dear Baba, thank you for showing your true self, that of Love. Without your physical form, all I can see is your Love. Before visiting you in Poona it was all words, now it is Living Baba, not just talking Baba.

Baba said He would be very strong during Darshan. His weight of Love and mercy descended on me, shattering in a short time the wall I built around my soul. He loves us very much.

By His grace through many lives I am once again at my Blessed Master's feet, caressed by His touch, breathing the roses of His presence. His perfume is everywhere.

Never did I suspect that Baba, not in his physical form, would have such a tremendous impact on me!

You my Meher Baba, are truly Love itself.

This Darshan has made me feel Baba as I have never felt Him before. His Love, His Glory, His Suffering and Bliss, His Humour, and more; but most of all His Love. We return with a most precious treasure to be shared with those who could not come, that they too may have Meher Baba's Darshan in their own hearts.

At Darshan I began to feel the Beloved's personal special humanness, through all of you. Before He was overpoweringly God and Christ; now He is infinitely more, being our beautiful Baba, the man, our friend. Every day He is more God, more a 'mighty Beloved'.... and every day more Man, more specially Meher Baba. I remember on the third day of Darshan, Baba was so close and full of love that every time I heard His Name or saw His Picture I just cried, it was so incredible - for He is the only One, the Only one in my life, and He has come and let us know of Him....

Beloved Baba, my Truth and Beauty, We came thinking to say Farewell, but found ourselves saying Hail! for there You were shining from every radiant face....

I have received all I had expected; moreover, I received more and more as, through all the wonderful experiences, I grew more and more. In fact I see no end in sight to the growing and receiving!

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You Beloved Baba, for fulfilling Your great promise: 'sometime, somewhere, somehow'...

It is one's heart that recognizes the Divine Beloved and not the mind. There is nothing to figure out; only to experience. Divine Love is Divine Humour. Meher Baba is greater than God.

We had to come here to know that God is EVERYWHERE - Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!

Meher Baba has kept His promise, he has given me more than I have asked for. Meher Baba has given me a deep inner conviction that He is God, and a feeling of contented peace that has made it possible to fulfil his command: Don't worry.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
530 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60607

RECEIVED
MAY 15 1964

FROM: [Illegible]

TO: [Illegible]

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

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My concept of Avatar Meher Baba: Baba is all that he claims to be. In the measurable future the universe will bow to him as the Deliverer from the world of dreams.

He is called Avatar and God of which I do not know. But if God was to come to Earth for his children I think BABA would fit the bill. If BABA is God, then God must be quite a guy. Meher is Compassion. BABA is CHRIST, MOHAMMED, BUDDHA, ZOROASTER, RAMA, KRISHNA. But most of all he is BABA. BABA is a person who will take one by the hand and lead him to his very own self.

Beloved Baba's universal work is totally beyond me. But the effect of His working, awakening of the Heart, is already evident in the conviction of many many young people who have had no physical contact with Him. This magnificent Darshan of Beloved Baba's revealed the beginnings of His only real miracle.

Dear Beloved One, ... I visited your side in your Meherabad tomb and in your immortal Guruprasad, not in grief or sorrow that you chose to leave me behind but in love and adoration that I have been loved by the God of Gods in earth-life. I will wait for you dear Baba. I will wait for union with you the Great Love in human form and beyond all forms. You are the only one worthy of love. I offer myself to you. Come dear Lord when your sweet will wishes.

On the pink sheets and in your letters that followed, you also express such dear praise for all that you received from us at this Darshan. And it makes us wonder if you will ever know what we received from you! What it meant to us to be with you in the Beloved's overwhelming presence - to see Him in your eyes, to embrace Him in your arms, to mingle our love's tears and laughter with yours, to welcome Him in you! You brought Baba with you and He was already here to receive you, you took Him with you and He is as ever with us - such is the profound God-humour that makes life's joke bearable. We remember teasing you for taking so much of Baba with you, telling some of you at parting "Isn't it lucky Baba is the Ocean, or we'd have little left of Him to hold to us!"

A heartfelt of Ocean is a tremendous thing to carry, and with it one carries a responsibility as big. When beloved Baba told you to go back after Darshan without sightseeing on the way, He entrusted you with taking His Love as direct as possible to the shores it was destined for. "Use us Baba, use us in whatever way you use us" one of you said in a poem to Him. Using you as precious receptacles to carry His Love to various specific points, Baba was sending out His 'prasad' to the world in general. That prasad which is as inexhaustible as it is invisible, He gave to you to have and to hold and to share - to give to whomever you can, wherever you are. That you are doing your part, true to the trust the Beloved has reposed in all His lovers, is clear in letters received after Darshan. And that He always helps you to do it, even does it Himself without your knowing, is clear in lines such as these (from different lovers):

"It is incredible how souls who were previously unconscious of Baba or unready to hear of Him, have opened up since our return from the unparalleled Darshan!"

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...of the...
...to the...

The second of these is the fact that the...
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...to the...

The third of these is the fact that the...
...of the...
...to the...

The fourth of these is the fact that the...
...of the...
...to the...

The fifth of these is the fact that the...
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...to the...

The sixth of these is the fact that the...
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...to the...

The seventh of these is the fact that the...
...of the...
...to the...

The eighth of these is the fact that the...
...of the...
...to the...

"There is now a readiness to hear of the Beloved, a desire to know more about Him, that is beyond belief!"

"Baba is having people jump out of the woodwork seeking information about His Avatarhood!"

"It is amazing how beloved Baba is opening doors, and wonderful how He often works without even using anyone!"

"Day by day His lovers grow in strength and number here."

So hungry were our hearts for Baba's nearness, that the Darshan fare we feasted on for a solid two months did not tire us. Daily we savoured the diverse forms of heart-worship offered to Him: in the mornings by His lovers from the West, in the afternoons by His lovers from the East. Only the forms varied, the substance of course was the same. Love cannot be different when the Beloved is the same One and Only.

Although countwise the Eastern darshanees were at times disappointing, lovewise they often added up so high that small pools of lovers appeared as big lakes - such as the groups from Kanpur, Dehra Dun, Nizamabad, Gujerat. The lovers from Hamirpur district and Andhra state made us realize once more why Baba spoke of them with such love, calling them His "heart and head". They filled and overflowed Guruprasad on appointed days. They came by special train, and they came crammed in special buses that carried Baba's picture and Name on the outside and His seven-coloured flag on top. The women brought their little ones with them, including babies just a month old. The children's voices were loudest when Baba-bhajans were sung, and babes in arms sometimes joined in with their gusty cries. At one time even a bark joined in, for an Andhraite lover had brought along her pet dog, a pretty white pomeranian, "for Baba's darshan!"

The five hundred lovers that were to come by special train from Guntur district (state of Andhra) for darshan on 21st May, could not do so because of floods that breached rail tracks, broke down bridges, and made roads impassable for weeks. Finally about sixty of them managed to make it by bus on 10th June, the last day of Darshan. It seemed ironical that some from nearby places failed to come, while these lovers who were ready to travel such a greater distance were hindered by a whim of Nature - or so it seemed. The lovers of Guntur accepted it as the whim of their Beloved, His Will that rules their lives, and they bowed to it.

The Eastern lovers entertained Baba invariably with songs, sometimes accompanying them with solo dances. Men danced with great fervour, intoxicated with the music of His Name. Women who by tradition would veil their faces, unveiled and danced gently for the Beloved. Groups of Indian lovers coming from many parts of India, sang the Beloved's praise and victory in many languages: Hindi, Marathi, Gujerati, Sanskrit, Persian, Urdu, Telegu. We had never before heard Baba's JAI sung in such a fascinating variety of compositions. It mattered little if one didn't understand the language, the theme of the songs was His Name and His Jai. The entire wording of a song, sung in a catchy tune, was simply 'Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai'. Another composition, born of His lovers in the north, was a conversation piece, a question-and-answer exchange between speaker and audience. A solo voice asking, and a

stentorian chorus replying, it runs something like this:

"Who is the Avatar of the Age?"	:	"MEHER BABA"
"Who is the Protector of the poor and the weak?"	:	"MEHER BABA"
"Who is the Lord of the universe?"	:	"MEHER BABA"
"Who is the Beloved of our hearts?"	:	"MEHER BABA"

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI !!!

In November when Baba casually remarked to His mandali "In March you all march to Poona", it appeared no more than a delightful pun. Much later, when we asked ourselves whether Baba would want us to go to Guruprasad as usual, we realized that He had provided us with the answer. So on March 30 we marched to Poona, our minds bare of expectation, our hearts a desert. Three months later when we left Poona, the desert had changed to a dazzling expanse of flowers which had sprung up in the merciful downpour of His Darshan - it had been a time of Spring for His many lovers, and we had shared in the miracle. Returning from Poona we saw its reflection in the earth around us: in the rain-saturated fields; in the newly born pastures; in the replenished wells; in the grass-covered Seclusion Hill where sheep graze; in the blossoming garden of Meherazad; in the waters of Pimpalgaon Lake reservoir overflowing its bank - a thing that had not happened since November of 1962 when the East-West gathering took place. And most of all we saw it in the transformation on Meherabad Hill: its sun-scorched surface is now a mantle of cool green, its trees and bushes which looked like spiky brooms are now dressed in rich brocade of leaf and flower. This resurrection seems to speak to us of the Beloved's life-giving grace which His children are to receive. This year's bounteous rain seems to symbolize the Beloved's bounty which is to flow into mankind's parched heart.

Now, back at Meherazad, I speak only for the Meherazad family. And first of all we want to say to you: All that has come to us in your letters, letters so filled with Love of Baba, so full of dear concern for our well-being, has gone deep into our hearts that hold you very close. That you have expected no letter in reply, at times even requesting us not to reply, is a measure of your love and understanding which makes us better aware of the depth of our relationship as Baba-Family. Not that we haven't always replied; the dove of Baba's Love has carried many a message to you on wings of silence! It is only the pen that is lazy or too heavy to lift. Moreover, time has not slackened its pressure. Baba is keeping us busy as ever - busy with household duties, and busiest with different aspects of work related directly to Him. His holding the reins as tightly as ever, is one of the things which most reveals His presence. He reveals it in so many ways. And the more the Beloved's presence is revealed, the more we miss Him!

Beloved Baba's presence fills each part and particle of Meherazad. Every room where He sat or slept in, every piece of furniture that He used, every article of clothing that He wore, the paths and ground that He walked on, the trees and flowers that He admired, the birds that He inquired after in dear concern, the Hill where He sat in seclusion, the books that He enjoyed having read out, the records of songs

which He liked to listen to on the old gramophone - each object unveils His beloved presence. So it is not that we grieve for His absence from us, but for our separation from His form - the exquisite garment which wrapped our hearts so fully that we desired nothing else. God-realization was not our concern. Striving to realize God's Love expressed through the garment worn and suffered for His creation, was enough to occupy lifetimes. Since He has put aside His garment, we realize it more and more. His every act of grace and compassion that is recalled, every form of His suffering that is remembered, adds a little to our realizing it. Our growing realization of His Love is a large part of our pain of separation. Baba referred to His beloved Mehera as His 'Radha'. And at times when her tears flow for Baba, her Lord Krishna, I remind her that this separation is but another tune played on His divine flute, for her life to dance to it as perfectly as it had done to the sweet music of His physical presence.

To have what one wants, is to have everything. To us, being with Baba was everything - and we had it. Staying with God and sharing His humanness was such completeness for us that it has left nothing besides to want for. We're not looking for any happenings to manifest. We are simply waiting - waiting for His Will to manifest in whatever forms He may choose, that we might keep on carrying it out with our imperfect obedience and His perfect grace. Many of you dear ones are doing this without having to wait, for you have not depended solely on His personal directions as we have. Seeing your service and obedience to your Beloved, independent of a sight or touch of the garment which clothed His Godhood, makes us realize that you have received from Him something which we lack - something we envy. We will have to labour to acquire that which He gave to you so freely, since He has "taken the doll out of our hands, and now we face the Ocean." *

As Eruch puts it: "The God-Man has dropped the mask that He had put on to play His Divine Game, so that He can be seen as He really is. But only by His Grace can we see Him as He really is, and only true surrender to His Will can accomplish this."

For this His lovers have to keep their sight unfogged by a breath of doubt, keep it focussed on His Reality without distraction from the antics of the mind. On several occasions last year, while seated with His men mandali in Meherazad hall, Baba quoted this line from Sant Tukaram: "Be still and remain a witness to whatever that happens." It means to leave all to our Beloved, in perfect stillness of faith. One who turns his head in every direction, looking for answers to questions that crowd into the mind, is missing the Answer that comes from His Silence. The Beloved's humiliation does not lie in the fact that He has not broken His Silence as we understood it, but in the tragedy that we have not understood it. The Avatar's eternal humiliation is that His Word falls on a deaf world, which receives the reverberations of its utterance a long time after from the few who have picked it up. Just as the harvest of a crop is for the many and the toilers in the field are few, so His glorification is shared by the masses and His humiliation is witnessed by a few. And like the toilers who see the crop's glory hidden in their toil, blessed are the few who see, in His humiliation, the glorification which is to come!

So much has been said of the Silence of Meher Baba. And so much has been written of what Baba said about His Silence, that I don't remember whether this

* from poem to Baba by Craig San Roque (England)

which He liked to listen to on the old gramophone - each object unites His beloved presence. Is it not that we grieve for His absence from us, but for our separation from His form - the exquisite garment which wraps our hearts so fully that we desired nothing else. God-realization was not our concern, striving to realize God's Love expressed through the garment worn and suffered for His creation, was enough to occupy ourselves. Since He has put aside His garment, we realize it more and more. His every act of grace and compassion that is revealed, every form of His suffering that is remembered, adds a little to our realizing Him. Our growing realization of His Love is a large part of our pain of separation. What referred to His beloved Manera as the 'Raddha'. And at times when her tears flow for Babaji, her hand trembles, I realize that this separation is but another form played on His divine flute for her life to dance to it as perfectly as it had done to the sweet music of His physical presence.

To have what one wants, is to have everything. To us, being with Babaji was everything - and we had it. Staying with God and sharing His humanness was such a happiness for us that it has left no room for anything else. We're not looking for any happiness to manifest. We are simply waiting - waiting for His Will to manifest in whatever form He may choose, that we might keep on carrying it out with the greatest obedience and His perfect grace. Many of you hear one and after that you begin to wish, for you have not depended solely on His personal dispensing of His Will. Being His servant and obedient to your Babaji, independent of a Will as a result of the garment which clothed His Godhood, makes us realize that you have realized Him, something which we lack - something which He will give to us when He chooses which He gave to you so freely, and He has "shown" the Will and the garment, and now we face the Ocean."

The Babaji said: "The God-Man has draped the mask that he had put on to play the human game, so that he can be seen as he really is. But only by His Grace can we see Him as he really is, and only time succeeds to His Will can we understand Him."

And this is the way to keep their right nature, of a heart of devotion. Babaji pointed out one reality without hesitation from the center of the mind. The human mind is a restless sea of waves, while seated with the eyes fixed on the inner light. Babaji said that the mind is a witness to whatever it witnesses. He still and remains a witness to whatever it witnesses. It is not to have a mind in any direction, looking in any direction, looking in any direction, looking in any direction. The human mind is a restless sea of waves, while seated with the eyes fixed on the inner light. Babaji said that the mind is a witness to whatever it witnesses. He still and remains a witness to whatever it witnesses. It is not to have a mind in any direction, looking in any direction, looking in any direction, looking in any direction.

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statement, made by Baba a number of years ago, has appeared in print. The statement was prompted by the remark of a visitor who said something about silence being golden. Baba said:

"I am silent. My Silence is not merely an observing of silence. My Silence has a purpose behind it. When I break it, all will know. The breaking of my Silence will be as forceful as thousands of atom bombs exploding together."

In October of 1968 Baba said that before His manifestation some three of His intimate Mandali will pass away. The first one turned out to be dear Kaka, and the second is Dr. William Donkin. We called him Don, short for Donkin because when one of us first asked his name he replied "Donkin". That was exactly thirty years ago, when this young and brilliant English medic left his family and country to stay with Meher Baba "till the end" as he said at the time - and as he has said many a time since, whenever Baba suggested that he was free to return to England at any time he wished. On the 9th of this month, Don passed away of a heart attack. It was as sudden as it was unexpected. On Wednesday he had tea with Dr. Harry Kenmore, one of Baba's intimate mandali who has come to stay for a month at Meherazad according to Baba's order given to him last November. On Saturday Baba took His dear disciple Don to Him, gathered him up swiftly and gently to His God-Heart where His loved ones belong. Don's body lies buried at lower Meherabad, nearby the graves of Baba's stalwart disciple Gustadji and the great mast Ali Shah - an honour befitting one who gave his all to The One who was his all in all.

In the world of Baba-lovers Dr. William Donkin is remembered best as author of that profound treatise, THE WAYFARERS - the rare gem unearthed by Don's painstaking labour and shaped by his perfection-seeking mind. Among our many dear remembrances of Don, dearest is his unwavering fidelity to His Master whom he served 'to the end', sticking by Baba through the roughest years of our life with Baba. Don was the only Western disciple chosen to accompany Baba in the New Life as one of His 'Companions'. And now Don has started out on his true new Life. To the Mandali it means the loss of a very dear brother.

Another very close and dear lover whom the Beloved has taken to Him, is Dr. Ben Hayman of Texas, U.S.A. Baba referred to Him as His "Big Ben", because of his big love for Baba. But Ben never 'chimed out' his love, it was as silent as it was big, expressing itself in tremendous services rendered silently to the Beloved. He never missed a visit to beloved Baba, either in Myrtle Beach or in India, and he was present also at the Eastern Darshan held in Poona at Guruprasad in 1965. Ben shared many smiles and jokes with Baba - his gentle humour served as an added link between him and his Master. When seated before Baba among a gathering of lovers, his eyes would sometimes appear half closed - and immediately Baba would snap His beautiful fingers, to say teasingly, "Wake up Ben! don't fall asleep! Now that dear Big Ben is asleep to us, he is awake to the Beloved for all time.

In the last part of January beloved Baba repeatedly told us: "Simply do as I say, whatever it may be, for I know what I am doing." On the 31st, (January 1969), Baba had one of the men mandali bring into His bedroom the big board on which His favourite saying of Hafiz is printed in Persian and English. For years this board hung on the wall of the Mandali's hall, and Baba often made Aloha read the saying to lovers who visited Meherazad. And so it is this saying of Hafiz which was our Beloved's message for us on the last day:

... was ... by the ... of the ...

... Mr. ... is ... of ...

... the ... of ...

... the ... of ...

... the ... of ...

... the ... of ...

BEFITTING A FORTUNATE SLAVE CARRY OUT EVERY COMMAND
OF THE MASTER WITHOUT ANY QUESTION OF WHY AND WHAT.
ABOUT WHAT YOU HEAR FROM THE MASTER NEVER SAY IT IS WRONG
BECAUSE MY DEAR THE FAULT LIES IN YOUR OWN INCAPACITY
TO UNDERSTAND HIM.

I AM SLAVE OF MY MASTER WHO HAS RELEASED ME FROM IGNORANCE;
WHATEVER MY MASTER DOES IS FOR THE HIGHEST BENEFIT TO ALL CONCERNED.

- HAFIZ -

As the 'Time drew nearer, beloved Baba warned His lovers more often: "Hold on to my daaman - do not let it slip away under any circumstance." Now, when the daaman appears invisible, is the time to hold on as never before. Now the "umbrella" has begun to revolve, and time will spin it faster and faster. Drops that are settled on its surface, clinging to the glossy material of promises, are bound to shake off. Drops that surrender their selfness get soaked into the heart of the substance and become part of the fabric. This is what is really meant by holding on to Baba's daaman; to get so absorbed in it that there is nothing of one's self left to hold on with; to live so completely as He wills that one lives as His Will. And what else is there worthy of being lived, when one lives for Baba, for God?

How often has Baba stated: "I AM GOD. Remember that!" For His lovers, to remember Baba is to remember that. But they find that their compassionate Beloved still gives them a reminder now and then, in different shapes of events that happen in their daily lives. Sometimes a reminder is heard from the lips of a baby. A lover in Vijayawada (Andhra state) testifies to this in his letter of March 12, 1969:

My youngest daughter aged 2 years and 3 months, suddenly got up from sleep at about 1.15 in the night of March 10, and five times uttered clearly;

"Meher Baba is God."

JAI MEHER BABA - THE ANCIENT ONE - THE HIGHEST OF THE HIGH

AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI !!!

Ever lovingly,

Mani.

