

42ND ANNIVERSARY OF
AVATAR MEHER BABA'S
Unique Silence

10th JULY 1967.



"Because man has been deaf to the principles and precepts laid down by God in the past, in this present Avataric Form I observe Silence. You have asked for and been given enough words-it is now time to live them. To get nearer and nearer to God you have to get further and further away from "I", "My", "Me" and "Mine".

—MEHER BABA—

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The Unique Silence of Avatar Meher Baba was undertaken by Him for spiritual reasons on 10th July, 1925, by greeting everybody by means of signs and by writing on a slate.

Though it was originally meant to be observed for one year, the breaking of it (His Silence) was postponed from time to time and it is still continued. On Monday the 10th July, 1967, He will be completing full forty two years of His Silence.

During the first year of His Silence, Baba spent many hours daily, writing an account of His experiences during the period when He was completely absorbed in super conscious state. This book contains hitherto unknown spiritual secrets and the release of it depends upon the will and pleasure of Meher Baba.

In the beginning, He used a slate and a pen to express Himself, but in 1927, these were replaced by His famous alphabet board on which He spelled out His words by pointing out the printed letters on it with His quickly moving fingers. His discourses and messages given through the medium of this alphabet board are among the world's most inspiring spiritual literature. But from 7th October, 1954, He gave up the use of the alphabet board also, relying on variety of signs and gestures with His hands to indicate certain words, so that to anyone familiar with His ways,

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He expresses Himself almost as quickly and clearly as by speech. When He receives visitors, there is usually an interpreter present to explain what He says.

This gesture language of His has proven even more potent medium of expression. What many achieve through endless haranguing at the top of their voices, Meher Baba's Avataric Silence accomplishes in a few seconds. His Silence shall be heard even in the midst of bursting Nuclear bombs. If His Silence is so meaningful and sweet, how much more so will be the breaking of His Silence, when He utters the Word of Words! Truth can neither be imparted nor received except in the tranquility of silence and in the profoundness of clear love.

In July 1949, Meher Baba's lovers, both of the East and the West, had the unique opportunity and privilege of participation in His Silence during the entire month as per His order. Such privilege of participation in His Silence has since been a regular feature on His Silence Anniversaries.

Meher Baba's silence is neither a method of inner mental prayer for the sake of spiritual development nor due to mere inertia or to the lack of something to say. He has repeatedly declared that He will speak at the moment of grave crisis for the world. That moment is rapidly approaching; for we have reached a decisive period in human history. By His silence Baba draws attention to the spiritual significance of His presence and is more dynamic than He could otherwise be; thus He both attracts and stirs up people. In other words, He awakens.

Baba has repeatedly said that He has not come to teach, but to awaken. His silence therefore confirms His

denial of His function as a teacher. A silent man obviously is no teacher and when he also ceases to write as Baba did in 1927, there can be no doubt that He does not seek to teach.

Concerning this tremendous self-imposed discipline of total silence, an amusing incident happened while Baba was in Hollywood on His first visit to California. A clever young reporter was interviewing Him for the Los Angeles Times. Suddenly he sprang the question: "Just how do you pronounce your name?"

Baba's eyes twinkled and He motioned one of His disciples who stood by, to answer the man's question. The reporter flushed and a few minutes later apologetically admitted that he had come to interview with the determination of catching Baba off-guard and exposing Him as a fraud who had adopted silence as a novel publicity stunt.

Once when Baba was asked "Is it not difficult for You to express Yourself (because of your silence) in Your high mission and noble undertaking?" His reply was: "No, because, both internal and external mediums are at my disposal."

To the oft repeated questions as to why is Meher Baba silent? when will He speak? etc., reproduced below are some of the most illuminating statements the Master Himself has made from time to time.

Why is Meher Baba silent?

"God has been everlastingly working in silence, unobserved, unheard, except by those who experience His Infinite Silence."

"If My SILENCE CANNOT SPEAK, of what avail would be speeches made by the tongue?"

"My outward silence is no spiritual exercise. My Silence has been undertaken and maintained solely for the good of others."

"Things that are real are given and received in silence."

"If you were to ask me why I do not speak, I would say I am not silent, and that I speak more eloquently through gestures and the alphabet board."

"If you were to ask me why I do not talk, I would say, perhaps for three reasons. Firstly, I feel that through you all I am talking eternally. Secondly, to relieve the boredom of talking incessantly through your forms, I keep silence in my personal physical form. And thirdly, because, all talk in itself, is idle talk. Lectures, messages, statements, discourses of any kind, spiritual or otherwise, imparted through utterances or writings are just idle talk when not acted upon or lived upto."

"I am never silent. I speak eternally. The voice that is heard deep within the soul is my voice..... the voice of inspiration, of intuition, of guidance. Through those who are receptive to this voice, I speak."

When will Meher Baba speak ?

"The very moment when I think my speaking would be heard universally, God will make me break my silence."

"The breaking of my silence - the signal of my public manifestation - is not far off. I bring the greatest treasure which it is possible for man to receive—a treasure which includes all other treasures, which will endure for ever, and which increases when shared by others. Be ready to receive it."

"When I was in America, people asked me when will I break my silence? I in turn, asked them, 'If my silence cannot speak, of what avail would be speeches made by the tongue? When God thinks my speaking will be heard universally, He would make me break my silence. However, silence or no silence, he who will deeply ponder over the Truth which I declare, shall eventually be initiated into the life Eternal.'"

"My silence must break. There is no escape for it. I shall not lay down my body until I have given the WORD to the world."

"Of my own accord I shall not break my silence. Universal crisis will make me do so. When the crisis will reach its absolute culmination, it will make me utter the WORD at that moment."

"Circumstances are converging and fast gathering momentum towards precipitating the right moment, which will come completely unawares—at any time, any hour, any day. That Moment is not far away."

"As I am the PIVOT of the Universe, the full pressure of the universal upheaval will bear on me, and correspondingly my suffering will be so infinitely overwhelming that the WORD will escape from out of the silence."

What will be the effect of the breaking of His Silence?

"When I break my silence, I intend to reveal the one Supreme Self which is in all. This accomplished, the idea of the Self as a limited, separate entity, will disappear, and with it will vanish self interest."

Co-operation will replace competition; Certainty will replace fear; Generosity will replace greed; Exploitation will disappear."

"When the God-Man speaks, Truth is more powerfully manifested than when He uses either sight or touch to convey it. For that reason Avatars usually observe a period of silence lasting for several years, breaking it to speak only when they will, to manifest the Truth to the entire Universe. So, when I speak, I shall manifest the Divine Will and world-wide transformation of consciousness will take place. The benefit that will accrue to different nations and countries when I bring about the spiritual upheaval will be largely determined by the amount of energy each possesses. The greater the energy - the greater the response."

"When I speak, there will be many proofs of my spiritual power, and of my ability to bestow illumination. People will then realise that Truth which is the source of all love and existence, rules supreme in all departments of life....."

"My silence and the breaking of my silence at the appointed time will make silent those who talk of everything but God."

"Remain completely resigned to my will and do not let any circumstance or situation shake loose your grip from my 'daaman'. I shall not come out of my seclusion until I break my silence. The Divine Moment for my giving the WORD is not far off."

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