

**43rd SILENCE ANNIVERSARY OF
AVATAR MEHER BABA**

10th July 1968



“My silence and the imminent breaking of my silence is to save mankind from the monumental force of ignorance, and to fulfil the divine plan of universal unity. The breaking of my silence will reveal to man the universal oneness of God, which will bring about the universal brotherhood of man. My silence had to be. The breaking of my silence has to be soon”.

— MEHER BABA. —

WHO IS MEHER BABA?

MEHER BABA is the Answer to mankind's need for divine deliverance, the Answer to all questions, all strife, all seeking. His name means 'Compassionate Father'. He is Father, Friend, Beloved, Master, Saviour. He is to each what each perceives Him to be in the mirror of his heart. To many all over the world, men and women of different nationalities and religions, Meher Baba is the Avatar, God Incarnate. He has come to awaken mankind to the remembrance of its divine heritage. He is the One whose Advent all religions await. He is here.

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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 Wednesday the 10th July, 1968, He will be completing full forty three years of His Silence.

During the first year of His Silence, Meher 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 His will and pleasure.

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 mainly on variety of signs and hand gestures. He expresses Himself almost as quickly and clearly as by speech when receiving visitors.

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 right 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.

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 Meher Baba observes silence ? When will he speak ? What will be the effect of breaking His silence ? Reproduced below are some of the most illuminating statements the Master Himself has made from time to time.

Why Meher Baba Observes Silence ?

"I observe silence 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."

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

"Because you have been deaf to the principles and precepts laid down by God in the past, in the present Avataric form I observe silence. You have asked for and been given enough words—it is now time to live them."

"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 ?"

"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 ?

"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."

"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."

"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."

The effect of the breaking of His Silence.

"When I break my silence it will not be to fill your ears with spiritual lectures. I shall speak only One Word and this Word will penetrate the hearts of all men and make even the so called sinner feel that he is meant to be a saint, while the saint will know that God is in the sinner as much as He is in himself."

"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."

"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....."

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From His very deep and strict Seclusion, Avatar Meher Baba directs me to send to all His lovers and workers His following messages:-

(1) "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."

(2) "My lovers and workers should, within their conscience, abide by the laws of their country."

(3) "My lovers and workers must never allow political motives or their political views or their business interests to enter into their work of spreading my message of Love and Truth."

(4) "My lovers and workers should earn their livelihoods as honestly as the times and conditions permit, and they must never contribute to my Cause money that has not been earned according to the deepest level of their moral sense and judgement."

(5) "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, 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."

ADI K. IRANI
Disciple & Secretary
AVATAR MEHER BABA

LIFE SKETCH OF AVATAR MEHER BABA

The Avatar (Christ, Rasool) is God-Man, the total manifestation of God in human form, when God knows Himself as God whilst living the life of man amongst men. God is One, without a second, and He as the Avatar or Christ is always one and the same, but the manifestation is repeated from time to time, "in different cycles, adopting different names and different human forms, in different places, to reveal Truth in different garbs and different languages". He comes as Zoroaster, Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, whenever "the spiritual law has been lost sight of, and materiality is rampant". In his life as man, the Avatar lives as other men, as a king, or a carpenter or a charioteer—but within the particular circumstance which he chooses as the arena for his work, he continually, openly and subtly, demonstrates a meaningful livingness which is applicable to everyone irrespective of their station in the world.

"When God becomes man it is due to His love for His beings;" and so it is "possible through love for man to become God."

Meher Baba has further stated: "Irrespective of doubts and convictions, and for the Infinite love I bear one and all, I continue to come as the Avatar, and am judged time and again by humanity in its ignorance, in order to help man distinguish the Real from the false. I have only one message to give and I repeat it age after age to one and all: love God."

MEHER BABA, by name Meherwan Sheriar Irani, was born in Poona, India, on the 25 February 1894, to a middle-class Zoroastrian Family of Persian origin. His father Sheriar Mundegar, born in Persia, was an ardent seeker since his youth, and his thirst for spiritual enlightenment brought him to India where he spent years of arduous wandering in search of Truth. One day a vision revealed to Sheriarji that the goal he was seeking would be attained in the son who would be born to him; as a result of this he finally settled down in Poona and married the daughter of a Persian merchant who had migrated to India with his family. In his son Meherwan, Sheriarji recognized the declaration and promise of the vision, the fruit of his search for God.

Meherwan's was a happy normal boyhood. Kind, fun-loving, dutiful, he was a bright student, and shone both in class as well as on the sports field. He was fluent in a number of languages, and was an energetic reader of classical literature as well as detective fiction. He was a lover of the poetic, and assiduously read the works of great poets in English, Indian and Persian languages. In the course of his education in Poona, Meherwan (Merwan as he was usually called) attended Sardar Dastur School, St. Vincent's High School, and Deccan College. It was during his college period that he was awakened to the knowledge of his divinity and the profound mission of his life. It happened one evening in May 1913. Merwan was cycling home from college and as usual he passed by the end of Malcom Tank Road where, under the shade of a neem tree, sat an ancient Mohammedan woman known as Hazrat Baba Jan. She was reputed to be 110 years old, and was venerated by the local people as a great holy personage. Whenever Merwan cycled by, he saw

her surrounded by a group of people. On this particular day he felt a strong curiosity regarding her, and leaving his bicycle he cautiously approached. When he met her eyes she beckoned to him, and he went up to her. She then arose and kissed him on the forehead. No word was spoken. That silent kiss (as Meher Baba now tells us) was for him the rending of the veil of illusion and simultaneous Self-Realization (or God-Realization). From that moment he lost consciousness of the worlds of form, and for nine months remained oblivious to his surroundings. For some days he was in a total coma, while his anxious parents brought in the best doctors to treat him. Later on he appeared to recover to the extent of moving about normally, but to all appearances his actions were those of an automation. He constantly visited Hazrat Baba Jan, who referred to him as her child. One day in January of 1914 Baba Jan pointed a commanding finger at Merwan and declared to the gathering around her: "This child of mine will create a great sensation in the world and do immense good to humanity."

Our earth is blessed to have, at all times, five Perfect Masters (Sadgurus), who have attained God-Realization and regained consciousness of the worlds of form. They are thus the Perfect Masters or Guides who can lead others out of the 'sanskritic' morass of illusion. At the ordained Avataric time, it becomes the function of the then living Perfect Masters to bring about the Advent of the Avatar, or God-Man, who is none other than God in human form. The five Perfect Masters who brought about the advent of the present Avatar, were Hazarat Baba Jan of Poona, Sai Baba of Shirdi, Upasni Maharaj of Sakori, Tajuddin Baba of Nagpur and Narayan Maharaj of Kedgaon.

It was in the same year, 1914, that Merwan met the rest of the Perfect Masters. His first contact was with Hazrat Sai Baba of Shirdi. At the time when Merwan approached him, Sai Baba was walking in a procession of his devotees. Merwan went up and prostrated himself at his feet. Sai Baba looked at him and loudly called out "Parvardigar" (which means: Almighty God, the sustainer).

His next spiritual Master was Sadguru Upasni Maharaj of Sakori, to whom he was inwardly directed by Sai Baba. Upasni Maharaj was then living in the Khandoba Temple, and as Merwan approached him he picked up a stone and flung it, hitting Merwan in the middle of the forehead at the spot where Baba Jan had kissed him. This symbolic action was to help Merwan regain consciousness of the worlds of form, which would in no way affect the God-consciousness he experienced without a break. It was a process that covered some years, and at its completion Upasni Maharaj declared before his followers: "Merwan, you are the Ancient One, Avatar!"

Merwan's next visit was to Hazrat Tajuddin Baba of Nagpur, and finally to Sadguru Narayan Maharaj of Kedgaon, thus completing the circle of contacting the five Perfect Masters who were responsible for this Advent of God on earth.

Years later Merwan, as Meher Baba, was to tell his followers: "Baba Jan gave me Divine Bliss. Sai Baba gave me Divine Power, and Upasni Maharaj gave me Divine Knowledge. I am Infinite Power, Knowledge and Bliss. I am the Ancient One, come to redeem the modern world."

Merwan's mission as Avatar began in 1921, when he drew to him the first group of disciples. These included Zoroastrians, Hindus, Mohammedans, who recognized in him their Spiritual Guide and gave him their lives to mould. It was they who gave him the name by which he has since been known: MEHER BABA, meaning Compassionate Father. As time went by more and more disciples joined him, men and women who ultimately left their all to stay with the Master, leading a life of the strictest discipline and service. In 1923 Meher Baba established a colony on the outskirts of Arangaon, a village some six miles from the town of Ahmednagar (Maharashtra). It was named Meherabad. For many years Meherabad remained the headquarters of the Master, where the most varied and active phases of his work were unfolded. These included a free school for boys of all castes and creeds; a free hospital and dispensary; shelters for the poor; a boarding school named "Prem Ashram" where scholastic and spiritual education was imparted to the boys under Meher Baba's direct and personal guidance; and an Ashram for the God-intoxicated individuals known in India as Masts (pronounced must)—they are so literally intoxicated with love for God, that they have lost all consciousness of the world.

This vast field of activities proved a continual training ground for his men and women disciples in practising a life of love for God, selfless service, perfect obedience, moral discipline and love and tolerance towards each other. Meher Baba who was both Master and Servant, performed the most menial jobs in his divine love for the children and the Masts. He would brook no distinction between the high castes and the untouchables, and this proved a hard lesson for the high-

caste disciples who had to serve without prejudice. They learnt through the love of their Master, who himself washed the clothes of the untouchables and cleaned their latrines. He was always the supreme example, and his disciples' love for him was the moving spirit of their every endeavour.

Meher Baba's work has not been confined to one place. He has made numerous tours all over India and Ceylon in search of Masters, contacting these spiritually advanced souls to help them progress further on the spiritual Path. During the arduous Mast-tours Baba has covered thousands of miles by all manner of transport: car, tonga, train, bullock cart, mule, camel, horseback, and on foot. An equally extensive and important part of his work has been with the poor and the lepers—bathing them, feeding them, washing their feet, bowing down to them by placing his forehead on their feet, giving them clothes and money. Many a needy middle-class family, struck by some sudden calamity such as famine or flood and too proud to seek help through organised channels, has received a gift from Baba in person. Baba does not touch money except when giving it to the needy. His giving them money is not an act of charity in the usual sense of the word, it serves as a medium for the immeasurable spiritual blessing he bestows on them. During these many travels, Baba always remained incognito and the men accompanying him were ordered not to disclose his identity.

In contrast to such incognito tours, Meher Baba has been to all parts of India openly giving his 'darshan' to the masses—as many as one hundred thousand have come in a day to pay their respects to him and receive his blessing.

Meher Baba has observed complete silence for 43 years. His Silence began from 10th July 1925, and continues to this day without a break. His many spiritual discourses and messages have been dictated by means of an alphabet board. In 1954 he discontinued the use of the board, reducing all communication to hand gestures which are unique in expressiveness. Meher Baba has said that when he breaks his silence he will speak the one Word which will go to the world as from God, straight to the heart of man. He tells us: "The breaking of my silence is not far off. I bring the greatest treasure which it is possible for man to receive. Be ready to receive it."

Meher Baba has travelled to the Western world thirteen times, his first visit being to England in 1931 when he contacted his early Western disciples. At the invitation of his followers he has since been a number of times to America, England, Iran, Australia, and Europe. In all these countries he has a large following, as well as in Pakistan, Israel and Africa, and to some extent in Canada, Mexico, West Indies, Lebanon and New Zealand—thousands of men and women who love and believe in him as God-man, the Avatar. These lovers from all over the world journey to spend a few days, or even a single day, in his presence whenever he permits. In November 1962 thousands from the East and the West gathered in Poona to be with him for a week. His 'old' lovers, and the many 'new' ones who have not yet been in his physical presence, eagerly await the day when he will permit them to come. This will be when his present seclusion ends. For reasons of his inner work for the spiritual benefit of mankind, Meher Baba often retires into

long periods of seclusion when none can visit him. Since 1965 he has been in strict seclusion, which continues to this day.

Meher Baba cannot be contained within the scope of any familiar categories, and ordinary experience cannot account for him. He must be accepted on his own terms. To be in his presence is to know that he knows what is to be known. He does not need to speak. He is the Master of one Knowledge but that Knowledge includes all other knowledges. He is God-Man.

Since 1948 Meher Baba has made his abode at "Meherazad", a place nine miles from Ahmednagar (Maharashtra) and close to the Village of Pimpalgaon Malvi. Here he lives most of the time with a few of his disciples. His lovers are all over the world carrying his message of Love and Truth to their fellow beings on earth, eager to share with others what they have silently received from him.

As Meher Baba has explained, his work is neither to teach nor to found a new religion, but to awaken man to the consciousness of his Real Self which is God. He says, "I have come not to teach but to awaken." He leaves his followers free to follow their religious beliefs and customs. He gives no 'initiation', prescribes no disciplines such as 'pooja', 'mantra', 'japa' or 'yoga'. He says that the only true yoga is "You go"—i.e. the annihilating of one's ego or self-interest. The only 'sadhana' he prescribes is LOVE, as the constant guiding influence of one's every thought, word and deed, while leading a normal life of the world and fulfilling one's duties and responsibilities. It is through the

power of utterly selfless Love that Meher Baba awakens in others the true understanding of the purpose of life, which is to realize the Godhood that is inherent in each.

Meher Baba says, "I belong to no religion. Every religion belongs to me. My personal religion is my being the Ancient Infinite One, and the religion I impart to all is Love for God, which is the Truth of all religion. This Love can belong to all, high and low, rich and poor. Every one, of every caste and creed, can love God. The one and only God who resides equally in all, is approachable by each one through Love".

“Whether men soar to outer
space or dive to the
bottom of the deepest ocean
they will find themselves
as they are, unchanged,
because they will not have
forgotten themselves
nor remembered to exercise
the charity of forgiveness.”

MEHER BABA.

This Brochure is published on the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of AVATAR MEHER BABA'S Unique Silence.



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