

Meherana MESSENGER

Issue 2014

Working for Avatar Meher Baba

The following three articles focus on how to work for Avatar Meher Baba in a way that pleases Him. The first article is His timeless message, "My Dear Workers." The following two articles are transcriptions from two talks that Mani, Baba's sister, gave in 1980 and 1993 to the residents. We are grateful to the Trust for allowing us to print excerpts from Mani's two talks which are copyrighted by the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust.

PART 1

My Dear Workers

In spite of telling you very often that I will not give you any more messages or discourses, I find myself doing just this thing which is what I do not want to do. This is because most of you do things which I do not like your doing.

I had to give you a message yesterday because you expected one; and the theme of the message was on your being my children, because despite much talk about a Baba-family, there is more a semblance than a reality of kinship among you who are the children of One Father.

True children of One Father do not greet one another with smiles and embraces and at the same time harbor grudges and ill-feeling, but they have an active concern in their hearts for the well-being of one another and make sacrifices for that well-being.

If you make me your real Father, all differences and contentions between you, and all personal problems in connection with your lives, will become dissolved in the Ocean of my love.

You are all keen on spreading my message of Love and Truth and many of you in the east and west have labored hard in this work; publishing magazines and other literature, organizing meetings, sacrificing your vacations in traveling, building halls and having statues made of me. But I wonder how much of my Love and



Truth has been in your work of spreading my message of Love and Truth!

Unless there is a brotherly feeling in your hearts, all the words that you speak or print in my name are hollow; all the miles that you travel in my cause are zero; all organizations for my work are but an appearance of activity; all buildings to contain me are empty places and all statues that you make to embody me are of someone else.

I have been patient and indulgent over the way you have been doing these things, because you have been very young children in my love, and children must have some sort of games to play. But now you are older and are beginning to realize that there is a greater work ahead of you than what you have been doing. And you have been searching your minds and hearts as to what this work might be.

It is not a different work to what you have been already doing . . . it is the same work done in a different way. And that way is the way of effacement, which

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means the more you work for me the less important you feel in yourself. You must always remember that I alone do my work. Although only the one who has become One with God can serve and work for all, I allow you to work for me so that you have the opportunity to use your talents and capacities selflessly and so draw closer to me. You should never think that in your work for me you are benefiting others, for by being instrumental in bringing others to me you are benefiting yourself.

My work is your opportunity. But when you allow yourself to intervene between you and my work, you are allowing the work

to take you away from me. When you put my work before yourself, the work will go right, although not necessarily smoothly. And when the work does not go right, it means you have put yourself between it and its accomplishment.

The way of my work is the way of effacement, which is the way of strength, not of weakness; and through it you become mature in my Love. At this stage you cannot know what real Love is, but through working for me as you should work for me, you will arrive at that ripeness where, in a moment, I can give you *That* which you have been seeking for millions of years.

– Meher Baba

PART 2

Excerpts from a Talk to Workers by Mani in 1980

Mani came to Meherabad and spoke to those residents who would be volunteering at the new Pilgrim Center about working for Baba. The following are excerpts from that talk.

About Working for Baba

Never lose sight of the purpose of your being here. You are here because of Meher Baba ...and while you are working here for Baba, never forget the real work that Baba does through whatever work you do: Each of you is Baba's special work. While He gives you an opportunity to work for Him, He is working on you. He uses the work you do, to do His work within you. He is quite tricky, you see! Another thing, don't lose perspective; even though He wants you to wholeheartedly do the work entrusted to you, don't be so attached to the work itself that you find yourself failing to give what He really wants from you.

Keep an eye on yourself. It's the little things that you trip over, things too small to make a show of, with no reward of glory attached, only service and the effort to please Him. Like the jeweler who tests the metal to see if it is gold, test your acts and words with the touchstone of His pleasure, to see whether they are pleasing to Him. Remember, Baba does not need us. Baba only loves us, with that incredible love that He alone has to give. It is we who need Him.



Baba is not like anybody else. He has taken all of you, as you are. You have to take all of Baba, not just the parts that suit you, not just His compassion and love, but His fire and tests as well. He gives all these, and when He gives, He gives in large doses.

On working together

Of course there will be problems...but when you have a problem you have to look at it from Baba's angle, think of what would please Baba in that situation. The problem looks real because you are looking at it from your angle, you are putting yourself in the way. You have to get yourself out of the way and see the situation from Baba's angle. If you do that, you will find that no problem exists.

In your work for Him there should be harmony and communication among you as a team. There should be no islands, islands are what separate the ocean...You are all spokes in the one wheel which revolves round the Hub—MEHER BABA. And all the spokes have to move rhythmically together for the wheel to keep rolling...Your hearts are His, that is certain, but it is the

mind; the mind goes on its own sweet way. Remember that the work you do and the problems and conflicts you face are all His way of working on the mind.

It is to deal with the mind that He creates these situations. That is His business. What we have to do is to remember Him, to try to please Him. As I said, Baba is tricky. He plays you along, and when you are too pleased with yourself He pulls the rug out from under all the things you are so proud of in yourself. He will pull the rug right out from under you, but He will sustain you in His hands.

On what you need

When you are about to go on a journey, you prepare for it and equip yourself with the things you need to have with you...well, on our journey to Him too we have to be equipped. To work for Him you have to equip yourself with humility, tolerance, acceptance, and the will to serve Him with joy...and of course keep your sense of humor, an essential ingredient in life with Baba. You cannot take God, Baba, without a pinch of humor!

On the important thing

The important thing is to be with Him. Whatever you do, wherever you are, don't be absent from Him. I am reminded of a line from a ghazal which Baba would quote: "*Masti me bhi sir apna saki key qadam per ho,*" which means, "Even in intoxication, keep your head on the Winegiver's feet." So remember, in the intoxication of work, achievement, service, love, always keep your head at His feet.



PART 3

Mani Talks to Residents at Ahmednagar Center, 1993

The last talk I gave was quite some time ago, and I think it's lying somewhere in the attics of your minds—the ones who have heard it—collecting dust and perhaps some cobwebs, and it is necessary once in a while to clean up the attics. To weed things out, to see whether the items still serve the purpose for which they were gotten. Open the windows, let the light in, so that we feel once again the pure and powerful breath of Baba, of His Love. To refresh again, to revive and to throw away some of the junk that is no longer necessary, to renew our vows to ourselves, the resolutions that we make in all sincerity and honesty, and then see to it that all this dust that has collected doesn't obscure our view of His beautiful face, which must be before us at all times. That is the main thing...

Back to the things in the attic, which we must dispose of: think about them, make a decision and throw away some things.

I don't mean wants; desires are not that easy to just dismiss. You can't throw them away; you can't fast them away; but you can diet them. Let's learn to diet our wants. We are so keen and eager to diet for our physical appearance. But before Him, we are beyond physical. His love is a see-through love, and yet He accepts us. So doesn't it behoove us to give Him more than what we give to the physical? It is for us; it is for you all to decide how and what to give.

Baba's work is to crush the ego. One of the lines Baba liked very much in one of the *ghazals* was about henna leaves, the juice of which gives a red color on whatever you put it—it's used for decorating women's hands at marriage time, for instance...To get the red color, you have to grind up the leaves. You cannot get the color without the grinding. So for Him to use the henna [within us], He has to grind [us].

...So, having made your resolve, re-avowed your vows to yourselves to get rid of some of this junk in the attics, such as the

arrogance that comes up when something goes against what you have decided and made up your mind about, and obstinacy and all those things, then you have to replace the junk with something else because then there will be more room in the attic.

So then we have to nurture and cultivate humility. That's a very important item in your spiritual equipment, in your love equipment for the Beloved. A humility that I would like to see a little more of. Baba was humility personified. Just like His love is unfathomable, so was His humility. That, I would like to see you give to yourselves, because it's a gift. It's a gift from Him. All these things that I've mentioned are gifts from Him. You can give it to yourselves. He has put it there for you. You have to help yourselves to it. It is much better to help yourself to that than to these other things.

One thing there is no excuse for—there's no excuse for impoliteness; there's no excuse for discourtesy. We have to be courteous. Remember how totally Baba has accepted us...The point is that what is important is how one does what one does. How you carry out the duty, not what you do. You serve; okay; they do that out in the world. There are missions, missionaries who serve; we are not them. You are different...When [a visitor] said, "We come here for a little love," I realized: that is the difference. You all are working with love; that's what gives your work meaning; otherwise without love—you know that *ghanna*, the sugar cane stalks that you see the Indian children eat, and then the fiber that's left over when they take out the juice? Love is the sap. Love for Baba—that love is the sap. The rest is just like that fiber; nobody will even pick it up. You don't even give it to the cat.

What I'm trying to say is: keep yourself

aware of what He has given and keeps giving. What can you do for Him? Nothing that you can do obliges Him. Nothing, nothing that we can do, nothing anybody can do. He is so compassionate that although He does not need us, He accepts us. He gives; He gives with a giving that nobody can understand. He forgives with a forgiveness that is beyond everything, that is incredible. And here we have all that.

One has to become aware of anger. I read the other day, when I just opened a Baba book, a message where Baba says, anger is like a whirlwind that blows off the flame which He has lighted for us. And that whirlwind has to be kept away. We



have to work on that. There are things that we have to do ourselves.

The only thing we like to see is you all growing inwardly. Remember the inner life is a very important thing. The outer, yes, you can write it down, you can list it, you can talk about it, you can tick it off. What about the inner? The inner is very important. And the inner reflects in the outer.

And another thing, if you are doing anything for Baba—okay, you all work for Baba, I appreciate that, I admit that. But you have to do it happily. If you're doing your work happily, then you're not over-tired, and therefore, not getting snappy at other people or angry. That happens, I know. I know also that it's very hard. I'm not saying it's easy, I know that it's hard. Sometimes it's so hard that you tell yourself, "Oh, it's impossible. I can't do it. I can't take

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Meherana Update 2013

The First Twenty Years

Meherana's twentieth anniversary was observed in 2013. Meherana was incorporated on May 5, 1993, non-profit status was granted on December 15, 1993 and its first land purchase was completed on December 20, 1993. How can we ever express our gratitude to Beloved Baba for the beautiful opportunity to serve Him over the last two decades at Meherana? We are truly, in Eruch's words, 'Beholden to Him'. The continuing challenge is to remain true to the trust Baba has reposed in us as we develop Meherana. His helping hand is evident at

Meherana and we are truly grateful to Him and for the loving support and energy of His Lovers who have made the last twenty years possible. It couldn't have happened without you.

From the very beginning Meherana was established by a group effort. There were no leaders, per se. Some held administrative positions, some helped make things happen through generous donations, many contributed labor and others lent a helping hand in any way they could. Through everyone's efforts, Meherana has been able to move forward at the pace Beloved Baba set for us.

And in this, our twentieth year, we opened our first permanent building which allows those interested in Baba to stay comfortably when they visit. Individual retreat has been one of Meherana's goals from the very beginning and this is now possible at the Meadow Cottage. Baba has also provided us with a new caretaker, Wilson Van Winkle, along with his wife, Natashe.

as weekly Tuesday night meetings and individual retreat.

Perhaps one of the most important efforts in 2013 was the focus on how to work together to make all this possible in a way that pleases Baba. Baba stressed and encouraged workers to spread His message of Love and Truth honestly and sincerely and to work harmoniously together. The manner in which to accomplish is not only a current focus at Meherana but also appears to be a focus of Baba groups throughout the world. This is a beautiful opportunity to keep Baba active in our hearts and strengthen our individual inner connection with Him.

At Meherana, we have been holding meetings to discuss changes in our bylaws and creating policies that we hope will ensure stability as new people (and generations) take up the responsibilities of governing Meherana. After a year of review, we are about halfway through the effort of strengthening and clarifying Meherana's bylaws.

Community Growth

Mariposa's Baba community is growing and we now have nearly thirty people who follow Baba living in the Mariposa area. Along with our new caretaker we have volunteers ready to receive guests on a year-round basis. Besides the Sahavases, which have been held twice a year over the last two decades, we now are holding smaller events throughout the year, as well

Sahavases

Wendy Haynes Connor and Buz Connor were our special guests at the Spring Sahavas held over Memorial Day weekend. Not only were we charmed by Wendy's delightful stories of being with Beloved Baba and Buz's inspiring music, but these two unique individuals had so much to share with us about living their lives dedicated to Baba.

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Meherana
MESSENGER

Meherana is a universal center for spiritual renewal dedicated to Avatar Meher Baba and His principles of active love and service to both the Meher Baba community and all humanity. It is intended for the enhancement and strengthening of spiritual life, without supplanting professed religious convictions or beliefs.

The center is to be made available for Sahavas, meetings, and retreats, both group and individual; and for the development and support of service projects. It is to be organized and implemented according to democratic principles.

The Messenger was created to provide a forum for contemporary accounts of life with Meher Baba as guide; to keep all who may be interested informed about Meherana Spiritual Retreat Center; and to encourage all with an interest to participate in, nurture, and help shape the Meherana organization, center, and community.

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For more information regarding Meherana, visit our website at www.Meherana.org or email: info@meherana.org

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Quote on cover: Meher Baba, *Lord Meher*, Meher Mownavani Publications, 2005, p. 3453.

LEFT to RIGHT:
Wendy and Buz at Spring sahavas, A busy children's panda, Davana Brown and Jamie Newell at the New Life Sahavas.





Davana Brown and Jamie Newell were our special guests at the New Life Sahavas in October. Through Davana's touching stories of working with Mehera and Eruch as well as Jamie's troubadour presentation of life with Baba, we found ourselves among old friends who confirmed that our inner journeys are continually supported by one another.

In May, our second study group with Ward Parks continued the study of the soul's Journey to God focusing on bondage (of sanskaras) and the road to freedom. Lindsay O'Keefe, from North Carolina, shares her experience of the study course in a lively article in this Messenger.

A Women's retreat took place in June facilitated by Evie Lindemann. It was delightful to see who Baba brought together for a weekend of exploring the feminine face of God. Some were women new to Meherana and it was a pleasure to get to know them. All told, the women covered an age group of twenty to sixty years old. The weekend's activities included art, music, prayers, stories, and shared meals. Evie kept things moving and focused which resulted in a restorative weekend.

It was wonderful to have our dear friends -- Wendy, Buz, Davana, Jamie, Ward and Evie -- with us at our programs as the generation of those who spent their life with Baba becomes less available to share their stories with us. Most especially we will miss Bhau who successfully completed his life's work of dedication and service to his beloved



*What a gift you have given to us! And that gift is Meherana.
This is the abode of Your love, and we will kiss Meherana.
We will become dust in Your love, and we will sing the Song
"Meher, Meher" all the time, and we'll not miss Meherana.
Our aim of life is to love You, love You, love You, Meher.
You are our love, and you are our life, and you are His,
Meherana.
We will live for you and make this life your gift.
You are our pleasure and pain, and you know this,
Meherana.
You are here, O'Beloved, and You are love divine.
A drop of love give to us, and we will kiss Meherana.*

Bhau Kalchuri, May 27, 1994.

Lord and Master in 2013. We salute him and his life of love and dedication to Beloved Baba. Bhau's invaluable help and encouragement over the last twenty years at Meherana stands as a testimony to his belief that we need a place where we can gather at any time in Baba's love. Bhau wrote the above for Meherana on May 27, 1994.

We remember with deep gratitude your generous support which has made of all this possible. We invite you to continue to support and participate in Meherana for another twenty years and beyond. Please do visit as soon as you can. Thank you to all and thank you to Baba in all!

In Baba's Love,
Christine

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will have Charles Haynes and Caris Arkin as our special guests for the Meherana Spring Sahavas, Friday through Monday, May 23 through May 26, 2014.

The Meherana Calendar on our webpage www.meherana.org has the dates for next year's Sahavas programs and other smaller events. If you are not on our mailing list please join by contacting christine@meherana.org so that you may receive detailed emails about the Sahavas and other events.

To visit Meherana please email:
visits@meherana.org
or call (209) 742-5794.





Bondage and the Road to Freedom

by Lindsay O'Keefe

I know, I know, this is supposed to be an article about Ward Park's 10 day seminar in May, 2013 on Bondage and the Road to Freedom, and since we're talking about Ward, I should probably start with a quote from *Infinite Intelligence*,

right? What can I say? That it all comes down to the same thing: we are here: lost, veiled and searching—and what are we going to do about it?

Much of my life has been spent wondering what to do with my thoughts. By

"...the very life of man is the veil that shrouds the reality of the eternal existence of God..."

Meher Baba, *God Speaks*, p. 114

my late teens, I knew there was a problem, but I thought it was outside of "me." I thought that the underlying aspect of life that frustrated me was called paradox or dilemma, and that the manifestation I saw in individuals was called ambiguity or worse, hypocrisy. The problem, it seemed to me, in all of this is that there are valences, contrary poles of being that have a grip on any situation or person and made it impossible to know the truth. As lovers of Meher Baba, we call this duality. As a young person, I spent a lot of time trying to fix this problem: I was an activist who mixed selfless service (I knew I could not be attached to results) with a fire of infinite fury at corporate America. As a role, it was satisfying, mortifying, and ultimately a wonderful teacher about modern life.



As I aged, it became clearer that the problem was also inside me, and that the mix of internal polarizations or conflicts included rumination, anxiety, fear, sadness, depression, inaction, action, creativity, joy and a willingness to move on because I have "options." I started to allow for everything and found satisfaction in moments of nothing.

Now, with years further along, I have moved from being the dancer to seeing the theater, the stage within myself and others. When I have clarity, I invite my mind to sit in one chair, and my body in another. I give them each appropriate activities to keep them busy, and this rest allows me to contemplate the mystery of which we all partake. The dance and God's grace allow me to see that I am not one with my mind or my body, although they both think/feel they are one with me and are quite convincing. When I give them activities that engage them in the pursuit of worldly riches, they are less distracting from the real task of life,



which is to find God/Self.

So, how do I get my mind to sit a bit? Sometimes, I partake of Ward's seminars at Meherana. They are among the purist of worldly riches, and I write this article to recommend them to you.

I have been to two, and each was my mind's delight. This is so, of course, because they are based in a study of Baba's words. But my mind, left to its own devices, wanders and does not mine this treasure as well alone as when in the company of other minds and more importantly, other souls who share this part of the journey. Ward is a good teacher who facilitates with humor and compassion, and keeps us on target with his keen intellect. And in his seminars we operate as a group, sometimes soft and sometimes loud. Hopefully, each person finds what they need from moment to moment.

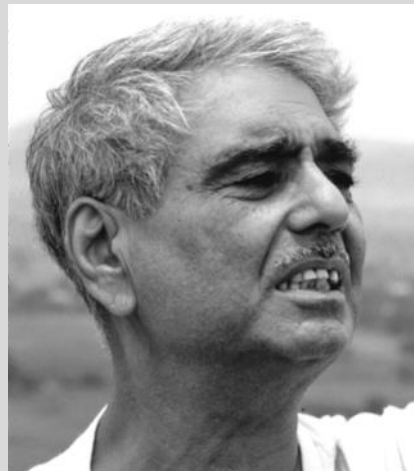
What does this look like?

Our days are divided into various forms of nourishment. There is the frustrating joy of dawn, as the cold of mountain night gives way to awakening. Quick, quick: rinse the face and mouth with freezing mountain water and wander down to the kitchen warm with cooks and cooking. Ready for the day. A gathering: people coming in from tents, from homes nearby—oatmeal with blueberries, melons and

a variety of other early morning food possibilities. The kitchen in the Meadow Cottage was still under construction in May, so there's a wash brigade under the trees with soggy cardboard boxes, metal basins, a garden hose. Spray.

Seriousness and laughter. Start seriousness with a silent meditation

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Eruch & Mani on the Silence Day



Transcription from a recording in Mandali Hall, Meherazad on February 10, 1979

ERUCH: The tenth of July is Silence Day. We all know that Baba observed silence for 44 years, and we talk about His Silence and about the breaking of His Silence and many things. We have been hearing from many asking whether we should continue to observe silence on Silence Day. Well, it is left for each individual whether one wants to observe silence or not. But there will come a time, I feel, when the world will be observing Silence Day, just as we observe Christmas and New Year's Day. Today is Prophet Mohammed's birthday, and in India it is known and observed as Id-e-Miled. There will come a time when the observance of Meher Baba's Silence Day will spread all over the world.

In order to commemorate the day that He began His Silence, it is but natural to observe silence on July 10th. Those who are close to Him would obviously want to commemorate this day. As to our wanting or not wanting to observe the day, there is a guideline from Baba Himself.

In the beginning, we never made it a special day, but there came a time when somebody drew Baba's attention to the fact that the 10th of July was the day when He began His Silence. Baba casually instructed that it should be remembered by observing a fast. Adi would send out circulars in advance with the reminder to Baba lovers that the 10th of July is the day of Silence, and that they should observe fast

on that day. Fast means 24 hours of fast. Only tea was permitted. Then there came an option and that was either observe fast for 24 hours or silence for 24 hours. Baba lovers were happy. They said, "Let us try observing silence." Many people who were close to Baba began to observe silence on that day. Still there remained the option of fast or silence. Then there were a few who could neither observe fast or silence because it was difficult for them to do so – they were in the Military, or holding a responsible post which needed the use of speech. So reports of difficulties would come to Baba. They would write letters saying how it was not possible for them to observe the fast or the silence. Baba would lovingly say, "It doesn't matter, it's all right."

Then there came a time when Baba said, "I want you all to observe fast or to observe silence." It was not an optional decision left to the discretion of His close ones; but it was His wanting them to do it. So they started feeling Baba wants them to observe fast or silence. So people in the world who followed Baba either observed fast or observed silence. Then in the late 1960's He would mention how important the Day of Silence was as He had been keeping silence for so many years. He conveyed, "It's not anybody's silence, it's My Silence; so it's best you also observe silence for a day." Thus He started giving us a gift, His sanction to participate in the day of His Silence. Even in His physical presence we (the mandali) observed si-

lence. There was no option whatsoever. We had no option about fast or anything in between. For a number of years the mandali observed silence on that Day, but His lovers in the world were given the option to observe silence or fast. In later years, Baba expressed His wish that it was better if all observed silence instead of observing fast.

And in 1968 Baba gave the following *Message to His Lovers*:

On the 10th of July, the 43rd anniversary of my Silence, I want all my Lovers to observe silence for 24 hours, from midnight of 9th July to midnight of 10th July 1968.

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. This was the last circular giving instructions about this special day.

MANI: I think there should be no question in the minds of anyone, should we observe silence or not. It is an opportunity that we should not let pass by. Every lover of Baba, to my mind, must observe silence on the 10th of July – the Silence Day. You salute your Beloved by giving him a rose. . . you would not call that a routine or ritual. It is an expression of your love, a piece of your heart. Baba observed silence for our sake, not for His own sake. In India we have our children from four years onwards

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any more." Now here I'm talking about myself. "This is the limit. It couldn't possibly cross this line. It's impossible."

So why does our Baba ask us to do the impossible? He asks you to do the impossible because He knows it is possible, because He will make it possible if you want



to do it. That is the one thing which Baba keeps stressing: try. What does "try" mean? He hasn't made it anywhere near as hard as it is for people who want to win in the Olympics. My God, we see in those little serials and videos what they do in order to win a medal! What should we do then for the personification of God, the personification of Love? Is that too much? Is anything we are doing too much? No, He is too much.

We were totally full and happy to have Baba, so we never thought, "Oh, how lucky we are." And Baba had to remind us. He said, "You folks have no idea, no idea, how lucky you all are. Angels envy you because they can see Me, but they cannot touch Me." And what were we doing? Bringing the basin for Baba to wash His hands, handing Him a soap. And all these little things—bringing the food, Mehera combing His hair—they cannot do even if they're angels. And He would say that yogis up in the mountains, in the Himalayas, in the snows, they sit there—and Baba, of course, who has to be the most wonderful actor in the whole world, otherwise He wouldn't act so beautifully as man being God—He would act it out, saying, "You know those yogis sit up in the top of the

Himalayas till their eyebrows grow like this, their nails grow like that, and till their beards almost seem like a river growing, to get what you already have." But could we get it in our heads? We didn't care. We had Baba. As I said, we were with the Tavern Keeper. Our business was with the Tavern Keeper, not with the tavern, not with the wine. We were ready to sweep the tavern floor, to wash the glasses in which He served wine to the others who came. We were content, totally full. We didn't want the wine. We wanted the company of our Saki, and towards that you are now going.

So remember, you have not only received a big thing, but you're going towards such a fulfilling and stupendous thing...

Baba is making it very easy for you all, believe me, even compared to us. What you're having is very easy, very smooth. No other, not even a Perfect Master, would do that, Baba Himself has said. So kind and compassionate is the Avatar. And we are blessed to have Him. And what do we do? Do we kneel in our hearts every moment in acceptance of that, in appreciation of that? Oh, no; we are angry and we are

hungry...And these dusts that accumulate on the mirror of our hearts fog His image, and nothing is worth that. No one is worth that and nothing is worth that. Even if it comes for a while, wipe it out. Prove, if not to anybody else, prove to yourself that you are different.

You have Meher Baba. You represent His name. You have a banner in your heart which says "Meher Baba"...

Ask for His help to please Him. Working for Him is fine; pleasing Him is better—best. Ask Him; ask Him to help. He never refuses a request.

You see, in the songs that Baba has loved most, there is repetitively this one line that comes in and I noticed that, having wondered why these *ghazals* were Baba's favorites. The line is: "Your pleasure is my pleasure." When His wish becomes your wish, when you make His wish your wish, if He wants you to stand on one leg and you do it, then that means that your wish has merged in His.

So as I said, please Him, and by pleasing Him, we're not giving Him anything. I'm not talking about that. I'm talking about your receiving, because to receive the gift of pleasing Him is no small thing. And how blessed you all are. We can all have it. It is not earmarked for Indians or westerners or princes or beggars or blacks or whites. It is for all. ♥

SILENCE DAY *continued from page 7*

try to observe silence on the Silence Day. At first they don't know exactly what silence is and they think they can whisper; they think that whispering is not talking! But many children of the Baba families do observe silence just like grown-ups. When youngsters are all day long in school and are not given a holiday, they tell the principal of the school in advance that they would observe silence and not talk, but would attend classes. Baba lovers who go to offices, who go to work, and cannot get a day off, still continue to observe silence. They tell their bosses who somehow always say, it's all right. Mostly nobody says,

"No, that can't be allowed." So, it is always that little striving, that effort which we must make on our own.

Silence Day is a very special day for every Baba lover. Baba has observed silence for all – for each one of us. I don't feel that by keeping silence we are going to help the world or anything like that. That is not why we are doing it. It's just a salute, an homage to His Love for us, an expression of our love for Him.

Beloved Baba observed silence for all those years, and for one day He has said we can share it with Him too. How blessed we are! ♥



Forgiveness

by Xobrat

Oh Meher:

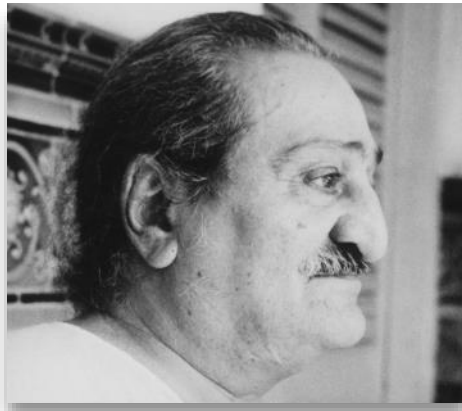
I am conflicted,
I am in pain, although no part of my
body is bleeding.
What part of my body holds my
emotions?
I need to find forgiveness-is that what
I can find?
Is that what I do?

Oh seeker of forgiveness:

Seek no further,
I am the wellspring of forgiveness.
"I forgive you"
I forgive you the instant you caused
your pain, any and every pain,
Or sometimes pain was caused to you
or on you.
But, what is this pain? Where is this
pain?
It resides in your heart.
It is true and real pain, but it is pain
of the world.

Forgiveness has already happened.
For you or your partners in duality,
For the act which is the source of your
pain
Remember, I am the wellspring of
forgiveness.
Forgiveness has already happened.
Now it is your turn
Realize, the pain is in your heart, no
one else's.
Yes, you were mistreated by another
or,
You feel the guilt of your actions,
You're mad at Me but it is causing you
pain
Or maybe another reason,

The pain is there, and it is true pain,
But remember:
Remember, I am the wellspring of
forgiveness.
Forgiveness has already happened.
Can you let go?
Let go, whatever is the source of your
pain?
You say:
Just let go?
How do I do that, it hurts, it really
hurts.



Dear One:

Oh Dear one
I say to you
Look deep into your heart.
Write down your pain sources,
Its cause or reason.
Now, How does it affect you?
Next, seek the reason it affects you.
Remember, forgiveness has happened!
But where is this forgiveness?
It is in My Heart.
Your heart is still in pain.
How can you find this forgiveness?
I wish to give you this gift of
forgiveness

But you must trust Me 100%.

You say:

Oh Baba, I do trust you, I do.
I always trust You.
I say to you
Look deep into your heart.
What are your pain sources,
Its cause or reason.
Now, How does it affect you?
Next, seek the reason it affects you.
If you will let go, and depend on Me
100%,
100% without conditions,
I will take your pain
I am the Well Spring, the endless well
in which all things can reside.
I will take your pain,
But giving it to Me may seem
infinitely hard.
It is hard, in itself maybe painful,
But ask for the Gift of Trust.
Trust in Me 100%, somehow
everything is in My plan,
My loving plan for you,
I wish to relieve you of your pain,
depend on Me 100%.
Let go, let go and call upon My help.
Call My name without reservation.
Call it with all your heart.

Oh people of the world:

My Name is available to everyone:
My Name varies from people to
people
But I am only One
The Forgiver!
The Well Spring to all who call
My name.



STUDY GROUP *continued from page 6*

led by Ward, who says he doesn't know how to meditate. A photo of Baba shining on the wall or a chart projected onto a screen. Today's topics listed on a white board. The first few days: a reminder of what we studied last year in *Infinite Intelligence*. All 700 pages. A summary. The high points. Charts. The strange language: "I am a Thinking attached to my ideas, my projections in the Universe (of Imagination)....."

Then on to the heart of material new this year: **beads on a string!** The same Avataric messages illumined in many places. *The Samkyakarika*. *The Bhahagavad Gita*. Ibn Arabi. The Beautiful Names of God, all ninety nine. Saint Augustine, Saint Francis. Buddha and the Chain of Causation. Sanskaras. The Ego. The four yogas described in *Infinite Intelligence* and found in *Discourses*, *Listen Humanity*, dig deeper. Free Will and Predestination. Dig deeper.

Then, eat again. Infinite food, infinite bowls of fresh, homemade veggie salads and fish and foods made with love. Laugh throughout. Talk more. Dessert just before volleyball. Wander down to Baba's cabin by water, quiet. Wander through woods near sounds of cows and distant cars, meadow flowers of pink and yellow. Dry. Read in the tent, try to catch up or catch again a phrase or understanding. Sleep.

Mind must go. The first year, I came to Meherana knowing I was supposed to have read *Infinite Intelligence* before arriving. I couldn't. Sitting at home, flipping through pages, unable to find a starting point for the language. I needed a teacher, someone who knew the material inside and out and who is still finding new understandings as he goes through Baba's words. Ward. Like riding a bike for the first time, I needed someone to hold the handlebars while I experienced balance for the first time in a tippy situation. And I needed a group, a place and people of love, to remind me that we are hologram and complete, complemented, alone and never separated as we search for that which is veiled but never lost. It was fun. ♥

20TH Meherana's Anniversary





"I want every lover of mine to repeat my name with every breath. The repetition should be continuous and such that even in sound sleep it should continue like your breathing. Then there is some possibility of experiencing a glimpse of me. Never worry about thoughts while repeating my name. Do not check them because when you repeat my name, the thoughts will not create binding for you - good or bad." Meher Baba



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Avatar Meher Baba Trust

Meherana participates each year in sending grants to the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust for the development of Meherabad. Donations made to Meherana are tax-deductible. For more information on how you can help the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, please contact:

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Phone/fax (209) 966-5078
Email: ccpearson@sti.net



Mastery in Servitude

By Bhau Kalchuri

A book wherein Bhau discusses working for Meher Baba; Baba's example of service; and the significance of Baba's Birthday.

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Welcome to Meherana

*A Spiritual Center
for the Awakening of the Heart*



www.meherana.org

Meherana's website has information about Avatar Meher Baba, a calendar of scheduled events, how to visit, volunteer opportunities, and contact information including driving directions and accommodations.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Spring Sahavas with Charles Haynes & Caris Arkin, Memorial Day Weekend, May 23- 26, 2014.
- ◆ God Speaks Study Course with Ward Parks – September 20 - 28
- ◆ New Life Sahavas - October 3 – 6, 2014