



I Remain Infinitely Helpless **Meher Baba**

Again and again, God takes human form to suffer for His creation. I am that One. Like you I have a body and mind and so I feel hunger and thirst, etc. But I also have universal body and universal mind, and therefore your individual suffering is as nothing compared to my eternal, universal suffering!

I have infinite Knowledge. I do not have to use my mind in order to know -- I just know. I use my infinite Knowledge. But although I have infinite Bliss and infinite Power, I do not make use of them. If I were to make use of the Bliss that is at my beck and call, how could my suffering be “suffering?” And of what benefit would it be to mankind?

I also do not use my infinite Power. If I were to use it, how would I remain helpless? I remain infinitely helpless because while having infinite Power at my command, I do not use it! I shall use it only when I break my silence to give a universal spiritual awakening; and when I drop this body I shall use my Bliss for 700 years till my next advent.

It So Happened, ed. William Le Page, pp. 148-149

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Meher Baba Center of Northern California

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Community Newsletter

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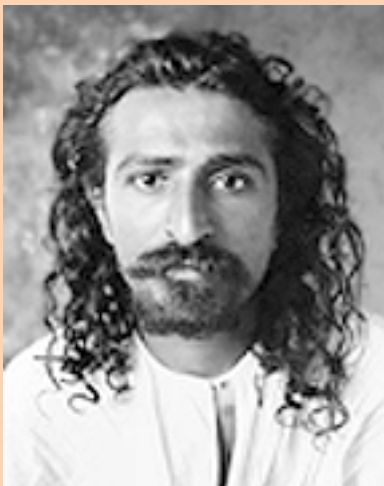
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Dear Reader

We thank Fred White for contributing this article about Meher Baba films that each of you may view at home on your computers. And we thank Bill Gannett who shares his enthusiasm for the mystical and poetic charms of Baba's favorite poet, Hafez of Shiraz.

Baba's 40th Amartithi and 115th Birthday Celebrations will be marked at our center in January and February. Please consult the Calendar at the Meher Baba center of No.CA [website](#) for details. Surely volunteers will be appreciated for these two events.

In Baba's Love, Ben Leet

Ben Leet, Editor-In-Chief,
Lisa Greenstein, Graphics-Noodge
Cherri Nelson, Photoshop genie and pdf conversion

If you would like to contribute to articles to this newsletter, it is best to copy and paste the article into the body of your email (rather than attaching text files) and send to: meherbabacenter@gmail.com



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Community Newsletter

Meher Baba film site and clips on Youtube

by Fred White

I was very interested to hear from our MBCNC notification service (aktalbot@talboito.com) of the Pete Townsend movie site MeherBabaFilm.com. Presently, in December '08, there are six films available for streaming and viewing. They stream on either Windows media player or RealPlayer for Apple users. Registration is very simple and speedy; one receives an almost immediate e-mail response with a most recognizable user name and password. Apple users will receive an error notice after entering the password, but the film will play even so.

So I guess I want to jump up and down and cheerlead a bit! Now it's possible to see moving images of the Avatar every day, any time and anywhere there's a broadband connection.

The Tim Thelen film 'The Theme of Creation'—part 2—caught my attention, as it functions very well as a companion to one's understanding of God Speaks: complete with charts and a smooth narrative flow. There are also brief interviews with several mandali, a professor, a psychologist, and several other long-time Baba-lovers interspersed with photos of masts, and eastern and western saints. If one is a bit rusty on Involution — the progress of the soul through the planes to God-realization — this is the perfect film.

In addition, there are at least six other films at MeherBabaFilm.com, including the classic 'O Parvardigar'. Also, MBF has announced that they will be showing their edited version of 'The Entombment Film' in January, 2009 for two weeks only.

Recently the site added an article by the newsletter editor of the London Baba group, Jane Hoskins, who writes, in The Visit: "The visit started when Richard met me at the station in a quiet suburban car and drove me to a quiet suburban road. Nothing, but nothing, gave away or could prepare me for the different world, the secret reality that lay hidden behind the illusion of suburban facade. Then, a Harry-Potterish sequence of high gates, gardens, locks, doors, more locks, more doors, pictures of Baba amongst electric meters, I arrived in a bizarre foyer with a great oak door ahead of me and sign saying remove footwear, lock doors, observe climate control. I donned blue overshoes and put on an extra coat against the cold inside." This essay offers a glimpse inside the archival vault of MBFA in Norfolk, England, "a space specifically designed and built to house possibly the most valuable treasures of our time."

On **YouTube** you can find a full selection under 'Meher Baba'. It contains about 270 clips, most 5 minutes or shorter. These clips are mostly excerpts of Baba films, Pete Townsend songs, prayers, interviews with close mandali and western lovers, performances at various gatherings, songs, and opinion pieces. Many of the excerpts are taken from copyrighted material, though in many cases the original work's rights are held by the Avatar Meher Baba Perpetual Public Charitable Trust. My feeling is that permission has been granted, at least tacitly, so that Baba's image may be seen by the widest possible audience.

Perhaps there is some difference in appreciation between viewing films in a darkened theatre, with others concentrating on the same material, and simply viewing in a

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Meher Baba film site and clips on Youtube (cont.)

by Fred White

casual way anytime on your own computer, or iphone, etc., at work or home. Having been to many showings of Baba-films, I've found that many of the most significant times of feeling Baba's love have been in the company of other Baba-lovers during these showings. Those of us with a short attention span benefit from a group experience as far as concentration and being there only for that purpose. As more and more people have computers with video-copying ability, hopefully more Baba poems, songs, theatre pieces, and artwork will become available or the greater community to enjoy.

Poets Corner

Happy New Year

by Bill Gannett

Ghazal #83 Divan-e-hafez, Khanlari

Poetry of Hafez blog site: darvishkhan-bill.blogspot.com

if your musk scented curls committed a sin- it's gone!
and if your hindu mole has wrought havoc- it's gone!

if the flash of love should burn those dressed in wool- burnt!
and if the shah's cruelty has ruined a beggar's life- ruined!

if the heart has suffered the beloved's coyness- it's passed!
and of all that comes and goes between heart and lover- it's over!

great vexation arises from those who gossip, but
when curse and cant subside from friends- it's gone!

in the way of love, keep the heart calm- and bring wine!
all sin, you see, when clarity comes, is gone!

stand fast, o heart, and endure the play of love!
if blame occurred, and if mistake was made, it's all gone!

don't blame hafez, o preacher, for he's left the khanegah-
the feet of the free are not bound, and if gone-- gone!

notes: khanegah = sufi center

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Poets Corner

Happy New Year

by Bill Gannett

Ghazal #480 Divan-e-hafez

Poetry of Hafez blog site: darvishkhan-bill.blogspot.com

last night i had a dream in which the moon arose
and brought to an end separation from her face.

the explanation? the traveling friend had returned.
o that she had so much sooner arrived by the door!

o saqi, the thought of you sublime, my happy omen!
you who arrives continually with glass and wine!

happy it were, for him to see in dream his own country,
so that the memory of its ways would serve as a guide to us.

if timeless grace were by power and pillage had,
khezar's immortal youth would be iskandar's.

remember the days when by our door and roof,
with each breath came a poem from the beloved!

how did your rival find such cruel occasions
if, at night, just one injustice found the judge's door?

what do the raw ones know of love's taste?
seek the ocean of heart and become lion hearted!

he who led you to a hard heart,
let his foot go bang a rock!

if another had written in the style of hafez,
the art-loving shah would have accepted him.

notes: khezar = immortal guide to the sufi.
iskandar = alexander the great (who died young).



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Announcements

Center Library Note:

Would you like to be a “patron”? We have a library for your reading pleasure and convenience. Our library is housed upstairs in a book case at the MBCNC Center on Stockton Street. We have had 14 borrowers over the past year. You may access a list of the holdings at the web page meherbabameherbaba.org; look for library, and open the book or video pdf files. When you visit the Center remember to check out the library books. We would also like donations. For a list of books we need, see the section at the end of the library holdings. Contact the Newsletter about donations.

Fundraising Committee

The Center’s Fundraising Committee needs your help. Bring your creative ideas and work to implement them in a Baba loving team effort. Committee meetings to be arranged as projects dictate. For more information contact Celia:
cloffice@comcast.net

Meditation hour:

The center will be open on Tuesday evenings, 7pm – 8pm for silent meditation.

The Trust

All who wish to share in the commitment laid down by Meher Baba through the Trust should contact Jack Mormon, ambkj@aol.com

Meher Baba Information

For introductory information about Avatar Meher Baba, e-mail MeherBabaI@aol.com, or write to:

P.O. Box 1101,
Berkeley, CA 94701.

Meher Baba Center of Northern California
6923 Stockton Avenue
El Cerrito, California 94530

(510) 525-4779

Meher Baba Center of Northern CA website

Meeting schedules can be downloaded in pdf form from website (above)

The center is open for drop-in and book store most Saturdays 1 p.m.–4 p.m.
(check website for details)



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Announcements (cont.)

Directions to our Center:

From Highway 80, Interstate 5, going north or south, in El Cerrito, take the Central Avenue exit. Exit east, toward the hills. Cross San Pablo Avenue. Go under the BART train tracks, and less than a block after the tracks, turn left on Richmond Avenue. Head north on Richmond Avenue until Stockton Avenue (the first stop light), turn right on Stockton. About two blocks onward, the Center is located on the left side of the street. Address on previous page.

More Local Meetings

Lafayette – Sunday Afternoons

Monthly meeting at the home of Kirk and Marlene Allen.

Please call to confirm. (925) 284-4066

Sacramento – Several Gatherings Each Month

Times and locations vary.

Contact Mike and Jean Ross, (916) 359-2954 or

Cheryl Johnson (559) 312-3751 for details.

See more information on the [website](#).

Los Gatos – Sunday Evenings

At the home of Clint Snyder

Call (408) 395-6865

Contact for messages to newsletterwalla: meherbabacenter@gmail.com

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