



Avataric periods are
like the springtide of creation.
They bring a new release of power,
a new awakening of consciousness,
a new experience of life — not merely
for a few, but for all.
Qualities of energy and awareness,
which had been used and enjoyed
by only a few advanced souls,
are made available for all humanity.
Life, as a whole, is stepped up
to a higher level of consciousness,
is geared to a new rate of energy.
The transition from sensation to reason
was one such step; the transition
from reason to intuition will be another.

Discourses of Meher Baba, The Avatar, pages 268, 269.



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

INsights

Community Newsletter

In This Issue

- **Raj Khilnani's Talk**
- **Poet's Corner**
- **Announcements**

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Dear Reader

Ben has contributed a nice report on the recent meeting and talk with Raj Khilnani. We were happy to meet Raj's whole family while they were in the Bay Area visiting his son, who is attending Stanford University.

And... some news from the nominating committee and the current board of directors in this issue. The Nominating Committee each year searches among the membership of the MBCNC, Inc. for individuals to serve on the board of directors. In the coming year, June 2010 to June 2011, we may face a shortage of volunteers to serve. We would like readers to seriously consider serving on the board. While at first thought such service may seem beyond the possible. But, let the idea rest inside for a period before dismissing it. We hope that Meher Baba will take the suggestion from your "ear" and place it in your "heart." Contact the meherbabacenter@gmail.com or the center if you are so moved. If you are interested in the Board meetings, you are welcome to attend a meeting. Meetings are held monthly at the center — see the calendar at:

www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org.

From the Board of Meher Baba Center of Northern California, Nov. 27, 2009. We five directors of the board 2009-2010 wish you to understand that we consider our current situation to be critical. We are all in agreement that our organization (MBCNC, Inc) cannot be adequately run with fewer than five members on the board. The situation we are now facing is that one current member at the end of the fiscal year will be retiring his position on the board, after three successive terms, and another member is seriously considering the same action. The remaining three members refuse to serve with less than five members, and would prefer to have between 7 to 9 [board] members.

Amarthithi Meherabad Live Link

(Be sure to convert India time to your local time.)

This newsletter (and past issues) will soon be available in pdf form on the www.MeherBabaMeherBaba.org website.

Newsletterwallas: Ben Leet, Lisa Greenstein Cherri Nelson



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

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Raj Khilnani's Talk

by Ben Leet



“We’ve all seen photos of the sun, but it’s nothing like going outside and experiencing the sun. So it is with being in Meher Baba’s presence. Words cannot describe it.” This was Raj Khilnani’s introduction to his talks given this past week at El Cerrito and Moraga.

Raj Khilnani grew in the close orbit of Meher Baba’s love. Between 1959 and 1969, when he was 6 to 16 years’ old, his family lived in Khushru Quarters which is now the location of the Meher Baba Trust Office in

Ahmednagar. His closest neighbors were Bhau Kalchuri’s family, as well as Adi K. Irani, and other close followers of Baba. Raj recounted for us stories of this time which I’ll try to recapture here.

His father, Prem Khilnani, already a Baba lover, was a judge appointed to Ahmednagar. Baba offered the family living arrangements at Khushru Quarters, and Prem accepted. Raj’s mother, Girja, wrote a book, *Journey to God*, describing these days. Raj’s stories revolved around programs held either at Meherazad or Guruprasad, as Baba often invited the family to Meherazad for programs.

Raj’s father, Prem, the judge, had been drawn to spirituality from an early age. He had once met Baidul who was searching for a local mast and Prem took him to the mast. Another day while Prem was visiting an ear, nose, and throat doctor, he saw a very handsome man leaving the doctor’s office. On inquiry he discovered that the man was Meher Baba. He later tracked down Baba at Guruprasad. This connection subsequently brought his entire family into Baba’s orbit and led to the family living at Khushru Quarters in Ahmednagar next door to Bhau Kalchuri’s wife, Rama, their children, Sheela and Mehernath. Prem was the judge to whom Baba explained that He too was a judge, but unlike the world’s judges who would find the accused guilty and then punish them, He found them guilty but forgave them. Often the family was invited to programs and Baba once commented, “Until Prem arrives it is as though no one has arrived.” Raj displayed a photo of one such program on a chair next to him at each talk.

At the beginning, his mother was shy and a little worried that her husband’s guru would hypnotize her. So she usually sat slightly distant from Baba and often looked down at the ground averting Baba’s eyes. Baba would ask her repeatedly to look up at him, but she continued as before. Finally Baba reminded her of how at age twelve she had written and mailed a postcard addressed simply to “God.” It said, “I want to meet You in this lifetime and to see You in the body.” Baba reminded her of her postcard and said, “Now that God is here before you, you should look at me as I have answered your postcard’s request.”

(Continued on next page.)



Raj Khilnani's Talk (Cont.)

by Ben Leet

At these programs Baba would explain spirituality and the path, others also would speak, and ghazals were performed. One explanation Raj remembered was about swallowing worry. His father Prem had a persistent habit of worry — about his health, his job, being transferred or promoted, and so on. Once Baba had Aloba recite an Urdu verse to the effect that a real faqir — the carefree beggar who also happens to be a spiritually perfect master — is he who “swallows worry whole.” Just as in India men will pinch a large wad of tobacco, roll it out on their palm, then pop it into their mouth, and gulp it down whole, so a true faqir is he who “swallows worry whole.”

Prem and Girja often had quarrels at home and even before Baba they would launch into a verbal spat. Baba commented that even though he had created the sun and stars and ordered the universe, he was unable to stop the arguments between these two. They both laughed at this. Later Baba would remind them of some argument they'd had recently at their home and have them retell it to him, as he found these arguments very amusing.

Once Baba told Raj and his brother Vinod to go to the movies in town. The local theater, the Sarosh Cinema, was playing Tarzan. They went and enjoyed it. On their next visit to Baba, He asked them about the movie, had they enjoyed it? They said yes, very much. Baba then explained that the spiritual path is filled with obstacles and challenges much like the difficulties Tarzan had encountered. Raj noted that the Baba's upadesh — the spiritual discourse of the sadguru — was so so plain and natural, directed to their level that they almost forget it was God speaking to them.

Baba would often ask Raj, “Who do you take me to be?” Raj would invariably answer, “God.” And Baba, wanting additional information, would ask, “Are you just saying that, as is expected of you, or are you saying that from your heart?” Raj, at age 12 or so, would respond, “No, Baba, I am saying it from my heart.” One day Raj read a long scientific article in a magazine like the National Geographic about the creation of the world or the universe. Raj was very impressed, but he realized that God was not mentioned in the article, and he seriously doubted that if Baba were to ask him again, “Who do you take me to be?” that he could give a sincere answer. Sure enough, on the next visit, Baba asked both questions, and Raj had to dig deeply in his heart for an answer. Somehow he managed to respond sincerely, “Yes, Baba, you are God.” He said that the result was now he felt that Baba and God had created the universe and he had done it “scientifically.”

Raj is now a police chief in Bombay, a very high and responsible position. But when he was a child he wanted to be a pilot like one of his male relatives who wore a handsome uniform. After Baba had helped his brother chose a career path, Raj carefully determined that regardless of Baba's advice, he was not going to alter his choice to become a pilot. As he feared, Baba made it clear to Raj not to become a pilot. Still, Raj went to test for pilot training, but his vision disqualified him, he was myopic. He speculates that perhaps his myopia was a direct result from refusing to follow Baba's instructions.



Raj Khilnani's Talk (Cont.)

by Ben Leet

The videos of Raj's talks are in the hands of our videographer. Perhaps someday readers will be able to click a YouTube button and go right to the talk. As for now, as Raj said, "We've all seen photos of the sun, but it's nothing in comparison to going outside and experiencing the actual sun. So it is with being in Meher Baba's presence. Words cannot describe it".

Poetry Corner

JUST TO LOVE HIM

Adi K. Irani, pg 63

May you hail Him now, understand Him now,
question Him now, embrace Him now
and love Him now!

If you cannot do any of these,
then put Him to the test of your life –
sincerely and honestly, not with a mind of doubt,
deception or an eye for superficiality –
and you will find that He is your constant companion
to share your joys and sorrows,
your health and illness,
your life and death.

Laugh not, judge not, doubt not,
fret not, grudge not, fear not.

Call Him, remember Him, think of Him,
contemplate upon Him, read of Him,
talk of Him, love Him,

and you will come to feel His presence within you
wherever you are and in whatever you think and do.

If the Avatar is the God-Man,
be ye a man of God and a man amongst men!



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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.

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 info@MeherBabaInformation.org or write to:

P.O. Box 1101,
Berkeley, CA 94701

<http://MeherBabaInformation.org>

Meher Baba Center of Northern California

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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)

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 (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 (Continued on next page)



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

INsights

Community Newsletter

Announcements (cont.)

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 Marilyn Buehler (916) 812-9496 info@premsay.com

Los Gatos – Sunday Evenings

At the home of Clint Snyder
Call (408) 395-6865

Sonoma County - Arti happens once a month,

Usually the first Sunday. Locations vary.
Call Ellen Van Allen at (707) 528-0357 for specific information.

See more information on the website.

Contact for messages to newsletterwallas: meherbabacenter@gmail.com

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