



“ I have come to remind all people that they should live on Earth as the children of one Father until my grace awakens them to the realization that they are all one without a second, and that all divisions and conflict and hatred are but a shadow-play of their own ignorance.”

Avatar Meher Baba

1962 East West Gathering, Excerpt from 'My Children'

2010 - Vol. 3

Issue 10

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Dear Reader

This newsletter is dedicated to Avatar Meher Baba's East-West Gathering in India in 1962, and has a review of the recently re-mastered, re-released 1972 Chicago group's The East-West Gathering on CD, as well as David Miotke's celebratory concert at the Talbot's. Gratitude to Francis Brabazon for the lyrics, David Miotke for the music and to Winifred Kershaw for producing the re-released CD.

If you would like to get a copy of this CD—They are \$15. plus shipping—contact David Miotke:

dmiotke@mindspring.com

Our Web Genie! -

Check out the newly updated website- Thanks to Jeanne Mojé MacDonald (link below or on sidebar).

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

Newsletterwallas: Ben Leet, Lisa Greenstein Cherri Nelson



East-West Gathering – Event, Poem, Music & Now CD

Ben Leet

Dave Miotke sang and played music from his composition *The East-West Gathering* a few weeks ago at the Talbot's residence. The lyrics derive from Francis Brabazon's 50 page poetry book commemorating the 1962 darshan in Poona that attracted 3,000 Indians and about 300 westerners. A poetic reportage that Baba instructed Francis to create soon followed the event. In a two week period Francis complied and then read it out to Baba. That was in November, 1962, and Dave's composition dates from 1972, and 48 years after the event this original recording is released in CD format.

The re-mastered disc includes a small vocal ensemble, the lovely trained soprano voice of Cookie Schefris, and various other performers. The music has the verve and quick tempos you would expect of performers in their 20s, and the melodic content matches the rapturous love song-poetry Francis created. It's Dave's hope that someday his daughter may download the audio from Pandora internet service onto her iPod (or other device). There are 17 songs on the CD, and the compositions possess a classical quality, much like the Chopin Preludes; they are masterful.

Dave was born, to the surprise of no one who knows him, on Mozart Street in Chicago. He picked up an accordion one day, at a very young age, after seeing an Al Jolson movie, and impressed his relatives with his own version of minstrelsy. Like a marathon runner with a torch in his hand, he has been setting the world ablaze with song most of his life.

He attended the prestigious music school at Northwestern University, but dropped out in his senior year in 1965 to take up with a rock band, the H.P. Lovecraft, whose greatest hit was *White Ship*. You can see him and them perform it—**white ship on youtube**. It turned out to be a short career, and he returned to university to pick up a bachelor's and master's degree in music.



David Miotke



East-West Gathering – Event, Poem, Music & Now CD (cont.)

Ben Leet

In 1971 he met his former fraternity brother Ellis Pine who invited him to come up to his apartment for a chat one night. There Dave found out about Meher Baba when Ellis related his story of visiting the Great Darshan in Poona, India, in 1969. As Dave was walking home that evening he had a memorable experience that only God could have given, and which is not describable.

Soon after Dave visited Myrtle Beach, met Kitty Davy, and read the Baba literature of that era. He recalls one evening sitting in the Lagoon Cabin, which has a poster with the words "Everything real is given and received in silence." Dave and another guest were silent while they read their literature. Dave was reading Beethoven's Hammerclavier sonata, a truly finger crushing exercise in determination. When Dave returned home, he began practicing this opus which challenges all who have the temerity to attempt it. After a few hours of getting to know it, he put it aside and was attracted to a small volume of poetry he had picked up in Myrtle Beach. Like an artesian well the music began to pour out, and the Hammerclavier disappeared in the joy of discovery, invention and a love union that is so much a part of Brabazon's poem.

Dave has also recorded a solo version in a two record album, since out of print. His CD *In Dust I Sing*, the ghazals of Francis Brabazon is available at Sheriar Press and at Dave's e-mail address and the El Cerrito Center.

If you would like to get a copy of The East-West Gathering CD or *In Dust I Sing*—They are \$15. plus shipping—contact David Miotke: dmiotke@mindspring.com



more about... East-West Gathering

Ben Leet

The East-West Gathering occurred in Poona, early November, 1962, 48 years ago. Michael LePage attended, still a teen-ager. Tom Riley, Brynar Mehl, Irwin and Edward Luck, Filis Frederick, Ivy Duce, Charles, John and Wendy Haynes with their mother Jayne attended as well. Many of us have seen a delightful movie of it many times. Approximately 300 from the West and 3,000 from the East attended. It was a fateful time in the world; the Chinese army was pouring over the Himalayas and threatening to invade the plain of Bengal; and the U.S. Air Force had discovered Russian missiles in Cuba and the 'nuclear option', global nuclear war, was at risk. Kennedy and Khrushchov were trading threats as the U.S. Navy set up a naval blockade around Cuba intercepting Russian ships.

Jane Haynes later described her feelings of the East-West Gathering: "We actually experienced oneness under the pandal. There were people of every color, race and creed present. But with the Beloved sitting there, moving his beautiful hands like a symphony conductor, it seemed as though it was one heartbeat. It felt like we were one person sitting there. Every single soul felt that he or she was the only one in the whole world, and Baba was giving him or her something special. His divinity made us feel that way."

Baba soon requested Francis Brabazon to write a book about the event, which he did, and then he read it aloud to Baba in March of 1963. Raine Eastman-Gannett tells us that Francis wrote his 50 page poetic accounting in a two week period. Francis also incorporated music into his poem, attaching songs to various sections. The melodies were mostly drawn from folk tunes. When in 1972 Dave Miotke, equipped with a M.A. in music from Northwestern University, got a copy of the poem book, he was inspired to put his own melodies to sections. He did so unknowing that Francis had previously added music. Rightly so, the event was slowly but surely turning to myth, song and commemoration.

Here are a few extracts from Francis' poem:

"Presently, as the Play reaches its surrealist climax, God-Man will suddenly appear in the midst of the players and sing his Song of Awakening, an item which, he has given us to understand, will be quite astonishing — so astonishing that some will shout in abandoned joy, some will fall flat on their faces and some will lose

(Continued on next page.)



more about... East-West Gathering (Cont.)

Ben Leet

control of their bowels. 'He has the whole world in His hand'—or rather, spinning on the tip of his little finger. We just try and hang on throughout the whiz. It is called holding on to the garment of Truth. (God help those of us who think we are holding on—for at that moment we are clutching a life-belt round our own shadow, not holding on to the material of Reality.) [page 7]

'Come, my dear ones, and don't hold back,
Leave, for my House, the world's drab shack.
Harappa, Troy and Samarkand
Are buried beneath the shifting sand—
But in eternal Truth I stand.
Come! O my lovers one and all,
Obey with joy my timeless Call'...
They hummed and droned and sipped the wine
Of God-Man's love and truth divine,
And time stood still (though it still went by),
And one tear fell from every eye
That was a pearl that Baba strung
On the garland that from his neck hung,
And the thread of it was his Sigh...

They had come to admire the Rose, but they found themselves
gazing at the Illimitable Ocean.

In the depths of the Ocean is a Pearl,
will you, bold swimmer, bring it in your hand?
It is yours by right of heritage—
the Pearl of Kingship over all the land.
Do you remember? Do you understand?

The soul exulted, With you, Ocean, I belong. But the heart replied,
Why do you long for death? The soul said, I will set sail...

The Ocean, level and unending;
the Wave curls up, threatening, extending;
before the Wave, the swirl of bubbles—
and bubbles is but toils and troubles.
The drop back towards the Ocean yearns,
its rainbow is its silent cry—
a seven-toned flame in which it burns—
and burning, singing, longs to die.

(Continued on next page.)



more about... East-West Gathering (Cont.)

Ben Leet

The Wave is Ocean's Whim out-shaking
galactic drops, each ever aching;
the aching thrives on toils and troubles—
that's why the drops dress up as bubbles.
The drop back towards the Ocean yearns,
its rainbow is its silent cry—
a seven-toned flame in which it burns—
and burning, singing, longs to die.

The Ocean's heart all-comprehending
reckons the time of drops' back-blending
into Itself, drops minus bubbles—
the end at last of toils and troubles,
The drop back towards the Ocean yearned,
its rainbow was its silent cry—
a seven-toned flame in which it burned—
and burning, singing, learnt to die.

There are those among us who cannot read the next few lines
without our minds overlaying the text with song, song that Dave
has imbued with his imagination and skill:

Rest, Beloved, where flowers are sleeping—
my breast kept for yourself alone,
Rest, give your pain into my keeping,
give me one short night as my own.

There is no sound of the world's weeping
amidst the lilies of my breast
whose fragrant freshness I've been keeping
against the time of your sweet rest.

The fanning of the ocean-breezes
disturbs with love his ringlets now;
my soul from prison, heart releases
to dream upon his lovely brow.

Even the night gazes in wonder
with all its eyes upon his face.
Sleep till the time, Love, of the thunder
of your great Word's bestowing Grace.



Meher Baba Center of Northern California

INsights

Community Newsletter

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

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)

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.



Announcements (cont.)

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)

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.