

MEHER BABA CENTER OF NO. CALIF INC.

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

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A Narayan Story

Narayan Maharaj was one of the five perfect masters who worked to bring Meher Baba into awareness of His role as Avatar of the age. James Robinson sent this story to the Meher Baba Listserv after hearing it from Eric Nadel (a Western resident of Meherabad) during a trip to India in 2000:

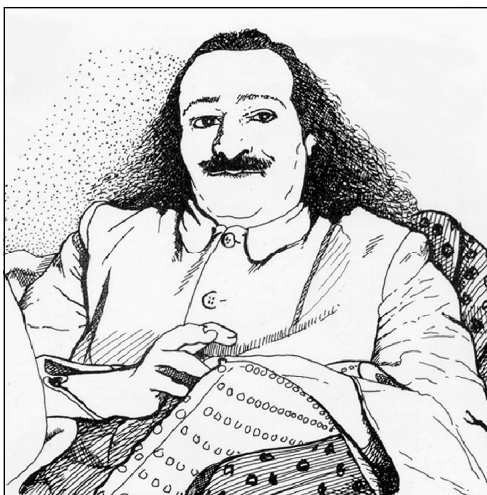
In the early seventies, a Baba lover was visiting Meherabad. (She was Anne Marie Rider, probably now about 78 years old, at that time a nurse from Wyoming, for many years now living somewhere in New York.) Anne Marie wanted to visit the ashram of Narayan Maharaj. It is located in a very remote village some hours distance from Meherabad.

Padri asked Erico to take her there. After travelling down tracks nearly impassable by auto (perhaps Erico told me they had to shift to a bullock cart for the last leg,) they eventually arrived at the ashram. Nobody spoke English in the office. There were three pictures of God, unframed paper, hanging askew on the wall of the very humble reception office: a large, garish picture of an Indian deity with many arms; a good sized picture of Meher Baba; and a smaller picture of Narayan Maharaj. Erico and Anne Marie were eventually instructed to see the only one around who spoke English.

After wandering through the ashram grounds, they came upon a figure wearing a blue navy cap, leaning back in a chair, feet propped up on the edge of a well. He was smoking a pipe and reading a newspaper. When they were yet fifty yards off, he rose and turned to them. He called out, "You are filled from head to toe with the spirit of Beloved Avatar Meher Baba! You must be from Meherabad."

Stunned at this recognition, Erico and Anne Marie came up to him, and he began to converse with them. He explained that he was Krishna Jogelakar, and served for many years as Narayan's secretary, handling all his English and Hindi correspondence. His parents were Poona Brahmins. In his youth, his parents were visited

by Narayan, who had been wandering all over India for years. He told Krishna's parents that he was searching for a true seeker, sincerely interested in God. "After all these years, I have not found even a single one," he said. "I am inclined to give up this fruitless search, and settle down somewhere around here." He stayed on with Krishna's parents for a time, living in the attic. Then, later, he moved to the suburbs of Poona, then to Kedgaon.



In his conversation, Krishna always referred to Narayan as "My beloved Master," and he always referred to Baba as "Beloved Avatar Meher Baba." Erico asked how he knew Meher Baba was the Avatar. "Oh, Narayan told us, long ago, back in 1925."

He told the story of a train trip with Narayan, along with a group of disciples. Narayan had a habit of pretending not to know things, as if he were a simple child. He would ask questions of his disciples. Eventually, his questions would always lead to some spiritual point. For example, he might be reading the newspaper,

and would say, "Look at the price of wheat! Isn't this a very high price for wheat? How can the people afford it?" Then he might ask, "What is wheat, anyway? How do they make it?"

"It is a plant, master. They don't make it, they grow it."

"Oh, it is a plant. Oh, I see. Does it grow on trees?"

"No, master, it is like a grass. They use the tips of the grass."

"Oh, I see. Very interesting." (Sorry I can't come up with a suitable conclusion showing an important spiritual point. But we know about this technique from Baba, don't we?)

On the occasion of this train ride, the train unexpectedly stopped. "What happened?" asked Narayan. "Why did the train stop? Are we at a station?"

"No, Master, the next station is some way off. We are in the countryside."

Continued on page 4

He Not Only “Changes” Us, He “Charges” Us

by Ruth White

One evening during 1944, a stranger called me on the telephone— would we like to attend a meeting at his home? Our address in Los Angeles had been given to him by a friend of ours. As this friend was a very interesting person, my husband and I assumed the meeting would be worthwhile and we gladly accepted. So it proved to be — a gathering of representatives in the domain of psychology, philosophy and the like. At the close of the meeting our host, Malcolm Schloss, led us to a photograph on the wall. “This is Meher Baba of India,” he said.

Looking at the photograph, great waves of power emanated from the face on which I looked as palpably as if the sun had suddenly flashed on a cold winter day. “How wonderfully kind he looks,” I managed to say, although silence would have been more in keeping with the waves of delight that were sweeping over me. “Yes, that is the attribute he emphasizes most, kindness and love for all mankind,” said my friend.

“What else does he especially teach?” Lawrence White asked.

“He has not come to teach but to awaken,” our host replied. “He has kept silence since 1925.” The thought came to me, how can he convey his message in silence? How could this possibly be? Then quickly I recalled Maeterlinck’s essay on silence. That was my answer.

After that eventful evening, if anyone had tried to lessen my faith in Meher Baba, such attempts would have been futile. I had contacted him spiritually and the impact of that meeting would remain with me forever and ever. The next morning upon awakening, the same glory that had pervaded me the night before was still with me. All my faculties were enhanced and my physical well-being super alive.

One of the many gifts Meher Baba bestows on those who really love him enough to follow his discipline is that of developing in us rare intuitional attributes. He not only “changes” us, he also “charges” us with a spiritual voltage. Those receiving it become transmitters more or less and are able, even without words, to convey it to others.

However small or great our ability may be, this spiritual push that he gives starts us sometimes in a new breathtaking direction that awakens faculties that have remained dormant, such as inner cognition. Through Meher Baba we are enabled to make the leap from reason to intuition. Perhaps his Silence is the medium he uses to test our ability to receive it.

During the spring of 1956, we received the joyous news that Baba would visit the United States. The cities to be blessed by His Presence would be New York, Myrtle Beach, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Meher Mount near Ojai, and San Francisco. As soon as I heard the news, I made ready to join his party at Meher Center-on-the-Lakes at Myrtle Beach where he expected to remain for six days.

With joyous expectancy I took flight across the continent at an age when I should long since have been lying in the grave. [She was 86 at the time.] I flew across the continent to meet the Avatar!

Although I had known Baba spiritually for more than ten years, through inner contact and through friends who knew him, yet when I actually met him personally it seemed similar to meeting a being from another sphere. He is the endearing Father, “nearer to us than breathing, closer than hands or feet.” A spiritual guide, the Avatar!

Each morning and afternoon while at the Center, Baba gave short interviews of three minutes each to those who asked to meet him. The effects of his blessing were reflected on the faces of those leaving his presence. Some seemed ecstatically happy and some filled with wonder and awe. Our lives became enhanced in his Presence, especially during the walks we were privileged to take with him.

Among the messages from Baba given out for the general public through the press, were the following excerpts:

I have only one message to give and I repeat it age after age. My message to one and all is: “Love God.”

One must love God with all sincerity to such an extent that one loses one’s self completely in love.

And how does one love God? One can love God as He ought to be loved by trying one’s utmost to make others feel happy even at the cost of one’s own happiness.

[A timeless, matchless message indeed!]

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C A L E N D A R

Meeting Times and Locations vary. Consult this calendar for the location and time of each event. It is a good idea to call 510-845-4339 to check for last-minute program changes.

♥ **Bookstore**

Saturday, January 12, 8 PM: Odil's Dance and Movement Meeting at Albany Methodist Church

Celebrate the New Year with dancing to your favorite Baba musicians. Simple moves and improvisations will be led by Odil and Cathie, Baba DJs and movement teachers. Bring woolen socks & silky scarves. All ages welcome. Take Buchanan St. exit from I-80, drive up Marin to Stannage, the church is on the left corner.

♥ **Wednesday, January 30: The 31st Amartithi Observance at the Albany Methodist Church. Doors open at 8:30 PM.**

On Amartithi we remember Meher Baba's 1969 departure from His physical body. We will have readings and a viewing of the interment film, followed by a silence from 10:30 to 10:45, to coordinate with Baba's lovers observing silence on Meherabad Hill in India.

Saturday, February 16th, 8 PM: "Moonlight over the Tavern" A Night of Song

Bring your favorite poem or song and a pillow or portable chair to share to Karen Sterkin's flat in Concord. Tiny living room for sitting "India style" on the carpet. (925) 686-1141 or mehera22@hotmail.com for directions. Parking in uncovered spaces or at Orchard Supply's lot a block away.

Love

*Love is more important
than being on time for work.*

*Love is more important
than hatred.*

*Love is kindness and sharing,
Not making fun of people.*

*My mom and I don't look alike, but
We love each other.*

*I'm brown and my friend is white
and we love each other.*

*No matter the age,
No matter the color,
We're all together
in the whole world.*

*Rabia S. Cons, age 7
September, 2001*

♥ **Saturday, February 23, 12 to 4 PM: Meher Baba's 107th Birthday Celebration.**

This year's party returns to the fellowship hall of the Unitarian-Universalist Church, at the corner of Cedar and Bonita Streets in Berkeley. We'll start with a potluck lunch at 12 PM and finish with birthday cake, and Baba's arti. Your help with this event will be appreciated. Call Janet White (510) 843-4417.

Saturday, March 2, 7 PM: Movie Night at the Barrie-Anthonys'

Viewing and discussion of "Let It Ride" (1989) A man believes God hates him — and when he begins following his intuition, he changes his mind. Set at Hialeah racetrack, with a great cast. Call (510) 524-6405.

Saturday, March 9, 8 PM: Film Night at the Albany Methodist Church

Our film-walla, Peter Ravazza, will present a selection from our collection of Baba films. Popcorn provided.

Sunday, March 24: Meeting after Arti at Greensteins

Ben Leet will talk about Upasni Maharaj, one of the five perfect masters who unveiled Meher Baba. Call (510) 525-3364 for directions. Arti starts at 10 AM.

Meherabad Young Adult Sahavas 2002

A Young Adult Sahavas will be held at Meherabad from June 26th to July 3rd, 2002 for Baba lovers from around the world between the ages of 19 and 30. There will be a special emphasis on the celebration of Meher Baba's Love through sharing, creative expression (art, music, etc.) and service at Meherabad. For more information email: sahavas@ambppct.org or write to:

Meherabad Young Adult Sahavas
Avatar Meher Baba PPC Trust
Kings Road, Post Bag #31
Ahmednagar, M.S., 414001 INDIA

Youth Group Forming for 11-14 Year Olds

Share fun activities with other young people who know about Meher Baba. For information, contact Ed Munnich, (510) 559-9215, or e-mail munnich91@alum.mit.edu

Dr. Abdul Ghani Munsiff Memorial Tavern

We meet at 7 PM the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at Schmidt's Pub in Albany, 1492 Solano Ave., just west of Safeway. Call Harold Jamison (510) 236-7993, or call Ed Munnich (510) 559-9215, or e-mail Ed@munnich91@alum.mit.edu to confirm meeting plans.

Meher Baba Center of Northern California, Inc.

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"Did someone pull the emergency cord? Ask and see." The disciples would query all the passengers, checking with the other cars and the conductor.

"No, Master; no one has pulled the emergency cord."

"Well, there must be some reason. Did the engine break down? Go and ask the conductor if the engine broke down."

After inquiries, "No, Master, the engine did not break down."

"Perhaps one of the wheels fell off. Did one of the wheels fall off?" The disciples would again inquire.

"No, Master; the wheels did not fall off."

"But there must be some reason. This is very curious! The train does not just stop in the middle of nowhere, for no reason. Tell me; open the door of our compartment, and see if there is a young man, with long, dark hair, wearing a white robe, with his sandals off, kneeling in a reverent posture toward us, with several others similarly attired, also kneeling and paying us respects."

The disciples opened the door, to find the scene Narayan described.

"Yes, Master, just as you described, there is a young man with long dark hair, wearing a white robe, and several companions similarly attired. They are kneeling with their sandals off, paying respect to us. But who is this man?"

"His name is Meher Baba. He is the Avatar of the age. Go and bow down to Him."

Krishna Jogelakar said this happened in 1925, at the train crossing at Meherabad, where we cross to go up to the Samadhi. That was how he found out that Meher Baba was the Avatar.

THE TRUST

All who wish to share in the commitment laid down by Meher Baba through the Trust should contact Jack Mormon, P.O. Box 70383, Richmond, CA 94807-0383.



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LOCAL MEETINGS

El Cerrito - Sunday Mornings - 10:00 AM

Arti and singing at Greensteins' (510) 525-3364.

Albany - Thursday Evenings - 7:15-9:15 PM

God Speaks Meetings at the Barrie-Anthonys' the first and third Thursdays of each month. Please call (510) 524-6405 by 5 PM the day of the meeting.

Lafayette - Sunday Afternoons

Monthly meeting at the home of Kirk and Marlene Allen. Please call them to confirm. (925)-284-4066.

Los Gatos - Saturday Evenings - 8:00 PM

Arti, singing and readings at the home of Clint and Sharon Snyder. Call them at (408) 395-6865 or Betty Lowman at (650) 323-1900.

Petaluma - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Arti, readings and fellowship. Contact Hermann or Jeanette Loew at (707) 778-1195. Please call ahead.

Sacramento - Sunday Mornings - 11:00 AM

Discourse readings and occasional gatherings. Contact Mike and Jean Ross, (916) 486-2924.

Santa Cruz - Tuesday Evenings - 7:30 PM

God Speaks readings and occasional videos. Call Buzz or Ginger Glasky (831) 457-0444.

FOR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER CHANGES:

e-mail amba42@yahoo.com or write or call:

Paul Christy 28 Domingo Ave. Apt.A,
Berkeley, CA 94705

(510) 845-4339

MEHER BABA INFORMATION

People who wish to know more about Meher Baba can obtain introductory material and a catalogue of available publications by writing or phoning Meher Baba Information. P.O. Box 1101, Berkeley, CA 94701. Or call (510) 562-1101

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