

MAY
89



Meher Baba
Australia

BABA IN PERSIA

Avatar Meher Baba visited Persia (Iran) three times, the first visit during February 1924, which was very short, the second visit during Sept-Oct '29, was quite extensive and the third and final trip was during May in 1931. This trip was very long and arduous and preceded His first visit to the West in September of the same year. This article is focusing only on the third visit, the other visits will be chronicled in other articles.

During late May 1931, Meher Baba departed from Pimpalgaon near Ahmednagar with four other men, F.H. Dadachanji, Rao Saheb, Aga Baidul and Kaikishrow Ektai, by train. The journey took them through Central India, Lahore, Rohri, Quetta and on to the border-town of Duzdab (now known as Zahedan) in Iran. From here, they continued their journey by car along the rough desert road via Birjand, taking two days to arrive in Mashad, Iran's holiest city, in the N.E. of the country, very close to both the U.S.S.R and Afghanistan borders. It is not known whether Baba went the extra 15 miles (25kms) to the U.S.S.R border. Nevertheless, this was the closest the Avatar came physically to the U.S.S.R

in this advent, and they stayed for two weeks. Very little is known about this stay; the following is from "The Perfect Master" by C.B. Purdom - pages 155-6:



"End of March 1931, Baba went to the Himalayas, and in May, went again to Persia. This visit was private and only a few people saw him. He attended a place of holy pilgrimage to which people from all parts come to pay homage to the Imam, one of the twelve apostles of the Prophet. One day at this place, Baba was walking with three of His disciples when they were followed by two women. When they returned to the house, Baba asked the women, who were prostitutes, to enter. He then took off the covering he

had over his head and made them sit near him while he talked to them of spiritual things and occasionally caressed their faces. The women cried and said they would no longer do what they were accustomed to do. Then they went away".

Baba made a most significant statement about this visit. He said:

"The tree of my divine manifestation will be planted at Mashad, whence it will grow and spread, ultimately covering the wide world".

Mashad is the provincial capital of Khorasan state, at an altitude of 3230 ft (985m), it has a current population of over a million. Iran's capital - Tehran is 875kms to the east. Mashad is known as the holy city of Iran, with the Imam Reza's Tomb as the focal point of the pilgrims. Ali Reza (Ali ar-Rida) is Shi'ite Islam's most venerated saint; the eighth Imam of the Twelver Shi'ite sect of Islam, who was assassinated in 818 A.D. He was the last Imam (religious head) and, having 'gone away', the Shi'ites believe that he will return at the end of time. Mashad means "place of the martyr". Non-Muslims are not allowed

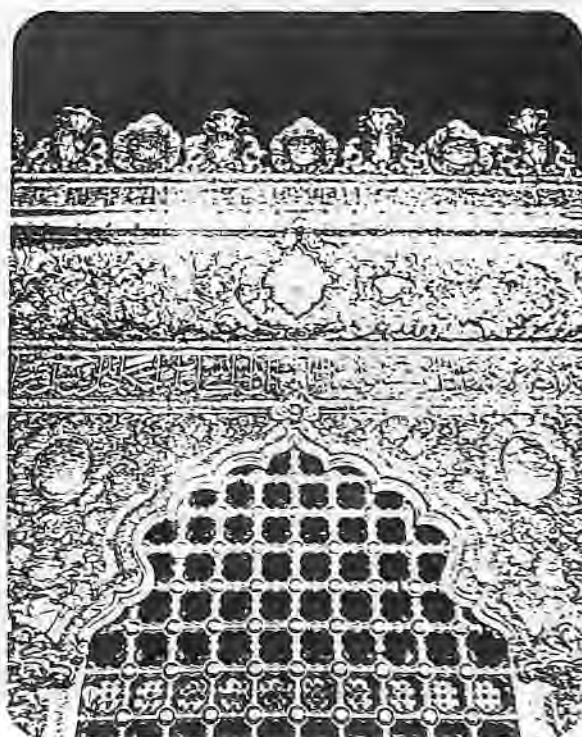
through the "Sacred Threshold". The closest an 'outsider' can come is to the adjacent museum; the entrance regulations are as strict as Mecca in Saudi Arabia. Muslims say that tourists see the floors of the sanctuaries and of its porticos as paved with marble and covered with sumptuous carpets, but the believers see the Archangel Gabriel spreading his wings under the feet of the pilgrims. Ali Reza's sister was Fatima, she is buried in Qom which is regarded as Iran's second holiest place.

The Shi'ites regard Ali, Mohammad's son-in-law, as the legitimate successor to head the Islamic faith and disregard the 3 caliphs who actually did succeed him and were supported by the Sunnites. These caliphs were of the Omayyad family, Arab aristocrats and governors of Syria, they seized the Caliphate despite claims to it by the sons of Ali-Hassam and Hossein. The latter were arrested and killed in the middle of the desert and this is the origin of the Shi'ite schism. This was seen by many as a pretext not to recognise the Caliphs of Damascus, past or future and to contest their authority. In Iran, 91% of the population is Shi'ite, the Sunnites make up 7% and the remaining are of Christian, Jewish, Zoroastrian and Ba'hai faiths.

The Imam Reza Mosque incorporates a large area, encompassing mosques, a school, museum and library. The domed mosque behind the main entrance and tomb is called the Mosque of Gowhar Shad which was erected by Shah Rokh, the son of the conqueror Timur (Tamerlane). The greatest spate of architectural expansion came in the 17th century, after the town was sacked by the Turks and Uzbeks. The rulers of the Safarid dynasty, especially the Shahs Abbas I & II who added the gilding to the dome over the shrine itself. The final touch to the interiors came in the early 19th century with mirrorworks applied to the walls and giant chandeliers. The dome over the shrine is more modest in size, (70 feet), compared to the mosque's dome. The interior of the dome houses a silver grillwork which embraces the tomb. Much of the tomb was reconstructed after a severe earthquake in 1673.

One of the unknowns about Baba's visit is, did he travel the extra 130km (80 miles) to the west of Mashad, to the town of Neyshabur during his 2 week stay? It is here that the great poet Omar Khayyam, is buried, with a fine modern monument being built a couple of years after Baba's visit. This is found 4kms to the south east of the city. Omar Khayyam had died in 1125; alongside is the mausoleum in honour of Farid-un-din Attar, another famous mystic poet, who was killed by Genghis Khan's hordes in 1221. He wrote the "Mantiq-ut-Tayr" - a Sufi allegory generally known as the "Conference of the Birds". Mahrugh, an apostle of Islam also rests here, these buildings are surrounded by extensive gardens.

After Baba's stay, He travelled along the same route, back to Karachi, and later to Meherabad to prepare for His first visit to the West.



The Sacred Gold Casket of Imam Reza Mashad

AVATAR'S ABODE DIARY - Episode 2

by Ibn Al Dente (Spaghetti Sufi Poet)

Wednesday morning

5 am again. The fire went out in the night. The Ghazal boxes look good in the morning. First step out of the caravan I see the white one, the pineapple crate from Woombye, painted with the lines from Hafiz. Before Dawn.

"Last night, before dawn, I was given relief from all suffering"

The birds have begun. Kurrawong and butcherbird, like bells. Rouse will come for 8 am tea. He comes. Blue tee shirt with AUSTRALIA wrote in black on blue. Never really talked with Robert, been away too long. This'll be the first time. About time. He notes the pineapple crates, I mean, the Ghazal boxes with lines of Hafiz and bits of Brabazon down the sides in paint. This starts him off. Robert reckons this particular historical pineapple crate was the one he used at the Abode. Sim reckons it was one of his. Brought up from the farm twenty years ago. This is how it starts you see, these laconic historical tales of the origin of our heartland. A few crates, kerosine lamps and the first steps of the Avatar over the Queensland moon.

We have a bit of tea and the tale unfolds for 1½ hours.

"Wings toward..... Kailas. The opening lines, the loose pages of Francis manuscript slowly taking shape. The gruelling editing job carried out by the Rouses, carbon copies winging over Indonesia to Francis stuck with the Boss in Meherazad. Baba's orders (tough luck Francis).... Don Stevens working on his version in the U.S....

"Listen Humanity; Stay With God"
Slowly taking shape. Fluent, unexpected, the link in the continuum. The spiritual mythology of the past woven into the pink coat. Stay with God.

We have a bit of tea. The long long cable to Baba about Kiels Mtn. The cable back "BUY"
Where Francis got the money to purchase the property. The link to the Baron and the Sufi entwinement. The curls of your hair are so intricate. How it was found, early morning billy by the cross roads. The people who pioneered. Those first rainy mornings when the place was built. The sawn down flat top makeshift Holden ute. You know the kind. Jack Painter gone shearing, coming back just when he's needed. The stone masons. These things, not clear yet, but the myth being woven. This is our history. Who is remembering?
The kerosine tin benches, the refectory under the stilts of the old farm house. These are our beginnings. Historical objects. But none so fierce as the appearance of the Avatar, discreetly in Queensland. Robert remembers. The lion caught in a sideways glance caught in his universal contemplation. That face illumined and grim. Flashing sombre against the native grey of the corrugated iron. Someone has to film these stories. The Queensland folklore rivetting our attention.

Three birds on the telegraph wire, sitting still.
A lizard by the post, listening.

This is Avatar's Abode. Cherish it.

And soon, Uncle Bhau will be here.

Craig San Roque

BHAU KALCHURI's AUSTRALIAN ITINERY

BHAU KALCHURI:Avatar's Abode

TUESDAY 6th

Arrival- picnic lunch with local Baba Lovers at the Abode.
Afternoon rest. Evening dinner with Davies. Staying with Hayes.

WEDNESDAY 7th

A.M. Private interviews in Baba's House. Evening, Public Meeting at The Meeting Place, Nambour.

THURSDAY 8th

9am - 12Noon- making a video of Bhau at Avatar's Abode. Lunch at Hayes & rest. 3.30-5pm Group tea & Arti. Bring a plate & share dinner at meeting Hall, followed by a music evening in Baba's House.

FRIDAY 9TH

9am-Arti . 9.30-12noon-making a video cont. 11.30am-Flag raising. 12.-12.15-Silence. 12.30-2pmLunch 2-4pm.Informal 4-5pm. Afternoon tea with Bhau. 5pm. Arti. Meal with local family. EVENING PROGRAM-7.30pm Welcome- Ghazal by John Connor Talk by Bhau, Film, Arti.

SATURDAY 10th

9am. Arti in Baba's Room 10-12noon,Panel with Bhau 12-12.15. Silence 12.30 lunch. 2-4pm Video in Baba's House 4-5pm Private interviews with Bhau 5pm Arti 6pm Dinner with local family 7.30pm EVENING PROGRAMME Songs by Sam Saunders Slide show by Steve Hein, Ghazal by John Connor, Talk by Bhau Arti & Supper.

SUNDAY 11th

9am Arti. 10-12noon Questions & Answer with Bhau.12-12.15 Silence. 12.30, Lunch. 2-4pm Individual entertainment. 4-5pm Private interviews. 5pm Arti 6pm Dinner with local family 7.30pm EVENING PROGRAM Ghazal by John Connor,Talk by Bhau Part 2 of Irwin Luck Film(Fri part 1) Arti.

MONDAY 12th

9am Arti.9.30-12noon Reminiscences of Baba by those who met Him-Baba Square 12-12.15 Silence.12.30 Lunch (Picnic) 2pm Lowering of Flag, Arti & goodbyes. Bhau returns to Brisbane.

BHAU KALCHURI: Brisbane.

SATURDAY JUNE 3rd

Arrives, met by Milnes.
Lunch-BYO for potluck greeting lunch.
Afternoon-. Dinner at Milnes- small gathering of local Baba lovers.
Short talk by Bhau. Early finish.

SUNDAY JUNE 4th

A.M.Private Interviews with Bhau. Lunch at Milnes. Afternoon-Tea & Talk for new Baba Lovers. Dinner Wakefields. Evening-meeting at LePages home, all welcome.

MONDAY JUNE 5th

A.M. Private Interviews
Lunch & Tea-meeting with women's group
Afternoon 6pm to Lindsays for dinner and small meeting.

TUESDAY 6th

Arrival at Avatar's Abode.

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BHAU KALCHURI SYDNEY ITINERY

FRIDAY MAY 6th

Arrival, met by Borthwicks.
Transfer to Melbourne.

TUESDAY MAY 30th

Arrival from Melbourne. Staying at Borthwicks
Afternoon rest. Dinner and small gathering at Borthwicks.

WEDNESDAY MAY 31st

A.M. Private interviews at Bothwicks
Lunch & afternoon tea at Meher House
Evening Meher House meeting for all.

THURSDAY JUNE 1st

A.M. Private Interviews at Borthwicks
Afternoon & Evening, meeting at San Roque's

FRIDAY JUNE 2nd

A.M.Private Interviews at Borthwicks.
Lunch at Migdoll's
Afternoon, Dinner, Borthwicks.
Evening-Public Meeting, Film, Talk by Bhau
Encore Theatre, Devonshire St.Surrey Hills

SATURDAY JUNE 3rd

Bhau leaves for Brisbane.

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BHAU IN MELBOURNE Friday May 26th

Arrival rest for afternoon.
Evening small group for dinner at Smiths
SATURDAY MAY 27th through to

Tuesday May 30th contact Paul Smith for details.

THE EAST WEST GATHERING, GURUPRASAD, POONA

(an account from my notes taken at the occasion)

cont. from M.B.A. April '89 issue

by Anthony Thorpe

5th November 1962 - Morning Session with the Westerners

As mentioned, Eruch began by telling us that last night at the Poona Public Darshan many Easterners had to be turned away and that because of this Beloved Baba went out in the evening by car to continue His darshan giving to those in the streets. Many were surprised to see Baba on the roadside and many received His darshan.

Such is the love of the Lord of love, that despite His own physical exhaustion and suffering, after a strenuous day, He would go out onto the streets that evening to continue the silent outpouring of love that is Baba - quenching disappointed hearts that had been turned away!

What an example of Mastery in Servitude!

Eruch interpreting Baba's gestures said "Baba wants to tell you all that tomorrow is the trip to Meherabad, where Baba will rest after dropping His body. At the moment, he continued it is like a desert, but in a hundred years it will be a place of pilgrimage with many buildings.

Four group heads from Baba's Iran Centre came in and received his embraces. They describe their work in Persia, at Tehran & Shiraz. Eruch explains that these men are asking for a Baba film. 'It is very difficult' he says for Moslems to accept the God-Man. In India it is different because the God-Man is acceptable in Indian spiritual tradition. Baba, at one point explains that Infinite Knowledge makes God omnipotent.

There follow some amusing skits presented by American lovers into which Baba joined with great enthusiasm. He was asked 'forgive us O Lord our little jokes on thee, and we will forgive you one big joke on we!' Baba is examined by one dressed as a doctor, stethoscope round neck, who amongst other things diagnoses: temperature - very high bliss; an enlargement of the heart, etc.

As a final test Baba was asked to open his mouth and say 'om', to which Baba declined with a 'serious twinkle'.

The prescription to cure these 'ailments' included two pounds of grapes three times per day, 2 cc of urge, and a glass of milk.

A scene followed in which a hillside pasture was described where performers dressed as a cow, Lord Krishna, and a gentle maiden gave an amusing skit. All, including Baba applauded the performances.

'The moral of our story' is announced 'that it depends on the Avatar's whim and only He has love enough for all.'

Some players enter at 9.30, one is in charge of the music section of all India radio. As this is the last morning with Baba, he asks the musicians to give us westerners a special farewell piece. We are told the gist of it - 'it depicts the anguish of a bride leaving the home of her parents and going to the bridegroom'. Baba beats time with his fingers, he signs that tears are flowing, and looks so sad, eyebrows raised. He smiles that beaming glance around the room, head swaying to this sad music. 'Tears' he signs to someone again, it is very poignant. Baba is wearing his favourite pink coat and white sadra.

The music is very moving; the tabla player beats a little rhythm, which gradually increases in pace. Baba's fingers are drumming out the rhythm too! The tabla players eyes are transfixed in total concentration upon the sitar player. Music, instruments and players in an absolute momentary unity in the presence of The One Himself, what a precious time this is with our Beloved!. When it is all over Baba endorses the moment with his sign for perfection!

Now the tabla player gives a solo performance with accompaniment, his fingers flying with incredible dexterity over the taut surface, like lightning they glide across the tabla. My mother, Hilda comes across & sits on the chair in front of me. Baba is beating time with both hands, one on the cushion, the other on his knee, the atmosphere is charged with presence. It is intensely moving, beyond description, to be witnessing and experiencing such a sublime moment in eternity with Beloved Baba. When the climax was reached and it was all over the applause bursts like a whip crack across the assembly, so enraptured have all been. Baba asked the player whether his hands ached. 'No' says the tabla player who had been singing the notations before playing them.

We now all go outside to have a movie made with Baba, whose brother Behram takes it. Mum & I are fortunate to be standing right behind him.

Back to the large room where we have spent these precious times. Final embraces which will be savoured, fructifying His love-burst within each heart. When these embraces are over Beloved Baba sadly rises to walk slowly out of the room, and into our hearts forever....it is 11.35 am.

Unbeknown, the Australasian group, together with Irwin & Edward Luck were to be called into Baba's presence again at 4pm on 7th. November. Baba told us emphatically - "I AM GOD IN HUMAN FORM, THE WORLD WILL COME TO KNOW OF THIS".

He said pointing to Himself and then describing a circle over His head. When talking about saints and false worship His last words were "when I break my silence all this, all hypocrisy will be wiped away - TRUTH WILL PREVAIL".

LETTER TO ALL BRISBANE BABA LOVERS:

Bhau Kalchuri - in Brisbane

Please make a note of the programmes to which all are invited to attend. These are:

SATURDAY: Bring-a-plate luncheon and greeting at Peter and Kathryn
JUNE 3RD Milne's home - 96 Sackville Street, Greenslopes - 12.00PM -
2.00PM followed by tea at 3.00PM.

SUNDAY: Evening meeting starting at 7.30PM at Bill and Dianna
Le Page's house.

MONDAY: Women's meeting and lunch with Bhau - 11.00AM - 2.30PM
at Milne's - bring a plate.

In addition Bhau would be happy to give private interviews to Baba lovers between 9.00AM and 11AM Sunday and Monday in the Milne's home. If you would like to meet with Bhau in this way please contact Peter Milne by phone at work on 8441468 or at home on 3971852. Any other queries may also be directed to Peter Milne.

MESSAGE

In addition on Sunday Afternoon there is a meeting for NEW Baba Lovers or those family, friends or acquaintances who would like to know something of Baba. As space is limited & this meeting is specifically for those who know nothing of Baba please contact Diana or Bill LePage who are hosting this gathering, if you wish to invite someone to this session with Bhau or if you wish to attend.

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

BHAU'S VISIT TO MELBOURNE

Arrive Fri. 26th May 1989

(rest from flight)

Sat. 27th May 9am-1pm private interviews at 5 Cygnet Crt, Eltham.

ph. 4399037

3 pm onwards - Party/Meeting of Melb. Baba lovers. Poems/talks/films - please bring plate at 5 Cygnet Court.

Sun. 28th May 9am-12 noon private interviews (Eltham) please ring 4399037.

2pm-5pm Film 'Meher Baba, Avatar of the Age' & public talk by Bhau at Grierson Cinema, 17 St. Andrews Place (off Macarthur St) East Melbourne (behind State offices). Contact 4399037 about private interviews & above meetings & films.

BHAU'S VISIT TO SYDNEY

Everybody in Sydney, by now, should have received a separate mail out regarding Bhau's itinerary during his visit in June.

If you have not received a copy please call John Borthwick on 519 4209 or Craig or Georgina San Roque on 957 2284.

AVATAR'S ABODE

Sunday June 4th - Pre Anniversary activities meeting & clean up day.

11am Activities group meeting

12 noon Picnic lunch

1 pm clean up of Baba house & grounds in preparation for next weeks Anniversary.

As with previous years quite a few people will be needed - so please come along and help.

SYDNEY

Dhuni Practice

Saturday 13th May, 8pm-10pm at

26 Larkin St, Waverton, ph:

957.2284

Master's Prayer followed by songs, Baba stories, tea.

MEHER BABA AUSTRALIA

P.O. Box 110, Annandale, NSW 2038

Editor: Wendy Borthwick

Treasurer: Leigh Rowan

Layout: Ros Hayes

Typing: Di Symons

Cover: Tony Zois

AVATAR'S ABODE ANNIVERSARY

Any single people requiring shared accommodation during this years Anniversary, or anyone else with accommodation enquiries should contact John or Jeanette Issacs-Young on 071 422118.

Anyone travelling to this years Anniversary by public transport will be picked up from airport etc. and taken to their accommodation. Please contact Sim Symons with your travel arrangements when they are completed. Sim can be contacted c/- P.O. Box 261, Nambour. 4560 or ph. 071 421497

A REMINDER

Visitors wishing to stay at Avatar's Abode in the Pigrims Quarters must make prior arrangements with Ros Hayes (ph. 071 421511) well before the times they would like to stay.

Those pilgrims coming by car and others who can do so are requested to bring their own linen (towels & sheets).



Poems from Old Sydney Town

A yogi came to my house
To pass the time of day
He made it shower meat-balls
And charmed the gnats away

I said 'I have Sanskaras here
That really make me blue'
At which he flapped his yellow robes
And disappeared from view.

Terry Moesker

BHAU KALCHURI

one of the Mandali of
AVATAR MEHER BABA

will be guest of honour at the
31st ANNIVERSARY of BABA'S VISIT
to AVATAR'S ABODE

9th - 12th June 1989



BHAU LIVED AS A CLOSE DISCIPLE OF MEHER BABA FOR
MANY YEARS, AND UNTIL BABA DROPPED HIS BODY IN 1969
WAS HIS NIGHTWATCHMAN. BHAU HAS WRITTEN MANY BOOKS
AND POEMS FOR AND ABOUT BABA AND WILL BRING HIS
WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE OF BABA TO US THIS ANNIVERSARY.

IN A RECENT CORRESPONDENCE BHAU HAS STATED, "THIS
WILL BE THE FIRST AND LAST TIME I WILL VISIT AVATAR'S
ABODE" AND URGES "... IT WILL BE NICE IF ALL BABA LOVERS
GATHER AT AVATAR'S ABODE SO THAT I MIGHT DEVOTE MORE
TIME WITH THEM".

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE MISSED BY
BABA LOVERS - NOT ONLY TO MEET AND HEAR
BHAU BUT TO EXPERIENCE THE UNIQUE QUALITY
OF AVATAR'S ABODE DURING THE ANNIVERSARY OF
BELOVED BABA'S VISIT.

Please Note!

Accommodation is available at

- (***) Forest Glen Resort Caravan Park (071) 45 3185
- (***) Woombye Motor Inn (071) 42 1666
- (**) Midway Nambour Motel (071) 41 2322
- (*) Woombye Gardens Caravan Park (071) 42 1621
- (*) Nambour Caravan Park (071) 42 1153