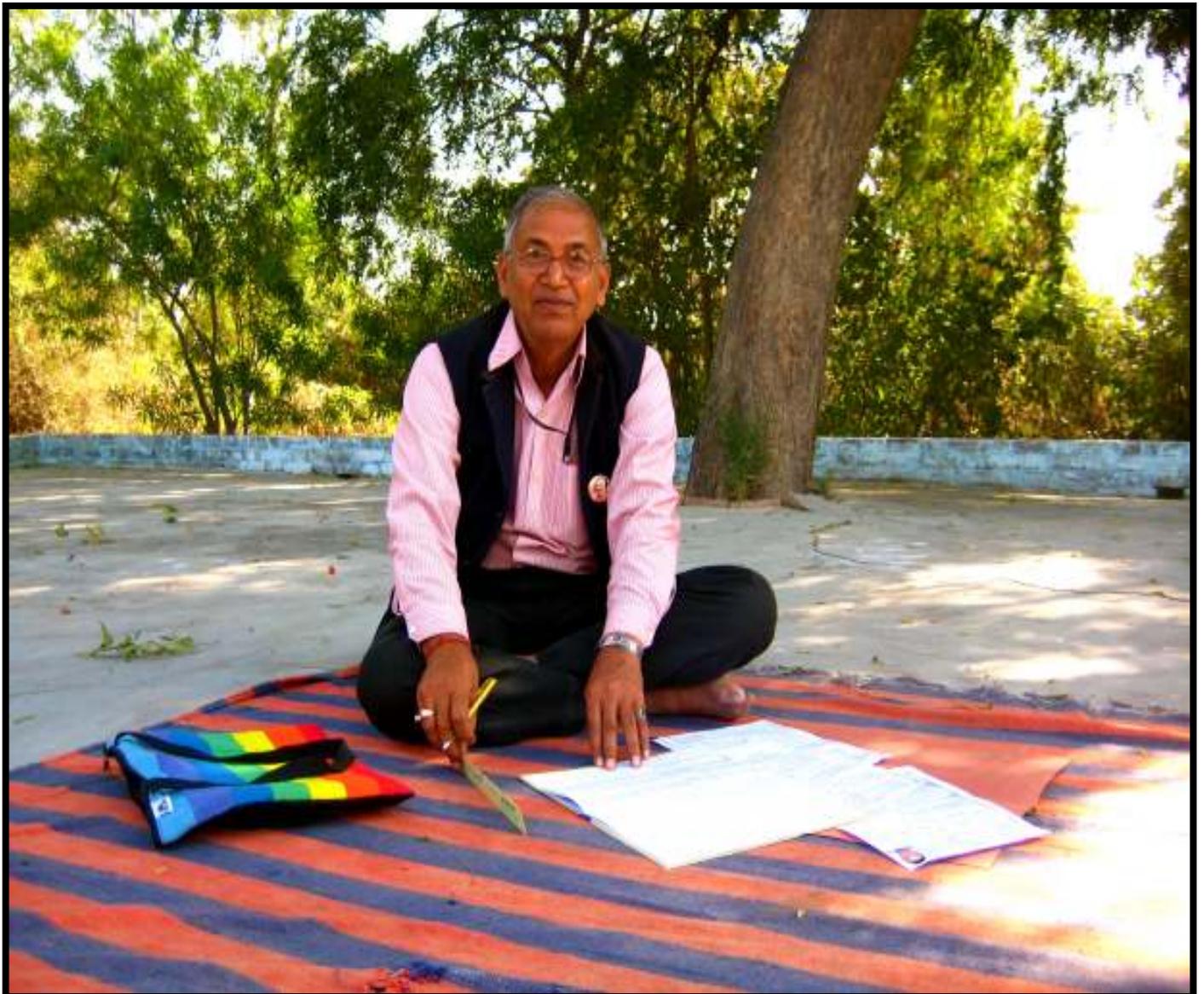


HISTROY OF MEHERASTANA (MAHEWA) Hamirpur U.P.

Hamirpur district is an excellent place of Baba-world. There are different types of specialities in the important centers of this district in which Baba has performed this divine work. Baba has performed the most important divine work in Meher-Astana after declaring himself as AVATAR of the age. So, the entire description of this place is being furnished in this article regarding Baba world.



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RESIDENCE OF GHOST

There is a hut which is called MEHERASTANA. It is situated at village Mahewa, in the district Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh, in India. The small area in which it has been built is famous by the name of 'Old Mahewa'. It is said that centuries ago Mahewa village was situated in this area but in the unknown hoary past it was shifted about 1 km. East and it was turned into a small present township and the old Mahewa was changed into a dense forest. In old Mahewa there grew huge trees, bushes, and many types of wild vegetation.

In that area of small hut was erected on a raised mound which is a form of a demolished palace of olden times. In this raised mound the debris of palace are present in the shape of bricks and stones. There is a well also which is filled with rubbish now. There are wild bushes and all around the raised mound and also on its top, there lived boars, wild foxes, wolves and also said that there lived two ghosts. So, people were afraid of going to that place during day time also. Hence for centuries this place was deemed the dwelling place of ghosts and wild animals.

AVATAR'S ABODE

Circle of time changed. The fortune of that raised mound dawned in November 1952 when a hut was erected on that mound for the stay of the avatar of this age, Avatar Meher Baba. Now the question arises before us why and how that hut was made Avatar Meher Baba? The divine work of Avatar Meher Baba had been going on for the last many years and He was creating his own lovers and workers dedicated to that work.

After finishing his work of 'old life' and 'new life'. He started his 'real life' along with his lovers on 12.02.1952 and he dedicated to express his 'Fiery free life' with his lovers from 15.11.1952. For that he came out of his seclusion and made programmes to give open Darshan and love to his lovers on different places.

In Hamirpur district from 18th November 1952, he started to sow the seed of love by giving his open Darshan on different places. During the time of Darshan Avatar Meher Baba issued following instructions about his stay:

1. Baba's dwelling place should neither be near the population nor too far away from it.
2. Baba's Mandali should be kept at such a place which should neither be too far nor too near.
3. After Darshan programme one should neither go to approach Baba nor should go for his Darshan.
4. Lovers should not touch Baba's feet.

Keeping in view these orders, the lovers began to make arrangements. Where Darshan programme of Baba was settled all the arrangements were made according to these instructions. Only the village Mahewa was of this kind where there was no proper place for the stay of Baba and his Mandali. Hence there was no other alternative but to build a dwelling place of BABA. Under such circumstances all the Lovers of village Mahewa suggested that the proper dwelling place of BABA should be made outside the village in the shape of a hut made of clay. For that they searched many places outside the village and in the all of them

agreed to the suggestion of Shri Keshava Narayan Nigam, the chief worker of BABA, that a hut should be build on that rised mount. The bushes and Trees were cut of and the place was cleaned for the construction, from 11th November, 1952 to 21st November, 1952, BABA's lovers erected a hut there. The hut which was surrounded by dense vegetation was named **MEHERASTANA**. Everywhere all around the rised mount there was such a dense vegetation that from the surface of the ground nobody could see BABA while standing in the courtyard of the mount. This hut is situated at a distance of 01 Kms. from Mahewa village. For the stay of the Mandali a tent was erected in the way between the village and the hut.

This Meherastana hut has been made of clay walls with clay tiles. It is about 12 feet length, 6 feet wide and 7 feet high. Infront of the hut BABA lover's kept a small place where they planted some flourishing Genda plants. The outer and inside walls of the hut were white washed. In order to ascend the mound they constructed steps from the North side and thus approach road was made through the bushes to reach the scared hut. In this way centuries old ghost dwelling was changed into the Avatar's dwelling within 08 days.

ADVENT OF AVATAR IN HAMIRPUR DISTRICT

According to the pre-planned programme Avatar Meher Baba, in the morning on 18th November, 1952, reached Hamirpur from kanpur Railway station. With him there were 25 persons of the mandali and old Baba- Lovers. The workers of Hamirpur welcomed him at the Kanpur Railway station and brought him to Hamirpur by a motor-car. On the same day i.e. in midnight of 17.11.1952 and 18.11.1952 people heard sound of the conch and a fascinating fragrance of Dhoop which pervated entire atmosphere of Meher-Astana. a young Man named Bhavani Din Yadav who was looking after his millet field at a short distance. heard the sound of conch and felt the pious fragrance. Out of curiosity he went on the top of the mound to see who played the conch and lighted Dhoop at night but neither he could find anyone there and nor could he see any sign of worship. Then he enquired of the persons who had built the cottage, about that strange event. They told him that they had not deputed anybody to stay there. They believed that divine souls were welcoming Meher-Astana were Avatar of the almighty had to stay.

After giving Darshan in Hamirpur town on November, 18 and 19, 1992 and on November 20 in the villages of Bhauruwa sumerpur and Ingohta Avatar Meher Baba reached Maudaha town ship on 21 November, 1992 for the same purpose. According to the preplanned programme Baba had to give His Darshan at National Inter College, Rahmania Inter College and Halim Muslim Orphanage Maudaha. After the programme of National Inter College Baba reached Halim Muslim Orphanage where an astonishing event happened which shook the heart of those who were accompanying Baba.

While Baba was giving His Darshan at National Inter College that manager of the Rehmania Inter College and Halim muslim Orphanage requested Baba to give His public Darshans also at Rehmania Inter College Halim Muslim Orphanage. Baba accepted his request with a condition that before giving Darshan at these 2 places he would washed the feets of some Boys and after

bowing down His head to there feet he would pay every boy some Love-gift. The manager, Maulana Salim Zafri acceded to the condition proposed by Baba and Baba first reached Halim Muslim Orphanage. The required number of boys was summoned and they were asked to stand in a line . Avatar Meher Baba came forward and washed the feet of boy who were standing in the front of the line. After rubbing his feet with towel as soon as Baba bowed His head, the boy immediately shifted backward and Baba's homage proved futile. At this Baba became serious and after paying Dakshina to the boy, he went from there concluding His programme. Seeing this all the persons were puzzled. Maulana Salim said, that he would make other boys stand according to his bet, but Baba did not hear anybody's request. Baba said, "My heart was become cold. This head does not bow easily to everybody."

His Lovers surrounded him. He, sitting aside the crowd, went to the car and left Maudaha. He ordered the driver to stop the car and started saying there, "My heart has become cold. It has happened for the first time in my life. I am feeling that, I should go back cancelling My further programme". Perceiving His mood and hearing about the cancellation of His programme, Baba-Lovers and workers became every sad and began to shed tears. Being pained He went from that place and after covering seven or eight miles He ordered to stop the car. Baba came out of the car and sat under tamarind tree near the road. Again He started the same talk and told about His cold heart and going back from there. At this lovers, who were accompanying Him, again became confused and broke tears. Then Baba said, "Well, there is a way to solve this problem before giving Darshan at the next place (Meher Astana), I shall wash the feet of fourteen boys aged fourteen and shall pay Rs. 14/- as Dakshina to each of the boys. If you can do this, I shall give Darshan otherwise I shall go back after canceling the whole programme". Hearing this, people became very glad and they said, that they would act according to His desire.

This was the background of Avatar Meher baba to give his Darshan at Meher Astana Mahewa. Now the caravan of Meher Baba filled with great delight and hope proceeded towards Meher Astana Mahewa. After crossing about to 20 miles he inhabitants of Mahewa village welcomed them on the turning of kachha approach road. A big card board was tied with piece of bamboo on the turning of the road and the following language was pointed on it in block big letters :-

"kga"kkqs vkye iukqs tekuk]
(Shahanshahe Alam panahe jamana)
b/kj ckck esgsjth rsjk vkLrkukA
(idhar BABA Meher ji tera Astana)

After moving to a short distance from the turning point there was standing some more lovers to welcome Lord Meher. At a distance of 02 furlongs ahead a new canal was being dug but without a bridge. So the villagers filled up the canal with clay so that Baba's car could pass but unknowingly they had not made the clay heard. Hence BABA's car slipped and rolled at the left side. The driver became frightened was in a fix to know that car was rolling down. Just the

same moment Baba put his hand on his back and the car passed easily over that canal. In this way Baba avoided the car accident.

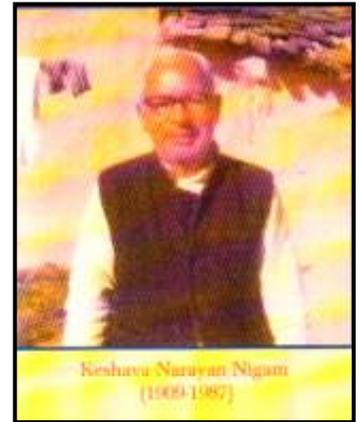
On this spot some more lovers had assembled to welcome Baba and to improve the clay road. Amongst them there as a boy named Munnilal Dwivedi, who had come for having a glimpse of Baba from his village chhikahara, P.O. chhikahara (Mahoba) Distt. Hamirpur (Now Mahoba). Baba called that boy and ordered that the bou should be included amongst fourteen days and should be kept along with the Mandali. Baba reached Meher Astana before sun-set and ascending the steps reached the hut. The most fortunate Meher Astana hut was standing there to give shelter to the Lord of universe Meher Baba. At that time there was a divine light all over pervading the atmosphere. Baba was pleased looking at the newly built cottage. He embraced his chief worker and called his Mandali immediately. After getting his order people of the Mandali came running. Baba asked each of them how the hut was. At this everybody replied that it was very nice. Baba repeatedly asked who used to stay there and since what time? They replied that in the olden times ghosts and wild animals used to dwell them. Hearing this all were astonished.

Baba lovers made house to house search for boys and they were able to find thirteen boys till morning and along with Munnilal they were taught that Baba would wash their feet and after bowing his head on their feet they would be paid Rs. 14/- as Dakshina. They were instructed to stand attentively there and not to move here and there. They were given sufficient rehearsals. On 22nd November at 08:00 AM they boys were presented before Baba in the courtyard of Maher Astana. Baba washed there feet, bowed his head on there feet and gave Rs. 14/- to every boy. That action was performed successfully. Baba was very much delighted at the success. Than he went to the spot of Darshan and distributed Prasad to the persons who assembled there. In the afternoon from 2 'O' clock again he gave Darshan. Before Darshan following letter of welcome address was presented to Baba buy the chief worker on behalf of the entire cosmic Meher family.

Accepting the welcome address Meher Baba asked the chief worker seriously, "This has been written by you?" The chief worker replied, yes Baba. Baba again put the same question and he received the same reply. On 23rd November, 1952 in the morning, Meher Baba ordered that the on the very date in the courtyard of Meherastana a programme would be organized amongst Mandali, the lovers of district Hamirpur and village Mahewa. Accordingly, at the beginning of the programme Baba asked the persons who had assembled there, "Tell me today what do you consider Me? Tell me honestly whatever you think about me good or bad. If you take me to be a bad man then don't hesitate to express your feelings faithfully. I shall not to be angry. Tell me honestly." Then Baba starts asking every person turn by turn. Many persons replied that they considered Baba as God-Incarnate. At this Baba explained, "This is true but it is your faith. Although a man becomes like Me can understand My real form." A lover who was asked the same question replied, "Baba, I want you to take you as Avatar but my heart does not accept." Then Baba asked him, "What is in your heart does not accept." He replied, "Whatever you may be, but there is nobody

greater than you at present in the world”. Baba said, “Just you accept Me and whenever you will be happen to find a greater existence other than Myself then accept him.”

Now it was the time of taking food so Baba told the lovers to make haste and he was giving two or four minutes to every person. During this Baba’s chief worker was thinking, “What I shall say to Baba and at that time many lovers were anxiously standing for Baba’s question and his chief worker was thinking that his town would never come before the completion of the programme.” At that very moment leaving aside the rest of the persons Baba asked, “What do you think about myself?” In reply to Baba’s question the chief worker recited Meher chalisa which he had composed.



After hearing the Meher chalisa, Baba became over influenced. He asked the worker twice, “Has this been written by you? It touches my heart.” The worker replied yes Baba, it has been written only by you. The whole environment became serious and some people weft loudly. Amongst them there were two keeping adolescent girls who had arrived from Pulgaon (Maharashtra) to participate in the construction work of Meherastana. They had come to Maudaha village two weeks ago. They were the members of the first cosmic Meher family of Rewa (Madhya Pradesh) which was founded by the chief worker first at all. Baba took them in his Mandali and accompanied them to Delhi. Baba remarked that atmosphere has become very serious so there should be some fun and joke to remove the tense situation. Then same persons related some riddles which gave delight to everybody and the morning programme ended. In the afternoon from 2 ‘O’ clock Baba gave darshan again to the crowd which had gathered there. Prasad was distributed and darshan programme ended.

On 24th November 1952, Baba went to Mahoba after taking tea and breakfast in the morning. Before this departure from Meher-Astana, He ordered his chief worker, “Send the boy Munnilal to his home, my work towards him has been finished.” He ordered his chief worker about Meher-Astana that he should “Maintain it.”

RESTORATION OF LIFE TO MUKUND LAL

On his first visit to Meher-Astana Meher Baba revealed a second miraculous incident restoration of life to Mukund Lal Nigam. Mukund Lal was suffering from an acute skin disease for the last two or three years. The skin of this entire body had become thick and uneven and he always used to eject bad smell. People hated to him. He was given treatment from small hospitals to big hospitals but he was not cured and his condition determinate day by day and at last the doctors of famous hospital of Kanpur-Ursala Hospital refused for his further treatment. He became a skeleton and was not able to walk. At that condition he had a boil on the place surrounding his heart and it was sure that he would die if nay kind of operation would be performed upon him. Mother of Mukund was with him to nurse him.

The doctor requested his mother to sign on the acceptance from that she had no objection but seeing the last condition of Mukund Lal refused to give her signature Mukund lal signed himself saying that when that was no near then why not to face death after being operated then doctors removed the boil after operation they were surprise to see that Mukund lal regained consiousness. The mound was so big that it could fill up 16 yard cotton bandage during the Mukund lal continued to remember the name of Meher Baba when the mound of the boil was healed then the doctors released him from Ursala Hospital declaring that he would die within one or two months.

Mukund lal went to his home to die he desired to have Darshan of his only beloved Meher Baba before his demise. Meher Baba had called the meeting of his lovers at Meherabad, who wanted to participate in His, "Fiery free life on 8th and 9th November, 1952. In spite of having no money and being able to move Mukund lal went to Meherabad to take part in the meeting. Before the meeting Meher Baba asked the chief worker about Mukund's condition of health. After getting all information about him, asked the chief worker to tell Mukund that at the time of Darshan programme of Baba, Mukund lal should reach Mahewa village. He ordered the chief worker to remind Him of Mukund lal who should be present there and he should observe fast for 24 hours. Accordingly Baba reached Maheva village on 21st November 1952 on Baba's arrival to Meherastana, the chief worker reminded Him of Mukund Lal who was lying down on the steps of Meherastana after observing fast for 24 hours. Baba called him upstairs nand giving an apple to eat ordered that he should go for the following words, "By the blessings of Baba may cure me totally upto 15th april 1953" and saying this he ate apple after descending the steps of Meherastana.

On 24th November 1952 in the morning before departure Baba asked Mukund lal to stay at Meherastana and sweep the floor there. He started living there in order to obey Baba's orders. There was no improvement of his condition on 14th April 1953 and he slept at night of 14th April with same condition of health. On the morning of 15th April 1953 he was very much astonished to look at his body. He was completely cured and there was no symptom of his ailment. Remember that Baba had predicted that His, "Fiery free Life" would be at extreme apex on 15th April 1953. So 15th April 1953 was the important day. Hence in this was Mukund lal got new life at His beloved Meher Baba's residence Meherastana and got the duty to look after the same.

GLIMPSES OF BABA AT MEHERASTANA

People happened to see many miracles at Meher-Astana and many monks and sages were influenced. While coming there they used to receive supreme bliss and they used to proclaim Meher-Astana as an extra ordinary place. Meher Baba showed miracle in the beginning of 1954. He reached Hamirpur for the second time in February 1954 to give His public Darshan. At that time He had arrived to proclaim before hand that had reached to give public Darshan at the highest peak. His Darshan programme continued in Hamirpur district from 3rd February 1954 to 10th February 1954. He had the programme for

night rest at Meherastana on 9th February 1954 but without taking rest he made surprising programme of night vigil.

On 9th February 1954 when Baba reached Mahewa in the evening, then the crowd was standing on the road at a distance to have a glimpse of Baba as he had no Darshan programme there.

Seeing the awaiting crowd Baba asked the chief worker, "You were saying that there is no Darshan programme then why these people have assembled here." The worker replied, "Baba, these people knew that you would come here for night rest, so they came to have a glimpse of your appearance and they are standing at a distance." Hearing this Baba took pity on them and told that he would give Darshan. So he sat under the canopy and gave Darshan to the assembled crowd and bestowed love prasad to them. During Darshan he told the Assembled persons twice, "you are very fortunate, now my Darshan programme is going to end."

After Darshan he went to Meherastana where night vigil programme was scheduled.

He told his chief worker about that programme, "Keshava I shall not take food at night, I am not feeling hungry. I shall make night vigil programme so that you may be able to bring my Mandali men, lovers who have come from district centers and lovers of Mahewa village and the persons whom you consider to be fit. Don't allow women and children to come there. Arrange for night programme before feeding everybody at 9 'O' clock."

After issuing this order Baba reached the pandal and told the chief worker, "I shall take food, I am feeling hungry. I should get food within half hour." The worker made arrangements for Baba's accordingly.

AVATARIC DECLARATION IN MEHER-ASTANA

The night vigil programme started at Meher-Astana at 9 'O' clock (p.m.). The ancient one Meher Baba took his seat on the beautiful col which was kept attached to the Meher-Astana and his workers, Baba-lovers, who had come from Hamirpur district centers, His Mandali and Baba lovers from Mahewa village took their seat in the courtyard of the Meherastana. They sat on the raised mound and under the bushes and trees. The whole hill of Meherastana was shining by patromax and lantern light and all the persons were looking curiously with great affection towards the present lord in the human form. In this way, Darbar-Elahi at Meherastana continued from 9th February to 10th February 1954.

There were two musicians and a Kawwal party at this divine Darbar. There was a great musician named Nathopant Bhatt. All the people began to move with universal pleasure at the melodious devotional songs sung there in the presence of the real Almighty.

The atmosphere of bliss became high and high. Baba suddenly called His chief worker Keshava Narayan Nigam in the mid-night. He came to Him and stood with his hands folded. Baba addressing him said "You don't know that what a luck is being granted to you at this moment." Eruch Jessawala was interpreting Baba's versions. After expressing this Baba suddenly spelled the words on His Alphabet board at 12:50 A.M. – **"AVATAR MEHER BABA KI" and**

then He lifted His right hand pointing to say “JAI”. After declaration He issued the following small message. “At this time I am in an extremely happy mood. During my Avataric period I have given open declaration for the first time at this moment. I shall tell about the breaking of my silence and Manifestation in detail afterwards, now I am telling you in an extremely happy mood that I shall break my silence soon and shall take Avatar again after 700 Years of my dropping this body.”

After this historical declaration Avatar Meher Baba told every person who were present there to wash their feet and faces. He kept everybody standing at the courtyard of Meher Astana and He also stood there in their presence and made them recite “Parwardigar prayer and Repentance prayer.” Co-incidentally or according to divine plan, which was decided before, 10th February, 1954 was the 60th Birthday of baba according to Gujrati calendar.

So in the early morning at 04 ‘O’ clock all Baba lovers assembled before their beloved Lord, celebrated His 60th Birthday at Meher-Astana. At 04:30 AM belove Avatar Meher Baba embracing everybody ended Darba Ilahi.

ONE MORE RESTORATION OF LIFE

The on 10th February, 1954 at about ‘8’ in the morning Avatar Meher Baba was almost leaving Mehar-Astana, then an event happened.



The wife of the chief worker came running there and told that her younger sister Mrs. Lalit Kishori Devi Nigam, wife of Rajendra Pal Nigam was about to die. She wanted to convey this news to Baba. The chief worker scolded and told that after the completion of Darshan programme Baba does not meet anybody and does not give Darshan. At this she returned being

disappointed. But after sometime she came running to give this information that Lalit Kishore was breathing her last. She was suffering from Typhoid and double pneumonia and hearing about the visit of Baba she ran outside the room to see Him and fell on the threshold and fainted. Baba was ready standing there being ready to leave Meher-Astana. He asked he chief worker as what was the matter. In reply Baba learns about Lalit Kishori’s ailing condition and became prepared to go on her house. While sitting on the car He said to the chief worker how nice it would have been if she dies after getting My touch? The worker replied, “Baba, why don’t you bestow this fortune to her?” Because after receiving this touch she would reach His Abode. Baba became serious and did not utter anything. Baba reaching Lalit Kishori’s house went to her, where she had kept a photo of Baba and was seeing it without blinking her eye lids. As soon as she got the lovely touch of beloved Father, she regained her life. She told her in feeble voice. “Baba cure me, it is very painful.” Kind father had already restored her life by this touch.

After coming to the courtyard of the house avatar Meher Baba in order to save the people who had gathered there at the influence of miraculous power of

restoration of life declared. "There is ninety nine percent of hope that she will die." Then He instructed that Lalit Kishori's should pronounce His name by mouth and if she finds herself unable to utter by mouth the then she should remember His name in her heart till the last breath of her existence. He explained the Doctor Devendra Swaroop Nigam, who was treating her in details that she should be given to eat "Arrarote Kalaungi mixed with great quantity of sugar and whatever food on medicine she had to take should be taken after remembering His name."

The Doctors and other experienced Vaidyas were very much surprised at the divine order to give Arrarote Kalaungi mixed with great quantity of sugar as according to medical science it was sure death for the patient. Apart from this he had declared there was only 1% hope for her that fatal thing to eat. Dr. Devendra swaroop after taking Baba's name carried on to give her 'Arrarote Kalaungi', alongwith medicine and Lalit Kishori was totally cured by that.

Baba went back after restoring life to Lalit Kishori. While going back He stopped at Hamirpur for sometime and His Mandali took lunch. After lunch He proceeded to Lucknow. Another event happened at Kanpur between Hamirpur and Lucknow. Baba asked His chief worker, reaching Kanpur. "What is famous at Kanpur?" The worker replied 'Banarsi Barphi Bhandar' is famous at Kanpur and Sitaram Chaurasia is the owner of that shop. Baba ordered that His car should be made to stop near his shop. Accordingly His car was stopped at Meston road near Sitaram's shop. Baba ordered to go and tell Sitaram that Meher Baba was standing. The worker went to the Banarsi Burfi Bhandar. Sitaram was not present at his shop. A man who was sitting in the shop informed him that Sitaram had gone somewhere and he did not know when he would return. The worker conveyed that news to Baba. Sitaram's servant, knowing about Baba's advent, went with the worker and he saw Baba. Baba ordered the worker to purchase one sher Barfi sweets from Sitaram's shop. Barfi was purchased and Baba proceeded to Lucknow. While reaching Lucknow station Baba roamed for sometime. Afterwards the train which had to carry Baba, Baba arrived at the platform. Baba embraced his chief worker and patted his back and instructed him, that he should alight at Kanpur station and go direct to his home and should not meet Baba.