

BABA'S BIRTHDAY - 1954

Febr. 1954

Although Baba is just completing his 59th year, there is so much about him that is timeless, that it is difficult for us to think of him in terms of age. The Great Being behind that face and form we know and love so dearly is, we are sure, not measurable by the passage of time, but is as immortal as the Divine Love with which we identify him. In celebrating Baba's Birthday, therefore, we are really celebrating the return to Earth of Love Divine in the form of a man we can see, love and with whom we can communicate. A Being who has, ages since, completed the long evolutionary process of the Soul through numerous cycles of lives, from the original state of unconscious Divinity, to the final state of fully-realized God-hood. This is Baba, our Spiritual Master, Eternal Friend and Divine Beloved.

We have found in him the living Beauty of all our highest hopes, and we have experienced, through his Grace, a precious taste of the Divine Nectar which is, indeed, the true panacea for all the suffering, disillusionment and mayavic ignorance which, in one way or another, besets all humanity. And this Divine Nectar, ~~of which~~ ~~is~~ is the touch of the Master's Awakening Compassion which has, somehow, in mysterious ways known only to the Master, found us in our far corners of the Earth and aroused some measure of our slumbering consciousness from the darkened dreams of life, as seen through the distorted vision of our own selfhood.

Through Baba we have been touched by a Love too great for us to comprehend, much less, ever to have deserved. We have come to him in various ways; sometimes groping, often wondering, but always with faith and longing; and he has taken us into his Infinite Heart where we have found the secret Highway to God.

We have discovered that Baba works through the very fabric of our prosaic, everyday lives to reveal an ever greater measure of the Spiritual Splendour of his True Being and, through inwardly drawing closer to the Unveiled Reality we discern in him, we find that the Way has become clearer, easier and more sure; that the once remote possibility of actually experiencing God has now become a vibrant promise which, even in this lifetime, may be fulfilled.

As the Messianic-Avater of the Ages, Baba again comes forth to succor the great need of the immortal spirit of man. As such, he leads the way out of the labyrinthine maze of selfhood's false impressions, and declares in unequivocal terms the true nature of man and the Real Goal of Life.

"It is time", Baba says, "that man had a fresh vision of the Truth that all life is one, and that GOD IS THE ONLY THING WHICH IS REAL AND THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS." "God", he continues, "is worth living for; and He is also worth dying for; all else is an empty pursuit of illusory values."

Again quoting Baba, "Because in the beginning imagination gave a twist to Substance, and thus importance to Shadow, we, who are eternally Free, find ourselves bound, having lost our original Self in the maze of Illusion. Therefore, in spite of possessing Infinite Bliss, we have to experience misery, worries, doubts, failure and helplessness. When in a flash the Real Knowledge comes that we are not what we seem, but are the Infinite One, then all worries disappear, because in reality pleasure and misery do not exist. To get rid of this persistent ignorance and to know the true value of Reality, we have to experience God; and God who is the Breath and Life of our lives can only be experienced through honest love."

"We have to love Him silently and honestly even in our everyday life. Whilst eating, drinking, talking and doing all our duties, we can still love God continuously, without letting anyone know. When God is found you can have no idea what Infinite Bliss and Peace is gained. I give you all my love so that some day you can Love God as He ought to be loved."

Strange as it may seem to those who do not know, we have found that through loving Baba we are actually loving God; and that his Love leads us into the ~~inner~~ inner mystery of the Ocean of Divine Love that God really is. This is the Key to one of the most beautiful and overwhelming of all mystical experiences; for when we love, and inwardly keep company with the God-realized Master, we in turn become the recipients of his immeasurably greater Love; and this outpouring is more than the hard shelled ego can bear, so it begins to die. But that dying is actually the beginning of Life, for it is the beginning of the annihilation of the false by being in the conscious Presence of the Real.

"If you who keep company with me", Baba once said, "are sometimes attracted to worldly maya, do not get disappointed. I, too, was once like you, but the grace of Babajan descended upon me, and She, The Perfect Saint, presented me with the pearl of God-realization."

And the following lines have been quoted by Baba, as they explain so well the beautiful relationship between the sincere devotee and the Master :

"Constantly repeating Thy Name, I became one with Thee, nothing was left of me (self). How can I sing Thy praise, O Guru Mine ? Wherever I cast my eyes, I perceive Thee and nothing else."

With this as the pattern of our devotion, may our Birthday remembrance to Baba be a greater effort to understand the incomparable importance of his life as it touches ours; and let us, in all sincerity, have the courage and the humility to let go of every darkening shade of self-centered ignorance within ourselves; and truly, wholeheartedly undertake to tread the glorious Path to the Highest of the High.

Darwin Shaw