

Meher Baba

Merwan Sheriar Irani (1894–1969), who was known to his many followers around the world as **Meher Baba** (literally Compassionate Father), never sought the limelight. Most of his life was spent working with the sick, poor, and mentally imbalanced in India. However, his teachings and his service to humanity have attracted the attention of many Westerners since the 1930s. **Meher Baba** made three trips out of India in the 1930s and two trips in the 1950s. Although he gave discourses about spirituality and was always ready to answer questions from those who met him, he did not consider himself primarily a teacher. In what he called his Universal Message, **Meher Baba** declared: “I have come not to teach but to awaken.” Many of his teachings were about love. “I have come to sow the seed of love in your hearts so that, in spite of all superficial diversity which your life in illusion must experience and endure, the feeling of oneness, through love, is brought about amongst all the nations, creeds, sects and castes of the world.”

While in college at Deccan College in Poona, India, he experienced profound personal spiritual transformations. Instead of completing his studies, he began to teach the people who were drawn by his growing reputation as a sadguru (spiritual teacher). Several years after he began

teaching, **Meher Baba** declared that spoken words were not what people needed in order to understand how to live a spiritual life. As a result, he began to observe a vow of silence. When he began keeping silence, he indicated that he would not speak for a period of 1 year. However from July 10, 1925, when he began his silence, he did not utter a spoken word right up until his death in 1969. At first, **Meher Baba** communicated by means of written notes, and then began to spell out messages on an English alphabet board. On December 31, 1926, he wrote his last message, and in 1954, he stopped using the alphabet board entirely and relied on a unique system of hand gestures to communicate. Although he did not speak audible words, his followers felt that he communicated directly to their hearts. **Meher Baba's** real message was not given in words, but through an inner experience of love. **Meher Baba** said, “Things that are real are given and received in silence.... I am never silent. I speak eternally. The voice that is heard deep within the soul is my voice.”

Flick, Hugh M. "Meher Baba." Brief Excerpt. *Encyclopedia of Religious and Spiritual Development*. 2005. SAGE Publications. 2 Jul. 2011.

<<http://www.sage-ereference.com/view/religion/n153.xml>>.