

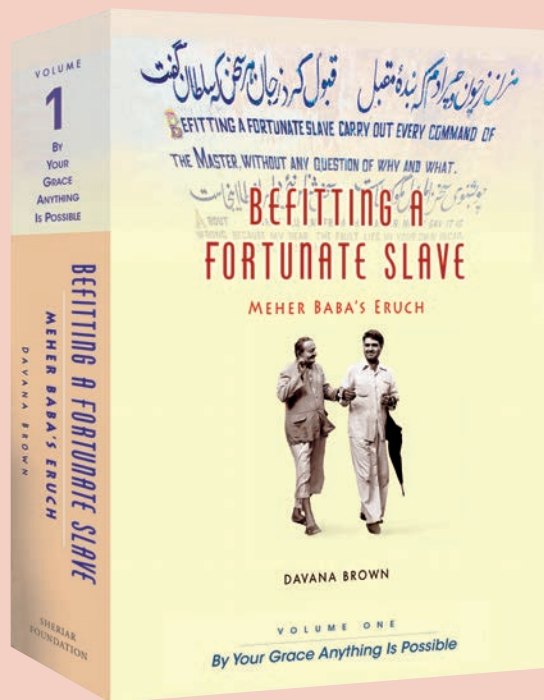


SHERIAR FOUNDATION

R E P O R T

FALL / 2024

BEFITTING A FORTUNATE SLAVE



Volume One
By Your Grace Anything is Possible

Sheriar Foundation is pleased to announce release of the first of the three-volume series, *Befitting a Fortunate Slave, Meher Baba's Eruch*.

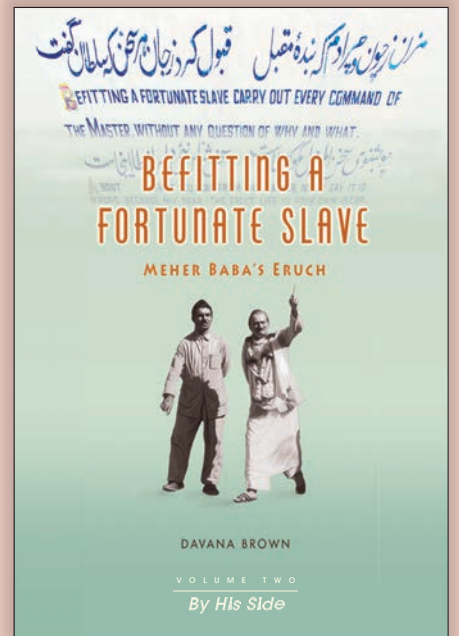
VOLUME ONE, *By Your Grace Anything is Possible*, covers the period in Eruch's life from his birth in 1916 up to the New Life in 1949. This 756-page hardcover edition includes more than ninety photographs.

Befitting a Fortunate Slave: Meher Baba's Eruch
Volume 1: By Your Grace Anything is Possible

Hardcover 756 pages \$75

VOLUME TWO, *By His Side*, reflects on the change in Eruch's life that began with the New Life. During this time, Baba no longer sent him back to the family to stay for long periods, calling him when needed. Eruch was now full time in the ashram. It begins with the New Life in 1949 and ends in 1956 with Baba's second accident. We will announce the release date as we get closer to it.

VOLUME THREE, *A Day Will Come*, begins in 1956, in the aftermath of the second accident, and ends with Baba dropping His body and Eruch's passing on August 31, 2001. The title of the last volume in this epic trilogy refers to Baba's promise to Eruch that "Just as today you pulled Me out of these filthy waters, a day will come when I will give you MY hand and pull you out of the filth of illusion."



Volume Two
By His Side

WHY THIS TITLE?

The three couplets quoted on the right, and from which the title of this book was chosen, have special relevance in the Baba world. On January 31, 1969, when Meher Baba was in the last few hours of His life, as He conversed and joked with those around Him, in between the agonizing spasms that racked His body, Aloba, one of the men mandali, entered His room carrying a large board upon which were printed these three couplets. In the intense atmosphere of Baba's suffering, Eruch could not understand what prompted Aloba to do this. Irritated, he blurted out, "Aloba, why are you bringing this board now, to clutter up the room? Is this the time for it?" But at his outburst, Baba gestured, "I ordered him to bring it. Now keep it there." Baba pointed to the southeast corner of His room. Eruch didn't say anything more, and the board

**Befitting a fortunate slave, carry out every command of the Master,
without any question of why and what.**

**About what you hear from the Master, never say it is wrong, because,
my dear, the fault lies in your own incapacity to understand Him.**

**I am the slave of the Master, who has released me from ignorance.
Whatever my Master does is of the highest benefit to all concerned.**

~ HAFIZ

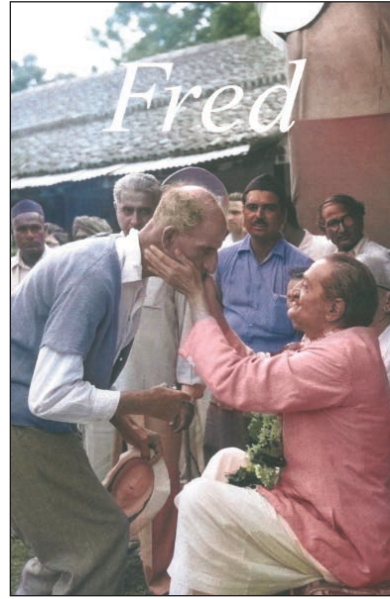
was forgotten in the shock of what happened next. . . .

But His mandali, numbed by the witnessing of what had seemed impossible to imagine—Baba passing away from their midst—found in these words His last message to them all. It was a solace as well as a reminder; guidance for what He continued to expect from each of them. The board is still in His room at Meherazad, the only change being it has been framed to keep it intact for

posterity. For many years this book had no working title; nothing seemed appropriate. Nothing seemed right. Then early one morning as I was dusting the photographs in Baba's room and standing before the framed Hafiz couplets, it suddenly struck me: Eruch lived and died that life—befitting a fortunate slave.

From *Befitting a Fortunate Slave*, "OVERTURE: Why this Title?"

Bookstore Talk about Fred Marks



Just before Thanksgiving, Sue Chapman gave a warm and enlightening talk at Sheriar Books about her newly written book *Fred*, a biography of Fred Marks. Who was Fred Marks? Many Baba followers know little more than a few facts about him: that he was English, that he attended the Three Incredible Weeks. So, when we heard that a whole biography was written about him and his relationship with Baba, we were thrilled! Thank you for writing it, Sue Chapman, for all of us. And thank you for a beautiful event filled with His love.

NEW FILM FOOTAGE OF MEHER BABA DISCOVERED



Meher Baba in the Samadhi

A five and a half minute, original 16-mm film of Meher Baba was discovered in Myrtle Beach this year. The film shows Baba in the Samadhi after He dropped His physical form. It is similar to footage in the Entombment film by Don Stevens, however, Baba is seen from a different angle. This footage has been digitized and will be preserved in cold storage.

The film was hand-carried to Cambridge, Massachusetts, by a team of Baba lovers who lovingly cared for and delivered their precious cargo to the lab, keeping it cool and comfortable.

The image shown above was taken from this newly digitized film.

An announcement will be sent by Sheriar Foundation about how this footage, and others recently digitized, will be made available for viewing online.

PUBLICATIONS IN THE PIPELINE

The publishing schedule of Sheriar Foundation for the next few years has four major books in the pipeline. They are: Volumes Two and Three of *Befitting a Fortunate Slave: Meher Baba's Eruch*, and the two books highlighted below: *Doctor and Disciple: My Life with Meher Baba* by Goher R. Irani, and *Life's Surrender: Countess Nadine Tolstoy, Disciple of Avatar Meher Baba*. Each of these books will be major additions to the Baba literature for generations to come. Once we have a better sense of the publication dates for all of these books, we will let you know.

LIFE'S SURRENDER COUNTESS NADINE TOLSTOY, DISCIPLE OF AVATAR MEHER BABA BY CHARLES HAYNES AND CHRISTOPHER WILSON

Life's Surrender is the first comprehensive account of Countess Nadine Tolstoy's life and work as a disciple of the Avatar of the Age. Part One tells the story of Nadine's daily life with Meher Baba by drawing on her previously unpublished private papers, including correspondence with Baba, and notes she kept while living with Baba in India.

Part Two contains a selection of Nadine's articles that first appeared in the *Meher Gazette* (1937) and the *Meher Baba Journal* (December 1938 through October 1941).

Written while Nadine lived with Baba in India, these sources provide a firsthand account of Baba's work and activities at His Nasik and Meherabad ashrams.



Early photo of Nadine Tolstoy



Leo Tolstoy, 1890s

"Implicit in Nadine's account is the vision of her life as a fulfillment of Leo Tolstoy's inexorable spiritual search."

From the Introduction by the authors of *Life's Surrender*

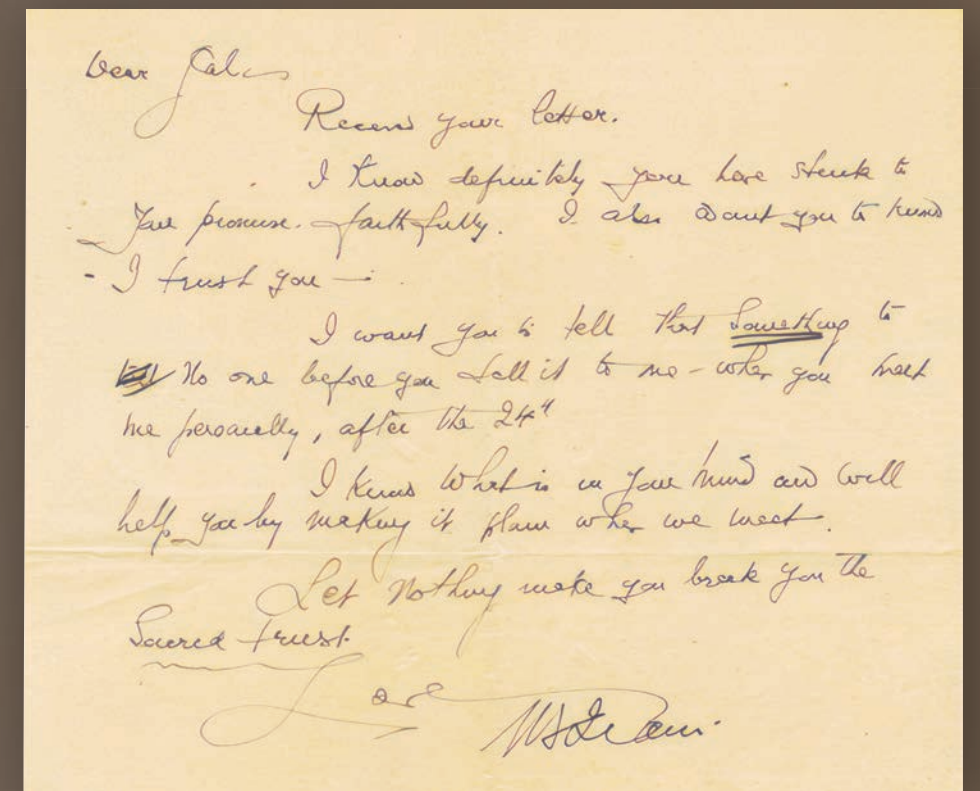
Doctor and Disciple: My Life With Meher Baba BY GOHER R. IRANI

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I had no idea. Although I lived with the mandali in Meherazad for thirty years, despite the fact that I had heard the stories of Baba's suffering over and over from the time I first learned of His name, I had no idea. Writing this book granted passage into the world of Baba's relentless suffering and the agony of Goher's inability to relieve His pain. This is their story—God Man and God's doctor.



Goher in the early years



Letter to Goher from Baba, 1938

The long-anticipated book about Dr. Goher, Baba's close mandali and doctor, *Doctor and Disciple: My Life with Meher Baba*, is in the design phase of production.

Shelly Marrich is the author of this stunning account of Goher's life with Baba. The first half is about Goher's

coming to Baba and her life with Him. The second half is about Baba's physical suffering.

It will include a treasure trove of photographs from Goher's early life with Baba in Quetta (Pakistan), through her final days caring for Him at the end of His life.

Supporting Our Book Publishing, Bookstore and More

AS WE REFLECT on the work that Sheriar Foundation has undertaken in the last year, we want to paint a bigger picture about how this work has been made possible from a practical point of view. Each of the major books that we've published has only been made possible by specific donations to help offset all the costs of publishing a book. Because we almost always print a very small quantity of each book, we cannot recoup expenses without a meaningful level of donations. The same principle applies to running and staffing a bookstore seven days a week. The bookstore operating costs require additional donations to even begin to approach covering all the costs.

In the last couple of years, the donations that we receive each year have been significantly increased in several unexpected and heartwarming ways. Sheriar Foundation has received a number of bequests that we did not know about in advance. This has been very encouraging and touching. It has felt like a way that people in the Baba family have chosen to recognize the unique role and value that Sheriar has played in the Baba publishing world for more than 50 years. If you would like to consider including Sheriar in your estate planning, we would be most appreciative. Please also remember to include the Meher Spiritual Center. Some of these bequests have simply

left different percentages to Sheriar and to the Center.

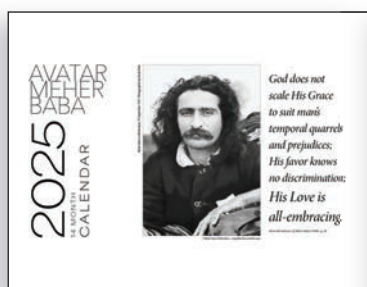
We have also received a number of very generous regular donations that have helped us remain more financially solid and have made us feel that Baba wants Sheriar's work to continue for many years to come.

As a reminder, please remember that all donations to Sheriar Foundation are tax-deductible and that we appreciate donations of every size. Many of you have made a habit of adding a donation to your online order and it means a lot to us to be remembered in this way by so many of you. There's also a Donate tab on the top of our website's homepage if you simply want to make an online donation.

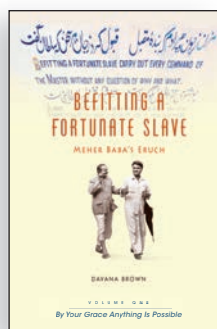
WHAT'S NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE

Avatar Meher Baba Calendar 2025

Another exquisite and informative calendar to relish month by month. Contains finely reproduced photographs of Meher Baba accompanied by thoughtfully chosen messages and events from Baba's life. It serves as a steady reminder of the Beloved all year long.



\$14



Befitting a Fortunate Slave: Meher Baba's Eruch, Volume 1.

Davana Brown

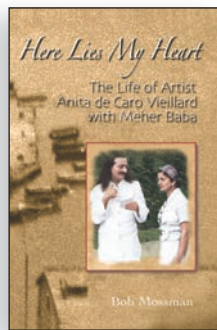
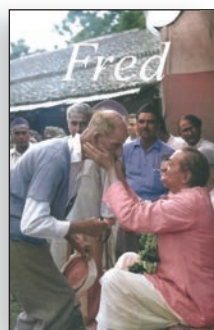
The first of three volumes, *By Your Grace Anything is Possible* is the intimate story of a disciple and his Master that offers a window into the day-to-day life lived in the presence of Perfection. It is a story about what it means to live one's life in surrender to God, which has meaning for anyone interested in trying to find God in their own life.

\$75

Fred: Meher Baba's "Grand Old Man of England"

Sue Chapman

Fred Marks was 35 years old when he answered God's call. He had encountered Avatar Meher Baba through London newspapers a few years earlier and recognized Him as the Christ come again to revivify mankind. Gradually Baba drew him into the path of His lovers, and seventeen years later Fred finally met his Beloved face to face.



Here Lies My Heart: The Life of Artist Anita de Caro Viellard with Meher Baba

Bob Mossman

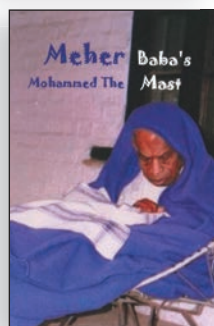
Created after four years of research and writing, this newest book from Bob Mossman highlights the 67-year love story and life of Manhattan-born artist Anita de Caro with Meher Baba.

\$35

Meher Baba's Mohammed the Mast

Compiled by Richard and Mayan Ward

According to Meher Baba, *masts* are God-intoxicated souls who have lost their way. Mohammed was one such *mast* that Baba worked with and who had the unique privilege to live with and around Baba at Meherabad until his passing in 2003. This beautiful little book is a collection of stories of pilgrim's interactions with Mohammed, giving us all a small glimpse of what it was like to be in the presence of one of Baba's *masts*.



Meher Baba's Bhau: Through the Prisms of our Personalities in this Lifetime

Compiled by Mayan & Richard Ward

Bhau Kalchuri was a close disciple of Meher Baba and author of *Lord Meher*, the epic twenty-volume biography of Meher Baba, as well as many other books. He traveled to the US and around the world regularly and touched the hearts of many.

This book is a small sampling of stories of Bhau told by some of those fortunate enough to know him.

\$10

\$10

SHERIAR FOUNDATION

was formed in 1989 as an independent, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

The purpose of the Foundation is to broaden awareness and deepen the appreciation of the spiritual values exemplified in the life and writings of Meher Baba.

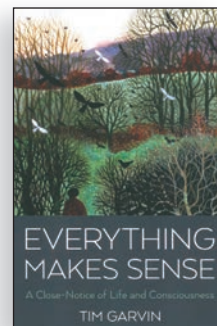
It's Always Now

Pam Rubenstein

Pam's newest CD is a delightful collection of 20 original songs—a sampler of diverse musical styles complemented by glorious vocal and harmonica harmonies.

Cliff Hackford, Mark Trichka, and Lisa Brande lovingly work their magic with mandolin, fiddle, and bass on many songs.

\$15



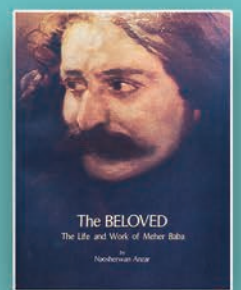
Everything Makes Sense: A Close-Notice of Life and Consciousness

Tim Garvin

Science and religion study the same phenomenon — the cosmos itself — but an impenetrable barrier seems to separate them. Author Tim Garvin removes that barrier and offers a resonant handshake. Instead of sitting across from each other in opposition, scientists and seekers can sit at a table made round by wonder.

\$24.95

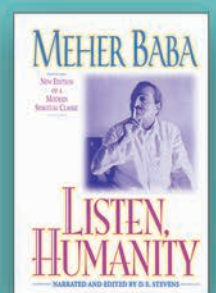
ON SALE



FOR THE



HOLIDAYS



\$10 EACH

SALE ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2024