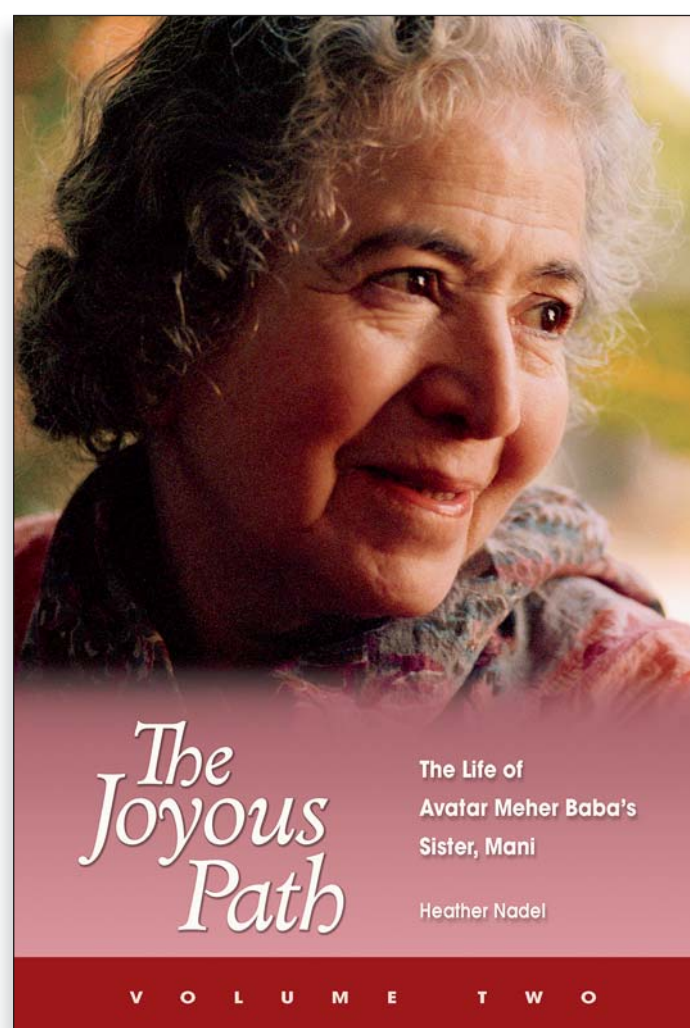
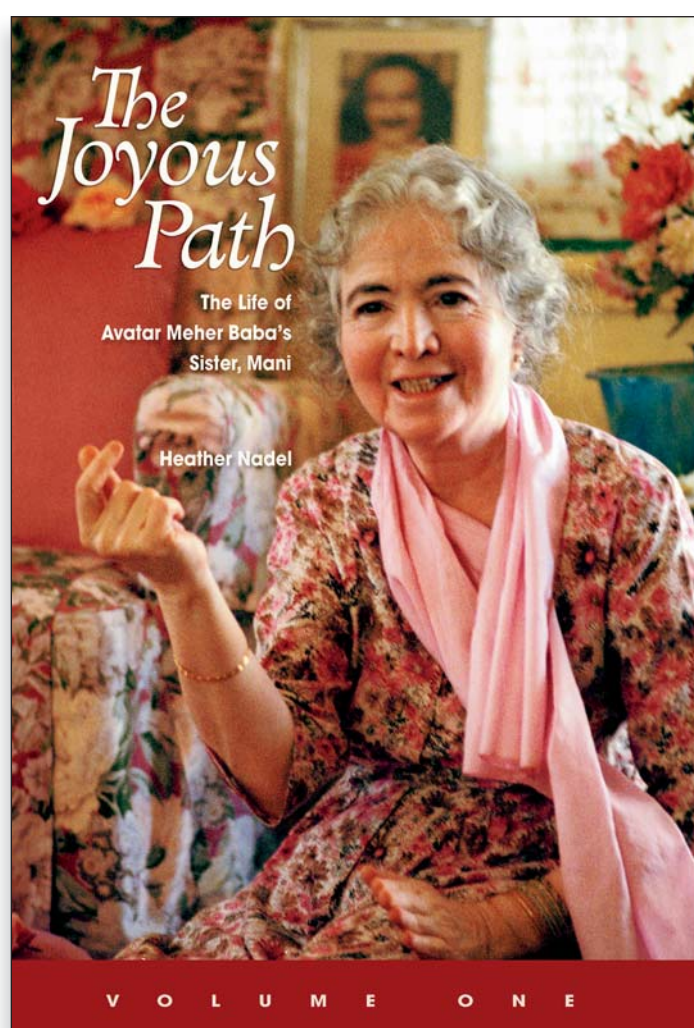


# The Joyous Path

## The Life of Avatar Meher Baba's Sister, Mani



Sheriar Foundation is delighted to announce that Heather Nadel's long-anticipated two-volume book, *The Joyous Path: The Life of Avatar Meher Baba's Sister, Mani* is now available. The manuscript, a labor of love, has been crafted over a period of sixteen years. The complex challenge of integrating the variety of visual and textual elements into a cohesive book began in January 2013.

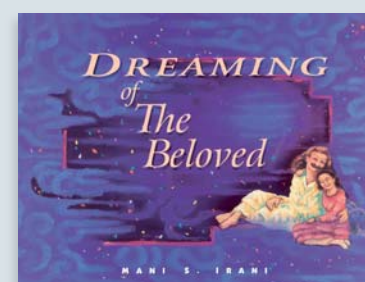
Drawing from her many years of working closely with Mani, as one of her personal assistants, Heather has created a deep, masterful portrait of

Mani's total, life-long devotion to her brother, the God-Man. The story takes shape from Mani's Blue Bus Tour and New Life diaries, from recordings of her talks in Mandali Hall, from her early letters, and from many other first-hand source materials.

This two-volume, 1,170-page, hardcover edition includes 400 photographs and images, many of which have not been available before.

*The Joyous Path* is available from Sheriar Books online ([sheriarbooks.org](http://sheriarbooks.org)) for \$95 plus shipping.

In celebration of the release of *The Joyous Path*, the beautifully illustrated book of Mani's dreams of Baba, *Dreaming of The Beloved*, will be on sale for \$10 until the end of the year.





THE JOYOUS PATH

# Mani's Story Unfolds with Narrative, Photographs, and Reproduction of Diaries

Sample pages from *The Joyous Path* show how the various phases of Mani's life with Baba have been woven into a cohesive story. The beautifully written narrative by Heather Nadel, interwoven with photographs—some quite rare—and reproductions from Mani's diaries, creates a vivid picture of Mani's life. The story begins with her early days with Baba in Part One, "God's Sister," which describes her life before joining Baba's ashram and living with Him. Part Two, "To Be With You Always," begins in November 1932, one month before her fourteenth birthday when she left her family and home to join Baba. This period includes her life with Baba on The Blue Bus Tours, her participation in The New Life, and her travels to the West—and concludes with The Great Darshan in 1969. Part Three, "Continuing On," poignantly describes the last twenty-seven years of her life after Baba dropped His body—what Mani called "Act Two" of Baba's Advent: the time when His mandali and those who had known Him in physical form lived on, sharing their memories.


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Himself. They could have brought fifty children and Baba would have given the same love to each one.

Telling this story, Mani would add, "So I tell the young ones who are coming now: Who knows? Some of you may be some of those babies that Baba handled with so much love."

Mani said that later when she was much better, Baba started coming to the hospital only once a day. But the nurses would still wait for the car both times, and when it wouldn't come they would say, "Your Baba didn't come today." Naja would reply, "No, His sister is much better now so Baba only comes in the afternoon." And their faces would fall. "Oh," they would say, "But we like Baba! We like that Baba comes every day."


"We have seen this silent romance again and again with people who did not know Baba," Mani said, "who are what we would call strangers to Him, recognising Him and being drawn to Him."



Mani at eighteen, humming on an "old woman" on the left and as a "stern mother" on the right. (Picture taken by Beharum in Bombay when she was there for a short time after her operation.)


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## THE BLUE BUS

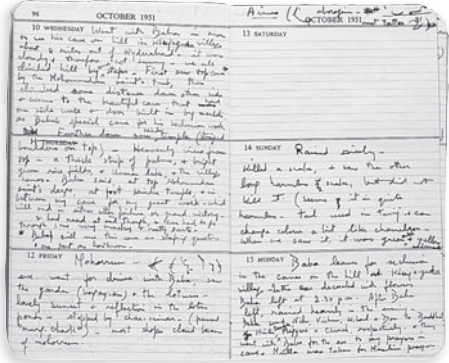


### WAR AND THE BUILD-UP TO THE SURPRISE

In September of 1938, just as everyone began to get used to the new life on Meherabad Hill, Baba began hinting at a surprise ahead. At the same time, He started speaking of war, the storm-cloud gathering over the world.



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Mani's New Life diary, recounting visits to Baba's cave near Hyderabad.

But soon after her surgery, she found herself longing to go back to Baba. So she left early:

25. Came home –


She would always remember how touched she was to see Baba and Mehera standing on the front steps of the house to welcome her home, with a special get-well present of a portable radio. Mani said that Baba was very pleased that she had eschewed extra days of hospital rest to come home to Him early. On August 27 she wrote:

27. Baba has surprises – One of them is radio – helped lot during convalescent period.

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The Hall began as a roomy garage for Elizabeth's car and then became a stable for the horse Sheba. In the later years it was, as Mani described it in the Family Letters, "a 'sitting room,' with a tin roof and crude flooring, unfurnished except for a chair for Baba and a bench and strip of carpet for the mandali to sit on, where Baba spends most of the mornings and afternoons with them." Almost all the small darshans and singing programs that Baba allowed at Meherazad in these years were held in the Hall.

Baba would eat lunch back in the house around 11:00 or 11:30 a.m. For some years He would eat lunch in the sitting room, seated on the gaadi. Naja would bring His food there, and Mehera would serve Him on a tray. Some years He had lunch at the dining table. (In the very last years—'67 and '68 severe very heavy years, Goher said—He would eat in His room, as He was very tired when He came in from the Hall after doing His seclusion work. Goher remembered, "He always looked very




The sitting room with Baba's gaadi today, remaining as it was in His time.

THE LAST TWELVE YEARS 665

sad and depressed and, you know, burdened. And we could do little to help Him in any way. We used to sit around and be very quiet—not disturb Him.")

Goher recalled that after lunch, Baba would go to His room and sit or rest on His bed while Mani read out loud from a book, or Rano read to them from, say, *Time* magazine or the newspaper. The others would sit around Him, until He told Mani to stop the reading. At that point the women would go out of the room, or else sit there very quietly while Baba rested. He would have tea about 3:30 or 4:00 p.m., in His room or sometimes at the dining table.

"Teatime at Meherazad is a happy hour for us women," Mani wrote to the Family, "when we sit together at the dining table with the Beloved; and mingling with snatches of conversation and the tinkle of teaspoons in cups, is the music from our transistor radio—occasionally accompanied by heavy snores from our old Cocker-spaniel [Peter]



Baba reclining on His gaadi in the 1950s.



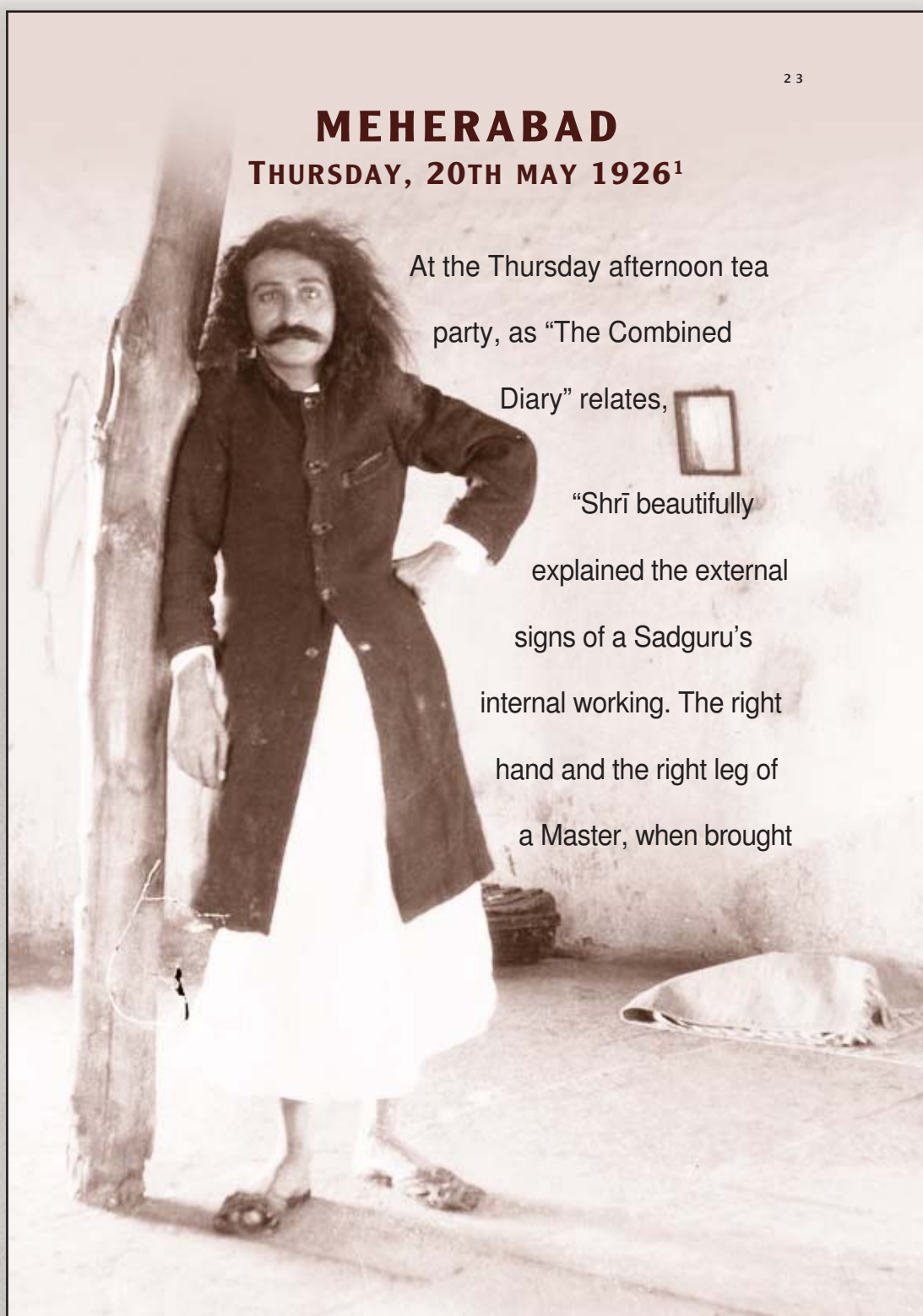


# Tiffin Lectures to be Released in the Fall of 2016

Sheriar Foundation is pleased to announce that *Tiffin Lectures* by Meher Baba will be available in the fall of 2016. A collection of fifty-one lectures given by Baba from 1926–27, *Tiffin Lectures* has been meticulously worked on by editors, translators, and illustrators for almost two decades.

A record of dictations given out by Meher Baba mostly in English and Gujarati between April 1926 and August 1927, "Thursday Tiffin Lectures," as the principal source manuscript is entitled, was never published during its author's own lifetime. It survived in the form of typed and handwritten manuscripts that, while known to some of the older members of Meher Baba's mandali and preserved at Meherabad and other places, had, with the death of that older generation, receded into obscurity and largely been forgotten. Its rediscovery and publication, almost nine decades after its original composition and transcription, will bring to the world an extraordinary treasury of some of the early words and discourses of the Avatar, given out by Him through the medium of live "talks" with His close male disciples during the period when their initial training was still in progress and the first phases of Meher Baba's work were approaching their culmination.

Some of the topics in the lectures emerged out of discussions between Baba and the men gathered with Him in Meherabad. They cover a wide range of subjects, such as "On Fears—Vague and Real," "The Difference between Knowledge and Understanding," "Truth and Religion," and "What is LUCK?" The history of the manuscript described in the Supplement gives a vivid glimpse of Meherabad at that time. The book also includes illustrations based on diagrams in the original manuscript, photographs of early Meherabad, and an Index.



An excerpt of the introduction of the third lecture given by Baba on 20th May 1926.

## A Brief Description of Meherabad During the Time the Tiffin Lectures were given by Baba

During this phase of the first great flowering of the Meherabad ashram in the mid-1920s, Meher Baba used different sites for His sleeping and work, sometimes putting up for the night in the Post Office, sometimes retiring in the Jhopdi, sometimes retiring to the Water Tank on Meherabad Hill. The mandali, for their part, resided initially in the Mess Quarters; but as this space

got taken over by the hospital, in September 1925 a new residential hall was opened for them, the Makan-e-Khas or "House of the Chosen Ones," located, like the Sai Darbar, Hazrat Babajan School, and Post Office, in the strip of land between the Ahmednagar-Daund Road and the railway tracks.

By the beginning of 1926, in short, the Meherabad ashram had quickly evolved into a booming colony based on the highest spiritual philosophy and hosting a constellation of activities and institutions in the humanitarian and charitable sphere.

*From the history of Tiffin Lectures in the Appendix of Tiffin Lectures*



# Looking Back. Looking Forward.

As 2015 comes to a close, we are very happy to have completed the many-layered publication process of *The Joyous Path*. Our heartfelt congratulations go first to Heather Nadel for her extraordinary labor of love. In addition, many people worked beautifully together behind the scenes to help bring this book to life in a wonderfully collaborative way. Also, a special thanks to those of you who generously provided the funding that made it possible for us to produce this two-volume masterwork.

Additional funding support will be needed to help with the publication costs of *Tiffin Lectures*, another upcoming major publishing project for us. Donations are also needed to help with the operating costs of our bookstore. It is amazing to us that the level of sales of books connected to or by Meher Baba Himself have seen no real increase in the 45 years that we have been publishing this priceless material (Sheriar Press began its publishing work in 1971 and Sheriar Foundation has carried that forward since 1989). Among

other things, this means that our publishing activities are not financially self-sustaining and our ability to continue to publish books remains dependent on contributions from people who wish to support the work that Sheriar Foundation does.

We have enjoyed another wonderful year in our new bookstore. People continue to give us feedback about how warm and inviting the atmosphere in the bookstore is. It's a great place to browse, to listen to Baba music, to watch Baba videos, to dig into our wonderful collection

of photographs of Baba, and to enjoy free coffee and Wi-Fi. It's ok if you want to buy something too.

Of course, you can also order from us online at [sheriarbooks.org](http://sheriarbooks.org), as well as follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram.

If you are actually reading this article, we thank you for taking the time to do so. If you would like to help us financially, we always appreciate donations of any size, all of which are tax-deductible.

## Saturday Events at the Bookstore

This year three incredibly good concerts and two wonderful talks drew appreciative crowds to Sheriar Books.



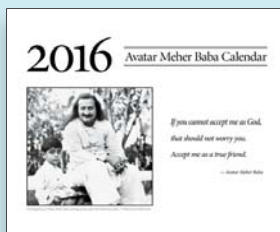
(above, clockwise) Bill LePage, Richie Blum, Buz Connor, Michelle Schafer



(below) Ted Judson accompanied by Cathy Riley

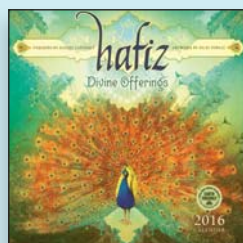
## NEW RELEASES TO BRIGHTEN YOUR HOLIDAYS

### Avatar Meher Baba Calendar 2016



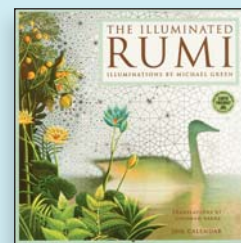
A perennial favorite  
**\$13.50**

### Hafiz Calendar 2016



Versions by Daniel Ladinsky  
**\$14.99**

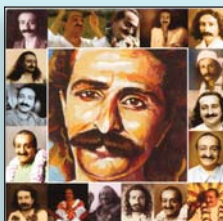
### Rumi Calendar 2016



Versions by Michael Green  
**\$14.99**

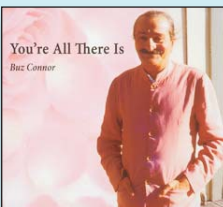
## C D s

### Beloved Songs



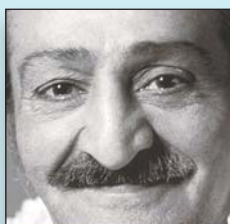
Jim Meyer's new collection of songs honoring the Lord.  
**\$15.00**

### You're All There Is



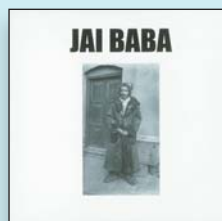
Buz Connor's new collection of songs accompanied by Mike Hansen, Billy Goodrum, Mark Trichka, Lisa Brande, Patrick O'Neil, Jeff Maquire, Jane Brown, Diane Tower-Jones, Annabelle Goodrum, and Ed Dennis. **\$15.00**

### The Lord of Love



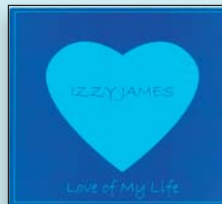
Darryl Smith's new collection of songs with harmonies by Susan Smith and Margo Saunders  
**\$15.00**

### Jai Baba



Collection of five Billy Goodrum favorites that were never recorded. With Pamela Goodrum, Meherwan Irani, Rose Goodrum on vocals (Rose on organ too), and Ben Goodrum on piano.  
**\$7.00**

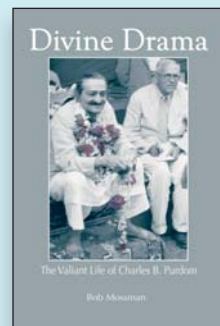
### Love of My Life



New Collection of songs by Izzy James inspired by the Divine.  
**\$15.00**

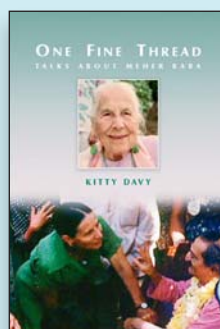
## B O O K S

### Divine Drama: The Valiant Life of Charles B. Purdom



A biography of Baba's biographer, Charles Purdom, by Bob Mossman.  
Paperback  
**\$25.00**

### One Fine Thread: Talks about Meher Baba



A collection of talks written by Kitty Davy between 1968 and 1990.  
Paperback  
**\$19.95**

**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.