

A Uniquely Personal Sharing of Stories about Elizabeth Patterson from Charles Haynes

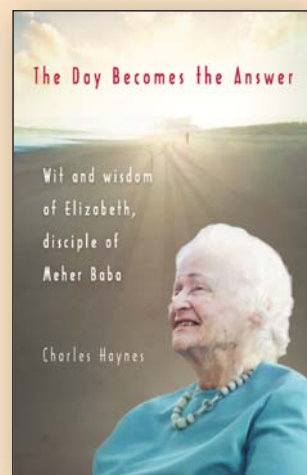


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER WILSON



Charles sharing an example of Elizabeth's humor during his talk at Sheriar Books

IN MAY OF THIS YEAR, Sheriar Foundation published *The Day Becomes the Answer: Wit and Wisdom of Elizabeth, disciple of Meher Baba* by Charles Haynes. Drawn from a deep personal relationship with Elizabeth Patterson, the book captures unique, first-hand, behind-the-scenes glimpses of the extraordinary woman whose destiny included becoming the founder of the Meher Spiritual Center. As the introduction to the book shares: "Meher Baba Himself described Elizabeth as 'My rock'— and indeed she was the most imperturbable, practical, and steadfast human being I have ever known. If

'spirituality is poise,' as Meher Baba has said, then Elizabeth was an exemplar of true spirituality. Baba's Persian name for her was Dilruba, meaning 'stealer of hearts.' . . . Elizabeth's nickname among Baba's Eastern women disciples was 'Yes, Baba dear' because whatever Baba asked of her Elizabeth instantly responded, 'Yes, Baba dear.'"



PHOTO COURTESY OF ECPPA

Elizabeth with Baba in Kashmir in 1933

Elizabeth first met Meher Baba at Harmon-on-Hudson, New York, in 1931. From that moment on, her entire life was dedicated to Him. In the 1930s, she lived and traveled with Baba throughout India and the West, serving as His driver during thousands of miles of what came to be known as the "Blue Bus Tours." Later, she shared in His suffering as the driver of His car in the 1952 accident in Prague, Oklahoma. In 1943, Elizabeth gifted a large property to Meher Baba, which became Meher Spiritual Center in Myrtle Beach, SC. She helped to develop and run Meher Center until the end of her life in 1980.

Charles Haynes met Meher Baba on May 21, 1958, one year after first learning about Him from Elizabeth. In 1962, Charles participated in Meher Baba's East-West Gathering in Poona, India. As Charles writes in the Preface, "Elizabeth's presence in my life remains . . . fresh and numinous . . . it has been so natural and joyful to record these vignettes of life with Elizabeth. Her words and example are living realities, ever present in my heart." In his recollections of life with Elizabeth, Charles provides an intimate portrait full of personal stories and everyday interactions with Elizabeth that give us all a fresh and delightful access to Elizabeth's abundant "Wit and Wisdom."

Here's a short excerpt to illustrate this book's special flavor: "Elizabeth met the challenges of daily life with astonishing equanimity. While those around her might wring their hands and wonder what to do, Elizabeth would remain completely calm, always finding the most practical and sensible way forward. As a teenager, I remember imagining her reaction to various potential disasters. If Dilruba and the Center burned to the ground, for example, I pictured Elizabeth looking around at the scorched earth and saying, 'Well, we will need to find a place to stay tonight.'"

Elizabeth in the early '70s

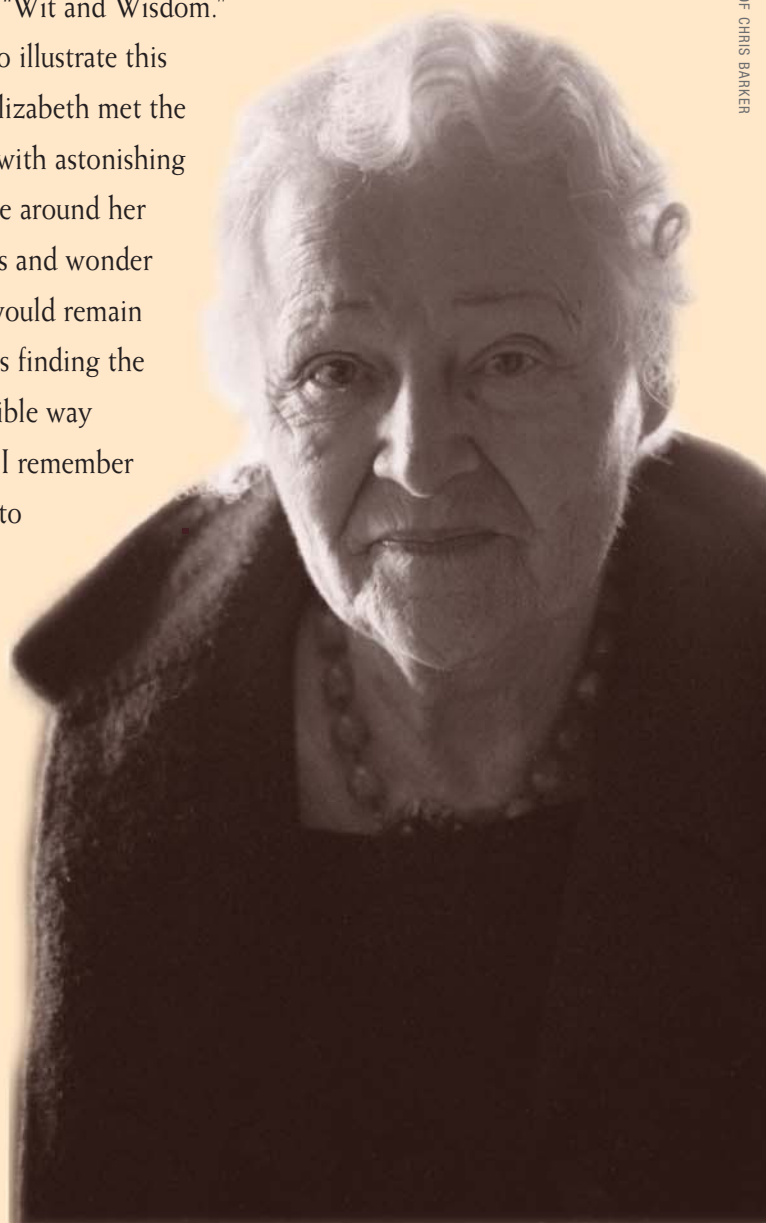


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS BARKER

A Bit About Our Bookstore

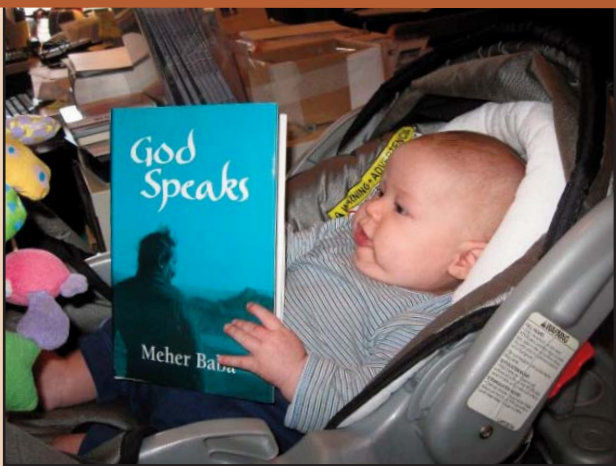
In addition to the publishing work Sheriar Foundation has been doing for decades, it also operates a bookstore that has become a favorite gathering spot. A few years ago, we moved into our current location virtually across the street from the Meher Spiritual Center and created a very special place with a lovingly nurtured atmosphere. Many of our visitors feel as if Sheriar Books is a kind of extension of the Center. There's not only a wonderful selection of books, music, photos, and videos, but the bookstore also hosts events all through the year. These events include book readings and signings, concerts, and heart-felt talks. Three of this year's overflow events were the '69 Darshan Concert, Charles Haynes talking about and reading from *The Day Becomes the Answer*, and a poetry reading and book signing by Peter Booth, co-author of *The Illuminated Hafiz*.

Over the years, one of our favorite aspects of the bookstore has been witnessing the ways in which Baba gives us a glimpse into His highly personal ways of touching hearts. A sample of one of these stories is given in the right-hand column of this two-page spread.

If you appreciate the quality and character of our bookstore, please keep in mind that we depend on donations to staff and operate it. And we do need our friends to help us maintain its current level of activity and availability.



re Moments



It's a Wonder To Behold

by Laura Smith

YOU JUST NEVER KNOW who might stumble across Sheriar Books next. One Saturday, two lovely women, Donna and Carolyn, came in after having a tour of the Meher Center. Donna explained to me that her aunt was a follower of Meher Baba: her aunt was Bili Eaton!

Donna said that her friend Carolyn had invited her to come for some beach time at her condo here in Myrtle Beach. When she mentioned her plans to another friend, he said, "while you're there, you should visit the Meher Baba Center." She wondered, "Could this be the same Baba that my aunt Bili was into?" So she and her friend decided to take the tour. Donna was shocked to find out many people knew Bili Eaton and that she had written a book that Donna knew nothing about. She has three sisters and purchased the book for herself and one

of her sisters. She said she remembered her aunt fondly.

I encouraged them to visit Baba's House the following day.

Baba's fingerprints were starting to show themselves. . . . A "coincidental" trip to Myrtle Beach and a "coincidental," conversation with a friend mentioning Meher



Laura, Donna, and Carolyn

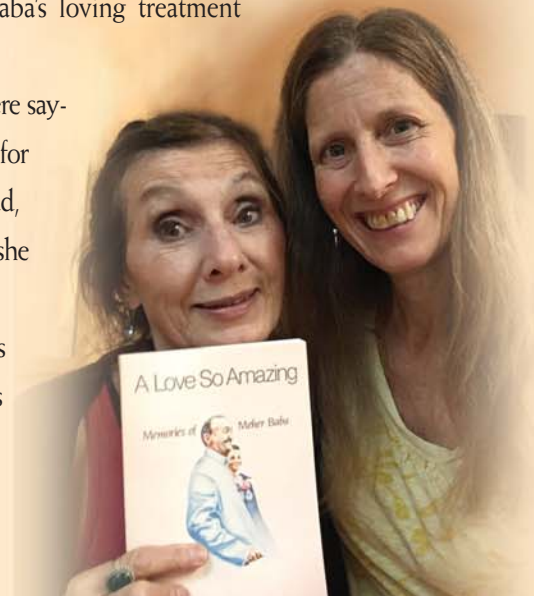
Baba. . . and then, here in the bookstore that day was a Baba lover from Virginia Beach, home of the Edgar Cayce Center. It turned out that Carolyn is deeply attached to the works of Edgar Cayce. Because of this "coincidence," I was able to get information about what Baba said about Cayce.

On Sunday, the two friends came back to the bookstore. I could see in their eyes that Baba had touched them. Their energy was a little more comfortable, their hearts a little more open. Donna said that in Baba's House she felt the presence of her Aunt Bili very strongly. Carolyn had a deep experience of Baba's presence there and they were both so touched to have had a tour of His home with Wendy Connor. Afterwards, at Dilruba for tea, they met several people who were very close with Bili Eaton ("coincidentally").

That Sunday afternoon, we had a wonderful time with each other. I was able to share with Carolyn what I learned from the Virginia Beach Baba lover about Baba and Edgar Cayce. We watched some films of Baba: the one of Baba by the well in 1932; *O Parvardigar* with Pete Townshend singing "The Master's Prayer." . . . The whole space was filled with love. Carolyn's eyes were so focused on every word about Baba, often filling with tears at the stories of the *masts* and Baba's loving treatment of them.

When they left and we were saying good-bye, Carolyn thanked me for answering so many questions she had, filling in so many blanks. And then she said, "We'll see you next year."

Working at Sheriar Books can be like having front-row seats to Baba's show. To see the faces of the characters soften and respond to His loving courtship is something to behold.



Are You a Book or a Problem?

As we're focusing much of this year's newsletter on our bookstore, it might be of interest to go back in time to the very beginnings of the Sheriar Bookstore. Many of you will remember when Kitty Davy sold books from her office at Dilruba. In those early days, Center guests would often come to Kitty's office looking either for books or for life advice; and Kitty developed the unique greeting of asking when someone arrived if they were "a book or a problem."

When it became necessary for the sale of books to be moved off of Center property, Sheriar set up its first bookstore operation and we've been providing that service ever since, for almost fifty

years actually. Sustaining the operating costs of today's bookstore represents an ongoing financial challenge and we are reaching out for financial support from the Baba family we serve.

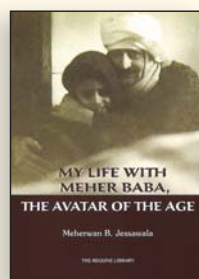
Our usual fundraising focus is on donations to help us to continue to publish major projects, which are also not self-sufficient. We are currently working on a magnificent, carefully researched book by Susan McKendree about the Blue Bus Tours. We expect this book to be ready to publish in the fall of 2020. Additionally, we have a number of other significant book projects in our pipeline that will necessitate additional donations. As a point of somewhat poignant interest,

in the time since Sheriar Press first opened its doors in 1971, there has been virtually no growth in the number of people who buy the books we publish. As such, for practical reasons, we are always printing a very small number of copies of any book we publish.

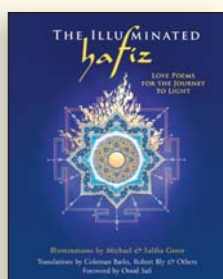
As we head into the end of the year, please do think of supporting Sheriar Foundation and the work that we do. Donations of any size are appreciated and are also tax-deductible.

As another financial reminder, please remember that you can include Sheriar Foundation as a beneficiary in your will. This will also help us do our work in the years to come.

It Was a Very Good Year



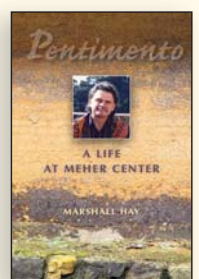
My Life with Meher Baba, The Avatar of the Age
Meherwan B. Jessawala
Hardcover, 708 pp
\$49.95



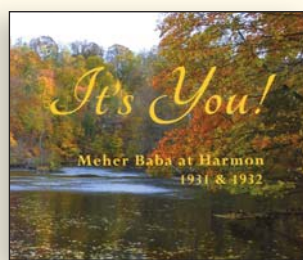
The Illuminated Hafiz: Love Poems for the Journey to Light
Translations by Coleman Barks, Robert Bly & Others
Illustr., Hardcover, 160 pp
\$29.95



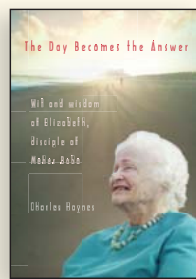
Lives of Love: the Women Mandali of Avatar Meher Baba
Judith Garbett
Paperback, 309 pp
\$10



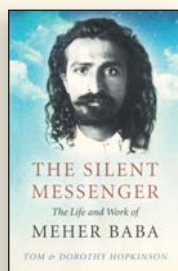
Pentimento: A Life at Meher Center
Marshall Hay
Paperback, 96 pp
\$10



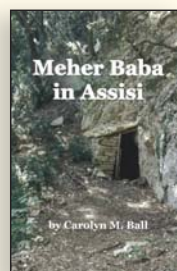
It's You! Meher Baba at Harmon 1931 & 1932
Dot Pierpont Cooper
Illustr., Hardcover, 240 pp
PDF: \$7.99
Hardcover: \$120



The Day Becomes the Answer: Wit and Wisdom of Elizabeth, disciple of Meher Baba
Charles Haynes
Paperback, 110 pp
\$15



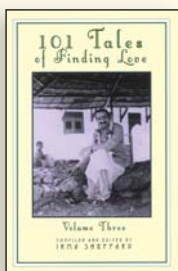
The Silent Messenger: The Life and Work of Meher Baba
Tom & Dorothy Hopkinson
Paperback, 311 pp
\$23.95



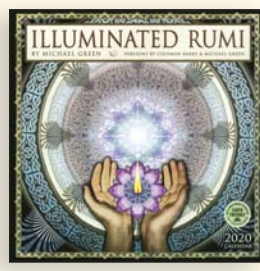
Meher Baba in Assisi
Carolyn M. Ball
Paperback, 80 pp
\$16.75



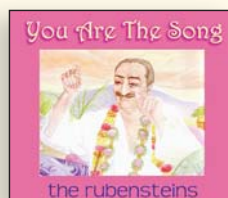
2020 Meher Baba Calendar
14-month, 11" x 9"
\$13.50



101 Tales of Finding Love, Vol. 3
Compiled and edited by Irma Sheppard
Paperback, 446 pp
\$20



2020 Rumi Illuminated Calendar
12" x 12"
\$14.99



You Are the Song
The Rubensteins
CD
\$15

SHERIAR BOOKS

Holiday Sales on Two Favorites

\$50
2-VOLUME SET

\$10 / \$15
PAPERBACK / HARDCOVER

OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2019

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.