



SHERIAR FOUNDATION

R E P O R T

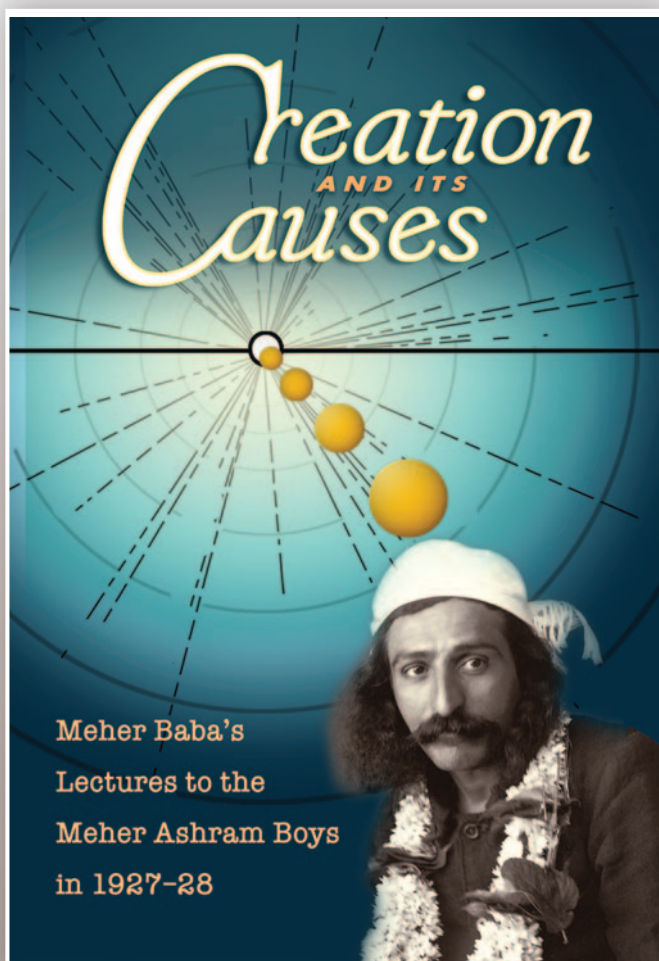
FALL / 2021

— ANNOUNCING A NEW RELEASE —

Creation and its Causes Coming Soon

Sheriar Foundation is pleased to announce the upcoming publication of *Creation and its Causes: Meher Baba's Lectures to the Meher Ashram Boys in 1927–28*, an extraordinary presentation of content given by Meher Baba at Meherabad in 1927–28. The book will present the world of those familiar with Avatar Meher Baba's books and messages with something quite new. At the book's core is a compilation of thirty-four lectures which Meher Baba gave to the hundred-some boys of the Meher Ashram in evening sessions on the crown of Meherabad Hill in December–January of 1927–28. While Baba's subject was creation cosmology and the landscape of the inner worlds, the poetic immediacy and vivid colors of Baba's presentation transformed the experience from one of "learning" and "education" into what Sufis call *kashf* or mystic unveiling.

In the early part of the series Baba described the origin of creation through the clashing of *prāṇ* and *ākāsh*, energy and space. Oceans and waves and drops and bubbles and foam, light globes and shadows and the projection and reflection of these

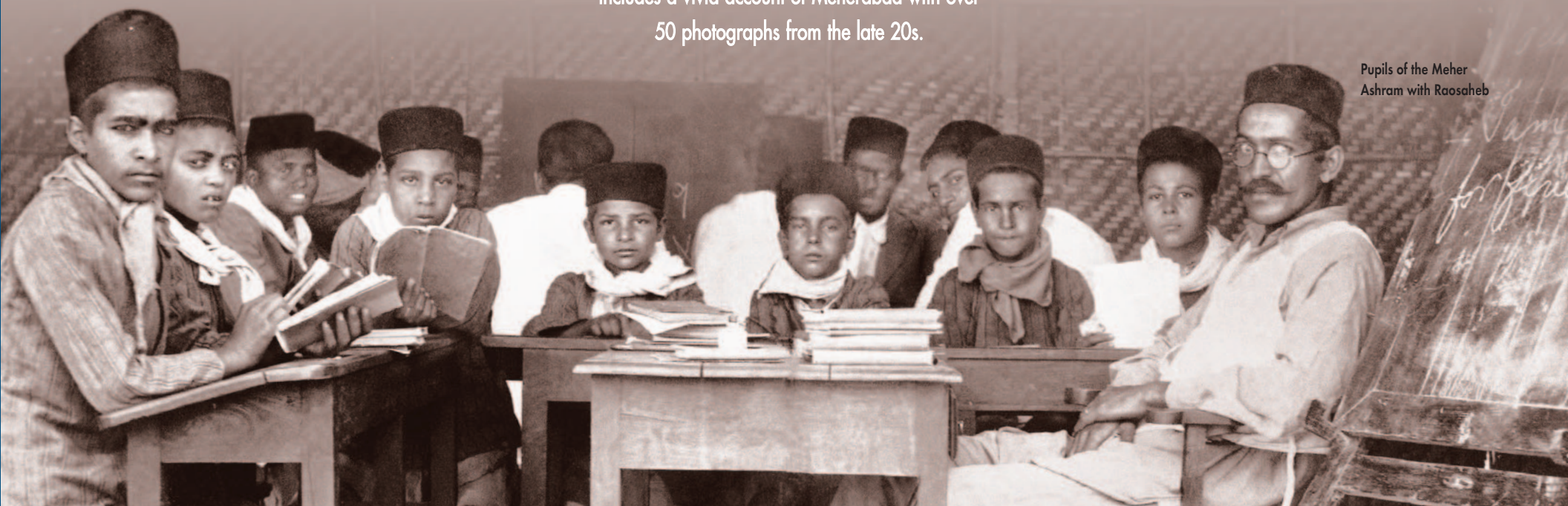


Creation and its Causes: over 700-pages, hard-cover book with 50 full-color diagrams based on sketches made by Baba during His lectures to the Meher Ashram boys. Includes a vivid account of Meherabad with over 50 photographs from the late 20s.

shadows in empty space and the rings of the human eye—this is the language and imagery in terms of which Baba developed his themes. In the second half of the series Baba explained the difference between the **planes** of consciousness and what he called the **āsmāns** or **skies**. None of Baba's later books display the inner topography of the spiritual realm in quite this way.

While these explanations in themselves were unprecedented, equally astonishing was the effect that they had on the boys. They went mad with love! On January 1, midway through the series, the entire student body started to weep uncontrollably. This continued for several days; and after that, a few of the boys were precipitated into experience of the higher planes.

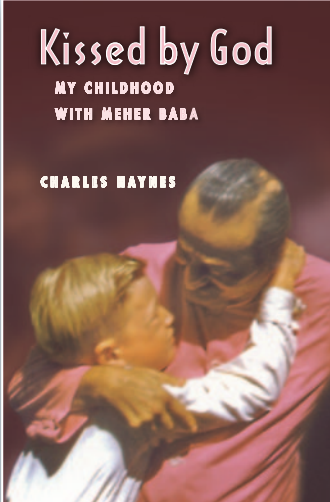
All of this is vividly presented and chronicled in *Creation and its Causes*, a book that opens a new window of the Avatar's life and work, even as it brings mysteries of creation into view in a way that few would ever have imagined. More about how this book came to be published is contained in a related article inside this newsletter.



Pupils of the Meher Ashram with Raosaheb

Kissed by God

MY CHILDHOOD WITH MEHER BABA



Kissed by God. 160-page paperback, illustrated with over 60 photographs. \$18.

Kissed by God is the second book by Charles Haynes published by Sheriar Foundation. (*The Day Becomes the Answer* was the first.) Written in a very personal style, using the first-person, present tense perspective, Charles' story begins with meeting Baba on the Meher Spiritual Center during Baba's visit in 1958. Following years of correspondence with Baba and Mani, his love for Baba deepens at the East-West Gathering in India in 1962.

As he writes in the Preface: "The stories collected in these pages are memories from my childhood with Meher Baba. For me, however, they are far more than recollections of the past; they are living experiences in the present. What Baba did then, He does now. Every time the stories are re-told they are new."

"Like a time capsule from the past, each story of Meher Baba opens in the present to release the fragrance of His love. Someone, somewhere, sometime is waiting to receive the story—that one special story—that awakens the sleeping heart. When and how this happens, only Beloved Baba knows."

In a fascinating story about the origins of the title of the book, Charles shares a broader view of his relationship with Baba. "Paging through a magazine one day, a cartoon catches my

attention. It depicts an emaciated, decrepit, ancient-looking man sitting alone high on a mountaintop. His white beard and hair are long and unkempt; his few clothes are in tatters. The caption reads: 'He was kissed by God.'"

"Like all good jokes, the cartoon is funny because, as Eruch might say, 'It is so true.' I can visualize Baba's silent laughter, enjoying the humor of the Divine jest. After all, what is the spiritual journey if not a losing game? 'We must lose ourselves in order to find ourselves,' Baba says, "thus loss itself is gain. We must die to self to live in God; thus death means life."

"Keeping company with Baba, debris of ego life—our accumulated flotsam and jetsam—is gradually swept away by the Beloved, often without the lover even knowing it. At the end of the journey, Baba promises, we are stripped naked of all impressions and attachments that separate us from Him. Only God remains. 'When you go,' Baba says, 'then I come.'"

In a powerful conclusion, Charles recalls the following exchange with Elizabeth Patterson. "One day some years later, I ask Elizabeth what she thinks Baba meant when He gestured to me the sign of perfection almost every time He looked in my direction. 'At the time,' I tell her, 'I took Baba to be saying that He is pleased.' Elizabeth thinks for a moment and replies, 'Yes, that is one possible meaning.' She pauses and then adds, "But I feel Baba may be saying to you, 'Become perfect in My love.' After all, that



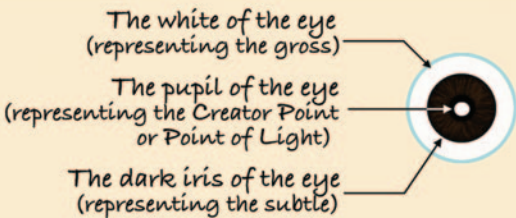
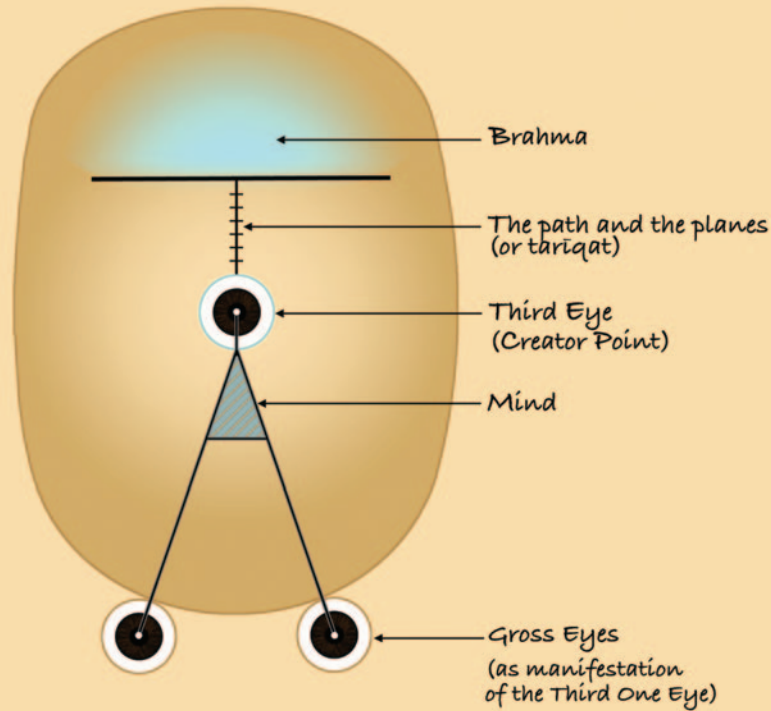
Charles with Baba at the birthday party, Meher Center, 1958.

Charles, Wendy, Jane, Darwin Shaw, Tom Riley, and others with Baba in Guruprasad, Poona, in 1962

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHERIAR FOUNDATION

EXCERPT FROM A LECTURE GIVEN WEDNESDAY, 14TH DECEMBER 1927

FIGURE 17.
THE INNER AND OUTER EYES



KEY TO FIGURE 17

This remarkable diagram shows the relation between the Third Eye and the two outer eyes of the gross body. Between these inner and outer eyes, Baba has ranged the "mind." Between the Third Eye (conventionally associated with a point between the eyebrows) and Brahma (associated with the upper forehead) are ranged the planes of the involutionary path.

The pupil of the eye represents the Creator Point or the point of Light. Immediately adjacent and therefore opposite, the iris of the eye, corresponding to the subtle, is dark. The outermost ring of the gross maps, in this ocular analogy, to the white of the eye. Since it is immediately adjacent to the subtle, the gross is opposite to it, and therefore it acquires the attribute of light, though only faintly so, because of its far removal from the Third Eye as the source of Pure Light Itself.

The discussion of light and darkness here invites comparison with Baba's treatment of that topic in *In God's Hand*, handwritten by him in 1925.

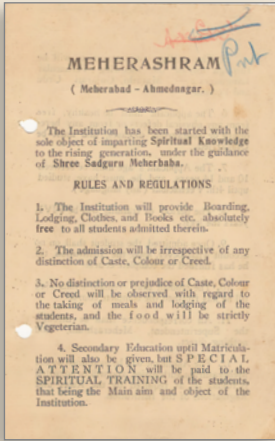
It is hard to establish with certitude from what angle of vision the head is being viewed in Figure 17, since its perspective seems to be both from-the-front facial and from-the-top down. Perhaps this diagram is akin to cubist art in depicting from both angles at once.

On the left side of the source diagram below, Ramjoo alludes humorously to Doctor Ghani. On the nature of the relation between Ghani and Baba that would have occasioned this comment, see "Notes on the Figures," p. 000.



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Living in the Ashram



Guidelines for Meher Ashram, page 1.

COURTESY OF AVATAR MEHER BABA TRUST ARCHIVE

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS

Baba with the Prem Ashram boys, Baba with the Prem Ashram boys, Baba with the Prem Ashram.

Picture the Crypt Cabin on Meherabad Hill on a chilly winter's night almost a hundred years ago. Baba from inside is discoursing silently through one of the east windows, while a group of young adolescent boys, ranged on a platform in a semicircle, is listening with rapt attention. One of the mandali reads out in English from Baba's alphabet board, and other disciples then translate into Marathi, Gujarati, and Persian. In that rural outpost long before electricity, the entire landscape is dark, except for lanterns lighting up the meeting space, and outside, the winter stars burning brilliantly. Baba himself has been fasting for more than a month, and the boys have been kept in a protective bubble secluding them from external influences. In such a setting, the visionary creation narratives that Baba spun out before these youngsters must have seemed like pure magic.

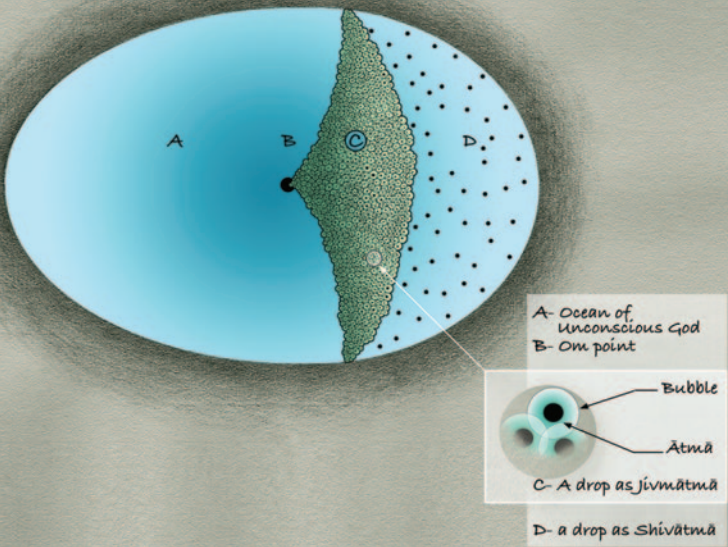
Happily, one of the mandali—probably Chanji—took notes; and later these were written up and typed out. But within two or three years the focus of Baba's work had completely shifted. This first rough draft of "Creation and its Causes"—along with other such early records—got stowed in some kind of archival safe space and forgotten about.

But soon after Baba dropped His body in 1969, a leather brief case was found in the Rice Godown in Meherazad. It contained the source manuscripts for *Creation and its Causes*, *Tiffin Lectures*, and *Infinite Intelligence*. For a quarter century the editing of this content has been the primary focus of the Avatar Meher Baba Trust's editorial department. And now, with the publication of the last in this "trilogy," the Avatar's early "Meherabad dispensation," so to speak, has been brought into full view.

As a critical edition—with notes and glossary and supplemental materials—*Creation and its Causes* tries to present Baba's words as faithfully and transparently as possible. These lectures are a sheer gift of revelation from the Avatar to humanity, and undoubtedly, the seeds of awakening that they sow will beautify our world for centuries to come.

EXCERPT FROM A LECTURE GIVEN MONDAY & TUESDAY, 5TH–6TH DECEMBER 1927

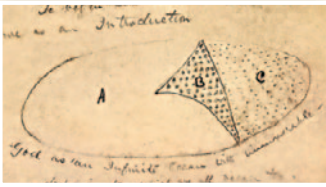
FIGURE 4.
THE OCEAN AND ITS THREE SUBDIVISIONS



KEY TO FIGURE 4

Like Figure 2, Figure 4 represents the oceanic totality of all extant things, which is to say, the infinite entirety of God and His creation. Yet while B and C—the Om Point and the universe of jivātmās or drop-souls manifesting as bubbles—carry the same meaning as in Figure 2, A and D differ. For A represents the Ocean of God in its original, unmoving, unconscious state. And D comprises the totality of all Shīvatmās, which is to say, God-realized souls or drops who have realized their unity with the Ocean.

Relations between the ātmās, drops, and bubbles—a major theme in subsequent lectures—is illustrated in the insert on the lower right.



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Your Support is Always Appreciated

AS WE WRAP UP ANOTHER YEAR of unusual circumstances, we're very happy to have been able to reopen our bookstore and to be able to see many of you in person again after more than a year of being closed to protect the health of our staff and of our visitors. With the Center also now open, we're seeing a lot of old friends and that really warms our hearts. Do stop by whenever you can.

Our published activities this year included the release of *Kissed by God*, Charles Haynes' ever-fresh stories full of fragrance of Baba's presence. We've also been immersed in preparing the publication of *Creation and its Causes*. As touched on elsewhere in this newsletter, this book repre-

sents the third in a series of publications based on content that Meher Baba gave at Meherabad in the 1920s. Along with *Infinite Intelligence* and *Tiffin Lectures*, *Creation and its Causes* is full of visually stunning representations of revelation that can only come from the Source itself.

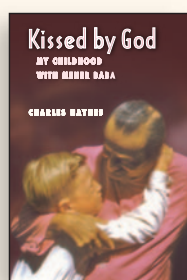
As we try to make clear every year, our publishing work can only go on with the generous financial support of donations. We hope to be printing *Creation and its Causes* in the first few months of next year and any donations in support of that project would be much appreciated and very timely.

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.

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. We're looking forward to a happier, healthier 2022 for all of Baba's family . . . and that means everyone on this glorious planet we share.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE



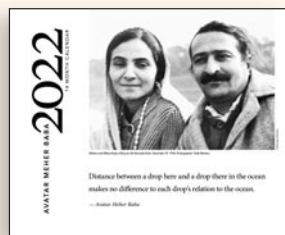
Kissed by God My Childhood with Meher Baba

Charles Haynes

Stories of Charles' time with Baba and his inner experience of Him. "Like a time capsule from the past, each story of Meher Baba opens in the present to release the fragrance of His love." (from the Preface)

Paperback 160 pages; Illustrated with over 60 photographs

\$18



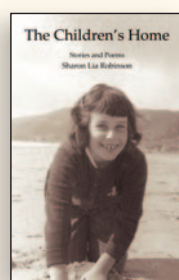
Avatar Meher Baba Calendar 2022

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.

11 x 9" closed and 11 x 18" opened.

\$13.50



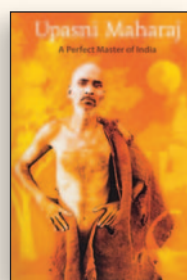
The Children's Home Stories and Poems

Sharon Lia Robinso

Stories and poems reflect memory and imagination of the author's life in two southern California children's home.

Paperback 166 pages.

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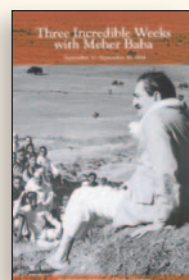
Upasni Maharaj A Perfect Master of India

Beheram Jamshed Irani and Sorabji Muncherji Desai

Conceived by Meher Baba and written under His auspices, this spiritual biography of Upasni Maharaj is a gift to America, to the West, and to the world.

Hardcover 555 pages

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Three Incredible Weeks with Meher Baba

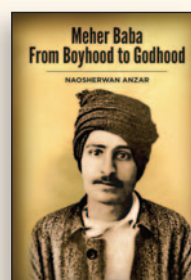
Malcom Schloss & Charles Purdom

An account of the gathering of twenty men in Meher Baba's company in September 1954.

Paperback, 165 pages

BACK IN PRINT

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Meher Baba From Boyhood to Godhood

Naosherwan Anzar

A biography of Meher Baba chronicling the entire progression from Merwan to Meher Baba, from the beginning, in intimate detail.

Hardcover 500 pages, with over 125 photos in color and duotone

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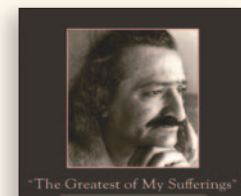
True Love

Mark Trichka & Lisa Brande

With fiddle, mandolin and guitar in hand Mark and Lisa sing songs that celebrate

Baba's sacred places, prayers and quotes, describing the lover's landscape. CD

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"The Greatest of My Sufferings"

Meher Baba's 1952 Accident in America

Chronicles the historic event of Meher Baba's 1952 accident in America. DVD 60 minutes

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Only Love

Cindy Lowe

Cindy's ninth album with great new songs, artful arrangements, tight harmonies and fantastic musicians. CD

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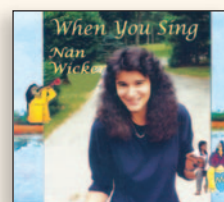


Love Always

Maraiya

A meticulously woven and richly varied tapestry of heartfelt ballads and uplifting rhythms, intimate, jazz-inspired meditations, and poignantly beautiful songs of longing. CD

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When You Sing

Nan Wicker

A beautifully produced new album, "When You Sing", a thoughtfully curated and artfully arranged collection of joyful songs for listeners of all faiths. CD

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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.

A Few of our Favorites

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