

# How Blessed We All Are

As we look back on 2022, we're thrilled to have completed the long-awaited release of *Creation and its Causes*, a book that was produced with an extraordinary attention to detail by a great many devoted people. With the previous publication of *Infinite Intelligence* and *Tiffin Lectures* by Sheriar Foundation, *Creation and its Causes* completes a trilogy of books based on content that Meher Baba gave at Meherabad in the 1920s.

With that labor of love brought to fruition, our focus has now moved on to working closely with Davana Brown to bring to life her three-volume epic on Eruch. As she touches on in her article elsewhere in this newsletter, Davana draws upon her decades

of working closely with Eruch while living at Meherabad. This kind of first-hand accounting is priceless and we are delighted to announce that the first volume will be available this coming spring.

We're also pleased to have our bookstore return to its normal hours after the disruptions caused by covid. We look forward to seeing you in person at our warm and cozy store. Do stop by for a visit and to see what's new. Also, our photo and music collection is more extensive in person than on our website.

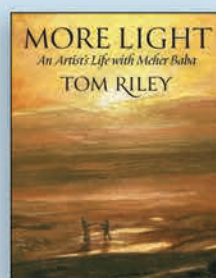
As we try to make clear every year, our publishing work can only go on with the generous financial

support of donations, since the revenue from sales never really comes close to covering our costs.

Please remember that all donations to Sheriar Foundation are tax deductible and that we appreciate donations of any size. There's a Donate tab at the top of our website's homepage if you simply want to do that online. 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 generous way.

Another way to help us financially, is to remember that you can include Sheriar Foundation as a beneficiary in your will. This will also help us do our work in the years and decades to come.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE



### More Light An Artist's Life with Meher Baba Tom Riley

An eloquent memoir about Tom's experiences of being with Baba in 1958 and 1962, including personal correspondence with the mandali, and some beautiful pencil sketches, and full color reproductions of his paintings. (AVAILABLE MID-DECEMBER)

Paperback \$30.00

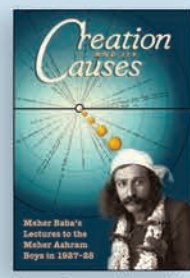


### Avatar Meher Baba Calendar 2023

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.

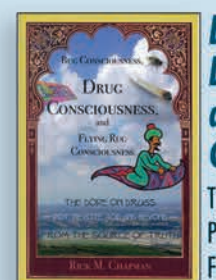
\$14.00



### Creation and its Causes Meher Baba's Lectures to the Meher Ashram Boys in 1927-28 Meher Baba

Accounts of the creation of the universe, the evolution of form and consciousness, cosmology and what we could call 'mystical astronomy.' 41 color illustrations, over 100 photographs.

Hardcover \$75



### Bug Consciousness, Drug Consciousness, and Flying Rug Consciousness

The Dope on Drugs—Pot, Peyote, Acid and Beyond—From the Source of Truth

Rick M. Chapman

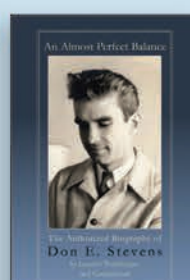
Paperback \$17.95



### 2023 Illuminated Rumi Calendar

Wall calendar interweaving art and poetry that uniquely captures the spiritual wealth of Rumi's teachings.

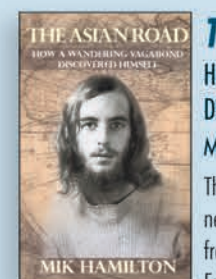
\$14.99



### An Almost Perfect Balance: The Authorized Biography of Don E. Stevens

A biography of Don E. Stevens, Western disciple of Meher Baba, and author of many Baba books.

Hardcover \$44.95



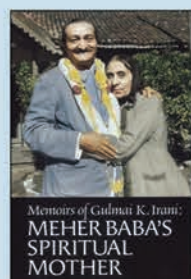
### The Asian Road

How a Wandering Vagabond Discovered Himself

Mik Hamilton

The adventures of the author and his new German wife, Uschi, hitchhiking from Frankfurt, through Eastern Europe, and the Middle East, in a search that lead them to meeting Meher Baba in 1966.

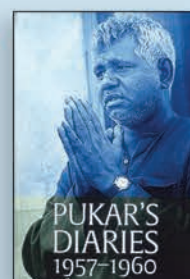
Paperback \$21.95



### Memoirs of Gulmai K. Irani: Meher Baba's Spiritual Mother

A detailed account by Gulnar K. Irani, Adi K. Irani, Sr's mother, about her time with Meher Baba and Upasni Maharaj.

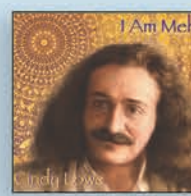
Paperback \$10.50, PDF \$5.00



### Pukar's Diaries, 1957-1960

Pukar Nigam, edited by David Fenster. Pukar was one of the very few "non-resident" mandali permitted to stay with Baba at Meherabad or Guruprasad for a few days, weeks and sometimes months at a time.

Paperback \$24.95, PDF \$6.50



### I Am Meher

Once again, Cindy Lowe has created a collection of heartfelt Baba songs, accompanied by a wide variety of musical instruments and background vocalists.

\$15.00



### Under Your Eaves

This 281-page volume includes all of Eric's previously published poems and many new ones.

Paperback \$12.00

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.



# SHERIAR FOUNDATION

## R E P O R T

FALL / 2022

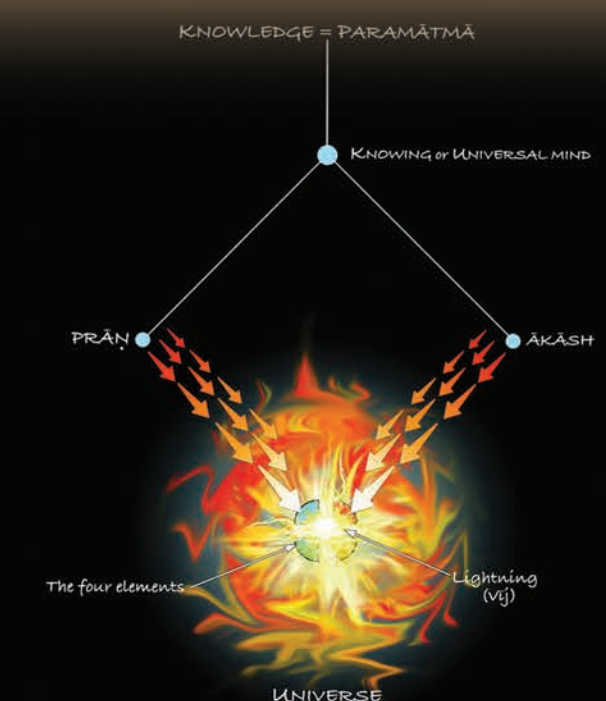
## Creation AND ITS CAUSES A NEW CREATION NARRATIVE

ONE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY revelations that Meher Baba gave to the Meher Ashram boys during the course of His talks to them in December-January 1927-28 was a new creation narrative.

By this account, creation originated when movement stirred in infinite primordial Ocean of God's Beyond State. This movement Baba identifies with *prāṇ* or energy. Yet how can movement move in an Ocean that has no space or time? Co-arising with *prāṇ*, then, is *ākāśh*, also called *pokaḷ*, space, or hollowness. *Prāṇ* and *ākāśh* clash with a flash of lightning. The clashing of *prāṇ* and *ākāśh* marks the appearance of the first drop-soul or *jīvātmā*, which is the electron. Out of this clash manifest the four elements of earth, air, water, and fire; and from them, the entire created universe.

What this adds to the "Who am I?" creation narrative in *God Speaks* is an account of the origination of creation as such.

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COMING THIS SPRING

# BEFITTING A FORTUNATE SLAVE

## MEHER BABA'S ERUCH

The First of a 3-Volume Set

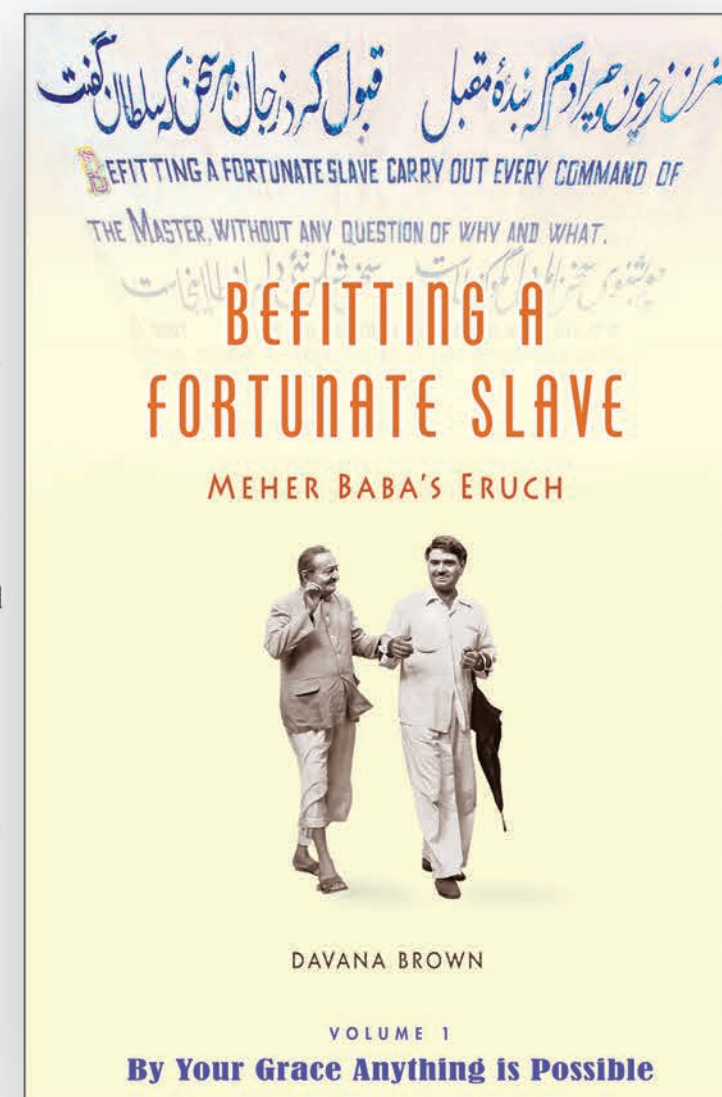
An article by Davana Brown

How do you write a book about someone who wouldn't want a book written about them? That was the dilemma facing me in writing *Befitting a Fortunate Slave*.

After Eruch passed away, Baba lovers would tell me I should write a biography of him. These calls to write about this man, who had surrendered his life to the Lord of Love, became quite insistent. But how to write a book about Eruch, when having worked with him for so many years, I knew

that for him, being the slave, meant always and without fail, drawing our attention to and keeping our focus one-pointed on the Beloved and away from the slave. In mulling over this dilemma, Eruch's last day in the Hall played repeatedly before my mind's eye:

It was a Sunday, and the Hall was packed with pilgrims. That momentous morning when the bell rang to end the



session, Eruch slowly, with great effort, rose from his seat just in front of the window across from Baba's chair. "Remember this, if ever you are asked, 'Who is Meher Baba?' The proper answer Baba has given us is: 'He is the One who provokes this question in you. He is the Being of all beings.'"

All eyes were riveted upon him as he approached Baba's seat and, with folded hands, bowed his head reverently towards his Lord and Master Avatar Meher Baba. A few moments later, as

he reached the green double doors, he unexpectedly turned back to the pilgrims still seated, raised his hands high in emphasis, and once again repeated Baba's answer to the question, "Who is Meher Baba?" "Remember this," he intoned with absolute certainty, "He is the Being of all beings."

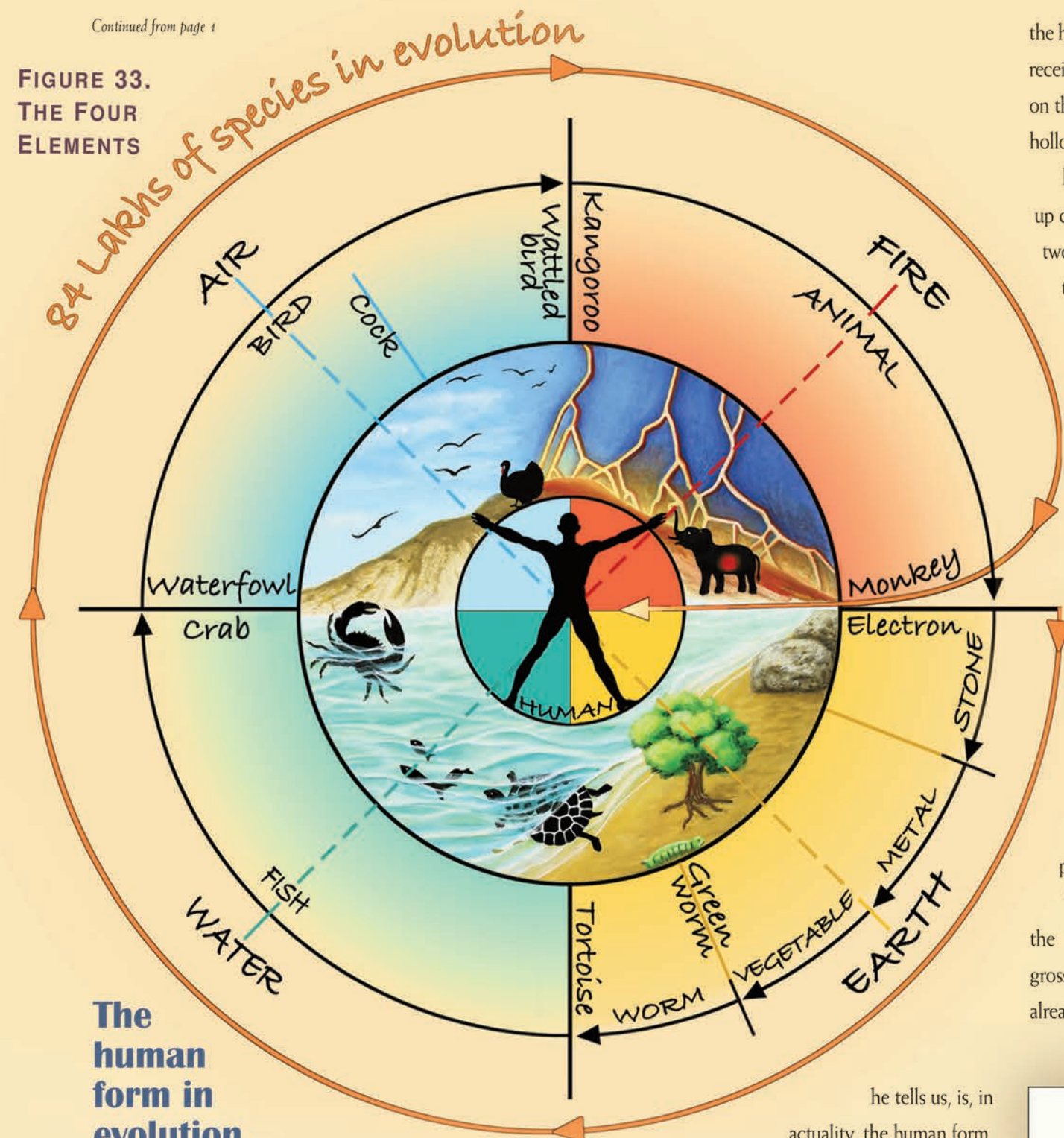
Till the end, Eruch pointed us towards the only thing that mattered and had any worth: loving the God-Man.



# A NEW CREATION NARRATIVE

Continued from page 1

FIGURE 33.  
THE FOUR  
ELEMENTS



## The human form in evolution.

The four elements that emerge out of the primordial clashing of prāṇ and ākāśh play a significant role in the evolution of form and consciousness. The first four kingdoms of evolution—stone, metal, vegetation, and worm—find their natural home in the earth element. But when the soul assumes the fish form, it moves into the water. In bird, the evolving consciousness inaugurates its primary association with the air, although the first bird form, a waterfowl, retains its connection with water, while the last, a wattled bird like the turkey, has returned to the earth again. But the kingdom which Baba calls animals—that is to say, mammals—are dominated by the element of fire, evident in their constant craving to eat.

Man, as the culmination of the evolutionary progress, exhibits all four elements in balanced proportion.

Another extraordinary spiritual fact is revealed by Baba in his evolutionary account. Every form in creation

he tells us, is, in actuality, the human form, although at the beginning it is so compacted and folded in upon itself as to be recognized only by the eyes of a Seer. But through the course of evolution the human form gradually opens up and unpacks, passing through what Baba calls five turns in a kind of somersaulting progression. At the end of evolution the human form is fully expressed, and as Man the soul stands upright in full vertical posture.

## Light globes.

God, Baba tells us, is Light, *Nūr*; and this Light casts innumerable shadows that take the form of what Baba calls light globes. Themselves unimaginably bright, these light globes cast their own shadows, which become worlds or planets. Our own planet earth is the shadow of a light globe.

This shadow, which is not pure darkness but the faintest of faint light, casts its own reflection into

the hollow emptiness of space. There, this reflected image receives the light of the light globe and reflects it back on the earth. In this way the earth's own reflection in the hollowness (*pokaḷ*) of space becomes the earth's own sun.

Baba goes on to explain how the light globe winds up casting three shadows as three planets, our earth, and two others, and through an intricate system of reflections, there come into manifestation seven suns and seven moons. Baba's lectures on astronomy are among the strangest in the entire series. Obviously he is not describing gross-world astronomy but the derivation of gross-world astronomical bodies from the higher spheres. Yet, for all its mystical weirdness, Baba's astronomical account has a compelling logic of its own and unfolds a vision of the stars and planets of startling beauty.

## The planes and the skies.

Yet the most important major new revelation in *Creation and its Causes* is Baba's description of the planes and the skies or *āsmāns*.

The seven planes of consciousness, which spread the landscape of the involutionary journey between gross consciousness and the Realization of God, has already been described by Meher Baba in *God Speaks*

and other books. Yet it turns out that each of these planes has a kind of adjunct in its associated sky or *āsmān*. Baba describes the relation between the planes and skies through the analogy of railway travel. If one were traveling by rail from Ahmednagar to Bombay, the planes would correspond to the railway stations and the skies or *āsmāns* to the cities or towns or villages that one would get lost in if one left the station and indulged in spiritual sightseeing. The skies are indescribably alluring, and the pilgrim who leaves the station to partake of their delights is almost certain to get entranced. Yet spiritual progress moves from plane to plane, and the pilgrim traveling under the guidance of a Sadguru is not permitted to experience the skies but is kept moving along the direct path to God.

Love for the Master and Sadguru turns out to be the most important qualification in the spiritual pilgrim's journey; and Baba returns to this theme time and again at the end of each lecture. "So leave all of this," he says, "have done with explanations and the like, and do only one thing, create *prem* [love, kindness, love for God]. . . . the time is very near . . . To some, I will show God. Some I will make one with God."

*Creation and its Causes*, a 775-page hardcover edition, with 41 illustrations in color based on diagrams by Baba, and over 100 photographs and original correspondence from this period, is available from Sheriar Books for \$75.

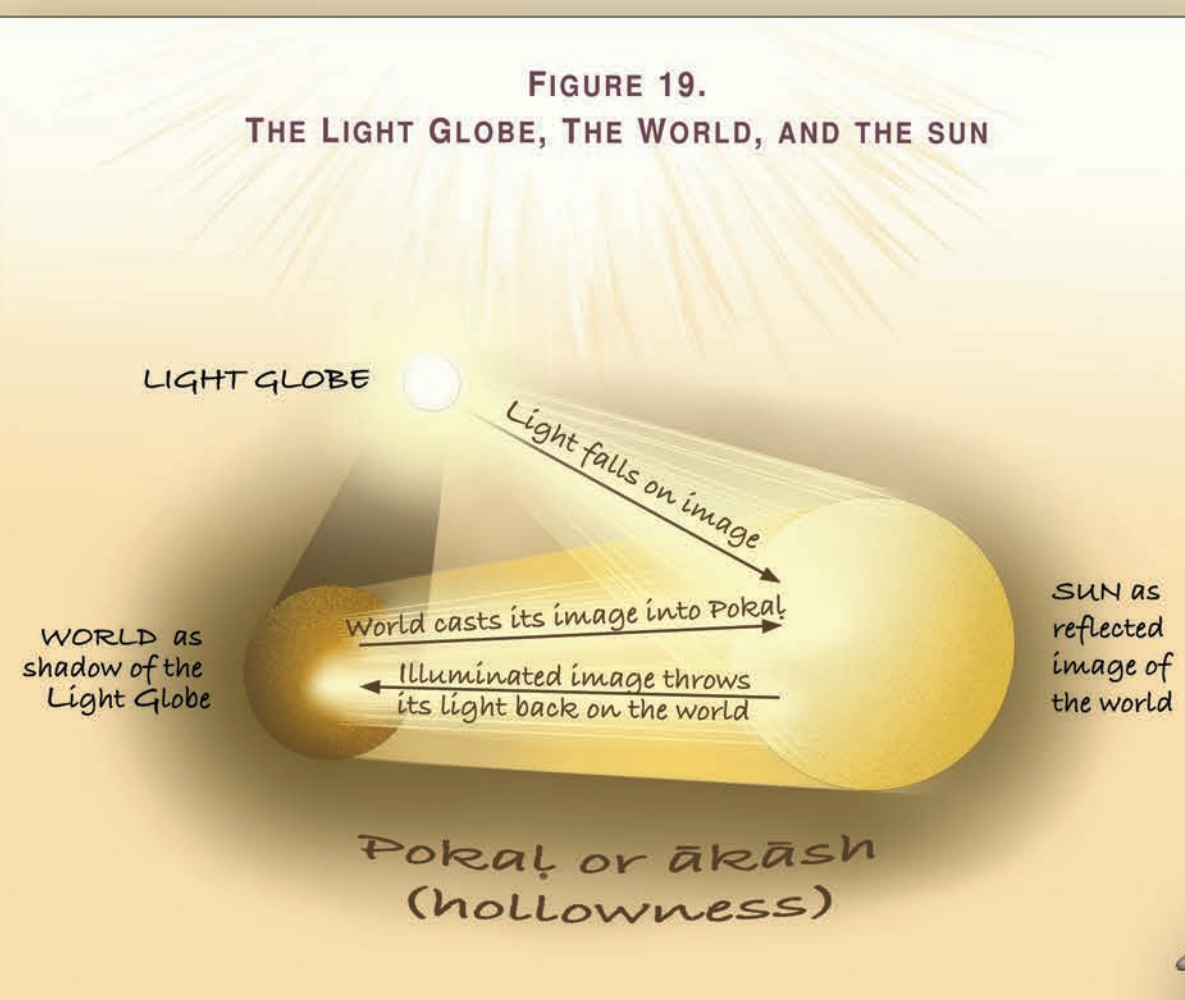


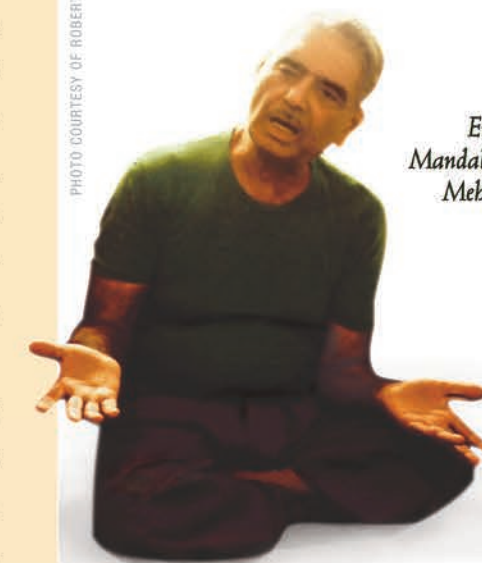
FIGURE 19.

THE LIGHT GLOBE, THE WORLD, AND THE SUN

# MEHER BABA'S ERUCH

"Why should I sit here and talk to you? Because I take you to be His, and when I feel that you are His, I won't spare myself. Whatever the excuse that has brought us together, behind it is His hand, and that makes me want to share whatever I can with you, because you have come here for Him."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT ARHENS



Eruch in  
Mandali Hall,  
Meherabad

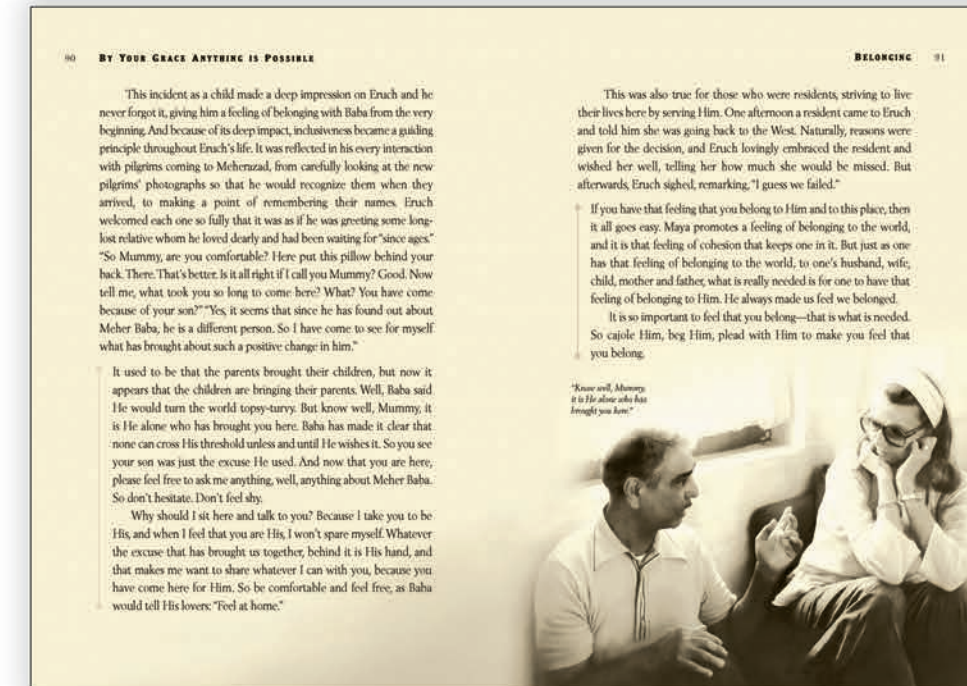
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And as I thought of the poignancy of that last day in the Hall, I was also reminded of something that he had told me:

It was Eruch's naptime, and when I walked into his cabin he looked up from his bed and began groaning dramatically: "Oh Baba, when are You going to take me? I'm ready. When are You going to take me?"

He was putting on the show for my sake, but deep down I knew this was his wish. For years together, when asked innocently by pilgrims, "So how are you, Eruch?" his standard answer would be, "I am just lingering."

I knelt down and asked, "Well, if you are going, is there anything



you want to tell me before you go? Any last message?" Eruch simply replied, "Just do whatever Baba inspires you to do, but do it wholeheartedly."

In remembering Eruch's last day in the Hall, and his response to my question about a last message, the dilemma that had been plaguing my mind became its own answer. *Befitting a Fortunate Slave* tells the story of what it means to truly strive to be surrendered to Him.

My hope is that in some small way this book might convey how wonderful, how amazing, how challenging and simultaneously nurturing, how frustrating and confusing, how contradictory and enlightening, how comforting and distressing, how humiliating and uplifting it was to

Eruch with Baba  
in Guruprasad, Poona,  
May, 1965

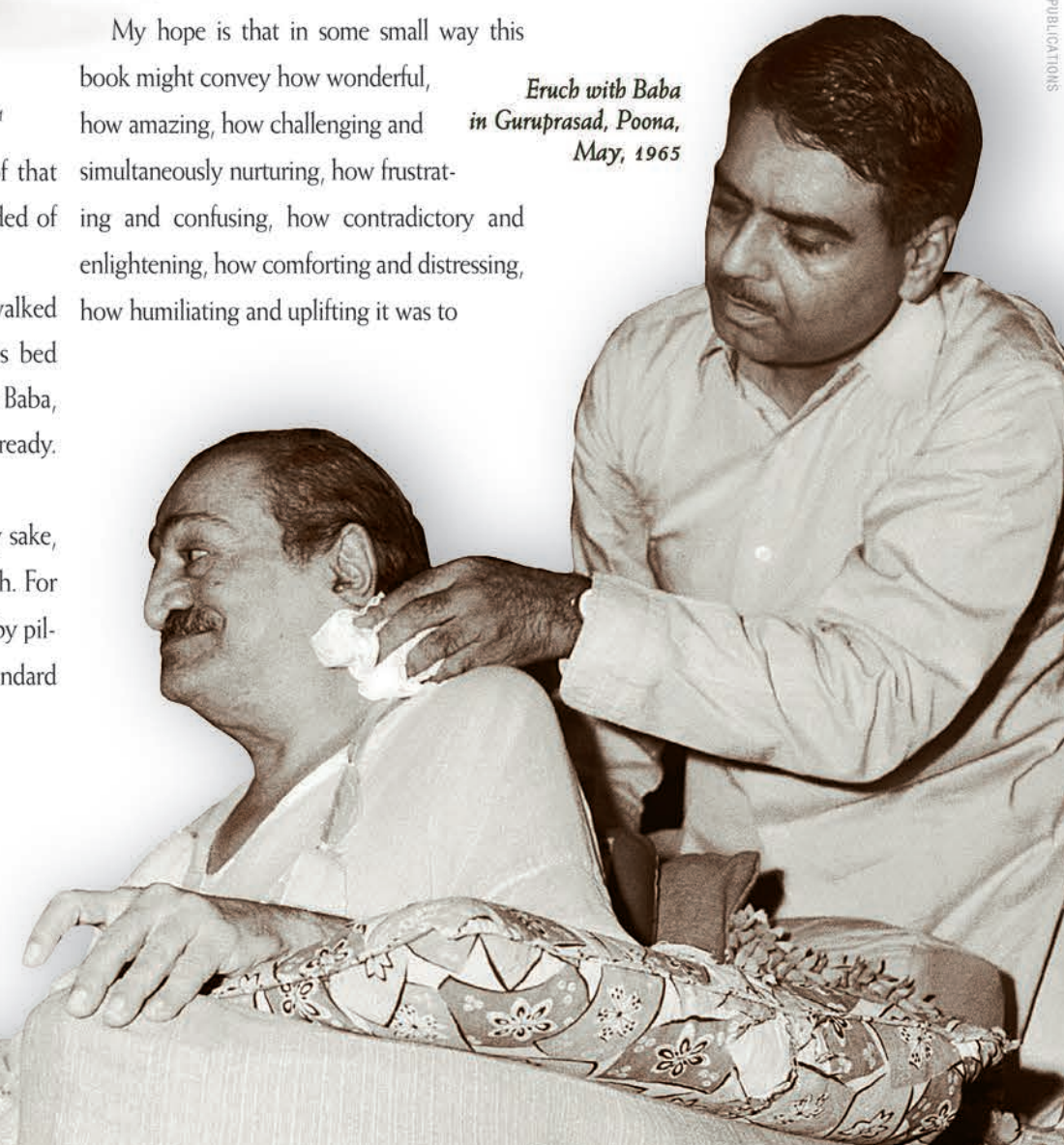


PHOTO COURTESY OF MEHER MAZAN PUBLICATIONS