



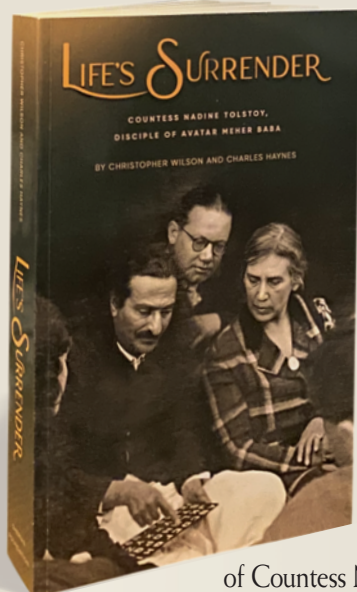
# SHERIAR FOUNDATION

## R E P O R T

WINTER / 2025

### ANNOUNCING

# A NEW PUBLICATION ABOUT NADINE TOLSTOY



Two months before Nadine Tolstoy died in New York City on April 14, 1946, Meher Baba sent a message from India describing Nadine's work for Him as "life's surrender."

Sheriar Foundation is pleased to announce 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Part One tells the story of Nadine's daily life with Meher Baba by drawing on her previously unpublished private papers. Part Two makes available a selection of Nadine's articles that were printed in the *Meher Gazette* and *Meher Baba Journals*.

**FROM THE AUTHORS:** "We didn't know the depth and distinctiveness of Nadine Tolstoy's discipleship until opening her trunks. In existing Baba literature are the familiar contours of her life: Ukrainian-born, she married Count Ilya Tolstoy, son of the novelist Leo Tolstoy, and met Meher Baba in 1931. From 1936–1941, she lived at Baba's Nasik and Meherabad ashrams, where she kept a notebook—hitherto unpublished—to record



Nadine with her husband Ilya, Leo Tolstoy's son

His messages in 'real time' as He gave them to the Western and Eastern women disciples. At Baba's direction, she later joined Elizabeth Patterson and Norina Matchabelli in New York. While Elizabeth and Norina worked publicly for Baba by collaborating to establish a universal center for Him in the United States, and Norina by giving talks about Baba through thought-transmission, Nadine served quietly behind the scenes, including

through welcoming newcomers who wanted to know more about Him. Her papers reveal what Baba may have meant when He said her own work was 'life's surrender.' From meeting Baba until her passing, she focused on surrendering everything to the Beloved. In carefully folded cables and letters, Baba responded to the depth of her longing to surrender by pouring out His love for her. In 1937 He wrote, 'I know that you are wholly mine, and how deeply you love me—and I also, through this miracle of love, am yours.' Toward the end of her life, she continued to surrender to Him even while suffering from the devastating progression of ALS. Baba fulfilled her longing for 'life's surrender' by giving her a profound experience of His presence."

*Life's Surrender*, a 438-page paperback, illustrated with over 80 photographs, is \$45. It is available from Sheriar Books.

Nadine Tolstoy around the time of her marriage to Ilya



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES HAYNES/CHRISTOPHER WILSON COLLECTION



AVAILABLE FALL 2026

# A PEEK AT VOLUME TWO

BY HIS SIDE, the second volume in the extraordinary trilogy, *Befitting a Fortunate Slave, Meher Baba's Eruch*, begins where the first volume left off: at the precipice of the New Life. No longer straddling two worlds—living with his family and attending to intermittent calls by Meher Baba for His work—Eruch, now finds himself plunged into

a life with no destination other than to follow at the heels of Meher Baba wherever He takes him. And with every turn of the page, *By His Side* allows the reader to journey along with Eruch from 1949 to 1956, culminating with Baba's second accident in Satara, India.

*By His Side* will be available in the fall of 2026 from Sheriar Books.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS PEARSON



Eruch signs A, Highest of the High or God



Pointing to the ear means the letter E



Baba's gesture for emphasis: I want you to . . . You must . . .

## His Silence Spoke

Learning to read Baba's gestures

. . . interpreting did not mean just reading the signs His fingers were making; at the same time, I had to read His expressions—how big His eyes became, whether He was frowning, the lines on His forehead or the expression that crossed His face, whether His cheeks turned pink—all this had to be communicated and stressed. And over the course of time, I learned to read very fast, to the extent that Baba would start a word, and before He had finished spelling it out, I would say it. So often, the person would feel, "Who

the hell is Eruch to tell me that?" They would forget I am just interpreting what Baba is saying. Instead, they would take it as coming from me. "You need not tell me so loudly," and this would happen in Baba's presence. They wouldn't hear, "Baba says," and often it would be like that. Then Baba would say, "Well, I told him to say that." It got to such a point that the mandali no longer called me Eruch. Instead, they would say, "Hey, Baba-says, Baba is calling you."

(Excerpted from Chapter 39.)

## Following in His Footsteps

How Eruch shared his life with Baba with us

. . . that is what I saw reflected in how Eruch lived; he gave of himself unstintingly to all of us who came and wanted to know more about Meher Baba. His love and care extended to the nth degree, but it was born out of his awareness of our connection to Meher Baba, his Lord and

Master. He was the most personable individual that many of us had ever met. But beneath all his care, all his concern, all his love, all his desire to help us each forge our own relationship with the Avatar, was his own unshakable grip on Baba's feet. (Excerpted from Chapter 20.)

Eruch sharing a memorable incident with Fred Winterfeldt



## The Message of Messages

Darshan in Wadia Park, Ahmednagar, 1954

The Compassionate One would not allow any thirsting hearts to go unquenched. And yet, even after three continuous hours of darshan, long lines remained. When it was time for Baba to leave, there were still many waiting for their chance to have His darshan. To satisfy those aching hearts, Baba climbed onto the roof of Adi's Chevrolet, giving His darshan from a distance to those who were still waiting in line. Baba waved to the people, turning to face His lovers in every direction. Then He was driven back to Meherazad.

(Excerpted from Chapter 36.)

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS



# GOHER'S *DOCTOR AND DISCIPLE*: A BOOK LIKE NO OTHER

*Doctor and Disciple, My Life with Meher Baba*, by Goher R. Irani, reveals the depth and breadth of Baba's suffering throughout His lifetime. This story chronicles Goher's early life in Quetta and at Khushru Quarters in Ahmednagar, where her contact with Baba deepened her love for Him and fostered a desire to serve Him with all her heart.

Goher offers graphic descriptions of Baba's endless medical conditions and her heart-wrenching helplessness in the face of His suffering. One pilgrim who visited Meherazad in 1971 recalls:

... we spoke for a long time—probably several hours, and the theme to which Goher kept returning was Baba's physical suffering and her helplessness in the face of it. I assumed at first that she meant the results of His injuries from the two automobile accidents, but she said, "No, it wasn't only that. You have no idea. He was always suffering and in pain, and I could not help Him." As she spoke and as she recalled the various medical procedures she had been called upon to perform—blood draws, injections, tests of various kinds—tears would well up in her

large, kindly eyes, and several times they overflowed and she began weeping.

She hated to have to break Baba's skin, she said, to give Him a shot or to draw His blood. Her sense that His body was both earthly and divine came through to me very strongly. Every piece of gauze or cotton, every bandage that had touched Him—and especially that had caught drops of His blood—she had always saved she said. . . .

It was a singular conversation, never repeated. [But] I had vividly experienced the depth of her love for Baba, her sensitivity to His suffering, as well as her simple goodness and immense kindness. I remember especially how soft her hands

were—like velvet cushions—and the luminosity of her large eyes."

David Fenster, author of *Mehera-Meher*, shared the following thoughts with the author:

Reading your manuscript made a big impact on me. You've done a wonderful job of describing the extent of Baba's suffering, and given the reader a real sense of what Goher (and the other mandali) went through as silent witnesses. No Baba lover will ever be the same after reading this. Truly an important work. The real story of Baba's life. . . .

*Doctor and Disciple* is a rare account of Baba's suffering and Goher's heroic efforts to ease His pain. It is a book like no other.

## BECOMING A DOCTOR

In 1922, when Baba was at Manzil-e-Meem, the six-year-old Goher Irani met Meher Baba for the first time. This marked the beginning of a life that became wholly and solely devoted to serving Him, both as doctor and disciple.

To keep the connection warm, Baba made several visits to Quetta where Goher's family was living and, in 1931, He spoke to Goher about her future.

"Baba called me over to Him and asked, 'What do you plan to study further on in school?' I replied, 'I don't know what I want to do, Baba.' And then Baba told me, 'I want you to become a medical doctor.'

This conversation with Baba about becoming a doctor persisted in my mind, and soon it became my only goal. I had no interest in getting married and having a family. I only wanted to study medicine and become a doctor."

Goher did become a doctor. Because her family was too poor to afford medical school, Baba assumed responsibility for her education. After years of study and training—painful separation from Him—

Baba finally called her to join Him permanently:

"Come with all your luggage and belongings, your instruments and medical things, your certificates,—everything."

Goher said, "The sweetness, you can have no idea. It was the greatest joy of my life to know that I was again going to be with Baba. I had suffered so much, feeling He would never call me. Now everything had come back—my interest in life, my joy. The dream was real. I received His letter, and I was going to Him. In June of 1947, I went straight to Baba at Satara. I was thirty-one years old and from then on, my life began."

After years of being Baba's doctor, Goher sits by the stretcher in the Cabin on Meherabad Hill, as Baba lay in state in the Samadhi



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEHER NAZAR PUBLICATIONS



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AMB TRUST ARCHIVES



# The Economics of our Major Book Publishing

The publishing work of Sheriar Foundation had its inception with the creation of Sheriar Press in 1971. In 1989, we created Sheriar Foundation as a not-for-profit organization to make it possible to receive tax-deductible donations. Without these donations, it would not have been possible to publish any of our major books. Projects like the three volume *Befitting A Fortunate Slave* series or the two volume *The Joyous Path* set depend on donations to come into being. Even after 50 years of publishing work, the "market" for these books remains remarkably small. And now with the next two volumes of *Befitting A Fortunate Slave* still in the works and another major work on Dr. Goher's life with Baba in the design stage, it is only the ongoing

flow of donations that provides the financial ability to continue bringing these uniquely important books to life. The content of all of these latest books comes from the extraordinarily close relationship each of the authors had to Eruch, Mani, and, Goher. Access to this kind of firsthand source material simply will not be available in years to come.

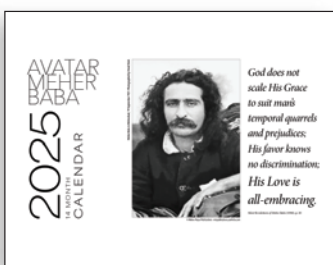
The same principle applies to running and staffing a bookstore seven days a week. The bookstore's operating costs require additional donations to even begin to approach covering all its costs.

The donations that Sheriar Foundation receives come in a number of different ways. Often, people add a donation to their online orders. This is always sweet to see.

Sometimes, we have received much larger donations that were not expected but that give us much more staying power. And then in the last few years, a number of meaningful bequests have also been unexpectedly received. Each and every one of these donation channels make a world of difference to sustaining our ongoing work.

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 home-page if you simply want to make an online donation.

## New & True Additions to the Bookstore

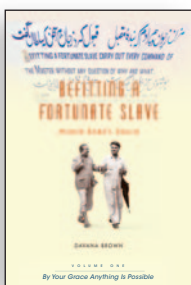


### 2025 Meher Baba Calendar

Another exquisite and informative, 14-month 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. 11 x 9" closed, 11 x 18" opened.

**\$14**



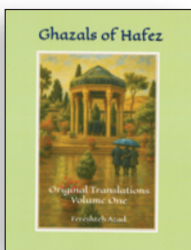
### Befitting a Fortunate Slave, Meher Baba's Eruch

By Your Grace Anything is Possible, Volume 1

Davana Brown

The intimate story of Eruch Jessawala's thirty-one years with Meher Baba before He dropped His body, and the thirty-two years after, when he continued to serve his beloved by serving His lovers who came to Meherabad.

**\$75**



### Ghazals of Hafez Original Translations: Volume One

Translations by Fereshteh Azad

Fereshteh's translations of the first 300 ghazals of Hafez from the Farsi Qodsi edition brings Hafez to the western reader in a fluid, accessible, and beautiful way that some say is one of the best translations of Hafez in English that has been accomplished so far.

**\$45**

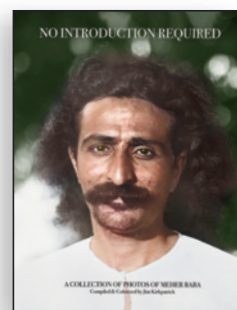


### Life's Surrender Countess Nadine Tolstoy, Disciple of Avatar Meher Baba

Christopher Wilson and Charles Haynes

This book is the first comprehensive account of Countess Nadine Tolstoy's life and work as a disciple of the Avatar of the Age. Includes 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.

**\$45**



### No Introduction Required A Collection of Photographs of Meher Baba

Compiled and Colorized by Jim Kirkpatrick

A superb collection of 110 colorized photographs of Avatar Meher Baba by the noted California artist and photographer Jim Kirkpatrick.

Hardcover: **\$26.50**  
Paperback: **\$19.00**  
PDF: **\$10.99**

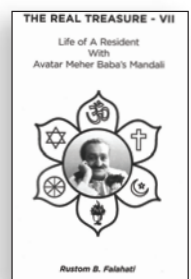


### Fish to the Fisher Poems to Meher Baba

Bob Jaeger

A poignant collection of poems from Bob Jaeger clearly revealing his devotion to Meher Baba.

**\$15**



### The Real Treasure VII Life of a Resident with Avatar Meher Baba's Mandali

Rustom B. Falahati

Another priceless collection of stories brimming with practical methods derived from Meher Baba's Mandali, those who lived their lives with Him and for Him.

**\$9**



### Avatar Meher Baba IN COLOUR

Renditions by Anthony Zois

An exquisite collection of colorized color photographs of Meher Baba. 128 pages. 9 x 11"

**\$45**

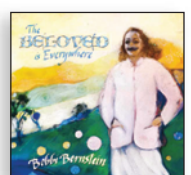


### LOVE with Beloved Meher Baba

Vanessa and Laurent Weichberger & Companions

Centered on the message of love and truth of Avatar Meher Baba, this is the third of a trilogy by the authors.

**\$30**



### The Beloved is Everywhere

Bobbi Bernstein

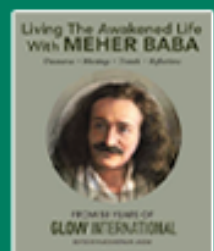
In her new CD, all of the songs are by Bobbi, who plays keyboards, ukulele, and even a jazzy kazoo solo. The collection includes stirring guitar leads, piano glissandos, Caribbean-style rhythms, soft rock, and happily, lyrics that are easy to take in.

**\$15**

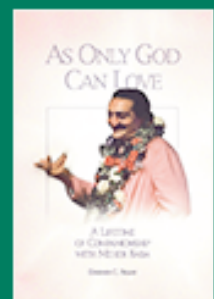
## THREE TREASURES FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT REDUCED PRICES FROM SHERIAR BOOKS



**\$30**  
from \$45



**\$50**  
from \$75



**\$20**  
from \$30

SALE ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2025

**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.