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# HeartBeat



THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF

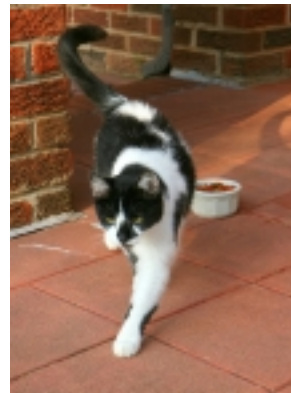
THE AVATAR MEHER BABA HEARTLAND CENTER

August, 2007

Although it appears as the most fantastic imagination, yet it is a fact - the very life of man is the veil that shrouds the reality of the eternal existence of God. It is the irony of divine Fate that God gets lost in man to find Himself, and the instant that man gets lost in God, God realizes His reality as Existence, eternal and infinite.

- Meher Baba

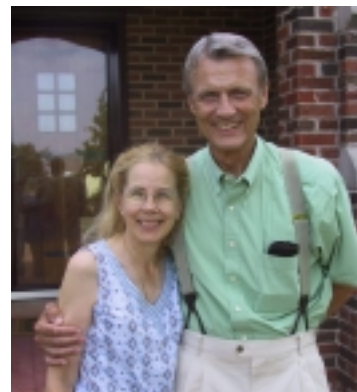
### Address Service Requested



### Commemoration and Open House May 24th, 2008

During the AMBHC board retreat on May 24, 2007, a surprise pilgrim showed up at the accident site, just when we were there remembering Baba. He had never been to Prague on the actual anniversary date, but he felt the nudge this year and drove 8 hours to be there. With this in mind, the Board thought it would be good to have an Open House on this special date, perhaps even annually. We will begin on May 24, 2008, by having a commemoration and open house at the Heartland Center. So far what we have planned is a caravan to the accident site followed by afternoon tea and cookies at the Burleson House, but stay tuned for more details. This will be a day-only event; there will be no accommodations or transportation organized. There are good hotels in Shawnee and other nearby towns for those wishing to stay overnight. All are welcome. Contact Debbie Nordeen, [ambhc1952@gmail.com](mailto:ambhc1952@gmail.com) for more information or to volunteer. Our next organized Sahavas will be for the 60th Anniversary, May 2012.

**Mark your calendars now and see you in Prague soon! You know we'll be there, basking in Baba's presence...**



## President's Message

Dear Friends,

Avatar Meher Baba ki Jai!

The AMBHC once again had a very productive and inspired planning retreat in Prague over the week of May 24th, 2007. We explored distant future visions and made plans for the immediate future. Baba had surprise guests stop by and we also "planted" a sign in the front yard so that all may know where to find us. This sign is proving to be quite a hit with the locals as well, as they turn their heads to view its simple beauty while driving by. I can just imagine them driving by and seeing "Meher Baba" and this heart with Prague, OK marked in the center of it and wonder what it all means and then going home to their families and talking about it.

"Prague is a special place," repeated Julia Margaret Bureson again and again during a recent 10-minute video interview. I agree. We are only in the very beginning stages of comprehending the depth and breadth of the work Baba did there in Prague, what it will mean for the future and what part the Heartland Center will play as Baba's manifestation continues to evolve into the New Humanity that He discussed about so often and referred to in the Trust Deed... Many have had powerful experiences with respect to Baba's work and presence in Prague. If you have had such an experience, please, why not write it down and send it to us. We would love to hear from you....

In Baba's Love and Service,  
John



## Secretary's Report

Jai Baba, everyone! It's been a wonderful year for the Heartland Center, with more and more pilgrims stopping in this wonderful oasis as they journey through life. When the Board had our annual retreat in May, I once again was awed by the generosity and love which Baba showered on this Center, through the love of His lovers. What a beautiful house and home!

The Heartland Center has received an overwhelmingly generous response for our library. In some cases we had many multiple copies of certain titles. The Heartland Center was then able to participate in the Meherabad Book Brigade by donating some of these extra copies to Meherabad. In Baba's sweet timing, it was a fun surprise for me to actually be the person to load these books into boxes and sea mail bags in Prague, and months later, on the second day of our Meherabad stay, to receive the news, "A shipment of books from Prague just arrived. Can you help sort them?" I love when His hand is so obvious!

On 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2007, land near Beloved Baba's Indian accident site was purchased in the name of the Trust. Baba lovers from around the world donated on the spur of the moment to make this possible. This land will hopefully make it possible to erect a landmark commemorating that auspicious day in Baba's advent when Baba shed His blood on Asian soil. On behalf of all of its members, the Avatar Meher Baba Heartland Center donated \$1000 towards the purchase of this land.

In hopes of keeping in touch with you even better, we are starting a group email list. Our plan is to send out an email several times a year, with news about the Heartland Center and perhaps sharing a few heartfelt stories from pilgrims like you. We have all your email addresses as of two years ago, but many of us have changed addresses since then. It would be great if you could drop me a line at [ambhc1952@gmail.com](mailto:ambhc1952@gmail.com) to assure you'll be on our list.

Please continue to pilgrimage to the Heartland Center. And remember that you and your family, or small Baba group, can have a sweet retreat here.

Looking forward to keeping in touch with you all,

Debbie Nordeen

### HeartBeat

#### The Annual Publication of the Avatar Meher Baba Heartland Center

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*AMBHC depends entirely upon the generosity of our community. A hearty thank you to all who have helped us manifest Baba's love in our little corner of His universe!*

#### AVATAR MEHER BABA HEARTLAND CENTER

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## Hospital Update

I know many of you would like to be updated as to what is going on with the Prague Municipal Hospital. Avatar Meher Baba and His mandali

stayed there for almost 2 weeks while recuperating from the auto accident in May of 1952.

As it stands now, the hospital is owned by the city of Prague, but its operation is leased to the Schuster Group (SG) out of Oklahoma City. The SG has recently declared bankruptcy and thus the future of the hospital has once again come into jeopardy. After receiving several bids, however, the details are now being worked out to have the operational part of the hospital sold to another company – the details are yet to be worked out. The local sentiment to keep the hospital open has been very strong. An organization has even been formed locally, made up mostly of employees of the hospital, that would buy and take over operations if the current deal were to fall through. Also of note: a full time physician has recently been hired and has committed to coming to Prague as a full time doctor and resident of the community. This has not been the case in some time. It is good news in that it would make the financial survival of the Hospital more viable. Lastly, Baba's room in the hospital has undergone a lovely makeover this year with new paint and carpet, thanks to a donation to the hospital



by the AMBHC! Anyone interested in assisting in the preservation of the hospital as a memorial to Meher Baba, please contact the AMBHC at (405) 567-4774 or [ambhc@allegiance.tv](mailto:ambhc@allegiance.tv).

## Fun and Games

Anybody have a ping pong table or other recreation equipment or games for the Center? We could use some exercise for mind and body!

## Almost Done!

Keep posted for our new website, currently being redesigned and overhauled with new features:

[ambhc.org](http://ambhc.org)



## The Burleson House:

The Burleson House is the original house of Dr Ned Burleson, who treated Meher Baba while He was recuperating from the 1952 automobile collision. The Center is dedicated to Avatar Meher Baba as an oasis of His remembrance. It is a place for information, retreat, prayer, pilgrimage and study of Baba's unifying message of divine love. It also serves to preserve historical information about Avatar Meher Baba's time spent in and near Prague, Oklahoma.

## To visit Burleson House:

The Burleson House is in the town of Prague, Oklahoma, 60 miles east of Oklahoma City, at the intersection of Rt. 62 and 99. Located at 1319 Barta Avenue, it is directly adjacent to the Prague Hospital where Baba was cared for. (Going North on Rt. 99 'Jim Thorpe Blvd', turn right on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Proceed several blocks to Barta Ave. Turn right on Barta, House is on the corner.)

Day visitors can 'drop in' and visit the Burleson House as they are passing through, to receive information on Baba and the 1952 'accident' and to partake of this oasis in the Heartland. Overnight retreat visitors are encouraged to make a reservation. Up to one week initial reservation can be given, space allowing, with extension possible. We ask that only those with a definite interest in Meher Baba request overnight stays at the Heartland Center Burleson House. To help with utilities and ongoing expenses of the Burleson House there is a suggested donation for your stay: \$20-\$25 a night each person, adjusted rate for families or groups.

Guests are responsible for their own transportation. There is no regular airport pickup service, but affordable rental cars are available at the airport. Please call or email the caretaker, Michael Ivey (405-567-4774, [ambhc@allegiance.tv](mailto:ambhc@allegiance.tv)), to discuss your plans.



## Travel Stop

by David Stevenson

Our family recently piled into the car for a version of the “classic American vacation” - driving from NC to the Grand Canyon and beyond. What an unexpected delight it was to stop in Prague OK. We were welcomed by caretaker Micheal Ivey and made to feel as if the Burleson House was our home. The 2 kids made friends right away with some of the neighborhood girls, and spent hours playing in the beautiful yard. Ceevah and I rested so well that night that the rest of the drive was not nearly as daunting. Of course we saw amazing sights on our trip, but we were just as excited about stopping again in Prague on our way home. The Heartland Center is an Oasis for weary travelers!



## Flowering from Him

by Dick Holmes

So here it is, among the spring green pastures, happy wildflowers, and birdsong of Oklahoma: the holy ground nourished by the blood of Avatar Meher Baba, the Highest of the High, thrown headlong from the speeding Machine Age into this lowest of low places, a roadside ditch, to plant the seed of a new Golden Age that would flower from Him. How quiet and peaceful it is here today. How fortunate we are to bow in awe before this sacred altar – a sprinkle of raindrops joining us now, blessing a thirsty Earth.



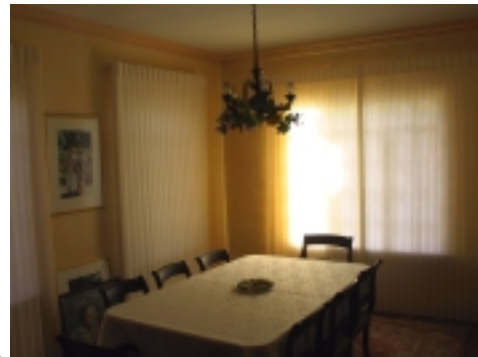
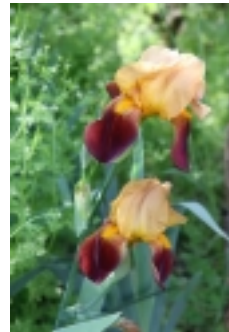
## Wedding Anniversary at the Center

by Murali and Manjusha Kalavapudi

Our stay at the Burleson House was a pleasant experience and Mr. Ivey had made every effort to see that we were comfortable. We had a grand tour and saw the accident site on the 17<sup>th</sup>. This happens to be so important for both of us to be drawn to Baba's accident site on our wedding anniversary. We feel that we are blessed by the Avatar to be at the most important part of the world in the West. Back in December, 2006 we were in India and were in Satara, India, where Baba met with an accident. It is interesting that we saw both locations within a span of 3 months.



Our stay was comfortable and the hospitality was warm. We all had a pleasant evening and we listened to music, cooked and talked about Baba. We certainly would like to visit again and would recommend to our friends to visit this “spiritual site.”



## Baba's Triumph

by Duncan Knowles

As part of the commemoration, we returned to the site of the accident near Prague, Oklahoma. Baba and Mehera had been thrown out of the car and Baba landed in a small ditch on the side of the road near the driveway of the Moucka farm. Though the ditch is now filled in, Baba lovers attending this Gathering collected around the site and began singing and bowing down. When I felt the pull to bow down, I got down on my knees and put my head to the ground. I heard a Baba lover say something about our being here to honor Baba's sacrifice. And just at that moment I had an experience like nothing I have ever had before. It was as if I had moved into another realm of life. It was a place of absolute clarity and inner clear knowing. And Baba was there, everywhere, in every atom of the place. And the understanding that came to me was that, yes, this was sacrifice on Baba's part, but the so-called “accident” was not solely about sacrifice. Instead it was about what Baba DID in going through the accident. For on this very spot, Baba charged the earth with a force of Divinity that will change the world. He released an ocean of Love and Truth and New Living that at some future time will arise from the earth to help spiritualize America and the world. For me at that moment, the very air vibrated with total and utter certainty as to this outcome. I still remember I could not even entertain the slightest trace of doubt in this eventually happening. The certainty of it was so total. Indeed, for me, that was one of the things I needed to understand. The only thing I could do was to be patient and await the time that happens. I have no idea if this will happen in my lifetime or in some future age. All I know is that it will. Each day, the news makes me think the world is spinning out of control. But when I recall that experience with my head to the ground in Oklahoma, it brings me back to thinking that Baba is quietly in complete and total control. What Baba did in Oklahoma WILL manifest. It may happen slowly or it may happen all at once. But it will happen.

## Accident Site Journal Entry

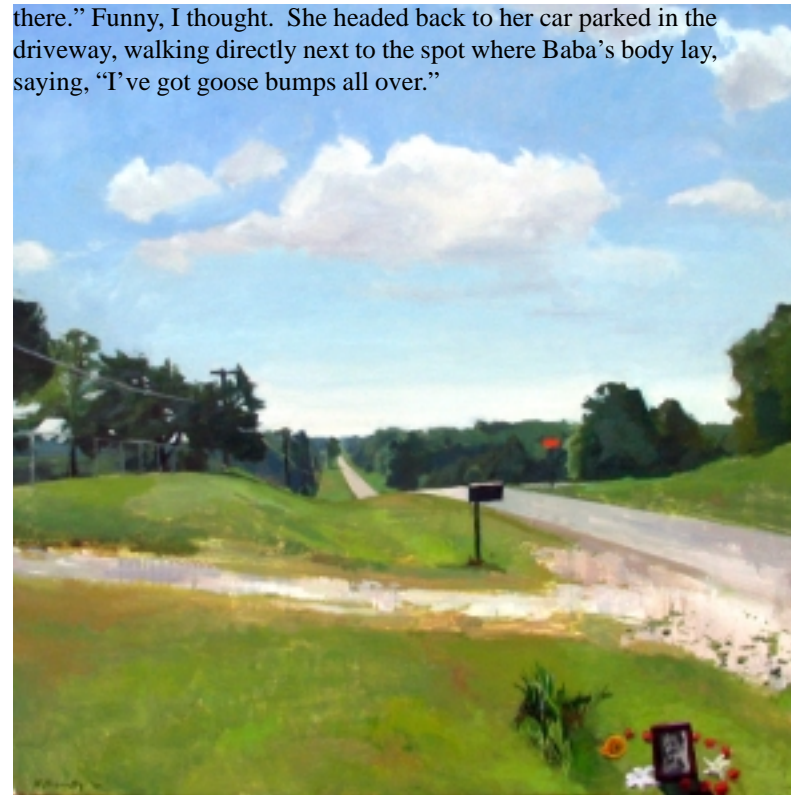
Nathlie Provosty, Wednesday, June 20, 2007



A car pulled over as I was painting, an occurrence that happens usually 1-3 times a day by the curious onlooker or direction inquirer. Out of the car stepped a younger middle-aged woman. She asked what it was about this spot that drew people here so frequently. Even

the flowers she had noticed. Clearly a local woman with a thick Oklahoman accent, I told her about an “Indian Spiritual Master” named Meher Baba who was in an accident at that spot. The location of the flowers was where His body fell when thrown from the car. She asked about the Cherokee Nation and I specified an Indian from India. She said she could relate to an accident, implying she as been in one before. Hearing it was a “holy site,” she said she had the chills. I specified that Baba did not die at the time, but was taken to the Prague hospital. A bit more of the story was related.

She asked for Baba's name again and I said it slowly, even spelling it out for her. She repeated it a couple of times to herself. Then she said, “I've always wanted to walk where Jesus walked, but you know you can't really do that right now because of everything going on over there.” Funny, I thought. She headed back to her car parked in the driveway, walking directly next to the spot where Baba's body lay, saying, “I've got goose bumps all over.”



Nathlie Provosty  
“Accident Site”  
oil on canvas  
30" x 30"  
2007

detail to right:



## From Meheru, Saturday, June 16, 2007

I wish I was not the last one left as witness or participant in Beloved Baba's accidents of '52 and '56, though it was a privilege to have been involved and helped, as in the '56 accident.

Beloved Baba in His Mercy and Compassion had each of His close ones who were near Him at the time help according to their capacity, both the men and the women Mandali, with the will and the strength to go the extra mile when it was needed. The Avatar in His Compassion takes human birth and we have witnessed some of the untold suffering He has been through for the sake of His work.

In the latter years because of His poor health, it was more difficult for Baba to keep fasts. Mehera and we all, remembering the umpteen periods of fasts Baba had been through, asked Him, “Why not let us fast instead?” Baba replied that it would not be the same thing. Even if the whole world fasted simultaneously it would not come up to one day of His fasting. What He had to do He alone knew and went through silently till the very end.

“Khooda ki batay Khooda hi janay” - Regarding matters of God, it is God alone who understands.

And as Hafiz says: “Whatever my Master does is of the highest benefit to all concerned.”

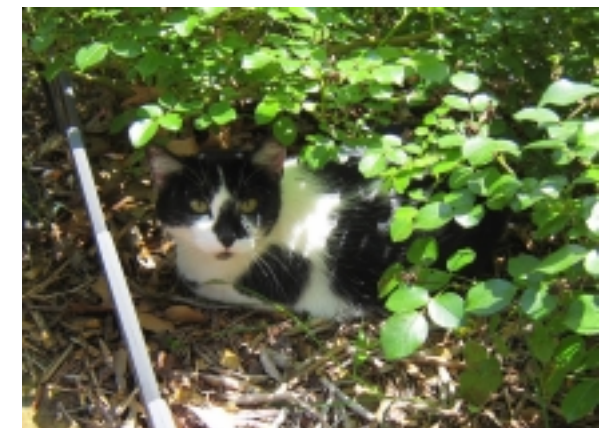
May our faith in Him never waiver no matter the circumstances.



## CowKitty is With Baba

CowKitty is the sweet outdoor-only cat who adopted the Burleson House as her home and welcomed us to the neighborhood. We will miss her loving presence...

Jai Meher Baba!



## Caretaker Report – June 2007

Tempus fugit. Here it is – June, 2007. They say that time goes faster as one ages, but I'm not sure that I've ever experienced a faster two years than the two that just slid by as I've lived here at the Heartland Center.



As I look back over the Heartland Center's second year, here are a few high points and observations that I'll share with you as "the guy on the ground."

Last June saw the retirement of the Methodist minister, Warren Danskin, who

was instrumental in our being accepted by the Prague community during the time when some were speaking against the establishment of a Baba-center here. Warren was one of those elements that Baba brought together to manifest this Center. He met each individual based on the "content of their character" as opposed to any prejudice of "category" and calmed the waters when such calming was what was needed. After having had ministries in New York, London, Rio de Janeiro and California, the reason that Warren had taken the Prague ministry was that his wife, Lynette, had grown up in Tulsa and they wanted to retire there. Prague was the closest ministry to Tulsa, so Baba used that reason to put one of the chess pieces in place.

During the last few days before the retirement, Warren and Lynette were in town, but they had already surrendered the parsonage to the new minister. Needing a place to stay for the last 2-3 nights, they asked me if they could stay at the Heartland Center. They did, of course, and they reported sleeping extremely well in the master bedroom where Dr. and Mrs. Burlson slept for over 40 years. I considered it a great compliment that this Christian minister would choose to stay at the Baba-center when he would no doubt have been welcomed into the homes of many of his "flock."

Since retirement, Warren and Lynette have done two "stints" in his old church in London on a fill-in basis. Warren and I are still in contact and he remains interested in the progression of the Heartland Center from his new home in Tulsa.

The next major event for the past year was the replacement of (almost) all the windows. In September, the old rusty casement windows were replaced with new double-paned, argon-gas-filled, aluminum-framed windows that preserve the original look of the house while being extremely energy-efficient. Thanks to all who donated specifically for this purpose. This improvement to the structure means that energy use in all seasons is lowered, stretching the benefits of donations to the Center's operational budget.

In December, one of the contemporaries of the Burlson children, Susan Morrison, died. She had lived in the large house next-door to the Burlson House for about 20 years, having returned to Prague after living elsewhere for most of her adult life. The house is currently



occupied by Susan's daughter, but the family plans to sell the house within a year or so.

In mid-February, pilgrims Manjusha and Murali Kalavapudi (D.C. area) came to the Heartland Center bringing some of their relatives from Tulsa in tow. This visit was significant because they had just attended the 50-year commemoration of the 1956 Satara accident in India during December. Now, within 2 months, they were on the other side of the world at the 1952 accident site joining East and West in commemoration of Baba's sacrifices for the world.

On the occasion of Baba's birthday, 2007, we had a small gathering of the Baba-lovers from Oklahoma (a very small group!) that consisted of a wonderful dinner and a slide show of photos taken by Bobbie Buggia (a recent resident of OK) from his trips to India during 1977 and 1978. Some of these photos of the mandali of those years are terrific and have not been seen by many – they've been inhabiting Bobbie's slide carousels since then.

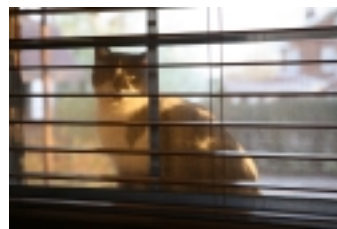
At the end of May, coinciding with the anniversary of the May 24 accident, the Board members of the Heartland Center met here in Prague for our annual Board Retreat. The biggest event of the retreat was the "planting" of a new sign in front of the Burlson House, announcing to the world, "Here we are!" The sign says

"Avatar Meher Baba Heartland Center" in gold on a deep blue background. (See photos) Having the sign out front really does something significant in the establishment of the Center. Before, the Center existed on a diplomatically cautious basis, being mindful of the small-town, traditional Christian culture of Prague and wishing to be accepted within that culture. Now, after two years, having received only friendship and acceptance from the townspeople, we felt the time was right to step out and hold our heads up as a member of the Prague community. The aesthetic of the sign also does wonders for the Center – transforming an otherwise normal suburban house into the **AMB Heartland Center** for all to see!

Another interesting thing about this year's Board retreat was the fact that our President, John Poag, brought his digital camera and filmed several vignettes of our time together. One of these, a short conversation between Julia Margaret (Burlson) and Lynn Wilhite about the significance of Baba's accident here in Prague, is posted at YouTube.

Financially, the AMBHC continues to do well as a result of our dedicated few "angel" donors who contribute on a monthly basis or every now and then. As of July 1, 2007, the AMBHC will have completed its first five years of existence as a 501c3. This first 5 years is a test period under IRS regulations to determine whether the entity is a "publicly supported organization" or a "private foundation."

According to a formula for the numbers of donations and their amounts, the AMBHC should be granted the status of "publicly supported organization" and enjoy full tax-exempt benefits. Keep those



cards and letters coming! In stark contrast to last year's drought, one would have thought that we were in India this year due to the veritable monsoon season we've been experiencing since mid-February – more rain than anyone can remember (according to the natives). The extremely high rainfall amounts have exposed some minor problems with our basement and roof, but all-in-all the house has performed well. Where last year I had a nice garden, this year has been a mud-hole that's allowed only a few tomato plants.

The employees of the Prague Municipal Hospital (next door) continue to exhibit extreme graciousness and respect in their accommodation of pilgrims to the places where Baba, Mehera and Elizabeth recovered in the aftermath of the accident. They are always friendly and will usually engage in conversation with pilgrims, curious to know

## Some Meher Baba Quotes on America

"I will come back to America to pour out my love to you, and to spiritualise America." (December 1931, on the ship *S. S. Narkunda*)

"I intend bringing about a great spiritual revival in the near future, utilising the tremendous amount of energy possessed by America for the purpose. Such a spiritual outpouring that I visualise usually takes place at the beginning or end of a cycle, and only a Perfect one who has reached the Christ state of consciousness can make such a universal appeal..."

"The benefits that shall accrue to different nations and countries when I bring about the spiritual upheaval, will be largely determined by the amount of energy each one possesses. The greater the energy, however misapplied, the greater the response. The Master merely diverts the current into the right channel." (May 19, 1932, aboard *S.S. Bremen* off NY Harbor)

"... America, being the most deeply engrossed in material things, and suffering the most in consequence, is the soil on which a new spiritual rebirth will first take place."

"America requires only the guiding hand of a Master to redirect its material powers to the heights of spirituality." (26 January, 1933 Ceylon)

Gandhi asked, "Then there is an awakening and interest about spirituality in America?"

"Yes, there is much," Baba answered. "But the Americans have not had sufficient light and genuine guidance by a Master in a spiritual direction. If they get these, they will respond wonderfully." LM1516 (Jan 3 1932, India)

Interview with Frederick Collins, May 18, 1932:

"We in America have other problems right now besides sex," interjected Collins.

"Yes, things have been messed up a good deal here by lack of understanding," Baba commented.

"What are you going to do for this messed-up country of ours?"

Baba smiled, spelling out, "It's my country, too." [...] When questioned about America's problems, Baba stated, "America has great energy, but a great deal of it is misdirected. And misdirected energy produces destructive complexes, and these, in turn, produce fear, greed, lust and anger, which result in moral and spiritual decay."

"Is your aim to help us with our spiritual problems or our practical problems?"

Baba responded: "Our spiritual problems are our practical ones!"

"And just how do you intend to help?"

"The help I will give will produce a change of heart in thousands, and right thinking will then automatically result." Collins interview: LM5 p1620-1622

To reporter Toni Roothbert, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, 16 May, 1952, 8 days before the accident near Prague LM 3823:

Toni: Under the surface, and unknown, there is great longing for spirituality.

Baba: And what is needed for this awakening is love for whatever God one likes. In the form of Jesus crucified, or another. God will do it. He can do it. And now the time is near, very near, when this spiritual upliftment has to take place. Yes, absolutely. It has to be, and will be. America now leads the material side of the world, and yet has such potential that she can lead the world spiritually, if awakened. Awakening is love for God in the form of Jesus, God crucified. And God will do it. He can do it. And now the time is near, very near, when the spiritual upliftment has to take place. America is destined to lead the world spiritually. Truth never fails, and lovers of God will soon triumph."

