

Received through Email:

Infinite Intelligence - a personal appreciation

In case you have not heard the news, yet another new personal invitation has arrived for you to explore for yourself the Great Mystery in the form of a brilliant new book, Infinite Intelligence. This is the latest book edited for publication by the Avatar Meher Baba Trust, admirably designed and printed by Sheriar Foundation. I highly recommend it.

The book is an edition (along with supplementary materials) of a manuscript penned in the mid-1920's by an unknown scribe at Meherabad. The original text records in series an organized sequence of "talks" Beloved Baba gave the mandali at that time. He does not appear to have intended His talks primarily for publication; that is, He was not dictating a book. Rather, they seem like elucidations delivered for the benefit of His close ones. Perhaps, looking instead towards the years ahead and the challenges they would bring before His "boys", He used these regular informal occasions to encourage and to train them.

What would they need in the future? What would be useful to them? Love and obedience, of course, but also, agile minds capable of responding rapidly to new ideas. To teach this, He gave them many luminous new ideas of His own.

Today, you may read the content of those same discourses, experience some of the fresh vitality of that era and marvel at Baba's mastery, authority and elegant presentation. It will challenge you.

All texts itself focus about the theme of Infinite Intelligence and its six roles - which parallel the ten states of God that are familiar to us from God Speaks.

Perhaps the first question many people will ask is:

"What is 'Infinite Intelligence'?"

-It is the Natural Light of God, His Essence, in all God's states, stages and roles.

In this book Baba describes the original "Beyond State" (or the "Original Beyond State of God in God Speaks) of this Intelligence in these terms:

"When not thinking, the Infinite Self, although abiding in the Real

Light or Natural Light state, does not experience Light but Natural Darkness instead"
(Infinite Intelligence," p. 151.)

The Infinite Intelligence of God - i.e., your soul, - directly, completely, spontaneously and perfectly "knows" whatever is before it. In His Original State, where "what is before Him" is Natural Darkness, He knows Nothing. Meher Baba in God Speaks describes this state as the "Sound Sleep State", and says that this state is neither conscious nor unconscious - but, mind you, don't confuse this with our daily sleep: God is not dozing here.

Natural Light, i.e., Infinite Intelligence, already pervades Everything and will eventually spawn the capacity for consciousness, thinking and all their related experiences. It Knows. The riddle of our mind comes about because our mind is so very close to the soul and illuminated by Natural Light. Thus the mind becomes both the primary object of Intelligence's Knowing and Its tool for gathering experiences.

Throughout the new book, the cascade of Creation unfolds in sequence similar to God Speaks, but the starting point and point of view are slightly different. Further differences arise because God Speaks is primarily a book which details the "the Theme of Creation and Its Purpose"; the materials comprising Infinite Intelligence, by contrast, began not as a book but as the records of Baba's presentations to a group of living listeners. As the mandali in attendance grasped the new ideas, He built upon their increased understanding. When you read it today, you will quickly find yourself part of that audience, in Meherabad, circa the mid-1920's. As you become eager - like the original mandali-audience did - you will thrill to His skillful exposition.

The tale of the journey of the soul in God Speaks is "the Ocean and the drop". It begins with one unconscious soul, the drop. Infinite Intelligence moves back, forth and around the Ocean of Intelligence.

In God Speaks, near the start of "Part 8", "Evolution of Consciousness," in the first footnote occurs the only mention of "evolution and production"; it reads thus:
"The whole Creation has come out of the Nothing. Out of the Nothing two things have emerged, evolution and production. Out of the Nothing, seven states of gas came into being. The seventh evolved state is hydrogen. Out of this seventh gaseous state evolution and

production came into being.

. . . From the Nothing, most finite shadow and infinite shadow emerged simultaneously."

This same thread appears as a major idea all throughout Infinite Intelligence where it expands and develops into major theme. (You can find this in Infinite Intelligence in "Series 10. Ishwar, Imagination, and Thinking," "The Crossing Lines of Thinking and Imagination," which begins on page 174. The chart summary is on page 178.)

Farther on in the same chapter of God Speaks, Baba sketches hints of Divine Mysteries in a few beautiful lines:

"As in the nature of the man state, so also in the nature of every state of God, God consistently asserts directly and indirectly, apparently and really, His infinite triune attributes of Creator, Preserver and Destroyer at one and the same time.

. . . Thus it is that the triune attributes of God, as God the Creator, God the Preserver and God the Destroyer (Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh or Shiva) assert independently as well as simultaneously in all things and in every creature and in all beings, in every state of God at every stage in the evolution of consciousness, and on every plane in the involution of consciousness,..."

(God Speaks, p. 111 or p.118, depending on your version).

The deeper beauty pointed to by the above quotation is drawn, colored and revealed in great detail by an entire chapter of Infinite Intelligence,

(Series 10, "Ishwar, Imagination, and Thinking," pp. 174-21.)

Although The Nothing and the Everything (by Bhau) and In God's Hand (by Baba Himself) have already introduced to us some topics that appear in Infinite Intelligence, be assured there are many new surprising ideas here we have never heard before. My personal favorite is the revelation how each of the different yogas bring about the annihilation of sanskaras in different manners. As far as I can gather, this was never explained before, even in the Bhagavad Gita

The editors have organized this initial presentation of the manuscript in a natural, straightforward way. The additional structure they provide via headings, synopses, side bars, charts and figures, indexes, the layout of the text on the page and other design decisions delineates for the reader the main threads of the discourse.

The original prose is lightly and delicately edited for style. The non-English phrases and passages are sensitively and faithfully rendered into smooth readable English. (The longer Gujarati passages are reproduced verbatim in the supplement.) The most of the words are unchanged; the play and flow of ideas and the sequence of Baba's argument remains untouched.

The first foundational chapters are repetitive, like the switchbacks that ascend a mountain. From the elevation of the peak, the view astonishes us: behold the precise nature of the uniqueness the "Sadguru" (or God-Man and Man-God as Baba refined that terminology in later years.) This jewel of revelation crowns the book. A splendid figure, "The Sadguru and His Two Hands," summarizes this on p. 310.

All the original charts, an important part of the original manuscript, are given in the supplement as facsimiles. In the primary text they are presented in a form beautifully redrawn and translated for clarity. The editors and artist have created additional new charts to summarize and draw together main ideas in many sections.

This book is a doorway. It is clear, thorough, and honest. It is the most important book published yet thus far in this new millennium. It is undoubtedly the first of many that will be written about these texts. You will enjoy it. And when the manuscript becomes available online sometime in the coming year, this edition will help you to explore further on your own the profound content of the actual original multilingual manuscript pages. These are an astonishing immediate record from the Life of the Avatar of the Age and a deeply moving record of an occasion of His giving to His close mandali in the opening years of His Advent.

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