# "God Speaks as the Master Framework for an Integrated Cosmology as Revealed to the World by Avatar Meher Baba"

# **Schedule and Topics**

#### Saturday, September 20

Afternoon session: "Introduction." (i) A preview of the course. (ii) A brief survey of *God Speaks*, the history of its composition, and Meher Baba's theosophical writings and discourses over His lifetime.

# Sunday, September 21

Morning session: "Philosophical Backgrounds." (i) Meher Baba in the context of the great world religious and philosophical traditions. (ii) Meher Baba's theosophy: an overview. (iii) The Divine Theme.

Afternoon session: "Creation and Evolution." (i) Creation and the Whim. (ii) Darwinian evolution and its discontents. (iii) Evolution of consciousness in Meher Baba's account.

# Monday, September 22

Morning session: "Reincarnation and Karma, Part 1." (i) God Speaks, Part 4: "Reincarnation and the Impressionless Equipoise of Consciousness." (ii) Sanskaras and their Representation in *Discourses* and *Infinite Intelligence*.

Afternoon session: "Reincarnation and Karma, Part 2." (i) The Buddhist Account of Karma: *Pratītyasamutpāda* ("dependent arising") and the Twelve *Nidānas*. (ii) Baba's Discourses on Reincarnation. (iii) Major themes in human life: cosmic justice; free will and predestination.

# Tuesday, September 23

Morning session: "Involution, Part 1: The Topography of the Path." (i) Baba's basic account of the seven planes. (ii) The planes and the āsmans (skies). (iii) *God Speaks*, Part 6: "Summary of States of Divine Consciousness."

Afternoon session: "Involution, Part 2: The hāls and experientials of the spiritual path." (i) "How It All Happened": a narrative rendering of the path of Involution. (ii) "The sevenfold veil." (iii) Sufi analytic of the states of experience: Qushayri and al-Hujwiri.

#### Wednesday, September 24

Morning session: "Involution, Part 3: The Mārgs." (i) The four mārgs: karma, dñyān, rāj, and bhakti yogas. (ii) The path of going blindfold.

Afternoon session: "God-realization and the Avatar." (i) The Four Journeys. (ii) The Avatar and ideas of salvation.

# Thursday, September 25

Morning session: "Cosmic Architecture in *Infinite Intelligence:* An Introduction." (i) Thinking the imagination: the crossing lines. (ii) The individual and the universal (microcosm and macrocosm). (iii) Applying cosmological principles from *Infinite Intelligence* to *God Speaks* and *Discourses*. (iv) Prakriti And Purush in Ishvarakrishna's *Sāmkhyakārikā*.

Afternoon session: "The Beyond-Beyond State, the Whim, and the Creation."

(i) The Beyond-Beyond State. (ii) The Whim. (iii) Early creation (prāṇ and ākāsh; the clash and the first embodiment). (iv) A creation narrative: bringing the 1920s material to *God Speaks*.

## Friday, September 26

Morning session: "The First Two Triads: Wakefulness-Dream-Sound-Sleep, and Knowledge-Power-Bliss." (i) Cosmic architecture. (ii) The three states—wakefulness-dream-sound-sleep. (iii) Knowledge-Power-Bliss and their correlations.

Afternoon session: "The Third Triad (Creation-Preservation-Destruction), and Duality and Tawhid." (i) The creation-preservation-destruction triad. (ii) Tawhid and duality.

#### Saturday, September 27

Morning session: "God's Attributes and the Five Presences." (i) Ibn Arabi on the names and attributes . (ii) The five presences. (iii) Chart XI in *God Speaks*.

Afternoon session: "The Ten States of God." (i) A detailed study of the "Ten States." (ii) An assessment of the "Ten States" within Meher Baba's Cosmology.

#### Sunday, September 28

Morning session. "Overview of *God Speaks*." A general discussion.