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Nicholas Roerich, world renowned artist, philosopher and cultural leader, was hailed as one of the greatest forces for international understanding and peace of to-day, in a Luncheon given in his honour by the World Fellowship of Faiths, on April 21, before his departure for the East. Charles Frederick Weller, General Executive of the World Fellowship of Faiths presided.

After paying his respects to the significance of the occasion, the Chairman introduced as the first speaker, Mr. Kedarnath Das Gupta, also General Executive of the World Fellowship, who spoke as follows:

"One of the great privileges of those of us who live in this age is the opportunity of seeing and knowing Nicholas Roerich. If in the entire world I were to choose only six great internationalists, one of those would of necessity be Nicholas Roerich. And in the International Committee which this organization is planning and which is to be composed of the greatest figures in international ^{under}standing, we are going to ask Nicholas Roerich is he willing to do us the honor of serving (this announcement is a surprise to him, and I know that he will not refuse to be on our Committee.)

"This occasion has its beginning about 14 years ago in London. At that time, I was one day at the home of Rabindranath Tagore, who said to me, 'To-day I am going to give you a very great treat. I followed him and he took me to South Kensington to an apartment filled with superb canvases and paintings. And there were Nicholas Roerich and Mme. Roerich. And therefore the first time I know Nicholas Roerich, I knew the Master. And as Mme. Roerich showed us the paintings, I thought of our beautiful ideal of the East Prakriti and Purusha, man revealed through the woman. That incident

and privilege has never been out of my mind, and the beauty of the paintings has pursued me always. Nicholas Roerich was great in Russia, he was great in England, and he is great in America. Not long after Rabindranath Tagore said to me, 'Nicholas Roerich has gone to America', you should also go there. And so I came to America, and the day after my arrival I went to see Nicholas Roerich in the Hotel des Artistes; and it was there I told him of my plan for the organization of the Union of East and West. He said, 'It cannot be too soon, count me as your first member.' And so there the Union of the East and West was begun with Roerich as the first member.

"It was not long after that Nicholas Roerich one day surprised me in my little office in the Algonquin, bringing to see me Mr. Horch and Miss Grant of the Roerich Museum and at the inaugural function of the institution, I produced the little play, "The Maharani of Arakan." And since I have followed the great growth of his institutions through the world. Roerich has become a citizen of the world, his home is the world; to do good is his religion. And if we are to have peace in these times the world needs an internationalist like you are, Professor Roerich, to show us the way."

The next speaker, Mirza Ahmed Sohrab also paid tribute to Professor Roerich, saying, "It is a great happiness, a great privilege to be to-day in the presence of Professor Roerich." He then outlined the need of enlisting youth in the principles of human understanding, and ended, "And to-day I hail Nicholas Roerich, who is the embodiment of youth in our midst."

Pandit Shyam Shankar, eminent Indian Scholar, also father of the famed dancer, next spoke as follows; "It is not pleasant or easy to speak when one is ill, but despite my cold, I felt that the occasion to-day was so weighty and important a matter, that I could not fail to come and render honor to Nicholas Roerich. Honor to whom honor is due. And hence it is always a privilege to give tribute to the great man who is with us. I live in the building of the Roerich Museum; I speak in its premises; from morning to

evening, I move among the surroundings inspired by the master mind of Roerich. And hence I have come ~~not~~ not only out of a sense of duty to the World Fellowship of faith, but also with deep personal consideration. In the east we have a saying in Sanskrit that it is a great blessing to be in the company of great men, and that even if we only associate with great minds it is like a boat of liberation. And what greater mind can there be than that of Roerich? That brings us to the question of what is greatness. Everyone's opinion is different. But to my mind, greatness lies in the largeness of the heart and the expanded soul which goes out to humanity, and exerts its ennobling influence on the souls of those with whom he comes in contact. To-day I can see with how many our guest of to-day stands first and foremost in rank for his work is the soul-ennobling influence of culture on the developed mind, which cannot be valued in dollars or shillings or in any money. And it is to such influence that we must look for a change of standard in our current taste, which unfortunately finds its source in Hollywood. This public standard must be changed so that soon there will be a new criterion based on spiritual influence. To-day I not only refer to the great master mind of Roerich but also to his great concept of the Banner of Peace. To-day there are two great problems which face our civilization--the problem of poverty and peace and until these two problems are solved there will be a stigma upon our civilization. But the question is "Who can solve them." Only those with understanding minds and large heart and therefore to-day I particularly commend Nicholas Roerich as the leader who could solve these two problems for civilization."

Frances R. Grant of the Roerich Museum then spoke as follows: "Only a few minutes ago Mr. Das Gupta asked me if I would say a few words here to-day, but even if he had asked me long ago, I would have found it difficult to speak--because there are certain emotions and feelings too deep for the fabric of words, they can be communicated only in the silence

of the heart. Hence those of us who have the great privilege of working under the guidance and leadership of Nicholas Roerich must feel that words are inadequate to translate the true grace that has been accorded them.

"To those of you who are present here to-day the word 'Guru' is familiar --a word beautified by the concept of the East. I may say that for us who have been privileged to be associated in the Roerich Museum, this word has been beautified, exemplified, made a living presence in the being which is Nicholas Roerich. For us he is the embodiment of the 'Guru'--indefatigable, selfless, tireless in his labors for humanity. A constant inspiration and sustenance to those about him, a veritable mountain of guidance and wisdom to whom we could turn constantly for the direction and the way ahead.

"To-day there come to me two sayings from the East, which we who are present here love so deeply. The first saying is the following; 'Do not sorrow at the separation but rather at the meeting--because the meeting precedes the separation, but the separation precedes the reunion.' So to-day facing the separation with Nicholas Roerich, still we rejoice, because we know his way ahead is filled with new victory, and because we know that the reunion shall be pervaded with the radiance which is ever present in the meetings with Nicholas Roerich.

"The second saying of the East, which comes to me is "How often, turning our steed homeward, we set out again into the darkness of the night, lest by spending the night at home, we impair the immutability of the plan. It is such intentness which moves Roerich's life, in the service of the world. For Roerich there is no home, there is no dwelling--there is only the endless, inexhaustible beautiful labor in the cause of progress.

"And now in closing, let me recall to you the title of the new painting which has recently been hung among works of Roerich in the Roerich Museum --And the Heavenly Forces are invisibly serving with us"--In this painting the lights of far-off worlds intermingle with the light of human striving.

Herein is reflected the destiny of Roerich--for to a spirit, so attuned to the needs of the universe, truly the heavenly forces lend their Grace. And we know that as he now moves on in the new ever-enlarging horizons before him, the Star of a Heavenly Guidance, which has been ever above him, shall continue to lead him in his tireless labors for the Brotherhood of the human race."

(Following this address, the chairman said, "It may be that this meeting is truly historic, because the forces of the Roerich Museum and our own are united on this occasion")

Sri Deva Ram Sukul, the following speaker, said, "I have had the opportunity often to admire and be inspired by the wonderful expressions of art of Nicholas Roerich. And now I feel it a great privilege and honor to be here and to have the opportunity to admire and adore a masterpiece of the human race.--Nicholas Roerich, who is serving humanity in the selfless devotion to an ideal. Nicholas Roerich, in his life (as I am sure most of you are aware) is one of the servants of the Great Masters of light and wisdom. As the world Fellowship of Faiths is spreading the ideal of the unity of all faith in love and brotherhood, so the work of Nicholas Roerich is the Orient and here is to accomplish the great threefold purposes of spiritual unity among men."

Leon Dabo, American Artist and Vice-President of the Roerich Society: "This universe is a universe of law and order; it is a universe of law, and order and justice--and if man has lost the sense of spiritual guidance, it is because he has severed his connection with the creative forces. It is a universe spiritually guided and the Hierarchy are constantly sending Their messengers to this terrestrial globe of ours. They constantly send to us those who like John the Precursor, act as Guides. This guidance is in three forms--the first form is that of creative art; the second form is that of formulative philosophy, the law; the third form is through the inventive

forces, where the whole marvelous mechanism of evolution is revealed, and which combines all three forms. One of these Messengers is Nicholas Roerich --priest, poet and artist--who as a result is also a philosopher, prophet and guide. One who like a Leonardo, a John the Baptist, is sent providentially, as have been so many precursors, who by culture and beauty teach us to gain spiritual peace, and through love to destroy the blasphemy.

"Miss Grant who spoke before me said so beautifully that Nicholas Roerich had no home, no dwelling--that is entirely correct. That man Nicholas Roerich, has no home, no date, no nation--he belongs to no nation, or epoch. So do the Persian miniatures, so do the great Chinese art work, or the Etruscan creations. They belong to all times and all nations. For every artist, every poet, every philosopher is primarily a priest--his vocation is holy, holy, holy. He leads mankind, and we follow his light. They are timeless, as is beauty. They have many facets all reflecting the Supreme. Nicholas Roerich is the present day representative of that divine inspiration--what matters whether he is here or in India. What matters if one hears from him but a few times a year--I always knew Nicholas Roerich, and there is an eloquence in our silent communication that transcends all written words. He is a messenger from the Hierarchy itself, revealing that in Beauty all virtues are combined; no man with an evil thought can create, nor unless he is seered by the fire until all the selfish and ordinary has been removed from his being. When such a divine seering by the fire takes place there results a Michael Angelo, a Leonardo, a Hokusai--and ~~then~~ then and there results, a Nicholas Roerich.

Mrs. Mary Hannaford Ford, leader of the Bahai Center, then was called upon to present Professor Roerich with a Tribute from the World Fellowship of Faiths. Mrs. Ford first expressed her great admiration for Professor Roerich and her deep sense of privilege in reading the Tribute which she then read. 'To Nicholas Roerich, Painter and Prophet of Peace: Revered Sir,

We, the members of the World Fellowship of Faiths, greet you and honor you to-day, recognizing the significance of your great contribution to the art of painting and to the cause of peace and brotherhood.

"Your life-long service to art is only a part of your dedication to the highest principles of personal integrity and to the noblest interests of humanity.

"Not only have you brought joy to the hearts of millions by your brush but as a great artist you have helped to bridge the gulf between the East and West.

"Your great conception of the Banner of Peace is a permanent, monumental contribution to human welfare and progress.

"We wish you, under God's Providence, many more years of health, happiness and continued activity on behalf of the causes which you love.

"We remain, with renewed assurances of love and gratitude,

Respectfully yours, "Members of the WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF FAITHS"

"Luncheon-Reception

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Mrs. Ford then handed to Professor Roerich the Resolution in framed form. The chairman then asked the audience to rise, and with him to repeat the eastern salutation; raising their clasped hands to their hearts and heads, the audience said in unison, to Prof. Roerich, "With our hearts and our minds, we salute the soul in you."

Professor Roerich then rose to reply:

"Friends,

"IN MY HEART AND IN MY MIND -- in this sequence is expressed the greatest law. Truly we may express ourselves in our hearts and through our hearts Only temporarily can we believe that the 'brain trust' is sufficient --but the next day there comes the realization of the 'heart trust' as the one way to true progress. We know many glorious conceptions--unity, brotherhood peace. In our hearts all these great conceptions are preserved--and yet we

realise that something still has not succeeded, something still is lacking. What is the meaning of this? We have all heard of the terror of the present time--and truly it is an Armageddon which is roaring about us. As we realise this, we recognize that the forces of darkness, the forces of destruction are highly organized, each person has seen the proofs of their cunning and resourcefulness. Yet we, who search for light, are still in disunity, still disorganized. Let us, for instance, consider the daily papers. What do we see? On the first pages we see, in large headlines, the news only of war, of crime, of destruction, of hatred. And if there is something of beauty, of construction--it is placed, not even on the last page, but in the smallest type, within some obscure page. Hence only the news of murder, of destruction, is regarded of interest. In this way not only the public, but the young generation, from childhood itself, is educated that war, hatred, killing, are important and entitled to headliness, whereas anything constructive is of little importance. The only time when something of art or science appears on our front pages is if a painting has been stolen or some other sensational aspect.

"There we see how well the opposite forces are organized. It is time therefore that good-will should enter into the world's consciousness and that we, the ^{forces} of construction should be better organized. And this organization does not mean something abstract. We are accustomed to think that something good is only abstract, something beyond the terrestrial. But we must come to think that idealism is something truly practical.

"Thus now the time has come to find in our hearts the powerful energy of mutual understanding. It is an old axiom that we are all brothers and sisters; it has been repeated many times--but now we must bring it into life. We must pledge that we shall no longer permit destruction, war annihilation and the awful disunity. People still do not discriminate between civilization and culture--yet when I say of someone he is a civilized

worker it will make him justly uneasy, whereas if I say he is a cultural worker, he rejoices. Civilization has to do with civil life, but culture has to do with spirit. Hence culture must become a reality, it must be brought into life in full organization.

"To-day I feel a real flame in your hearts--let this flame be preserved, do not let it be obscured and perturbed when you go out into the street among others. Let this flame of the Heart remain kindled for the glory of the Highest. Let us believe that each moment we are in the Presence of That Highest. Then so many of the small, malicious thoughts that obstruct the world, will perish. Because in the Great Presence, lies cannot endure. This noble cause of the World Fellowship of Faiths is a beautiful one and I congratulate it. Let us bring these noble conceptions into life, in full organization, and then on the first pages of our newspapers, there will no longer appear only war and murder--but news of full construction and progress."

(The Chairman then once again called to the audience to rise and salute Professor Roerich, after which he declared the meeting adjourned.)