

Madame Helena Roerich .

Helena Ivanovna Roerich was born in St. Petersburg in 1879. Her father was the well-known architect Ivan Ivanovitch Shaposhnikov, professor at the Institute of Civil Engineers, he built several schools, churches and mansions, which received awards and recognition. The mother of Madame Roerich - was Catherine Vasilievna Golenistcheva-Kutuzova, a grand-daughter of Field Marshall Prince Golenistchev-Kutuzov, the hero of 1812. The ancestors of Golenistchev-Kutuzov came from Friesland in the XIIIth century when Friesian knight Kutuz arrived at the court of the Grand Duke Alexander Nevski. Amidst Madame Roerich's relatives are: the Princes Putiatin, the Princes Shakhovskoi, the famous composer Moussorgsky, Baron Heycking, Azarievs, Tchelistchevs. After passing the Girls College with a golden medal, Madame Roerich was very successful in music under leadership of the famous Professors of the Petrograd Conservatory Malozemova and Borovka and appeared with success at concerts of the School of Music of St. Petersburg. In 1901 Helena Ivanovna married Nicholas Konstantinovitch Roerich. "When the famous Serov painted Madame Roerich's portrait, he stated that the essence of her nature was movement, or rather striving. She is always ready. When she speaks of the Altai Sisters, who help the people, one can see in this call her own noble character. Madame Roerich is always ready to bring help, to encourage, to explain, never sparing efforts. One can but be surprized from where she takes her energy, especially when one knows of her weak heart and all the extraordinary circumstances and manifestations which fill her life. Madame Roerich travelled across the whole of Asia on horse-back, barely escaped death through frost and hunger in Tibet, but always gave herself a living example of courage to the whole caravan. And the greater the danger, the more valiant, ready and joyful was she. With a pulse of 140, she participated in the organizing of the caravan and in all worries of the expedition. No one has ever seen her down-hearted or in despair. Yet there were endless reasons during the travels. Madame Roerich lives in

constant work from morning till evening. When she is ill, she soon recovers the spirit combatting the disease, and again one can hear the quick rattling of her typewriter. At the moment friends are publishing two volumes of Madame Roerich's letters - just a part of her extensive correspondence. If everything she wrote were to be published it would take many volumes. The activity of our inspirer is most unusual. In many countries groups and units receive her help on the wings of air mail. She always hastens with help. Many people await her word of explanation, compassion and affirmation. Even friends do not always know that Madame Roerich has written several books. Not under her own name. She does not like to speak even indirectly of herself. She has five pen names: Russian, Western and Oriental. It is strange sometimes, to read quotations from her books and the people even do not know to whom they refer. Upon E.I.'s (this is short for Elena Ivanovna) inspiration women's associations are founded. It is wonderful to see how much is constructed here and there without even knowing the actual source. It is a great joy to give to the people a wide world outlook, so free them from superstitions and prejudices and to show them to what an extent true knowledge is the path to real progress".

Madame Roerich has translated the Secret Doctrine of H.P.B. into Russian and it has been published by the Uguns-Agni publishing house in Riga. Madame Kamensky and Madame Pissareva both enthusiastically greeted this fundamental achievement. The name Helena appears to be significant in Russian spiritual movements. Helena Petrovna and Helena Ivanovna both work on the same Mission.

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Helena Ivanovna Roerich was born in St.Petersbourg in 1879. Her father was the well-known architect Ivan Ivanovitch Shaposhnikov, professor at many institutes and universities. His architectural work received the highest awards. The mother of Madame Roerich was Catherine V.Golenitscheva-Kutuzova, a grand-daughter of field-marshal Golenistcheff-Kutuzof, Prince of Smolensk, the hero of 1812. He was the commander-in-chief of Russian armies against Napoleon. The family of Madame Roerich comes of Russian nobility directly related to the oldest names, such as Tchelistchev, Chirikov, Princess Putiatin, Princess Shakhovskoi, Moussorgsky (the famous composer), Azariev, etc. After graduating from the Girls' College with the highest honours (golden medal) Madame Roerich studied music under the famous professors of the Petrograd conservatory Mme Malozemov (pupil of Rubinstein) and J.Borovka (pupil of Leshititsky) and distinguished herself at the concerts given by the Academy of music of St.Petersbourg. In 1901 Helena Ivanovna married Nicholas Roerich, and took an active part in Prof.Roerich's artistic and cultural activities. Together with Prof.Roerich they founded many cultural institutions. She has participated in the Roerich Central Asiatic Expedition. Very early in her life, Madame Roerich became interested in philosophy and made a special study of this subject. Under several pen-names Madame Roerich has written a number of books and essays on philosophy and ethics. She also translated the Secret Doctrine of H.P.B.into Russian, published in 1937. Two volumes of her letters have been published by her followers. A number of other works by her are in preparation.

KANVA
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