

WITH GRATITUDE

At first it seemed out of place for someone who had never met or corresponded with her to be writing a reminiscence of Mme. Roerich. And yet, such a recollection must be in the majority for she has certainly played a major part in the lives of many who did not actually know her, in addition to the few who had that rare privilege.

My heart is full of happiness that I came in touch with the Agni Yoga Society before it was too late to experience the unfailing personal interest and love that emanated from the greetings and messages of helpful advice contained in her letters to Sina F. for transmission to me, and it is also full of sadness that it took me so many years to find my way that upon arrival it was too late to meet her. However, in a truer sense I know that that meeting which I so hoped for is still to be for all that actually comprised Helena Roerich - her spirit of courage and beauty - is as much in existence as it was a year ago, and with striving and daring may be cognized.

Gratitude is a small word to describe the feeling that arises when I think of the year, nay, lives, of labor and actual pain she underwent in order to transmit the Teachings of Living Ethics, which together with her "Letters" have opened up vistas I had not dreamed of before. This unselfish labor in the large was repeated in the small for even in the days of her last illness, in her last letter, she found time to be concerned with my well-being. May I merit her concern in some measure by attempting to live those Teachings as best I can.

Elina Yussupoff

May 9, 1956.