

The Art of Svetoslav Roerich



'GIRNAR'

The paintings of Svetoslav Roerich adorn public galleries and private collections in India, Europe and the U.S.A. His work covers a large range : portraits, landscapes, genre, religious themes and imaginative creations. India, where he has settled, has been to him a subject of special interest. His Himalayan landscapes, like those of his father, Nicholas Roerich, are characterised by extraordinary harmonies of colour and sweeps of movement, and are, at the same time, imbued with deep human significance. 'I believe that colour gives life. My whole thesis in painting is : it is colour that primarily influences us,' says Svetoslav.

Over a hundred of Svetoslav's paintings were gathered together in an exhibition arranged in January-February in New Delhi. These included his famed portrait of his father, several Himalayan landscapes, the triptych 'Whither Humanity', 'Humanity Crucified' and 'The Release'.



'WORDS OF THE TEACHER'

'The art of Svetoslav Roerich is fundamentally religious...but is freed from convention...The East is a rich source of inspiration to the artist...who becomes familiar with her thoughts so that they cease to be contrasts and melt together in a new all-human synthesis...Take his Jacob and the Angel! A wild whirl of light and darkness is the struggle of the Biblical patriarch with the archangel, the shadow of the human figure pressed down by and yet holding fast his divine opponent, who leans over him encompassing his frail opponent with his mighty wings of light. And this struggle between Man and the Divine is reflected in a dark ocean of blue waves, the vague outlines of mountains and heavy clouds...It is like the vision of a cosmic catastrophe far off in the Galaxy when a new universe is being born...the vision of God in man who clings to the Divine Grace...I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me! The struggle between spirit and matter, between life and death, the birth and return of all things, the rhythm of the universe: Yin and Yang. And indeed, this whirl of Jacob struggling with the archangel is the Yin-Yang symbol, no more in its Far Eastern setting, but an archetype of human religious experience, common to the East and West, Taoism, Buddhism, Christianity.'

DR. H. GOETZ



'TOILING BY NIGHT'



'JACOB AND THE ANGEL'



A Naga Folk Dance