



## PHILADELPHIA ROERICH CENTER

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204 South Quince Street, Philadelphia, Pa. -- U. S. A.

October 8, 1935

Dear Madame Roerich:

Our young organization has suddenly been asked to make a decision which causes us much concern and deep pain. Because you and Professor Roerich are vitally concerned and because we love and revere you both for your efforts and sacrifices for the Western World, we appeal to you to shed the light we so badly need.

Recently, the board of governors of the Philadelphia Roerich Center assembled to discuss the coming season's program. Mrs. Horch came down from New York to sit in with us inasmuch as she is an honorary member of the board and has helped us organize.

We were astonished when Mrs. Horch announced that the Roerich Museum had been reorganized and the name changed to the "Master Institute of United Arts" and that the Museum proper which houses the pictures of Professor Roerich is now but a minor department of the new organization.

We were told that the reason for this radical change was that Professor Roerich had been unreasonable in his demands (financial) on the museum and had caused their bankruptcy, that he had become unbearably egotistical and extolled himself rather than the Lord, even to the point of claiming credit for the Teachings. In addition to this it is claimed that the Museum suffered loss of financial backers because of Professor Roerich's affiliation.

Mrs. Horch told us that both you and Professor Roerich had failed the Hierarchy of Light and therefore are no longer in touch with the Lord. She claims to have direct communication with him now and plans to give us instruction herself.

Because of the above, we have been requested to make a change in the name of our organization to any we may choose as long as we do not include the word "Roerich". We have also been requested to cease talking and praising Nicholas Roerich and to concentrate on principles rather than a living personality.



Now, our organization was founded primarily to expound to those who desire and are ready for them, the Teachings as found in the Agni Yoga series of books. For the outer activities of spreading culture to the general public, we are committed in our constitution to spreading the ideals of Nicholas Roerich and to work in conjunction with the Roerich Museum of New York. Hence, a name change immediately implies a change in purpose and there follows a whole series of complications.

After Mrs. Horch's departure, not only the Board but the entire study group of Agni Yoga discussed the situation and were spontaneously and unanimously in favor of retaining our name as it is and to continue our allegiance to you and Professor Roerich. Frankly, we could not believe the statements of Mrs. Horch.

Therefore, for the Board, I now affirm our continued allegiance to you, Helena Roerich, as our direct link with the Blessed Master Morya. We shall also defend the names of Professor and Helena Roerich against further treason and slander.

We do need several questions answered to help us. They are:

1. Shall we continue our affiliation as an organization with the Master Institute of United Arts.
2. Please tell us what intermediary to use between you and us or shall we communicate with you directly.
3. Our charter is signed by Nicholas Roerich and no one else. Mrs. Horch told us to destroy it and she would give us one from the new organization. We do not care to do this. Shall we consider our present charter valid now?
4. Mrs. Horch told us to change our policy of teaching Agni Yoga and to hold public classes rather than the private selected groups we now hold. We do not agree with this. Please advise us if we are right.

We regret burdening you with what seems to us an important decision. We do not even know that we should presume to ask these direct questions, but feeling as we do towards you we see no other course. Therefore, if you will be so kind as to write us ( in English, if it is not asking too much ) we shall be very grateful. The reason for asking for the answer in English is so that the group can read it for themselves and not be dependent on me as interpreter. It will be a source of great encouragement to them.

With sincere greetings and service, I am

Loyally yours,

*Cherika A. Schoonster*

President.