

NALANDA PUBLICATIONS

FOR CULTURAL SYNTHESIS OF EAST AND WEST

Dhannur, 3rd Floor, Sir P.M. Road,
Fort - Bombay 1.

4th December, 1946.

Dear Mr. Roerich,

We are very sorry that we could not acknowledge your letter and receipt of the manuscript of the book 'Abode of Life' and also the registered packets of the pictures for re-production of your paintings. For this late acknowledgment, we very much regret the delay and request you to forgive us for the same. This delay was also due to the riots in Bombay, which has dislocated the life entirely and no work is possible according to plan. These riots are deplorable facts and let us hope that the normal conditions will prevail soon where man will live again with love and faith with each other. Some delay also occurred as we wanted to send you the dummy of another book which was in preparation and was due for publication in the month of November. But due to the cause aforesaid the dummy is ready now. We are sending the same to you as a specimen so that you may have some idea as to how we want to publish your book.

Of course, this is not final and we do not insist that the book should be published in that manner, your valuable suggestions are welcome for any change of size or shape. Number of pages do not matter at all because as many pages it will take we shall be willing to print. Your manuscript is perfectly alright and we are certain it will make a good size presentable volume. As for the pictures we have not only to request you but to urge you to please select the pictures yourself as you are the best judge of them. So please kindly select pictures to reproduce in the book and let us know how many pictures you select in all and

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from that how many are to be printed in colours & how many are to be printed in half-tone and one colour block. We suggest that let us have from 15 to 20 pictures from which at least 4 to 5 to be printed in colours.

From the pictures that you select for reproduction in the book please let us know if you have any blocks and for those pictures for which you have no blocks either send us the original, for making the blocks which we will return immediately or please arrange to get the blocks ready wherever you like and we shall bear the cost of the same or any other alternative suggestion which you have, we shall be to glad to take it up.

We hope to bring out the book in about 3 months time. We shall be sending the manuscript to the press immediately but the pictures' reproduction of the book can only be taken in hand after hearing from you and how much time it takes to make blocks or for those pictures for which there are no blocks available and new one are to be made. In any case it can only be decided finally as to when the book will be ready after hearing from you regarding the pictures reproduction.

Once again we thank you for granting us the privilege of publishing your book and assuring you that we shall do our best to produce the same in the best possible ways. In short, it is our sincere ambition to produce works on cultural heritage of India in which 'Himalaya' with its inexhaustible inspiration stands first.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Murli Prasad
For Nalanda Publications

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PUBLISHERS BOOK SELLERS NEWS AGENTS

Dhannur, 3rd Floor, Sir P.M. Road
Fort - Bombay 1.

7th September, 1946.

Dear Mr. Roerick,

Gratefully acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 22nd ultimo.

The publishing which we are doing is more for the cultural synthesis of the East and West and we have thought in order to endeavour to touch all problems and ideas that are concerned with the great cultural past of India and all those things animate and unanimate that has contributed towards the greatness of India. As you are aware, and no one is more aware than your good-selfes the place of "Himalayas" in making and developing the cultural heritage which India could boast. And, so in our plan we thought of 'Himalayas' and we could think of no else but you and so we took the liberty of approaching you through our common dear friend Mr. Ravishanker Rawal.

You have already glorified the 'Himalayas' as one essential part of India's culture and request you to plan and design a book covering all the aspects of 'Himalayas' towards contribution in history and the great source of inspiration that they are. We have also thought of illustrating the same book profusely in half-tone and colour illustrations with your pictures and also other pictures ~~whom~~ you might select from the various artists from India or anywhere else that we may be able to procure with your help. But the entire decision as well as planning of the book we want to entrust to you. We shall on our part do our best to bring out the same in the best possible manner. May we request you to please take up this work and grant us the privilege of having-

P.T.O.

worked with you in introducing ^a~~our~~ work that may
have an immortal value.

Request you once again and assuring you
of our co-operation. We pray you to take this work.

Yours Sincerely,

H B Bhatt

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14-9-46.

My dear Mr. Bhatt.,

Many thanks for your good news of 7-9-46. Yes you are right. My name is forever connected with the glorious Himalayas. I had the joy and honour to spread this Highest Conception of Bharata in all parts of the World.

Perhaps the title of the book could be

The Ascent
(Himalayan Diary)

or

Abode of Light
(Himalayan Diary)

I will select some of the notes from our Expedition. How many pages you propose? Shortly I shall send you reproductions of my paintings for your choice. You can keep the chosen ones and the rest please return.

With best wishes.

Cordially,

P.S. Some good cuts are with R. Raval, with Hindusthan (Calcutta), with "Art and Culture" (Calcutta).

26-9-46.

My dear Bhatt,

I hope you have safely received reproductions of my paintings for your selection. Now by bookpost I'm sending the manuscript of "Abode of Light". No doubt you know with what ~~striking~~ storring success was everywhere applauded the "Shangrila". But a real Himalayan Shambhala could attract far more deep attention. For the first time we give so many datas about this Abode of Light.

"Nalanda", what a splendid name you selected for your press. You shall be surprised in hearing that even now Tibetan Lamas are inquiring, how many Pandits are at present in Nalanda. They imagine that the great monastery still exist. I think that your readers shall appreciate the Himalayan legends the treasury of rich spiritual lore. Yes, sacred Himalaya are the inexhaustible treasuretrove of Bharata.

With best wishes,

Cordially,