

SRI RAMAKRISHNA ASHRAMA.

Colombo, Ceylon.

June 8th, 1932.

I N H O N O U R

of the BRUGES SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE of the UNION INTERNATIONALE
pour le PACTE ROERICH, for PROTECTION OF TREASURES OF ART AND SCIENCE.

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My dear unseen brothers and sisters of Europe,

With heart-ful love and respect I greet you all as my nearest and dearest kith and kin in the Sacred name of Culture and peace. As love can nullify all barriers of space and all distances of time, I am with you in spirit all the while during the Session of this Conference, taking my seat in a corner, clad in humility and modesty. As the Parliament of Religions at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 has proclaimed and established the Harmony of all Religions and the Synthesis of all Philosophies, let this Bruges Parliament of Art and Culture in this World exhibition of Art cities declare world-unity and Pan-human peace through Art and Culture by broadcasting the ideals of Roerich Pact in every nook and corner of the globe. Professor Roerich, the founder and Leader of the unique humanitarian movement, is himself the personification of Universal Art and Universal Culture. He has been truly called by Dr. J. H. Cousins as "Himalayan in Soul", for he is really the Prophet of a New humanity and the messenger of a New Cultural World.

Let every one of us in this Conference bring his ideal into our everyday life. Let every one of us incarnate in our personality the highest cultural ideals of all nations and be a living and moving

Roerich Institution. Art is the language of the Spirit and as Professor Roerich has said "Culture is the Cult of Light and the Ascension of Spirit"; Let every one of us, ^{from} to-day embrace this Religion of Art and Culture and breathe out peace every moment into the careworn, hate-tossed and hitch-torn atmosphere of the world.

As the Vedic Rishis of Ancient India chanted "Om Shanti, Om Shanti, Om Shanti", or Peace be to all being on the earth and other spheres; thrice before and after their daily meditations, so let every "cultist" as we are rightly called begin and end the day by radiating peace and bliss to all around us, and spend our lives for world-unity through promotion of Art and Culture. The mankind is on the eve of a new civilization, much greater than the past, when universal temples of Art and Culture will exist in every society. In Ancient India, Art, Religion and Science were all synonymous with Vidya, or Culture, the most all-inclusive name for all human achievement. And you will be glad to know that the word 'exclusion' was quite unknown in Hindu Lexicon. Most humbly I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to look once to India for she has perhaps the most glorious contributions to the treasures of world Art and World Culture.

From time immemorial India has practised Art and Culture as Religion and her temples have always been centres of Art and Culture and Professor Roerich is probably the first Western savant who has truly appreciated the ideals of Indian Art and Culture and has dedicated his master paintings to her. We, about 600 monks of the Ramakrishna - Vivekananda movement are trying our poor-best in our humble way of course, for the last five decades following the foot steps of our masters, who were living symbols of Harmony and Unity; for the synthetic revival of every branch of human thought; i.e. Religion, Philosophy,

Art and Science, History and Literature.

To our Master Blessed Bhagawan Sri Rama Krishna Professor Roerich has recently dedicated one of his master-paintings with such a beautiful conception. "The Blessed Bhagawan is bringing from the Himalayan Heights the Symbol of Om. His yellow robe is furling in the wind,. His feet touch the white snows, but gloriously he proceeds to manifest to humanity the greatest bliss. Stormy clouds indicate the upheavals and the distress of humanity, but great and shiny is the halo round the blessed one's head and he carries his great mission as the light-bringing beacon".

Sri Rama Krishna has never uttered a single word of condemnation or criticism in his life-time always realizing divinity in man and Nature. Peace and Harmony was the air he breathed. Like him Professor Roerich has from his Himalayan Home on the glacial heights brought the gospel of world peace through world culture from the trans-Himalayan Realm of the Spirit.

Let us all pray on this auspicious day for the long life and sound health of Professor Roerich, our Leader, who has opened a significant Chapter in human history by inaugurating this movement and the pact for safe-guarding and Cultivating the cultural treasures of humanity. Let the present Parliament of Art and Culture prove to the warring nations of the world by waving the Roerich Banner of Peace that Art and Culture is not the exclusive property of any nation or Government but the divine Property, - the Universal Treasure of all mankind and write on the postal of every institution of the world - "Help and not fight, assimilate and not destruction, Harmony and Peace and not dissension". Hari om.

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