

Dec 7 1935

Letter to readers .

Elena Roerich.

Dear friends! I know that my letters, affirming the beauty of austere self discipline, are not pleasing to many, but I consider it blameworthy to uphold a sentimentality based on false data. To the extent of my ability, I strive to uphold the courage of your spirit, but I cannot do this by raising up tinsel apparitions in the manner of Leadbeater. The majority of people show themselves to be great hypocrites, affirming that they wish to know the truth and only the truth. Actually, always and in everything they are most afraid of the truth.

Instead of an austere structure of life, people are athirst for sweet idle dreams soothing to them and for easy attainments in the milieu of the magians of Krizhanovsky. But the crown of the Arhat is attained only by the strongest enormous tension of achievement, by powerful steadfast striving of the heart which has been washed by the bloody tears of suffering over the expanse of many, many lives. The heart of the Arhat must realize all joys and all sufferings, all the woe of the earthly path, to drain the cup filled with poison. verily, the path of ascent is a difficult one, and especially so on the final steps. It may be compared to climbing a vertical basalt cliff, in complete darkness, when the hand vainly seeks a projection to which it can somehow cling. But for the spirit directed by striving, handrails have been prepared, and in the last moment of exhaustion before collapse, a solicitous hand will support the back. Many symbols of arduous ascent have been manifested in all the teachings, as well as the unavoidable draining of the full cup of poison in the course of summation of the path. But when the spirit has already touched the higher joys, when it has realized the beauty of the higher worlds, then all these difficulties do not frighten but cause rejoicing for they denote the approach of the termination of the path. So too, JUDAH MUST APPEAR, in order to emphasize more clearly the light of the path.

I write you this, because I feel in you a firm foundation, absolutely necessary for the true warriors of the Light. Be courageous and steadfast, be not distressed by the unveiling of faces and by unavoidable solitude. The unveiling of faces is a great school of life and on the final step you must encounter treachery.

In all the teachings have been imprinted the symbol of draining the cup of poison by all



the bearers of Light. The beauty of achievement is emphasized by these manifestations of darkness. The blows of darkness are needed for carving out the sparks of Light. Be courageous, be steadfast, my friends'. Be not confused by any monsters, for it has been said; " it is necessary to learn examples of attack".