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AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR NICHOLAS
ROERICH ON HIS RETURN TO AMERICA AFTER HIS
FIVE YEAR EXPEDITION IN ASIA.

"Ur", the Sanskrit root, signifies morning or dawn. This name stands, therefore, as they symbol not alone of the dawn, the evolution of Asia, but also for new measures of friendly interchange in all sorts of productions which correlate toward a right understanding of evolutionary foundations of humanity.

New attainments of human genius, discoveries which came with head-whirling speed, the gigantic growth of industry, necessitate new measures, which in their peaceful armour, shall destroy the wretched walls of past harmful prejudices. The radio has destroyed conventional boundaries. Zepelins are encircling the world; television, talkies and movies are prepared to transmit the true aspect of attainments. In the same way, all other principles of human intercourse should be affected by new factors of life in this new era, or as Asia will tell you, the Era of Shambhala, which is predestined from the most ancient times.

Asia remains, with its billion of human hearts, as a hearth of all teachings. In the name of the Teaching of life, East and West are uniting, and true understanding of evolution obliges them to peaceful encounter in the race of enlightened labor and genius.

Asia--a billion of people! Asia--treasure of the soil!

Throughout our five years' expedition we felt that Asia was open to every possible intercourse, especially with America. Asia will readily admit the friendship and help of America.

It was very gratifying for me to see that every kind of American product was highly valued in Asia; and our new discoveries are not rejected; they are, in fact, welcomed. In the vast field of need, the approach to Asia is unlimited. Practically everything from the smallest household utensil to the largest type of machinery is awaited; from the seed, to the medicines--everything is open-heartedly greeted; from colored postcards to

to books in the local languages--everything opens the new gates of enlightened methods of life. From the simplest agricultural implements to house-furnishings, all is needed. From a peice of wire, to electrical appliances with batteries--everything is appreciated with sparkling eyes.

I was happy to hear that in Asia, America is regarded as a country of the future. And even in the most isolated spots, the people speak of America as the Land of Shambhala--the Land of the Future. They call America, Chicab, meaning the Protector. And how many respected local people of different nations, dream of being in touch with America and of serving as representatives for various products!

Every organism functions from the heart. Hence, it was especially remarkable to see that just in the heart of Asia, in the most isolated districts, the great name of America is valued. We have not to forget that even Chinese Turkestan, with the Taklamakan desert, and the land of the Kal-mucks, ^Uuriats, Mongolians and Tibetans, has many millions of inhabitants, and the natural riches of this vast country are untouched. Oil and coal of the best quality, gold fields, silver mines, iron and copper, asbestos, the best sapphires, rubies and turquoises and many other precious minerals, as well as radio-activity comprise the inner wealth of this region. Such a striking variety of natural resources, hot springs, a highly chemicalized soil, provide remarkable possibilities, as well as fine possibilities for cattle and furs.

When I inquired of one of the natives what they could do in the sandy soil of Taklamakan, he answered, "Well, it seems like sand but it is really the loess of the bottoms of former lakes and rivers, and anything that you plant, flourishes in this soil."

When I asked some lamas how they gained their livelihood if they need money, they answered me, "If we need money we go to the river and wash some sand and take the gold." In this way they use the eternal natural treasury.

We all know that a number of European attempts in Asia have failed because unfamiliar foreign methods were used and the local people received the impression of a hostile invasion and oppression. Several companies have also been unsuccessful because they proceeded along one direction only. But when life there demands the next grade of civilization, and requires every type of commodity, then all utilities may be provided, in the greatest var

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variety; thus the products of human genius can enter practically all daily life and can be applied to local conditions without disturbing the essential local ethics and customs. To fulfill this condition is not difficult. If you use local languages and are acquainted with local religions and traditions, you are made welcome and even the very primitive tribes can easily be transformed into friends, eagerly awaiting the evidences of friendship from the West.

Certainly, many local conditions must be considered--for instance, in many places it would be a great mistake to enter the country with permission of passports from the central government only. Travelers may not be recognized by the local authorities, hence passports from the local governments are the only protection for any activity in these localities. But such certificates may be quite easily obtained by the usual methods, but, as everywhere, the right approach is needed in the people's own tongues and in their own understanding.

Certainly, travelers should have with them a good supply of commodities for exchange, and they should be ready at times to accept not only the regular currency, not only silver money, paper, gold or copper, but also many local products--gold and silver bullion, gold dust, precious and semi-precious stones, wool, furs, yak-tails, embroideries, even antiques which very often replace the lack of regular money. A type of clearing house could establish the real value of these products of exchange, and could equalize the bases of intercourse. As happened during the period of the Hudson Bay Company, when special methods of commerce were created, so these complex nations could be unified today by means of a sensible approach in which the foundation of their life would be recognized and honored.

We come again to the heart and soul of the people, and we feel that everywhere the heart is already open, it is our duty to intensify this most precious feeling.

Each in its own tongue, the nations of Asia are speaking of evolution. In their sacred teaching of Shambhala, the nations wait the new era and, through this expectation of a new age, they understand our skyscrapers and gigantic industries. They recognize in airplanes, the iron birds predicted by Buddha. They know that the railways are iron serpents which serve humanity, according to the most ancient traditions. And the Teaching of Shambhala recognizes that the finest riches of earth shall be yielded to

improve conditions of life in the rapidly-approaching new era. They know that Kali Yoga, the black iron age shall soon end, that the enlightened Satya Yoga the age of happiness, is approaching our planet. In this conception, all our discoveries are easily understood, when we spoke of Millikan's Cosmic Ray to the people, they told us about many other rays that will serve humanity. In this way, on the threshold the real knowledge, in the name of science and beauty, the walls between East and West are destroyed, and we can approach our distant friends with the best sentiments, certain to be understood and not to offend the mighty heart of a billion people.

This is one of the most gratifying feelings resulting from our five years of study in the heart of Asia. Not only in exceptionally educated persons, but even in the lowest masses, one may feel the hidden refinement of thought which can easily be unified with our modern aspiration.

The conditions of Asia are so vibrant, that each envoy of peace and good will is awaited as soon as possible. In Mongolia we saw Mongolian typewriters with Mongolian alphabets, which were sent to Mongolia from Germany and were highly appreciated by the Mongols. If Germany in so practical a way has expressed its understanding of the needs of the East, how much more should America extend the mighty hand of helpful cooperation.

In our splendid care about our people, we construct costly bridges to save several minutes of a working man's time. Is it not our beautiful duty to contribute toward the construction of a beautiful bridge between the East and West? And does not our remarkable epoch with its brilliant discoveries, provide the best opportunity for such a magnificent solution?

I remember when the Mongols saw our photographs of the Indians of Arizona and New Mexico they called them their lost relatives. Thus, you may imagine with what warm feeling throughout Asia, this friendly and sensitive thought of America may be regarded. In proportion with the means permitting, many projects for this approach to Asia may be outlined. If, in general, we are interested in a noble gesture toward Asia, then all details could be accordingly worked out.

America has given its tribute and practical help to culture and civilization in many countries. A beautiful and sympathetic sign from America to Asia, would bring about the most unexpected and incalculable results. Is it not our duty to cover this need of civilization, if we realize how easily it might be accomplished, and what a small expenditure could accom-

plish this first unique mission of good will and friendship? In this way, America would once again fulfill its lofty mission of world peace and world evolution.

But the most practical and the most vitally needed ideas may be forfeited if they are not brought into life and made concrete. The greatest satisfaction in the idea of intercourse between Asia and America, lies in the fact that it can be projected on any scale, from the modest conception of the traveling salesman, prepared for every kind of barter, to the gigantic and still more practical project, when newly installed radio stations will bring to the Asiatic nations the welcome and religious thought of their most esteemed leaders. And through their own language, their art, their own measure of beauty, even the most isolated places can have the privileges of the best discoveries of modern genius. When television, movies and talkies, postcard, books, and iron birds, or airplanes can help these billions of hearts to undertake the next step in civilization, and to enter in the most dignified way--in full consciousness of the eternal truth.

All concrete undertakings, shall be divided as usual, into two parts: the preliminary and the executive. In the first part belong the following:

1. Editions of booklets and postcards which, pictorially, can strengthen friendly relations. The use of local languages and traditional symbols can deepen the significance of these messengers of good will. We should not regard such editions as an expenditure of capital. Besides the general publicity, they would serve as objects for sale and interchange.
2. The opening of new roads in Asia, or more correctly, the repairing of the ancient roads, useful for all kinds of communication. Ancient roads, now in many cases entirely forgotten, have been laid in the most advantageous parts.
3. Obtaining, in the most tactful ways, on the localities themselves, the official permissions and the necessary religious blessing on the establishment of the communicating roads and radio stations. Certainly, the first radio communication must be in the local languages, and should in the most benevolent way, touch local traditions. If four hundred millions of Buddhists and Lamaists, through this new discovery, should hear the Teaching of Buddha, their hearts would be forever open to new possibilities. If their beautiful old art and science will again enter life on the wings of new discoveries, then every dark hearth may be illumined. This vital and beautiful possibility is for the moment in the hands of America, and everything done in the East and for the East, shall be most practically applicable in the West. The exchange of arts and creative thoughts, leads to practical new flowering.

The fulfillment of these three preparatory measures would not delay the immediate application of the essential program. An expedition for the preliminary work should already be equipped with material for commerce and exchange, and with an intelligent personnel.--A mining engineer, an expert salesman, an experienced moving picture photographer shall work together with an archaeologist, and an authority in the local languages, who could create the atmosphere of dignity and friendship. Essentially, dignified good will applied in

broadest sense, will create the practical soil for commerce and mutual growth. In this direction, America should not lose these splendid possibilities which may quite easily be changed into hostility, if they are not applied without delay. This expedition could quite easily cover its own expenses completely, bringing the most valuable films from Central Asia. I know perfectly well that even this one item could justify the entire trip, because one French firm, specializing in such films, made us an offer of a million francs. But how many similarly important films from different nations, could be produced quite easily if to this possibility we could add the results of exchange and the establishment of agencies. Then even this first preliminary movement would be more than justified. As a direct result of this expedition, we shall have the following large number of practical accomplishments:

1. Radio stations and practically projected broadcasting stations for which innumerable receiving sets may be sold.
2. Airplane communications.
3. Electrification and all sorts of electrical supplies.
4. Medicines of all kinds as well as medicinal aid.
5. Motors and tractors.
6. Exploitation of minerals and the soil.
7. Introduction of automatization in merchandizing.
8. Introduction of new methods of interchange in all fields of agriculture, as well as domestic utensils, beginning from commodities, soap, perfumes, local pharmacopaea, and all sorts of utensils for the household.
9. Breeding of all kinds of live stock and dairy products.
10. Organization of scientific agricultural stations.

In this way, practically every kind of industry and every possibility for the introduction of new discoveries could be applied in the most rational and practical way, and, which is not to be forgotten, in an enlightened way; because responding to the hope of the New Era, we are opening the gates of a real understanding of civilization, without violating the old traditions. It is easy to introduce all the splendid possibilities and a rejuvenation of life. We can affirm that this project is not one of visionary etherial projects, but it is a project of need, evoked by the conditions of life. Introducing the best methods of civilization, of commerce, of scientific

discoveries, we are opening a new enlightened life for hundred of millions of people. Not to exploit them, but to make them real collaborators and participants in the vital new era--this is the dignified program. Every vital and progressive thought brings its practical results, and we shall not be dreamers, but highly practically intelligent, when we foresee that in this way we are calling our friends to something most practical and easily accomplished. "Ur" is a splendid dawn, indeed, of tangible possibilities. I shall conclude again with the same warning, that not one year, not one hour should be lost for this peaceful and most productive solution of so many pressing problems.