

BE BLESSED - FRIENDS !

Doctor Robert Harshe is not only the Director of the largest Art Institute of Chicago, but also a most eminent connoisseur and leader of the Art movement of America. Therefore his recent letter, in which he definitely states that any harm inflicted upon our Institutions would be a "national calamity" is for us a ~~very~~ verily historical document. When we remember all the letters and addresses written in favour of our Institutions during the invasion of barbarians, it is highly gratifying to see how leaders of artistic and social movements called our institutions "the Pride of the Country" and so many others acknowledged that every harm done to our cultural works would be incompatible with the dignity of America.

Thus the invasion of the barbarians, of whom Dr. Brinton reminded so timely, appears like a testing stone of the achievements of our Institutions. We do not doubt that every further attempt from the part of the barbarians and all dark forces shall arouse similar counteraction and tension of best energies. Everyone who read the touching speech of our blind pupil Leontine Hirsh Meyer, certainly felt these deep feelings created in the hearts of our students and co-workers by the cultural aims of our Institutions.

All our co-workers must realize the value of their work, which could arouse such sincere response at the moment of barbaric invasion. The response and letters of women's organizations having millions of members, the letters of Governor Franklin Roosevelt, written protests of students of Columbia, ~~and~~ of our pupils, and of many associations of youth movements, letters of such well-known cultural leaders as Prof. Overstreet, Radoslavovitch, Prof. P. Hill, Vice-Governor Lehman, M. Vaughan, Mrs. Sutro, General de Leon, Dr. Charles Fleischer, Dr. O'Hara Cosgrave, H. Barnes, Ruth St. Denis, Leon Dabo, Grebenstchikoff, Van Loon and the whole ^host of light-bearing warriors

of Culture are, ^a most significant historical document of the victorious fight of Light against darkness.

We do not doubt that all these precious testimonials from the friends of Culture are kept on special file in strict order. In future they will form a volume of great historical value. This book should also record as an instructive fact for future generations the names of those representatives of dark forces, the names of destructive barbarians, the names of low anti-cultural people who tried by all means of dark malice to bring disaster upon cultural institutions. Knowing that these dark forces were acting greedily, we would add to this future book all documents of the court procedure all testimonials and affidavits given even by strangers, who were indignant at such criminal hidden dark intrigue.

Therefore keep in full order all these precious documents. Perhaps according to their variety of contents they are kept in various departments of our Institutions, but they should be collected into one file, so that not one heroic voice, which has sounded in the name of Culture, should be omitted from the ^{me}orable records.

We witnessed also a most significant attitude of the Press. We saw that only a few organs abstained from defending the cause of Culture. The majority of the press, be it said in its honour, has in full dignity and justice exposed all barbaric perversions and insinuations.

Also we could note that some wavering spiritually weak people, even amongst the co-workers, instead of persistent faith in the victory of Culture became unbalanced and started to advise various modes of retreat and reconciliation; others because of their mean nature, began to rejoice at the misfortunes of their nigh and even tried to intensify false attestations of the barbarians. Both these facts should also not be forgotten.

Valour is tested in the fight for a right cause. True light-bearing

warriors are only strengthened by difficulties. Every obstacle evokes in them the tension of the sacred Fire. Thus were achieved all historical victories of Culture, which are now the objects of amazement, pride and heroic examples of humanity. One can only regret that the wavering, & doubtful, timid people should so erase their names from the annals of Cultural achievements. They turned away from noble deeds and according to the law of justice, history will turn away from them.

Thus this case, like some previous ones, became a public event of extraordinary significance. Not only in the history of Culture of America, but also in many other countries the case of our cultural Institutions will resound. We see already how representatives of many other countries respond. We see how many of them in the difficult moment of attack respond nobly and even intensify their friendship and co-operation. There are also some others, who believe that the financial situation of one building surpasses the importance of all cultural ideas. Let us also remember these spiritual paupers, which are always ready to retreat and to kiss the bloody sword of the barbarians. Let us remember these cowardly helpers of the dark forces.

The dark forces, which are conscious of their actions, are numerous, but really innumerable are their unconscious helpers, who so easily bow down before the rude dark force. This is most dangerous, because the gates of the fortress can thus be easily opened by the sycophants of the barbarians. On the gate of Verdun was a most significant inscription, addressed to all enemies: "On ne passe pas ici! - Nobody passes here!" The heroic spirit of the defenders confirmed the meaning of this command, even at a time when the whole world was reluctantly ready to give up this stronghold.

There are things in the world, which are inadmissible in their essence. Every debasity, every concession to the dark forces is already a crime of the same nature as the actions of the dark destructive forces themselves.

The realm of Culture represents such a light bearing stronghold, which cannot be surrendered under any circumstances. There can be certain strategic moves, but surrender as such is inadmissible and shall not be!

Happily Culture is not based on valuta. If even many cultural manifestations may be temporarily in difficulty or curtailed, the spiritual treasure of culture cannot be shaken by any world crisis, unless some traitors open the gates of the stronghold to the enemies in the darkness of the night. Therefore let us be guarded against every kind of treason; let us apply all vigilance; like the unrelievable guard we shall stay on the watchtowers.

Let us find strength to discard all pettiness of yesterday and to ^ugnite in the glory of Culture. Let us regret all mistakes of yesterday and smile to the radiant possibility to join hands still firmer. The great conception of ~~ex~~ Culture will help us to overcome all petty weariness of the household which can like grains of sand in a wheel, create a harrowing dissonance. We shall fulfill a beautiful experiment of spiritual unity, which tremendously multiplies forces and refines resourcefulness and watchfulness.

Verily "may obstacles be blessed - through them we grow". May also be blessed the names of all friends of Culture, who were not afraid at ^a trying hour to give such glorious testimonials of themselves. At the crossing point of life there arise moments, when no abstract words, but only virile heroic deeds are needed, only such deeds can be firm steps towards future progress.

What most hearty word could we send to all those, ~~whom~~ who sincerely care for the future, who understand that only through building up and educating of the young generations, the countries will succeed thus through the might of cultural thinking solving "unsolvable problems".

If difficulty reveals true friends, if the trying hour, like the tuba of valour, gathers together all great hearts, then how not to bless these

hours, during which the most beautiful, the most noble is manifested!
Be blessed all those to whom Culture is not a luxury, not an empty sound,
but the only foundation of Existence.

Blessed, blessed, blessed, be all light-bearing warriors in the Great
Service of Culture!

Agni-Yoga, in the book "The Heart" ordains:

"Where is that feeling, where is that substance, with which to fill the
Chalice of the Great Service? Let us gather this feeling from the best
treasures. Let us find parts of it in religious ~~ex~~ ecstasy, when the heart
tremours about the Highest Light; let us find parts of it in the realiza-
tion in the love of the heart, when the tears of self-denial glisten. Let
us find parts in the attainments of a hero, when might is multiplied in
the name of mankind. Let us find it in the patience of the gardner, when he
ponders about the mystery of a seed. Let us find it in valour, which pier-
ces darkness. Let us find it in the smile of the child, when it stretches
itself towards the rays of the Sun. Let us find the realization of the
Great Service in the flights which soar towards Infinity. It should fill
infinitely the heart, for ever inexhaustible. The sacred tremour will
not become an everyday broth. The highest Teachings turned into a soul-
less husk, when the sacred tremor left them. Thus amongst the battle ponder
about the Chalice of Service, and take the oath that the sacred tremour
will not leave you!"

Nicholas Roerich

Himalayas,

July 12, 1932