

BANNER OF PEACE

By NICHOLAS ROERICH

What could be more majestic than marching under the Banner of Peace! What could be more wondrous than participating in this March under the Banner of peaceful labor, or the creative construction of the legion of youth, with their hymns of beautiful achievement! And now this sublime manifestation of Great Culture is no longer a dream but has become reality.

Now, for the third time, the defenders of Peace and Culture will gather for the affirmation of the Banner-Protector of all the true treasures of human genius. On November seventeenth, 1933, in Washington, the friends of the Banner of Peace will gather. And on that same day, in [~]many countries of the world, will ~~resound~~ resound the greetings to the Banner, ~~of Peace~~. Everywhere, old and young will assemble, and each one in his own way will send his thoughts to the peace of all the world and ^{to} the unity of human hearts, in the name of Light and Culture. And it is to the Banner of Peace, that the Spinoza Center is dedicating this issue. And this Center, guided by the wisdom of the great philosopher, is composed of youth. Thus, not only has the Advance under the Banner of Peace become a reality, but the Advance of Youth, in the name of the ideals of beauty and peace, is also before us.

Is this not a festival? Is not the great feast of cooperation and mutual understanding being celebrated before our very vision --when we may formulate and apply in life a heartfelt unity in the name of the most Significant and the Most Beautiful! The fact that we may unitedly repeat the prayer of the Beautiful, is already remarkable. Verily our times are severe, ^{due to} ~~because of~~ all the convulsions of the spirit, all the misunderstandings, all the assaults of darkness against Light. But perhaps this terrific tension is only an impetus to direct humanity towards peaceful construction and mutual respect, through all storms and above all abysses.

Let us but ^{envision} ~~imagine~~ what an ever-memorable, epochal day is ahead, when above all centers of Knowledge and of Beauty, one Banner will be unfurled. This Banner will summon each one to a reverence of the treasures of the human spirit, to a respect for Culture, and to a new ~~step~~ evaluation of labor as the one measure of true worth. From their childhood, people will witness the fact that there is not alone the Red Cross Flag, so nobly established for the protection of ^{/ humanity's ~~physical~~ bodily health /} ~~mentally~~ ~~well-being~~, but that there also exists the Symbol of Peace and Culture for the health of the Spirit.

Above all the treasure-houses of the creations of human genius, will wave the Banner which in itself proclaims: "Here are guarded the treasures of all mankind; here above all petty divisions, above the illusory boundaries of enmity and hatred, is the Fiery Stronghold of Love, Labour and all-impelling Creation." People, weary of incessant toil, will regard this Sign of Spiritual Communion with love; ^{each} ~~the~~ heart ~~of~~ will throb with joy at sight of this manifest Sign of labor, knowledge and beauty/ Let each one, within his own province, within his own possibilities, apply his forces and experience, imperatively to confirm the Sign of peaceful cooperation. No obstacles, no convulsions of hatred and falsehood can impede humanity from ~~expressing~~ ^{striving} to ards the veneration of true values. The cup of destruction and vandalism already overflows. No one will dare to pronounce this an exaggeration. Murder, slander, destructions, disintegrations, ^{shame} occur each day. The ~~size~~ of the black froth of hatred impregnates the earth. Of course, the heart of mankind realizes that one ~~may~~ ^{may} not proceed further along this path. The whispers of the hypocrites, denying the seriousness of the situation, do not convince those ^{with their own eyes,} who discern about them the horrors not only of war-times, but of those other moments which are so erroneously termed the times of peace. The human heart seeks the true peace. It strives for labor --creative and active. It aspires to love and to expand in the realization of a Sublime ~~Beauty~~ ^{Beauty}. In the highest perception of Beauty and Knowledge all conventional divisions dissolve. The heart speaks its own language; it seeks to rejoice in that which is common to all, elevates all and leads to the radiant Future.

Is not the Sign, of which we all think, the Banner of the radiant Future! We must ~~establish~~ ^{when we face} those great milestones, which shall not shame us ~~before~~ ^{facing} the judgement of future humanity. If, with the ~~entire~~ power of our spirit, we will affirm the Banner for the protection of the treasures of humanity, we know fully that the unseen friends of the future will dedicate to us their thanks. They will thank us because, even during the most difficult hours, we nevertheless carried high the Banner of Unity, ^BBeauty and Knowledge, and sought to safeguard the treasures ~~not~~ for ourselves, but for those who, ^{after us, world} will come to this plowland of labor. ~~and~~

To transform this dusky daily existence into a constant Festival of Love and Great Service, is the undeferable and imperative aim. ~~This is the aim of the~~ People are responsible for the state of the planet. ~~There is no justification for any~~ ~~man~~ No man who, in ignorance, delusion and hate, has debased the creations of beauty, may absolve himself. For such crime there is no possible vindication. And if homunculus would seduce you with the words that thoughts of beauty, knowledge and peace are of no importance, quickly turn away fro, this ignoramus and hasten towards the Banner of Peace where you

will find friends and coworkers. And in mentioning coworkers, and diverse cooperative activities, we speak of the true value of labor. We say that while working in the name of Great Culture, we wish to gather about an unconquerable Banner, where Love, Trust and Creativeness find birth.

Is it not a glorious realization to witness creative workers under the Banner of Peace! Is it not glorious to witness the march of youth, inspired, enthusiastic, knowing that it advances under the Banner of Peace, in the name of the Highest and the Most Beautiful.

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MAYAVATI, ALMORA, HIMALAYAS

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What can be more majestic than the march under the Banner of Peace ! What can be more wonderful than the participation in this march under the Banner of peaceful labour and creative constructiveness of the hosts of youth, singing hymns of beautiful achievements! And now this sublime manifestation of great Culture is no longer a dream, but is going to become a reality.

Already for the third time the defenders of Peace and Culture gather for the affirmation of the Banner-Protector of all real treasures of human genius. On November 17, 1933 in Washington are gathering friends of the Banner of Peace. And on the same day in many countries will resound greetings to the Banner. Everywhere there will assemble old and young and everyone will send in his own way thoughts about the peace of the whole world and about the unity of human hearts in the name of Light and Culture. And at the head of the march of Peace, I visualize the great peace-bearer, the Blessed Bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna and the Lion of Truth, Swami Vivekananda, who so often in his enlightened messages pointed out the great value of art and science as leading principles of evolution. And of course this radiant call always resounded in the hearts that remain for ever young.

Is this not a festival! Is not the great Festival of Co-operation and mutual Understanding held before our very eyes, when we can think and apply in life hearty unity in the name of the most Significant and most Beautiful! Already that fact is remarkable that we can unitedly repeat the prayer of the Beautiful! Verily our times are difficult, because of all the commotions of the spirit, all non-understanding and all attacks of darkness against the Light. But perhaps this terrible tension is but the impulse in order to direct humanity through all storms and over all abysses to peaceful construction and mutual respect.

Just think what an unforgettable epoch-making day is before us when over all centres of Knowledge and Beauty will be unfurled the one Banner. This Banner will call everyone to reverence of treasures

of human spirit, to respect of Culture and to have new valuation of labour as the only measure of true values. From childhood people will witness that there exists not only a flag of the Red Cross so nobly established for protection of the health of the human body, but also there exists a Sign of Peace and Culture for the health of the Spirit.

Above all treasuries of creations of human genius shall wave the Banner which in itself says: "Here are guarded the treasures of all mankind, here above all petty divisions, above illusory borders of enmity and hatred, is the Fiery Stronghold of Love, Labour and all-moving Creation." People weary of incessant toiling will look up with love to the Sign of Spiritual Communion; the heart of everyone will throb in joy seeing the manifested Sign of labour, knowledge and beauty. Let everyone in his field, within his possibilities, apply his strength and experience to affirm urgently the Sign of peaceful co-operation. No obstacles, no convulsions of hatred and falsehood can prevent humanity from striving towards the reverence of true values. The measure of destruction and vandalism is overflowing. Nobody will dare say that this is an exaggeration. Murder, slander, destruction, take place daily. The shame for the black foam of hatred fills the earth. The heart of humanity of course realizes that one cannot proceed further by this path. The whispering of hypocrites that the situation is not bad, is not convincing for those, who see with their own eyes all the horrors around them, not only of times of wars, but also of all other times, which through some misunderstanding are called times of peace. The human heart wants a real peace. It strives to labour-creatively and actively. It wants to love and to expand in the realization of Sublime Beauty. In the highest perception of Beauty and Knowledge all conventional divisions disappear. The heart speaks its own language; it wants to rejoice at that which is common for all, uplifts all, and leads to the radiant Future.

Is not the Sign, of which we all think, the Banner of the radiant Future! We must affirm those great milestones, for which we shall not be ashamed before any judgment of the future humanity. When we affirm with the whole power of our spirit the Banner of protection of treasures of humanity, we know that the future unseen friends will thank us for it. They will thank us that during the

most difficult hours we have nevertheless carried high the Banner of Unity, Beauty and Knowledge and desired to safeguard the treasure-troves not for ourselves, but for those who will come later to this plough-field of labour.

To transform the dusky life of everyday into a continuous Festival of Love and Great Service is an undeferrable and immutable aim. People are responsible for the state of the planet. They cannot justify themselves that in ignorance, delusion and hatred they have debased the beautiful creations. For such a crime there is no vindication. And if some homunculus would try to seduce you, stating that thoughts about beauty, knowledge and peace are of no importance, then quickly turn away from this ignoramus and hasten to the Banner of Peace, where you will find friends and co-workers. Speaking of co-workers, of various co-operative actions, we speak of the actual value of labour. We say that when working in the name of great Culture, we want to assemble around an unconquerable Banner, where Love, Trust and Creativeness find their birth.

Is it not a grand realization to witness creative labourers under the Banner of Peace!

Is it not glorious to see the march of youth inspired, enthusiastic, knowing that it goes under the Banner of Peace in the name of the Highest, the most Beautiful!

Himalayas, 1933.

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