

For Peace and Culture

By Nicholas Roerich

Culture and Peace—the most sacred goal of Humanity! In the days of great confusion, both material and spiritual, the disturbed spirit strives to these radiant strongholds. But we should not unite only abstractly in the name of these regenerating conceptions. According to our abilities, each in his own field, should bring them actual surrounding life, as the most necessary and undeferrable.

By our Peace Pact in 1929 we proposed a special Banner of Peace for protection of all cultural treasures. A special committee for promoting the Peace Pact had been elected in New York and an International Union for the Roerich Pact has been established with its central seat in Bruges, where a World Congress for spreading the ideals of Peace through Culture was in session last September with most significant results, proving how near this aim is to the hearts of all positive people of the world.

From temples, shrines of spirituality, from all light-bearing centres should thunder ceaselessly the world-wide call, eliminating the very possibilities of wars and creating for generations to come new lofty traditions of veneration of real cultural treasures. Unfurling everywhere and untiringly the Banner of Peace, we destroy the very physical field for war. Let us also affirm the World Day of Culture, simultaneously

when in all temples, all schools and all educational institutions, the world will be reminded of the true treasures of humanity, of creative heroic enthusiasm, of betterment and adornment of life. For this purpose we have not only to safeguard by all available means our cultural heritage, but we must consciously value these treasures, remembering that every contact with them will already ennoble the human spirit.

As we have already witnessed, wars cannot be stopped by orders, nor can malice or lying be prohibited. But undeferrably, patiently striving to the highest treasures of humanity, we make this breed of darkness altogether inadmissible, as creations of crass ignorance. The noble expanded consciousness having contacted with the Realm of Light, will naturally enter the path of peaceful constructiveness, discarding as shameful rubbish, all belittlement of human dignity caused by ignorance.

The list of adherents to the Banner of Peace are already long and glorious. The Banner has already been consecrated during the Congress in Bruges in the Cathedral of the Holy Blood, and by this we have given the sacred oath to introduce it everywhere by all our means. All those from all ends of the world, who believed in us and filled space with heartiest wishes, will not in vain look for the Banner over all shrines of real

treasures. Everyday brings new letters, new response. The election run 'For Peace' has been filled with precious tokens. Verily, Peace and Culture are at present especially needed.

It is not so much a new law, but it is the imperative wish, the one pan-human desire to safeguard the achievements of humanity which is calling. Every endeavour, even the most evident, requires an active start. For Peace and Culture, one does not even need a unanimously world-wide votum. The beautiful principles of General Good can be affirmed on every scale, still retaining their vital potentiality. Let us greet whole-heartedly all co-workers: "Proceed victoriously everyone to his best abilities undeferrably without any delay, along this glorious path."

Verily time is short; Lose neither day nor hour! Kindle the flame of the heart in unbreakable enthusiasm. Under the Banner of Peace let us proceed towards the One Supreme Light in powerful union as the World League of Culture!

Satyam, Sivam, Sundaram.

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