

Laugateig 20, Reykjavik

Iceland.

February 27th 1951.

My dear Madame Roerich:

I saw your adress lately in a booklet, written by a certain Christabel Bevan, who had visited you ^{her} on way to Tibet. Though it seems that she did not have much discrimination concerning that whole trip -- I hope she has given your adress correctly, so I am taking my opportunity to contact you, since I have been wishing for some time to make enquiries about some writings of your late husband.

Some years ago, when I was staying in New York City, I met Mrs **Sina** Fosdick and paid her a visit at the apartment on 57th Street. Being much impressed with the works of Mr. Roerich, I bought some of his small books: "Aum", "Heart", "Hierarchy" and "Fiery World I. II." This was some five years ago. Since that time I have been reading and re-reading those books and they have proved an illumination on many circumstances and problems of my life. They contain such remarkable wisdom and power, ^{if} that one feels as if unfathomable depths were behind each sentence and that one could go on reading them for a whole lifetime -- and yet not get to the bottom!

This is how those writings impress me. So I keep the small volumes at my bedside -- and sometimes, when some restlessness keeps me awake during the nights, I only have to read a few pages to fall into peaceful sleep again!

Are there more of those writings in English now?

I have taken the liberty to translate into Icelandic --

which is my native language -- a few pages here and there and read them out to some lady-friends of mine, when I visit them in their home -- for I wish them to enjoy with me the spiritual fragrance and lofty emotions contained in those little books. -- And I should like to translate some more -- especially from "Aum", which seems to me less difficult to grasp for the lay reader than "Fiery World" f.i.

Have I your permission to translate? I do not think of publishing the translation right now.

My approach to the spiritual life has been through Theosophy. I have been a member of the T.S. for 32 years. I used to do some work for the Society, but do not do so any more. I am still a member though.

I hope you will forgive my boldness in contacting you. I believe you were a close co-operator with your husband and so am handing over to you my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation of his work -- and I mean also his work as a painter!

With sincere goodwishes and greetings,

I am yours

(Mrs) *Kristin Thoroddsen*

(Kristin Thoroddsen)

Bramshott Court,
Liphook, Hants.
England.

October 24th 1951.

Dear Mad. Roerich:

Enclosed I am sending you the booklet by Christabel Bevan, which I mentioned in my former letter to you. Mrs Sina Fosdick wrote to me from New York, asking for some information which you wanted about this lady.

I do not know much about her. All I can tell is the following:

Early in the year 1950 I met her at the home of professor Seth Bingham, Columbia University, New York, where I was living at the time. -- She then told us that she had been living in Mexico, where she had been doing some work at a "spiritual Centre", in co-operation with some highly developed people. But now she had been summoned by the Mahatmas of Tibet, to be present at the Wesak Festival in May(1950). So she was going to be present there in body.

As the lady made some tremendous claims regarding her own spiritual standing -- in fact she said that she had already taken four of the great Initiations, and was about taking the fifth, and so passing out of human evolution -- and since she spoke so freely about those great Mysteries to complete strangers -- I had my doubts concerning her balance of mind. I also heard her give a talk to a few friends, and again there, I was impressed as if she were just talking very commonplace -- as if gathered out of a primitive textbook of Theosophy, what she had to say about her "visions".

Those were the reasons why I thought she would be deluding herself -- and probably would not reach her goal. This I may have expressed to you in my letter.

Shortly after she left for her adventurous journey, I myself left America. But my friend, Mrs Bingham, sent to me the booklet I am now enclosing -- as she knew that I would be interested to know how far Miss Bevan would succeed in her undertaking.

According to this leaflet the lady has got much faith, as well as great willpower and devotion. She published the book herself, and as you will see on the back of the cover, was staying at the time, in the Ashram of "the great Mahatma of India", Sri Aurobindhu, at Pondicherry. I know nothing about him.

But after all -- he may be the Mahatma she was aspiring to meet!

With hearty greetings

and all good wishes,

Kristin Thoroddsee.

P.S.

I left my country for reasons of health -- and am now staying at above address, a Nursing Home in the South of England.

K.T.

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Bramshott Court, Liphook,
Hants.

Febr. 5th 1952.

Dear Mad. Roerich:

Many thanks for your kind letter, written Dec 19th and arriving on Christmas Eve. It was a most welcome X-mas greeting! -- Later I received the gift from you through Mrs Fosdick. For this also I thank you heartily.

You have given to me a precious pearl, which I value very much. I have been reading and re-reading the small books issued by your late husband -- to my great comfort and upbuilding. I feel they contain a waft from the Himalayan heights -- from the Great Brotherhood residing there. The books impress me like some celestial music of Devas -- subtle, eluding -- markedly in contrast with the strong design and colours of your husband's paintings!

I saw a few of them, when I went to see Mrs Fosdick in New York. They impressed me deeply too -- but in a different way.

How wonderfully positiv and bright and strengthening are the Agni Yoga teachings!

Yes, at present I am in a Convalescent Home in the South of England -- not very ill and definitely hoping to recover after a while.

My doctor is ^a very unusual woman, a Dr of Medicine

Surgery and Chemistry, who uses homeopathic treatment. She is an author of a very charming style, which is in contrast to the usual style of doctors. Her last book was published before X-mas, called "A Physician's Posy", being a herbal, explaining the powers inherent in plants flowers and trees, and giving examples of their healing qualities. The book touches upon many interesting matters, and is written definitely from a spiritual point of view. -- Should it interest you to see the book, it would give me the greatest pleasure to send you a copy.

It is interesting to hear that Sri Aurobindo¹ who was a real Yogi -- but how sad that he did not ^alive to the world according to his capacities.

Something similar seems to ^{have} happened in connection with Krishnamurti. ---

I read a book some time ago about an Indian Yogi, Meher Baba. It was written by a follower, an American lady. He seems to be doing great work in India, and it seems to me that he is really a great Soul.

The world needs great souls just now, when everything is changing so fast. So many people are confused and suffering.

What a tragedy that the Communists should have taken Tibet! I never thought that could happen. I wonder why the Masters living there did not prevent it?

I always see you before my mind's eye in that colourful Himalayan garden, mentioned by our friend Christobel Bevan. How beautiful it must be!

Wishing you all the best —

and with hearty greetings,

I am yours, sincerely

Kristin Thoroddsen.