

19-1-29.

Mayapuri
Darjeeling.

My dear Mrs. Kovich,

I want to have a long talk without any reserve: & point for your decision I leave to your wisdom.

And first of all: perhaps my close application to the subject of "Spirit photography" - (I have had difficulty in deciphering my notes & hieroglyphics of the time, in examining letters & documents bearing on the phenomena, &c.) - & living rather continuously on that other plane, - perhaps that accounts for experiencing repeating waves of love & happiness passing between you, your dear circle & myself. And so many times I have had to interrupt my work & listen to my voice speaking as we humans never speak to one another, untraced as we are by convention & years of self-restraint. It would make our burdens so much lighter, easier to bear, if we knew how & when to cast aside restraint. So I am not going to refrain from giving you the last of many similar "songs" pouring through me since I waved you my last goodbye. On the 16th - you had been very present during the previous 48 hours - "suddenly" (I quote what I wrote down at the time) like to a hand striking a low, soft cord on a harp, comes a wave of happiness from you & I feel an answering vibration of deep love towards you & the words pour forth: "you are very dear.. one with the Brotherhood.. you are drawing me & I cannot keep

away .. Tears of gladness come to my eyes as I think of you .. Like the
 boy's clinging tendrils so are you twined around my heart .. There is
 no doubt in me that I have been waiting for you .. "Go to Darjeeling
 & wait there!" came the gentle command in 1925 .. I came, & somehow
 the waiting has not seemed long, so sure was my whole being that
 in good time the waiting would end. And from the first day I saw
 Professor Roerich, ⁹ ~~he~~ knew the waiting was over .. I come to you now
 if you wish it or whenever you deem it meet .. The connection
 here is made; now tact & truth will maintain the link. No need
 to remain longer here if I can serve nearer .. Do you understand?
 Every day spent thus far absent is like a stone upon my heart .."

Such reads like literature, .. some would say 'instability'.

Nevertheless, those words are true, they come from the source of all good.

But human beings are complex; only perfection is simple.

Often the personality feels it must tie down the wings of the Spirit
 to be able to meet the many calls from without. So I examine
 myself & strive to be practical. The truth always is that
 ever since I first met you I longed to be one of your circle, a
 longing growing stronger as the weeks passed.

It was one of the hardest decisions of my life which sent
 me here & not at once to you. But it was a decision made on
 the higher plane & I had but to bow the head. I saw & see the
 wisdom thereof.

Now judge if my task here is done: judge if I may join you now:-
First :- (but we will remember that wise guides use our faults &
failing as well as our good qualities) - I have reason to believe that
I was offered this house only because current opinion says I am
"very wealthy": indeed Sir J. C. B. told me this himself, but I merely
answered that I never contradict public opinion not being interested
in what others say or think of me I was "invited" to pay, and
did pay, one year's rent in advance: (an unusual thing here
especially when the prospective tenant is well-known as I am) - a
request which struck me as strange & damped my ardour somewhat.
For it suggested unpleasant thoughts behind. - The place was
uninhabitable. I have put it into thorough repair. It can hereafter
be a source of income for the maintenance of the whole of Masapuri.
And this can be my practical contribution towards that Institute.
But, on the money question, this does not satisfy. Many things
are asked & expected of me: only this week Miss O. wrote
requesting me to "kindly pay" several small personal bills "because
it is inconvenient to send small sums" . . . I feel that the more
I do on that score the more I may & should: just as a matter
of course.

There is also a continuous interference in the garden: ill-will,
or is it merely - (a common modern Indian habit) -
self-assertiveness on the part of many well-meaning
relations? - However, I shut myself up & take no further
interest in the garden; with regret, for I love flowers.

There is a charokidar - mali here who owns many children & beats them cruelly with iron bars. It drives me crazy & I rush out to protect the children & the creature looks as though he would, if he dared, use the iron on me. I have begged lady B. to allow me to change him for my former mali, a superior & competent man with no children.

But she replies that this man suits her very well. (She only engaged him the week she left, & knew nothing of him.) -

The B.s are coming here in April remaining till June.

Sir J.C.B. has invited me to be of his party to Sindalypur during that time. That is the only thing I can see which may bear fruit. (For your dreams) - which may be useful to you. But - I believe he will spend no money on that project, & invites me only because of my supposed wealth & the power thereof, & counts on me to bear the expenses, which I could not do. In a sense of course he is right in seeking always money: but he should remember that the greatest force lies in the person & not in his possessions.

You know it is always difficult to deal with a Committee even in the West. But in India, the trouble is there never seems to be a responsible head. - Mrs. Blair - knowing I have been deceived in people here - made a strange, yet eloquent, remark when she said to me: "You are always doing something for people & you only see good in them. Take care now & remember you are dealing with an Institute". (She has a very poor opinion of mankind in general but especially of her own countrymen.)

Now, perhaps you will only reconnoitre the ground of the future estate before going to America.. beginning the work on your return only. If you are not ready for me to join you yet, I can well occupy this year: producing very much which can be of service.. The vibrations in this place are not right. But-it is my task to set them right, & stay out the year, if by so doing I can serve the Cause. Please decide.

The B.s will not lose by my departure today, for many people - Colonel Thos Blair among them - would take the place at once if I left it. -

I wonder what your impressions were when you visited the Institute in Calcutta: Miss O. wrote at the end of a letter, her only allusion to you: "The Reveries visited the Institute yesterday." - There was something I did not like in that dry phrase, so I replied: "The rare visits of Anupal pass unperceived by the common mind."

Sir J.C.B. strikes me as being - what one of his country-women said of him to me - "too autocratic". Here is an illustration of what I mean: A young "Swami" in whom I am much interested, the son of the Maharaja of Musskiatad, had been very ill with pneumonia, & slowly recovering. he asked me if he could spend December with me. I was honored & delighted, for I know he is a very pure soul & far advanced. In my delight, I happened to mention to Miss O. that my first visitor would be a young student of the highest life. Next day, she wrote to me, under Sir J.C.B.'s dictation:

"Sir B. wishes me to tell you that he will only consent to Theosophists visiting you" .. I keep that letter. I answered at once to the effect that "I would consent to no interference in my choice of friends. I invite whom I please to my home wherever my home may be. Theosophists were of no interest to me as Theosophists but only in proportion to their enlightenment."

All these are insignificant details, but the future must be judged by just such everyday details. which show the real man.

Now, I want you to know a few things about me .. in case such may help you to see if, & where, I can fit into your work.

As regards money: Of a wealthy "aristocratic" Scotch family, I have known both wealth & poverty - & care nothing for either. For the last thirty years, the capital from which I draw my income has been invested in France. When I left Paris in 1925, I was receiving R. 1,300 (£100) monthly. Six weeks later, on arriving at Adyar, a letter was awaiting me informing me that my income would cease completely as long as the franc remained at 280 as it was then. Fortunately, I had been careful during the voyage with the monies in hand; & this was all I had for six months. Afterwards, & until today, I receive only from R. 250 to R. 300 monthly; & see little chance of matters improving. But R. 300 monthly is ample for one of my habits. I have found it to be quite sufficient though leaving me a margin for much travelling or for the

unexpected. I have no control over the capital & my income dies with me. - My eight months' trial of Irina Lodge - (I having a few paying guests) - besides occupying me so fully that literary work was out of the question, gave me about R. 2.000 over & above all expenses. Every anna of that has been spent on Mayapuri, as also a little of the future.

- (I am very frank with you. No one in the world, outside my family, knows these details). -

So I can bring into your great work nothing of a material nature. I know, from varied experiences, that money is even the least, & the most easily procured, of the many things required for the successful issue of a great undertaking. I can bring the interest of an elite in the world of Science where my life has been lived. That is about all my person is worth.

I want also to make clear another point. My husband - who is 86 years old today - & I separated by mutual consent 26 years ago. But we correspond regularly & are real friends, all the more so for our wise decision. The chief cause for this decision was my absolute refusal to allow sexual intercourse. I would never have married had I known what marriage is generally supposed to mean.

Naturally, tongues have wagged whilst they were tired of wagging.

But I never take any notice of such rubbish. My children owe everything to me. I educated them & watched over every hour steps of their way. They know this, & respond accordingly. Today, they are all grown up & fighting their own battles. I am free.

I have an ever increasingly stronger feeling that I am going to you soon: a detail. In November, I ordered from Benares 3 dozen curtains to be especially made. They arrived this week, but mechanically I packed them away, convinced I do not require them for Mayapuri. I find myself constantly falling into the habit of considering the packing & despatch of my various belongings. By the way, I have practically furnished this place: even my bed is my own; also two chests of drawers, ever so many cane chairs & tables (as well as all yours:) a lot of new carpets &c. And I feel I ought to take it all with me to the Kulu. . . Only yesterday, I found myself at the Railway-Station asking the Majumdar all sorts of details about the removal of furniture. - These are mechanical actions which the outer self looks on as in a dream: but they always tell me a change is impending.

About my two large oil-paintings: I am quite sure that they would be more lost on Sir J.C.B. than even your great picture! Friends have taken copies to two

valuable Indian Pictures with a view to a good sale. But in my heart I would prefer sending them to New York for the Institute to dispose of to their best advantage & the proceeds of their sale to be devoted towards the construction of one of the first seven houses on the new Estate in the Park.

If the idea pleases you, will Professor Roeverick tell me how to despatch them? I feel I must settle this matter speedily. Given that one of these pictures was a gift from a "Master" & the other came to me in somewhat similar manner, their consecration to the Masters' work is in keeping. —

Gobi is turning out a very lovable companion. A dry (powder) bath every day, an hour's hard brushing, epsom salts every morning, & a fruit diet, which she loves & can never get enough of, have worked wonders: no longer any odour, she is as gentle & docile as a lamb. In the beginning, after much pitiful howling & barking to pieces the wails of the go-down in which I put her for the first two nights: I let her do what she liked; since when, she has chosen to sleep in my room or just outside my door. She is playfully inclined & likes to be patted & played with.

I hope you will permit me to bring Gobi & my Brownie with me to the Park! I fear they would die of grief if I left them behind.

Miss Adeline Sterling (Woodland House, Delhi) asks me if she might "venture to write to you". She will be in Simla about the 15th March before going on to Baluchistan & the Kashmir. She is anxious to meet you. I think you would like her, & her press connections may be useful to you. She is the only one of the many whom I entertained at Brins Lodge who really understood & appreciated Professor Ruerich's work. She came over twice especially to study them.

I received yesterday a letter from Adyar, from one of the heads, asking me if I could arrange lectures in Darjeeling now - (which I cannot, quite the wrong moment, no one here) - for Dr. J. J. Van der Lennw, the author of "The fire of Creation" & "The Conquest of Illusion". - "He particularly wants to meet the Ruerichs. Can you arrange this?" -

I have answered giving your Simla address (Imperial Bank); & as Dr. Van der Lennw is undertaking an extensive lecturing tour in the north of India, it is just possible he may find himself your way before you leave Simla. I think you will find him an interesting man.

Curious about a typewriter! Twice I have given mine away. In India, I have hired a machine whenever I wanted one & giving the money spent on myself in buying another. I intended doing the same thing again this year, & paid no heed to the advice:

"Get a typewriter for yourself", which came quite presumptuously in December. Now my manuscript on "Spirit Photography" is ready for typing: & I have wasted a week trying to hire a machine: there is not one to be had here. As in despair, I telegraphed yesterday to Remington to send me one... not knowing how I was going to pay for it, for I have overstepped all bounds in doing up Marapuri. As soon as my order was despatched, I received unexpectedly, by that afternoon's post, enough money to pay for the machine! An incident like that raises all kinds of questions, & the result of years of study under Janet, Richet & the Nancy School, automatically sets my mind working furiously. However, the money was unexpected & had I not ordered the machine in the morning, I would have done so in the afternoon with that money in hand: in not obeying that "psychic" order at once, I have lost a good fortune.

You should receive the manuscript about the 15th February. Will you stick to at Simla then?

Write to me please, if you have time; because not only am I happy to see your handwriting, but in matters of decisions to take in which the course of a life is concerned, I do not like to act solely upon intuition: that is, I want the outer symbol of words to support the intuition.

With affectionate regards to you all,
I am, dear Mr. Roerich,
yours affectionately

Laura J. Finck

P. S.

Did you notice this allusion to the part the Himalayas
are to play in a coming world devastation?

L. J. F.

Mayapuri
Darjeeling.

26 - 9. '29

My dear Mr. Rverick,

Another basket of beautiful & delicious apples I owe to your bounty!

It makes you feel very dear, but also gives me a feeling of helplessness. For I know not how to return such gracious acts of repeated kindness.

I am sending some over to the Sen's - (the son & grand-children of Keshub Chandra Sen, the Brahmo Reformers) - who are staying near here in the Gooch Bazar property. I was lunching with them on Sunday, & Mr. Sen

was representing England for the sake
of its apples. . . They still marvel
at the "English flavour" in the pears
they share with me.

What a wonderful country the
Kulu & Kangra valleys must be: only
potentially great, I suppose, as
they seem to be so little inhabited.

Will you be going to Gulmarg (Kashmir)
in April? - If so, nothing impossible
occurs between this & then, I will
try & go up there for next year.

I go to Benares the first week
in November, you looking forward
to hearing Krishna Murti again. He is
growing in daring wisdom. You will
have seen that he has dissolved
the "Order of the Star". His organiza-
tion will be there, which is a

good thing from the spiritual stand-
point.

The T. S. is crumbling to pieces
only because it has built itself of
recent years on tradition, creed,
dogma, ritual... all so many
chains to the free soul. Krishna
Murthi's act is like a death-blow to
the T. S. But it is only the death
of what already was death.

I see more of eternal Truth
in K. M.'s words of late: it rings
familiar to my ears, being often
like the voice of a great teacher
who came to me once upon a time
when I was passing through dire
trouble. - I hope he will be
strong enough to carry on to the
end.

4.

Dear Gobi & Gypsy have left a
great void. I am enclosing Mrs
Campbell's letter which will
show you the dear things are in
good hands. . . She will probably
send Gobi to Dampier every
April - October with her
children. I have found another
dog-lover in the owner of the
Park Hotel, Mrs Barnett,
who would take Gobi for those
months if Khajauli should be too
hot. . . I mean to break my
journey to Benares by going up to
Khajauli for a few hours to
see Gobi & her beautiful son. -

I enclose some photographs
taken of the daggies the day before

5-

They left. —

I am always looking forward to "Agni Yoga" .. Has it not yet been published?

This mail brought me an interesting book: "The Light of the Soul," by Mrs. Alice Bailey. It is an explanation of Patanjali's yoga and was given to her "by a Tibetan Master," he who is said to have given her "Initiation" & "Initiation" &c.

Have you seen it?

I shall be thinking of you all very especially on the 17th October. How wonderfully everything is

working forth! —

The two young American girls, Miss Anthony & Miss Rummel, — (in the group with myself enclosed) — are very anxious to go up to Napier to see you in the beginning of December. Could they do so? They know the difficulties of the route, & mean to walk from Papanui to . . . they walked from the south to the north of New Zealand! so distances on foot do not alarm them. I think you would like them. —

With my devoted love,
I am, dear Mrs Averick,

yours
Laura J. Finck.

c/o M^{rs}. Sunda

Dal Huti

Benares Cantt.

21-2-'30.

My dear Mr. Roerich,

Though I have not written, my thoughts have followed you daily. I was touched also with the cards I received from you & Miss Lieberman for the New Year.

I have really been waiting for leisure to type out a copy of my copy of the verbatim reports made of Krishna Murki's talks in November at Benares. But I have not found the necessary time for this. As now I am lending you my copy together with a pamphlet published at Madras during K. M.'s talks there & a "Theosophist" which has a curious article by Wedgewood. Please return to me all except the "Theosophist" & the "pamphlet." —

I want to keep my copy of November's "Talks" chiefly as a souvenir & as an indication to friends who are not bound by prejudice or vows of any kind. It is not possible to judge of a situation fairly & truthfully if prejudiced for or against.

Krishna Murki has not only completely withdrawn from the T. S., but has announced that he will not speak again under the auspices of the T. S. or in their compounds. Further, he so disapproves of the management of the monies already collected for schools under his direction that he has withdrawn from the Presidency of these Trusts & refuses to be identified with such.

I asked him: "Is it really necessary to be so elementary with your audiences in India?" — "I assure you it is: they know nothing." This may perhaps excuse the absence in the reports I send you of anything worth putting on the level of the Teaching of the Great Past.

To me, K. G.'s great merit so far lies in the strength of character which has enabled him to shake off so completely the ravings of the T. S., the hypnosis of seventeen years of the Leadbeater. Besant. Wedgewood Group. It required a most rare inner power & insight to accomplish such a miracle. On the strength of that capital action, I am waiting & hoping for a development in expression, a depth of insight & the commanding presence which must be the accompaniments of the illumined soul. — He is not returning to India for two years. —

I heard from Virginia Anthony which she & Elsie were at Nagpur. It goes without saying they were on their knees before you & looked upon their experiences en route as mere baptisms as soon as they saw you. I believe they are now in Constantinople, but are longing to return to New York & the Roerich Museum. —

I am writing you from Lucknow where I am the guest of the brothers, Drs. Ankerji, professors at the University. I am returning to Benares in a day or two, & am looking forward to hastening to the hills, for the heat has begun early & is affecting me.

3

I may go to Mussoree & share ^{Mrs Senda's} ~~last~~ large house there, - especially as it's far out of the town & very quiet, offering means for work. —

But Kashmir tempts also. However, the future is really on the lap of the gods, & I may do something quite different.

I spent a week in Allahabad including the great day of the 29th Jan. I shall never forget it. One thing stands out clearly: the reality, the limitless depth of the spirituality of the people! We westerners have nothing to offer in that respect to India... we have everything to learn. —

One of my companions at Allahabad was an American lady from St. Francisco who had come from Japan where she has been studying the Zen system of meditation in Buddhism. There seem to be some really good schools hidden away in Japan. —

The two Hindu deales, whom you met in Danjeling, are leaving the T. S. as teachers, literally driven out after 17 years of selfless service at a pittance scarcely enough to keep body & soul together: whereas, in the secular world, in London they could have received £40 monthly & a pension today. There is a strong spirit of nationalism in the Indian T. S. today, though the only condition of membership of that Society is universal brotherhood. —

4.

Will Prof. Roerich be back soon? And are you remaining at Gagar?

So many inquiries after you! So much interest manifested in your coming work in India! You have many devoted admirers all waiting to be of service.

Hoping to see you soon & that you are quite well & in cordial regards my compliments.

I am
dear Mrs. Roerich,
Yours affectionately

Laura J. Fine.

T. S. to my letter just posted.

I forgot to mention the most important detail of the last four months.

Two weeks ago, I "saw" Gobi who said to me: "Take Gypsy at once" ... Examining Gobi, I saw it was not the phantom of a living, but of a "dead" being. I got the impression that Gobi had died recently through neglect & that ^{Gypsy} was in imminent danger.

Now, I was anxious about the dogs all the time although I had been given to understand they were loved & well looked after: & I had written repeatedly for news without receiving any answer.

- Well after Gobi's "visit", I wrote at once, regretted, saying I thought Gobi was dead, & to send Gypsy back to me.

I received the enclosed p.c. in reply. My prepaid wires received no answer as to what train Gypsy was leaving & arriving by ... many changes on the way & many trains. So I lined at the N. station until finally I saw poor huddled up Gypsy in a tiny cage looking the picture of hopeless misery. When he saw my "Brownie" & me, he wept & moaned, the tears rolling down his poor face. - I share a lot part with him again. I have him here in Lucknow with me & under daily treatment by one of the best vets in India.

Holly Mount
Lauder
Massoville.
17-5-'30

My dear Mrs Rverick,

Very sincere thanks for "Agri Yuga" which I received yesterday.

Prof. Leuda pounced on them at once, & after she has read them, I will enjoy the privilege.

I am looking forward to hearing from you, for your news of Prof. Rverick & also somewhat for your opinion of Krishna Murti's "Talks". - The Theos. Socy. in London gave him such a cold reception. I hear, that he gave only one talk there. He expresses himself as very pleased with such open hostility being "at least honest".

And yet the hostility shown to him more or less frankly by the T. S. would disappear into a fawning adulation were he to uphold the two "Protectors & Co." - In admiration of him his precision there; his unusual strength in thus being able to shake himself free from the unwholy hypnotism, but truly false suggestions of his seventeen years' tutelage under A. B. & that unprincipled scoundrel Leadbeater. - His education has been utterly neglected in order to keep him "pure": that is, docile to Leadbeater's teachings.

A. B. is quite in the senile stage of extreme old age as seen in wrong living. The errors of her past are apparent in her present... well, imbecility. Yet 80 years of age is not necessarily a period of senility, - though it is generally

so when youth & maturity have not been lived according to the law of self-restraint, & in absolute ^{sexual} purity; in this latter respect so many err; yet it is the first elementary law on the Path.

I like Mussoorie, Landour part & this quiet end especially. It is evidently colder than Darjeeling as this house was hidden under snow all Dec. & Jan. last, & 8 ft. of snow on the road above... an exceptionally severe winter, they say; but still snow falls here every year. But the absence from rain, - except for sudden thunderstorms of great intensity which often come up at 4 p.m. & leave a marvellous sunset & evening behind them - & absence of mists & fogs is a great relief after Darjeeling. Dry & bracing here. And such beautiful wooded walks everywhere. At night, the lights of Mussoorie & Dehra Dun suggest fairy-land.

I hope I can buy the property of which I spoke to you, & form the Centre I have dreamed of all my life: a centre of quiet & prolific study out of which may spring a philosophy or livable religion worthy of the highest aspirations of today. I have already American & European support, moral & intellectual support; - if it is to be, the material support will also be forthcoming.

It is so long since I heard from you. You mentioned the possibility of your moving towards Kashmir, to Polwara. Do you still contemplate this? - When does Prof. Overick return? And is Miss Listerman still with you? And your sons? - Often I think of you & speak of you & wonder if our paths will join.

I had an all too brief ten days' visit from the only daughter of the Archbishop of Australia, (a friend of my daughter's) in April. She was with me also at Mayapur in '28-29 for an equally short visit. . . on each occasion making a three months' return trip. She had an ambulance on the French front during three years of the War, mostly about Verdun. And on returning to Australia, she founded a large private hospital in a beautiful part of Sydney. She is the head of this & also the right-hand of the leading surgeon in Sydney. So eminent & kind, yet so capable, strong & loving. - there are some wonderful people in the world today. -

What think you of the present unrest in India? all Gandhi's work. He has a lot to answer for. Gandhi has the land stands firm.

Looking forward to hearing from you, with warm wishes for your welfare & affectionate regards,

I am, dear Mrs. Proenich,
 Yours affectionately
 Laura J. Finley

21
Holly Mount, Landour.
Mussorie.

28-7-'30.

My dear Mrs Rorich,

I have been hoping to hear from you or from Miss Leiskman. Often my thoughts turn towards you. Are you better now that you are on higher ground? Do you not experience even more mist & rain the higher you go? Here in Landour, we escape a great deal; it is certainly much dryer & ever so much more beautiful than Darjeeling even though I miss grandiose Kinchinjunga & the panorama from Talapahar. Here, there is the constant beauty of the Doon just under our feet, which is so beautiful never changing in its variety of colour that one turns a cold shoulder to the mountain side.

I am amazed at the Government's refusal of a permit to Prof. Rorich to enter India. But I hope that he will soon overcome the difficulty. There are some people so manifestly pure that one can not think of them associating with movements of the Sovietic kind so visibly the work of evil forces. Though God conquers

always in the long run, yet disruptive energies,
employing falsehood, torture, terrorism, oppression
all so plainly of the dark powers can do incalculable harm
during the process of the struggle.

I hope Prof. Roerich will be with you soon.

There is just a little excuse for their rigorous act: The
situation in India is critical & Socialism is the under-
lying cause of all the trouble. It is enough to be a Russian
to come under suspicion!

Hoping to hear soon that you are benefiting by
your change to higher land, & that Professor Roerich is back,

I am, dear Mr. Roerich,

yours sincerely,

Sara J. Girty