

# MAHA BODHI SOCIETY OF INDIA

FOUNDED BY THE ANAGARIKA DHARMAPALA IN 1891

OTHER CENTRES:-

Calcutta, Sarnath, Buddhagaya, Gaya,  
Bombay, Madras, Calicut, Manoor,  
Lucknow, Lumbini, Darjeeling, Ajmer,  
Sanchi, Colombo, London, New York etc.

BUDDHA VIHARA, READING ROAD.

New Delhi 2 8-7-1948

My dear Dr. Konich,

I received today five copies of the  
Foundation of Buddhism from the America. Will you  
please instruct me as to how I should dispose  
them of? Mr. Rahul told me that some copies were  
meant for him. As you have not left any  
instructions with me I would thank you to  
give me your advice.

Hope you are all keeping well. My  
best wishes & kind regards to Madam Konich. I think  
she is fully recovered now.

Yours in the Dhammas,  
Dhammadhara.

Rp. 10/11-78.

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Maha Bodhi Society,  
Reading Road,  
New Delhi

27th July, 1948

My dear Dr. Roerich,

Thank you for your letter.

A few days after the arrival of the first parcel with five copies of the "Foundations of Buddhism" the second one also came and it has since been handed over to Mr. Rahul.

The book I found to be very interesting. It has been written in a very appealing way to the modern mind. Your mother, by bringing out such a fine book, has done a signal service to the cause of the Dharma. Even though very late I congratulate her for having done this service.

I wish the book to be as widely popularised as possible. And I do not know how to do this. The present exchange difficulties will stand in the way of our getting enough copies

from the publishers. I want you to suggest a way to achieve this end.

Another book widely acclaimed as a standard one has come out very recently: it is a new edition of an old book which has been out of print for nearly 20 years or so - the Essence of Buddhism by Prof. L. Narayan. Dr. Ambedkar took the initiative to bring it out.

I am not very sure whether Madame Neel has come to India. However, I have written to Calcutta inquiring her whereabouts and on receiving a reply I shall let you know.

My trip to the Himalayas had to be cancelled as nobody turned up here to relieve me. It would not be possible for me to fulfil my wish this year as rains have already started.

I am sending you under registered cover a copy of the Vesak Number of the "Mahabodhi" which is the latest issue. Would you please let me know to which address the journal should be sent to you in future so that I may inform the office accordingly?

Please remember me to your mother.

Yours in the Dhamma,  
Dhanumalake

Maha Bodhi Society  
Reading Road,  
New Delhi 2.  
18th Aug. 1948

Dear Dr. Roerich,

Thank you for your kind letter dated the 10th Aug. 48.

I have since received a reply to my inquiry about Madame Neel from our Calcutta office. According to this letter they are quite ignorant about Madam Neel's coming to Kalimpong. It seems the news of her being at Kalimpong is wrong. They have however promised to make further inquiries and let me know if she has come.

I must also thank you for all that you are doing to make more ~~or~~ copies of the "Foundations of Buddhism" available to us. As you might have already been informed by Mr. Rahul, these are meant for sale. ~~and~~ ~~the~~ Thank you <sup>also</sup> for the 5 copies which I have already received at your <sup>kind</sup> instance. One of them I <sup>have</sup> presented to

Dr. Ambedkar who is collecting materials to write a book on the life of the Buddha.

What do you think of bringing out a cheap Indian edition of the "Foundations of Buddhism" especially to suit the Indian pocket? I think it won't be difficult to find out a publisher who would do it nicely or even the Maha Bodhi Society might gladly agree to do it. If you permit me I can negotiate with the Society.

Mr. Rahul is getting all your letters alright.

Hope you and your mother are keeping well.

With kind regards to your mother,  
yours in the Dhamma,  
Dhammaloka

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Maha Bodhi Society  
Reading Road,  
New Delhi 2.

26-8-48

Dear Dr. Roerich,

Thank you for your very kind letter of the 23rd Aug. I am glad that you liked my suggestion and are taking concrete steps to see that a cheap Indian edition of the "Foundations of Buddhism" is brought out. It is also very kind of your mother <sup>to express her willingness</sup> to make a gift of 100 or 200 copies of the American edition, if available, towards the publication of a cheap Indian edition. I would also like you to suggest an attractive cover-design for the book.

As desired by you I am sending under separate registered cover a copy of the "Foundations of Buddhism" together with the latest issue of the "Mahabodhi". As for the "Gospel of Buddha" I have written to our Sarmath Centre to send it over to you immediately. Unfortunately I don't have it with me here.

I am glad to know that the Roerich Pact

and Banner of Peace has been  
approved by the Govt. of India.

With best wishes and kind  
regards to your mother,

Yours in the Shamma,  
Dharmaloka

Make Bodhi Society,  
Reading Road,  
New Delhi 2.  
9-11-48

Dear Dr. Roerich,

Thank you for your letter of the 28th October. The Import Licence which was required by the shipping agents to clear the box of books has since been obtained and sent to them with instructions to send the package to New Delhi on rail. No news has so far been received, but it is expected that the parcel ~~will~~ <sup>would</sup> be here before long. I got the information you sent through Mr. Rahul that the transport charges have been ~~sent~~ <sup>paid</sup> upto Delhi by the sender and I must thank you for all that.

We are going to get the new edition of the "Foundations of Buddhism" printed at Calcutta as it is convenient to get it done there. I have therefore sent ~~a~~ the copy with markings



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and the additional matter over there.

I am sorry to hear that you could not get Rev. Narada's book from our Calcutta office or any reply to your letter. I have written to our Sarnath centre to supply the book immediately if it is available there. Regret to say that we don't have it here.

If the two Lamas who have been sent to Sarnath for study make satisfactory progress then their services can be utilised for starting some useful activities there. They can do better, if they have the will, than ~~as~~ outsiders who would be no better than foreigners among those people. We wish, therefore, that the people of the country should take the initiative which we also do our best to help them in whatever way possible. Under the present circumstance we have to satisfy with that much.

With best wishes and kind regards to your mother.

Yours in the Dharma,  
Dharmadika.

Maha Bodhi Society,  
Reading Road,  
New Delhi 2.

20th Nov. 1948

Dear Dr. Roerich,

Many thanks for your letter dated the 17th inst. The General Secretary of the Maha Bodhi Society to whom I have entrusted the publication of the Indian edition of the Foundations of Buddhism has written me to enquire from you whether a formal letter of authority is necessary for reprinting the book in India ~~and then~~ from the Publishers in America as the Copyright is held by them. and, if ~~you~~ it is necessary to request you to get the same. He (the General Secretary) thinks that a letter of authority is necessary specially in view of the fact that the Copyright ~~is~~ has been reserved by the publishers. I hope you would not mind this trouble.

The case of books has not yet come. I have received a letter from the Shipping Agents saying that they are trying to clear the box through the Customs and when it is done it would be sent over here by train.

I am sorry that you were unable to get a copy of Bhikkhu Narada's book. I have again written to the author himself to send us a copy or to suggest a place where it could be had. On hearing from you I shall let

you know.

I have no definite information about a particular Lama staying in France. However I got a letter from a friend of mine there who writes about some people who are masquerading as saints coming from Tibet etc. The letter in reference is being sent herewith for your perusal and when it is done you ~~can~~ may <sup>please</sup> return it to me. As it speaks for itself the whole thing I am not going to write anything about it here. You will also note in it that Madame David Neel is still in France.

I had been to Sarnath very recently and had the opportunity of meeting Buddhists coming from Nepal, Burma etc. Rahula Sankaric <sup>yanji</sup> also was there. He seems to take a keen interest about the welfare of the Buddhists in Simla hills and beyond, and is contemplating to start some institution there. During his last visit to that country he had been able to persuade the education authorities to replace Urdu with Tibetan and a dearth of books in the latter language seems to be a great handicap in implementing the decision immediately. There was a talk of reprinting Rahulji's Tibetan books.

The Lama who was studying Sanskrit at Benares is said to have returned to his country and as far as my knowledge goes he is doing some work there.

With best wishes and kind regards to your mother.

yours in the Dhamma,  
Dhammaloka.

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Maha Bodhi Society,  
Reading Road,  
New Delhi 2.

30-11-48

Dear Dr. Roerich,

Thank you so much for your letter of the 27th Nov. Yes, we also heard much about the cyclone which swept through Bombay and its ~~vicinity~~ vicinity causing great damage to life and property.

I am informing the General Secretary, (M.B.S.) that as there is no necessity of a permission to print the book outside of America, he should not worry about it.

Since I sent that letter over to you <sup>sent</sup> from Paris I had the occasion to read an article in the "Buddhist" of Colombo which spoke of a "pseudo-Buddhist" group under the leadership of a man who calls himself the Grand-Lama of Belgium<sup>2</sup> and who dabbles in occultism of a highly dubious sort with a group of people who call themselves "Buddhists". The writer Dr. Karlheinz Klaas, President of the New European Buddhist Association fears that great harm would be done to their serious work by the doings of such unscrupulous people who, in the name of Buddhism, try to mislead the people public. They seem to make use of, as you say, the spirit of frustration now prevailing in Europe for ignoble ends. The New Buddhist Association mentioned above

according to what I have read, aims at summoning the services of a Bhikkhu to visit different Buddhist groups in Europe.

Simultaneously I have the news that Bhikkhu Narada has been invited to visit England & France next year. While informing me of this news Bhikkhu Narada asks me whether I could plan his visit for him. Having no experience of these countries or what exactly is the mission he has been asked to fulfil I am afraid I couldn't be of any help. If you have any suggestions to make I would be glad to communicate them to him or you can directly ~~do so~~ get in touch with him. It is a good idea that a Bhikkhu who could interpret the rational doctrine of the Buddha in a similar way goes to Europe at this time when it is likely that the frustrated people there might pay a keen attention towards it. Much, of course, will depend on the way it is put to them.

Yesterday I got a copy of a petition addressed to the <sup>East Punjab</sup> Govt. for relief by the refugees come from Zaskar in Ladakh. According to it there are about 250 refugees come from there to Kule who are at present in a distressed condition. The sender wants us to approach the Central Govt. and get those refugees help in the form of food and cloth.

I am thinking of sending a copy of that petition with a covering letter to the Ministry of Relief & Rehabilitation and leave the rest for their own discretion. With best wishes and kind regards to your mother. Yours in the Dharma, Dharmadatta.

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Maha Bodhi Society,  
Anandji Road,  
New Delhi 2.

18-12-1948

Dear Dr. Roerich,

Many thanks for your letter dated the 6th Dec. 1948. It is very kind of you to have taken interest over the question of ~~a~~ a Bhikkhu going to Europe and <sup>to have</sup> sent some valuable suggestions to be kept in view in that connection. I shall communicate your views to Bhikkhu Narada who is planning a visit to Europe in the beginning of next year. They would undoubtedly be very helpful to him for his guidance.

There is every reason to suspect, as you say, that some mischievous people, in order to bring discredit to Eastern thought, have adopted some questionable methods which look ridiculous. Perhaps it might be to <sup>arrest</sup> ~~counteract~~ the growing popularity of the Buddhist ideals in Western countries.

The Shipping Agents have informed me that the box of books has been cleared through the Customs and they are awaiting for Railway priority to despatch same to Delhi. How long it will take it is difficult to say, but it is sure to reach us

I have long ~~thought~~ The question of the legality of publishing  
the Foundations of Buddhism being now settled I  
~~had~~ think the printing work will be taken in hand  
very soon. The General Secretary has written me  
to convey his satisfaction over your letter in  
which the position was cleared.

You are perhaps aware that Mr. Rahul  
is now in Sikkim. He accompanied a Danish  
gentleman who was visiting the State on a study  
tour.

The Relics of the two Chief Disciples of  
the Buddha ~~will be~~ <sup>will be</sup> brought to Calcutta on the  
14th Jan. 49. Pandit Nehru is going to Calcutta  
to receive them on behalf of the Govt. of India.  
It is now known <sup>that</sup> Dr. Chakravarti is going to Ceylon  
to bring them to India.

Delhi Climate is rather cold. Please  
convey my best wishes and kind regards to your mother.

yours in the Shammas,  
Dharmadharma.

P.S.

Since writing this I have got advise from the Shipping Agents  
that the box has been despatched to Delhi by train, ~~together with~~  
the Railway Receipt. I have sent my man to the station <sup>to see</sup> if it  
has come.

Dh

Rp 6.5.49  
25th September

Maha Bodhi Society  
New Delhi 2.

2nd Jan. 1949

Dear Dr. Roerich,

I have received both of your letters and regret for not being able to write to you earlier. I have also received the sketch of the title page and was glad to know that you have already sent me the block as well. The block, as you have instructed, will be sent on to Calcutta when it is received.

The case of books has at last come. There were in all 110 copies some of which were found damaged due to bad packing. The nails driven while packing, had gone about half an inch inside the tin coating of the packing case ~~and~~ <sup>that</sup> they had pierced the cloth binding of some of the books. But for this slight defect the package was received in fairly good condition.

I have not yet decided whether I should go to Calcutta for the function or not. For the present I do not entertain any idea of going. During the days of the Relief Reception there going to be a sort of Buddhist Convention also according to a press report I read in a local newspaper the clipping of which I am sending you herewith for your information. Except what appeared in the "Nakabodhi" I do not yet know of the



detailed program of any of these functions. However the Relief Reception is going to be a grand show, it appears, as it is being organized on a semi-official way. Mr. Rahul writes that Sikkim Buddhist are very enthusiastic about having the Relief in their country for an exposition. And it looks quite logical too. Instead of arranging an exposition in a place where apart from any curiosity value there is nothing of religious feeling, it is better to give the Buddhist a chance of paying their respects to <sup>the remains of the</sup> two great disciples of the Buddha.

With kind regards to your mother and best wishes for a happy new year ~~for~~ <sup>to</sup> you and others.

Yours in the Dharma,  
Shamuelike

P.S.

I met recently a Lama from Lehoul who was on his way to Wauha to learn the art of paper making and from him I was able to get more news about that Lama who was studying Sanskrit at Benares. According to what I learnt he is now engaged in religious work in what is called, Bushart, if I have correctly spelt the word, where the people have become very fond of him to the extent that they do not ~~even~~ allow <sup>him</sup> to leave the place in spite of his past attempts. I have also been informed about the jokers refugees who are said to be in a very pitiable condition in Kulu. I have written to the Relief & Rehabilitation Ministry to look into this case and now I have been informed that the officers concerned in East Punjab has been instructed to do the needful.

Buddha Vihara  
New Delhi 2.  
12-1-49

Dear Sir,

I am sending with  
Rev. Ananda, <sup>another</sup> 20 copies of "Foundations  
of Buddhism" and a block sent by  
Dr. Roerich. You must have taken  
delivery of the bundle of books I sent  
previously through Mr. Sunija.

After making use of the block  
in the new edition of the "Foundations...  
please send to Dr. Roerich who wants  
it back as you will see in the enclosed  
letter. A sketch for the title page of the  
new edition is also being sent  
herewith. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours in the Dhamma,  
Dhammaloka.

D. Valisunka Esq.,  
Calcutta.

P.S.  
I have received 12  
copies of the "Buddhist  
Stories in 200" sent  
under registered post.

FOUNDATIONS OF BUDDHISM

BY

NATALIE ROKOTOFF

(HELENA ROERICH).



← place.

      
1949