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4-FEB-1939

Dear Professor McCordock,

I was very glad to receive in our remote Himalayas your cordial letter of Dec. 26th. Indeed with great pleasure I am sending the requested photographed and my official letter, as well as a packet of publications for the Library of the University. I hope that over this long distance it will all reach you safely.

I presume that this beautiful thought about the inauguration of the Hall of Holography was your idea and I heartily congratulate you and the University. I am myself a collector by nature and therefore appreciate the principle of gathering such documents, which will be of value and use to the next generations.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Please note my present address
as above.

became frightened and pale, hearing this horrible judgment of the birds. And the wizard smiled: he listened to the birds and they brought no fear to him. Only he was aware that they knew no more and could say nothing else.

Are not all horrible words like this gabbling of birds? And is not the terrible bear but a rotten tree stem? And are not the ghostly snakes but twigs in the grass? And who are these mysterious wizards, who teach the gospel of fear? Who was the primogenious being who in a language unknown to us for the first time uttered the cursed word 'fear'? And was this first fright a real horror or was it a ghastly mirage? But milleniums and cruel atavism embodied this first cry of horror into generations. The inexperienced youth and grey wiseacres in a sinister unison began to sing the hymn to fear. There was created an entire cult of horror. But what has a striving honest man to fear?!

All lightnings and thunders of the universe teach us that there is nothing to fear - one has but to know. The wise heart convinces the brain that fear is the most absurd invention. The highest Ordainments proclaim that the human spirit is eternal and cannot be harmed. People read this truth and yet the habit of atavism for fear grips them and crushes them to the Earth. They do not listen to the voice of the heart. Science itself ^o changes to aid the heart. All the latest strivings of science prove that knowledge frees man from fear. How many wonderful basic energies ^e are unveiled by science. And human life can be absolutely transmuted.

But terror antiquus - the ancient terror still reigns. People still fear to know. For the majority of people, science is still sorcery. Horribile dictu but humanity is not far from mediaeval superstitions, when for every desire to know people were burned at the stake or beheaded. It makes no difference that the inquisition of to-day applies instead of fire still more cruel methods. The fire destroyed the body, but many other methods torture the spirit and in their evil inventiveness they subject the world to convulsions of horror. Under various pretexts, by various forms of scarecrows someone tries to prohibit and deny. We all know these deniers. And what is at the bottom of this crass igno-

4-FEB-1939

The Lincoln Memorial University
Harrowgate - Tennessee - U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of Dec. 26th 1938 inviting me to send my autographed photograph for your Hall of Holography and it gives me pleasure to comply with your request.

Every tie with the University which carries the esteemed name of President Lincoln is especially near to my heart. From my very childhood, in Russia, the great example of Abraham Lincoln was always calling and inspiring. The martyrdom of Lincoln, his self-sacrifice, his untiring struggle against slavery forever remains on the glorious pages of world history.

He, who proclaimed that the country must be ruled by a government "of the people, for the people and by the people" had a great heart and great foresight. Indeed everyone can but join the spirit of the inscription over his monument in Washington that "In this Temple as in the hearts of the people for whom he saved the Union, the memory of Abraham Lincoln is enshrined forever".

I am sending for the Library of your University some publications, which please accept with my best greetings.

Very sincerely

I would like to see pictures of Indian cities. He gave me his album and looking at me said: "Please, look at these pictures of Indian cities". The album contained polished brass sheets, on which were reproduced beautiful views of different cities, Temples and other views of India. I looked over the entire album attentively studying the pictures. Then I closed the album and returned it to the Hindu. He smiled and said: "Well, you have seen views of India", then he ^{left} ~~blew~~ at the album and returned it into my hands inviting me to look at it again. I opened the album and to my surprise found ~~x~~ only polished plates without any pictures whatsoever. These Hindus are indeed remarkable people. What refined thought!"

Does not this characteristic trait of Gorky prove his all-containment and broad consciousness.

He very much wanted to have my painting. He selected from those, which I had at the time, ~~xx~~ not a realistic landscape but one of the so-called pre-war series - "The Doomed City". This painting precisely corresponds to the mood of a poet. Indeed the author of "Storm-Finch" was a great poet. Coming from the depth of the people, Gorky fearlessly walked across all obstacles of life - he went the path of the Russian people, encompassing its multifacetedness and the richness of the Russian soul.

Moscow of June 21

The ~~Rxxix~~ newspapers, under the title "Gorky in the role of Harun-el-Rashid" tell the following story^{xy}, accompanied by a photo of Gorky dressed as a tramp: "This was in 1928. Gorky wanted to see what goes on in public bars, what kind of people ~~x~~ visit them, whether he would find there any types similar to his old novel "The Lower Depths", what became of them, what the new visitors are like, etc. But how to arrange such an expedition? Gorky decided to disguise himself as a tramp. With a huge beard, well made up, he entered into intimate talks with the people there and as a result wrote a new novel^e, which forms part of his "Across the Soviet Union"."

Those who know Gorky will understand that this episode is indeed typical