

## AMOS - THE FATHER OF CULTURE

By

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Out of a distant past people have often repeated the annals of Amos, the roaring Lion of the desert:

"And the fire will devour the palaces. For evil is the time. And shall not the earth tremble for this, and all that dwell therein mourn - " profoundly points out Amos, the Shepherd of Tekoa. Thus speaks Nicholas Roerich, the present Leader of World's Culture about Amos, the Founder and Father of Culture.

It seems but proper to begin an essay on this first martyr for the cause of Culture with the aforementioned words of Nicholas Roerich, as due reverence to the Father and the present Leader of a movement, which will ultimately save the world from utter destruction and prevailing chaos.

Amos became known as a Prophet in the 8th century, B.C. A few miles south of Bethlehem, there still exists a little place by the name of Tekoa in Judah, which claims to have been the original home of Amos. Although the Prophet disdains in his own words any traditional tendency or heritage to the class of prophets: "I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was a herdsman and a gatherer of sycamore fruit, yet this statement, nevertheless, does not render void the established opinion that Amos was not only one of the greatest prophets, but the greatest and the first prophet of the Old Testament. And Amos did not consider himself as a prophet because his spirit knew that he has been chosen to be the very Mouthpiece of God, that is why he said: "The Lord

took me, as I followed the flock and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel."

In simple obedience to the Command of the Lord, Amos laid a foundation to a new movement in the history of mankind, namely, the one of Culture. And it is not accidental that he was the first Prophet to write down the messages he has received. Yet he did not belong to any traditional school of prophets, nor has he been trained to be one. He simply obeyed the voice of God, as he "followed the flock" - to lead the enlightened part of humanity for centuries towards highest aspirations of the spirit. That there is not known an earlier literary prophet is most significant in this instance. As a founder of world's culture, every word of Amos had to be preserved in its original utterance, as universal by-laws for all cultural understandings, which originated from this source.

The beauty and purity of Amos' poetry has been long since considered as outstanding. Thus, by establishing the foundation of Culture, Amos built it with beauty, which made his victory everlasting. Then Amos brought another conception into the world and that is his noble understanding of God and moral ethics. Morality has been as unknown eight centuries, B.C. as it is unknown in our present time. Yet the seeds of morality sown by Amos are taking roots slowly, but surely, to cover the entire earth with a new Paradise of human understanding and relationship. This is primarily the reason why the moral doctrine of Amos survived all these centuries, still taking root in the heart of mankind. The first time "Democracy" was pronounced in the 8th century B.C. by Amos, who made it possible for every human being to become a messenger of God. Whosoever opened his heart to God and obeyed His Command could be privileged to

carry the message to the hearts of his fellow-men and so often pay the supreme sacrifice with his body in order to receive the supreme exaltation of the spirit. Thus Amos opened the gates to eternal life, when he said: "Seek good and not evil, that ye may live." Thus to "seek good" was no longer a class privilege, but a moral virtue opened to all, without any distinction of creed or class. Thus, Amos was not only the father of Culture, but of true Democracy as well. It is no wonder that the name of this great prophet survived throughout these centuries and in our days of world reconstruction, became a call to Culture.

The very heart of the Doctrine of Amos is the ever new and free-from-prejudice-idea of God. And through the heart Amos opened the gates to the Kingdom within us. Thus the gulf, dividing God from His children, was cemented through the realization of a conscious conception of the Creator in His might and sacredness. And through such a realization which springs from its bottom of separation through the mystic sense of a union with God towards following God in His moral ethics and laws. Thus by exalting God far above one's own self, we too grow in this Cosmic conception, as we stand before our Creator, imbued with the Fire of His Law and liberated through the recognition of God's grandeur and beauty.

Amos gave so vivid and clear the idea of One and Single God. And beside the One God, his doctrine brought forth one chosen people- a united human family of races, a veritable World's League of Culture. The prophet summoned all mankind to the One Kingdom of God, Who is the Father of all the peoples. To reach this Cosmic conception of Amos, one must use the organ of the heart, then only shall one reach this Kingdom of God easily. Compassion and simplicity shall also help

one to comprehend the doctrine of Amos. Whosoever suffers from the sorrows of his fellow-men, may rest assured of a joyous realization of this Kingdom, which is being established in our present days. If by this realization of God mankind shall be liberated and bestowed with the Divine attribute of purity and morality, then the new Messianic Era shall sound its first trumpet. With one God in the heart of mankind, all the nations on earth will become one people. Such a supreme conception of God will create out of the entire mankind, one human family. The differences of yesterday will be buried by the dead- the living will live in the future.

A World's League of Culture is ready to open the gates to the Kingdom of God to all nations on earth. And this immortal achievement of Amos, namely, the establishment of an ethical and cultural religion, which brought about a binding idea into the vision of militant mankind shall be forever considered as the foundation of human cultural relationship.

When mankind will sound the chord of Great Unity then with this supreme concept the New Era will sound a new chord.

God dwells within the heart of every living creature. And within its own ~~senetere~~ sanctum sanctorum - the heart, mankind most realizes its Father. We can realize peace only then, when we realize God within us. With every breath we take we realize subsonsciously the Essence of God. That one God- the Dweller of mankind's heart - Amos discovered for the world, thus by creating the idea of One God, he created one human race. The realization of one God within all mankind will hasten the coming of the Messiah. Lord Krishna said: "He who seeth Me everywhere, and seeth everything in Me, of him will I never lose hold, and he shall never lose hold of Me."

And Amos said: "Seek Me and live". Verily, with God in one's heart life becomes eternal and without Him the very sun is dark. To realize

God in all and all in God, is to live the Essence of God.

Nicholas Roerich speaks of the eep conception of God as follows:

"The conception of God, this infinite number of highest qualities, is, of course, inexpressible through our earthly limited vocabulary. But the Heart in its own unlimited language knows this highest wisdom of Infinity, the rays of which play on the Lotus of Consciousness". Verily that "Lotus of Consciousness" was fully a blossom in the great heart of Amos. His fiery call "Prepare to meet Thy God, O Israel!" is especially significant for the Israel of all peoples in our days. And the prophet in his immortal revelation laid forever for the entire mankind the fundamental principles of such a supreme preparation.

"Seek the Lord and ye shall live"- these seven words of Amos contain the essence of the prophet's doctrine. These seven words of the world's greatest prophet will help to unlock the gates to one's own heart where through the inner voice God speaks constantly to His children. If mankind could abide consciously in God, as God dwells within us, then mankind would find not only God but itself as well.

According to an ancient legend Amos was killed by King Uzziah, who struck him on the forehead with a glowing iron. Thus the forces of darkness aimed to stop the fiery current from the mouth of a man, endowed with a supreme vision into the distant future. But so far these forces which aim to stop the evolution of mankind did not succeed to arrest the current, which issues from the Highest Source. Just the opposite - like the shadow outlines the light stronger, so these dark assaults only help to preserve for the reality of the future all the achievements of the Great Ones of all ages. That which has its origin from God cannot be destroyed by human hands. Thus the Doctrine of Amos, which was inspired by God, shall live forever to help mankind in its

difficult fight for the right of evolution - a direct path to  
God.

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