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WONDERS OF THE HIMALAYAS.

BY VLADIMIR A. SHIBAYEFF,

Naggar.

MR. F. S. SMYTHE in his book "Camp Six" (1937), being an account of the 1933 Mount Everest Expedition, says on page 105: "...chancing to glance upwards my attention was caught by a tiny silvery object in the sky, apparently very high, moving rapidly from west to east. A second or two later it disappeared behind a shoulder of the range running southwards to the North peak. Was it an aeroplane? If so, it must be a machine of the Houston Everest Flight. But this was impossible; the last mail had brought us the news of their successful flight over the mountain. Was it a bird? But what bird could gleam so brightly?"

In Professor Nicholas Roerich's book "Heart of Asia," in the chapter "Shambhala," on page 149, we read: "A sunny, unclouded morning—the blue sky is brilliant. Over our camp flies a huge, dark vulture. Our Mongols and we watch it. Suddenly one of the Buriat lamas points into the blue sky: "What is that? A white balloon? An aeroplane?" We notice something shiny, flying very high from the north-east to the south. We bring three powerful field glasses from the tents and watch the huge spheroid body shining against the sun, clearly visible against the blue sky and moving very fast. Afterwards we see that it sharply changes its direction from south to south-west and disappears behind the snow-peaked Humboldt Chain. The whole camp follows the unusual apparition and the lamas whisper: 'The Sign of Shambhalal.'

Travellers who came from Khotan have told that in 1927 they have seen over the Kuen-Lun range a bright object moving in the sky, which they regarded as an aeroplane; but at that time none could have been there.

One could mention about a similar fact witnessed in Ladakh by a botanical collector. Perhaps other similar testimonials could be gathered. Continuously one comes across in the press of many Himalayan phenomena. Thus Roerich in the same book mentioned above relates of another most interesting occurrence:

"In Nimu, a small village before Leh, 11,000 feet high we had an experience which can under no circumstances be overlooked. It would be most interesting to hear of analogous cases. It was after a clear calm day. We camped in tents. At about 10 p.m. I was already asleep when Mrs. Roerich approached her bed to remove the woollen rug. But hardly had she touched the wool, when a big rose-violet flame of the colour of an intense electric discharge shot up, forming a seemingly whole bonfire, about a foot high. A shout of Mrs. Roerich, "Fire! Fire!" awoke me. Jumping up, I saw the dark silhouette of Mrs. Roerich and behind her, a moving flame, clearly illuminating the tent. Mrs. Roerich tried to extinguish the flame with her hands, but the fire flashed through her fingers escaping her hands, and burst into several smaller fires. The effect of the touch was slightly warming, but there was no burning, nor sound, nor odour. Gradually the flames diminished and finally disappeared leaving no traces whatsoever on the bed cover. We had occasion to study many electric phenomena, but I must say that we never experienced one of such proportions."

Repeatedly in descriptions of Himalayan travellers one reads of the Hinalayan glimmer and Himalayan lights, something similar to the 'aurora borealis'. Perhaps these latter phenomena could also be elucidated by additional experiences. Such a colossal mountain region as the Himalayas indeed embraces many wonders.