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Abstracts from my diary. 1930.

23. X. 1930. Red sea. ^{The weather} After Port. Said ~~the weather~~ because hot. Prof. Roerich does not feel well. He has temperature 38°C . His head is heavy and respiration is rather difficult. During the night, after a dose of aspirin, he was perspiring. He thinks, that his condition is due to some psychic cause. He often has the same feeling when is receiving some psychic messages.

24. X. Prof. Roerich feels better, though the head is still heavy and he feels some general weakness. We were speaking of ~~the~~ psychic power. Some of the facts told me by the professor, which happened in his personal life and in the life of people he closely knows, are really surprising.

4. XI. Pondicherry. Our arrival caused here evidently a great excitement. The British Consul was already informed

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about it. The French Governor also knew about our arrival. Apparently, both thought, that we want to ^{cross the} border without visas; at least the governor tried to persuade us not to do it and even has sent ~~to~~ us his secretary advising us to go to the British Council as soon as possible. It seems, that everybody here takes us for some political agitators. I went to see the Council, while the Rorichs remained at home. He evidently ² anxiously ¹ expected our visit, but received me rather roughly. He asked why we came without visas etc. When he learned from me and then from the Rorichs, that visas were promised in London, that the London authorities were informed by us about our trip to Pondicherry and that we do not intend to cross the border without visas, he ~~was~~ ^{was} much relieved, but remained ~~rather~~ suspicious.

7.XI.

English and French police are apparently closely surveying every our action.

The letters come perlestrated. A spy is continuously appointed on hotel and somebody sent us a car, belonged to an englishman and the chauffeur tried unsuccessfully to send way our driver. The Raericks are accustomed to the Indian methods and take everything as a matter of fact. We took all precautions not to come in touch with any indian in order not to be accused in political intrigues. Prof. Raerick refused to receive a reporter from a Madras newspaper.

9. XI. Considering, That we are in South India, our hotel is not bad, but of course, of a tropical simplicity. The food is quite all right. Our days are filled with receiving and sending out numerous letters and telegrams to Kulu, London, Paris and New York. Everywhere ² People are soliciting our visas. The rest of the time we are making motor trips to the environments of Pondicherry. As time passes the Raerick became more and more nervous. Evidently, previous months of uncertainty regarding visas for India, improbability to work or ~~to~~ simply to live

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in normal conditions produced bad effect on the nervous systems of both R. George shows more his nervousness: has frequent palpitations of the heart, easy sweating, frequent nervous tremor of the hands, ~~sharp~~ dermographism. The professor is ^{more} quiet by temperament and evidently controls himself better, but apparently this very fact costs him much energy.

11. XI. To day George was writing a letter to the Vice Roy and became so nervous, that his pulse reached 130 a minute. Afterward he felt a fatigue and tenderness in the whole body as if he were beaten. The professor, naturally, was alarmed by his condition. The normal pulse of H.K. is under 70, but sometimes is higher. We often speak about various psychic phenomena and the professor tells lots of most interesting and extraordinary facts. Judging by a devotion he is surrounded in America and in India, and his correspondence, which passes through me

as his temporary secretary, he must ~~possess~~^{exercise} a considerable benefactory psychic ~~power~~^{power} upon his friends.

We made interesting excavations of an old hindu funeral ground. The urns contained broken vrelators and iron arms.

13. XI

I had an interesting conversation with the British Consul. He told me, that visas are refused, though no ~~clear~~ reason was given. Then he asked me various questions concerning Mr. me and prof. Raerick. He expressed doubt, that Mr. me is ill and then suggested, that he might be taken by aeroplane to Bagdad and from there - to Switzerland. It was interesting to note, that the same ideas were expressed by other officials in London and in India. Then he said, that Miss Lichtman is of German origin and therefore does not like English, that when professor left India - 2 years ago the Afridi movement started, that it is very probable, that the both women and the secretary in Usurati are intriguing with Afridi tribes etc.

Then he added, that, though prof. Raerich is a good and talented man, other people can misuse his influence, the more so, because, all most talented artists have to certain extent a dis-equilibrium of mind. All these silly rumours were put before me, evidently with only aim to fish out from me some clue to the whole affair, which was not clear even to the Consul. I could only laugh at them. Nevertheless, the Consul was fairly well acquainted with the itinerary of the Raerich's expedition to Central Asia. It is really surprising, how quickly the Raerich museum sprang out from nothing and is now in full blossom. I cannot blame English politicians who are accustomed to live in an atmosphere of political intrigues, for suspecting somebody's money behind the institution. Really, one must have faith in the good sides of human nature to understand the spirit and success of the Raerich's work. No wonder, that

The Consul in Pondicherry, this hot political spot ~~is a~~ refuge for revolutionists and a rear door to India, is naturally, suspecting everybody and everything, especially such a prominent man as the professor. The English public is still fed by this ridiculous idea, that an Imperialistic Russia had some interest in India and can menace it by arms. But with the bolsheviks is a double game. They are feared and protected at once, what I said to the Consul.

14. XI. The time is passing, but it seems, that after the refusal of visas we are farther from our aim, than ever. George continues to be highly nervous and even professor's ~~pendst~~ begins to jump over its normal limits. The refusal only strengthened their will and the exchange of cables with Europe and America became feverish. Internally, our life is the same. The Consul is evidently unpleasantly surprised, that ^{we} did not leave Pondicherry. We have alarming letters from Kulu, regarding Mrs Roerich's health.

Of course, This only increases the nervous-
 ness of both R. Somewhere goes on
 a slendering game with the purpose
 to destroy the Muscati Institute and
 to send away everybody. I am advising
 the tenacity with which the Roerichs
 are struggling for their natural rights:
 to join their ^{wife} and mother, to come
 to their own home and to continue a
 cultural work.

17. XI. A hectic exchange of telegrams
 continues. An unexpected prolongation
 of our sojourn in Pondicherry makes
~~anxiety~~ ^{the Roerichs} nervous. It appears as if
 we were some important political
 agitators. Even a French old woman
 asked me when he heard, that we are
 still expecting visas: "are you ^{their} enemies?"
 Fortunately the Frenchmen in Pondicherry
 know well all difficulties in dealing
 with the Indian authorities. We had
 all the time alarming news from
 Naggar. Of course, our delay is ag-
 gravating the health condition of

M-me Raerich. There is ^{going} between the
 Raerichs and the British authorities,
 a game of chess: The latter want to
 send ^{first} their physician to Kagger and
 only then, according to his report, to
 give us visas; the Raerichs naturally
 want to get visas first and then
 agree to a medical consultation. Both
 parties do not trust others physicians and
 are afraid to be check-mated. Notwith-
 standing all difficulties the Raerichs
 stand firm and their will to win is not
 relaxed. With great tenacity one can
 move mountains.

18.XI. It is very characteristic that the
 British authorities ignore ~~completely~~ ^{purposely}
 the fact, that Prof. and M-me Raerich
 are representatives of a big American
 institution. They treat the Raerichs as
 if they were private individuals, and
 that "Urussati" does not exist. In the
 meantime all difficulties are arisen
 exactly because the British are,
 with their Indian mania, leaving some

political body behind "Krustati".
 One should ^{have} really a sick imagination
 to suspect such things. Besides ^{the fact} that
 the professor is a world known name,
 it is enough to stay with him a day
 to be convinced, that his only, all-absor-
 bing interest is Art and Culture based
 on a spiritual development of the man.
 Only people who should be afraid of
 Raichik's cultural activities are the
 Bolsheviks with their exactly opposite
 propaganda of materialism and rough
 force.

20. XI. The vice-roy of India have sent to
 the British Council in Pondicherry
 a long telegram asking various in-
 formations about us. The major part
 of questions were about the health
 and proposed treatment of Dr. Raichik.
 I had to write a long
 statement about the disease of a
 patient I never saw. This unusual
 requirement is, of course, only a
 pretext for the Government to retreat

and this very fact shows how the whole affair ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~an~~ ~~un~~ Government created difficulties for it-self. The Vice-Ray apparently understands the situation better than in London and tries to straiten it up. His telegram produced upon the Raerichs a favorable impression and we are again full of hope.

24. XI. We received a cable from London, that the visas are granted under the condition that the professor must take M-me Raerich away from India. This is not satisfactory, but still - a step forward. Almost every day the Raerichs receive letters from Miss Lichtman from Naggar. Her letters are wonderfully strong and clever. Hardly a better keeper could be imagined. No doubt, she is a person of a strong will and clear mind, and what is very attractive ^{in women} - of an unquerable pride.

Our life, externally, is without change. We continue our daily motor trips in the environments of Pondicherry, that

is on the spot, large as the ~~pire~~'s head. Our black guardian from the British Consulate, whom we call "astrologist" is always seen on his observation place, though it seems, that the British and French authorities begin to believe in our good will, and to realize that we do not intend to ~~be~~ erupt through the Pondicherrian border and take India ^{away} from Great Britain. Though the horizon with last telegrams looks a little more cheerful, the nervous condition of both Roerichs is not satisfactory. The climate also does not agree with them and they look paler and thinner than normally.

27. II. We still have no promised visas and the telegram from London appears to be an ordinary bluff. The struggle for visas is a war by exhaustion. Several times the Roerichs had communications that visas are granted or about to be granted and then they ^{visas} did not come. This game is costing already for months

and months, exhausting The Raiser's³ psychic energy and finances. And what is most regretful, that there is no plausible reason for keeping them away from India. The tremendous expense of money, energy and time on both parts is based on a soap-bubble!

Capt. Benson, arrived from Kulu. He is a meagre living thread unit which is new between Madras and Pondicherry and Nagpur. He did not avoid a cross-examination by the British Council and cross observation by our "astrologist".

30. XI. Was a cyclone. It produced much damage in the city, but especially in the country between Pondicherry and Madras. The railway and telegraph lines are broken in many places, the country is inundated. We are for several days cut away from the whole world.

George complains continuous palpitation of heart. The professor is also not feeling well being obliged to concentrate his his psychic energy on the whole affair,

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self-control and communication with his distant friends. A further delay of rides may make the health condition of the Roerichs very alarming. It is really surprising what enormous nervous strain they have to endure for so many months, and no doubt, that only a strong faith in sanctity of their rights and duty helped them to triumph over obstacles. A good example for everybody and a very cheerful one for those who easily lose courage and faith.

5. XII. While in London these negotiations were still going on, the Vice-Roy permitted us to enter India. The Consul evidently has lost the whole understanding of the Roerich's affair. The Roerichs do not lose a minute: to-night we are leaving Pondicherry to a great consternation of our "astrologist".