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Towards Peace

Everyone of us longs for the Beautiful Flowers of Friendship, Understanding and Affection. If only we would permit them to blossom freely deep within our hearts, our lives would be transformed and enriched through the wondrous healing Balm of Understanding and Sympathy - Sympathy and Compassion which expand to all the spheres and areas of our Life and are the Foundations of Universal Love and Universal Order, all embracing, all containing, attracting to itself like a Powerful magnet the best Manifestations and expressions of the Human Genius - The True Flowers of our Heart and Mind.

This year we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Great Socialist State - The Soviet Union, which grew out of the old Order of the Russian Empire. The great experiment in Building a new Order, a new Society could not come without many struggles, often misunderstood abroad, adjustments and difficulties, but today it stands as a shining example of inner strength of a People, striving towards a new Order of Life. In this connection I wish to pay a special tribute to the people of the Soviet Union, who showed such magnificent, exemplary courage and an indomitable strength of Spirit in the face of seemingly unsurmountable hardships during the last World War when in spite of terrible sacrifices they were able to break the might of the attacking armies and free their brothers and the Sacred Soil of their Motherland from the terrible holocaust of Human misunderstanding, we call war. Many times in the past various invaders and military leaders underestimated that mysterious and unknown trait of the Russian People to stand up (against the Tides of Human Wrath) and bravely face the gretest, seemingly unsurmountable Trials. Trials which always resulted in an eventual strengthening of the Country and kindled a new strength and resolve within the hearts of the people.

For a growing, strong and developing country every year is a year of special significance, every year is worthy of special celebrations, of special recognition and remembrance.

To the People of the Soviet Union, to that great country I

send my feelings of deep affection and esteem.

If we cast a glance around us we see that the last sixty years have seen the greatest changes as well as great re-alignments in human relations. Science has made startling discoveries and made an unbelievable progress along the ever multiplying channels of Human Knowledge, in Research and its application. Nevertheless inspite of all these brilliant achievements, mankind has been placed face to face with new problems and the necessity to solve and discover new approaches to our ever multiplying needs.

Beyond this complex and seething pattern stand the Great Human Values which beckon to us and proclaim the Eternal and Indestructible cement of Human relations, the binding force of True Friendship, Understanding and Love.]

My Father, Prof. Nicholas Roerich always believed that the best way to forge strong and lasting bonds of mutual understanding between Nations and People is to do it on the plane of Cultural relations and discover the greatest and richest magnet of Human relations, the Field of Culture.

[The vast Field of Man's creative expression - Art, in its multiform manifestations - was to him the Living Bridge which brings together and unites Human Beings. It is the Miraculous Bond which reveals and forges new approaches, new possibilities and opens new vistas of true understanding and appreciation. Across this vast Field of Human endeavour, Prof. Nicholas Roerich visualised his Realm of Mutual Friendship and Understanding through Culture.

We see now how practical and realistic was his concept of Peace through Culture. More and more people are joining the ranks of enlightened Men and Women who believe and know that only an enlightened, all containing, all embracing attitude can build a lasting Peace.]

Recognising the urgency of measures to protect our Cultural Heritage Prof. Roerich evolved the idea of an International Pact, for the Protection of Cultural Treasures, Monuments and Educational Institutions, in times of War and Civil Commotions. [Like the Red Cross, it carried with it a distinctive Banner and Symbol to be displayed over such Monuments and Institutions which were designated as protected. This Banner of Peace served to remind Mankind that there are certain values and treasures which are common and paramount to all Humanity and belong to everyone regardless of Race, Creed or Country.

Speaking about the Healing Touch of Culture my Father said: "Culture and Peace - the most sacred goal of Humanity! In these days of great confusion, both spiritual and material, the disturbed spirit strives to these radiant strongholds. But we should not unite only abstractly in the name of these regenerating conceptions. According to our abilities, each in his own field, we should bring them into actual surrounding life as the most necessary and undeferrable. We must not fear enthusiasm. Only the ignorant and the spiritually impotent would scoff at this noble feeling. Such scoffing is but the sign of inspiration for the true Legion of Honour. Nothing can impede us from dedicating ourselves to the service of Culture, so long as we believe in it and give to it our most flaming thoughts."

"If you shall be asked, of what kind of country and of what a future constitution you dream, you can answer in full dignity: We visualize the country of Great Culture. The country of Great Culture shall be your noble motto. You shall know that in that country will be peace, where Knowledge and Beauty will be revered."

The International Pact, proposed by my Father was adopted and ratified by practically all countries and reminds us today that countries can come together in a common purpose for the good of Mankind for the Happiness of our World.

The great People of India and of the Soviet Union are close to each other in so many ways and first of all geographically. Beside this they have many other bonds and similarities which contribute to a natural kinship and serve as links for better understanding and sympathy. The presence of many common root words in the Aryan dialects of India and the Russian language, demonstrate the proximity of the common sources.

To me personally India was always a land very near and dear to me, close in its people, close in its Culture, filled with great thought, evolved over thousands of years and still preserving the great traditions of the past.

It is but natural that I should feel happy when I see the friendly ties between India and the Soviet Union constantly grow, expand and become deeper and more significant.

The close cooperation which has grown between the Soviet Union and India in so many fields of Human endeavour, only points to the realities of a deeper spiritual Goodwill, the plane of True Friendship and Understanding which is the priceless gift of Human cooperation and the firm foundation of future Happiness.

We shall continue forging the happy bonds of friendship, knowing well that it is the most practical, the most effective way to bring people together, [diffuse Happiness and Welfare] and build the beautiful lasting bridge of human relations, mutual trust and understanding.

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[Greed is a bad councillor, greed and fear lie at the root of most misunderstandings that plague mankind. The fever of rearmaments that seems to agitate and grips mankind in its ever tightening coils is a sad reminder of the conditions in which we find ourselves today. Above the creeping smoke of distrust and misunderstandings lies the only possible permanent answer to the seemingly irresolvable conflicts, and that is the removal of the inner causes of these conflicts and the application of such urgent correctives which will save us from the ever tightening noose of our own making and give mankind new prosperity, new wealth, spiritually, physically, morally, ethically, and economically. Instead of constantly broadening our Goodwill, we lock ourselves into cubicles of compartmented thought, and are afraid to look beyond into the heart beat of a new world which reveals its outlines beyond our artificial uncertain relations of today.]

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Deep rooted in India lies the beautiful concept of Shanti: At the crossroads stands a Mendicant and stretching out his hand, he repeats Shanti, Shanti, Shanti - Peace, Peace, Peace !! The benediction of a poor man. He wishes us his best, and in that wish, these words contain the beautiful affirmation of a blessing to all. Truly, [Peace carries the promise of Happiness, the Promise of Achievement, the Promise of Prosperity. Let this Beautiful affirmation be at the helm of all our activities, all our creativeness and hopes.] And let us also repeat with the unknown mendicant Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!!

Through ignorance, doubts and fear we deprive ourselves and others of a better and happier life, a life full of wonderful possibilities which await us if we but stretch our hand and seize that which Nature so freely and abundantly spreads before us to build a happy and beautiful Life.

[Art and Culture are one of the bridges across the chasms of Man-made misunderstandings. It is Art in all its forms that opens to us the Royal Path of understanding and friendship. Wherever Art is shown people gather, and wherever people gather around this Sacred core of Man's response there are the seeds of understanding and cooperation.] *

Beautiful are the analysis of Art by Men whom we have agreed to call great, who constitute the flower of our Culture, who contemplated the spiritual Realms of Enlightenment and realisation.

Plato said: "From Beautiful Images we shall go to Beautiful thoughts, from Beautiful thoughts, to a Beautiful Life and from a Beautiful Life to absolute Beauty." Beautiful and most significant are the words of this great Teacher.

Gautama Buddha was once asked by his beloved disciple Ananda: "Master does not half of our holy life consist of Friendship with the Beautiful, Association with the Beautiful, Communion with the Beautiful?" And the Buddha answered: "Say not so Ananda, say not so, it is not half of our Life, it is the whole of our Life."

Speaking of Art, Rabindranath Tagore said: "In Art the person in us sends his answer to the Supreme Creator who reveals himself to us in a World of Infinite Beauty across the Lifeless World of Facts."

Did not Dostoyevsky with his great insight into Life tell us: "Beauty will save the World."

While⁺ [my Father, Nicholas Roerich wrote the following words:

"Art will unify all Humanity. [Art is one - indivisible.

Art has its many branches, yet all are one. Art is the manifestation of the coming synthesis. Art is for all. Everyone will enjoy true Art. The gates of the 'Sacred Source' must be wide open for everybody, and the light of Art will influence numerous hearts with a new love. At first this feeling will be unconscious, but after all it will purify human consciousness, and how many young hearts are searching for something real and beautiful! So, give it to them. Bring Art to the people where it belongs.

We should have not only museums, theatres, universities, public libraries, railway stations and hospitals, but even prisons decorated and beautified. Then we shall have no more prisons."

In his innumerable articles and lectures, my Father emphasized and analysed the Healing Touch of Beauty and the Universal appeal and influence of Art.

The Soviet Union and India with their great Artistic and Cultural Heritage have between them a wonderful unifying common field of Human Creative Achievement.

Looking at these great Realms of Man's thought, reaching out towards something more Beautiful and more Perfect we realise how great is the power of Man's Creative Genius unfolding before us a New World, Inspiring, Beckoning, revealing new Horizons and making us strive towards a New Life, more Perfect, more Meaningful and more Beautiful.

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SR

Soviet Land

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para 1. X

2. we are celebrating
foundation - establishment
a new order - the new order.
, -
it - this society

striving towards a new order of life - building a new order of life.

/ I - I would like to pay.

sacrifices - odds

attacking armies - invading armies.

the terrible holocaust of human - } from the holocaust of war.
misunderstanding, we call war.

deleted : against the tides of human wrath.

and kindled : and in kindling

: for a strong + progressing country each

every : each

send : convey

is : was

page (3) practically : nearly.

: peoples.

was : has always been

: a land of great might

: growing, expanding + becoming.

SR

SL

S. U. + India : India + S. U.

: Happiness of man.

: of bringing

delete : diffuse Happiness + Welfare.

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A NEW ORDER OF LIFE

By SVYATOSLAV ROERICH



THIS YEAR THE SOVIET PEOPLE, THE ENTIRE PROGRESSIVE MANKIND, ARE CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS. WE ARE PUBLISHING ON THIS OCCASION ARTICLES SPECIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY EMINENT INDIANS HONOURED WITH THE HIGH AWARD NAMED AFTER THE PIONEER OF INDO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, INSTITUTED BY OUR MAGAZINE.

THE FIRST CONTRIBUTION, PUBLISHED IN OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE, WAS BY BABA PRITHVI SINGH AZAD AND THE CONTRIBUTION PUBLISHED HERE IS BY SVYATOSLAV ROERICH.

THE SUBSEQUENT ISSUES OF OUR MAGAZINE WILL CARRY ARTICLES BY OTHER SOVIET LAND NEHRU AWARD WINNERS.

—EDITOR

THIS YEAR we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which grew out of the old order of the Russian Empire. The great experiment in building the new order, the new society, could not come without many struggles—often misunderstood abroad—adjustments and difficulties. But today this society stands as a shining example of the inner strength of a people building a new order of life.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the people of the Soviet Union who showed such magnificent and exemplary courage and indomitable strength of spirit in the face of seemingly insurmountable hardships during the last world war when, in spite of terrible odds, they were able to break the might of the invading armies and free their brothers and the sacred soil of their motherland from the holocaust of war. Many times in the past, various invaders and military leaders had underestimated that mysterious and unknown trait of the Russian people—to stand up and bravely face the greatest, seemingly insur-

mountable trials: trials which always resulted in the eventual strengthening of the country and in kindling a new strength and resolve within the hearts of its people.

For a strong and progressing country each year is a year of special significance; each year is worthy of special celebrations, of special recognition and remembrance.

To the people of the Soviet Union, to that great country, I convey my feelings of deep affection and esteem.

If we cast a glance around us, we see that the last 60 years have seen the greatest changes as well as great realignments in human relations.

My father, Prof. Nicholas Roerich, always believed that the best way to forge strong and lasting bonds of mutual understanding between nations and peoples was to do it on the plane of cultural relations and discover the greatest and richest magnet of human relations—the field of culture.

Recognising the urgency of measures to protect our cultural heritage, Prof. Roerich evolved the idea of an international pact for the protection of cultural treasures, monuments and

educational institutions, in times of war and civil commotion.

The international pact, proposed by my father, was adopted and ratified by nearly all countries; it reminds us today that countries can come together for a common purpose, for the good of mankind, for the happiness of our world.

The great peoples of India and the Soviet Union are close to each other in so many ways and, above all, geographically. Besides this, they have many other bonds and similarities which contribute to a natural kinship and serve as links for better understanding and sympathy. The presence of many common root-words in the Aryan dialects of India and the Russian language demonstrate the proximity of the common sources.

To me personally India has always been a land very near and dear, its people and culture close to me, a land of great thought evolved over thousands of years and still preserving the great traditions of the past.

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constantly growing, expanding and becoming deeper and more significant.

The close cooperation which has grown between India and the Soviet Union in so many fields of human endeavour only points to the realities of a deeper spiritual goodwill, the field of true friendship and understanding which is the priceless gift of human cooperation and the firm foundation of future happiness of man.

We shall continue forging the happy bonds of friendship, knowing well that it is the most practical, the most effective way of bringing peoples together and building the beautiful lasting bridge of human relations, of mutual trust and understanding.

Art and culture form bridges across the chasms of man-made misunderstandings. It is art in all its forms that opens to us the path of understanding and friendship. Wherever art is shown, people gather; and wherever people gather around this sacred core of man's response, there are seeds of understanding and cooperation.

My father, Nicholas Roerich, wrote that "art will unify all humanity." In his innumerable articles and lectures, he emphasised and analysed the healing touch of beauty and the universal appeal and influence of art. India and the Soviet Union, with their great heritage in art and culture, have between them a wonderful unifying common field of human creative achievement.

Deep rooted in India is the beautiful concept of *shanti*. Peace carries the promise of happiness, the promise of achievement, the promise of prosperity. May this beautiful affirmation be at the helm of all our activities, all our creativeness and the source of hope. **