



The Coming Epoch of Woman

Letters of Helena Roerich I (1929–1935)

Letters of Helena Roerich, 8 March 1935. You write that the karma of woman is well deserved. It is hard to say that the humiliation of woman is merited by her. Of course, everything comes in cycles, and in ages when brute force dominated, woman was unable to express herself. Only when the higher psychic energy revealed itself once again in humanity did the Feminine Principle demand its legitimate rights. The path of woman has been full of self-sacrifice and perpetual giving. As it is said, “Those who affirm their rights do not necessarily possess those rights.” The equilibrium of the elements is a foundation of Life, and the violation of this law leads to destruction. And now the Great Teachers will affirm the rights of woman. Therefore, the coming epoch will be not only an epoch of great cooperation, it will also be the epoch of Woman. Woman will have to be armed with courage, and first of all, she will have to restrain her heart from unwise giving, for there must be the Golden Balance in everything. Woman must affirm herself, and that is why the Sword of Spirit is given precisely into the hands of woman. In the East this epoch is noted as the epoch of Maitreya, the epoch of Great Compassion, and the epoch of the Mother of the World.

Letters of Helena Roerich, 31 May 1935. It is unfair to blame woman because of the humiliating position in the social order that she occupies, even among the so-called civilized nations. . . . Unbiased history proves to us that in ancient times those nations flourished which revered the feminine element. As it is said, “All those who assert these rights do not

necessarily possess them.” Verily, the seizure of rights through brutal force is against the Cosmic Right. Otherwise we could easily declare that the machine surpasses the subtle apparatus of man. Such thinking is rather widespread, and it is ruinous for the social and world order. In the higher worlds, the Feminine Principle is greatly revered, for woman is the personification of self-sacrifice and of eternal giving on the path of difficult human evolution. “Woman went by way of achievement,” it was said. Let us not forget how the Hierarchy of Light reveres the Mother of the World!

*“Let us not forget
how the
Hierarchy of Light
reveres the Mother
of the World!”*

Letters of Helena Roerich I, 10 September 1934. The New Epoch must manifest due respect to the Mother of the World, to the Feminine Element. “The bird of the spirit of Humanity cannot fly with only one wing”—these are words of Vivekananda, who meant

to affirm the great significance of the Feminine Principle.

Heart (1932)

Heart, 106. Truly, the Epoch of the Mother of the World is based upon the cognition of the heart. It is women, and women alone, who can solve the problem of the two worlds. And so, you can summon women to understanding through the heart. That will also be beneficial, primarily because the quality of the heart is everlasting. Already women have performed heroic deeds of all kinds, but now they are being given the flame of the heart instead of the fire of the stake. Let us not forget that for every important achievement, the Feminine Principle is absolutely necessary as the foundation and essence.

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Welcome

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and posts on the
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NETWORKERS LETTER

Dear Friends of Agni Yoga,

I shared a snippet of Helena Roerich's writings with you in the last two issues of *Agni Yoga Quarterly*. This issue brings the final part of Mme Roerich's paper. It is an essay about three very important keys that Mme Roerich dedicated to her students.

Next, I want to thank each and every one of you who has supported the evolution of the White Mountain Education Association. This October we are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of its founding.

With love,



Joleen Dianne DuBois,
President, and founder

White Mountain Education Association, Inc.

The Three Keys (Continued)¹

Elena Roerich

Dedicated to my former, present, and future disciples

My dear young friends,

There is a saying, "The darker the night, the brighter the stars." So you also have to be a bearer of light, love, and knowledge in the midst of human darkness and worldly vanity. The more light there is in you, the more darkness you will dispel.

Develop in yourself as much sensitivity to and love of the surrounding Nature as

possible and you will hear her unceasing voices singing hymns of praise to the life-giving sun. Love the starry skies, look intently into its depths. In the quiet of the night, turn your eyes up to the twinkling stars, to the enigmatic worlds, where the pulse of life beats as well, where everything is also filled with mighty beauty and magnificent light. But our Earth, seen from other worlds, also looks like a tiny star. Likewise, it is an expression of abundant beauty and magnificence. Let your soul be an expansive receptacle capable of embracing this beauty and magnificence. Let it be a mirror capable of reflecting the lavishness and multifacetedness of Nature's creative genius.

Widen your perception of beauty through the arts. Love music and paintings. Look more intently at the play of colors. Listen more attentively to the sounds. Show more interest in everything that embodies the genius of the creators of beauty. Having chosen a particular specialty, do not be one-sided: at the same time take an interest in everything that can enrich your worldview.

Rejoice at everything that embodies beauty. Rejoice at the last rays of the setting

sun. Rejoice at the first invigorating rays of the morning dawn. Rejoice—and the light of the sun will be brighter in your soul, and the far-off worlds will become closer.

Be like the sun generously sharing its light and energy.

Look at how many paths to the Great Sources await their travelers. But in order to tread them, one has to always move forward. Life itself is movement. One moves either forward or backward. Each thought, action, or deed causes you to move. If they are aimed toward the good, you will invariably move forward. Beware of moving backward.

One has to climb to the mountaintop. But how difficult it is to climb up and how easy it is to roll down the slope. Is the latter meaningful? Just think, what immense happiness it is, having climbed to the top, to point the way to others; what unknown vistas you will see from the top; what great and infinite horizons will appear before your amazed eyes. Then

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Community

"Begin to build the community as a home of knowledge and beauty."

– *New Era Community*, verse 229

Rev. Joleen D. DuBois



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Association, Inc.

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Ayurveda: The Background Story

Dr. Ingrid Naiman

In late 1968, I drove a Land Rover from the factory in England to India where I was to assume my new post with the State Department. Christmas in Afghanistan was memorable. There was a Swedish church that held an outdoor service in which real camels came to a manger. No words were spoken. There were carols that lasted twenty-three of the most uplifting minutes of my life.

I reached India a few days after Christmas. Instead of going directly to the embassy, I went to the home of an Indian friend. Her father invited me to accompany him to meet Prof. Dr. Lokesh Chandra, a scholar, who operated an institute that studied the influence of India on other traditions, most particularly the Tibetan and Mongolian cultures. It was the beginning of a remarkable post-graduate education. On one occasion, he asked me to take his wife to see an Ayurvedic doctor.

More than half a century has passed since diving into this fascinating system of medicine. I have literally read hundreds of books on Ayurveda, met dozens of Ayurvedic doctors, attended countless seminars, hosted guest lecturers, underwritten part of the education of Ayurvedic doctors, shared case histories, co-authored presentations and publications, and clinically tested many herbs and herbal formulas. I am not a doctor. I majored in Asian Studies as an undergraduate, but I was primarily interested in anthropology and philosophy. My thinking at the time was that we are here today because our ancestors made many good decisions in the past, but my obsession has always been with destiny; so I have woven medical herbalism, ethnobotany, and historic methods



Drops of Life, 1924, by Nicholas Roerich

of treatment into a healing system that includes astrology, diet and plants, music, and darkfield microscopy.

It takes a while to tell a story, but let's return to my job as special assistant to the ambassador for low-end poverty. My first assignment was to oversee a study of child nutrition in rural India. I had about fifty graduate students working for me and was sent to Ankara to undergo special training in biostatistics in order to crunch the data properly.

Conditions were, shall we say, less than luxurious, perhaps actually injurious. The sassy part of me wanted to write a book called "The Man in Charge Is Not in His Seat." At some point, I was medically evacuated and overheard the doctors saying that I was dying. A Nepali friend visited me in the hospital in

Honolulu and said they were killing me. She promised to return in the evening with clothes. Then, we would sneak out.

It took seven weeks for the doctors to notice my absence. A lab technician had apparently asked why no one had collected the report of the battery of tests they had run. The doctors in Honolulu instructed me to report to the Kona Hospital for treatment of tropical infections. They injected something into my arm. I blacked out and fell against a concrete step. The radiologist came out with an x-ray showing a hole through a vertebra and asked, "When you were in Vietnam, you were not by any chance hit in the back by a bullet, were you?" I said, "No"; but she continued, "You'd remember, wouldn't you?"

Since the x-ray made no sense to me, I ignored it for years until the pain became

so excruciating that I would sometimes just writhe on the floor in tears that would last for days. I had left the State Department in 1970, more or less because of rebellion against both the politics and policies and the medical interventions that I had come to distrust.

The quest for wisdom took over. I spent the early part of the '70s in the Himalayas but returned to Kona in 1972. My mother was ill, but my astrological calculations indicated that her time was not up. I began working with the chiropractor she had consulted about her health. Dr. Nathalie D. Tucker was an excellent teacher, always, however, a little stunned by where my curiosity would take us. She referred many people to me and taught me anatomy and physiology and many forms of holistic medicine. I became very interested in vibrations and how different frequencies or patterns manifest physiologically and psychologically.

In between referrals, I meditated and was blessed with several years of what we might call X-ray vision. It's perhaps a little difficult to explain, but I could see through "solid" objects. A simple example is that I could hold a book and see the print but also my hands underneath the book. Then, if I looked up, I saw a wall with bookshelves and the kitchen on the other side of the wall as if the wall simply was not there. This was so bizarre that I didn't mention it to anyone; but one day, a kahuna named Morrnah Simeona told me this vision would become very important in the future. It might be important to note that I had not discussed this vision. Morrnah knew without my having said a word, and she became my next hugely important mentor.

Though praise for my teachers from kindergarten through grad school is almost nil, I was blessed with wonderful teachers from the '70s onward. I had a simply incredible guide in my early astrological studies, Ivy Jacobson. Isabel Hickey came

into my life a few years later and gifted me a technique for accessing past lives.

In addition, there were inner- and outer plane spiritual teachers. The outer plane ones are easy enough to describe, mostly Buddhist priests and nuns of both Theravada and Mahayana backgrounds, but especially Tibetans, many of whom were long-term house guests. Of these, two stand out as having shaped some of my understanding of myself and my destiny: Nechung Rinpoche and Thinley Norbu Rinpoche.

The '70s were a respite and something I would wish upon everyone who is serious about life. So many of us save our questions until retirement or facing the end of one episode in the incarnational journey. I was blessed to have had the opportunity to go deep within and to have had the time to purify my heart and soul while observing a world that was totally new to me.

In addition to the X-ray vision, I saw "invisible" beings who varied from miniature figures who explained details about the aura or physiology or karma and full-size beings who were either ghosts or transcendental. Let's just say some veils were lifted for some years, long enough to expand my sense of reality. It's probably important to mention that I never used



She Who Leads, 1944, by Nicholas Roerich

any drugs. . . . and have not seen a doctor since the last day at the State Department.

In December 1979, I moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and was very excited by the creative atmosphere and the people living there. Almost immediately, I found myself learning yet another method for retrieving information on past lives. It was called the Well Springs Technique, and I wrote a book, still unpublished, called "Shadows on the Soul." It uses classical music to draw the memories out of the body. If I tried to explain how this works, it is because our memories have patterns and these synchronize with pat-

terns in music in a way that we can lift the memories to the surface where they become conscious.

Shortly after learning this technique, I met Dr. Shrikrishna Kashyap, a direct descendant of the eldest of the seven rishis. Shyam, as he was affectionately called, became not just an important teacher but also the one upon whom I depended for personal health advice. My spine was giving me more and more grief. I had come to realize that I was shot in the back, not in Vietnam as the radiologist has surmised, but in my previous life as an Austrian woman working in the Underground. I saw two Nazi soldiers bursting through the door they had broken down and firing a pistol at me as I rushed up a stairway in the vain hope of protecting the children I was safeguarding. This was a poignant moment. I had had so much pain for so long and yet my last utterance in that lifetime was “Friedrich.” I understood that at the time he was only three years old, so I asked why anyone would choose to incarnate at such a troubled time in Earth history. The response was, “So your love for him would keep you going in difficult times.”

Shyam offered to try to fill the hole in my spine. . . ; but he had another story, one I was eventually also able to corroborate. He had a dream in which Milarepa explained the back injury and its impact over twelve lifetimes.

Shyam said he would give me five treatments. If they worked, fine; if not, he said, I would need to consider spinal fusion. I had seen many cases of spinal fusion when working with the chiropractor in Hawaii, so I placed my trust in Shyam.

Curious, as always, I asked Shyam what his plan was. He said he would instruct

the nadi to direct my nervous system to fill the hole. This was done face down on a low table. I was fully clothed, and he did not exactly touch me. I couldn’t see his hands but the nadi are in the aura so I am assuming he was motioning the nadi with his hands. Shyam was a mystic. He had been a yogi in the Himalayas where he ran an eye clinic. He could remove cataracts with his bare fingers, and his fingers were truly divine.

It goes without saying that the strategy



Pearl of Searching, 1924, by Nicholas Roerich

worked, and I will be eternally grateful to Shyam for his gift of healing. I also fully appreciate that we do not learn these methods in school. In fact, as I am fast approaching my 80th birthday, I have concluded that most of the important lessons in life are learned “in life” and not “in school.”

During twenty-one years in Santa Fe, I began writing a series of textbooks on medical astrology. The first volume was dedicated to Dr. Tucker and the second volume to Shyam. The first deals with *Stress: The Cause of Disease* and the second with *The Elements and Constitutional Balance*. I believe my understanding of the elements is wider and deeper than what is found in ancient

Greek and Ayurvedic texts because I have developed the interface between the elements and psychospiritual nuances as they relate to fate, something I interpret as the intersection between karma and destiny. We make choices in life that are influenced by a combination of patterns carried over from the past—karma—and the acceptance of the spiritual responsibility we accept as souls—dharma.

Ayurveda is one of the most sophisticated medical systems ever developed because while it encompasses the pharmacology of plant medicines and food, it takes into account the uniqueness of each person’s temperament and constitution. It is also spiritually rich in that the interactions between Spirit and Matter are taken seriously so there is no compartmentalization separating the work of a doctor from that of a priest. There is coordination between all aspects of life experience, so Ayurveda can be a lifelong study, and it leaves a lot of space for medical astrology to find its niche.

Santa Fe was teeming with healers, and I studied with many people, attended seminars, read books, and began using herbs in my practice. My involvement with Ayurveda spans decades and has grown to encompass Siddha Medicine as well.

Initially, I, of course, relied on herbs that others recommended, but as time went on, I developed the expertise to create my own formulas. This may or may not seem important because some formulas have been in production for two thousand or more years, but there are unique issues today that were not addressed in the past. For example, with organ transplants, we have to consider how the body’s instinct to reject anything foreign would impact

the transplant. We also use synthetic hormones for various purposes, and there are many chemicals that disrupt the action of natural hormones. We are exposed to endless toxins that are exotic. In times past, we were perhaps at greater risk of infections such as the type causing my medical evacuation, but people did not have amalgams in their teeth, fluoridated water, nor a battery of injections from early childhood to the grave.

Diseases have traditionally been divided between chronic and acute, but in our lifetime, the incidence of chronic disease has become astronomical in comparison to the past. Start with thinking about autism or Alzheimer's disease and ask just how prevalent these were a century ago. Think about rheumatism and arthritis, infertility, chemical sensitivity, antibiotic resistance, or even chronic fatigue syndrome. Almost all these conditions are ubiquitous today as compared to any previous time in history. . . . So while Ayurveda offers excellent protocols for everything from snake bites to detoxification, some of the issues today are complicated by changes in how we live. One of the best examples is metal toxicity. Not only are we concerned about the publicized culprits such as lead and aluminum, but the extraordinary risks of mercury, radioactivity, EMF, and genetically modified organisms were not addressed in the ancient texts. In the very advanced treatises on alchemy, there is much to learn about purification of toxic substances, but this knowledge is not widespread nor are the remedies as widely available as needs to be the case.

Using myself as an example, I was hemorrhaging after Fukushima. It happened several times. Blood was gushing from my nostrils and pooling on the floor. The bleeding was painless, and I was thinking to myself that this is a very easy way to die. Then, I remembered I had a South



Partisans, 1943, by Nicholas Roerich

“Ayurveda is one of the most sophisticated medical systems ever developed because . . . it takes into account the uniqueness of each person's temperament and constitution.”

American herb called *sangre de grado* that stops bleeding. I looked at my blood in the microscope and the erythrocytes were full of microscopic holes.

I could stop the bleeding, but the question was how to repair the electroporations. So far as I know, there is no protocol for this in any textbook, but it is a modern problem associated with the countless forms of electromagnetic and nuclear radiation of our era. Think of how many times we are exposed to X-rays and where the cell towers and smart meters and routers are in relationship

to our daily activities, and we begin to understand that innovative new strategies are needed. I am grateful to have had many years to study these matters and to have evolved the skill to address some of the needs of our era. . . . And the time has come to share the pearls of my journey.

Dr. Ingrid Naiman

Poulsbo, Washington

Web sites:

AyurvedicBazaar.com

BioethikaInternational.com

IngridNaiman.com

Academic Background

B.A. in Asian Studies from the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii, 1962

M.A. in Economics from Yale University, 1964

M.D. from *Medicina Alternativa* in Copenhagen (should be considered honorary), 1987

D.Sc. (honorary) from the Open International University in Sri Lanka, 1995

Awareness of Beauty Will Save the World

Edition of the Estonian
Roerich Society

*The author of this book is a Latvian
poet and philosopher*

Richard Rudzitis (1898–1960)

Richard Yakovlevich Rudzitis (Latvian: Rihards Yakovlevich Rudzitis) led the Latvian Society of Friends of the Roerich Museum from 1936 until the society was disbanded in the autumn of 1940. The wave of Stalinist repressions did not spare the Society's chairman and many of its members. But through the years of the camps, and then the years of stagnation, they all carried their loyalty to the universal human ideals of N. K. Roerich.

Here it is appropriate to briefly remember the history of the Latvian Roerich Society. This Society grew in Riga from a circle that in 1924 gathered around Vladimir Anatolievich Shibayev, who knew closely the Roerich family and who later became secretary of N. K. Roerich.

V. A. Shibayev left for India with the Roerichs in 1928, and the leadership of the circle passed to Felix Denisovich Lukin, who, after meeting N. K. Roerich in Paris in 1930, officially founded the circle of the Society of Friends of the Roerich Museum in Riga. The main goal of the Society was the publication of the books on the series of Living Ethics, "Agni Yoga"; the

The Realm of Beauty

*"In beauty we are united, through beauty
we pray, with beauty we conquer."*

N. Roerich



primary book of H. P. Blavatsky, The Secret Doctrine; and the two-volume edition of Letters of Helena Roerich. In total, about fifty books were published by the Society's publishing house "Uguns" ("Fire").

Following the death of F. D. Lukin in 1934, the leadership of the Society transferred in 1936 to R. Y. Rudzitis, whom N. K. Roerich called "the modern bard of the Holy Grail."



A stickpin of Richard Rudzitis from Armenia

WOMAN'S MISSION

At last, one must observe that in the culture of beauty of the future, an especially great role will belong to woman. The sacred fire of the home is already in her hands; it is her task to adorn and fill everyday life with the harmony of beauty. But her essential mission is incomparably greater. The spiritual beauty of the woman, like invisible rays, penetrates the vibrations of the soul of her husband and children, gives them good impulses, and engages them in a bright, energetic rhythm. But the significance of the spiritual woman goes far beyond the family. With the wise light of her heart, a heart that understands and follows the Highest

Continued on page 8

ANNOUNCEMENT: *An Agni Yoga Anthology* is now available in paperback and Kindle eBook on Amazon.com!

An Agni Yoga Anthology is for those who seek answers to the past and inspiration for the future. Rich in history, readers will experience the wisdom and insights of Nicholas and Helena Roerich and their sons, George and Svetoslav, as well as hear from notable voices who have made their mark upon the world of Agni Yoga from the 20th century to now.

For Agni Yoga enthusiasts and spiritual students on the Path, the Teachings of Agni Yoga presented within make *An Agni Yoga Anthology* an invaluable and timeless compendium.

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Law of the Harmony in the Universe with the light of her straight-knowledge, she transforms everything around her. While still on the path of higher development, she also transforms human consciousness, giving it new colors and tones. The mission of woman, thus far, has been to sow the fire of the spirit; to inspire and uplift man; to ignite the flame of courage, enthusiasm, and heroism; and to love and sacrifice herself. If man often serves as a destructive force, woman gives birth to life; she is the bearer of life, the blessing of life, and the great creator and purifier of the world. Most importantly, the woman-mother is given the primordial power over the soul of the child. Only through the beautiful fire of her heart can the child enter the realm of coming beauty.

If every woman-mother realized her immeasurable responsibility. If she would purify, adorn, and prepare her body and spirit as an ethereal temple for her unearthly visitor, for a guest from distant spheres. If she wished to become truly worthy to carry the wonder of wonders beneath her heart, sincerely striving to become beautiful herself. She should resemble Mary in Eastern legend, who sings this lullaby song to her child in the mighty faith of her heart, “Let people count thee a plow, but I know, my son, thou art a king!”¹

Precisely, every mother must set her goal: “I want to give birth to the King of the Spirit, the bearer of the highest Beauty on Earth.” The mother’s call must be truly whole and sanctified by love. It must come from the most fiery depths of her thirst for self-perfection and the Common Good, and then it will receive a worthy response. If the hearts of all mothers united in prayer with the Highest, the world would be indescribably transformed, transformed through the consciousnesses of their children, the future members of the community of the world!

Thus, woman is also given a cosmic task, which she must be quite aware of.



Madonna Laboris, 1931, by Nicholas Roerich

Namely, to transmute the lower, coarse nature of humanity into a higher, luminous one; to also prepare the way for the shell of the distant traveler of the universe to refine and spiritualize their body; to educate the beautifully resounding soul; and to fiercely exalt the spirit. Thus, a woman with sensitive wisdom in her heart will truly be able to advance the world!

Thus, the words of the Latvian poet Rainis resound in the perspective of the future²:

“All the beauty of life comes from a woman.

Without her, we could not bear the burdens of life.

All the love of life comes from a woman.

Without her, we would live in darkness and hatred.

From the heart of woman comes a light, gentle strength,

And it will not fade in time,

As long as she is victorious.”

The victory of woman will be affirmed when the lost balance between the two Principles is established again; when woman becomes liberated both socially and spiritually; when woman can stand on sacred watch in the future Temple of the beauty of life; when the loving heart of woman and the creative action of man unite in the supreme beauty of cooperation and structure; and when man and woman, in their joint, harmonious creation, will transform our planet.

“But when the hour of entrance comes, fiery might will flash out with all the manifested rays of Beauty.”³

¹“The Star.” in *On Eastern Crossroads: Legends and Prophecies of Asia*, 3rd ed. (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 2017).

² Rainis was the pseudonym of Jānis Pliekšāns (September 11, 1865–September 12, 1929), a Latvian poet, playwright, translator, and politician. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainis>).

³ *Fiery World, Part Three* (1935) (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 2021), para. 185.

The Call of the Mother

“Thus is the call of the Mother heard! Not by magic but by the spirit will you succeed. Could magic possibly establish the Stone? Could a people establish itself on the basis of magic? But when each person understands that the path of the spirit is simple, that it brings the call of the Mother of the World, then they will find the Gates open.

“Every seeker can, without lamentations or invocations, approach the apparatus of life—through spirit, not intellect. Human hands will be stretched forth not to supplicate but to gather in.

“The call of the Mother will indicate the Gates, for the time has come to enter them—precisely, the call of the Mother. When the whims of childhood have been forgotten, only the Mother can call.

“The meal is ready—the hour has come when a new table is ready. Come before the plates get too hot!

“Many will be unable to swallow the hot food, but the boldest one, like the fairy-tale prince, will devour the fire of the world. And the path of fire will illumine the nearest path.”¹

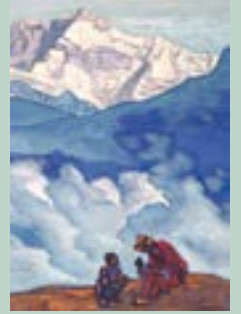
Flood the Space with Love

“As truth surpasses imagination, so is the future beyond dreams. Origen said, ‘With the eyes of the heart we behold Be-ness.’ Only through the heart can we discern the beauty of the world manifested by the Heart of Cosmos. The love of Cosmos actuates straight-knowledge. Love of lilies or of the far-off worlds has as its basis the same cosmic principle. Yes, yes, yes! We shall measure through cosmic love!”²

“‘Love one another’—this commandment was wisely given. Nothing can harmonize psychic energy better than love. All the higher communions have been based

Thoughts on Agni Yoga

We invite our readers to send us their thoughts on a quote from the Agni Yoga Teachings



on the same feeling and are also beneficent for psychic energy.”³

“Let us accept love as the motive force in the expansion of consciousness. The heart will not be aflame without love; it will not be invincible, nor will it be self-sacrificing. So let us bring gratitude to every receptacle of love, for love lies on the border of the New World, where hatred and intolerance have been abolished. The path of love unfolds with the intensity of cosmic energy. So on this path everyone will find their place in the Cosmos. Not as dried leaves but as lotuses aflame will people find kinship with the Highest World.”⁴

Irritability and Imperil

“Imperil, which attracts danger, is the poison resulting from irritability. This poison, a quite substantial one, is deposited against the walls of the nerve channels and then spreads through the entire organism.

“If modern science would try to examine objectively the nerve channels, giving heed to the astral currents, it would encounter a strange decomposition of the astral substance during the passage of that substance through the nerve channels—this is a reaction to imperil. Only rest can help the nervous system to overcome the dangerous enemy that can call forth the most diverse irritations and painful contractions of the organism.

“He who is afflicted with imperil must repeat, ‘How beautiful everything is!’ And he will be right; because the flow of evolution follows immutable law, it is beautiful.

The more refined the nervous system, the more painful is the deposit of imperil. This same poison, by the addition of one ingredient, may contribute to the decomposition of matter.”⁵

“What has forced the poisons toward the earthly spheres? The disturbances of the elements give rise to a powerful poisonous gas. Usually this gas is easily assimilated in space, but the rays of the sun are driving the gaseous waves into the layers closest to the planet. Although a dangerous reaction results, those forewarned can overcome the poison. Irritation and its offspring, imperil, combine easily with the poison of space, which is called aeroperil. The laws are alike in all things.”⁶

“Of course, imperil is the main destroyer of psychic energy. But one should not forget three other violators: fear, doubt, and self-pity. When it becomes possible to physically measure psychic energy, it will be instructive to see how these darkeners work to disrupt the flow of energy. But the flow of energy can be supported by countering efforts based upon self-sacrifice and achievement.”⁷

¹ *Leaves of Morya's Garden, Book Two* (1925), 3rd ed. (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 2021), para. 103.

² *Infinity, Part One* (1930) (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 2019), para. 76.

³ *AUM* (1936), 2nd ed. (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 2021), para. 515.

⁴ *Heart* (1932), 3rd ed., (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 2021), para. 243.

⁵ *Agni Yoga* (1929), 6th ed. (New York: Agni Yoga Society, 2016), para 15.

⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 23.

⁷ *Ibid.*, para 389.

July 23, 1999

Discussion about how to influence others about Beauty

Dear —,

I, like everyone, appreciate compliments and thank you for them. But some are undeserved. In any case, I may have overstated my case to make the point, and if I offended anyone, I apologize. It's just that as Director of the Nicholas Roerich Museum, I see so many people come through the door who are either aging New Agers or spiritual students, serious or casual. Almost all of them project a quality of certainty, of having already achieved, that I have begun to think of it as a kind of disease. Certainty is the lock that seals the door to growth.

Many years ago, when I was studying with a great Sufi teacher, I was so overwhelmed by the feeling that I had been illumined, as if I had jumped from the bottom rung to the top, in one leap. I asked the teacher for an interview and told him that I felt a strong need to teach, to share what I had learned with everyone. He laughed, kindly, but told me that I had not yet learned much and that I should go to the Sufi ashram for a few years, to meditate and serve. (Later he explained that this feeling and urge happens to so many people on the bottom rungs, that what they are learning and experiencing is so overwhelming to them that they really think they have found The Great Knowledge, and they want to go out to save the multitudes).

Well, I didn't follow his advice. Instead, I came to the Agni Yoga Society and offered myself as a volunteer. I had learned the lesson and didn't let that ego-flower blossom again. Anyway, if Sina Fosdick, the Director here and one of the Roerichs' first disciples, ever saw even a glimmer of that kind of ego ballooning, she'd shoot it down, fast. Here, it was all work and service

Conversations with Daniel Entin

Daniel Entin (1927–2017), Former Executive Director of the Nicholas Roerich Museum



and developing the humility to know how little we know.

Now Beauty is such an immense thing that I have worked all of my life to try to understand it. We chew our way around the edges of the concept and try to enrich our lives by learning to love beautiful things, collect them, and to see the beauty in nature (but we try our damndest to ignore its opposite). That is wonderful. But we are dealing with beauty, which is only the superficial aspect of Beauty, the sustaining power of the universe. And that, I think, is what I was trying to imply, that we have hardly an inkling of what that great power, beyond all imagining, can be. We really have to devote our lives to learning to gain small glimpses of it, and even those glimpses put us in awe to a degree we have never experienced before.

Beauty (with a small b) is recognized by most people already. That is why they like to look good, to fix up nice homes, to collect nice things, according to their own notions of what is beautiful, and to give beautiful gifts. What they do not know about is the greater Beauty that lies behind all the phenomena of life. The same Sufi teacher taught us that every time we go onto a bus or the subway, we should look at each passenger, and no matter how superficially ugly or offensive a person may seem, to peer beneath the surface and find the eter-

nal beauty that exists in each one. The Teaching tells us that the Master himself may come to one's door in the guise of a filthy beggar and that we must learn to recognize Him by seeing beyond the disguise and by ignoring the surface appearance.

As a photographer, I took that idea to another realm. I began collecting the ugly things that one finds in the gutter, in the garbage, put them in front of my camera in the studio, and tried to find the beauty in each thing. Amazing discoveries. After all, everything that exists is a product of the laws of the universe, and those laws are an expression of Beauty.

Once when we were talking about meditation here with a teacher, someone said that she found it so hard to meditate in the city because of all the ugly noises coming from the street. The answer was: when you learn to hear all those things as beautiful, you will no longer have trouble meditating, anywhere.

When the Teaching uses the triad, *Love, Beauty, and Action* (or Motion), that is the kind of Beauty that is meant. There can be no positive motion in the universe without the impelling power and sustaining power of Love and Beauty.

Love to all,
Daniel

Continued on page 11

Networkers Letter*(continued from page 2)*

you will have understood the full value of the trodden way. You will have received what you had been so persistently seeking, defying hardships, and overcoming difficulties.

And so always, every minute of your life, rise higher and higher. Be sure that on difficult slopes you will get a helping hand.

And the larger your help to others will be, the more powerful and broader your mind and your soul will be, and the easier difficult slopes will be for you.

Therefore, eradicate in yourself the sense of egoism. Do not be a debtor of nature. She has awarded you with great gifts. She has planted in you great seeds. She is waiting to see, Will you multiply her treasures? Will you share them with others?

Listen carefully to the voices of all that exist. Thus, you will comprehend its specific aspects. Having understood, fall in an all-embracing love of all that exists. Acquire more extensive, deeper knowledge. Develop in yourself an appreciation of harmony and beauty at its utmost. Armed with love, knowledge, and beauty, reach out to people. Unite them. Build together with a life full of light, vigor, untiring labor, and joy. In this great creative process, you will master new inexhaustible sources of forces and knowledge. Striving at the knowing of the hidden secrets of nature for the sake of the common good, you will thereby be paying out your debt.

Following this path, you will take possession of the three great keys of BEAUTY, LOVE, and KNOWLEDGE. Using them, you will open the door of the entrance leading to the effulgent sources of the divine truth.

Dare to take possession of these keys.

Conversations with Daniel Entin*(continued from page 10)***July 27, 1999****Nicholas Roerich and paints and pigments**

Dear —,

Unfortunately, Roerich had to use normal (but the best) pigments and paints for his canvases. Sina used to send him paints from Paris. It must have been frustrating for him, who could see the vastness of the color range in the subtle worlds, to limit himself to what the paints could convey. But fortunately, almost all of those who view the paintings have not yet seen those incredible colors, and for them Roerich accomplished wonders.

When people who have seen the colors in the subtle world have described them, it has always been in words that have been inadequate. Once, a teacher sat us down to watch the sunset and tried to convey to us what he was seeing.

We could only shake our heads in awe, even though what we ourselves were seeing was magnificent.

Daniel

August 1, 1999**Sense of Beauty**

Dear —,

I agree with you, absolutely! We all must examine ourselves very carefully, not to find what we can be proud of, but rather to find what we need to work on, to develop. We must not fall into the trap of thinking that we have abilities that are beyond our abilities. So many people now are sure that Master is speaking to them, regularly, as special disciples, and that they, therefore, have a mission to teach. Yet, He says clearly, in the Teaching, that those who are chosen to be messengers can be counted

on the fingers of one hand. So, the question for any one of us must be: Am I qualified to be one of those few? For me, the answer is certainly NO.

Daniel

August 1, 1999**Sense of Beauty**

Dear —,

Yes, _____, of course, none of these things is arguable. I am reminded of the statement by the great English poet, Keats: "Truth is Beauty, and Beauty Truth—that is all you need to know." The struggle to recognize Beauty, to recognize Truth, is a lot harder than most of us think. Our egos tell us that we know how to recognize these things and to distinguish them from their opposites, but we are far from that evolutionary level.

That is why our life struggle must be to learn these things (to gain Knowledge). We cannot make use of Beauty until we have really learned what it really is. Back to the wise old Sufis, who said that one's heart is a mirror, whose only aim is to reflect God, and that one's only job in life is to clean the mirror.

Daniel

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