



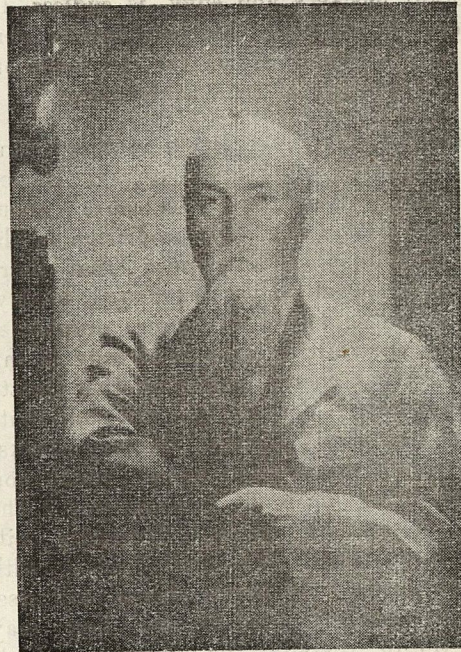
## Cosmic Signs

By H. E. Prof. Nicholas Roerich.

**N**EW Year's Eve. Three friends had gathered for a chat. One of them recalled the story of an eye witness of the terrible instantaneous destruction of Quetta. They are sitting on the veranda, having just returned from a theatre in a most happy mood, when they suddenly heard some cosmic roaring. They ran into the garden, and there before their very eyes, in one moment Quetta collapsed. In this instantaneous destruction of an entire city, burying over fifty thousand victims, was as if revealed a terrible cosmic Sign.

One of the listeners remembered ancient indications from various Puranas, which predicted how entire cities will perish, how the earth will become dry, how whole nations will become extinguished, and others will revert to primitive worship. He mentioned the prophecies about the end of the *Kali Yuga* and continued :

"And don't we see all these signs before our very eyes today ?! Are not entire cities destroyed by cosmic forces or human hands ?! Is not the death rate in many countries higher than the birth rate despite all endeavours of governments ? Have not some people returned to nature worship ? Have not terrible droughts devastated huge areas ? In magazines we see daily pictures of destructions caused by ravaging gales, sand storms and tornadoes. Some governments already try to prevent the epidemic droughts. Forests disappear, rivers become barren. Grasses are strangled by sand dunes. Every one of us has witnessed such horrible sights of morbid deserts. Some people do not as yet pay attention to such obvious realities. But the far-sighted are already on vigil. Seeing all this, how can anyone say that predictions are not true ?!"



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The third interlocutor quoted from Biblical prophecies and added: "One can imagine how the masses who lived at the time of Amos, Ezekiel and Isaiah scoffed at these seers. Also nowadays we know of many discoveries and predictions that are ridiculed and insulted. Ignoramusses never heed anything that is beyond their narrow understanding or threatens their mercenary profits. But true scientists have already proved the transmission of thought and the world has benefitted by their many beautiful discoveries. And how the ignoramusses laughed at these new possibilities which they all themselves now use daily ! Remember how even Edison was declared a charlatan by the academy, how the energy of steam was denounced, and rail-



ways were derided and how it was declared by a scientist that the flight of heavier-than-air machines is an 'absolute impossibility', thus stopping the development of aircraft for almost a century. The list of ignorant mockery and envy is endless. In history we can trace that such insults were not only a thorny crown for the inventors but a testimony of true achievement."

During this conversation another friend had silently joined the company. He exclaimed: "Stop this nonsense about fossilized prophecies. My prediction is the best. Yesterday I announced that there will be a boom on the exchange to-day. And so it is. Before all your prophecies will become reality, mine is already in my pocket. What does it matter whether Quetta was destroyed? Perhaps this will contribute to the rise of my Cement Factory stocks. And cannot the drought about which you wailed, bring me profit in some way? The more deserts the better. Humanity will flock into cities. We shall feed it with canned goods. My movie shares will rise. You all are not good to me. You may even try to revivify the deserts and all the urbanists will run away into the country. You are drinking here some mineral water - where is your soda and whisky and where are your cigars? It is boredom to sit with you miserable people! You don't even understand the advantage of deserts and shelled cities! The more craziness that is manifested in cities, the more it is profitable! If even your predictions ever prove to be true - when will that be? I am young but mother earth

will last my time. And remember, it was a king who said: "*Après nous le deluge*" - "After me - let there be a flood!" About whom do you worry - about your heirs? But may be they don't deserve any better. And what does it matter if somewhere somebody worships a tree stump. We shall manufacture these stumps for him by thousands. If humanity will be poisoned by narcotics, tobacco and alcohol, we shall make money on patented medicines. You hopeless people - there stands a gramophone, but I dare not use it. All your Bachs and Beethovens make me sick! You have no jazz, foxtrot, carrioca - and yet you imagine you are up to date! To sit with you - is simply to waste an evening!"

And he slammed the door from the outside. He was especially annoyed that the three not only did not lose their temper but even looked at him shrugging their shoulders, as upon a certain zoological specimen.

The physical drought is menacing, but the spiritual emptiness is far greater. Besides cares for irrigation of the soil, let there also be remembered the need for the uplifting of the human spirit. Without such spiritual fertilization, all attempts at reforestation, grass sowing and other good efforts will be in vain. All this brings results only when people actually realize why they live and when they will again pronounce the sacred word of Love. In Love the quality of labour will improve.

In love deserts will again flourish.

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—THE EDITOR.