

ed from the womb of the old year, was carried down the stream of ages to the stirring Elizabethan era. It is a mark of Shakespeare's superconscious genius to have recast the Arctic theme in two interludes (enacted between supper and bedtime),--I refer to Twelfth Night and Midsummer Night's Dream.

There is superabundant cultural material, almost virgin-soil to scientists. In the first place it is for USSR which has the longest coast line along the Polar Seas to follow the indicated trail for the benefit of Vedic astronomy and Rig-interpretation along Tilak's luminous trail.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE AND CULTURE

*By Prof. Nicholas Roerich*

**C**ULTURE and Peace—the most sacred goal of Humanity! In the days of great confusion, both material and spiritual, 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, should bring them into actual surrounding life, as the most necessary and undeferrable.

By our Peace Pact in 1929 we proposed a special Banner of Peace for protection of all cultural treasures. A special committee for promoting the Peace Pact had been elected in New York and an International Union for the Roerich Pact has been established with its central seat in Bruges, where a World Congress for spreading the ideals of Peace through Culture was in session last September with most significant results, proving how near this aim is to the hearts of all positive people of the whole world.

From temples, shrines of spirituality, from all light-bearing centres should thunder ceaselessly the world-wide call, eliminating the very possibilities of wars and creating for generations to come new lofty traditions of veneration of real cultural treasures. Unfurling everywhere and untiringly the Banner of Peace, we by this destroy the very

physical field for war. Let us also affirm the World-Day of Culture, simultaneously when in all temples, all schools and all educational institutions, the world will be reminded of the true treasures of humanity, of creative heroic enthusiasm, of betterment and adornment of life. For this purpose we have not only to safeguard by all available means our cultural heritage, but we must consciously value these treasures, remembering that every contact with them will already ennoble the human spirit.

As we have already witnessed, wars cannot be stopped by orders, nor can malice or lying be prohibited. But undeferrably, patiently striving to the highest treasures of humanity, we may make this hreed of darkness altogether inadmissible, as creations of crass ignorance. The noble expanded consciousness having contacted with the Realm of Light, will naturally enter the path of peaceful constructiveness, discarding as shameful rubbish, all belittlement of human dignity caused by ignorance.

The lists of adherers to the Banner of Peace are already long and glorious. The Banner has already been consecrated during the Congress in Bruges in the Cathedral of the Holy Blood and by this we have given the sacred oath to introduce it everywhere

by all our means. All those from all ends of the world, who believed in us and filled space with heartiest wishes, will not in vain look for the Banner over all shrines of real treasures. Every day brings new letters, new response. The election urn "For Peace" has been filled with precious tokens. Verily Peace and Culture are at present especially needed.

It is not so much a new law, but it is the imperative wish, the one panhuman desire to safeguard the achievements of humanity, which is calling. Every endeavour, even the most evident, requires an active start. For Peace

and Culture one does not even need a unanimously world-wide votum. The beautiful principles of General Good can be affirmed on every scale, still retaining their vital potentiality. Let us greet whole-heartedly all co-workers: "Proceed victoriously everyone to his best abilities undeferrably without any delay, along this glorious Path!"

Verily, time is short, lose neither day nor hour! Kindle the flame of the heart in unbreakable enthusiasm. Under the Banner of Peace let us proceed towards the One Supreme Light in powerful union as the World League of Culture!

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## THE CHALLENGE OF TOMORROW

*By Homer P. Rainey*

**I**F there was ever a time in the history of religion when a vision of a new world was needed, that time is today. This is no time to look backward. An old era is passing and a new one is struggling to be born. This is no time to lie on our beds and dream dreams, and to speak in platitudes and to sound old shibboleths. A whole social order is crumbling before our eyes. Someone has said that "we possess orientation when there does not exist in our minds the least doubt of the positions of north and south, the ultimate goals which serve the purpose of ideal indicative points for the guidances of our faculty of action and of our movements." We possess disorientation when we are not sure of our points of reference, and when our ultimate goals are obscured. We are in a state of disorientation today.

If anyone doubts that we are living in an age of utter confusion let him consider some of the conflicts of the present

generation. Let us be specific. Consider the battle that is waging over capitalism. Only a short decade ago it was little short of high treason to question the sacredness of the capitalistic system. Today it is being challenged in every quarter and the mass of men are not so sure as they were ten years ago that the traditional system of capitalism is the best type of economic organisation. Consider the present upheaval in the Governmental systems of the world. Fifteen years ago no one believed that the present dictatorships in Russia, Italy, and Germany could be possible. And certainly in the United States no one dared question the eternal rightness of democracy. Think of what we have witnessed in the last two months. We believe what has happened only because we have seen it with our own eyes. Consider again the collapse of moral standards and the present conflict over moral values. Talk with almost anyone you meet who will discuss religion and