



Rain of Stones.

(DIARY LEAVES)

BY NICHOLAS DE ROERICH



SOME radio reports that in Ashkhabad artificial rain was produced and that the latter upon analysis proved to contain 5 per cent. water and 95 per cent. other chemical substances. We may leave the responsibility for the truth of this statement to the radio agency, but even in itself, this communication broadcasted the world over, underlines the trend of contemporary mechanical endeavours. After all, if the artificial rain contains 95 per cent. of some "chemical substances" then why not continue the same lines of overstraining higher energies and why not produce a rain of stones?

When merging into mechanical conventionalities it is not difficult to forget the elementary guiding considerations. All the latest discoveries lead to a tension and perhaps even to an overstraining of unknown powerful energies. We call forth to overstrained tension the uninvestigated forces and at the same time are astoundingly indifferent to the study of these cosmic reactions. Such indefinite denominations as electricity, radio-waves or x-rays are pronounced with extraordinary lightmindedness. We are also lightmindedly prepared to acknowledge all the casual aspects of these tremendous energies, not considering the distances along which, nor the consequences with which, these seemingly simple evocations may work.

You can easily observe, how a teacher becomes annoyed, if one will persist asking him what actually electricity is. A multitude of conventional definitions calls forth in the student a light-minded attitude towards them and absolutely obscures his reasoning over the true causes and effects. Every dentist, who offers to examine you with x-rays, will be equally irritated when you ask him about the benefit or harm caused by these rays. One often hears in reply that these rays are neutral and lead to no bad consequences. But if you remind him that these rays, penetrating the tissues, are very powerful and, therefore, cannot but produce some effect, then the physician, not having any definite argument to bring forward, will simply call you an obstinate patient. One should not, of course, blame only the physicians and teachers. The whole of humanity's reasoning is at present guilty of having deviated towards conventional mechanization, without having conducted preliminary exhaustive research.

Formerly it took centuries to build temples and this spiritual burning was neither extinguished nor distorted. But nowadays one often meets with an expression of horror at the mere mention of prolonged experiments, which are to last decades. A discovery had been made that by rays one may investigate the layers of paintings, thus distinguishing fakes and restoration. Overjoyed at such a possibility, people started testing by rays many and even most valuable creations of art. At the same time the investigators omitted the simple consideration, whether such rays may not affect the colours of the paint in the future. It is just possible that such action upon the paint may be beneficial, but it is more likely that the powerful ray will change and perhaps even decompose the substance. But the present times strive only to speed. People are remote from problems which are to last many years and even ages, just as the present day composer prefers to limit himself with a short song or dance, instead of an extensive symphonic creation, or as the writer, even a very talented one, avoids the burdensome task of writing whole epopees.

Mechanical overcrowding raises the question, whether mankind is worthy of the discoveries, when the spiritual state of humanity is so far behind the "phys-mechanical strivings". Are people worthy to fly, when these flights are connected either with murder, or poisoning, or are but races for speed? Limitations go so far, that prizes are given for the length of hair, or for the beauty of but one part of the body, like hands or feet. And the thoughts about the integral whole and about that which moves the hand or feet, is considered totally unnecessary. It is true, once upon a time, the length of hair was useful for rope making, (of that there are several historical legends,) but of what importance is the length of hair in connection with the scope and depth of thought?

During all the races of mechanical speed, during all competitions and senseless inventions of one-day kings and beauty-queens, the fundamental consideration of the art of thinking is absolutely rejected on to the second plane and yet this art gave so many unsurpassed remarkable schools in ancient times.

Precisely the art of thought would help one to remember that the overburdening of space and usurpations, conquest of basic energies must necessarily lead to a solicitous attitude to these cosmic problems. Electrofication is a fashionable and technically easy occupation. Sometimes the intensity of electrofication goes so far that people are afraid to shake hands, for they receive painful shocks. Some jester boasted that he would collect upon himself so much electricity, that he would destroy

his enemy. And let us also ask each other : does not such over-saturation give cause to new forms of diseases ?

We started with the jesting radio communication about chemical substances in an artificial rain. Perhaps someone will think that the golden shower of Danae was a similar product and someone scratching his head will sigh: "If only in a similar manner we do not come to a rain of stones!" In many things humanity as if reverts to biblical times. Again humanity contemplates the construction of a skyscraper of all nations—a tragical reminder of the Tower of Babel. Thus mechanically are being produced from space "chemical substances," the limits of which are not even weighed and discussed. Sometime ago we mentioned the craze for robots, which at a time of increasing unemployment, should substitute human beings in many mechanical contrivances. Again mechanical hobbies without thought about cause and effect. Again deviation from prolonged living experiences. Again the evocation of those unrealized infinite energies, for which humanity has so far not even corresponding definitions.

Humanity should both dare and succeed, but causes and effects come first of all! Some fool wasted his time in calculating how much dynamite would be required and how deep the hole to be drilled for it, in order to explode the whole planet. He probably did not think at the time of the possibility of a rain of stones, which to a certain degree would have been helpful to his "philanthropical intentions."

We know as yet so little! The simplest manifestations perplex a specialist! Quite recently on various continents—in France, Mexico, India—the ocean gave us corpses of some unknown sea monsters. Their reality is obvious, for there exist photographs of them. What causes, what shiftings in the depths, have thrown ashore these animals? Much takes place outside of mechanical formulas and no prizes for speed, no conventional athletics and least of all a golf ball, can help in these realms.

"May we be spared from a rain of stones!"

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