TO THE WOMAN'S HEART

BY

NICHOLAS ROERICH

WOMAN'S UNITY OF ROERICH MUSEUM
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TO WOMAN'S UNITY
TO THE THREE MILLION LEGION
OF THE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
IN AMERICA

By Nicholas Roerich

WHEN THERE are difficulties in the home we turn to the woman. When accounts and calculations are no longer of aid; when enmity and mutual destruction reach their limits, we turn to the woman. When evil forces overcome one, then woman is invoked. When the statistical mind becomes helpless then one remembers the woman. Verily, when wrath pauperizes the judgment of the mind, only the heart finds saving solutions. And where is the heart which can replace the woman's? And where is the courage of a heart-fire, which can be compared with the courage of woman at the brink of the insoluble? What hand can replace the calming touch of conviction of a woman's heart? And what eye, having endured the pain of suffering will respond as self-sacrificingly in the name of Bliss?

We do not praise woman; that which fills the life of man from the cradle to the end, cannot be praised. Upon whom were bestowed wreaths? From ancient time, wreaths were given to heroes and belonged to women. And the women of antiquity in pronouncing the oracles, doffed their wreaths and cast them upon the river. In this act, they thought never of themselves but of others. If the wreath—crown—is the symbol of heroism, the seal of this heroism is its doffing for another or another's cause.

And this is not only passive renunciation. No! This is a vital heroism. And again, it will not be praise but reality to identify woman with heroism. The mediaeval humiliation and belittling of women have passed. People
have again realized the future Era of the Mother of the World. And again the sword of heroism is in the hand of Jeanne d'Arc. And again the glow is not from the fire of the stake but the flame of the heart. How much darkness, how many ugly outgrowths of wrath and ignorance would consume the flaming heart! How much vulgarity, how many mad debasements of human dignity will be dispelled by the ray of the woman's heart, which has evaluated the wreath, the crown, entrusted to her.

When we speak of Culture, do we not have in mind primarily the woman who without restraint broadly carries the banner of refined, lofty Culture to all domains from the cradle to the throne.

When there are difficulties in the house, one turns to woman and in physical and spiritual ailments, one calls just her. And to whom will we pronounce the words, "It is difficult; it is burdensome," if not to the woman.

And now it is difficult, very difficult in the big household of the planet. The human spirit is restless. It is restless due to mutual injury. And even the forces of nature are seemingly in revolt; earthquakes, eruptions, floods, variations of climates—all these bring still greater confusion to the already confused human spirit. But history has known such periods, and humanity knows also the panacea for these calamities. And this panacea is Culture. Where the hand and the brain tire, the heart is indefatigable; and the heart is the Realm of Light, the focus of Culture.

Your legion of three million women has endorsed and accepted our Banner of Culture and Peace. The woman's heart lives not only in words but in achievements; thus it was in the entire history of humanity. Hence, we understand that having approved and endorsed the Banner of Culture and Peace, woman will carry it as vitally as her heart can flame with the sacred fire.

I want not only to thank you women—Legion of the Mother of the World for the endorsement of the Banner of Culture and Peace but hereby I wish to mark the historical fact of how three million women of America have understood and accepted the Banner of Culture as something undeferrable and necessary for the general salvation and regeneration of traditions of Light and Beauty.

It will be a joyous day for me when I shall be able to participate at your meetings and greet you personally. But in the meanwhile, permit me to send to you from the Himalayan summits my hearty cooperation to you, the Legion of the Mother of the World.

Himalayas.
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By Nicholas Roerich

It is truly precious to greet each activity in the name of Culture. I cannot but express my best feelings for all your present activities, which are so needed when everything pertaining to Culture, to the realm of Art and Knowledge, is subject to cruel reprisals.

When morals become debased, some people sometimes even go so far as to use such heretical exclamations as: "To hell with Culture, I want cash!" Such brutes are unwilling to acknowledge that even money, namely prosperity, comes only from the source of Culture. If for a moment we try to imagine the world without all its discoveries, all the wise and beautiful creative achievements, then the world would inevitably submerge into the darkness of misery in the fullest sense of this word.

We shall never tire of repeating that the epochs of efflorescence, the epochs of renaissance, the epochs of prosperity, all emanated from the benevolent source of Culture. To try to separate the so called materialistic life from all the beautiful attainments of Culture, would mean to try to imagine a living man without a heart.

It is not necessary for me to repeat this to you, as you all are of course in full accord with it, otherwise you would not be so active in the cause of Culture. But with every opportunity, it is our duty to saturate space with the imperative call, with a heartfelt prayer for Culture; because thus we fill the very source of emanation which nurtures the highest human energy.

Once a certain woman of the press, having read my address "To Womanhood" — as the bearer of the Covenants of Culture—accused me of flattery. But there is not the least flattery or exaggeration, when we assert that, after all, it is just woman who, from the hearth to the Government, sows the seeds of Culture. What flattery is there in the statement that the child hears the first word of Culture, in one form or another, from its mother. And is it an exaggeration, if we do not forget that it is just woman, who most self-sacrificingly, without personal motive introduces the cultural foundations, not only within her own small family but also in the great family of nations.

To state a reality is not exaggeration; it is only the noting of passed steps in order that the steps of the future may be attained more easily and more consciously. There is a wise saying, "The World without woman is like a rock devoid of flowers." This general canon can contain neither flattery nor exaggeration. The more so as it is well known that "to deprive the earth of the flowers would mean to lose two-thirds of the vitality."

Therefore let us take the reality as it is. The same reality in our daily news indicates that in spite of the tremendous achievements of Culture, already attained by humanity, many of these achievements remain insufficiently unassimilated in certain circles. If a literate person, pretending to be civilized, can condemn Culture to hell, it means that he has not yet even reached the stage of civilization.

Each of us in his own field, unfortunately meets with similar statements in a more or less vulgar form. Some people dream of the renewal of depressed trade, unwilling to remember that without broad cultural considerations there can be no flourishing of international intercourse, either intellectual or economic. It is impossible to consider trade, finance and all material questions without consideration of general cultural principles.
All those, who in spite of the evidences, regard cultural activities as luxury, are either out of date or fossilized, because even the oldest writings remind us how highly and vitally the questions of true education and expansion of horizons were esteemed.

Often we are ready to unite in words, mentally to extend the hand of friendship and cooperation; but as soon as it comes to deeds, there seems to appear out of nowhere some peculiar, malicious considerations and people are again filled with destructive and disintegrating paroxysms. Thus seeing your active striving in the name of Culture, I want to greet them as most necessary, as a panacea against all the present depression, created by the murder of Culture.

The same widely-spread depression in all action and spirit inevitably also reflects on the outlook of the young generations, therefore each action in the name of Culture so needed at all times now becomes a true life-belt during a disastrous storm.

Again without exaggeration, we may say that everyone speaks nowadays of the current crisis. Therefore it is not an exaggeration again to turn to the sources of history, which reveal quite definitely how great nations avoided the approaching crisis, turning towards blissful streams of Culture.

I know that you all are in accord with these thoughts. I know that despite difficulties and opposition, you fight for the panacea of Culture, in your homes and in all your educational fields. It is true that "difficulties contain new possibilities in themselves" if only this ancient wisdom is realized and applied in life.

Thus once again I send you my heartiest greeting in your battle and cooperation in the name of Culture.

Himalayas.