A friend said:

Explain what you have written.

I answered:

My description of the earth as it is, is truth as I see it;

Observed and described as well as I am able;

Selected and arranged for the purpose of this book;*

But neither distorted nor disguised.

The vision of the earth as it will be, is truth as I know it;

It lives in my heart, and one day it will live in the heart of the world.

That, to my knowledge, is certain.

Then there came a number of people, saying:

We believe in the earth of your vision; what can we do to hasten the day of its coming?

I answered:

That day can not be hastened by any external thing;

By any institution, or government, or system;

Its coming depends upon an awakening in the mind of man.

The only mind which you can awaken is your own;

And the way of that awakening is the way of life.

One asked me when the earth of my vision would come into being.

I answered:

In my heart it is already here;

And though I cannot know when it will awaken in the hearts of others;

Yet, the tension of life is so strong,

Uncertainty and suffering so widespread,

And the first notes of understanding so oft repeated,

That I feel the time is near.

*Earth: By Frank Townsend.
THE YOUNG BUILDER
KARACHI
EDITORS: Jamshed Nusserwanji and H. C. Kumar

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would say: Leave all that aside and look at it from a different point
of view, from a point of view that is simple, that is natural, that is
based on real friendliness, real co-operation. But you answer: “Oh
no, we want something practical, my dear fellow, practical.” That
was said to me when I brought this argument forward. You want
something practical, which may lead you to another war. You have
had experience of this point of view, you have had a practical demon-
stration of its result, you have had a magnificent war, then why not
try the other experiment? Why not let every individual develop
according to his temperament, according to his desire, his intuition,
according to the standard which he has set for himself?

How simple it all becomes. There is no question of war or peace,
there is no question of struggling to dominate one another. If you
have this change of heart, if you have altered your outlook on life,
then you will be able to prevent wars, then you will really follow the
one path, the one Truth, which is, “Kill not.”

---

A military general went to heaven. He presented himself at the
gate of God’s court, seeking admission.

“Your card and credentials?” asked the gate-keeper.

The general whipped out from his pocket a gilt-edged card, on
which these words were inscribed: “General Brute, hero of a hundred
battle-fields.”

The gate-keeper scanned closely the contents of the card, looked at
the figure of the general and flung a flat refusal in his face.

*Abridged from an address given at Ommen on July 28th, 1926. (Published in
The Herald of the Star.)

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Banner of Peace

By Nicholas Roerich

The whole world ponders about peace. Everyone in his language,
within his possibilities, pronounces this great conception, which leads
humanity to self-perfectioning.

It does not matter if everything cannot be done at once. But let space
be cemented with this mighty call. May our age bear the seal of peace,
creative labour and true co-operation.

On November 17th the Convention of the Banner of Peace in
Washington will discuss measures for introducing into life our Banner
Protector, which like a watchful guardian should be unfurled over all
treasure stores of art and knowledge. It will wave over monuments of
religions and culture, calling for preservation of the real treasures of
mankind. Let all friends of peace, all friends of the preservation of treasures
of human genius, be with us on that day.

I am fully convinced that this idea will enter into life. The thought
of protection of cultural treasures of humanity preoccupied me for several
decades, and the sad events of life itself still more strengthened my project.
Already in 1904 addressing the Society of Architects and Artists in St.
Petersburg, I outlined this idea, calling the attention to the tragic condition
of many state architectural monuments. My extensive travels to ancient
monasteries and historical cities, also the archaeological excavations in such
important places as Novgorod and other regions linked with most ancient
traditions, gave me rich material to affirm the undeferrable necessity for
urgent measures to protect cultural treasures. Later in 1914 after the
destructions, when many irreparable historical monuments perished, I made a similar report to the late Emperor Nicholas II and to the late Commander-in-Chief Grand-Duke Nicholas. Both reports were met with great sympathy and only such an extraordinary havoc as the War prevented its immediate development. Then as President of the Exhibition of Allied Nations where Flemish, French, British and the arts of other allied nations were beautifully represented, I had again a happy opportunity to propound this idea and was convinced that sooner or later the protection of cultural treasures will become a sacred reality in the world.

With new ardour these thoughts preoccupied me when we had to witness not any more the vandalism of warfare, but the vandalism of times of peace. For an untrained eye it is even impossible to imagine how many irreparable cultural treasures are exposed to danger and perish without leaving any traces. One of our foremost duties is to apply all our efforts to direct the public attention to their real treasures. Each day brings news of some new destructions. We are already imbued with the idea that precious monuments must not be carried away and must be safeguarded on the places, the more so because the traffic possibilities make even the remotest places accessible. I am deeply convinced that a universal attention will be paid to cultural treasures and as its symbol, the universally unifying Banner, will bring a profound and absolute usefulness to the cultural development of peoples.

I am not astonished that we receive so many enthusiastic responses to our Banner of Peace. The past is filled with deplorable, sad and irreparable destructions. We see that not only in times of war but also during other errors, creations of human genius are destroyed. At the same time the elite of humanity understands that no evolution is possible without the accumula-
dent of the Union International pour le Pacte Roerich, presided and the
Marquis Adatci, President of the Permanent Court of International Justice,
was Protector of the Conference. In connection with this Conference there
was one thing of great interest: the proposed League of Cities united under
the same Banner of Peace. Our friend, the poet Marc Chesneau, represented
the old city of Rouen. Dr. Georges Chklaver's article, "Le Pacte Roerich
et la Societe des Nations," highly recommended the Pact from the point of
view of law. Verily the protection of treasures of culture belongs to those
all-unifying foundations upon which we can gather in a spirit of friendliness
without any petty feelings of envy and malice.

In 1932, on August 9th, the Second Conference in Bruges was called
together by the Union International pour le Pacte Roerich for introducing
into life the defence of artistic and scientific treasures. The Conference took
place under great enthusiasm and was concluded with a series of projects
for introducing our Pact in the whole world. Besides the already existing
Union, the City of Bruges placed at the Union's disposal a separate building
for the inauguration of a Roerich Foundation for Peace, Art, Science and
Labour. For this museum many valuable exhibits have been donated.
Thus the city of Paris presented an artistic collection and several private
collectors have also expressed their desire to donate collections to this
museum.

Among the people, who took a close participation in the discussions of
the Conference, have to be mentioned the President of the Union, C. Tul-
pinck, the representative of the City of Paris, Councillor Brunesseaux,
the Consul-General of France, the Hon. Leon Guermanprez, who had been
officially delegated to represent the French Government; the Duke of
Argyll, Mr. Murray, delegate of Great Britain; the well-known Professor
of International Law, Baron de Taube; the Delegation of the Roerich
Institutions headed by the President of the European centre in Paris, Mme.
de Vaux Phalipau, and the General-Secretary Dr. G. Chklaver, Count de
Rochefort, the architect Rey de Villette, the representatives of Czechos-
lovakia, Greece and seventeen other countries which took part in the Exhibi-
tion and Conference. The Conference was greeted in the name of His
Majesty King Albert of Belgium with a message from the Belgian Prime
Minister. Amongst the messages and greetings received there were highly
sympathetic messages from Marshal Lyautey and the President of the
Court of International Justice at the Hague, Marquis Adatci, letters from
Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, Sir Jagadish Bose, Prof. Sir C. V. Raman, from the
Principal of the School of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow, A. K. Haldar; the Maha
Bodhi Society; from Maurice Maeterlinck, Senator Copeland of New York,
and numerous Women's Leagues and scientific organizations and from
representatives of the world of culture. Having taken a series of practical
measures for the near future, the Conference closed its session with the
firm conviction that our Pact will be established without delay and will find
world adoption.

And now in Washington will assemble the friends of peace. President
Roosevelt is open to everything positive and constructive. Mrs. Franklin
D. Roosevelt writes about our Pact: “I think the ideals represented by
the Roerich Pact cannot help but appeal to all those who hope that the best
in the past may be preserved to guide and serve future generations.” A
member of the present U. S. Government, Secretary Henry A. Wallace, in
the course of a letter to me writes: “I have for several years been inter-
ested in your endeavour to create a community of feeling among all the
nations concerning those things which have to do with the arts and sciences.
Your endeavor to furnish a symbol for the thought that beauty and know-
ledge should tie all the nations together in appreciation of a common human purpose, however separate their apparent paths may be, has been of profound interest to the enlightened people over the entire world for several years. It is appropriate that you should have a meeting in Washington next fall to consider the things for which the Banner of Peace stands...... I believe so profoundly in the things for which the Banner of Peace stands that I am only too happy to offer you any co-operation in my personal capacity to help make your efforts along this line successful.”

Amongst the latest expressions of sympathy with our Pact, I cannot omit mentioning the powerful statement of the Italian Ambassador at Washington, Signor A. Rosso, to our delegation. He said: “I feel no one can be against such a great idea. Whoever would go against the Roerich Pact, will have the sanctuary of public opinion to deal with.”

Verily, humanity is tired of destructions, vandalism and negation. Positive creativeness is the fundamental quality of the human spirit. In our life everything that uplifts and ennobles our spirit must hold the dominant place. The milestones of the glorious path must since childhood impel our spirit to the beautiful future. Believe me this is not a truism to speak about the underferrable and urgent strivings to culture. If some ignoramus would find this idea superfluous and needless, we shall tell him; “Poor ignoramus, thou art outside of evolution, but remember that we are a legion and in no way shall we abjure from our idea of a Peace Banner. If thou wilt be an obstructionist, we shall transform thy obstacles into possibilities.”

The Washington Convention gathers under good signs. Let once more sound the mighty prayer for peace of the whole world. If the Red Cross affirms physical health, then may the Banner of Peace establish the spiritual health of mankind!

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**Peace Prospects in Europe**

By Leslie R. Aldous

“Europe has been nearer to war than at any other time since 1918.” During the past few months, this opinion has been freely expressed by shrewd observers of international affairs. Yet the paradox of this critical situation is that, with the exception of a few firebrands and vested interests such as armaments manufacturers, nobody wants war. The ordinary men and women, whether they be living in France or Germany, are dreading the prospect of another European conflict. Fear of the intentions of neighbouring countries is at the root of their mutual suspicion and distrust.

To understand the European situation, it must be recollected that the States of that Continent fall into four main groups. France has this in common with Belgium, Poland and the Little Entente (Czechoslovakia, Roumania and Jugoslavia) that one of their chief interests is to uphold the peace settlement of Versailles. On the other hand, Germany, Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria—the defeated Nations—are naturally in favour of treaty revision. Three Great Powers—Great Britain, Italy and Soviet Russia—stand to some extent apart; yet in practice they find that they cannot ignore European affairs. Lastly, there are a number of small but cultured Nations such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland. With the interests of peace at heart, they have striven to play a worthy part in the development of the League of Nations.

From the point of view of peace, the key countries are France and Germany, although certain difficulties between France and Italy