PEACE
UNTO THE WHOLE WORLD

By
PROF. NICHOLAS DE ROERICH

Reprinted from Prabuddha Bharata, April, 1935.

ADVAITA ASHRAMA
MAYAVATI, ALMORA, HIMALAYAS
PEACE UNTO THE WHOLE WORLD

By Prof. Nicholas de Roerich

"Have salt in yourselves and have peace one with another."

Mark IX, 50.

Would it not appear that to pray "for Peace of the Whole World" is the greatest Utopia? This seems evident. But the heart and the real being continues to reiterate these sacred words, as a possible reality. If one listens to the voice of superficial obviousness, then even all the Commandments will seem a Utopia, impossible to carry out in life. Where is "thou shalt not steal"? Where is "thou shalt not kill"? Where is "thou shalt not commit adultery"? Where is "thou shalt not steal"? Where is "thou shalt not commit adultery"? Where is the fulfilment and carrying out of all simple and clear commandments of Life? Perhaps some wiseacres will say: "Why reiterate these commands, if anyhow they are not carried out!"

Everyone of us has often heard various complaints and warnings against Utopia. From childhood and youth one has heard the "experienced advices" not to be carried away by "empty idealism," but to keep closer to "practical life." Some young hearts did not agree with this "practical life," to which the wiseacres tried to persuade them. Some youths heard the voice of their hearts whispering that the path to idealism, against which the elder ones were warning, is the most vital and pre-ordained. On this ground of idealism and "conventional wisdom" many family tragedies took place. Who knows what was the cause of many suicides—of these most foolish solutions of life's problems. For the wiseacres did not warn the youth in time of the terrible delusion, which even led to suicide. And when these gradually doomed young men asked the elders whether during the alleged "practical" life, the Commandments will be carried out, the elder ones, sometimes with a cynical gesture, sacrilegiously murmured: "Everything will be forgiven." And between this "everything will be forgiven" and the Commandments of Life there arose some insoluble contradiction. The wiseacres were ready to promise everything, if only to prevent the youth from idealism. And when the youth submerged into conventional mechanical life, then even the Scribes and Pharisees threw up their hands. But the question arises: Who took the youth to boxing matches, to races and to obscene films? And did not the "wise councillors" themselves constantly repeat with a sigh "without cheating one cannot sell" and did they not themselves zealously disclose the strange truth that many of the vipers up to now live even amidst that humanity which considers itself enlightened.

But above all confusions the Angels sing of Peace and Goodwill. No guns, no explosives can silence these choirs of heaven. And despite all the earthly pseudo-wisdom, idealism as the Teaching of Good will still remain the quickest reaching and most renovating principle in life. It has been said: "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things?" Precisely evil-heartedness will whisper that every goodwill is impractical and untimely. But let us know firmly, that even the Peace unto the whole world is not an abstraction, but depends only on the desire and goodwill of humanity. Thus every admonition to safeguard the Highest and the Best is exactly most timely and alleviates the shortest path.

May the beneficial symbols, may the Banner of Goodwill be unfurled over everything, by which the human spirit exists.

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth Peace, goodwill toward men!"