Fourteen years ago I have written in my diary:

Perhaps the most difficult necessity is the necessity of refusal—refusal to those who come to you with the best possible motives and decisions, who seek help for some excellent purpose that already exists, and that you are entirely without power to help. And not only that you cannot help, but scanning the entire horizon, you do not even know where to direct those who are in need, so that their beautiful wants can be satisfied. A collection of all the messages asking for help becomes the true island of tears.

Sometimes you still can assume that some of these people will hold out until new conditions arise; but not seldom, you feel that their call is the last call, and that there is not only no reserve of further physical means, but that already the spiritual means are exhausted—and this is the saddest thing. Besides many personal misfortunes, it is terrible to see that all sorts of educational and cultural institutions are being uprooted. Man must be especially cautious, precisely of that which occurs at this present time—the cutting down of the growth of culture, and that Culture, which by its blossoming, must give a true prosperity, a spiritual prosperity, and a prosperity of every form.

Here before us lies a request concerning a school. If it is not answered, many little children will remain without necessary education. Here, also is attached a photograph of a great number of children in this group, and what nice, dear faces, notwithstanding their clothing! How healthy an element is felt in these little bodies which are ready for spiritual food! And the money asked for this school is not at all large, but there is no source from which to obtain it.

Here is a request for support for a magazine and a very useful publishing house. Everything issued by this publishing house is valuable and absolutely useful. This is not some visionary dream. On the table are lying their most useful books which transmit to the new generations beautiful, basic and strengthening facts. Precisely such magazines and publishing houses, fully constructive, must not only exist but also broaden, in the name of underlying necessity towards perfection. And again the requested sum is so small, so small compared with the useful, already-manifested achievements of the publishing house. Nevertheless, this sum is also missing. And again one has to write: “Let us await better times.” These better times will come, but until then the whole tempo of already organized work shall be disrupted. It is very probable that the work will soon cease and you know what it means to reorganize the work anew. So many requests come from publishing houses and magazines, and they come not from one country, and they are not the results of unhappiness of one people. The variety of nations, places and all conditions converge in one focus, namely the focus of the fact that the sprouts of Culture are curtailed.

Here before us is a completed and meritorious historical institution. The results of its fruitful publishing house and its publications are at hand. The list of co-workers contains in itself a whole number of the most valuable scientific names. The need of such an Institution no one questions. The local Government supported it as much as it could. But for its existence
is still needed a sum, again ridiculous
in its smallness, compared to the pro-
gramme of the Institution. But even
this sum is lacking. And how many
valuable efforts, how much priceless
time is being taken from the most
necessary scientific researches, for
fruitless search, in order only that the
doors of the Institution should not be
closed altogether. And when they
close where can we go to gather again
necessary complex of strength and
conditions? Is it possible that the
spirit of mankind has become so proli-
gate as to throw away blindly the
most beautiful accumulations and the
most necessary researches?

In the same position is also a medi-
cal scientific Institution, which has
already reached definite results and
which was hailed by Scientific Centres
and here also there is needed a ridicu-
lessly small sum, but it is not avail-
able. Just like the knife of guillotine!
Here, a very ancient museum, a
national pride, is forced to seek the
smallest sums in order to maintain
itself. And again the very same knife
of the guillotine! Here are requests
about the building of a Temple—so
needed, when the human spirit is sick.
And instead of construction—the knife
of the guillotine!

Here are the groups of youths who
gathered in the name of beautiful
constructive Beginnings in the highest
Names and Understanding. The most
valuable Centres of working Youth
which fights with difficulty its own
straitened existence. And no matter
how these seekers of the best spiritual
strongholds search, they cannot find
even a minimum sum in order to
strengthen the existence of their unity.
Weakened, they shall scatter, driven
by want. And when will one be able to
unite them again—such valuable ones,
who so rejoice the spirit and heart.

Here is a cultural society, which is
striving towards the tasks of Educa-
tion, Culture, Motherhood, towards
the strengthening of all those princi-
pies, which, if unrealized and uncon-
structed, shall cause us again to suffer
spiritual crash, as well as material.

They are asking so little in order to
exist! They give as it is, everything
which belongs to them, which can be
given. But these most beautiful
examples of self-sacrifice are being
broken before those icy currents,
about which the “Transmuting Fire”
speaks.

And a very known author, who was
broadly hailed, cannot even write
because he has no means for livelihood.
Does not this express humanity’s mad
dissipation of its spiritual forces?
And not only do all those manifold
requests for the support of beautiful
foundations remain unanswered be-
cause of want, but the universal order
of things continues to tread the same
destructive directions of sundering the
best cultured projects and aspirations
of mankind. And the serious thing
is that this pertains not only to one
country or even to one group of
countries—no, this unwelcome news
unquestionably comes from all parts
of the world. Some one will say,
“But the schools continue to exist,
the Universities continue to exist, and
the Museums also exist.” Yes, but
let us see into what have been gradu-
ally reduced the budgets of these
Institutions, preserved only for the
sake of longevity. We read daily
about the closing of entire scientific
departments of Museums, about the
ceasing of research work, about the
ceasing of excavations, about the
stopping of construction, about the
diminishing of the staffs through
which so many needed irreplaceable
young forces are being cut away, in
order forever to be lost in the ruthless
ocean of Chaos. “No” and “impossi-
ble” prevail. Denials and abolish-
ments rule, even without special dis-
cussions which are most necessary.
Even in the endowed Institutions, we
see unprecedented notices about un-
fulfilled editions, about the delaying
of plans and again about the curtailing even of the most essential.

Of course we must think about the future—of that no one will have another opinion. Even a manufacturer produces not for yesterday. And now, amidst the same existing ideas about the future, if would seem that the people themselves, in the most cruel way, will begin to cut away everything, even that which is fundamentally necessary for every production.

The world has experienced many crashes and shocks. But is not there some sign of the spiritual and material misfortune which has now fallen upon mankind. Such a sign exists. And this sign will be terrible, if special attention is not paid to it. This is the sign of universal misfortune. Heretofore, misfortunes were national or local, but now has come an unprecedented internationalism of misfortune. There is not one country, there is not one distant island, which does not repeat its tales of misfortune.

The more in contact you come with the most varied peoples, the more shocked you are by the universality of misfortune. The small groups of those who lived on incomes which veiled the world with an illusory guaranty, have become absolutely insignificant. Any of them who do not suffer as yet, already speak about misfortune. And through these misfortune-carrying affirmations and actions comes forth some destructive invocation of misfortunes, as if some invisible sowers of misfortune were passing through all the countries and throwing into the space destructive, deadly formulas.

And following them appears a veritable dance of death: "Cut down, arrest, kill, deaden,"—these deadly words in many languages in various formulas, are being carried all over the world. The phantom of economy has given birth to an army of unemployed and has brought the wages to a standard not answering even the most beggarly needs. Before us are figures of various wages and one must confess that these figures are terrible.

One thing is clear: If mankind continues to hypnotize itself by invoking misfortune, it shall violate that which is most valuable for its very existence: it shall disrupt Culture; it shall disrupt the progress and accumulation of that which under different conditions is irrevocable, or demands many centuries for curing.

The horror of refusal, the horror of killing living sprouts, cannot longer continue. It is absolutely necessary to cast aside personal quarrels and personal rivalry, to think unitedly about the future generations, for whom the foundation of Culture is the only stronghold of the spirit. Instead of calling forth misfortunes sooner or later—and better it should be sooner—it is necessary to turn to the invocation of foundation of positive construction; we will thus begin to solve many so-called insoluble problems. Edison lived long, Michelson also lived long, and none of these creators of thought, contemplated suicide. Creative thought is that accumulator of high energies, which feeds all saps of life. The high energies of creativeness constitute the great elixir of life, eternally sought by men. And this elixir of life proclaims to each one who desires to think, that it is necessary to turn from the destructive invocation of misfortunes to the insistent call of benevolent, cultural constructiveness. And if we all together shall call for the necessity of development of knowledge and ennoblement, this call shall in itself be the first stone in the new construction of the positive stronghold of mankind.

During the past fourteen years terrible calamities have occurred, but today the same sorrowful lines can be repeated.

Our Lady of Culture! When shalt Thou descend upon our strife-torn earth?
The King of Clubs

(continued...