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*News & Activities*

## GANDHIJI

### OUR HOMAGE

He who symbolised non-violence  
in a world bitter with violence  
He who rests to-day with  
Buddha, Christ and Tolstoy  
He who taught the poor and the weak  
the dignity of self  
He who defeated the army of an empire  
by his weapon of truth  
He who shines in heavenly light  
having conquered death by his death  
There he is — India's pride  
There he is GANDHIJI—!

Let us not forget that it was our privilege to live in a world with  
him who was part of the divine —

Let us be worthy of him so that after his death he can accomplish  
that which he failed to achieve in life —

We killed our father, by our action let us, now, make him live eternally  
within us—

Let death or age not take away from us, him, whose shrine we have  
built in the deep of our hearts—!



THE ARCHIVE OF  
NICHOLAS  
ROERICH  
MUSEUM



# TWO MEN

By C. E. DUST

Art Editor of 'Indian People'

Within a few weeks of each other two men of great personality died in India; two men who, because of the lives they had lived, were a tragic loss, not only to India but to the world. One of them, Professor Nicholas Roerich, was not sufficiently appreciated in India during his life and the other Mahatma Gandhi, was more appreciated for what the masses imagined him to be, than for what he really was—a really great practical philosopher whose teaching and example was by no means confined to the narrow limits which were all that many of his followers were capable of understanding.

At first sight, it may seem that the two men had a little in common but upon consideration, we shall find, not only many points of similarity but that their aims were basically the same for the benefit of humanity. Roerich was Russian, not Indian by birth but because of the universality of his Love for Beauty, Peace and Humanity, was truly international, and despite the wish of many to see Gandhiji as a purely local prophet and reformer, he was, in fact, just as international as was Roerich.

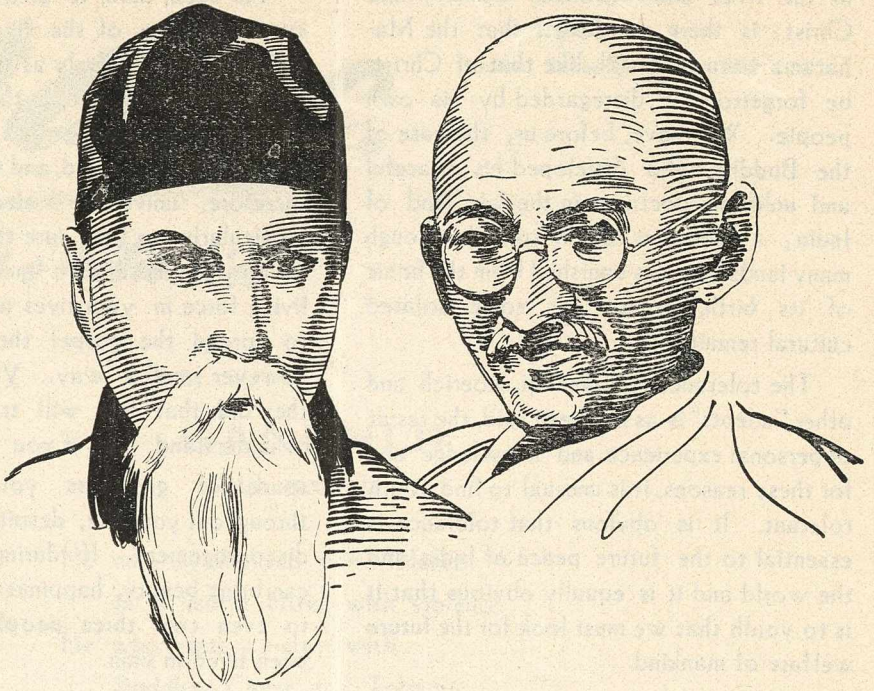
Gandhiji and Roerich had both achieved that simplicity which is the hall-mark of true greatness and which is shared *only* by the truly great: not by money Barons politicians and others who pass as great, to the majority of blind humanity. No need for the truly great to clothe their

message in long words and high sounding phrases. To them, with their great experience, life becomes quite simple and in simple language, picture, writing and example, they seek to pass the message on to others, many of whom, alas, refuse to accept anything so simple and proceed to read into the messages and lives of such men, some deep meaning to assist their own nefarious worldly plans. Such is the fate of all great men; to be able to show the light to only a few and to see the majority make deliberate choice of darkness.

Such tolerance and love for all humanity, irrespective of race or creed, instanced by the lives of Gandhiji and Roerich, is impossible to the insular nationalist or communalist. It is the result of knowledge and personal experience. Both men had read widely, travelled much and understood people of different races. They had both studied mankind, not only one race—had absorbed the learning of other countries and period, other philosophies, religions, ways of living, cultures and environments. Both had condensed in their different ways, the result of their lifelong study, into a simple message of *peace*. Both lived to suffer disappointment after disappointment, wars and bloodshed, engineered in some cases by their own self professed followers. Both refused to be discouraged with their different methods, still they kept broadcasting their message to the world; both, no doubt, had the joy of having a few, a very few, true disciples.



ROERICH  
&  
GANDHI



At the recent exhibition in Delhi of the Paintings of Prof. Roerich, held after his death, the largest amount of money, it is believed, ever taken at an art exhibition in India, was paid for the pictures sold. Were these pictures purchased because of their artistic value or the message they carried? Of course not, they were bought because Roerich was dead and his pictures would appreciate in value.

The words and acts of Gandhiji have, even during his life, been quoted out of their context, altered and made to serve discreditable ends and foster fratricidal strife. Thus are the great men treated by their contemporaries.

Many of the writings of Roerich are well known to you, and it is interesting to find that Gandhiji whose life was, in many ways, so different to that of Roerich, cons-

tantly broadcasted the message of peace. "The more we advance in true knowledge," said this great man, "the better we shall understand that we need not be at war with those whose religion we may not follow." And again, "True knowledge of religion breaks down the barriers between faith and faith. Cultivation of tolerance for other faiths will impart to us a truer understanding of our own." There is no need to quote further to prove that the messages of Gandhiji and Roerich were synonymous, although their methods may have been dissimilar

It is a melancholy reflection that so many "adepts" wish a vital message for humanity have been ignored and even persecuted and murdered by their own people. There are, indeed, many parallels



in the lives and death of Gandhiji and Christ; is there the danger that the Mahatma's teaching will, like that of Christ, be forgotten or disregarded by his own people. We have, before us, the case of the Buddha who developed his peaceful and uplifting doctrine in the fair land of India; a doctrine which spread through many lands but was banished from the home of its birth, except for some isolated cultural remains.

The tolerance of Gandhiji, Roerich and other "adepts" is as has been said, the result of personal experience and knowledge and for these reasons, it is unusual to find youth tolerant. It is obvious that tolerance is essential to the future peace of India and the world and it is equally obvious that it is to youth that we must look for the future welfare of mankind.

## NEWS & NOTES

### General Secretary

Yet his was individual mind.

And new created all he saw  
In a new manner, and refined

Those new creations and combined  
Them, by a master-spirit's law.

— Shelley

Mahatma Gandhi's unparalleled creations in politics, philosophy and religion can well be remembered and recollected, liked and disliked, appreciated and criticised. But, we shall endeavour to be off these precepts and shall concentrate on his views on Art.

"I want Art and Literature that can speak to the millions," remarked Gandhiji and added, "All true Art is the expression of the soul. The outward forms have value only in so far as they are expression of the inner spirit of man." And, rightly does Verrier Elwin, puts it, 'Like Wordsworth, Mahatma Gandhi values nature and primarily for their moral power. All true Art must help the soul to realise its inner self.'

Gandhiji had a "natural ear for good homely music" and had once said, 'Music has given me peace. I can remember occasions when music instantly tranquilized

No need, here, to give more details or even anecdotes of the lives of these two great men, particularly as you, my readers, know so much about them. If I have succeeded in proving that true greatness transcends race, creed, and even time and is, therefore, universal, I shall be content; particularly as I am sure that your veneration for these two men will remain a living force in your lives and an incentive to spread the gospel they preached in however small a way. You will find, as they did, that few will trouble to listen or understand, but, if you possess just one spark of greatness you will persist throughout your life, despite heartbreaking discouragement. If during a lifetime, one can bring beauty, happiness and tolerance to even two three people, life has not been lived in vain.

my mind, when I was greatly agitated over something."

"I see and find Beauty through Truth. All Truth, not merely true ideas but truthful faces, truthful pictures, truthful songs, are highly Beautiful. Whenever men begin to see Beauty in Truth, then Art will arise."

Gandhiji was a realist in art. Although his rooms were often not decorated with the works of Art, there is hardly any studio or the study-room of the reputed artist or writer where Gandhiji's portrait or bust, books or brochures do not occupy a respected place.

Eventually, we join the nation in paying our devout homage to Gandhiji. We are reminded of the words that Gandhiji addressed about Poet Rabindranath Tagore, the words that are now apposite for Gandhiji, "*We all miss the warmth of his protecting wings. But, we must not grieve ... All mortals must quit this world one day. Gurudeva has gone, having achieved all that a human being can expect in life. His soul now rests in peace. It is for you now, as indeed for all those who are imbued with Gurudeva's spirit—collectively to represent his ideal.*"