



## Nicholas Roerich : The Intuitivist

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Nicholas Roerich (1874-1947), the famous Russian contemporary artist is known worldwide, not only for his works in art but also as philosopher historian, archaeologist, ethnographer, poet, writer, cultural leader, art critic. explorer and fighter for peace and preservation of world's cultural treasures.

He believed in Russian ideology of world wideness" and traveled extensively. He introduced his art in European countries and USA. His art was called a breeze of fresh air His work and views were appreciated by the Greats like-Albert Einstein, Romain Roneld, Bernard Shaw, Thomas Mann, Herbert Wells, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Rabindra Nath Tagore, Jagdish Chandra Bose, Asit Kumar Haldar, Macterlinck and many other outstanding scientist, thinkers, philosopher and artists of various countries.

The famous Russian writer Maxim Gorki called Nicholas Roerich a great intuitivist". This statement is very true and not one but many spheres can be seen where his saying come true as regards to modern age. Being an artist as well as scientist Roerich was able to foresee much of what would happen to humanity in future, be it recognition of power womanhood, ecological problem or need for preservation of art and culture. In year 1904 while addressing the society of architects& artists in St. Peterberg he expressed his desire that people should start paying attention towards the deteriorating condition of many state monuments. His dream turned into reality in year 1935 when a treaty was formulated by Nicolas Roerich with the help of lawyers of international law-"The Rorich Pact" was signed by twenty two nations, followed by other countries later. The pact states that during the time of war a"Banner of Peace" would be flown over the remnants of earlier cultures, active creative centers, universities, libraries, concert halls and theaters of all nations, to mark them as neutral sites saving them from the menace of war, It was aimed to conserve art and culture worldwide.

This pact is now an international law. This very clearly proves that the vision of one man, a century ago, is now felt as a need of time.

In the"Joy of Art" Roerich wrote"when there are difficulties in the home, we turn to woman, when accounts and calculations are no longer of aid when enmity and mutual destruction reach their limits, we turns to the women. When evil forces overcomes one , the women is invoked .When the stactical mind becomes helpless then one remembers the women heart"

This sayings of Roerich is proved today-now the world is feeling the power of women in politics ,art,science,literature,games and nearly all over fields of life .Women are moving with their heads held their heads high besides the arch bearer of the family.Roerich praised womanhood and called for their active participation and realization of their potential. Helena Roerich wrote to a friend in 1937 reflecting Nicholas own point of view-"...womam should realize that she herself contains all forces, and the moment she shakes off the age-old hyponosis of her seemingly lawful subjugation and mental inferiority and occupies herself with a manifold education,

she will create in collaboration with a man a new and better world... Woman is a personification of nature, and it the nature that teaches man, not man nature. Therefore may all women realize the grandeur of their origin, and may they strive for knowledge". (Published in the letter of Helena Roerich 1935-1939 vol-II).

Nicolas Roerich was concerned with ecological problems, though early for his time but quite precisely pouring his far-sightedness. He wrote that the thoughtless altitude of humanity to nature can turn the planet into a naked golf ball. He wrote that if forests are destroyed, the resultant onslaught of deserts will be nature's revenge that the time may then come when no life will remain in our rivers. He wrote what a horror it would be if Earth should be devoid of the music of sparrow, murmur of the deer in the forest, gurgling of the stream singing of the birds, resting of leaves and roar of waterfall.

What worse, the present world is fighting with the ecological problems about which the ecological problems about which Roerich had cautioned earlier. Melting of glaciers, rising levels of seas and oceans, extinction of various plant and animals, spcies, ever increasing water and air pollution fluctuating weather conditions, sharp rise and fall in temperature and decreasing numbers of trees are some of the forms in which the mother nature is taking her revenge and which could have been averted, by taking Roerich prophecies seriously.