

THREE MASTERS - ONE MESSAGE

“Toward the One, the perfection of love, harmony and beauty, the Only being...”

–Hazarat Inyat Khan

Beauty is truly “food” for the soul: essential for individuals and civilisations.

We experience beauty as expressed in the grandeur of sunsets, waterfalls, moonlit waters: beauty as revealed in great literature, paintings, sculpture and architecture; beauty as heard in the symphonies of the great composers, and beauty of thought in philosophy, mathematics, astronomy and pure science.

The appreciation of beauty uplifts and inspires us to express our most elevated Self.

The lives of three spiritual giants of the last century exemplify this truth. Excellence of artistic expression, magnificence of nature, and unifying truths of all religions –these are cherished values of three masters, whose lives overlapped in disparate parts of the world. Their teachings offer comfort and encouragement in these challenging times on our beleaguered planet.

Hazarat Inyat Khan, 1882 – 1927, was born in India, a brilliant musician, inspiring orator, spiritual teacher of great radiance, who brought Sufism to the west in 1910. Nicolas Roerich, 1874 – 1947, was born in Russia, visionary artist, archeologist, explorer, spiritual pioneer created the Peace Pact; Edmund Bordeaux Szekely, was born in Transylvania, no one knows when, died in 1978, was a multi-linguist, archeologist, explorer of ancient cultures, the revivalist of the Essene teachings (living by the laws of nature) and wrote voluminously.

All three masters recognised the importance of beauty - creating it, appreciating it, immersing oneself in it. They knew that beauty is essential for personal and societal evolution.

I find myself wondering if as “citizens of the world” their paths crossed during their many travels. At various times all three had been in the United States, where their influence began to take root. If they had, I imagine the exquisite joy they would have felt in each other’s presence.

Rather than debate the aesthetics of beauty, I will quote from the English poet Keats, “A thing of beauty is a joy forever. Beauty is truth and truth beauty”.

Albert Einstein’s son was quoted on a recent CBC broadcast saying, “ My father was concerned that his theories were correct, yes, but even more concerned that they were beautiful”. The Native American song, “I walk in Beauty” links with many other traditions that elevate beauty to a position of honour.

Many of us experience viscerally the difference between good and great art. Good art entertains; but great art transforms - it moves us deeply and touches our soul.

In a time of societal decline, the message and creations of these masters, can bring inspiration, joy and inner peace.

Honouring beauty, however one perceives it- in nature, the arts, or pure abstract thought can be powerful “medicine”. Indeed, beauty can literally save one’s soul.

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