



RED SHAMBHALA

Magic, Prophecy, and Geopolitics in the Heart of Asia

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Excerpt taken from Chapter 7

NICHOLAS AND HELENA ROERICH: PEOPLE OF THE GREAT PLAN

As Nicholas and Helena explained to their adepts, on the morning of October 6, 1923, someone knocked on the door of their room at Lord Byron Hotel. George Roerich opened the door. The visitor introduced himself as a clerk from the Paris Bankers Trust. The clerk quickly handed him a mysterious package and immediately departed. When Helena, George and Nicholas opened the package, they found a small box inside decorated with silhouettes of a man, woman, kingfisher, and four gothic letters engraved “M” on the edges. However, the real surprise was inside the box itself – a black shiny aeroliths stone. The next day from Paris, telegrams flew to all associates of the Roerichs in various countries: lo and behold, the Great White Brotherhood entrusted the Roerichs with the sacred Chintamani stone. This magic jewel, which possessed incredible power, was to be carried on their Asian expedition and be delivered to the Shambhala kingdom.

In Tibetan Buddhist tradition the Chintamani stone is known as a wish-granting gem. Ferocious deities, protectors of the Tibetan Buddhist faith, were frequently portrayed on sacred scrolls holding this stone. On these scrolls the Chintamani is depicted as either an ordinary jewel or a stone engulfed in flames – this theological link to the Roerichs’ Agni (Fire) Yoga might have been a reason why they were attracted to this sacred item. The Roerichs described Chintamani as a powerful occult geopolitical weapon that would help their Asian mission. Now they could act not only as prophets who could fulfill wishes by using the “wish-granting gem,”

but also as protectors of the Buddhist faith: “The stone draws people like a magnet. Entire nations can rise up if one lifts the stone up. An enemy can be destroyed if you say his name three times looking at the stone. Only people who are pure in their spirit and thought can look at it.”²⁸ It is highly probable that George Roerich, a professional student of Tibetan Buddhism who was shrewd in intricacies of this tradition, fed the Chintamani legend to his parents who then layered on it their own personal mythology and then manufactured the entire story about the mysterious gift.

The fantasy of the couple moved further. The Roerichs wrote to their friends that the Chintamani was not only about Asian tradition. The magic gem was also known to the ancient Druids and to European bard singers (Meistersingers) as *Lapis exilis*. The stone “delivered” to the Roerichs was wrapped in a piece of old fabric that has an image of the sun with mysterious Latin letters inside the sun circle: I.H.S., which might be rendered as “In hoc signo [vinces]” (“by this sign [you will win]). The same Latin abbreviation was inscribed on the banner of Constantine the Great, the famous Roman emperor who was the first to legalize Christianity. Weaving Buddhist and European mythology together, the Roerichs argued that the Chintamani magically disappeared and then reappeared at crucial historical moments to be handed to the righteous ones who guided humankind to a better future. Of course, the righteous people were the painter and his wife.

Armed with the power of the sacred stone, on December 2, 1923, George, Helena, and Nicholas, the three Shambhala warriors, reached Bombay. By railroad, the family quickly traveled to northern India where they stopped in the town of Darjeeling (a corrupted version of Dorje Lingam (Hard Penis),²⁹ the capital of Sikkim. Here, in the “hard” town, famous for the tea that grows in the area, the Roerichs established their temporary base. For their residency they picked up not just any house, but a small summer cottage called the Palace of Dalai right on southern slopes of the Himalaya; the place was once used by the 13th Dalai Lama when he had to flee from the wrath of the Chinese in 1910. The painter and his wife feasted their eyes on the picturesque site surrounded by mighty cedar trees. From their windows they could enjoy a divine view of the Himalayan ranges and valleys.³⁰ Somewhere north of these mountain ranges lay mysterious Shambhala and her prophecies, waiting to be stirred and awakened.

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