The greatest hope of humanity pinned on the Stone is being revived.

ELENA ROERICH, Diary, 10 September 1923

On 14 May 1923 the SS Mauritania carrying the three Roerichs – the artist, his wife and their younger son – anchored at Cherbourg, France. Yuri was out at the landing-stage to welcome them and thence they all moved further to Paris. There the Roerich couple and Sviatoslav put up at the Hôtel Lord Byron on rue Lord Byron in the very center of the French capital, an important detail to remember. The hotel was recommended to them by M-me Shkliaver who had stayed there before because it was relatively inexpensive and had a telephone service.

Meeting with Yuri nine months after was certainly a happy family reunion yet there was the thorny question of Yuri’s marital plans still pending. It needed to be settled right away before they went to India. The elder Roerichs must have put more pressure on their stubborn son to talk him out of marriage and he, despite his Tamerlane’s warrior spirit, could not resist any more. It was finally decided to relegate the issue to the supreme competence of the Master who alone knows what is good for his chosen ones. A vague reflection of the uneasy talks in the family can be found in some of Morya’s clumsy messages channeled by Elena-Urusvati in the latter half of May:

20 May. Urusvati is right. Manziarily should be told about friendship only.

21 May. We don’t see marriage... Udraya has disobeyed the Order, stirred up the waves of old karma... a good lesson for Tamerlane.¹

¹ Rerikh, E. 2009, 298, entries for 21 and 22 May 1923.
The Master warned the Roerichs that violation of his edifying *Ukaza*, being his Orders, Instructions, and Counsels at the same time, could be very harmful for them. A further important message was channeled on May 28 which spoke rather cryptically of a “miracle” (*chudo*) being sent to Yuri (Udraya). “I sent the miracle of affirmation (*chudo utverzhdeniia*) to Udraya. This marks the beginning. Udraya will understand the miracle”. The Russian word *utverzhdenie* can also mean “persuasion”, “confirmation” and even “strengthening” which suggests some disagreement between Yuri and his parents. The Teacher’s earlier message of May 27 seems to support this assumption: “Yuri can easily return to you, but let him have pure thoughts”. But what seems even more surprising is Morya’s promise of *Chudo* – Miracle, since in the first Agni-Yoga book published in the same year 1923 the Teacher “abnegated” the manifestation of miracles: “One should discard miracles as a means of persuasion, because miracles have never convinced”.

On May 25 the Roerichs were joined in Paris by Nettie and Louis Horch and shortly after that they all set out on a sightseeing trip across Europe (France, Italy and Switzerland). Mara did not accompany them although she wanted to very much. Her letters to Yuri written in June – August from Paris, London, Vienna and Erwald show how much she was in love with him and how badly she suffered her separation. “I can’t imagine my path without you. In a few years, maybe in Russia, we shall live together”. Like Yuri, she believed in the Master’s supreme wisdom and providence, and that He would surely unite her with her beloved sooner or later, as they were already karmically connected. This, however, was not to happen. Both Yuri and Marcelle would sacrifice their love to the great cause of their Master, the one they believed in so faithfully.

Before leaving Paris, Elena Roerich visited a physician because of her disturbing heart condition. This was one Dr Lapeyre who diagnosed his patient with “cardiac neurosis” also known as *hysteria magna* to medieval physicians. According to Lapeyre, some catholic saints, such as St. Therese and St. Catherine of Sienna, suffered from the same illness. This was not the first time that Elena went to a doctor – in February 1923 a physician in New York determined that she had “a poor heart” and advised her to avoid “any agitation”. Dr. Lapeyre's diagnosis, as soon as Elena Ivanovna heard it, gave a new turn to

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2 Ibid., 300.
4 Quoted from Mara’s letter to Yuri Roerich from Vienna, 18–20 July 1923; see Rosov 2002d, 35.
5 E. Lichtmann’s diary, Notebook 7 (1930), 26.