

The Living God

A161 Sunday Address 5th May 1946 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

The text of this address is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from *Angelus*, June 1946, which also gives the date.

Context: a service three weeks after Easter, which fell on 14 April; the reading is said to have been one of the accounts of the Resurrection (see 'References'). It would therefore be looking towards the feast of the Ascension, a moment in the life of Jesus which is quite thoroughly explored in this address. In 1946 Ascension Day would have been Thursday, 30 May. On this occasion White Eagle seems to have been fully preoccupied with the Christian story, and not with the Buddhist festival of Wesak, which would have fallen after, on 16 May.

General Notes: the general theme is how those from spirit reach out to us on earth, and of how mastery is learnt, but this is an address with much that is almost unique in White Eagle's teaching within it. There is an interesting interpretation of Jacob's dream in the fourth paragraph, and a moment in which White Eagle describes the esoteric significance of Jesus's hands and feet being pierced on the cross. Also unusual to this teaching is the discussion of the three days that passed between the crucifixion and the resurrection. White Eagle also talks further of the 'I AM', a concept he had explored in the previous address, of 7 April.

References: 'Eat, drink and be merry' is from Ecclesiastes 8 : 15 (and often conflated with 'for tomorrow we die', which is Isaiah 22 : 13 and 1 Corinthians 15 : 22); the rest of White Eagle's two sentences are his own addition. For Jacob's dream, see Genesis 28 : 10-12. The Resurrection is recounted in each of the gospels, but there is more detail in John 20-21. The reference to being 'caught up in a cloud, a mist' is to the ascension of Jesus, in which, according to Acts chapter 1, he ascended into heaven and was caught up in a cloud which hides him. Behind the reference are the others in the bible who have 'ascended' without death. Elijah was caught up in whirlwind, and both Paul (2 Corinthians 12 : 2) and John (Revelation 4 : 1-2) seem to have had the experience of rising into heaven and returning. White Eagle also seems to refer to the times Jesus escaped from the crowd or from arrest by simply dematerialising (see, for instance, John 8 : 59). 'I am the way, the truth and the life' is John 14 : 6.

White Eagle's Address:

It has always been the law of God that angels and the illumined souls of men should minister to the children of earth. You are never left alone, even if unaware of the presence of those who are wiser and more loving than man.

This is the message which we are allowed to bring. There is no death! Nevertheless, death appears to be the enemy which robs you of your nearest and dearest. The stark fact of death looms before everybody. One day the angel of death will actually come! To many people this is a fearsome thought which they keep in the background of their minds and refuse to entertain, saying, 'Let us eat, drink and be merry and make the most of life while it lasts. We will not think about death'.

But, my brethren, it is not the happiest way to push away problems which should be faced, understood and resolved. Wise men and women are they who search for truth and understanding of the mystery of life and death – who search for truth and understanding of the mystery of life and death, who search not only with intellect but with loving hearts that know and feel the divine presence. Such men and women welcome the message which comes

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from those who have passed through the ordeal of death and are therefore able to speak not only from their own experience but speak also of the truth which they have learned in the halls of wisdom in the spiritual life. Although you are surrounded by these spheres of spiritual life, because they are of a different rate of vibration from the physical, the physical senses are unable to receive contact. When man learns how to develop his spiritual senses and to open the windows of his soul he is able to register the vibrations of the spiritual worlds. He is able to see the inhabitants of these heavenly worlds. He is also able to see the visitors who come to talk to him from these spiritual realms.

This is not a new truth. Throughout the ages, in all the ancient religions which were inspired by the wisdom of God, the visits of the angelic messengers are recorded. Men who have studied their Scriptures know that visitors from the heavenly spheres have constantly come back to the earth. The symbol of Jacob's ladder with angels descending to minister to the earthly and ascending to the throne of God is a symbol of man's life, indicating that man came forth from God and descended through the planes of spirit life, taking on the clothing of each plane: the soul; the mental body; the astral body of the emotions; and lastly the physical body. Because man was clothed at last so heavily the vision of these spheres of light from which he came has faded from his memory. It is said, 'From God man comes; to God man returns', but God has given to His child certain inherent gifts. Within man's heart lies the power, if he so wish, to ascend through those planes which he has descended; but as he ascends the ladder on his return to God he takes with him the harvest of his lives – not of one incarnation only but the whole cycle of his incarnations. When man thus returns to the heart of his Creator he is filled with glory and in full consciousness of his sonship with God, of his Christhood.

Brethren, we would help you to understand what death symbolises. To many, to most of you, to all of you perhaps, death is something to be dreaded. Beloved brethren, the morbidity and sorrows which accompany the death of the physical body are not due to the will of God, but are the creations of man's earthly mind. When death enters your home, remember that the arisen one has passed through a very beautiful experience and has been born into a life of happiness where he is offered fresh opportunity to learn and to understand the reason for many of the things he failed to understand on earth. Yes, death is an eternal symbol. When men understand, this they will no longer grieve when the angel of death draws near.

We have been listening to a reading describing the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. He had been crucified: the thought of the physical body being nailed upon a cross is peculiarly unpleasant and terrible. Yet this was the Roman method of punishing criminals and it was commonly inflicted at this time. We cannot tell you all there is to be told about the mystical interpretation of the piercing of the hands and feet, but we say in passing that hands and feet are centres of psychic force. You will realise this because of the healing power which passes through the hands and the healing forces which can be received through the feet. The piercing of the side of the Master so that the blood and water poured forth is symbolic of the union or marriage of the soul with the spirit. This takes place when the soul passes through the initiation of Christhood, when the soul of the man and the divine spirit, or the Christ spirit, become wedded as one, and the final initiation of earth has been accomplished.

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Now, crucifixion awaits every living soul of man. Christ nailed upon a cross stands as a symbol. Death itself is a symbol of what actually takes place in the spiritual evolution of every man and woman. It is actually the death of the lower self. It is the passing through the ordeal of the destruction, the overcoming of the self of earth; and it is also the triumph of the higher, the Christ self. The purpose of life on earth is this, that every living soul should become subservient to the Christ spirit – and this brings about the ascension of that soul into heaven. Does this mean that you will eventually be caught up in a cloud, a mist, and disappear from sight? Not necessarily, although those who are called Masters can at will appear in a physical body, and also at will project from their body such a light that it envelops the form in a mist and they are lost to human vision. The Master Jesus did this on more than one occasion when He withdrew from the crowd. How then does the Master attain to this degree of power?

Every Master has at some time walked the selfsame path as you are now walking and the attainment of mastership comes through one way and one way only – by the path which the Master Jesus trod and which all the saints and saviours throughout the history of the world have also trodden. It is the way of the spirit – the patient, gentle, humble, tranquil, loving way of life. This is the way of which the Master Jesus spoke when he said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life’. He did not mean Jesus the person. He meant the God within, the I AM, the I AM who was and is and ever shall be. I AM before the world was. I AM the inner voice, the divine spirit within every individual which directs the way of life for that soul.

Our last point. When this development takes place in man he ascends above the pettiness, the sorrows, the selfishness and the fears of earth into a condition of tranquillity, joy and eternal peace – not that he passes away from the physical body necessarily, but whilst still functioning in a physical body he may ascend at will to his Father in heaven. Therefore he knows God and God’s life. Because he knows God and God’s life and the meaning of the mysteries, he has but one desire. This is to help his brethren who are still in the valley. He has developed a deep compassionate love and he longs to help those who are climbing up the mountain to the golden summit. This, my brethren, is what the Masters, the great White Brotherhood in the spheres of knowledge and understanding are working for - to raise mankind from the degradation into which it has fallen to that golden life which was in the beginning. Why did man ever leave that state of bliss, the Garden of Eden? He left it to develop his God powers and his God consciousness. He followed the path of spiritual evolution, descending from the heights of spirit into the depths of matter in order to acquire the strength and the wisdom of God within. Then he returns on the upward arc to rejoin the Creator of his soul.

Beloved, Christ was crucified. The lower self died, the body was laid in the sepulchre for three days. On the third day it rose again. Some of the ancients taught that these three days were symbolic of the sun, which was supposed to remain immovable in the heavens at the time of the summer solstice. Others taught that this was a period of readjustment, a period of waiting after the soul had overcome the lower self, before it was able to live again in full consciousness. The three days represented, then, a time of readjustment, a time of perfect balancing between what is called evil and what is called good. Because after the death of the lower self the soul is able to see clearly the two aspects of good and evil, and the two become

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unified in the soul because the soul has attained perfect equilibrium, perfect Christhood, perfect sonship with God. God *lives* in mankind, both good and evil, and the great message man needs today is this: he must know that he is spirit, that God dwells in him and in every man, and every man too must live to glorify God, to glorify the physical body which God has given to him for his manifestation on the physical plane. God must become alive in the human heart and must not be thought of as away in some remote heaven with no thought of care for His Child on earth. God must be brought right through into the physical life of man.

This applies not only to the individual but to nations. Every nation will have to learn the same lesson and follow the same path as the individual. Every nation must learn to crucify its lower self and to walk the path of spiritual life and light. This will come. Make no mistake. Do not let depressing thoughts be a deterrent to your efforts to bring into earthly life the light and the power and the wisdom and the truth of the living God, for as you live to express the divine light in your life so will this light radiate and touch other souls. Your work and our work is to awaken men who are sleeping, some the sleep of death. All must be quickened to the life and to the truth of the Christ spirit in man.

With this we leave you, beloved brethren. May you all be receptive to the baptism of the spirit. May you all be aware of the teachers, the saviours, the Masters of mankind; for they are with you and they are waiting for your service, for your co-operation to bring into the world the light of God.

The search matches with either words and phrases, which appear in the text, or the following 'key' words and phrases, which are similar in meaning to those in the document:

man is never alone, fear of death, crucifixion, descending and ascending the planes of life