

The Universality of Life

A342 Sunday Address 24th September 1961 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Service

Text: one of MB's unmistakable typescripts, a rather pale blue carbon copy. In the fourth paragraph, we follow the typist in the phrase 'stimulated by the Son' but suspect White Eagle may have meant, 'stimulated by the sun'.

Context: the typist once again sets out the whole of the service so that we know the hymns were 'We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land', 'Come, ye thankful people, come' and 'God is working his purpose out'. The choir sang an anthem before the address, given as 'Praise God in his holiness' – this would either have been a straight chant of Psalm 150, or the more elaborate setting by Sir Charles Stanford (1852-1924). White Eagle seems to have been moved by it, and the swelling sounds of the Stanford seem likely; MB herself describes it as 'beautifully rendered'. The reading was Aquarian Gospel 34 : 1-22. This tells the story of Jesus in Kapavistu, India, where he tells a parable about pruning. 'The gorgeous forms and rites of men are branches, and their words are leaves ; and these have grown so great that sunlight can no longer reach the heart; there is no fruit (15). Later White Eagle particularly commends the beauty of this parable. MB states she has typed Minesta's invocation, but separately.

General Notes: this is an untypical Harvest address in that White Eagle does not immediately speak of the gifts of life. Rather, he speaks of all levels of life being inseparable. Later in the address he reminds us that 'thy neighbour' in 'Love thy neighbour' is all life. Next he turns to the opposing wheels of good and evil and our power of choice. Other teachers have said that the crucial choice is best understood not as being between good and evil, but between love and fear. Choice – a choice such as this – is a major theme of this address. There is a very strong injunction to love, whatever the reaction a loving outreach is met with. After, there is a really strong message against shedding the blood of animals for food. He looks beyond this to the point where we will not even need fruits from the earth – although he seems then to contradict this. The final part of the address can scarcely be summarised, but is all about the future which can be created for all by the people of vision.

References: 'Love thy neighbour as thyself' is Matthew 22 : 39, while 'do as you would be done by' is the Golden Rule, which goes back at least as far as Confucian times, but is found in nearly all traditions. The parable of the vine is John 15 : 1-17 (almost the only parable in John); it is not, properly, about pruning but it does talk about what is unwanted being burnt. The story of Jesus cursing the fig tree is at Mark 11 : 12-25 and Matthew 21 : 19.

White Eagle's Address:

We bring all love to you, dear brethren of the earth life.

The music vibrates far up into the higher ethers, drawing to this service the spiritual love and the power of the Christ spirit and His angels. Music, dear brethren, plays a very large part in the evolution, the spiritual evolution of life on earth. You notice that we say life, and not merely humanity, because we do not separate any level of life. All life is from one Source; from the tiniest speck to the greatest lord and avatar, even the Son of God.

Now, this is the special message which is coming to you from the Great White Lodge, and by this is meant that heart or centre of truth. There are many roads to that heart, but there is only one heart of truth, and all creation is attached to that heart.

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Now this is almost impossible for you in your finite life with your finite mind to comprehend – the universality of life – and how each level and each degree of life is attached to all life. And it is for this truth that we come to bear witness and to be an instrument.

We see around us the demonstration of love, human love, the love of the great mother Earth, love of the fairy world, the unseen world, the love of many levels and spheres of activities. You sing of praise and thanksgiving to the Giver, the Lord, the Creator. You sing with your lips. Your emotions are stimulated by the Son. You respond to the outpouring of spiritual force upon this gathering. And you are making your contribution to all good, to God, the Universal Spirit. And this Spirit is law, spiritual law, which runs all through life. There are two aspects, two great wheels working one against the other, just as the corn is ground into flour for the baker. These wheels continue to turn in life. You call these two opposing wheels and yet, although they are opposing, they are working according to law, a spiritual law. You call these two wheels good and evil. We must all remember that every soul sent forth from that Divine Heart of Love and Truth was sent forth with the greatest gift, the gift of choice. This is a very difficult problem for you to understand; good and evil.

Now we will not go into all the pros and cons of these great forces which are at work – not on this occasion, we will not – but on another occasion we will deal with this problem. For tonight, we want you to know that you, that we, that all of us, have been given this power of choice. We are constantly exercising that power. You may not always be conscious of it; nevertheless it is going on in you, in all of us: the choice between good and evil.

We recognise another Divine Law which also runs all through life; cause and effect, named by our Eastern Brethren – karma.

Now, as soon as human life commences on earth the law of karma is at work, so man suffers. He suffers the pain, the hurt of cruelty, unkindness, sickness, injustice, hardship; all those things which you call 'evil'. Man suffers and suffers blindly because he does not understand why he suffers. Until he reaches a certain level of spiritual awareness of Divine Law, he suffers blindly.

We look upon the sufferings of mankind, all of us, you as well as those of us who are disembodied. We pray to give, to the suffering ones of earth, help. This is our sole motive for coming amongst you, talking to you of a God of Love. God is *all love*, my brethren. And you, we, all of us, have been given the power of choice, and the choice as to whether we will give love or make a contribution to the accumulated evil in life. These two immense forces man is able to affect. You may doubt these words, my brethren, but surely the time will come when all men will see that God is love and love is the only way of life, because the teeming life on this earth plane is united in the one Spirit – God.

Do not expect the world of man to immediately change. But you may expect, if you look for it and work for it yourself, a gradual progress; a spiritual evolution slowly, slowly taking place in life. And so we rejoice with you. We rejoice, we praise. We thank God for the promise of a rich golden harvest.

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As you are in the physical body you are limited by a finite mind. Therefore it is almost, indeed it is impossible for you to get an answer to every earthly question which crops up in the earthly mind. Therefore all you can do, if you truly recognise your brotherhood with all life and your sonship to the Great White Spirit, all you can do is to be patient and patient and patient. At the same time, look within. Study your own weaknesses. Look to your Creator to bless you, bless you with His love so that His love within you brings *light* into your consciousness and into your mind.

No doubt you have heard many times the injunction to be patient. Some people think that by being patient they are doing nothing. They are seeing all the evil in the world and they are doing nothing to restore good. But this is where man, in his limitation, makes the greatest mistake.

Every living being, man woman and child, all human souls have the power to help in this evolutionary process. Every soul has within its power to give love to the rest of life. There are the very simple platitudes. The injunction, 'Love thy neighbour as thyself. Do not do unto another what you wouldn't like to have done to you.' Even the Great beloved Brother, Lord Jesus Christ gave this as his whole message; 'Love God, love thy neighbour as thyself'. Who is thy neighbour? Your neighbour is all life, the brother, the sister by your side, all the world of life, all creation.

O God, may we love and love! The earthly mind pops up with excuses. Why should a man not love his brother man? Usually it is fear which prompts the excuses. Fellow man does not accept the love of his brother man. Take no – do not resort to – excuses, dear brethren. Stand on your own feet. Be true to your son-ship to God, to the brotherhood, to your fellow creatures. Obey the law. When this is done, karma will in due time put all things in order because it is the Divine Law of balance. It restores equilibrium in life; peace, crooked places straight. It brings all harmony, beauty, perfection, happiness. And man must follow this path and we suggest that you try it. Try earnestly now to practise this law of love and equilibrium.

We spoke of the penetration of the rays of light from the Heaven World, and even from beyond the Heaven World – from the Christ Spheres. Now these forces are playing upon this earth, playing upon you, because in a gathering of this nature, the mists, the fog of physical prejudice and pride is all a little clearer so these forces can reach, come right into your heart. All around us we see the evidence of this power; this power of the Light. As it penetrates physical matter, it penetrates the earth. It stimulates and creates life. It causes growth. As soon as the light of the Sun, the spiritual Sun, penetrates matter it stimulates growth.

You say, 'We praise and we thank God'. 'We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's Almighty Hand.' And here you see the result of that spiritual law.

Now there are many people who think that nature works without any Divine Intelligence. It just happens! It is a law of nature. But there is something, something coming into matter, which is intelligent, which is working according to the Divine Law, which is *love*. Fruits of the earth feed the physical body of man. Fruits and grain; all this is sufficient to feed the

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physical body. Many men and women demand the blood of animals. They want to slay the animals to eat. When man sheds blood, he is committing a sin. The shedding of blood draws to man and to the earth plane the forces of destruction, the forces of evil.

Now in the more enlightened days in which you are now living and will live on into, there will be no shedding of blood of animals, birds or fish in the sea. There will be ample harvest of fruits and grain and seed. This is indicative of the process of the refining of the physical body.

Now in due time – we cannot speak in numbers because in spirit numbers to record time are of no account – but we can assure you that in future the physical body of man will become more ethereal, *more ethereal*, and it will feed upon the finer states of life until eventually it will not even need the fruits of the earth. It will not require physical matter to feed it, because it will draw all its sustenance from the higher ethers.

Now if you pursue this thought, you will understand that a form of fruit and grain can be in a higher ether. In the spirit world we have beautiful fruits. We absorb and we taste the fruit. We absorb the force from the grain. We do not have to cause pain or suffering and any [*word missed by stenographer*] for sustenance. And this may be perhaps a little beyond your acceptance at the moment. Nevertheless, we want you to think about these things, to think about God and goodness and love. To live according to love's law. To be kind to Mother Earth, be kind to one another, be careful and kind to the animal kingdom and to the world of nature, to the vegetable kingdom. We hear the word, 'vegetable'. 'How do we hurt the vegetable when we eat it and the fruit when we eat it?' Not in the same way as the animal is hurt by the shedding of blood. The absorption of the fruits of the earth is the right way and the way that man particularly in the New Age is intended to live.

Now before we leave you, we would just draw your attention to that beautiful teaching of our beloved Jesus the Christ, that he so beautifully gave; that parable of the necessity for pruning the vine. Man of earth rejected the pruner's knife, but the Master said, 'The pruning knife is the instrument God uses to produce the finest fruit'. All of us, as we journey along the path, we all have to undergo the operation of pruning. We do not like it. Maybe we cannot understand why we have to suffer loss and pain and separation. The pruner's knife is the kindest instrument, and if man will accept the inevitable removal of these things in life which have served their purpose and are unwarranted; if he will accept this inevitable law, then he will grow in spirit.

The leaves which covered the vine were the leaves of material life, material thought; too much physical, mental exercise and not enough contribution to life of love and service to his fellow being. Jesus, in your Christian Bible, spoke of the same truth. He demonstrated it when He cursed the fig tree. This is a great puzzle to many people. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree? The fig tree, the same as the vine, was overloaded with leaves and making a great pretence of being a fine vine and a fine fig tree – like many men and women [who] make the pretence of being advanced spiritually because they are crammed with a lot of mental knowledge. They think they know everything and therefore they are nearest to the right hand of God. All that is outward show, like the leaves on the fig tree and on the vine. And Jesus,

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you remember, cursed the fig tree because it was not bringing forth rich beautiful fruit. The fruit is what matters. And in human life it is the fruit, the spiritual fruit than man produces and this is in living, serving humbly, meekly, patiently – not with fine words and great display, but quietly behind the scenes maybe in the home, in the back woods, in the quiet places and also in life in all its grandeur. The humble server who takes no credit for anything that he does for his fellow creatures; any contribution he makes to life, to the good of all, is the fruit which he is giving – the fruit of his spirit.

Be on the alert, dear brethren, to distinguish between the fruit tree producing sound ripe fruit and the tree which is smothered in hairy leaves and is therefore top-heavy. Words, words, words: and the other, service, service, service; denying self and serving with love and humility.

We leave you now, children of earth.

We would describe to you the presence of the great form of the Cosmic Christ embodied in the human form in the golden light – all light and love, bearing in His hands the corn and the grapes. Heavenly food, the law of karma, your daily life; the food which God sends you. And the grapes of the vine, the symbol of Christ's life; he offers these symbols.

Take. Eat. Drink the juice. Be filled. This is the true food. And if you will accept it continually and let it be your life, my brethren, you will rise in consciousness to see for yourselves the glory, the beauty of the life beyond. There is no separation between here and there. Life runs through all the ethers. When you drop the physical body, you just live on and on and on.

Our Father–Mother God, we thank Thee with all our love, mind and heart for these fruits of the earth and of Thy spirit.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Brother Faithful:

The advanced historian of the day is beginning to record the period of the First World War as one of, if not the, darkest eras of mankind.

And tonight we have been told how mankind is gradually lifting itself or raising itself out of its slough of despond. The message has been, I think, full of hope, full of encouragement, full of upliftment – and it is well followed by our hymn No. 300, 'God is working His purpose out'.

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:

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spiritual unfoldment, spiritual contact, light within, path of service, path of the soul, spiritual path, spiritual service, cause and effect, community, nature, animal cruelty, vegetarian, vegetarianism, vegan, suffering

