

On Remembrance Sunday

A232 Sunday Address 11th November 1951 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service for Remembrance

Text: another blue carbon, probably by MB and corrected by AMI, whose corrections are included here, and once again marked 'Draft'. A note above the heading identifies the reading (see 'Context'). The address was printed in the October 1952 *Stella Polaris*, but this text follows the typescript. However, the printed text provides the title, 'On Remembrance Sunday' – there is only a reference to the date in the typescript.

Context: in 1951, Remembrance Sunday fell conveniently on Armistice Day itself, 11th November – hence, 'On Remembrance Sunday'. The reading identified by the typescript was 'a short poem entitled O Lightened Heart', appearing on one of the Lodge Christmas cards and signed "J.C.". J. C. was probably Joan Cooke (though she was by then Joan Hodgson). There is a frustrating reference to the hymns and anthem in the second paragraph without the items being named. The words apparently touched upon 'the calm in the spiritual world': maybe one hymn was Whittier's 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind', with its last verse so focused on a peace far beyond the one the world can bring. 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence' is an even likelier possibility. It is an invocation of the Christ, and has been regularly sung at Remembrance in the White Eagle tradition. It would also fit with White Eagle's description at the beginning of 'tier upon tier' of shining brethren. It is a paraphrase of the Liturgy of St James the Just, one of the earliest Christian texts and possibly dates from the fourth century.

General Notes: White Eagle begins by promising to speak of peace, but quickly turns to the lives cut short in war who are particularly remembered at the time of this service. He makes an interesting point that the lives lost have (maybe on this occasion particularly) been harvested for the service they may offer in a 'great white army' in the heavens. He promises too that there is particular work they are needed for and an imminent blessing from the heavens – 'a great flashing of the light'. It is not clear what is alluded to here, or whether it has now happened or not. The next paragraph does however explain their particular work of building bridges between the etheric and physical worlds. In how White Eagle introduces his theme about communication with the worlds beyond, there is a seeming memory of the Festival of All Souls and All Saints, which immediately precede Remembrance. There is also, in the prayer of communion with those beyond, a hint or a feeling of the Bodhisattva principle (the work 'for the freedom of all souls'), as though one of White Eagle's higher Buddhist brethren came close. After, he returns to the theme of the saints, and thanks those present for hearing his 'wireless message' about the rose. This would seem to be a way of describing a message from spirit, not something broadcast on the radio.

White Eagle addresses a very reasonable question when he sets out why, when the desire of the brotherhood in spirit is for universal brotherhood on earth, Britain is somehow specially singled out as important. It is, he says, on account of the 'particular quality of spirit' found in Britain and symbolised by the rose. 'The rose is the symbol of the perfect soul.' Later, he somewhat mysteriously speaks of the 'great white army' of spirit taking up position in Britain. However, it seems that the reason for this is to inspire the people of Britain to work for the bringing together of all nations in harmony.

References: for 'not a sparrow falls' see Matthew 10 : 29; 'these are they who have come through great tribulation, whose garments are washed whiter than snow' is a familiar White Eagle marriage of Revelation 7 : 14 and the Transfiguration story (Matthew 17 : 2) or, possibly, Isaiah 1 : 18 or Psalm 51 : 7. The phrase, 'May the rose bloom on your cross' has masonic as well as Rosicrucian overtones. In White Eagle's reference to the 'rose of Britain', the red-and-white Tudor rose, uniting the houses of Lancaster and York, is particularly to be remembered.

White Eagle's Address:

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We come to bring to you a message from our world of spirit; a message from a great host of spirit people who are now here. We would that you could see the vast company all arrayed in tier upon tier in shining light and yet all looking very human and kindly. They look upon you, their own particular earthly friends and relatives, and long to be able to lighten your burdens and to quicken your vision of the heavenly life.

Now, one or two things which you have been singing in this service, words which have spoken of the calm in the spiritual world, inspire us to speak to you about this great tranquillity of life which exists beyond the noise and turmoil of the physical plane.

Now if you wish to communicate, or to hold communion with those who have passed into that purity and serenity and peacefulness, you must endeavour to cultivate within yourselves *peace*. Now you hear so much talk on your earth about peace. Indeed people discuss peace in very loud voices and with much argument and noise. Is this the way to peace? We think you will agree with us that the way to peace is through man's nature, through his soul and spirit and, if peace is desired by all peoples on earth, then they must practise peace in their lives. This is the way to peace; to concentrate upon the peaceful outlook, to become peace within oneself.

But tonight we are not speaking on the subject of peace only. We would on this occasion draw your attention once again to those who have, through sacrifice of their lives, paved the way for the establishment of this deep peace of life on earth. And in our remembrance we must think of all lives: lives lived by those who have passed beyond the veil, who have left behind on earth a sweet and tender memory and an impression on the ether; an impression of goodness and kindness.

We think on this occasion of those men and women who so cheerfully went forth at the call of duty to serve their beloved country. We think of them. We, who come to you from the spirit world, know them and we know that they are alive and working to establish the Christ light in humanity. We know that they laid down their physical bodies and that they are free from the burdens of the flesh; but they were called at a particular time in the spiritual evolution of mankind. They were called to join a great white army behind the veil.

And you may question this and wonder why this had to be. Our answer to your question is this. First of all, that sacrifice has a very spiritualising effect upon the soul and it releases the soul from that downward pull. Sacrifice causes an expansion of spiritual vision. It brings something to the soul which is very sweet and true and beautiful. Therefore, those men and women who sacrificed their lives for a great cause or with a desire to serve humanity and their God by so doing, bring about in themselves a hastened spiritual evolution. There is compensation for these young lives that appear to be cut short. Your Christian gospel tells you that 'Not a sparrow falls to the ground but your Father knows it'. How much more then with a human life that is cut short in an incarnation! The Father-Mother God has need of that soul.

Now, your reasoning mind will ask many questions about it but we do assure you that what we are saying is true. And every young life which is cut short through sacrifice and with a

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desire to serve a cause, or to nobly serve the country of its birth, that young life is given compensation in the world of spirit. And it is called to a service which can be undertaken by no other soul but the one, or all of them, those who have been called to the particular work which only they could do. We would have you think of these – your own brothers and sisters, husbands and fathers, and so forth, all your relatives – as being in this great white army so needed at this particular time in the spiritual evolution of mankind, because humanity is at a turning point. We cannot tell you all that lies before humanity at the present time, but we may say that there is a coming blessing upon the earth, and a great uprising of the Christ spirit from the heart of all people. And in some there will be a great flashing of this light. In others there will be a lesser flashing, but all souls will be touched. And those who have gone before are the pioneers of this new day which is shortly to dawn upon your earth.

Those souls who have recently passed – when we say recently, we are speaking of the past fifty years or so – those souls who have been recently called to this greater service, are in much closer touch with humanity, and they bring over to our side a certain quality of soul which is necessary to build the bridge, the white bridge, the etheric bridge between our world and yours. If they have recently come over, they bring with them a substance, a soul substance which is used in the building of the bridge. Now you will, in course of time, learn a great deal more about this etheric bridge which is being built between the two states of life. You may think of those you have apparently lost – but not really lost, *apparently* lost – as being very busy on [in?] the Father's and the Mother's work to assist in the spiritual emancipation of humanity. And those young lives we now remember.

We think of you, dear ones, labouring on [sic] the Master's service. We think of you with pride and thanksgiving. We hold you now in the silence of remembrance....

We humbly thank God for the memory of your companionship on earth and for all the good you have accomplished. And we pray, we pray that we may so live the remainder of our lives that we may be reunited with you and work with you for the freedom of all souls from darkness and fear, and pain and suffering. Amen.

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There are others that we must remember on the Day of Remembrance. These are the saints of all time. Do you ever think how much you earth people owe to saints of the past? No, not many people on earth realise how indebted they should be to every life lived on your earth which has left a fragrance, a beauty on the earth and in the ether. These are they who have come through great tribulation, whose garments are washed whiter than snow. These are they who have laboured, not for themselves, not for their particular period of life on earth but for the future generations. Let everyone present think of these sainted lives, lives of sacrifice and service, and give thanks to Almighty God for the lives of the saints and all the brave souls who have walked this earth plane with their vision fixed upon God, the Source of all that is good and true and just and beautiful.

And now, beloved ones, from the Day of Remembrance of these whom you have loved, we will concentrate now particularly upon this blessed isle of Britain. We would take for our

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symbol the rose. We were very pleased that some of our brethren here in the flesh had registered our wireless message concerning the rose and our desire to speak to you on the meaning of the rose because it has a special significance for you on this Remembrance Day.

We were very pleased to hear the poem read at the service, very pleased to see the beautiful roses in the Brotherhood Chapel and in the Sanctuary upstairs. We are speaking to our beloved faithful servers in this Lodge. Thank you for responding to our wish to have roses in the Lodge on this Day of Remembrance.

Now the rose, as you all know, is the symbol of your country, of this mystic isle. And you may wonder why we draw attention particularly to Britain on this occasion, when we continually speak of worldwide brotherhood. The message which is brought to you from the spirit world is of the brotherhood of nations. All men are your brothers. All countries come under the rulership of the King of kings. Why then do we select Britain and this mystic isle for special reference? Because, my brethren, there is in this mystic isle and in the hearts of the people, emanating from this island, a particular quality of spirit and this quality is spiritually symbolised by the rose. The rose is a fragrant blossom. It opens in the sunlight and it comes to perfection at the time of the summer solstice. The rose is a beautiful flower and is often used as a symbol of love. It is used as a gift of lovers. It is used as a symbol of spiritual attainment. You possibly have heard that in the ancient – we were going to say timeless – Brotherhood, the rose was held as a sacred symbol, or symbol of attainment, of [the] passing of the highest degree known to be possible whilst man is in the flesh. The rose is the symbol of the perfect soul, and the perfect soul is recognised very, very faintly, recognised by mankind as the Son of God, the Christ spirit.

The rose, therefore, is the symbol of the Christ spirit, the highest attainment possible by man on this earth plane. And in this Brotherhood, this ageless Brotherhood, which was yesterday, is today and will be for ever more, there is a sign which all the brethren understand. There are words used by the brethren and they are these; 'May the rose bloom upon your cross'. These words are used by all who understand the symbolism of the rose – and in your language they mean, may you, as my brother in spirit, so live your life that instead of you being stretched upon the cross of pain and suffering, the rose shall bloom at your heart, the rose shall cover your cross. In other words you, the soul, the brother, shall be triumphant over all life, over the limitations of life on this earth plane. Now, if you take the human figure with arms outstretched, you will see the form of the cross, and right in the centre of the breast is the heart – and that heart blooms in glory. It is the rose blooming in the centre of the cross. Now this is a symbol which you have often seen, but may not have realised its significance.

Now, what has this to do with our service today and with your mystic isle of Britain? We are going to answer that by asking you another question. Why is the rose the national symbol, your national symbol, the Rose of England, because the rose as a flower did not originate in this island? It was brought to this island as a symbol and the rose has blessed this island. The Presence of the Son, the cosmic Christ has blessed this island. You have demonstration of this exceptional and peculiar spirit here in this British family. And you have only to look back a few years to the protection which was given to this mystic isle. There might have been certain attacks upon it, but no foreign body was allowed to enter this island or to get roots here. And

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when your men and women flew in the air they received singular protection. We can assure you that over this mystic isle there was great vigilance of the spirit throngs; there was special protection. There was certain suffering of the people on this island, we know; that had to be. That also fitted into the great Plan. But there was special watchfulness, vigilance by the great Air Spirits and those who guarded this island.

Maybe you have heard reports, earthly reports, of many flying aeroplanes being seen by the enemy and those aeroplanes were not there as far as the earth people knew. And you have the stories given to you by the men who came over to our side of life that this island was protected by a great army of shining ones. And the reason for this was the Plan which the Master holds for the freedom of the whole world.

Now this does not mean only material freedom, it means a spiritual emancipation – and this island, because it has very ancient power here, is the place to which the white army is to come to inspire the minds and the hearts of the people here; because, as we told you, they have a peculiar, a special quality of consciousness. A special physical body composed or created from the very soil of this land. And you have a great opportunity, all of you in this island, to work for the upliftment and the spiritualisation of the whole world and for the establishment of a universal brotherhood, for the establishment of a world united. You speak now of United Nations, but that is only just a shadow of what is to come. And this great brotherhood can only be brought to you by the spirit of the rose; the spirit of the Son, Christ. And your country holds in its centre, in its heart, this ancient symbol of the White Brotherhood, and it is for every man, woman and child here in this island to understand the symbol of the rose, what it signifies and the power which lies behind it. Why, the rose has a very prominent place in the symbols of your Royal House!

And so, we hold up for you all tonight this rose of your land: the rose, the symbol of the heart. And this mystic isle *is* the heart, and it contains within it the ancient story of a great peoples [*sic*]. You are, we were going to say, the remnants – but you do not understand your heritage. And when you people of this mystic isle do understand your heritage and rise up in the spirit of Christ, the spirit of Christ, the spirit of love, goodwill, justice and truth and love, you will then draw to yourselves all the nations. And although your Britain may not be great in the sense of material greatness, it may not be great in arms or in armaments, or in armies, navies or air force, but it will be great in its spiritual power. And this is the destiny of your island, for it is to rise in greatness spiritually and become the leader, the heart of the whole world – and to bring to fruition that ideal of universal brotherhood of life. And we speak to you with knowledge and with all the sincerity that we have.

This is our message. It is not a light one. It has great depths. And we earnestly ask you all to remember what we have said. Those who have left you and who have gone before have gone to prepare the way for you to follow. And all the saints of all time had the same vision and purpose; to bring down to the earth this spiritual life, this perfection of life and to bring into the lives of the people the great White Light which is imprisoned in so many sacred centres on your island.

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Now beloved brethren, we pray that a great peace will come to you. Not a peace of idleness, but a peace which is dynamic; a peace which will be as leaven in the bread. For the Bread of Life is what the world needs. May you play your part, dear brethren, in the feeding of the world.

May the Great White Spirit bless every one of you and comfort you and lift up your hearts, causing you to rejoice in your opportunities in this world and the world to come.

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:

life after death, etheric planes, Armistice Day, Rosicrucianism, war, community, United Kingdom, sacred places, ancient Britain, why people die in war, why Britain special, why Britain protected

