

By Cool Siloam

A304 Sunday Address 4th May 1958 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

Text: two typescripts survive, a top copy and a blue carbon in MB's familiar style. The top copy has been heavily worked on by IC, while the carbon has marks by YGH, but it is only on the second page of typing that YGH's marks are substantial. Paragraphs of this section indeed appeared in *Stella Polaris*, June-July 1958, as a filler, under the heading 'The Inner Path'. Later in the teaching there is a reference to 'the White Knight'. It is highly likely this is a mis-transcription of 'the Wise Knight' but there is inadequate evidence to change it. For this project, the title has been taken from within the script, but the address was printed in *Stella Polaris* in the February-March issue the next year, with the title 'Ever Greater Achievement'.

Context: MB says that the reading was the Introduction to the Aquarian Gospel, and that there was an anthem, 'By cool Siloam's shady rill'. The hymn version of this text by Reginald Heber, written in 1812, was maybe sung; or a more elaborate choir version of the same may exist. Notably, White Eagle describes it as a hymn. Once again, Brother Faithful adds thoughts at the end, and these have been reproduced. He also announced a change of the final hymn to 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind', with its words by J G Whittier. White Eagle was not listed to speak in April, despite Easter Sunday falling on the 6th.

General Notes: an overriding idea in this address is that truth and even greatness are found in tender simplicity, and the address seems to have both tenderness and simplicity, but it adds up to an immensely powerful statement of spiritual truth.

White Eagle's words are first led by the hymn/anthem, and he relates the image of the poem to both trust and truth. Promoting the quietness that the heart can bring, he says, 'the mental body is a very greedy body'. There is a paragraph on the awaking of the newly-passed-on soul on the other side of life: but White Eagle offers the description partly to show how harmony can itself be a tool in understanding. The thought continues through the next paragraph, and it is a very beautiful little essay on harmony and what the heart can deliver by way of understanding. A memorable quotation might be, 'this is what you are, what all of us are, little birds – little creations of the Great White Spirit, learning to fly, learning to grow'. There is an 'inner' explanation of the saying of Jesus, 'those who raise the sword perish by the sword' which forms an extraordinarily wide-ranging advocacy of the principle of non-violence. In the outcome, White Eagle accepts the Old Testament word 'dominion' in the context of man's relationship to nature, but shows that what it implies arises from the same tender understanding as must underlie all the relationships man has with life.

References: 'Even the very hairs of your head' and 'Not a sparrow' come both from Luke 12 : 7 and Matthew 10 : 30. The 'wings which were so frequently depicted on the stones' is possibly a reminder of the symbol of the winged disc, which we have from ancient Egypt, although that of the Plumed Serpent has, too, a sense of the ability to rise. 'God is a spirit ... and those who would worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth' is a rendering of John 4 : 24; the words would also have been familiar to members of the congregation from the anthem setting of them by William Sterndale Bennett, which was in the Lodge choir's repertoire (see, for instance, the address of 19 February 1939). 'Those who raise the sword perish by the sword' is Matthew 26 : 52. 'Everything works together for good for the man who loves God' is a rendering of Romans 8 : 28; White Eagle had made the same allusion in the Anniversary address on 2 March, two months earlier.

White Eagle's Address:

May the Great White Spirit bless you all, beloved brethren of the earth life.

May the spirit of love prevail in your lives and then you will comprehend the meaning of all that is happening to you.

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Our dear elder brother, Jesus, came as the messenger of the age with the old, old message to humanity to love; *to love one another*. Still the world is in a state of strife. We would have you understand that the conflict on your earth is in the Great Plan for the evolution of humanity. All is working together for good.

The spirit of brotherhood, the spirit of Christ the Son, is creeping into the hearts of men and women the world over. Be patient and remember that man is working through physical matter and there is bound to be conflict and confusion, because he has to learn through the spirit of Christ within him to overcome the pull of material and physical life. So do not be disheartened or look upon the world in despair, but know deep within your soul that all is working together for good to bring forth into manifestation the spirit of Christ in man.

You have been listening, as we have, to a beautiful hymn, 'By cool Siloam's shady rill the lily grows'. Now this is the very core of truth, and we have stated this many times, but we know you will patiently listen once more to this profound truth, because you all need constant reminding. You all need strengthening in your faith and trust in the invisible worlds and the messengers who come from that world to companion you on your journey through matter. But you all long to penetrate the mists of darkness and materialism and see for yourselves, to become certain of the invisible, the Eternal, life.

Now the Great White Spirit has planted within your breast the power which will open the gates of Heaven for you. Therefore, we say to you, remember the way which will take you to freedom. The way is the quiet way. Not the anxious, tumultuous, mental and intellectual way, but the quiet stillness within your own temple. There is a natural activity on the mental plane and the mental body is a very greedy body. You have arrived at this mental age and the development of the mental body. And you see evidence everywhere of the greed of man's mental body. We are not saying this is a bad thing – oh dear, no! It is all in the process of growth and evolution. All we say is a little warning to you who are searching for truth. Do not be overactive on the mental plane. Seek truth in the stillness and quietude of your inner self. By cool Siloam's stream: there you will find an indescribable, indefinable lesson. The voice of your Creator will speak to you in the cool of the evening. Remember that the way is the way of love and inner contemplation. Love in the heart brings tranquillity and trust. It unfolds lessons that every soul needs to learn.

May we tell you this, that so many souls who come over into the spirit world from the earth plane arrive in a state of confusion and do not know where they are at first. But very soon they are guided by both visible and invisible companions of the spirit to a quiet place, sometimes to a grassy bank where flowers are sweetly scenting the air and a gentle river is flowing by. And they feel all around them a happiness, a stillness, a joy and a peace. This condition causes them to ponder, to contemplate the beauty of life revealed all round them. But they must first absorb the spiritual atmosphere of quietude and pace. And when they are thus prepared, their eyes are opened to the companion, the guide and teacher of the spirit. There are no words of judgment nor condemnation: only encouragement, sympathy and understanding is given to them. They absorb the love of their companion and their surroundings. They learn very rapidly from the harmony and the perfection of the conditions in which they find themselves.

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Make no mistake, my children. When the soul leaves the physical body and comes into the spirit life it is met with tenderness and love. Did Jesus not say to His disciples, 'Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Not a sparrow falls to the ground but your Father in Heaven knows it.' You interpret these words physically and in an earthly way, which is quite right for you so to do. But remember that this truth applies [also] to spiritual worlds and to the whole spiritual Universe. Think of these things and you will find a sense of peace will enter your soul. You will, in times of stress and sorrow, feel, *feel* the Everlasting Arms of God, your Creator, the Great White Spirit with white soft wings, enfolding you, bearing you up. You will feel that you are part of the whole of life when the spirit of love, or the spirit of Christ – which is the same thing – takes possession of you. You will feel you are at one with all life and all people. You will know that you cannot inflict injustice or pain upon another creature without inflicting it on yourself. Moreover, you will know that in your dire need, in your loneliness, in your separation from loved ones, you will know (when this spirit comes flowing into your heart and enfolding you in its white wings) that all is well, for you are one with all life. You will feel the protection, the illumination, the upliftment and the peace of God.

Now, my children, most of you here are fully aware that you commenced your life as a spark or a seed of the Great White Spirit. You know that you descended from the heights, the highest heights of spirit life, to take up your physical embodiment for the purpose of developing the full God-consciousness. In other words, you were like a little bird sent forth from the nest to try its wings. And this is what you are, what all of us are, little birds – little creations of the Great White Spirit, learning to fly, learning to grow.

Remember, my children, the symbolism of the wings which were so frequently depicted on the stones, on the great ancient stones which have been (and still are being) discovered in the remotest places of the earth. The wings signify the power of man to rise above the heaviness, to escape from his imprisonment in the flesh. You do not need to die in your physical life to use your wings and soar into higher worlds. You have the wings. You have the power within you. What you have to overcome is the law of gravity, so-called.

Now men are now [*sic*] seeking to overcome the physical law of gravity, and they will succeed at the right time. But man has also to overcome the law of physical gravity as applied to his spirit and his spiritual nature.

Now my children, this message to you tonight we give in great earnestness. The world must awaken to the directing force of the Spirit, to the righteousness of the Spirit, to the power of the Spirit. Man is Spirit. God is Spirit. Those who would worship God must worship Him in spirit and in truth – which means that man must recognise that Spirit is the directing force on earth for the salvation, the liberation of mankind.

You will not accomplish anything by force of matter, of physical matter, because that force is consuming its darkness and it will consume those who use it. Did not Jesus say, 'He who uses the sword will perish by the sword'? Take a broad view of these words. Do not think of it only in terms of an actual physical sword slaying another. Think of it in the principle, the spiritual principle of life. He who would use force, whatever that force, is destructive. Force

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is bound to be destroyed. He who inflicts cruelty on the beasts of the earth will reap disease and cruelty in his own life. No kingdom should prey upon another kingdom. There must be the governing power of love. Love towards all creation, which means a tender appreciation of all that nature is giving to man.

Now man was given, or has been given, dominion over the earth, the earth life. Man has a noble destiny. The nobility of the human soul has been revealed to the world through every age. Always there has come to the prepared human vehicle or man, that perfected spirit of the Son of God demonstrating to the world the nobility of the human soul and the beauty of the Divine Spirit manifesting through that noble one.

And now we arrive at the new age, Aquarius, when a new manifestation will come to the world. The mortal mind will immediately commence to search and imagine this, that, and the other thing is going to happen. But the Lord comes in simple ways and usually manifests through the humble and simple souls. Look down the ages at those great ones whom you call teachers, saviours, seers and saints. You will be impressed by the humility and simplicity of their nature and their lives. The Lord comes in simple ways.

But you, my children, are pioneers of this new age which is dawning. You stand at the door of this glorious new age of the spirit. You have the great mission, whoever you are, however simple and lowly you are, and your mission is to live in the spirit and in the spirit of the Lord.

We see now the great white horse bearing the White Knight, travelling over the earth plane with the message of the Brotherhood. You can see this Messenger if you *will* to see him for he comes in a burst of light and power, the messenger of the new age who brings to mankind the vision. He awakens in man the spirit. He inspires man to find the way of truth in tranquillity, in purity of motive and purity of life.

We say unto you that you, as an individual, can be used if you will respond to the influence of love and the laws, the Divine Laws of life. You do not need to be told what these Divine laws are. Your own innermost spirit will tell you. If you will find 'the cool Siloam's shady rills', your spirit will tell you to be pure in life and to refrain from bitter criticism of anyone. You will say: 'Oh, but criticism means good'. It depends on the nature of the criticism. Gentle constructive criticism is good. Always live harmoniously, ever striving to enter those higher realms of life [and] even though the conditions are hard and bitter for you to bear in your physical life. Look up. Reach up. Rise in consciousness to the true world of spirit and you will be filled with strength and with light. You will have courage and you will never look back. You will look all around you and above you, and you will see the Love of God demonstrated on every hand.

Dear, dear children of the earth, peace be in your hearts. All is well and everything works together for good for the man who loves good or God.

The Shining Ones are by your side. Whatever your work, whether it is of a material or spiritual nature, they will help you to do that work nobly and honourably, and they will fill you with joy. And so you pass along the road of life eternally happy. This is the meaning of

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Eternal Life, the touching of that cosmic consciousness, that consciousness of the Great White Spirit pervading *all*.

There is no death, *no death*, my children. There is but a passing onward with new clothes towards greater freedom and a period of contemplation and review until that time arrives when you are full of energy, and desire to work in God's vineyard. And then a fresh putting forth in a new body which, pray God, you will use with greater wisdom and kindness to yourself than you have used your present body.

Remember: brotherhood, love, purity, faith; and onward, onward to greater and more glorious achievements.

God bless you, every one.

Let us thank the Great White Spirit for *all* His blessings.

Brother Faithful:

Are we our brother's keeper? Yes, to the extent that we influence or affect our brother. As we go home tonight in bus or train, our thoughts, our aura, what we are in our lives and souls will affect those who are near to us. And therefore, to some extent, we are our brother's keeper. And in the effect that the truth, the earnest and significant truth that we have heard tonight, affected us so we carry the light which is given to us out into the world.

And therefore tonight has been significant, not only in our own lives, but in all the lives that we contact.

Our last hymn changed to no. 481: 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways'.

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:

spiritual contact, light within, inner silence, heaven world, world of light, spirit world, heavenly garden, guardian angel, healing by the spirit, spiritual development, spiritual unfoldment, symbols, symbolism, cause and effect, karma, natural world, world of nature