

White Eagle's Anniversary Address

A187 Sunday Address 22nd February 1948 St Mary Abbots Place, London Twelfth Anniversary 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*, April 1948, where it carries the heading above; the reading is identified there too. A description of the service, with date, appeared in the editorial matter of the same *Angelus*.

Context: for a description of the context, see *Angelus*, April 1948, as mentioned under 'text'. There we learn that there were two anthems, 'Thou hast a work for me to do' by R. Walker Robson (words by W. R. Matthews), and 'Sing alleluia forth' by Eric Thiman. These, perhaps particularly the latter, inspired White Eagle to thank the choir for their 'joyful welcome'. We also learn that a new carved St John's Cross, copying the one on Iona and almost certainly carved by Brother Faithful, was on the altar for this service, for the very first time in a Sunday service. Another address is recorded in typescript and seems to be a rival candidate as the twelfth anniversary address. It described a special dedication of the cross in more detail. It can only be assumed that the other address was given at some special dedication service. Yet White Eagle begins that address, 'we would bring tonight...' so it cannot have been given in the morning.

The reading for the service printed in *Angelus* was the passage headed 'A Brotherhood Wide as the World' from THY KINGDOM COME; the same reading seems to have been used for the other service.

General Notes: White Eagle speaks of a message from the White Brotherhood that came through around 1933: 'Fifteen or so years ago a small group of men and women received a message from the White Brethren', the instruction being to help guide humanity through the 'years of fire'. It is not absolutely clear whether White Eagle is referring to his own brethren in the Lodge as it began to form, or whether he means the Polaire brethren (who shared the concept of the 'year of fire' – except that for them it was generally considered to be a single year); or whether he means both. Note also the prediction towards the end that with the twelfth anniversary the work of the Lodge will change and expand significantly. Maybe holding two services, one apparently for brethren and one for the public, marked the start of a plan?

References: 'It is easier for a camel', etc., is Mark 10 : 25 and Matthew 19 : 24. White Eagle's citation of those able to lay down the body without it disintegrating will not be as startling as he thinks to those who have read (for instance) Yogananda's AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A YOGI. 'I am the Way, the truth and the life' is John 14 : 6. The story of the twelve-year old Jesus in the Temple is told in Luke 2 : 41-52. It may seem scarcely worth noting the final 'Peace be with you', but in the Gospel of John chapter 20 (verses 19, 21, 26) this is the first phrase Jesus uses every one of the times that the disciples encounter him in his resurrected state after the crucifixion (but not in John 21, which some scholars believe to have been added by another hand).

White Eagle's Address:

We thank the Choir for the joyful welcome they have given to us all. We would like you to know that we as a group, as a brotherhood, rejoice with you also for the work accomplished by earnest men and women who have joined together with one selfless object. We praise God, and we thank God for our brothers and sisters who labour not only on each Sunday but throughout their lives to give forth into life a spiritual essence which can be likened to the perfume of a flower.

We would like to speak about the brotherhood invisible, which you are accustomed to refer to as the White Brotherhood, and which comprises countless numbers of souls dedicated to the

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Great White Light – and in which are many grades and many degrees of spiritual attainment and knowledge.

In the Brotherhood the least amongst us is as great as the greatest, for all are one in the sight of God. Your world of today would appear to have strayed far from brotherhood and from the injunction of the masters of the ages, for they have ever taught man to live from the spirit in kindness. They have urged man to give to his brother one vital gift of freedom of life, freedom of thought, freedom of choice; because the wise ones know that truth is implanted in every human heart. Given freedom the spirit in man will eventually, although maybe not immediately, arrive at truth and will lovingly recognise God as the power behind, the power which is the source of all life; the power which is both the centre of the circle and the hub of the wheel; the power which is cohesive, creative and eternal. Until man grows to recognise this power, to understand that the power is also within his own soul, the earth cannot emerge from darkness. When mankind recognises the truth within his own being and lives by and for the spirit in his brother man, then its whole vibrations will change.

We know that you try to put this same teaching into practice in daily life, but you become weary of well-doing; and because the other man does not immediately jump to attention and do what you think he ought to, you think that what we tell you may be all very well in theory, but does not work in practice. You ask, 'What are we to do?' and then enumerate a whole list of problems. It does not matter how numerous or troublesome is that list, the answer is ever the same. God is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent; God is the creative power, the only power which can change human life from unhappiness and sorrow into joy. Then you will say 'Why does not God do it?' Because, my brethren, God has given to you and all men the gift of His own spirit; in that same spirit lies the power. You can only commence to use that power as a babe learns to walk, to speak and to think – learn in everyday life and in your relationships each with the other. Were it easy, my brethren, the whole world would become a spiritual company overnight.

The pull of the earth, of physical matter is very heavy. You all know how heavy. Your body is slow and cumbrous, your mind is slothful and reluctant when you endeavour to make it comprehend spiritual life and spiritual truth. In your attempts at communication with the astral plane you are clumsy, because you have not yet developed this secret power of which we speak – which is of the spirit, is of God, and can only operate through simple love, kindness, peace and harmony expressed in your souls.

We congratulate you on the work accomplished within these walls during the past twelve years – not that all have been spent in this particular building; but we would remind you of a spiritual temple which has been created together with this by the brethren on both sides of the veil; for a spiritual temple has been erected here which is strong, and grows stronger as time passes. You have been instruments in this service, but we would also remind you of the labours of the brotherhood invisible – by which we mean a group of souls living and functioning on a plane of life of which you know nothing at present. These brethren, these brothers and sisters, are advanced human souls who have attained a degree of spiritual life and who have overcome the last enemy, death. You do not yet understand, thinking that

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because you can speak to loved ones who have passed out of the physical body you have overcome death. That is not what we mean. If you study the life and the demonstrations of spiritual power made by Jesus of Nazareth, you may begin to follow us. We have taught for many years that in the spiritually evolved the very vibrations of the physical body became changed; the body becomes raised or etherealised. You have a demonstration of this in those beings who are called 'saints', for then the body is spiritualised. By the inflowing of the light of God and by the permeation of every physical and etheric atom of the saint's body, so that the whole being is raised in vibration.

Fifteen or so years ago a small group of men and women received a message from the White Brethren – those who had proved the law of God in human life, and had freed themselves from the limitations of the dark life and the heavy matter of earth – saying that the Brotherhood desired to help the nation through a period which they called the 'years of fire'. You all know now what was meant by this term. The whole world has undergone that purifying fire. Should you think that mankind is not much the better for its baptism by fire, you are mistaken. Those years have had effect upon the minds and the bodies of the people.

We were given the opportunity by our elder brethren to form this Lodge, to work with men and to help them to develop the light and power of the spirit within their beings; we taught them how to send out this light into the world, to heal the sick, to comfort the sorrowful and troubled. Sometimes we are criticised for using only simple language and for repeating the same message again and again. This is our work. We are specially urged to be simple. Criticism means nothing to us. We are only concerned with speaking truth and helping our brethren on earth to understand the law of life. Only in simple language can this be given, only in simple ways of daily life can the law of God operate. Intellect is often a bar. You can stuff your mind with book knowledge and with facts, but there is only one way into the kingdom of heaven. It is not much use appearing at heaven's gate so burdened with books that you may not be seen. You may be clothed in books; you can have them draped all round you; you can have a wonderful intellect, but you all have to go the same way; you will find that you will have to drop these encumbrances one by one. When you pass through the gate of heaven you will be a simple boy or girl with a shining face and a heart overflowing with love and the joy of life. This is how you will enter heaven.

Did not the Master Jesus say, 'It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom'? What did He mean by a rich man? Not necessarily the man laden with material wealth, but possibly a man encumbered with great earthly knowledge, with a lot of mental possessions. At the present time, being the age of Aquarius, the age of mental expansion, this is a dangerous thing, because as we say there is only one way into the kingdom, and that is the way of the child, of the loving heart. You find this is not so easy as it sounds? In striving to be a loving brother to all creatures, human, animal and vegetable, it means that you are striving to retain in your heart that wondrous feeling of harmony, beauty, truth and justice. You do not look out upon the world with a frown nor with solemn judgment; you open your heart and mind as does the flower, as the rose opens to the sun to give forth fragrance.

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This permeates all creatures, human and otherwise; it is recreating a life on earth which may be called blessed. Earth has become shadowed just as your cities become dense when a fog descends upon them. So soon as the sun shines the fog is dispersed; so soon as the spiritual sun shines upon matter the fog will lift, men will understand one another better, see each other better. Not with the intellect; they will see with the light of the spirit. Call it the Christ within if you like. Some of your brethren in the east may call it the light of Buddha; others the light of Krishna. The light behind is the same: the one light, the light of the Son of God. When the light descends to earth and in full power uses a human personality, that light becomes wonderful, the human channel becomes godlike and has power to change a form, power to create. Think about these things, my children. Think of those personalities who throughout the ages have changed their world by being a channel for this spiritual life. They have received knowledge which has benefited and blessed mankind. In man lies the freewill. He can destroy or he can create good, and so the balance between the two aspects of life is of vital importance.

The White Brotherhood would keep the balance steady. That is one great truth. Also there is an opportunity for the human soul to receive and to give out happiness, beauty of life, to raise the vibrations of the very matter in which it dwells, to beautify and glorify it – even as God has taught through the channel of all the teachers from the beginning of time. Do not forget, there were cycles of life before this particular cycle. We are bent on raising the earth again to its golden age. The atoms of physical life are to be changed. Only through this change will man learn to overcome the last enemy, death. Then in very truth will man be able to say that death is swallowed up in victory!

You might not believe us if we told you that there are people who can lay their bodies down without the body disintegrating unless with the consent of the soul which inhabited that body, but it is true. Death as you know it is to be overcome, and will be overcome as men and women learn to obey the laws of God, and live the life of brotherhood, kindness and love. For with living that life comes knowledge. Love such as we describe is power and wisdom and it raises the soul to contact the source of all knowledge of all time. You do not get knowledge only from books; you do not get knowledge only through intellect; you get knowledge through intuition, through aspiration, through going into the very heart of truth – then all knowledge is unfolded and revealed. The Christ said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me'. The spirit of love, the spirit of Christ. The Christ spirit is perfect; the Christ spirit demonstrates all the perfections of God. Then the way into heaven opens for every soul, and his guide and teacher speaks to him in the innermost sanctuary of his being.

The power is great tonight, for this twelfth anniversary is a significant day. The vibrations of this Lodge will change from this time, the work will change, and there will be an expansion at present undreamed of. Jesus at the twelfth year went up into the temple and mingled with the wise men, and his mouth was opened and the truth from heaven flowed through him. When he had reached this age of wisdom, he was able to confound the wise men. This has an esoteric significance. And so, my beloved brethren, you will see changes coming; and you

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will all enjoy expansion and happiness as you faithfully go out into the world carrying the message of truth, love and brotherhood.

We must not keep you longer. Our last word is: *the power of the spirit is within you*. There is nothing which you cannot accomplish on earth or in heaven – not you, but the light which shineth through you. May you bless the world; may you so cause the light to shine that you bring about a great brotherhood, wherein all men love and live only to serve God and life and to beautify the whole earth. You are needed, your help is needed. Do not forget this. Now is your opportunity to give yourselves, you heart, all that you have to the service of this White Brotherhood. Peace be with you.

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, materialism, war, peace, sending out the light, simplicity, light within, inner light, intuition, spiritual service

