

# What is Truth?

A413 Sunday Address 6th July 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

**Text:** classic MB typescript, a black carbon from YGH's set. Most unusually, when White Eagle quotes Ralph Waldo Trine, *IN TUNE WITH THE INFINITE*, MB treats us to the full quotation in a footnote. It is not clear whether there was some allusion to the actual quotation before the service ended, or whether MB felt some particular duty (or request?) to give the details. There is one place, late in the teaching, where she seems to have missed a word and has written 'Regret' in the margin – it is marked, after the word 'freedom'. There are two occasions at the end where White Eagle seems to have wanted to use a word, 'mergence', i.e. coming together. One of them comes out here as 'emergence', which is not quite the right word; the other has a question mark over it, but retains 'mergence'. For the latter, we have used instead the more everyday word, 'merging'.

**Context:** at one point White Eagle speaks of this as 'our little talk'. In fact, it is one of his longest. Although we have only an outline of the surrounding features of the service, White Eagle is keen to note the importance of the astrological time of year, namely the sign of Cancer, which is so capable of bringing peace. The first hymn was 'Ye holy angels bright', no. 701 in *Songs of Praise*. After it, Minesta gave her invocation, once again recorded elsewhere. Then the Choir sang the anthem, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace | Whose mind is stayed on Thee', probably in the version by Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Brother Faithful then read from *Spiritual Unfoldment*, volume one. It's not stated whether this was volume one of the original series, or of the second series, begun in 1961, but the words were on human love and ran from p. 67 (paragraph 1) to p. 68 (para. 1), maybe without intervening paragraphs. He introduced 'O Brother man' (307) as 'this lovely hymn'. After the prayers, the Choir rendered 'Beloved, let us love', doubtless in the setting adapted to Orlando Gibbons' music ('The Silver Swan'). After White Eagle spoke, Brother Faithful gave a few words as usual and announced the final hymn, 'There's a wideness in God's mercy' (666). Minesta's Benediction is recorded elsewhere and the final music was the 'Three-part Amen', possibly the Dresden Amen. MB then refers to 'Beautiful organ music from Brother David', to which Minesta and Brother Faithful, and then the Choir, would have processed out.

**General notes:** White Eagle begins, after greetings and thanks, by celebrating the role of Divine Mother while the Sun is in Cancer; he also stresses the element Water, linked to Cancer – and the need to enjoy, not to kill off, the feminine in life. Having invoked the 'waters of life' in his spirit state he seems actually to be beside the waters, for he mentions 'the tiniest form of life here in the sea'. This leads into a section about Jesus, in whom feminine virtues such as gentleness and humility are to be seen. White Eagle then explores the various types of love that exist. Interestingly, he insists that the most fundamental form of love is not the passionate type but 'simple human sweetness'. There are also 'foolish' types of love – his words are reminiscent of old adages like 'love is blind'. His next topic is the nature of truth, which can never be defined with the rational mind, only experienced, felt in the heart. He is anxious to stop his listeners killing off truth seen in meditation with the classic 'only my imagination' response. In fact, imagination is the key to love – and thus to the abandonment of cruelty to the rest of life. White Eagle then promises 'a picture of the spirit world'. What he actually does is to stimulate what we may see in meditation, largely in terms of nature's beauty. But this, he says, is what we will find in the spirit world, and to which we will respond, 'Oh, I am happy. God is everywhere round me'. Real freedom lies in leaving ignorance behind, including ignorance about death. This brings us back to truth, and the truth of love. This, he says, is precisely what is 'only-begotten' of God and the light that came to earth in the beginning. And so we come into the moment of communion in the service, which White Eagle describes as 'a vision ... of love triumphant'. He shows us a figure of the Christ and explains how it can be retained, constantly, in the back of the brain, 'which is the receptive part of the body for spiritual forces to work through you'.

**References:** 'and the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters' is Genesis 1 : 2. Pilate's question to Jesus, 'What is truth?', is John 18 : 38. The story of 'Doubting Thomas' is also in John (20 : 24-29). The poet who speaks of Truth being within – 'It takes no rise | From outward things' – is Ralph Waldo Trine (1866-1958), whose book, *IN TUNE WITH THE INFINITE*, is a key text of the movement known as

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'New Thought'. John 4 : 48 is the source for the official seeking Jesus' help in healing his son, the official who is told, 'Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will never believe'. Near the end White Eagle quotes the opening verses of John's Gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word...' (in full, John 1 : 1-5). The phrase, 'only-begotten Son' is from John 3 : 16: 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' The closing repetition of 'peace be with you is reminiscent of the resurrection appearances of Jesus in John 20.

## White Eagle Address:

Beloved children, beloved brethren, we bring to each one of you the love and the light of God. And we would first wish to thank our choristers for the very inspiring music. Now, music is a vibration which can uplift the soul of man into those spheres of heavenly light. And music creates the harmonies of colour which you dear ones on the earth planet cannot yet conceive, at least not with your earthly minds.

Now, in the beginning of your spiritual unfoldment and the development of the gifts of the spirit you must raise your thoughts above the sordidness and the harshness of the physical plane of life.

Now at this time of the year many of you will understand that we are in the influence of the Great Mother of all life. Now, we are not referring to a physical mother as worshipped by certain orthodox religions. We are referring to the spirit of the Great Mother, the womb of all life. The Sun shines in the sign of Cancer just now, and therefore you are receiving the blessing, the vibrations, the rays of the love of the Great Mother.

Now, if you can think of this love and endeavour to feel now that you are being bathed in this warm strengthening blessed love of the Great Mother it will bring to you healing, and peace of mind, and enable you to relax and feel sure that the everlasting arms of love are around you.

And remember that God shone upon the face of the waters. And it was from the water element that the beginning of life came to this planet Earth. And you, thinking on these lines, will be able to receive the full power of that spiritual ray from the sign of the Great Mother. Now, mothers are very sensitive, although they may not always show it on your plane of life. But they are very sensitive to hurts and pains. And we remember this. And we remember to what we are indebted – what we owe to the mother; the Great Mother Spirit broods over the whole of creation. God, the Father, is the power. God infuses the power and stimulates the life force. But the Mother is receptive to that power. And the Mother holds Her children within her heart.

Now, dear ones, when you are sorely tried and troubled, when you are fearful for yourself, or for the loved one round you, always open your consciousness to that love of the Divine or Great Mother of all forms of life, from the tiniest form of life here in the sea right up to the highest level that you can conceive with your mortal mind.

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Now, it is the critical faculty of the human mind which can destroy and slay all spiritual truth and beauty and love. Now, at this time this stage of the evolution of mankind we would like all our dear brethren here to remember this and refuse to allow the mind of Earth, the intellect, the hard earthly mind, to dismiss and destroy all those finer thoughts and creations which are coming to you particularly during the sign of Cancer. Now open your hearts lovingly to the Great Mother. Now if you will meditate on this truth, shutting out all destructive and critical thought and just go to this Divine Spirit as you would to your own mother, open your heart like a child and you will be filled with peace, divine peace.

Now, there is another aspect to life. We recognise this. There is that spirit of energy which is necessary in the world, which is necessary on the physical plane for man's growth and development. But first and foremost comes this spirit of gentleness, meekness, humility. Now you will find these attributes expressed beautifully, perfectly in the great Initiate, Jesus.

If you meditate upon Jesus, you will recognise in him this gentleness and humility. But at the same time, you will also recognise in him the wisdom of the ages. You will recognise that balance, that strength of character, that strength of mind which was able to perform miracles, which was able to convey to the multitude and to his hearers the magical power of truth. Remember these aspects, the gentleness and the power and the strength, but the perfect balance of the two working through the mental body, or the power of thought, was able to perform the miracles which he did, as well as to heal the sick. Yes, and to call back from the sleeping state the soul of the physical body to activity. He brought the energy back to the departed one. He was working on the power of energy as well as love.

Now, all the teachings of Jesus, the Master of love and wisdom, were the teachings of love. What is love, we ask? You may ask, what is love? Love has many grades, and many degrees in the physical life. It is a very strong – can be a very strong passionate emotion which will drive men and women to do very peculiar things, and cause them to act in a foolish manner. But when love is beginning to evolve, which is the Divine Spirit in man's soul, when it commences to evolve, it recognizes love in many, many different forms.

Let us put on one side the love which we would call fanaticism. People are driven to fanatical acts because the love which is in their heart is raw, it is undeveloped, it is ungoverned. And so in man's spiritual evolution, which is certainly taking place in every man and woman and child living on the earth planet as it unfolds. It commences with simple human sweetness, which unfortunately is often forgotten when the passions in humankind rise. But we would remind you that love is a feeling of at-one-ment. You may feel in the early stages of your development at-one-ment with some particular individual. You feel an affinity, you feel this at-one-ment with a person. You may feel this emotion towards someone who has been very good to you, who has shown you consideration and kindness, and you feel this fleeting emotion of gratitude and love. It is love which inspires you to acknowledge the goodness and the kindness of another individual.

Now, the tendency on earth, as we have already said, is to be very rigid mentally and to be very sure that we know everything. We know truth. What is truth? What is love? This question, you will remember, was asked by Pontius Pilate, who was instrumental in the crucifixion of Christ. 'What is truth?' This question has often been asked us particularly by

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the young eager mind. 'We want truth.' 'What is truth?' 'How can we find truth?' 'Can we find truth through mathematics, geometry?' 'Can we find truth by the power of reason, by studying the works, the writings of all the Ages; by studying the stones and the temples erected by man in the past?' Now can we really get truth by these physical temples – shall we say – or erections on the earth plane – of the belief of ancient peoples? No, we can glean some interesting facts, but we cannot find truth.

And remember that the human mind is the doubting mind. It is the mind of Thomas the doubter, who said, 'Unless I put my fingers into the holes made by the nails which nailed him to the cross, or thrust my hand into the side which was pierced by the sword, I will not believe. I cannot believe.' We do not blame any one of you on earth when you say 'I cannot believe without proof'. But may we point out that there are different forms of truth? It is not the physical form of truth or the human form of truth which will remain with you as a lasting conviction of truth.

One of the great poets – an American poet – said, 'Truth is within you. It takes no rise from outward things'. Truth is within you.\* Now, how are you going to find that inner truth? And we would like to say here before proceeding that there are many of you, as Jesus once said, 'who seek signs and wonders'. You must hear with your physical hearing, or see with your physical sight, or receive some form of – what shall we call it? – magic, which causes your little mind to pause and wonder. But, of course, it is transient. These kinds of little proofs are transient, and they do not remain with you, because always comes up this doubting Thomas mind which says, 'Did I really see that?' 'Did I hear that; or 'did my mother who is in spirit really give me that message', or 'did the Instrument through which it came know something about her which I do not know?' And so on and so on.

And so there is only one way for every man to know truth. And this is by experience, life's experience on earth and experience in the world of spirit.

Now, you do not need to pass away permanently from your physical body in order to find truth. Here we would like to say that all down the ages there have been instruments through whom true light came to the earth from those heavenly spheres. Have you ever thought that if you study the ancient religions, and even more modern religions, the messages which have been given to the multitudes have come from the spirit world, not from man's mind and not from the earthly mind? The foundation of religion has been laid by the spirit and through the Ages.

Now you look at time, let us say, for ten thousand years – of course, it is much longer than that – but for our purpose it is sufficient to say, for ten thousand years there has [*sic*] been coming through these trickles of truth about God, about creation, about man, about his development, about whence he came and whither he is going. Now, all this knowledge has not come through man's intellect. It has come from the Spirit to man's individual spirit. Now, think on this, and you will discover that our words are true. Now, how can you be sure that you are putting yourself *en rapport* with that heavenly place with – shall we call it – the Temples of Wisdom in the World of Spirit? How can you be sure that what comes into your heart is truth?



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Now, this is a great problem, and so many, many of you have said, 'But it is all my own imagination. I have seen the glory of Heaven. The power of imagination is the essential gift for every man, woman and child in his unfoldment, his spiritual development. You must cultivate imagination, not only imagination of places and form, but imagination of feeling. Now, this is what is wrong with humanity at its present stage of evolution. It has no imagination of the effect of its own speech and emotions upon other creatures including brother man. Imagination is the primary quality for man to develop, because it is only through imagination that man learns the feelings of others. And this, my dear ones, is the key to love.

Now, when man has developed his power of imagination so that he can put himself into the place of his brother man he can put himself into the place of all nature, into the place of the animal kingdom and the suffering which can be inflicted on animals by man. Now when man has developed his power of imagination he has developed his sensitivity and his feeling. And when he can feel through his imagination the suffering and pain of other people then he is developing that true love, the power of love.

Now, someone asked us once what our world is like. Now we are going to close our little talk by giving you a picture of the spirit world, because there is so much confusion when you are told that the world we come from is a mental world. It is true from your point of view it is a mental world. But we explain it to you in this way, that when you develop your power of imagery, your power of imagination and the power of love which all these other things promote and stimulate, you will find that in your meditations you will see beautiful things, not ugly things. You will see the world of God. The world of God is governed by love.

Now, the more you develop this sensitivity to the needs and the feelings of your fellow beings, the more you are developing your vision and your hearing and your appreciation of beauty. You are developing your soul qualities so that when you no longer have a physical body, when you just get up and leave it lying down there, you have no more interest in it, and you find yourself in a spirit state of life.

You cannot resuscitate that physical body, but you want a body of some kind. You want senses to enable you to move around and see where you are. Unless you have developed those senses in your earth life by being kind and loving, by appreciating the glory of nature, the beauty of flowers and trees, the joy of the song of birds, the glory of the sunrise and the sunset; unless you have developed an appreciation of God's gifts in your own being – that is, the gift of hearing sound, beautiful sounds and of seeing beautiful things on the earth plane – you will be quite a long time in the spirit world before you can see the glory of the spirit world, and say, and be able to say, 'Oh, I am happy. God is everywhere around me. I know the meaning of joy, I know the meaning of happiness, and I am free.'

Now, all these things have to be developed by you in your own soul whilst you are on earth. Now, it is not any kind of earthly freedom [.....] except the religion of love and happiness which is going to release man from the bondage of darkness into the world of spirit, but with reservations. We would tell you that when the soul has passed away from the physical body in ignorance, which is really darkness, because ignorance is darkness – when the soul passes away there is always an angel of death who assists that soul. And the soul may not be able to

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see the angel by his side because for him that angel will be cloaked in a very dark cloak. But when he lifts the cloak aside he sees beneath that dark cloak a beautiful white garment, a garment of purity, a garment of love. And because that lost soul sees a little light, or sees the little glimpse of that white robe, he begins to awaken to truth, to the meaning of love. So many, many people in the spirit world are in ecstasies when they see love – they see love being expressed everywhere. If you walk into a community of spirit people, spirit beings, you will be impressed by the sweetness of their expression, by the light on their faces, by the gentleness of their voices, and by their concern for your welfare.

Now, this is truth that we are giving you, and only the Spirit, the pure Spirit of God, the Divine Spirit within you, can recognise truth. The mind alone cannot know truth. The mind of man, the intellect, destroys truth. There may be young minds who do not like what we are saying. Well, we are sorry if you do not like what we say, beloved. We are sorry, but in due time you will comprehend the truth of love.

When there is love in man's heart he has found God, and he has found the light. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' God said: 'Let there be *Light*.' And light came.

Now, this is a simple but profound truth. In the beginning of life – *the beginning of life* – was the emergence of the two aspects, the positive and the negative, what you call the Father God and the Mother God drawing together and merging as one, and out of that emergence came the Supreme Light of mankind which is, crudely, Christ – we say crudely because the word *Christ* is bandied about somewhat crudely.

We want you to raise your consciousness above all the education of the mind into that glorious world, that golden world of God, and see and feel and know, get the plan of the merging of the positive and negative aspects of matter and spirit, and the birth of the *light*, which the Christian people call 'the only-begotten Son of God'. But this is the truth. But this is not of a physical nature. It is the heavenly nature. The Light is born, and the *light* is born on earth now. And you are now seeing the clearing away of all that is dead and all that has served a certain purpose in the growth and unfoldment of man's spiritual being.

Now this is love, *love* which is opening in man's heart a desire to serve his fellow creatures, the desire not for himself, not for his own gain or aggrandisement, but just to help other people. This is the true master spirit which can say, 'I serve under God. I serve my fellow beings. In other words, I love, I love'.

Brethren, now let us feel in the silence the Presence of His holy heavenly love, and see with our creative mind the presence, the Presence of the Son, the Light, and human form – the Man Made Perfect by the light, by the love in his being for God the Great White Spirit –which permeates all forms of life, which will be triumphant on earth.

This is the vision we give to you of love triumphant, love triumphant throughout all human life. The form of the Blessed Christos can create and take upon himself, for you to see, if you will use your imagination, this very tall noble figure clothed in whiteness and the *light* of heaven shining upon him. From his fingertips, from his whole aura, there is radiating to you

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and drawing you into his love to heal and to bless you. Carry this picture with you in your daily life, if you can, at the back of your mind. The back of the brain is the receptive part of the body for spiritual forces to work through you. Behind you is the Form, but it is all around you; and in time you will see it manifest through your friends and your fellow beings. The rough parts that you do not like about people is of the earth, earthy. Look for the light and the love which bears you along your journey. You float along, if you trust the *Light*, and it will carry you right through into the golden world of Heaven. 'I have seen my dear ones in spirit. I have seen beautiful symbols. It may all come through my imagination.'

Now, dear, dear ones, in the past, in the present, and in the future, because this – this unfoldment of man is going to continue and is going to move very rapidly in the near future – and the highest imagination that man is capable of individually must be used in his search for truth.

You meditate, but many people deny that they can see any form in their meditation. But this is simply because their senses, their imagination, their power of creation, their power of imagery is dead, or at least not awakened

Peace be with you. Peace. Peace bless you. Think peace, be peace.

## Brother Faithful:

It is an arresting thought to remember, as I have been doing, that all over Europe and America – throughout the white speaking race, the white skin race, and in many other countries of the world, religious services are taking place this Sunday. Preachers and speakers are endeavouring to pass on such truth as they have found to congregations most earnestly, to help those congregations, that speakers and preachers are looking back into the ages past to try to glean this kind of truth from the great scriptures of the world. And they expound certain truths fairly fully, and others, they forget or ignore altogether. Not one of them tells anybody with such precision and such definiteness of life, or even that man's soul survives to live an afterlife, not with precision, not based on fact. And just occasionally, as tonight, a soul comes to earth so filled with truth, so charged with wisdom, so pure in spirit, that his message, though it appears only to reach a few, may someday prove of infinite value, of supreme value to mankind at large.

And now we come to our closing Hymn No. 666, 'There's a wideness in God's mercy...'

*\*In her script, MB gives the full context of this quotation, and puts in a footnote*

*In Tune with the Infinite by Ralph Waldo Trine – page 84:*

*'With Browning, we must recognise the great fact that –*

*Truth is within ourselves, it takes no rise*

*From outward things, whate'er you may believe*

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*There is an inmost centre in us all,  
There truth abides in fullness.'*

*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:*

*divine mother, mother goddess, faith, belief, rationality, research, technology, materialism,  
natural world, nature, life after death, eternal life, spiritual unfoldment, spiritual  
development, light within, inner light, inspiration, intuition, illumination, enlightenment*

