

An Anniversary Message

A172 Sunday Address 23rd February 1947 St Mary Abbots Place, London
Anniversary Service

The date of this address is conjectural (see below), while the text is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from Angelus, April 1947

Context: a footnote in the Angelus text informs us that the choir sang 'O lovely peace' from Handel's Judas Maccabeus'

General Notes: White Eagle mentions the Lodge choir at the start of this address. He did indeed ask for a choir in 1936, and his request was met almost at once when a new member, Reginald Botcherby, stepped forward to conduct it. Ylana Hayward was, from the start, his second-in-command. Botcherby, whom White Eagle called Brother John, died on 2 February 1945 (there are several mentions of this in these addresses) and Ylana effectively ran the choir thereafter, although another organist came on the scene in the form of Albert Whitnall, who wrote the setting of the Lord's Prayer that is still used in the Lodge in the UK at the time of this upload (2020). Whitnall also conducted the Board of Trade Choir (since renamed the Whitehall Choir), founded in 1941 by a White Eagle member, Vivienne Constantinides – in which Ylana also sang. As for the White Eagle Lodge Choir, it has continued in one form or another from 1936 to the present day, forming a separate entity for the Temple at New Lands when that was opened in 1974, and since the sale of the St Mary Abbots Place premises in 2013/14, the Temple has been the sole home of the choir. Angelus in the 1940s is peppered with appeals for tenors and basses, which were evidently really hard to find in those days.

This is in many ways a classic among White Eagle addresses in telling of the origins of life and the universal foundation of love. The assertion in the middle part of the address, 'The greatest mistake that you people can make is to think yourselves separate from God or from the universe into which you have been born' seems strangely modern, so much has spirituality drawn on quantum physics to understand universal being. The appeal that White Eagle makes also comes from the grand vision – expressed in the phrase of an address of the 1950s, that the purpose of the Lodge was 'to bring into being on the earth plane a standard of life that is in harmony with the infinite love'.

References: 'Leave all and follow me' is Matthew 16 : 24; see also Luke 14 : 25-7. 'Love one another' is John 13 : 34 and elsewhere; 'I am the light of the world' is John 8 : 12 and 9 : 5. In the continuing sentences, here italicised, compare 'I and my Father are one', John 10 : 30.

White Eagle's Address:

Many years ago, at the very commencement of the White Eagle Lodge, we asked for a choir. A few brethren were determined that music should become a beautiful feature of the White Eagle Lodge service. Since then, in spite of many vicissitudes, this spirit of brotherly service has not failed. We thank all those who have laboured so hard and lovingly to bring this about and their leader receives a special blessing.

The last anthem brought a promise of those things which we know will come in spite of all your present conditions of cold and sunlessness. We know that the harvest will be great – not only the material harvest which partly sustains the physical life of man, but the spiritual harvest without which life on the earth planet would completely die.

We have decided to say a few words this evening on a much-misunderstood subject: love.

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We know that you have discussed this subject on many, many occasions and most people think they know its meaning; but love is the profoundest secret of the universe – *the profoundest secret of the universe*. It is the beginning of life. It is life itself. Its seed lies within every soul, although many, many incarnations must pass before the majority of souls discover their own secret, the power which is within their own being. At the present time the earth appears to you to be chaotic. Pause and think what chaos can bring about. Chaos is a tester of the spirit of man and can quicken the growth of the ancient and divine secret which we call love. Greater things are happening than man can at present realise, but great things are also happening in the heavens. What do we mean by the heavens? Do we mean some plane of life in which physical matter has no place? No! We mean a plane of being which is all light, a place pulsating with beautiful light, light-essence, spiritual light, a condition of life from which you have all come forth, a condition of life to which you will all return in full consciousness – some day.

You have come from the heavenly state of life as a babe, and a babe is largely unconscious of its environment; the spiritual babe is also not very conscious of its surroundings, or of its own potentialities. In this respect a spiritual babe is like a physical babe, utterly dependent upon its parents. Its parent God enfolds that spiritual babe in love, clothes it in heavenly clothing which is light – light vibrating at a far higher rate than in physical matter. The spiritual babe being thus clothed in a heavenly garment is sent forth from the Parent on its long journey to gain knowledge, wisdom and to gain love; and through acquiring love to get understanding of both its life on earth and in the heavens, and the life of the wide universe which is its home – the universe of which is a part. The greatest mistake that you people can make is to think yourselves separate from God or from the universe into which you have been born. You are all part of the one whole.

You have heard this said many times and it goes, as the saying has it, into one ear and out of the other. Maybe in time it will produce an effect. What we want to help you do is to retain what you hear from the messengers of the spirit, because these messengers have more knowledge than man. There is more freedom in the heaven world – of action, of movement, of thought. Everything is on a higher rate of vibration. The spirit people who have entered into the light have an opportunity to study spiritual as well as physical matter, and they have clearly seen that life in all its varying manifestations comes from the one Source. This Source is light.

Earth's humanity has always looked to the sun. Every race has left on record its worship of the sun. The ancients knew that the source of all life was the sun and even beyond the physical life they knew that the sun was a spiritual manifestation of the one grand universal Principle from which all life came. The First Principle is love and love is light. Where there is love, there is light, there is radiance. Where there is no love there is darkness and heaviness. The brothers of the light are the brothers of the sun and the brothers of the sun are brothers of love. All brothers of the light work together as one great Master Soul and this even whilst each individual is separate; even as grains of sand are separate yet together form the seashore - or as drops of water can make an ocean. They serve the Grand Architect of the Universe as one body, one spirit.

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The earth is in a state of darkness, but the light is coming, even as it came in the ancient days; but pioneers of this great coming are needed. The call has been sent forth from God to the souls of men and women who have reached a certain stage on their path of evolution; the call to them is to leave all material claims and follow the Master, follow the Son of God. You will say, 'But we have heard all this before, White Eagle. In the orthodox church we have heard these words – "Leave all and follow Me"'. But beloved brethren, the message is not clear even yet. More help has come from the spheres of light so that people will awaken to its scientific implication. Spiritual truth is ever scientific truth. Unfortunately people are inclined to think that love is something weak, lacking power to right men's wrongs. There they are mistaken. Love in the human soul is the greatest power in matter. Love in the human life is magical. True, this is no easy way of gaining what you want. There is no easy method. We are telling you, my brethren, of a power which can transform your life and the life of the whole of humanity. Do not think that this is impossible. Try it! Demonstrate the power of love for one morning in your home, your shop, your office, wherever your work takes you. Demonstrate not by telling everyone that you love them – that is not the way – but by holding a steady thought of God qualities, by always seeing the good all around you, always striving for beauty of speech or action or thought. Try it for one half day. Hold fast to the source of your inspiration. It is your spirit, not your lower self. Do not confuse your spirit with your mind or your soul. Spirit is an unknown quantity in you but nevertheless the source of all happiness, of all harmony and beauty and light.

We remember that the Master Jesus said, 'Love one another'. But the Christ speaking through the Master Jesus said also: 'I am the light of the world. I AM'. What did He mean by this? Did He mean the person of Jesus? This is the interpretation of the orthodox church. But was He not referring to the spark within man known throughout the spiritual world as the 'I AM'? *Before the world was, I AM. I am the light of the world. I am the light of life. The light and the Father are one. I am the light within your own breast.* What man has to learn in the new age is how to contact the I AM, which is within. He has to learn to receive the life-force, which is eternal life continually flowing into the soul of man. When the masses have caught a glimpse of this divine and ancient truth, then you will find a new heaven and a new earth. How are we individuals – you encased in the darkness of the fleshy garment and we who are shut away from you by your veil of materialism – how are we going to help the rest of the world to discover this magical secret?

Such things cannot happen tomorrow or next week. You cannot see why they should not? Spiritual growth is slow but sure, and the important thing is for you not to lose heart, not to lose courage. Hold on to the central truth which has been born within you: the certainty of the I AM. Then you will receive the glory of the Father within yourself and you will manifest that glory. You will be filled with light, health, joy and happiness and by this means you will recreate all the conditions which hamper you into glorious things undreamed of as yet by the earthly-minded.

We spoke of slow growth and small beginnings. This little Lodge is one of those small beginnings: a little acorn, a little seed planted in the darkness of materialism and perhaps of

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mental arrogance or ignorance. Never mind that. We are pioneers of the great age which is coming through man's own effort to reach to understanding of the Master's teaching – the Master who said, 'The Father and I are one'. The little self of the earth-man has to stand on one side, to know that of itself it is nothing and can do nothing.

This is the error. Men and women become proud and vain with their own accomplishments, always forgetting that nothing is done without God's love, God's power. Man must never forget that he is a channel, an instrument. Of himself he has not the power, nor has he the glory. It is the divine parent, the source of all light. It is this which must take hold of the life of the individual and glorify God. The Father, the Mother and the Son is the light within everyone. So we see the mystical truth of Father–Mother–Son, the holy and blessed Trinity.

We leave you with one last appeal. In this Lodge may there spread the radiance of love. Do not let the arrogant earthly mind enter into this Lodge. Preserve here by the grace of God the spirit of brotherly love, the spirit of kindness and humility; the spirit of comradeship and companionship. Let this small Lodge become a power of the Sun. From this small beginning may the whole world ring with the glory and the power of God. May heaven become a place of living on earth! Not by our growing sanctimonious or proud through thinking that we are unlike other people, but being comrades to all and unwearied in our service to our brother and in our attunement to God. Each day seek the silence, either wandering in the green places, in the woods or in the country lanes, or if this is not possible, by going to the green and sunlit countryside within your heart. There let the sun shine! Seek this eternal place, it is your true home; and in that silence you will receive your food, the bread and the wine of life. When you have taken such a communion with the Cosmic Christ there will be no more death, no more death for any man or woman who has truly held communion. The outer life will become an expansion of that joyousness which commences in small degree in your innermost, in the silence. When your physical experience is finished, you will not know death. You may shed your overcoat of flesh as does a butterfly released from a chrysalis. Then you will return into the freedom of heavenly glory in full consciousness of the power of God – your birthright.

God bless you all. God bless the work of this Lodge. May it grow in truth, in love, and in light to the world. Amen. Amen.

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:

dimensions, planes of life, being a channel of light, love is light is life