

All Saints

A109 Sunday Address 1st November 1942 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service (All Saints' Day)

The text of this address is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from Angelus, December 1942

Context: Sunday service for the festival of All Saints.

General Notes: White Eagle's intention is to make 'the communion of saints' a real thing, not an aspect of dogma, by raising the consciousness of those present. His conception of sainthood appears to be broader than that of the church, stretching from Jesus Christ to (possibly) great scientists through to the present day. White Eagle also draws in Buddha and Krishna, and interestingly (not for the first time in these Sunday addresses), mentions Sri Ramakrishna (1836-86) the Hindu mystic and philosopher. He also seeks to make sainthood something close to ordinary experience, attainable by anyone who leads a life of dedication.

References: 'I believe in ... the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting' is a longer phrase from the Apostles' Creed, which has its origins in the fourth century CE. It forms part of traditional Christian worship in churches. The reference from Revelation at the beginning is chapter 7, verses 13-14. Edison (Thomas Edison, 1847-1931) is of course the pioneer of electricity; Lodge (Sir Oliver Lodge, 1851-1940), and Crookes (Sir William Crookes, 1832-1919) are the influential scientists who were also Spiritualist pioneers. Socrates is the great philosopher of ancient Greece, d. 399 BCE, and Galileo (1564-1642) is the astronomer and physicist. White Eagle had somehow paired these two only eight weeks before, in the address of 6th September 1942.

White Eagle's Address:

Brethren, how often have we heard the words, 'I believe in the Communion of Saints', a part of a creed that is repeated by millions weekly; and yet are there not millions in the world who lack the blessing which they could receive through realisation of the inner meaning of such a communion?

This day we celebrate All Saints Day. Incarnate and discarnate, all of us can commune with the saints of all ages and of all degrees. In the Book of Revelation John said, 'Who are these?' The reply came, 'These are They who have come out of great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb'.

For many years past such words as these have lost their meaning. Indeed, many shrink from and do not understand their inner meaning. What is this holy blood? they ask. We can interpret today for ourselves. The 'Lamb', as we know, stands as a symbol of the saint, teacher, saviour, if you will, known to mankind as Jesus, Who in turn was that vehicle through which the Christ light shone in great power and glory. Destined to be saint and saviour to the Piscean age, He came as many another teacher of the past (and in the future) in that he was a channel for the flowing forth through a human personality of this divinity of God, the Father-Mother. Those men and women who faithfully follow the example of the Christ, as expressed through a true Christian life, are they who are 'washed in the blood of the Lamb'. They are those who receive into their being this divine life-force, which purifies and cleanses all their robes or clothing – or, or to use other words, their invisible bodies

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become blazoned with the purity of the Great White Light. My friends, our one great desire during this service is to bring to you such quickening of spiritual power, so that you may all be fired with divine light and truth, so that earthly life may become for you as heaven.

We offer hear such words used as 'heaven upon earth', or 'the kingdom of heaven is within', sayings which are so pregnant with meaning but which leave no impression on the average man and woman. The good which these words might do if understood is lost. So it is well for us all to meet in this sanctuary and mediate upon this communion of saints.

In the first place, what is a saint? How do we define the word? There are many, many degrees of saintship. A saint is someone who lives out his or her life to serve humanity without selfish motive – according to the opportunity offered he devotes his life, either simply, or humbly in some domestic circle, or else enters into public service or engages in one of the arts of sciences, or through philosophy or religion devotes himself to service of his fellow beings. In this devotion the individual must be raised above earthliness and experience a true spiritual bliss. During which periods of exceptional illumination the soul participates not only in the one supreme Light of the Father–Mother–Son, God, but in all the lives, past, present and future, of the saints and teachers who live to serve. In the particular form which their karma has presented to them, they also live to serve mankind.

Beloved friends, thinking then of the countless numbers of such lives that have been lived, and are now being lived in service, should we not spend at least some time in deep thankfulness to these pure illumined souls? Is it not worthwhile, for the good of humanity - for the progress of human relations and culture and social wellbeing in the world – is it not wise that we take time, pause and think and thank our brethren, and above all thank Father-Mother God for these lives, which contributed so much to the welfare of mankind? How much does the present generation owe to those saints of the past (quite apart from the saints of today – we will deal with this later), to men and women who have given all things? Sometimes they laboured to attain some special object or idea, or invent something to benefit the life of the community. There are many such noble men and women. We would not in the ordinary way think of an Edison as a saint, and yet if we probe deeply and are true to our vision, we must admit that any man who lives and labours and sacrifices himself and all his personal comforts and at times even his health, in order to bring forth a gift which will bring convenience and health to the masses, is indeed a serviceable kind of saint.

There are many such scientists. Such men as Lodge and Crookes have brought to mankind priceless gifts. How would you communicate so rapidly, so accurately, with your friends on the other side of the world were it not for the saint like character of men who devote themselves so truly to mankind? Such men do not think of the resulting honour to themselves. They could not receive illumination from the creative spheres if they were clothed in garments dark and laden with selfishness and greed. Such beauty and progress as comes to this earth, beloved brethren, comes through channels, through men and women who have surrendered all thought of themselves. Fame and approbation often do not come during their

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lifetime. Many a saint is crucified by the mob, and not until many generations afterwards is the full value of this service realised.

In the past, men like Socrates and Galileo and many others have brought great things through from the creative spheres for the benefit of the masses. Unfortunately the masses take for granted the service which has been rendered.

My brethren, tonight we would hold Communion with all Saints. Incarnate or discarnate, it makes little difference. We are living souls all of us; and we all have access to heavenly realms. Within these heavenly realms through our aspiration towards the great White Spirit, we come into harmony with the saints. We are able to absorb from them the pure light which fills their whole being. What is the secret of such saintship? Very simple. But very difficult of attainment. It lies first of all in discrimination between the false and the true; discrimination in life between what is ennobling and what is degrading. Discrimination between worth and worthlessness. Discrimination between true spiritual riches and material gain.

Study the lives of the saints, and you will admit that the saint showed little interest in that which worldly men and women consider of the greatest value. The saint gets his or her vision polarised, attuned to the wonderful and pure light of God. He sees life's true values. He sees that the only way to true achievement on this earth is to abandon all worldly thoughts, all worldliness; and to seek in all his ways, in all his thoughts and in every act the one simple way of service. He leaves no stone unturned, he neglects no opportunity. However tired and weary he may be physically, as soon as the call comes he arises to give service. In the more obvious walks of life we find many such men and women, doctors, nurses, preachers, healers, comforters, even the neighbour who drops her own interests immediately to help a neighbour in need – these are the things of which saints are made.

We think with deep thankfulness of the master musicians, the master artists, the master philosophers of all ages who have lived to serve, to uplift and bless mankind. Then, beloved, our thoughts are raised above the earth, our thoughts are raised to the spiritual needs of men and women. Our minds are turned to those men who formed groups throughout the world, which groups were known to their disciples and followers as the White Brotherhood. Such men and women have lived, shall we say, in heavenly realms whilst their bodies are concerned with the duties and responsibilities of the material world. These groups or brotherhoods lived for an ideal, to give truth, more abundant life and beauty to their brother man. They lived to teach by example and by service. They lived to contribute more and more light, truth and beauty to the community and to the whole world. So we honour their name and we are thankful for their service.

We come at last to those pinnacles of the human race, men and women who reach a high degree of illumination, have passed beyond the stage of pupil, disciple and lesser initiate and have come to be regarded as great world teachers. We look into the past and behold the Lord Buddha, who came to teach the Eastern world the way to enlightenment and whose light still shines both in the East and in the West. We think of Krishna, another peak of the human race

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through whom the light shone and whose teaching and illumination has uplifted millions of souls. We think of Muhammad, another great teacher and noble saint who sacrificed his personal desire and comfort to give truth, to preach the gospel; and to Jesus, the great beloved Jesus of the Christian faith. Through many days and ages His light will shine throughout the world. And of His disciple, the beloved John, the interpretation of whose teaching and revelation has yet to dawn upon the world.

Brethren, in the future the Church of St John will be established, and this will bring to the West a revelation of the mystical truths which underlie most of the teachings of the saints, prophets and masters of all time. Man's own heart is being made ready to receive and understand such a revelation.

We cannot leave this subject without touching upon the glory of that Eastern Master, Ramakrishna, whose life now shines through the East and whose mystical teachings are beginning to be known in this Christian country; whose teachings are so human and so beautiful that even a child may understand them.

Brethren, we remember on this day the saints of all time. We worship and we thank them for the light and the joy which they have brought to us. We think of all the saints from the highest to the simplest. We think of the saints who have guarded the ancient mysteries of the east and the west; the brethren who devoted themselves to lives of austerity, purity and prayer, that through their meditations and efforts the world might benefit. We emphasise this point, for many think that a saint should be active, should always contact everyday life, combating all forms of temptation. People who make this statement show lack of understanding. The saints who lived in cloister and monastery have contributed their effort and their light. It has been their mission and their calling to lead such a life. There may be many present who in the past have lived the monastic life. You have not lived idly, for no life is in vain which gives forth loving service and the glory of the Christ light in life to mankind. No such life is lived without making its mark felt upon the whole world.

So as we leave you we say, take courage: do not care for one instant of what the world thinks. Turn within and satisfy the God within your breast, the Christ who resides in your heart. Satisfy Him that in your daily life you are giving forth daily – yes, minute by minute – you are giving love, good thought, God thought, kindness and goodness to the world. The man and woman who lives continually with this thought and aspiration will find many ways and many people to help.

This, my friends, is the gospel of the saints of all ages. Blessed be such saints, blessed be their Holy name; for they are those who have come through great tribulation, great sacrifice and hardship. Through service to life, to mankind, they have washed their garments whiter than snow. The walls of stone do not exclude the Spirit: they are here now with you many of those whom you have personally known and loved as beloved parents, wives, husbands, sisters, brothers, children, who have passed into the heaven world. These are the saints who come to serve you; and to serve the whole of mankind, for ever. Amen.