A397 Sunday Address 17th December 1967 St Mary Abbots Place, London Festival of Carols

Text: MB typescript, a blue carbon without contemporary markings. In Brother Faithful's words at the end, MB offers us 'and we are giving cent to this'. That does not make sense, and we have guessed the shorthand meant 'assent' – 'and we are giving assent to this'.

Context: MB this time waxed particularly lyrical about the setting of the service. 'The entrance hall of the Lodge was exquisitely decorated and included a golden rose. The antechapel was equally beautiful with the nativity scene and little angels and a lovely yellow rose. The main Chapel was very exquisite. White lilies on the Altar, and tasteful arrangements of lovely flowers on the piano and in front of each reading desk. The Christmas Tree was a joy – a brilliant large six-pointed Star on the top shedding its great light on many, many little shining stars and on the presents on the Tree and around it. The service opened with the solo "Unto You a Saviour is Born this Day", beautifully rendered to an organ accompaniment, preceding the procession into the Chapel of the Members of the White Eagle Choir robed in white, singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem".' Brother Faithful announced the first congregational carol as 'O come, all ye faithful'. Minesta's Invocation was recorded elsewhere, and then there were three carols by the Choir before the congregation offered 'While shepherds watched'. Brother Faithful and Minesta then gave two readings: Faithful the familiar words from Luke, 'And there were in the same country shepherds', and Minesta a combination of John 1:14 and Aquarian Gospel 3: 1-15. The latter version tells the same story as Luke, amplifying certain details; the reason for going to Bethlehem is unstated. Then there were three more carols from the Choir. After the prayers, the congregation was entrusted with the 'Shepherds' Cradle Song' (Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep), and then the Choir gave 'Star in the South' and 'In the bleak midwinter' – the latter probably in the version by Harold Darke. Then came White Eagle's message, and after it words from both Brother Faithful and Minesta, reproduced here. The congregation sang 'Hark the herald angels sing' and the Choir processed out to 'In Dulci Jubilo'. MB says the latter was 'very beautiful'. General notes: it might seem that White Eagle is disingenuous at the outset of this address, claiming that he does not often speak of the spirit presence at the beginning of the service, when in fact he does so almost every time. Probably, what he means to distinguish is that tonight's company is of the true Shining Beings, rather than just a company of loved ones in spirit. Overall, the point he is making, put simply, is 'Give forth love and all the loving beings of spirit will flock to you'. He will return to the coming of the Shining Ones later in the address. Later in the address White Eagle indicates that the 'heavenly mystery' of Christ's birth is still understood only in a most limited way on earth, and that a greater revelation will come to humanity.

References: in the reference to 'the white-robed people coming at the time of the pronouncement of the birth' White Eagle is probably remembering the Aquarian Gospel reading, where the phrase is used in verse 10.

White Eagle's Christmas Message:

Beloved, beloved, beloved children of the earth life, we come with joy and love to bring from our world of spirit the message of the Christ Mass. But first of all, we have to thank the Choir – to which we, in spirit, have been listening with increasing joy and thankfulness that in this Lodge there has gathered together a group of men and women who are filled with the joy of singing, the joy of life and the joy of the spirit.

Now, we know that the physical body gets a little weary with so much vocal exercises and muscular exercises. Nevertheless, my dear, dear Choir, as you are singing out the vibrations of harmony and colour, so you attract to yourselves the currents of the cosmic forces which

A397 Sunday Address 17th December 1967 St Mary Abbots Place, London Festival of Carols

fill your whole being with strength and health, and you will feel better for your remarkable performance.

Now, we do not often commence our talk like this, but we are forced to do so, because all around us, and here in the Service all behind us, are those men and women clothed in white, clothed in the white ether through which shines the golden spirit of the Son of God.

Now picture in your higher mind the scene of these Shining Ones, who have all been drawn to this Service because they feel the harmony and the love which has been created here by good thought, God-thought, loving thought. And so it is that those who dwell in the world beyond, in spirit they are brought close to the physical life by love.

Now, we were once asked why it was so easy, or apparently so easy, to receive messages for a certain woman who used to come to talk with us and to receive help and guidance and blessing and reassurance that her loved ones, and particularly her brother so close to her – and he had not faded away when his body appeared to die. And we answered in this way: we can come very easily to you, my child, because you are sending out thoughts of love. You are radiating love and there is no barrier, no separation where there is love, because love is God, and God is within all form, all forms of life.

Now, this is our particular Christmas message to you tonight. We know all the difficulties and the conflicts of the earth plane life. And as we review your world, as we look right over it from a higher point than anyone living in a physical body can reach, we rejoice at what we see, because those illumined spirits we have just described to you, those men and women in white, in the white ether with the golden light of the Son of God shining through them, they are drawing very, very close to the earth just now.

And there is a miraculous outworking to come from what you are witnessing today. And we can see this evolution, this development, this lightening of the darkness of earth. And we are so happy, children. We are so happy because we can see the permeation of the light of God into the hearts of people, particularly into the hearts of the young. Now, we do not necessarily mean young in years, in the flesh. We mean the young souls, and some of them are in youthful bodies, and some of them are in old bodies. Nevertheless, they are young souls who are beginning to feel the power of the Light, of the Son. Now this is a very important mater, and we want you to remember this during your Christmas Festival.

Now you have commenced tonight with these joyous songs, and many people will say, like a certain character that we know, 'Why should we be happy? What is there to be happy about?' But, oh, oh my dear friends, look up, look up into the higher spheres of life, and you will see what there is to be happy about, because from those higher spheres there comes a shining light. It is coming from that Star, that heavenly Star, the Christ Star which guided the Wise Men to the birth place of Christ. Even Wise Men need guidance. All men need guidance to the cave where Jesus was born, the human heart, for there the loved and the beloved Christ Son is born. And He is being born today at this present time. Slowly but surely the birth is taking place.

A397 Sunday Address 17th December 1967 St Mary Abbots Place, London Festival of Carols

You remember the reading tonight in which the description was given of the white-robed people coming at the time of the pronouncement of the birth of Christ. Remember, dear beloved brethren of earth, that this is a phenomenon which takes place at all times. In all ages the Shining One, the Angelic Ones come to earth when there is a purpose, a wise purpose. And you dear people on earth cannot judge when that time is. But all through the Scriptures, your own Christian Bible, apart from other scriptures in the world, there is always the story of the appearance of heavenly beings. And what happened thousands of years ago can happen today. There is no past, no future, all is the eternal Now. And it is a scientific law that it is possible for life on different levels of evolution to meet in certain conditions and for a wise purpose. Therefore, those who have passed on come close to you at Christmas time because you are thinking of them, you are speaking of them. You are sending out loving thoughts to them, and they come and they mingle with you. We were going to say this at the beginning of our little message when the Choir was singing – we could hear, because we came right into the physical and the earthly vibration. We were very close, all of us, all the company were very close to the congregation and to the Choir. And it was a meeting, literally a meeting between heaven and earth.

Now then, our last word to you tonight. You are celebrating a birthday. The Christmas festival is the birthday of the Lord Christ. Now it is not many on your earth who understand the heavenly mystery of the incarnation of the Creator. Now this remains a mystery whilst man is held down by the clay of earth. But this mystery of the coming of the Christ spirit will be unveiled to man at the right moment. Remember, it is a heavenly mystery. And the whole world will feel the hush of this mystical moment. And if you can enter your inner temple deep within your being, you will hear the message to you, because the birth, this mystical birth of Christ, comes to every human heart. Your heart is the cave, that inner, inner temple or sanctuary of every man's being. And there in the stillness you may only catch a flash; you may just know something has happened to you. And this, my beloved child, is the birth in your heart of the Son of God, the light of God, the Christos, which is everywhere. The Christos, the light which floods infinity and eternity, and which is the saviour of every soul incarnated, every soul that is breathed forth from the heart of God.

You all love a baby child; you wait with fear sometimes, but with eager anticipation to the birth of a physical child, the wee babe so helpless, dependent entirely upon you for nurture and for love. When man can understand that the Christ child is born in his own heart – and this means that he has to give love and nurture to that Christ child – then the whole of life on this planet will gradually change. There will be a refining and a reforming and a spiritual growth and a finer etherealisation of life on this planet. This is the meaning of the salvation of man, and the meaning of Christmas is the birth of the Christ child in the heart of man. And at Christmas time you are all filled with desire to give happiness, and you wish everyone you can possibly know, you wish them a happy and a blessed Christmas. And this happiness starts from the birth of the Christ within your heart. And this, my children, is what gives *you* a happy and joyous and a blessed Christmas. This is what we who are in spirit pray for you and come close to you to stimulate the aspiration in you towards that truth, that mystical truth, that Cosmic Mystery, the Son of God, the Son of God, the light of all mankind, and the saviour.

A397 Sunday Address 17th December 1967 St Mary Abbots Place, London Festival of Carols

God be with you. God be with you. And all your loved ones who are now very close are whispering love and light to you. There is no death, only ever unfolding, evolving life. Goodnight. Goodnight.

The Great White Spirit blesses everyone here.

Brother Faithful:

I do not think I have ever heard the Choir sing more beautifully than tonight, and especially too the carols seem to be most beautiful. And then to crown it all, we have had a message more heartening, more uplifting, more sure to establish us in happiness for Christmas from our friend White Eagle.

And finally, we are singing 'Hark! the Herald Angels Sing', which is a carol positively with no inhibition – no one can sing better than anyone else, and we are giving assent to this.

And may I take this opportunity of wishing each and every one of you a joyous and happy Christmas and a happy new year.

And now to 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'.

Minesta:

May I wish you all a very happy Christmas, in case I miss you at the door. And I take this opportunity of saying a very heartfelt thank you for so many lovely Christmas cards. Every one is cherished. I do thank you, and if I forget to thank you as you go out, my warm thanks and a very happy Christmas.

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:

initiation, heaven world, world of light, Nativity, winter solstice, yule, carols, hymns, happiness, birth of Jesus, life after death, communion