

# The Fires of Hell

A089 Sunday Address 6th July 1941 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

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

*Text:* from printed version in *Angelus*, September 1941.

*Context:* White Eagle refers back to a talk given on life after death the previous week. This might be the monthly inner teaching, except that the most recent one had been not the previous week, but on 18 June. It might be instead the monthly Spiritual Unfoldment class. White Eagle refers to this Sunday evening being a hot one.

*General Notes:* the title is striking, as White Eagle somewhat acknowledges, but White Eagle's intention is more to reassure than anything else.

*References:* the Prodigal Son (end of address) is Jesus's story in Luke chapter 15; the celebrations for the returned son are verses 22-4.

## White Eagle's Address:

This Sunday we have decided to try to answer at least some of the questions which arose as a result of the talk last week concerning life after death. A number of our friends who worship and serve in this Lodge are separated from those they love by death and these are doubtful as to the exact state of life to which their loved ones have passed. Some of you are a little apprehensive as to what conditions he or she will find in life beyond the earth. Some will turn their thoughts to the teaching of the Christian, although it is true that in these so-called enlightened days many do not take the Christian revelation seriously, finding certain statements in the four Gospels difficult to understand and unpalatable. There comes a time when these truths of life concern every soul: questions have to be answered, truths have to be faced. Nevertheless, it is sometimes better to postpone problems that are difficult to solve when one has yet to evolve towards understanding.

Do not, however reject these problems, casting them away as unanswerable. Carefully lay them on one side, and wait. Let not your period of waiting be apathetic, but retain always a keen mind searching for truth. Truth lies in a deep well, and at its bottom is clear crystal water. The man who learns to control his mental and physical body, the man who waits in humility of spirit and tranquillity of mind beside the well of truth, will see truth reflected; for truth lies within every man. If you seek answers to the problems which concern your path of spiritual aspiration, learn first to enter into the quiet mind. Be still. God will speak truth to you.

Tonight we told you that we should speak on the Fires of Hell; this seems rather a torrid subject for a hot evening, on which we do not propose to dwell to long. We propose only to give a glimpse of the fires which consume and then we will turn our faces upwards to those fires which no longer consume, but which glorify man.

The Christian teachings teem with references to the 'end' of the world. We would suggest that these same teachings are actually much older than generally supposed and contain the Ancient Wisdom given to mankind in the beginning ... wisdom brought to earth by the God men of Sons of God – and also by the Sons of the Flame, Beings sent to this earth from a

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more advanced and remote planet to teach the young souls destined to be the priests and teachers of humanity then coming into incarnation.

This Wisdom, we repeat, is the basis of all religious teaching known upon earth, which teaching has later become distorted. In each religion, in all religions, there remain fragments of truth, or remnants of the teaching of the Ancient Wisdom. Christianity thus retains the seed of truth, a seed much covered over with earthliness – by which we mean the material conceptions of man.

Men have only understood a very material aspect of divine truth; therefore much confusion exists in the mind of man today, a confusion that has always been since the less evolved souls took the long path which led them to stray from the Divine Revelation given in the Beginning.

In the Christian religion can be found many a beautiful esoteric truth clothed in materialistic expression. When Jesus spoke of separating the wheat from the tares, the interpretation is that the ‘wicked’ are the tares, and the wheat is represented by the ‘good’. The leaders of religion decide who are the wicked and the good. Thus the conception arose that the ‘wicked’ are those who do not conform to the identical ideas and teachings and beliefs of this or that particular religion and the ‘good’ were those who satisfied these requirements. Complacently the leaders of religion consign the wicked to the fires, and allot the good to a seat on the right hand of God. Now modern thought reasons that a God who casts man into everlasting fire to burn cannot be a God of Love. Therefore this teaching is rejected. Such an extraordinary conception has done much to blind mankind to the truths of God.

Do we then believe, and are we teaching that there are souls on earth so evil that they will be eventually consumed without hope of redemption? There are schools of thought which identify themselves with this conception ... but we are not of these schools. From our observation of human life and in the spirit spheres above the earth, we have seen that all souls are brought along the road of life to be eventually reunited with the Father–Mother God.

You may exclaim at the state of the world at present, saying, ‘The world is overrun with evil men, in whom we cannot believe there is any good’. There is good in every living man and woman. In the long, long progress of the spirit, the Divine Spark, born of God, is unconscious of its power. Nevertheless, it journeys forth and onward until it becomes conscious of its true estate, until it becomes God-conscious. This is the whole purpose of life: that the Divine Spark may win experience through the spheres of spirit life and also in a physical, material life, until through trial and experience gained it becomes God-conscious and Godlike.... *A man made perfect.*

After each life of man’s ego in physical form, it passes away into a state of spiritual life of which very little is known by the world today. This life in the higher spheres was better understood by the Initiates of the Ancient Wisdom in the great lands and contents of long ago. Let us realise this: *Man, when he passes to the spirit world, is faced with his own reflection.* Some of you may have heard of the ‘Black Mirror’, to which pupils, or candidates

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for initiation, are led in order that they may see themselves not as ordinary people see them, but as they truly are, in their souls. Such a mirror is placed before all individuals in the spirit world at some time, perhaps not immediately after death. A cosmic law controls spiritual evolution. All is law and order in the spiritual realms and there is no confusion, no error. Perfect law governs life. When a soul passes onward it must, of necessity, confront the Mirror, and learn to discriminate between *that which is of value and that which is valueless*. That which is valueless (clinging to the soul-body which survives death), that which is unwanted and undesirable in the heavens, has to be burnt away or consumed. Fire is the great purifier. In God's scheme of life there is no room for an accumulation of waste matter; and so all that is built into man's soul – unworthy of the new life – is cast into the fires of hell and consumed.

There is within us all the element of sin. Self-will is that which creates waste matter, not only in the physical body but in the higher bodies of man. This same waste matter has to be eliminated from the soul, and the process of elimination causes suffering, which might be described as a fire of repentance burning within.

This is not necessarily post phoned until after death. You can experience it whilst still living in your physical body. If you allow desires of a certain type so to possess you that you are no longer master, you find desire like a consuming fire within, which will ultimately burn out that which is not Godlike. In other words, the purpose of man's life is that he may learn so to discipline his lower vehicles that he is Master; and all that is finished with, all that has served its purpose in educating or training the ego, can then be consumed and disposed of. This is the inner meaning of the hell fire which faces every man.

In the lower stratas of evolution the fires burn fiercely; but in the lower stratas the soul is not so sensitive to the fires of cleansing. As the soul evolves – and you know this is true, for you experience it on the path towards God-consciousness – it becomes so much more sensitive to waste matter that it suffers correspondingly. How long, you will ask, does the soul have to endure? In the realm of spirit there is no time-consciousness, and a soul may pass through the consummation in a flash, in a moment of time. That same moment of time may be measured in your earth language as a thousand years! But such a period, when released from the body the illumination of heaven may come to the soul in a flash.

In conclusion, beloved brethren of the earth life, having seen that all, all the passions and greeds which have necessarily contributed certain lessons of life must eventually be consumed, let us turn to the ultimate life towards which we all are moving. All that is finished with is returned to its correct place in the scheme of life. Then the spirit of the ego moves forward into the glory of the Father-Mother God, into the glory of the Trinity of life, perfected....

If a soul has not retained any good material within itself which can be used in the building of the Temple which the soul has to inhabit in the beyond, then that soul is itself consumed, because it retains nothing worthy of use. But the Divine Spirit, the Breath of God, the Divine Spark, the innermost of the soul, is never destroyed, destroyed, never consumed, but returns

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to its Father and is absorbed into the Divine Fires. No Spark of God is ever lost. But if the material with which the self-will endows the ego, the material it creates, prove unworthy and useless in the divine scheme, then the material is all consumed, since it has no place in the Kingdom of God.

We trust that there will be little confusion of thought as a result of this talk. We trust that you will recognise the worthwhileness of your life, the worthiness of all life. We trust that you will realise that God, the Father and Mother, is a God of love – and humanity, God's children, are loved by God with a love indescribable. The process of elimination and consummation is beautiful and natural and the suffering which man endures in the process of growth is in a sense beautiful ... a gentle experience, like birth and death...

My beloved brethren, when a soul comes into harmony with the divine light, all things become beautiful. Entry into this world is harmonious and beautiful, is it not? – and the leaving of this world should be harmonious and beautiful. Indeed, when man has reached his full manhood in physical form, he will not leave the earth plane through any form of suffering, but will quietly lay down the physical body and then arise and move forward into the eternal light. And, like the Prodigal Son's return to his father, he will be welcomed with praise, thanksgiving and rejoicing.

There is nothing to fear in life or death or beyond when a man loves God and his brother man. Peace be unto 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:*

*end of the world, Armageddon, Revelation, doomsday, judgment day, wickedness, cause and effect, divine law, passing on, punishment*