

The True Vine

A352 Sunday Address 30th September 1962 New Lands, Liss Harvest Festival and
Seventeenth Anniversary Service

Text: typescript carbon, probably by AMI. No markings. The title has been created for the current project.

Context: a novelty in this address is the children bringing harvest gifts to the altar. It does not mean that the little ceremony had not been practised before, or that it only happened at New Lands, not London, but JGH (Joan Hodgson) would undoubtedly have begun Children's Services at New Lands by this time and the practice would have arisen therefrom. AMI, as usual, gives us no hint of the other components of the service beyond the address, but there is (as always now) a communion. We learn from the address itself that the reading was from John 15, beginning at the first verse ('I am the true vine'). The end of the address informs us that there were a number of Daughter Lodge leaders present.

General Notes: the first three paragraphs, unusually, are addressed to the children present. There is a beautiful statement at the beginning that love itself is the Christ child – implied many times in White Eagle's teaching but rarely so directly put, maybe because it is here addressed to the children. White Eagle reminds the adults that if they have no opportunity to serve in a community, they can still serve life itself – doubtless by giving out light and love. Another beautiful phrase describes the feeling which comes at harvest time: 'The earth is gradually folding in, like a mother folding her arms after her tasks are done in the evening'. It leads into an important passage about the Great Mother. There is an interesting passage about the realisation, after death, of being surrounded by love. The verse about the true vine is used to show the interconnectedness of all life. White Eagle also does some justice to the beauty of New Lands – 'this ancient holy place'. But in justifying the comment he mentions not monks who perambulated the garden but ancient ones calling down the light. After speaking of the Vine, White Eagle mentions the Corn which is life – and thus finds his way into a communion that begins as wheat and grapes, changing into bread and wine. Once again in this particular year White Eagle also refers to the golden platter that carries the bread – as a solar symbol.

References: 'Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock...' Is Matthew 7 : 7; 'Whatsoever a man soweth' is Galatians 6 : 7. 'I am the true vine' is John 15 : 1. White Eagle asks who it was who said, 'Blessed is he that hath not seen and yet still believes'. As he explains, this is Jesus, speaking to doubting Thomas at John 20 : 29. 'Thou shalt love; thou shalt not kill' is a hybrid of the injunction at John 13 : 34: 'Love one another' and the Mosaic Commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill' (Exodus 20 : 13).

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren of the earth life, we speak to you from the world of spirit and we rejoice to come. We watched the children bringing their harvest gifts to the altar, the communion table of the Lord, and to our children and young people we would speak first and tell you dear ones that you have a great gift in your heart.

It is the gift of love which is the Son or the Child of God, and you can think of this gift as a light which is deep within your soul; and when you are in need, when you feel that you need help to accomplish a task or to do your lessons well or to be kind to your companions, your child companions, try and remember that the light which is in your heart will guide you. It will show you the way to go, will show you what to do.

Remember, dear children, that as you brought your harvest gifts up to this altar there were shining beings, angels who were watching you and were well pleased, indeed *very* pleased to

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see you bearing your fruits. And may God bless you, my children, in all you do, bless you in your life and with your companions. God bless you, children, and help you to do the right, to think right and to be helpful to other people. It was a wonderful scene as those children came up to the altar because on either side of them were the angelic beings. They formed a guard of honour. Now this is how the people in the spirit life look upon the young, the children on earth. They protect them. They shine a light upon them for children are very dear to parents, and all children on earth – young souls we call the children – they are watched over very tenderly by the heavenly protectors and guardian angels.

Do not forget – we speak now to our elder brethren here – that you all have a guardian angel ready at your prayer to draw close and to help you in your task of serving mankind. Whatever your work, it is service to someone or to the community in which you live. Service is the keynote of life. Do not be distressed if you are alone and feel that you have no opportunity to serve in a community, because each individual has the opportunity to give service to life, and the basis service which *must* be and is always given from our world is the service of Love.

We look upon the fruits of the earth here all around us. The earth is gradually folding in, like a mother folding her arms after her tasks are done in the evening. The mother is the giver of life, and down the ages the ancients worshipped the Great Mother Deity, only recognising the supreme creative power through the Mother. The Mother gave life and this was the religion, this was the foundation of worship of all the ancient peoples. They recognised in the Mother – whether she was a human mother or Mother Nature, Mother Earth – they recognised the illustration of continued life. There can be no death. There was change, there was decay, but all that decayed was absorbed again into the womb and the heart of the Great Mother to be brought forth again into form and active life. So your ancient brethren had touched a deep secret, which so many on your earth today are inclined to ignore. The man or woman who studies the seasons and the crops and all Nature grows very close to truth because in the earth, in the sowing and the reaping, there is the divine law of eternal life, the divine law which controls and directs all human life. Did not the cosmic Christ in his wisdom cause those words to be said through the initiate, ‘Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap’? – and in your own studies you have found that the law of karma is exact, just, perfect and true. No man or woman lives to himself or herself. Every life is bound up in other lives and this no man can escape, and in time on this earth we hope – but if not on this earth, in the world of spirit – whether the spirit of man retains a physical body or discards the physical body – whether man is functioning in the world of spirit through meditation or whether he has to wait until he has cast off the body of flesh, but at that level of consciousness man sees for himself this infinite and eternal law at work.

Many people deny the truth of reincarnation and the law of karma because they cannot understand its justice, but it is like a man trying to view a beautiful work of art, a painting. He cannot see with true perspective if he puts his face too close to the picture. When man gets a true perspective of life, he is able to see this divine law working in mortal life, and not only does karma cause man apparently to suffer for the neglect of kindness and love in a former life, but he is given in his present life opportunities to learn and to understand the reason why life is as it is on the physical plane.

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But at the same time let us not forget divine justice and mercy. We see in the world of spirit the mercy of God dealing with all souls who are humble and who seek God. 'Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.' No man is refused entry into the heavenly palaces or temples of wisdom. Man has only to be humble and simple and to have a loving heart and to seek truth, seek true values.

Unfortunately, many souls on earth miss so much happiness and beauty because they have a false sense of life's values. Now in the world of spirit a man, after he has been cleansed and purged of all that is now unwanted in spirit life, is taken into a condition most suited to him and to his understanding. You see, God is merciful. God cares for every soul and provides for it exactly the conditions it most needs in which to learn, in which to gain knowledge and wisdom, and one of the most striking events when a man awakens in the world of spirit is his vision, his realisation that life there is all love. There is no inharmony in these heavenly states of life, nor is there any inharmony in the soul on earth who has once seen and entered into that sphere of light and truth.

We have listened to a reading from the Christian Gospels in which Jesus Christ said – it was the Cosmic Jesus, the Great White Light speaking through the human voice – 'I AM the true vine and you are the branches'. What a simple exposition of truth! For when a man can feel that he is a part of infinity and eternity; and when he can feel that he is a part of all life on the physical earth, of nature, of animal life, of human life and angelic life; when a man can feel as he looks at the precious stone that he beats, his life beats in rhythm with that physical stone; man is in full comprehension that he is in the very centre of a vast Star and that he cannot be separated from this vast life. Then he understands through his experiences, through his feeling, that all that he thinks and says and does has an effect upon the whole star or upon the law of infinity. It seems incredible, but it is true.

No man can live to himself for he is part of the vine, the one true vine of life. It is a great thought, brethren. Strive for this realisation in your motives and in your deepest heart and it will be your salvation. All humanity will be saved, or – put it another way – all humanity will reach that state of happiness when man has disciplined the lower nature, the pull of darkness, and is able to dwell in the light of the spirit life.

We have to give thanks to our Lord God and to all the company of shining ones who have by their love and service to humanity brought into being this work. We have to give thanks for the sustenance which has been given to this work here in this ancient holy place. Now many of you will say – we hear you say it – 'I see nothing; I feel nothing, yet I believe'. Who was it who said, 'Blessed is he that hath not seen and yet still believes'? Our Master spake those words. Blessed is he who has not seen nor felt and yet he believes. It is a wonderful faith that many of you have, but you do not see, there is something deep in your soul, or in your heart, which tells you truth, which urges you to listen and to follow a certain line of life or belief or service. Always follow the inner light.

Now upon this very spot where we are now gathered, at one time in far-off days although eternally now on the etheric plane, are those white-robed shining brethren who gathered here long before recorded history and here on this hilltop worshipped the Great Mother and called

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down upon the earth, upon the crops, the Great White Light. We have said on another occasion that the finest dressing that you can put on your earth is love. It may sound very foolish to you when we say this, but what about your friends who appear to have what you call the 'green finger'. What is the green finger? It is simply love. When men learn to love the earth, to love the sowing of the seed and the growing crops; when instead of exploiting Mother Earth for selfish gain, desire only to obey divine law which is giving and giving, giving and receiving, but always giving first and then receiving, when man commences to put this law into operation in his life, then there will be enrichment of Mother Earth instead of despoliation as at present. But man learns his lessons so hardly but in the end exactly the same as in human life, when the law of karma gets to work and man has to take stock of his own life and his thoughts and his deeds. Then he begins to think and in time learns there is something wrong, and so it will be with the crops on the earth in time. Humanity will return once again to that simple obedience to the cosmic law, the law which says, 'Thou shalt love; thou shalt not kill'.

Of course when these commandments were given, in far-off days, you may say that the people in those days were very crude and they had very little knowledge – but they had knowledge, my brethren, they had knowledge of a different nature from present-day knowledge. You are in the new age of Aquarius, when the mental body is developing and becoming so active, when the intellect is most powerful, when all that is gentle and kind and brotherly is looked upon askance, but beneath the mental power lies this seed of love. It lies in the human heart and in due time it will – if it is not already doing so – it will develop and grow and it will spread all over the earth so that man will understand that to live in happiness and peace he must live in harmony with his brother man. He must live for the good of all creation. He must live to give, to serve mankind. Now whether that happens sooner or later, it will eventually happen.

Now we are going to leave you in a few moments. We do not wish to weary you but as we take our leave we want to impress upon all our dear ones here, all our Daughter Lodges and the many representatives here of Daughter Lodges, we want to impress upon you that as you put into operation this law of love, kindness, gentleness in your work, so it will grow and flourish. It is just like dressing an acre of corn. Corn is the finest symbol we can give you. Corn is the bread of life. Here this work has been established to spread the truth of spiritual brotherhood because you are all brethren, you are all of one vast family – and, becoming conscious of this fact, you increase in yourself spiritual life. Now this spiritual life is a great cleanser of physical matter. When spiritual life is well and truly established in the physical body, in the consciousness of the individual, all the organs come into harmony and proper correct activity. It is just like soothing and smoothing down all the rough places. It is exactly the same teaching in the ancient mystery schools, in Masonry – the smoothing down of the rough ashlar, the development of the perfecting of physical life and the physical body. The true basic healing which comes to man comes from this divine light you call the Christ light and with this also comes the stimulation within the consciousness of man, the stimulation of his spiritual powers, the radiation from him of this eternal light, so that wherever you go you carry with you the healing power, the harmonising agent, the blessing of God.

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Now remember, children, that your work will grow and flourish so long as you guard the light of your altar, which means not merely the physical light in a little lamp. That is only a symbol. The real light upon your altar is that divine love. Preserve that, establish it in your work. Preserve it in all you do and you will grow and flourish and will bring home a rich harvest not only to yourself but to all mankind. And no one lives alone. No one can live to himself, and if he grows in spirit, if he grows in love, he is increasing love in all life.

And so we give thanks for the establishment of this work on earth and for the harvest it has already produced. When this law is put into operation your lives will be rich and full, pressed down and running over.

And the form of Him who is the Master, the Lord Christ, can be seen here. Open your inner eyes and see this shining being who comes in spirit to bless you, to bring you love. Before Him is the communion table built of higher ether, spread with the white cloth, and there you will see the symbols of the wheat and the grapes; and the wheat is converted into bread, broken bread on the golden disc, symbol of the Sun; and the grapes are pressed into wine, the juice of the grapes, the true life-force which comes from His love. And He offers you this holy and silent communion in this temple. Accept from Him, from the golden plate, the pieces of bread, the symbol of His cosmic body, for His cosmic body is in everything....

And He raises the cup of wine, the juice of the grapes, symbol of His life, His love – given, poured out so freely for His brother man. Sip the wine and be at one in truth, in life; be at one with Him, the Creator, the Giver of life; be at one; surrender, surrender to Him-Her, the Beloved. And so mote it be henceforth – Love.

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:

spiritual path, path of the soul, brotherhood, connection, mother goddess, Divine Mother, devas, angelic companions, communion, life after death, rebirth, cause and effect, heavenly garden, garden of reunion, nature, seasons, path of service, spiritual work, spiritual service, heaven world, heavenly temple, Gaia, mother earth, triple goddess, eucharist