

## The Lord is My Shepherd (3)

A074 Sunday Address 5th May 1940 Pembroke Hall, 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 Angelus, July 1940*

*Context: Sunday service, presumably from Pembroke Hall. One of the hymns chosen is noted as having been 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind', which continues 'forgive our foolish [sometimes, 'feverish'] ways. The words are by Whittier.*

*General Notes: not only given the title 'The Lord is my Shepherd (3)' but advertised at the end of the second in the series as being due for publication as no. 3 in the July Angelus. It completes a little trio of addresses on the same theme, begun in Edinburgh and apparently finished off in London. It seems unlikely that Minesta stayed in Edinburgh from late March to early May.*

*Historical note: this address precedes by two days only the beginning of the epoch-making debate in the British House of Commons known as the Norway debate, which culminated in the resignation of Neville Chamberlain and the coming to power of Winston Churchill as Prime Minister.*

*References: for 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind', see General Notes. The address quotes words from later in Psalm 23, beginning 'Thou anointest my head with oil'; this is verse 5. Later, 'Thou preparest a table before me' is also from that verse. The precept, 'Love one another' is found – though not uniquely – in John 13 : 34. The psalm is completed later in the address.*

### White Eagle's Address:

It is a comforting, beautiful thought that we are ever near our Father and our Mother God. For we are all children. The realisation of our inadequacy becomes acute when we come face to face with the major realities of life and death, of overwhelming joy and overwhelming sorrow. But one must distinguish between childishness and childlikeness. Whilst the material conditions of a chaotic world impress upon your consciousness inadequacy and inability to do anything helpful, on the other hand the spirit within can become at-one with the Father-Mother God, recognise its true relationship, recognise its own childlikeness, and then link itself to that All-powerful and All-wise and All-loving Source of Life.

The hymn that you have sung emphasises this thought. Your voices and your hearts were raised in childlike simplicity to the 'dear Lord and Father of mankind'. If you can now, in this life, keep in mind your true relationship to God, if you can walk your daily path conscious of the ever-presence of a beloved Father and Mother, the strain and the torment of the material world will fall away. How can you fear or be anxious when by your side is God? Your spirit is in close relationship to your heavenly Parents. Earthly parents may abandon a child, but on the spirit plane the relationship between child and parent – that Parent Whom we call God – is never broken; we walk closely enveloped in this Parent's love. Nothing can hurt us, but we have lessons to be learnt.

In two previous talks we have dealt with the theme, The Lord is my Shepherd, a psalm with universal appeal, and which reveals to the Initiate that the psalm had profound knowledge of the path which the soul treads from birth to the Light. In the latter half of this psalm we read these words: 'Thou preparedst a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house – in the home, in the temple – of the

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Lord for ever'. Do these words bring to your disturbed hearts a message of peace and assurance? They will, if you but meditate upon them. Thou, my Shepherd, the God within my breast, that Higher Self, that Greater Self which is a part of every man, will prepare for every man a table full of all that is needed for the sustenance of body, soul, and spirit.

*Thou, O God, preparest before me a table in the presence of my enemies!* What enemies are meant? Look abroad in the world of yesterday, of today, and the world of tomorrow and we shall see many so-called enemies on the outer plane. 'Our country being in a state of war, it must fight an enemy.' So the material mind thinks.

The people of this or that country are your enemies, and particularly their leader. Elsewhere in the world, fear thought prompts man to think of other potential enemies. Your enemy, across the Channel, regards you in exactly the same light. Poor humanity, so full of antagonism and fear! You see as through a glass darkly; and exactly the same thing is happening with your brethren over the channel; they are looking askance at you and your country; they fail to comprehend your point of view and your needs and your fears in the same way as you fail to comprehend them and their needs. All mankind might well be praying to the dear Lord and Father to forgive their foolish ways! These apparent enemies are actually your friends. In daily life you rub shoulders with other people with whom you have to mix and do your business. Whatever your business is, it is a form of service, no matter on what plane. You are a servant of humanity. Because of this, in your daily work, you come up against the petty irritations which the lower self feels as it contacts the lower self in others. Instinctively the feeling may arise that so and so is your enemy, because that individual does not see eye to eye with you, does not put himself in your place, and so cannot understand all your difficulties and struggles. If you think of him as a potential enemy, he is likely to regard you in the same light!

Dear friends and brothers of my heart, be calm and tranquil in your thoughts towards individuals, and pray that you may look in a broad sense into the heart of humanity, even as did Christ, our Lord and Master. His teachings contain the simple, and yet infinitely wise precept, 'Love one another'. No man can be your enemy; no man, no nation can be the enemy of your country. All men are your teachers. Two mighty forces are at work in life called good and evil, or positive and negative, or male and female, or light and darkness, but actually *one* Force or Energy ... one great Law in the Universe, and operating in human life. One aspect you may call constructive and the other destructive. If you should see workmen demolishing old buildings, you do not exclaim, 'These men are enemies; stop them!' You accept the fact because you know when the old is cleared away, a new structure will arise in its place. This is what the force of Evil is doing in the world today; evil as a destructive force is clearing away old forms, old conditions, breaking up and dispersing, disintegrating in order to clear way for the construction of new beauty in architecture, in religion, in man's relationship to his brother man, in brotherhood. So the enemies referred to by the psalmist were not mortal nor material enemies. The psalmist had sufficient wisdom to know that these are not man's foe, but his teachers.

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Who, then did he refer to when he said of the Lord, the Good Shepherd, 'Thou preparest a table before me – a feast of all needful to the soul (and the body of man) – in the presence of my enemies?' These are no other than the enemies within the city, of man's inner self ... the enemies called worry, fear, ill health, selfishness – all the destructive attributes which crowd upon the lower man. These are the true enemies of man. But the Lord is my Shepherd; dear Lord, Father-Mother God, I am Thy child! Thou preparest everything for my need in spite of my fears, depression, worry. All things which fill my soul and nourish my body come from Thee. It is a scientific law of the spiritual life ... that Thou, O God, will sustain me and fulfil all my needs, so long as I am faithful to Thee.

What cause for fear when the Lord God is a Parent loving and compassionate? 'Thou anointest my head with oil!' This, my brethren, refers to one of the initiations through which every man will some day pass. The oil represents the wisdom of the spirit, the wisdom of God. Automatically it follows; the soul having partaken of the feast of the Lord, it must necessarily be anointed, or initiated on to the path of wisdom. Then the man sees things more clearly, is no longer hasty, jumping to erroneous conclusions about men and life; he learns to be tranquil in spirit, and still and calm within. The lesson which has been his teaches the great lesson of peace and trust in the Father-Mother God. In a great ecstasy of joy and peace he cries out, 'My cup runneth over!' The cup of the heart, the Holy Grail, is now filled with the wine of life, the wine of the spirit, the fire of the spirit. The soul is conscious of this outpouring, and it gives forth its thankfulness, crying, 'Surely, surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life'. For when the soul has been thus initiated, it never looks back; truly its cup runneth over with joy and happiness, truly it is filled with all the goodness of God. Goodness and mercy must surely follow such a soul all the days of its life, which means not one incarnation only, but the whole of the soul's return journey to the Godhead, where indeed the soul shall dwell in the House of the Lord (in the Heaven world) for ever ... and for ever.

'For ever' does not mean a life of effortless inaction, but a life which has found its own relationship to its Creator. It may return to one or other of the planets, incarnate again so that it may labour for the well-being and the upliftment of young brethren; nevertheless that soul remains for ever in the House of the Lord. Of these, the Chosen, was Christ, the Lord of this earth. Even while he manifests in the flesh, he lives also in the Home of his Father for ever.

Lastly, we pray to our Lord, our Father-Mother God that the message of goodwill, the message of joy, which we bring will find entry into your heart. If you cease this instant from turning your thoughts downward, and look henceforth at the world through spectacles of love and understanding, you will begin to perceive a gathering together of all warring nations into one grand Brotherhood, a unity of peoples. Each will contribute to the welfare of the others, and not one will strive against another for its own greed and power. We try, each time we come, to reveal the message written in the skies – the establishment on earth of universal brotherhood, the coming again of the Lord into the hearts of the people. The darkness passes: the spiritual blackout will be forgotten, and the Light of Heaven, the Light of the Sun, will shine forth back again into the hearts of a joyful and thankful humanity...

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God bless every one.... 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:*

*atonement, at-one-ment*

