

# The Meaning of Easter

A191 Sunday Address 4th April 1948 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

*The date of this address is conjectural (see below), while the text is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors*

*Text: from Angelus, April 1949*

*Context:* this address is something of a mystery with regard to its date. As it appeared in April 1949 it cannot be the 1949 Easter address, as Easter Sunday was on 17 April that year. However, it also mentions being given since the war ended, so that the possible are 1946, 1947 and 1948. *Angelus* for March 1947 states quite specifically that there will not be an Easter service. 1948 is possible, except that the address here dated to 21 March 1948 seems to have been given on the vernal equinox, which in that year was just one week before Easter, which fell on the 28th. We have also dated an address to 7 March 1948, so that White Eagle would have to have spoken on three Sundays in March 1948 for this one to have been given that year. We therefore turn to 1946, when Easter fell late, on 21 April. The second paragraph, mentioning the war, has in any case the air of describing something which has come about quite recently – by 1948 the war was three years past and men and women were feeling economic hardship and fears of the aspirations of Stalin's Russia. On balance, though, we turn to 4 April 1948 for the following reasons. First, Easter Day itself that year seems unlikely for reasons just given; there is just a hint, here, though that we are looking back on Easter while still remembering the vernal equinox and the Sun moving into Aries. On 21 April 1946, the other most likely date, it would have been entering Taurus and talk of Aries would be a little anachronistic. Last, and not least, it was a first Sunday in a month with no other recorded address, and it would be the most natural Easter address to print in April 1949.

*General Notes:* this is a relatively short Easter address, for reasons unknown.

*References:* 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world' is Matthew 28 : 20. 'I am the way, the truth and the life!' and 'I am the light of the world' are John 14 : 6 and 8 : 12 respectively.

## White Eagle's Address:

Let us gather together as one brotherhood in spirit. We would remind you that what we speak to you from spirit comes from the heart. We speak of eternal truths, of the spirit of life. You have all aspired to the Source of your physical, mental and spiritual life, to your Father–Mother God. The words read to you from the Gospel, the words once spoken by the Master Jesus, are these: 'Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world'. Perhaps these words have become so familiar that their significance has faded. Yet he said, 'Lo, I am with you always' – not only at certain times, not only during certain religious ceremonies which seem to be necessary in your ordered lives, when you enter a sanctuary of spiritual power and become aware of the presence of God; but *always* – for you are sons and daughters of the living God, and therefore hold within your heart the life and qualities of God.

This is the most vital, the most important truth for men and women to understand, particularly at this time. There is a great spirit of brotherly kindness abroad. You see this manifesting in many ways, particularly since the war ceased; men now desire to be brotherly, to serve each other. They want all the good things to come back – not only good things of a material nature but all the gifts of God – material gifts, mental gifts, spiritual gifts – in other words mankind now turns its face towards the light, towards the sun, towards the Giver of all life. This light which manifests through the sun symbolises the life of the spiritual sun which was speaking through the Master Jesus and which has spoken through all teachers and

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spiritual leaders of men since life commenced. The same message is spoken not only to the mind but the heart of every man, 'Lo, I am with you always; even unto the end of the world I am with you'. Thus speaks the inner voice, the voice of the son—daughter of the living God.

When mankind realises this truth and lives by the direction of that inner light, all problems of the material life will be solved. We say this without hesitation or compromise, because we know it is to be true from the world of spirit, from the spheres of the spiritual life where the arisen souls more perfectly comprehend the meaning of, 'Lo, I am with you'. In these spheres of light life becomes perfect harmony, beauty, and happiness, because the spirit has left behind the entanglements of its lower self. The true purpose of life upon your earth is to bring through into manifestation on the plane the qualities of the God-life, in the degree that they manifest in the spheres beyond.

My brethren, do you not feel the holy presence of the spirit of life, of the Christ spirit? Can you comprehend? The bird sings its song of praise and thanksgiving to its Creator for sunlight and warmth and food. Its song is an emblem of the voice of God. You too have been celebrating the ancient festival known as Eastertide, albeit few people comprehend the wonder of that festival. Nevertheless, when the sun shines as it does at the present moment something stirs within most hearts, and you say, 'It is good to be alive!'

This festival of the Spring Equinox is not confined to the past two thousand years; it is a festival which has always been held, but in a slightly different form from that of today. The ancients celebrated this wonderful period when the sun passed into Aries, and they worshipped the Sign of Aries the Ram because it brought to them the promise, the assurance, of renewed life. This son of the Ram was known as the 'Lamb' of God and was loved and worshipped as an offspring of the Ram. Ceremonies of worship and rejoicing took place because the Child or the Lamb had become manifest in the form of fresh life. Everywhere the promise was being fulfilled; the earth was awakening, the sap was rising in the trees; crops were being sown and there was promise of food and continuance of life. Had the sun not returned there would have been no promise, no hope of continuance of life. We ourselves remember, as if it were today, grand ceremonies at which we worshipped the rising sun, and the rays of the sun descended upon the earth in gentle power. We bowed in obeisance to that glory in the heavens. It is a pity that such ceremonies are not held today, because they would bring to humanity a keener realisation of the value of the gifts of God; would cause men and women to pause, and remember the Giver of all life; and to remember that they must take only their share of the blessings which the earth produces, and not more than their share. It would remind people that they were units of one brotherhood beneath the supreme light of the sun, the life-giver.

My brethren, we must ever remember that while the sun gives sustenance to physical life in man, behind the sun is a greater power, a spiritual light and life which gives eternal life to the spirit of man. The human spirit, when cut off from the Source of its life, tends to wither and shrink. This you can see in the physical forms and in the material lives of the people about you. When the law of the divine sun is fully operating in the human life you see perfection, you will see harmony. When there is sickness these atoms of light and power can transform the body from sickness to health. This is the spiritual law. When it apparently fails to operate, it means that at some time an obstacle has grown up within the soul, and that the obstacle has

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to be slowly eliminated. While this process is taking place the soul is learning wisdom through suffering. When once a soul desires with all its strength to become a server of the human race and a servant of the Great White Spirit, that soul surrenders itself to God the Source of its being and says, 'I will learn of Thee; teach me according to Thy will and Thy love'.

Beloved, we have no hesitation in affirming that when the soul becomes meek and lowly, having complete confidence in the divine Source of its life and the divine laws in which that life exists, then it receives in full measure all that it needs. Only base your life upon service and you may have confidence that that service will be used according to the wisdom and will of God.

In you Easter ceremonies three great initiations of body, soul and spirit are symbolised. At its time of crucifixion the soul of a man or woman bows down and surrenders to God in all its trials and tribulations. This sense of surrender to the spiritual law is vitally important. *Into Thy hands I commit my life, O Father God!* Having no fear, but only confidence in God, the soul surrenders all the material conditions of its life. The material life suffers crucifixion and apparently remains in a state of death. You have all been through conditions which have caused you to lose all hope, when all seemed as death in you and in your environment. Later, after that period of suffering has passed you have sought for an answer, an explanation. You are told in the Christian story that the women are first at the sepulchre seeking the body of their Lord. The women are symbolic of the soul, the soul aspect of man. The soul went in search of its Master. A soul-initiation was sought for on that day, and then the soul heard the voice of the angels. It was not the mind in the worldly brain. It was the soul which sought the Master. Then the Master appeared, and the spirit of the disciples rose, and that spirit lived afterward in the disciples, so that the spirit of their Master could visit them – this was a threefold initiation of body, soul and spirit to the disciple.

Now, my brethren, as one company let us turn our faces towards the heights, the mountain top; for we are told that the Lord Christ, the Son of God, ascended to the mountain heights. There, being surrounded by his disciples, he vanished from their sight; he was caught up in the spheres of light above the earth; and yet it remains with you always. Its presence afterward will not be apparent in material life; nevertheless it is always near for you to take counsel with, for you to hold communion with. Behold, I am the way, the truth and the life! Behold, I am the light of the world! Withdrawn from physical sight yet I still live, and I live in you. Look to me. Take counsel with me. Let the light of the Christ, the Son of God, be your director, your comforter, your constant companion. What is there to fear in darkness? There is no darkness. There is no death. There is only that suffering which the lower self creates, the suffering which the soul sometimes seeks to undergo either to learn wisdom for the future or to pay its past debts. When you reach that spiritual level of consciousness, the plane of the pure Christ spirit, there will be no more pain, no more suffering, no more darkness, and there can be no death. May the peace of this spirit bless you. Go forth with courage and confidence that the sun will manifest on earth, for "as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be" – this is the eternal and living truth. Amen. Amen. Amen.