

The Happy Life

A281 Sunday Address 8th January 1956 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year service

Text: blue carbon copy of a typescript in MB's unmistakable style. It mentions the reading, but not the hymns or any other context. It was printed, in an edited form, in *Stella Polaris* the month after it was given and again in April 1982.

Context: the first Sunday in January 1956 would have been New Year's Day and so the service took place on the second Sunday. The typist lists the reading as coming from *Angelus* in 1949; it began 'My brethren, lift up your hearts, lift up your hopes'.

General Notes: after a description of the Shining Ones who have come with him for the service, White Eagle offers great reassurance about individual progress and progress in the Lodge. He comments (we understand, for he is not specific) on the development of nuclear weapons and assures his listeners that it is in fact a spiritual awakening. Once again, he speaks of religion and science starting to come together. He makes a strong justification for his optimism. There is a very helpful discussion about what a 'gift from God' might consist of. Much of the address is taken up with comforting the bereaved, and it can reasonably be assumed that present in the congregation were some raw emotions of bereavement. Maybe it is not a coincidence that it appeared in print less than a month later. At the end of the address there is a short but beautiful communion.

References: 'God moves in a mysterious way|His wonders to perform' are the opening lines of a poem by William Cowper, written in 1773, and some time after used as a hymn, in which form it is still popular.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren, we speak with all love to you at this first service of the New Year.

First of all we would like to describe to you the hosts of Shining Ones who are with us to help us all in this Service. As we come into your life here on earth, we humbly thank God for what we see spiritually. We can see the change which has taken place in you over the past year. Most of you will say, 'But we are not conscious of any change in ourselves'. Most of you will feel rather disappointed. You will in all probability think how little has been accomplished during the past year. Indeed, looking back over many years you will still say that 'I have done so little. I have made such poor progress during the past years'.

Now we can see by the radiation in this Lodge that you have all grown spiritually over the past year. We know most of you assembled here and those who think that they are strangers to us are making a mistake – because we know you, if not through the physical life at the present time, but we know you through the spirit life. It is by no chance that souls are brought into the Lodge, nor are they brought into contact with one another [without deeper purpose]. There is a wise plan held by the Great Architect of the Universe. It is not possible for the human mind to comprehend the grandeur or the perfection of the Divine Plan.

Life assigns to you a chaotic condition sometimes, but if you could see from a higher aspect you would recognise the patient working of a divine law in the individual life and in the whole life of humanity: a wonderful, progressive state. This progress is the result of the spiritual awakening in man's consciousness. You may feel despondent about world conditions. You may be fearful of the future because man is probing the secrets of mother earth and appears to be using the knowledge gained for the destruction, or preparing to use it

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for the destruction, of mankind. This is a phase which humanity, in its ignorance, is passing through. What is actually happening is an awakening, a spiritual awakening in humanity. You may look back over the past century and say how can this be when today the people are not so religious? They do not go to church. Religion has no attraction for the masses. They only desire pleasure and satisfaction of the senses. They are growing more materialistic. If you will think deeply about things, you will recognise a power, a spiritual power, which is slowly working into man's life and stimulating his consciousness of a spiritual force, of a spiritual life.

In the past man worshipped a God, the only God that he was ready to comprehend. In many cases it was an anthropomorphic god. Nowadays science is making great discoveries in nature, and as science advances it is bringing home to mankind spiritual life. Very soon there will be no separation between real religion and science. Religion can be described in its highest sense as spiritual science.

Now in the future days there will be wonderful statements made by scientists because there will be a revelation through science: a revelation of God and the power of a godly life. Humanity is progressing very rapidly towards this Divine revelation. Man is developing deep within his soul. He is developing this spiritual sense, a spiritual awareness of life eternal. The old ways of thought and the old life is passing away as man advances into the new life. And we see this new life of humanity in a golden light. You may think that we are optimistic. You must always look forward into the light. Always look forward into the golden light. What good does it do you to dwell in pessimism? Does it help you at all to be pessimistic about the state of your life? You must be optimistic. You must look into the golden light. You must see over all this evolution, this unfoldment, this advancement. You can see it quite clearly. If you look back you can see the magnificent development and progress of mankind.

But here, my dear brethren, for the future you must have faith in God. Why must you have faith in God? Because the past has demonstrated to you the wonderful development, the wonderful awakening and progress which humanity has made. And, if it has made progress let us say for the past century, you can be confident that the next century will make – if not more progress – well, equal progress. So, at the beginning of a New Year you must all look in to the golden future because it is there.

We wish you, you wish your friends a 'Happy New Year'. What constitutes happiness to man? Does happiness mean that you have everything your own way? Does it mean that you have no lessons to learn, no conditions which you can describe as sorrowful? True happiness does not lie with outward things but with the state of the soul. One man may go through what appears to be a great sorrow, pain, disappointment and loss and yet, at the end of his experience, he is calm and peaceful and a light shines from his countenance. Another man will go through the same experience and he will be confused and unhappy and sorrowful, in a great state of sorrow. One man has taken his experiences in the way the soul should take them, and so what might have been disaster in his life turns out to be the greatest blessing to his soul. It is the human reaction to the conditions that creates either sorrow or happiness.

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If you have to bear a loss, never forget that God never takes without giving, and if you lose something or some dear one you can be quite sure that in a little while a greater gift will be given to you. But the greater gift may not be physical, it may be spiritual – but on the other hand it might be both. And so man must learn to have faith. Faith in that Divine plan, faith in that divine love which runs like a golden thread through life.

You think when you are on the earth plane that you know what is best for you. You know what you want, and think that only by getting what you want or retaining what you want, that you are going to be happy. But this is not so. And those of you who have lost dear ones during the past year, we would say especially to you, although you may miss the physical presence, there is something, a great gift which has been given to you.

It is very difficult to describe this gift, because it is of a spiritual nature. It may be the seed. We may describe it as a seed planted in your soul garden. This seed is growing into a lovely flower. It is the only way we can describe it to you. We know the physical loss can never be replaced, but something even better is growing in your soul and it is an understanding. You may not have it yet, but it is growing. It is an understanding of spiritual life. It takes many, many, many lives, many incarnations for this divine consciousness to develop and grow in the individual soul. 'God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.' That flower of spiritual understanding is growing, growing and growing until one day, when it has come in to its full glory, you will wonder at its beauty. You will say, 'Only by the love of God, only through the way, the journey I have travelled could I have found this wondrous thing, this beautiful flower, this miracle of life'.

So be patient, those of you who have lost for a while. It is only for a while that you feel the loss of that dear one. He or she has not been taken from you. It is only that you must develop this inner understanding of eternal life. This lesson, of course, has to be learnt by every soul, whether you have had this experience, this loss, during the past year or not. Nevertheless, it comes into the life of every soul, and we would say to you that what you have to do is to prepare yourself for these temporary separations, because they are bound to touch you physically for a time. But you must not only develop your spiritual consciousness of God's wisdom and God's love. You must not only develop a beauty in your soul as a result of [the] experience, but you must also develop a power, an inner power which will penetrate the curtain which lies between your physical world and the Eternal world, the world of spirit.

Spirit is Eternal. God is Spirit. And every man is a spirit. He is part of God, therefore man is eternal. No one dies, but everyone changes form. The form changes, and conditions change. You are changing every day of your life. But although God in you seems to change, God in you remains eternal, and this is the truth that you must hold fast to: that there is no death, just changing state.

And we tell you that there is nothing to fear for anyone. You can see from a material or a physical point – aspect is the word we want to use – aspect – that physical death is not so ugly, painful; that there is something beautiful about it, that the actual moment, the actual passing of the spirit from the physical atoms, is beautiful. It is written so often on the physical

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face of the one who is released from the flesh. That one goes forward as you must all go forward into the light.

Of course, man must always cling to what he knows. Man must disagree with Divine wisdom on this subject. Oh why, oh why, oh why, is a young life taken? But let us look at the other side of the picture. That life that is taken is taken to something indescribably lovely. If your dear one thought that he or she was going on a lovely holiday to beautiful scenery, to lovely mountains and valley and rivers, beautiful scenery where there is a perfect life, you would not say, 'Oh don't go, stay with us. Stay here in the city. Oh, don't go, don't go! Don't leave us! Don't go!' No, you would say, 'Have a good time my dear, God bless you. We shall look forward to our reunion.'

This is the way we tell you that you must train yourselves to regard physical death and the passing away of a loved one. Even with sorrow or anxiety or trouble, material trouble, financial trouble, whatever the trouble is that comes into your life, remember not to dwell in the darkness of that particular trouble, but to rise up and know that there is a divine purpose behind it – and all will, in time, work out for the blessing, for your blessing and for the blessing of many others who are connected with that particular so-called trouble. It is easy for a spirit to talk to you like this, you may think, but we have all passed along the same road. We have all suffered, and we know what human suffering is. But we come back to the earth people to bring this message of hope, because we know how disappointment and sorrow blesses the soul. We know that unless you experience life for yourselves, experience all these aspects of life, you cannot learn: you cannot enter into that glorious consciousness of heaven.

Spirits do not immediately reach heaven when they leave earth, but they pass on into a life which is less binding, less restricting, than the earth state. But they do not immediately reach that heavenly state. They have to still progress, still learn and unfold. But the life in the spirit world is an inner life. They have to turn in, inward, to learn more of life. When a soul is reborn, reincarnated, it comes again on to an outer life to live outwardly and to express what it has learnt: to put into practice lessons that it has learnt in the past.

Dear ones, we wanted to tell you this at the beginning. We are going to end our talk with this description. You think that you do not know us and that we cannot know you. All of you, every soul in this Lodge tonight has come into contact with us. There are meeting places in our world of spirit. We may call them Lodges. We like the word 'Lodge' because of the meaning. A lodge is a place of refreshment. There are many places of refreshment in our world of spirit and souls come to be refreshed spiritually. All of you are known to us through contact with you during the sleep of your physical bodies. You leave your body sleeping. You come to our world. You mingle with your friends, with those with whom you are in harmony. And we meet you and talk to you. When you waken in the morning you only have a very vague feeling. Not very often can you remember your experiences during your sleep. Nevertheless, what we tell you is true. We speak to you sometimes when you are alone. When you are walking by the side of the river or resting in a garden, or when you enter a lodge or a hall of learning. We pray that you may have strength to overcome the barrier which lies between you and your happiness. And the barrier is materiality.

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All around us now are walls of light; beautiful architecture in this spiritual Lodge which has been built by love. The Master and His Angels are with us now. He offers you the Bread and the Wine. Eat. Accept the bread which He offers. Drink the wine of His love. Both are His gifts to you for your happiness in the New Year.
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:

spiritual growth often invisible, Lodge brothers connection, reincarnation, death and after life, purpose of fear and chaos, science and spirituality the same, human reaction causes happiness or sorrow, gifts of death

