

Heights of Gold

A143 Sunday Address 4th February 1945 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 Angelus, March 1945

Context: the date is simply assumed from the address's publication the following month.

General Notes: White Eagle anticipates questions from the very outset of this talk, sensing depression and despair among his listeners. In fact, the progress of the war (if this address is dated correctly) was good, from the Allied side; it would be over in Europe in three months, though not in the Far East. For more detail see the Historical Note below. But another event will have saddened those who attended: the death of the Lodge's organist, known as Brother John, just two days before. For a tribute, see the same issue of Angelus.

White Eagle's response to these sorrows is to focus on the dawning of the new age of Aquarius. The title, 'Heights of Gold' is taken from the story of the man bored of life and inspired by a sage to climb the heights; the story is probably one that Minesta herself would have known, rather than a White Eagle original. White Eagle for instance often uses stories from Ramakrishna, probably taking them from within Minesta's own reading memory. In the return to earth to help his fellows, the man is acting out the famous Bodhisattva principle, so the story may be from Buddhism.

References: Sir Oliver Lodge (1851–1940) is mentioned, not for the first time in these addresses; he was a pioneer in radio science and the first scientist to identify electromagnetic radiation. But he would have been known to the congregation as one of the most famous Spiritualists ever to come from the world of science. The writings' referred to probably implies his book RAYMOND, OR LIFE AFTER DEATH (1916) a chronicle of seances with the medium Gladys Osborne Leonard, his son of that name, lost in the first world war, being the communicator. The reference to the Pharisee who wrapped his robes about him is to the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18 : 9-14. Those who have come out of tribulation and are robed in white raiment is a frequent White Eagle marriage of a phrase in Revelation (7 : 14) with a more general biblical allusion to being clothed in white.

Historical note: on the day this address was given the Yalta conference, between Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin, began. While it contained the real hope that the war would end in Europe, it may also have seemed to open up threats which were to consolidate later as the Cold War, with the fear of Hitler being replaced by the fear of Stalin. That would be one reason for the depressed temperature of the congregation, which White Eagle observes.

White Eagle's Address:

Brethren, we ask you to turn your thoughts upward, away from the cares and darkness of material life. You are all too conscious of the problems which face man and you seek solution. Perhaps your thoughts might be expressed by the questions, 'What is the world coming to?' 'What does the future hold?' Possibly, your minds are filled with fears and with sadness; and on particularly depressing days you feel that there is no hope for the present generation or for the future, nothing to look forward to.

We would raise you above this. We do not promise any easy pathway, nor yet wonderful things which will relieve you of responsibility towards your fellow man; nor do we promise an unearned passage to heaven. We bring you fundamentals. We hand you truth which will build a firm foundation for that new world about which there is so much talk and which, in spite of fears, fills man's mind with aspiration and hope.

Heights of Gold

A143 Sunday Address 4th February 1945 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

You stand at the gateway of a new age and many are wondering what this age will bring to mankind. It largely depends upon how far man is prepared to rise above materialism and accept the truth of a spiritual life, the fact that he is a spiritual being. At the beginning of the year it is usual for many people to make resolutions; on the other hand, an equal number of people refrain, saying that resolutions are only made to be broken.

We suggest that good resolutions are steps on the upward pathway; even the effort which the soul makes to rise above an inferior to a superior state will benefit the character. No such effort is every lost, but is a step on the path of light which will lead man eventually to that which is called the Golden Age. Many people ask, 'How can we know that we even approach such an age? Can it be possible?' We know, my brethren, because we have studied the records of the past, which tells us that man has lived in such golden ages before. One of your great scientists, Oliver Lodge, makes reference in his writings to certain evolved and advanced souls which he regards as representing the peaks of humanity. If there are peaks of human achievement spiritually as well as materially, there must be an apex of which humanity collectively arrives during the process of life. We speak of what we have found in the akashic records. Mankind has lived before in a state of perfection, harmony, beauty and love. Then comes the inevitable decline, and then again the upward climb.

Let us tell you of a man who became satiated with material life. He had achieved all he had attempted, possessed all he desired and there was nothing left which could please or satisfy him. One day he came face to face with a wise man, a sage, which sage could see that his younger brother was troubled and unhappy, so he asked what was the matter. The man said that he was weary of life and sick in mind and soul. The sage promised that if he was prepared to face tests, to go through ordeals, he would help the man out of his despondency and into a new life. He pointed to the mountains in the distance and said to the man, 'Look at those sunlit heights. If you would find happiness and truth, satisfaction and peace of soul, you will have to climb those golden heights'.

The man realised what an enormous task lay before him. He went home and thought over the sage's words. We have not time to relate the whole story, but after a long journey our friend reached those golden heights and there he found companions of his spirit – those who had journeyed the same way as he. On those heights he found a life of perfection and beauty, and was relieved of the sorrow and suffering which had been his on the plains and in the valleys. Because he found so much, in the end he had only one wish left – to return the way he had come in order to help his brethren on the plans to travel the same road and to reach those heights of happiness which had been his.

Those golden heights are waiting for every soul; but first man must cast out false values and recognise that the most important thing in life is the awakening of the spirit of God within his own heart. Man has to admit the profound and eternal truth that he is not limited by earthly things; he is not merely living for an allotted span on a material plane of existence. He is spirit and as spirit is a son of God. As a son of God he can claim his birthright – which is the

Heights of Gold

A143 Sunday Address 4th February 1945 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

power of the spirit within to free him from bondage in a material world. You will say, 'That is all very well, but man is born into a material world, and must live by its laws'.

You are both right and wrong, my friends. It is true that man is born into flesh, but he is spirit; and he is so placed that his spirit may quicken and grow and become conscious of its sonship. He is not limited by this earth life. Many millions on this earth actually think that when their body dies, they die too! What a surprise they will have when they see the body lying inert and dead, and they themselves are still consciously living, although they have no power to raise their dead body! The spirit of man is thus set free in a world of spirit which immediately surrounds the earth plane.

So much depends upon you – upon you who have a little knowledge of spiritual things. You not only help yourself by good resolutions and aspirations, you help the whole world of men incarnate and the worlds around you of discarnate souls. The little light which you show in the darkness of earth can attract millions of disembodied souls, which will learn from you if you are strong and resolute in spirit and keep your vision upon the heights. The world of tomorrow will be built upon the resolutions, aspirations and determinations of men of today; and if that world is to be all you hope, it can only come if you declare yourself strong in spirit and in the light of the cosmic Christ which is both within and without you.

We have spoken of the millions of disembodied souls which are attracted to this earth. Do not imagine for one instant that all these are unevolved. There are many groups and companies of disembodied souls which are known as the Brothers of Light, the White Brotherhood.

These are they who have come out of great tribulation, who are robed in white raiment. They have found the worthlessness of materialism. They have climbed the mountain path and reached the peaks. They know now what lies before men and women who also will to build their lives upon spiritual realities and spiritual principles.

My brethren, until these spiritual principles are put into practice everywhere, a golden age will never come. Such an age will not be founded upon material and scientific achievement, but by the simple and gentle of heart – by those souls who have learned discernment and who can see that the spiritual outlook of mankind must precede any advancement. The outlook of an over-powerful and destructive intellect can only bring the world to utter chaos or at least the humanity living upon that world. The only way is the way of the spirit. We who have traversed the road know something of the truth; and we tell you that the path of the spirit lies immediately before you. Do not lay aside spiritual things, saying, 'It is all right; I know I am going to live on after my body is dead; I am going to a beautiful place – that is all that matters. I am not concerned with these people who are so quarrelsome. I will go my way, not theirs'.

You cannot think in this way; you cannot live a life centred upon personal enjoyment while around you men are suffering. However obscure you feel yourself to be, you must be true to the spirit of Christ within; true to love and goodwill and brotherhood. You must tread the

Heights of Gold

A143 Sunday Address 4th February 1945 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

path of the spirit and you must aspire every moment to a more spiritual life. Do not wrap your robes around you as did the Pharisees, but be filled with sympathy and understanding for humanity and humanity's need. The answer to everyone of your problems is a spiritual answer. No material problem can be wholly and perfectly solved by material methods. Such problems can only be solved by the light of the spirit coming down and taking possession of men's minds and souls, so that they may act like human beings, not like beings below the level of the animal. The animal kingdom has its dignity and simplicity and can hold affection for its keeper, man. Men so often have no respect either for themselves or for other men.

My brethren, as we face this new age, we who work so closely with mankind pray that men will at last awake to the truth of their being and to the purpose of their life here. Man is brought into contact with the physical plane in order that he may learn and in order that he may experience joy and happiness to the highest degree possible on this earth. Man is not born to suffer. We say that unreservedly. Man was created to know joy and happiness. There is only one way in which joy and happiness can be attained, and that by the way of spiritual realisation. Such happiness is eternal; its duration is not for one life only.

You are pioneers. You are given an opportunity to help the younger brethren onward and upward to the golden heights. As you walk the Earth-life, hand in hand with your brother man (which means giving the hand of goodwill, helpfulness and sympathy in every material detail of his life, mind you) you are being guided and inspired and illumined by beings of former golden ages who now come to arouse and help mankind to go forth into the sunlight.

May you all find happiness, serenity and surety. If your happiness is the outcome of spirituality, insight and discernment, you will indeed be happy.

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:

positive thought, service, Aquarian age, spiritual path, spiritual unfoldment, path of the soul, enlightenment, eternal life, life after death