

Thanksgiving Sunday

A148 Sunday Address 13th May 1945 St Mary Abbot's Place, London Thanksgiving for VE Day

The text of this address is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from *Angelus*, September 1945, but an abbreviated version. At the moment of upload, the full script is lost and this version is all we have.

Context: 'Thanksgiving Sunday' in this case neither means the British Remembrance Day nor the American festival, but is thanksgiving for victory in Europe by the Allies. VE Day was actually 8 May and the national mood was very much what White Eagle describes in his first sentence. It is not entirely clear why a topical address of 13 May, which even if it missed the June *Angelus* could easily have appeared in the July issue, waited until September – which also carried the 3 June address.

General Notes: the promise described in the second paragraph is intriguing. It was generally considered among his more intimate followers that, watching from the spirit life, White Eagle would more easily predict the season of something's happening than the year – inasmuch as the one was a visible phenomenon, which could be witnessed as a context, whereas the other involved earthly calibration. A phrase like 'It will happen when the daffodils are out' had foretold the finding of the country centre, New Lands, earlier the same year. 'The time of roses' could almost be a title for this address.

White Eagle's Thanksgiving message is certainly about thankfulness, but it does not dwell on rejoicing – rather it looks ahead, part prophetically and partly as an exhortation to his listeners, to the creation of a Golden Age. But, as he implies, Golden Ages come because we create them – initially in thought – rather than them just happening because the time is right.

References: 'Those who have come through great tribulation' are referred to in Revelation 7 : 14. That their raiment was whiter than snow has many possible sources in the Bible: Psalm 51 : 7, Isaiah 1 : 18, Mark 9 : 3, and Matthew 28 : 3 in particular. Later in the same paragraph is a submerged reference to John 14 : 6. 'Love one another', is also from John (13 : 34); 'and the Kingdom of Heaven shall be yours', added to it, has no exact biblical location – it is close, however, to the Beatitudes. See Matthew 5 : 3,12.

White Eagle's Address:

Your hearts are almost bursting with joy and thankfulness. You are concerned naturally with the happenings of your world, but we would remind you that this period is a cosmic event. Great things are happening in the spirit worlds – greater things than you mortals can conceive. For this stupendous event concerns not only the cessation of hostilities but ushers in the blooming, the blossoming of the ancient Rose of Life. It is a demonstration in the world of the power of the Spirit of God.

The brethren unseen gathered behind us as we speak would draw attention to the symbol of the foot of this altar – roses. It is some years ago since they made you a promise, saying; 'When the roses are in bloom there will be a great rejoicing'. Those who listened looked to the next blooming of the roses. Nothing very important appeared to happen. There seemed even an increase of darkness and conflict. When the next year came round the roses bloomed again, the heavens seemed as brass. Another year passed, and yet another and another – still no sign of the roses bringing joy. One of you suggested that possibly the Brotherhood behind

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the veil referred to the blooming of the Rose in the heart of humanity. Both meanings were correct. On this day of rejoicing we have upon our altar roses which have grown and bloomed this spring in someone's garden. The prophecy has been fulfilled. But also the cosmic Rose is beginning to unfold its petals: the Rose of the Christ love.

True, at the present time mankind is far too busy to recognise what is taking place in the spirit of humanity; but we who are behind the veil can see this gradual opening of the petals of the Christ Rose in the human heart; for on all hands efforts are being put forth to better the conditions of mankind. This is a demonstration of spirit.

The Brotherhood of the Rosy Cross is as ancient as the world. From the beginning of time this divine truth came to mankind – that only when he had learned to unfold the petals of the Rose of Love in his heart, only when he could regard all the lesser creatures as brethren, and all human beings as part of his very own life, could [man] attain to what God intended him to have – a life of joy and happiness on this earth. For God had implanted in His son, man, all the potentialities for joy, happiness and beauty. All lie within man as seeds in the earth. The purpose of life is for man to learn to understand God's spiritual laws. Only through this understanding can man bring forth and demonstrate in this world the perfect life of happiness and thus become the perfect son of God. For remember, God created man in His own image.

And now, my brethren, there lies before you an opportunity for demonstrating in a high sense the power of this Christ life. Do not look around and say, 'What is the use if other people do not do the same? I am not going to try'. We call upon all [of you] to rededicate yourselves. Demonstrate brotherhood and divine love. Carry the message out from this small Lodge into the world! How many of you will be messengers, apostles, for this gospel of the real life of the spirit and of the love of Christ through man?

The greatest example which the world has had in this cycle has been made during these years of fire and horror. For it was the spirit within men and women, regardless of class, race or creed, which brought them together with one ideal: to endure, to stand firm and to overcome all things. Cruelty, injustice, greed, selfishness – all these are negative and belong to the powers of evil. Hope, justice, truth, brotherhood, love, care for the weak and suffering – such qualities are attributes of the White Light, of the powers of the White Brotherhood.

In occult schools it is taught that darkness destroys everything, including itself. You have this demonstrated as never before today: the complete overthrow and destruction of the dark powers opposed to the light. It is ever so. Materialism, evil, cruelty, are always self-consuming after they have destroyed their victims. The powers of the White Brotherhood, although they may appear to be overthrown, nevertheless endure, for they are indestructible. They shine forth again with added power. This is the demonstration which you are now witnessing, the bursting forth of the fires of truth, the spiritual fires.

My brethren, those who have been released from their bodies during these years dwell in the land of light. These are they who have come out of great tribulation and their raiment is

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whiter than snow. If you have lost loved ones through these years of fire, do not look back with regret but rather be thankful for the service they rendered to so many. Remember also that they have withdrawn from the burden and the heat of the day to a life of greater opportunity. They dwell in a land of sunshine, of beauty and happiness. They too are learning these deep spiritual issues of the Way, the Truth and the Life, which God intended all His children to know.

This is a perfectly true vision; we see the gates of heaven flung wide and all the suffering ones - the maimed and the tortured and the sad and the distressed – all being tenderly guided and led through into the heavenly worlds. Not perhaps into a city of gold but into a life of great joy and fresh opportunities and work which they will love. Think of these white-robed and happy souls. Do not look back and dwell upon their sufferings, or the horrors of war. Look forward with them to the time which is truly coming – the Golden Age. Do not be misled by people who say, 'There will always be war'. Wars will continue whilst man dwells in the darkness, but as the wheel of evolution turns, humanity is bound to rise. There will come, as there has been before, a Golden Age, perfect because God intended the life of perfection which is known and lived in the heavens to be demonstrated on earth.

When mankind observes the profound truth that love is the blossoming of the Rose of Christ in the heart of everyone, he will live henceforth *for* his brother, not *upon* his brother. Light is the way, Love is the way, and all that is evil will be absorbed and transmuted by the will of man himself. God works through man to create his heaven upon earth.

We call to you all again, again and yet again to rededicate yourselves to the true life of the spirit and to go forth as apostles from this Lodge, speaking gently and wisely. Those who are blind and deaf must learn that the only way for growth, for evolution and for progress in this world is by way of the spirit, that which Christ and all the Christ's have shown. 'Love one another' and the kingdom of heaven shall be yours.

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:

Rosicrucians, Victory in Europe, VE Day, world peace, war years, community, communion, eternal life, life after death, positive thought, power of the light