

The Gifts of the Wise Men

A040 Sunday Address 3rd December 1937 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: duplicated script with the heading, 'The Gifts of the Wise Men', date and page numbers 109-112, which are those of *Angelus*, January 1938; no markings except that the pages nos. have been overwritten to read 1-4. The teaching also appears in the 1937 bound volume, but was typed here from a loose copy. A paragraph from a Brotherhood Teaching is appended, so this was definitely for circulation. The page number, 109, once again indicates that some sixteen pages of teaching may have been recorded since the last known address, on 11th November. Although it would be wrong to assume that the missing pages are all lost Sunday addresses, it is worth noting that the present one looks ahead (second paragraph) to a forthcoming Christmas service, for which we do not today have the script. This presumably fell on Christmas Eve, although it might have been a week earlier.

Context: a service in the run-up to Christmas. No details of the service, but 3rd December was a Friday, which is odd. It is possible the date should read '5th December'.

General notes: although this is a pre-Christmas teaching, White Eagle continues the theme of re-examining the stories of the Bible and once again stresses that all we need for our understanding is contained in the Bible.

References: the phrase 'As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be' comes from the standard doxology, or closing words of praise added to the end of liturgical prayers.

White Eagle's Address:

We greet you with great love, and pray that all will feel the power, the blessing of the Most High. We are happy to talk with you about one of the Christmas stories. We are all much like children, in spite of our apparent maturity. We all like toys, and the childlike festivities of the Christmas season. If not, what is wrong with us? Remembering this, let us become as children, simple in desire and taste, rejoicing in the stories which children love. For it is Christmas time!

We are not going to dwell tonight particularly on the Christmas festival; for that we await the Christmas service. We shall talk about the visitation of the three Wise Men, the three Wise Kings, who came bringing gifts to the little child, the babe, born in that humble home. We hold up the Bible as a book full of true wisdom, although not so very many years past the intellectualists dissected, even tore to shreds, the Bible, and the truth which it contains. This brought the shattering of the faith of thousands – perhaps millions – of people. But the outcome was good – eventually! All things have their place, and it was necessary to prepare the way of the revelation. In the past, men clung to the letter, to the written word, accepting this as the whole truth or meaning to be extracted. So the Powers which be sent through to the earth plane a new line of thought; and this was destined to dispel, break up the old-fashioned ideas.

Remember, we are growing. There must come change and growth. As plants grow year by year we see them change. As they are nurtured and loved, they become more beautiful. So with all spiritual truth. Whilst nurtured and loved by those Wise Ones behind the veil, the plants of spiritual truth grow in beauty. We commend the Bible to you, but do not read it

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without the illumination of the spirit. Ever there has been a presentation of truth adapted for the masses, for those in the outer courts of the Temple, and this story of the three Wise Men as presented in the New Testament is for those of us who remain in the outer courts.

The story of the Wise Men and their gifts has become – I was going to say – an institution. A pretty story, which children love – exactly – a pretty story which children love! We may retrace our way right back through the Old Testament and the Prophets, and return to the New [Testament], and find again and again such pretty stories. Each one contains a deep truth, an eternal truth ... the Wisdom of the Ages. Truly, truly, when we repeat the words: “As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be”, we affirm that there is no new truth. Truth always IS. But it is always being revealed. We cannot emphasise too strongly the glory of the life yet to be revealed to man and to ourselves. Can we conceive the Infinite Spirit as being static? No! Whilst we conceive of the Infinite, the whole circle of life, as complete and perfect, yet also God ever becomes more beautiful, more perfect in its revelation, presentation, or manifestation.

What has all this to do with our subject? This forms the core, the crux. Throughout the Christian, the Jewish, and the Egyptian revelation, the Hindu teaching – throughout all the great religions of the world, there is contained, beneath the letter, within the shell, the secret of man’s creation, of not only the one mortal life, but of many, many lives, and the ultimate reunion with the divine circle, the Divine Spirit. Therefore it is nothing new that we tell you.

Let us now take the story as told in the Gospels. The Wise Men, seeing the star in the sky, knew that a king had been born. When Jesus of Nazareth was born, as in previous periods of the world’s history, the Wise Men were those students of the Inner Wisdom, the Ancient Wisdom, and they studied Nature and the planets. Part of their Temple training was to study the stars, which is called today ‘Astronomy’ and ‘Astrology’. Thus the Wise men knew by the appearance of certain conditions in the zodiac that certain events were heralded, even as the astrologers can foretell by the practice of the ordinary, exoteric astrology of today. But there is also another aspect. We do not ask you to accept what we say: think over it, if you are interested. Whilst the Wise Men knew that a king was born, also, on the inner planes, their wisdom revealed that a certain planet was pouring out rays of light upon a certain place. We suggest that this planet was Venus – Venus, the planet of harmony, beauty and love.

Little is known on earth today about the planets. Astronomers, who study merely the physical aspects of the heavens, make certain statements, which later on they will be called to revise: for with growing knowledge and wisdom the intellectualism of today will give place to the spiritualism of tomorrow. By this we do not mean Survivalism, but the study of the spiritual aspects of life.

There, the three Wise Men were guided to the Birthplace by the planet Venus – the planet which we suggest to you has attained to perfection of life – by Messengers, travelling to and fro ‘twixt the Earth and Venus, to bring to Earth’s humanity life and truth, striving to help humanity to return again to that high estate, to that condition of perfect life from which man originally descended. Ever thus was the birth of the King of this earth plane – the Christ, the

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Son of the Creator – ever thus was He born in a stable, in a cave, in all humility. So humbly comes the birth of the King that few indeed discover the birthplace of the Christ; only the Wise Men, watching, guided by the brilliant light of love, purity, and harmony!

Thus the Wise Men brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold, frankincense and myrrh! Shall we liken the birth of each one of you to the birth of Christ? At your own birth three Wise Men brought also to you these same gifts. At your birth the King was born also – the Babe, the Christ-yet-to-be, he who is born in the heart of every man. With such a birth come the gifts of the Wise Men.

Gold! This represents the physical life, the material life, all pleasures, desires, acquisitions of the fleshy life. Some use these gifts to advantage; some squander such gifts. We are not referring to the physical body of man only. We refer to the physical vehicle, and to all conditions of physical life. The body - the golden gift! It is for you to take care of and to use wisely this precious gift. Many go through life thinking it unnecessary to pay much attention to the physical body. They say, "Oh, I have no time; I must not think about myself, my body, or its needs." This is wrong. The body is the vehicle of the soul, for the wise to use, not abuse. It should be treated with love. It should never be over-driven, nor neglected, nor ill-treated, nor ill-fed. We speak to you as brethren awakened to spiritual truth, and we are fully appreciative of the fact that on the earth plane there are many who suffer in their physical body, who live in conditions of sordidness and privation. This is due to the breaking of the Law, to man's inhumanity to man, man's breaking of the law of brotherhood and love. But the perfect and harmonious state should bring to men's minds the responsibility which they bear towards not only their own physical life, but the physical life of their brethren; not only their human brethren, but all forms of life, in the animal and in the vegetable kingdoms. This is the gift of gold! Think well on this, treating all beings with consideration, respect, and love.

Accompanying this gift of gold, we have frankincense and myrrh! Neither of these gifts are concerned with the material life, but are gifts of the spirit. Frankincense symbolises sweetness, happiness, joy; myrrh, bitterness and sorrow. These are the two gifts which accompany every man, as well as the gift of gold, from birth to the grave. But these two survive the death of the physical. The gold-life will become refined once again; frankincense and myrrh – happiness and sorrow – in close company lead man back to his Father who is in Heaven. Do you ever think of thanking God for the gift of myrrh? No. Myrrh is bitter; we are not grateful. But without this gift of myrrh we should earn no frankincense! Without sorrow, we could not know joy. Without joy, we could not know sorrow! When you have climbed some day to the heights of spiritual illumination, you will see both joy and sorrow blend into one, for both are the same. How difficult for you, whilst on earth, to appreciate this great truth! You want all frankincense! You want life to be all joy, and everything given that you desire, but you would find that all would change into myrrh, if that was so.

Let us bear in mind, then, that in the stories of the Bible are to be found these deep truths of the spiritual path which every man must some day follow. All paths lead to the same end, to the complete regeneration of the soul of man into the perfect King, the Christ, humbly born in

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Bethlehem, amid the animals, the flowers and the trees. How good for us to realise that the birth of Christ is depicted as having taken place in the stable, where the animals lodged, truly, truly pointing to that Brotherhood which the King recognised and shared. Harken to the voice of the Angel: "Behold, He brings you the gifts of life; His star shines in the heavens, guiding you on!"

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:

Magi, epiphany, winter solstice, Christmas story, star signs, planets, birth of Jesus, spiritual unfoldment

