

# The Elder Brethren

T132 The Inner Teachings 1st December 1942 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

## Invocation:

We pray to the Great White Spirit pervading all matter and life—pervading all the spheres of the higher worlds, our Creator, Father-Mother God. We open our hearts in worship to Thee; we pour forth love and humble thanksgiving for our creation and for the revelation of Thy goodness, the beauty and loving care continually being demonstrated in our lives. We ask once again that we may receive the blessing of wisdom which floweth from Thy heart, and that we may be conscious of the companionship—here at this moment—of the angelic hierarchies and of the love and care of our own particular guides and teachers. May we hold communion with our beloved ones, invisible to mortal sight, but who are ever present in the realm of spirit.

Amen.

We welcome you all here, and pray that love and brotherhood may abide with us.

Some of you are interested in and have knowledge of the Elder Brethren. Others perhaps know very little about them, but this is an inexhaustible subject and one which we think will prove of interest and help to you. At a recent public service we spoke briefly concerning the great teachers, particularly Jesus of Nazareth and the Lord Buddha. These Great Ones are known to the western and eastern worlds, but there are others of a lesser degree, some of whom are known to you by name or initial, and others who are unknown. Some of the advanced souls who have a special work in the world do not manifest to mankind\*. They work in the invisible, behind the scenes, and are never known whilst man is living in a body of flesh. There are others, elder brethren whose special mission it is to contact mankind, to take an active individual part in the affairs of the world, and there are those who are concerned with the spiritual aspect of man's life and man's development in his higher bodies.

*[\*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

Of course, there are worlds invisible to the earth people that are very powerful, whose influence affects mankind through the ages. These invisible worlds are adjusted to the needs of humanity—rather like ‘tempering the wind to the shorn lamb’. When man reaches a certain stage of development, he himself is calling forth certain spiritual forces. We shall not divide these forces into good or evil, positive or negative, because when viewed from a universal or cosmic aspect, all are working together for good. So-called evil in the world is very often destined to draw forth from mankind the God qualities or creative powers. We know that many do not as yet recognise this aspect of truth, but it will reveal itself in the course of time. Therefore the saying ‘All things work together for good to them that love God’\* has a profound truth, for all things do so work together. In your individual lives we want you to remember however wayward conditions appear, to accept them with humility knowing that they have come to you as a result of your error. Although the condition may cause you tears, the acceptance will bring ultimate good in so far as it will open up within you a centre of realisation; certain truths will be revealed as a result of the lesson you are learning. In this way, even so-called evil works in absolute and perfect detail to bring out of

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man's soul, good. Never forget this, because if you do not experience the darkness of night, you cannot know the joy of the sunlight.

*[\*Romans 8 : 28]*

And now, the Elder Brethren. As we have said, certain elder brethren are known by name, particularly perhaps through the agency of the Theosophical Society. We remind you that the Masters' work is universal and no teacher or master confines his efforts to any one particular sect or body. Jesus himself said, 'Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold'.\* The Elder Brethren are those human souls who, through a great succession of lives, have learnt from experience and from the teaching they have received how to unfold the God-nature within themselves. They have had opportunity in the past to enter the mystery schools or temples of magic established in many places on the earth. In these temples they were taught by the Wise Men. These wise ones received their knowledge from visitors or teachers known as God-men who came from other and more highly evolved planets to establish on this earth the God-knowledge. They came to teach the early men how to arouse their own inner powers.

*[\*John 10 : 16]*

This is a long story. For a time earth's humanity lived in a state of purity and godliness. Then it began to feel conscious of its own creative power. Suffice for us to say that the story of Adam and Eve has a deep esoteric meaning. Many are the explanations given by students, and in all there lies a certain amount of truth. We will digress for a moment to explain that truth at its source is like a golden seed, but differing ideas of the man or woman through whom the truth comes can colour or obscure the original seed; in order to get the truth, these layers have to be peeled off.

The story told in Genesis has within it the kernel of truth, and we (it is only a personal opinion, we do not claim to be exponents of the whole and only truth) we say that contained in the story of Genesis is an account of man's actual birth to this physical plane, in a physical body. Those powers which came to man were brought by what are described as the Lucifer Spirits, the Angels of Wisdom. Therein we get the origin of the serpent story. All ancient religions embody their story of the serpent power—which is really the wisdom power; the spiritual evolution of mankind really is based upon that serpent power. We will explain this subject later.

There is some confusion of thought here. Lucifer really means the highest angel, who descended to bring mankind certain knowledge. Man received that knowledge; it imparted to him great power, but he misused it. With the raising of the 'serpent' into the mind or the brain, or the raising of the serpent up the 'tree of life' there comes great power. What does man then want? To dominate others—this is the great temptation; thus in the mystery schools the knowledge of the serpent power was for a time kept with utmost secrecy; it was not taught to the neophyte, the candidate. The aspirant for spiritual knowledge had to prove himself absolutely trustworthy, because this is where the break came from the perfect state of life, and the two aspects of spiritual power known as white and black magic arose. White

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magic is the creative power used selflessly and lovingly; black magic is the same power used to gain domination over the lives of others, to gain selfish ends, power and satisfaction. We find the black magic sometimes used with utmost cruelty—cruelty, one of the greatest sins of mankind, a vice to be avoided at all costs. Remember there can be cruelty of thought and action and also the subtle cruelty and selfishness when a man or nation exists only for selfish ends and establishment of itself in more and more power. The individual can subscribe to such cruelty by accepting without protest systems of life and government which rob the people of the necessities of life. All that sort of thing can be called 'black magic'.

And on the side of white magic is love, brotherhood, a life of service to one's fellow creatures, worship of the pure White Light, the recognition of God and beauty in every aspect and every form of life. Even in what is called darkness and evil the white magician will see beauty and light, being himself always creative, always loving, always humble. The great magic is love. Jesus and Buddha both emphasised these essentials for spiritual progress and for the entry into the kingdom of perfect happiness by the sacrifice of the self. There is a dignity of the spirit, a respect due to the God within, but the God within is always gentle and always humble, never claims glory but continues to serve and give forth in tranquillity and love and brotherhood.

From the earliest times records have been kept of the great secret of life and certain explanatory symbols are to be found all over the earth. When these symbols are compared and are read with spiritual vision they are all found to contain the one central truth from which there is no deviation. There is only the one path for the spiritual evolution of mankind, and this is based upon this serpent power of the Initiates. There are certain men who are known as yogis; we speak of the true and balanced and spiritually evolved yogi who is wise and beautiful. Not all who follow the path of yoga are thus evolved; we mean those spiritually advanced men and women who have lived long on this earth, have seen the vision glorious and who have through repeated lives so trained themselves spiritually, mentally, and physically that they have attained complete union with God, their creator.

The Master Jesus was one of the greatest yogis, the great Lord Buddha also. Some will question this. Never mind. The Master Jesus was called to a sacred and holy office in the heavenly kingdom and was an evolved soul before life was known on this earth (there are these souls, called 'avatars'); Jesus the great Master was many degrees in advance of others who are described as the Elder Brethren. Some may not agree with this, but our school of thought considers Jesus in this light and knows that he had a special mission. The supreme Light called Christ, the supreme Light which was the Child born of the Father-Mother God to earth's humanity, found a vehicle in the Master Jesus through whom he (or it) could manifest to show mankind the way to life, the way to enter into the perfect life ordained by God for men at the creation of the earth. The Buddha was also known as an avatar and there are others of lesser degree but of a higher degree than a number of other elder brethren in the Great White Lodge. Jesus demonstrated his power by so-called miracles. The power which he thus demonstrated was the power of God which is given to man through the serpent-power.

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There are masters and elder brethren unknown to man all over the world; they make no claims; their work is chiefly on the inner planes; they are working behind mankind and influencing the leaders of mankind. They work silently and invisibly. They give their help to certain groups and religious organizations and all the good things which are born on earth, all the groups which are born with the ideal of service and brotherhood have behind them one or perhaps two or sometimes three of the elder brethren who will lend power and guidance and help to that group. The Masters of the White Brotherhood are universal in their service; they are behind all institutions working for mankind. There are centres or lodges in which these brethren meet on the earth plane, but they are in remote places passed by, by the outside world which is not allowed to intrude upon these sanctuaries of the Brotherhood. There are lodges in the Andes, in the Himalayas, in Egypt, in the northern and southern regions and all over the world are these lodges where the Elder Brethren meet and from which they direct their power and light to mankind.

Perhaps some of you have read books about the masters indicating that certain people have actually met masters in the physical body and seen them at work. You will say 'Do these masters really exist, or is it just a fairy tale?' Yes, they exist, and are moving about amongst mankind and in the quiet places. Sometimes they appear in cities if their work demands it, for they are ever on the alert to help mankind and to link up with those ready to be used and to receive their teaching. They can perform what are called miracles, being unhampered by the limitations of the physical body because they have learnt to liberate themselves from the bondage of the flesh. They have mastered the physical body; they have learnt the secret of union—that is, when they are true yogis. They have united the lower self, the ordinary human man, with the divine. This is within the capacity of every one of God's children and not limited to a few of the elect. We have within us this power, to be unhampered by the limitations of the flesh.

The Masters never use this power for vulgar display. They never make a show of power, but use power only for a special purpose and for the good of mankind. They will never use it to demonstrate how clever they are, never. An elder brother might walk into the Lodge, and unless you notice the light upon his\* face, his gentleness, the sweetness of his whole nature, you would not know that he was what is called a master. He would not show you by any spectacular demonstration, but he would reveal himself to your heart through his sweetness and beauty of nature, if you have eyes to see.

*[\*While the Master is referred to with masculine pronouns here, White Eagle would state that a Master is 'beyond gender'.]*

In the White Eagle Lodge we work on one specific ray to help each other to rise above the limitations of mortal life. Step by step this is taking place, but so imperceptibly in us all that it is not apparent except perhaps in the atmosphere, which may be felt as a loving atmosphere—because the one foundation upon which these God-creative powers can be built is that of devotion, of love. And so, in everyday life, in human contact, there is growing, we hope, a spirit of kindness, of great true sympathy and love. The devotee feels the spirit of aspiration and devotion to the Master, to Christ. Love, gentleness, courtesy, never wearying

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in well-doing, always ready to give help when help is called for (and when it is not called for, but needed)—by these things the heart chakra opens and the spiritual light streams forth from the heart. There comes, as it were, a light from within, shining through the eyes and radiating from the physical body. The rays reach down to within the individual as well as reaching up and out. As the rays go down they cause stimulation in the nerve centre at the base of the spine. The light from the heart stimulates and raises this serpent power, the creative power, the Mother-aspect of the deity, and as this power rises, step by step, it stimulates the other centres of the body.

The East has its own method, but we suggest to you that the only safe method, particularly for Western bodies, is through stimulation of the pure love ray, or the heart centre. Do not commence by working upon the lower chakras at all, but entirely from the heart. By practice of love and wisdom this serpent-power is gradually stimulated and then through devotion to the Christ Light this power rises to the solar plexus, the heart, the throat and finally comes an illumination called Christ or cosmic consciousness. But first of all the foundation must be laid in daily life by the general attitude held towards the whole of life. That attitude must be positive, creative, it must see all the time good coming out of what is called evil and darkness; that is the foundation—and then, more help through meditation and real hard work. It is possible, but not frequent, for this development to take place in one incarnation. It happened to the Lord Buddha, for in one incarnation he attained Buddhahood.

What Jesus did, you can do also: his own words 'He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do.'\* Everyone in this little assembly tonight is a potential master. Do not therefore look forward to masterhood as remote, but remember that if you desire and aspire with all the fervour of your being, and if you are prepared to renounce the claims of the world, you can attain masterhood.

*[\*John 14 : 12]*

Q. When you said that Jesus was an advanced soul before this earth, did you mean that he had evolved in a previous cycle of evolution and waited to help forward this cycle?

A. Yes. Some souls have come back voluntarily, sacrificed and renounced a life of great glory in other spheres to help their younger brethren, the babes of the human race. The Master Jesus would have a great love for mankind to sacrifice so much and actually to descend from His Father in heaven. That is absolutely true. When a soul has attained mastership and has become consciously united with the Supreme, it means a great renunciation to leave that state and to descend again. Mankind has no comprehension of the devotion and love these Elder Brethren have for mankind—such a love and sacrifice is not known to the masses.

Q. Would it be too much to say that, but for the work of the Masters, mankind would have destroyed itself?

A. It is absolutely true.

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Q.Has England a master to help it through this difficult time?

A.Most certainly there is a master in England at the present time, also in America and on the Continent. But there are degrees of mastership.

Q.Does a soul's karma allow it to renounce the world when it wants to?

A.If the soul is prepared to pay the price in suffering, its karma is speeded up and it can crowd into one incarnation the karma which might take ten incarnations of leisurely work. Before the soul incarnates, it will be shown the opportunities for progress, perhaps three alternative lives, but the purpose of an incarnation is for you to pay certain karmic debts. There is a certain amount of freewill, but whichever path you choose, in every case you will be brought into contact with souls whose debts have to be paid. If the vision glorious comes and you say, 'I must reach that heavenly goal!', then the Lords of Karma will in their own way bring your sheaf of bills to be met—but you need a big reserve in your spiritual bank, which is what very few of us have.

Q.You spoke of great centres of power. Are there smaller centres where a group of people will be moved to work and will such groups be connected with the Lodge of the Masters?

A.Yes. When a group has been drawn together to serve mankind, they will be led to a suitable place where there is age-long spiritual power, in order that they may receive increased power. Very often it is where there has been in the past ritual which has built this spiritual power. Then if the selected group is not drawn into the vortex of elemental force, but continues to aspire, the masters will give help. But if the workers fail, one by one they are eliminated and if the core of the group fails, then the master withdraws the power from that group. They were able to work so far, but unable to retain the power any longer, so the group is disbanded. But in time there is set up another group of souls which can be used in the master's service, and a fresh start is made, and more work done.

### Benediction:

In the great silence we humbly thank Thee, our Father-Mother God, our Creator, for all the blessings of life, and above all for the path of eternal progress and unfoldment, of glorious attainment which lies before each soul. May we live with the purpose of evolving and serving life and mankind, and to worship God.

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:*

*Mastery, Bible, kundalini, psychic centres, sacred centres*