

The Birth of the Rose

A105 Sunday Address 7th June 1942 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service
preceded by short play

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

Text: from Angelus, July 1942. The whole text as printed is given here, but the words of the play are not White Eagle's.

Context: Sunday service as stated; the occasion will also have been close to the Christ Festival and the date chosen for the performance for that reason.

General Notes:

References: the saying, that God has never left a man without a witness is often used by White Eagle but seems to have no biblical source; the closest is Acts 14 : 17. The elders cast down their golden crowns before the throne in Revelation 4 : 10.

White Eagle's Address:

(This address of White Eagle's was given after the presentation of a short mystical tableau or play at the Sunday evening Service on June 7th, illustrating the Birth of the Soul and its path towards Christhood, the Christ being symbolised as the 'Rose' within the heart of Man.

Colour, lighting a short symbolic dance, gesture, name and the spoken word were the means employed. We print below the words of this little play, so that readers may the better understand White Eagle's address which follows.

Narrator: In the Beginning of Time there was silence in Heaven; and in the midst of the silence was heard a Voice crying:

'Come Forth! O Soul of Man! Come into being: Become! And be!'

And the Soul of Man was.

Then the Voice commanded the Soul of Man, saying, 'Go, inhabit the earth which I have created for thee, until thou hast learnt the secrets of all creation'.

So the Soul of Man descended and became clothed in a garment of flesh; but the garment of flesh was heavy, hence the Soul of Man slumbered with it. And angels watched over the soul as it slept.

Deep was the slumber and long; and the Voice called to the Soul of Man again and again, saying, 'Awaken! Awaken! Awaken!'

And at least the Soul stirred and opened its eyes and looked up.

Narrative of the Soul:

O Voice! that calls to me out of the deep,
I hear Thee within my own heart;
And lo! at Thy call I awake from sleep,

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And I long for the truth that Thou art.
In Thee I find strength, I arise and rejoice;
I listen, I wait for Thy word;
My soul rises free at the sound of Thy Voice,
And it soars to the heights like a bird.

The cross that I bore bowed me down to the earth,
But it pointed to heaven above;
And now its strong arms lift me up and give birth
To the mystical Rose of Thy love.
May Thy Wisdom illumine the pathway I tread,
And shine through my joys and my woes;
May Thy power upon my whole being be shed,
And bloom in my heart like the Rose.

O cup of communion, what joy becomes mine
As I drink of thy mystery blest;
I gather the Light that its glory may shine
As a radiant Star from my breast.
And now in the oneness of all life I share;
With Nature my heart beats as one;
I am one with the rain with the breath of the air,
With the light and the warmth of the Sun.

To the lowliest creatures of earth I am kin,
To the timid, the brute and the wild;
For the whole of humanity, love draws within,
Alike for the fierce and the mild.
Brother am I to the farthestmost star;
With the planets themselves my heart sings;
The angels my shining companions are,
Who bear me aloft on their wings.

Trio:

We call to our brothers, we all near and far;
By the Christ-power we draw them all nigh;
We gather them up in the light of the Star
That sheds forth the Christ-ray on high.
On the cross that is lifted above;
On God's holy altar its beauty shall glow
Eternally kindled by love.

White Eagle:

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My brethren, with all the company of heaven, with the hosts invisible who now encompass us ... O gracious Spirit, Thou who art in all life, in all Light of the World, of every religion, the Light of the human heart, we bow before Thy majesty; and we, Thy children, fling open the doors of our hearts so that Thy light may shine in and through us to Thy glory. In Thy name we remember all suffering humanity, we remember the bereaved; those unconscious of the eternity and the infinity of life. We remember before Thee our brethren who yet sleep in the prison of materialism in the physical body; and at this sacred and powerful moment, O Divine Father–Mother, we would concentrate upon the Light and send it forth as a blazing Star of Light. We would cultivate Thy flower, Thy gift of mankind, symbolised in the Rose; and may it shine forth from the hearts of humanity, O God, and may all men find happiness and Thy heaven through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Often men speak, but do not recognise that their message originates in the spiritual planes. Is it not written that God has never left man without a witness? Since the beginning of time messengers have brought tidings from the unseen. It was customary in far-off days - and it will be so again in the New Age – for such messages to the soul of man to be expressed not only through words but through movement and music, colour and perfume. We have only to go into a garden of flowers to hear this demonstrated through the song of birds, the hum of bees and many insects; to breathe it in from the perfume of the roses and flowers and to see it made manifest in the perfection and beauty of the flowers, trees and bushes. But does man recognise in such a picture any message from the Divine? Does man recognise that a Voice is speaking, is breathing tidings of hope, of joy, of beauty and above all, of eternal life?

Many people today hear the two words, ‘Eternal life’, with incredulity. We would impress upon you their significance and the power with which they endow your own life; since if life is eternal it will bring compensation for its complications, sorrows, monotony and hardships and its disappointments. Because as soon as the soul awakens and can hear the message, the Voice of God, speak, it looks upward, seeing beauty instead of drabness, happiness instead of disappointment. It realises that every event holds a purpose, that life can be ever progressive and lead to God: the divine and blessed Mother–Father God.

Is there a soul here who does not know the yearning for a divine Mother and Father, those Two in One and One in Two, Who gave the soul its life, and Who planted in the heart the lovely attributes of the spirit? Have you ever thought what life would be like if you had never known a spark of love, if you could not feel or respond to love? How beautiful is this emotion and realisation of that is tender, kind and sweet, of the truest happiness that man can conceive or experience. Such happiness is the goal of your life, my brother and my sister, an ultimate into which you may be absorbed but still retain your individual sonship with the divine and blessed Creator – God.

The Voice cries, ‘Look up, O soul of man, and see whither your pathway leads!’ In the past, my brethren, it was customary for these mystical truths of life to be presented to the people in the ancient temples in the form of tableaux and plays. In the spirit world the same method is

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used to uncover hidden truth. In the spirit world are temples lovely beyond the imagination of man whilst imprisoned in the heaviness of flesh – temples usually circular in form, the roof domed and supported by an exact and correct number of pillars. The temple in the Heavens is not kept only for the select – oh no! such temples are open to all souls, for all souls are the children of God and all may learn if they will. In imagination you can picture the people entering such a temple as this in orderly manner and taking their places round the outer walls, whilst the centre is left clear because the Teacher is coming. The Master enters and his disciples, both men and women, follow him. Their purpose is to express a particular lesson or truth within the temple and for this purpose they employ hosts of spiritual beings. The lighting itself is from Heaven - the heavenly light; what our beloved children have attempted this day is to give some slight idea of how light may transform and beautify a scene. In this temple in the heavens the light shines from the very throne of God and the shining coloured light pierces the transparent domed roof and is thrown upon the players by the will of the great ones.

Yes, this is true. This is what you will some day have the joy of seeing. But you have already witnessed it; and now, being clothed in the heavy garment of flesh and turning your faces to the earth you forget the glory of the heavens. Every soul has descended through such spheres as these and everyone here has a higher self, not imprisoned in the flesh, but which has power and free will. That higher self waits, and is to be seen by all of us who have clear vision on the astral, the mental and the celestial planes, where dwells that higher self, where we can see it, where we may talk to it. Every one of you here has his own teacher from the heavens and your teacher speaks to your higher Self, the Self which looks up and responds to the voice of God. But the lower self does not always hear the voice, being immersed in matter, in materialism and in desire for gain.

The lower self is not the true self. If it be too much encouraged it will become more and more powerful and will cause the soul to be enslaved. Think for one moment, my brethren, of the vast journey of the soul. If we could tell you in figures how old you are, you would not comprehend. You think the earth is some few millions of years old. You would be dazed if you know the true age of the earth. Remember that you children of God have been journeying through varying forms of life for countless years and have descended from the heart of Love, the Mother and the heart of Wisdom, the Father. You have all the potentialities of your Divine Parents within you still!

From age to age you have journeyed; there remains in you a memory unawakened as yet, but nevertheless it is there; one day when you pass through the portals of initiation those divine powers will quicken and cause your memory to stir.... Even as tonight you saw pictured that soul upon the ground listen and then arise; and when it heard the Voice and saw the light and then looked inward and realised and inhaled, the perfume of the Rose (the symbol of the Christ Spirit), it turned to the holy altar, back again to God.... This story tells us there is only one thing for the soul of man to do when it awakens: to go towards the holy altar and surrender everything; its power, its gifts, its requirements, even as in the words of your own Christian Bible, 'the Elders cast down their crowns before the throne of God'. Did you notice

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how the soul, in ascending the steps of initiation, came by degrees to the Cross? The Cross symbolises man. That soul came to the Cross as does the higher self of man and it was absorbed by the Cross. Ultimately the Higher Self absorbs the personality and the individuality of the life on earth, and the divine soul which has seen the light gladly allows itself to be enfolded within the Cross. It renounces even heaven itself and comes to earth and takes upon itself the cross of service and of sacrifice. Jesus Christ showed you the way; as the renewed soul joyously and gladly takes upon itself the material, the physical life, with its face still turned towards the light of heaven, life blooms upon the cross in the form of the Rose.

This emblem of Christ is incidentally the emblem of your own mystic Isle. Think of these things; for men of your nation shall yet realise the perfection of Christ in their hearts. So shall the perfume of the Rose and the blazing light of the spirit of Christ shine forth from the men and women of this isle. Wherever they go, wherever they journey, if the Rose does not blossom in the heart, self-will and love of power will lead to sorrow, imprisonment and darkness. It is for every individual to decide whether they will follow self or the Rose of Christ, but remember the Rose is there in the heart, if only a tiny bud, and within are all the attributes of beauty, form, colour and perfume of the Divine.

This is the one purpose of life. The Rose shall bloom upon the Cross of all men of goodwill, because love transmutes all base metal into pure gold. This is the esoteric teaching of the ancient Brotherhood of all the ages, and particularly the Brotherhood of the Rose Cross, of which many of you have heard. What takes place above in the spiritual realms can take place on every plane right down to the earth. Such a transmutation was known or symbolised by the ancient Brotherhoods, not the form of actually transmuting base metal into pure gold, for that in itself is nothing, but as an expression, a manifestation on the lowest plane of divine alchemy.

So we leave you, my brethren, brothers and sister; may you too hear, respond to the Voice; may you too carry your gift of the divine Rose to the holy altar and know perfect and glorious happiness and complete re-union with every loved one who has gone before. You can know truth as it is known in the heavens, for your Teacher is by your side. May your divine Father and Mother God direct their beam of light upon you – for evermore.

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:

initiation, path of the soul, resurrection, astral planes, heavenly temple, heaven world, world of spirit, sending out the light, guides