

The Cosmic Egg

A239 Sunday Address 6th April 1952 St Mary Abbots Place, London Palm Sunday Service

Text: a blue-ink top-copy typescript again marked 'draft'; it is undated in the typing but very deliberate addition of the date in pencil has been made in AMI's hand. The title has been added for the current project.

Context: the reading was the account, in Mark 11 : -17, of Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, through to 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations' (but omitting the final words about the den of robbers). The perfect text for Palm Sunday. There was an anthem, 'Lift thine eyes', probably the version by Mendelssohn from *Elijah*.

General Notes: although this is not the only White Eagle address given on Palm Sunday, by any means, it is more or less unique in offering an esoteric interpretation of what Palm Sunday means. It begins with a truly beautiful meditation on the theme of lifting our eyes to the mountains and beyond the mountains and then moves to the symbolism of the Easter egg. When White Eagle comes to speak of the crucifixion itself, there is an important statement: 'Man, the material man, is crucified, but the spiritual man is not'. We think of the quotation, in services a year or two before this one, of the account in the apocryphal *Acts of John* which tell of the spiritual being, the Christ, looking down on the physical crucifixion of Jesus and simply not being there. It was read, for instance, in the service of 9 April 1950 (which see). This address shows how essential to White Eagle's teaching is this distinction between the material being and the spiritual. And the recurring image of the human as a chick who has to peck its way out of its own egg is, we think, unique in White Eagle's teaching. There is also an equation of the ass upon which Jesus rode into Jerusalem as a symbol of the human soul – and a hint of another role for the ass, which is that of the one who does not have great intellectual power but sees through the deceptions of earthly values. All in all, it is a remarkable and unusual address.

References: the text of 'Lift thine eyes' is borrowed from Psalm 121, which actually reads 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help'. White Eagle draws on the crucifixion story which occurs in all four Gospels, but there is no specific location referred to.

White Eagle's Address:

We hesitate to break the silence, for we know that all present are uplifted by the anthem. We know that you have raised your eyes to the hills, to those higher planes of life from which comes to you the light of the spirit, the help which you all need as you journey through the physical life.

Many are apt to forget the source of their help, and we would stress this truth for you tonight because we know that many of you, even if not all of you, have particular need of that spiritual strength, that encouragement, that assurance that you are within the light of God and within the love of God. And if only all the people on the earth could break through their shell of materialism, if they could be still for a little while and enter into the great silence, they would touch something which would bring to them the vision that man needs on the earth plane: the vision beyond this earthly plane which is to be seen even beyond the hills and mountains, those high places of the soul.

Meditate on these things, brethren, and imag[in]e or create in your mind or thoughts the image of the mountains, the hills, the green hills; the mountains with the great sun behind.

The Cosmic Egg

A239 Sunday Address 6th April 1952 St Mary Abbots Place, London Palm Sunday Service

And to gaze upon that golden light capping the mountains, shining up from behind them, is to bring to your hearts hope and courage for your journey in physical matter.

Do you think that we who have passed the same way as you are passing do not understand your needs, do not understand the fears of the flesh, the weariness of the flesh and the disappointments of the flesh? We are with you in your pain and suffering and we long to uncover your eyes so that you may see the path before you and where it leads. And yet if we uncovered your eyes so that you could see the path, we should not be doing you the service that you may think. We may be doing a disservice – because, my children, it is part of the plan.

God's plan for the spiritual evolution of man is that he should experience for himself the gradual lifting of the clouds and the seeing of the vision behind the clouds. You know, if you were on a country trek and you came to a hilltop overlooking a particularly beautiful valley you would in all probability pause there to contemplate the beauty of the scene. And in doing so, the minutes would pass and the clouds would change, and possibly sunlight would increase [its] shining on the landscape. You would see changing colours in the sunlight and the sun upon the hills and the trees beyond the valley. No one could describe that scene to you. You must see for yourself the gradual unfoldment and it would have an effect upon your soul. Maybe you could not put it into words. You would probably be breathless with joy, with the ecstasy of that moment. You would not be denied the experience of seeing that unfolding sunlight. So it is with your life on earth. You must experience the grandeur of seeing the manifestation of eternal love, of seeing with wonder the unfoldment of a wise and perfect plan in your life.

You do not want to anticipate. You want to take your steps one at a time with courage and with confidence knowing, deep within your soul, that there is a divine intelligence, a power, a love which will be revealed to you as your life advances. It is a most beautiful revelation which comes to every soul in due time. When you can accept the power of God, knowing it to be a loving power and a wise power, you can walk your days in peace, inward peace and happiness, being sure that beyond, over the hills, lies that land of eternal light.

Now this may sound to some of you rather orthodox. Indeed, it is perhaps a profound truth which the people on earth today are losing. Perhaps a century ago when the Christian faith maybe was stronger in a certain way, in a more simple way, they believed in that glorious City, the golden city they called Jerusalem. They believed they were moving forward to that place and there they would be reunited with friends who passed on before them. They had a simple faith and trust in those days, but with the coming of science and the development of the mental body mankind has instituted a very intellectual outlook upon life – which has caused the faith, the simple faith of the heart to be lost. The mental body, the mind, the earthly mind has developed to such an extent that it is very destructive. It analyses. It is the reasoning mind which is uppermost. Now the reasoning mind is important. It has a place in the plan of the spiritual evolution of man, but man must not lose sight of that eternal truth of the spirit.

The Cosmic Egg

A239 Sunday Address 6th April 1952 St Mary Abbots Place, London Palm Sunday Service

You are wondering why we are saying these things to you when it is, according to your Christian Church, Palm Sunday; the Sunday preceding the week of sorrow maybe or testing for so many souls. We are speaking to you of an eternal truth.

The Easter Festival is one of hope, new life, promise of Spring and Summer, happy days, sunshine, holy days. You call them holidays, we prefer the words holy days. And would that more people would think of their periods of rest as holy days, healthy days, days which are spent in the contemplation of the glories of the life of the spirit, contemplation of the glories of nature. Yes, it is nearing the Easter Festival, which you celebrate in the Christian Church, but remember that this Festival of Easter is, we were going to say, as old as the hills. It is certainly as old as the planet itself because, contained within the enactment of the Easter trial, crucifixion and resurrection, is the age-old truth of the soul, of life, of life itself. Whether the individual life or the universal life it is the same because life follows a certain pattern. This is a spiritual-scientific thing, not only a religious festival.

You have a custom on your earth of giving what you call Easter eggs at this time. Children are considered first, and all the children, if they are blessed with a great deal of love in their lives, are usually the recipients of Easter eggs. We would remind you that the Easter egg is not a custom of your modern age. It is as old as life itself. And through the ages it has been the custom to give a present of an Easter egg because it is a symbol: the cosmic egg, the symbol of life, the symbol of rebirth, the breaking of the shell of materialism, breaking of the shell of physical matter. The spirit is freed, just as the little chick is freed. But you will remember that the chick pecks its way out of the egg, and this is what the little chick, the spirit within man, has to do. It has to peck its way out and sometimes the shell is very hard. As you all know you are imprisoned this shell of material life, and so imprisoned are you that you are in a state of darkness. This is an age-old truth.

You have the same story in ancient freemasonry. You have the same story in the mystery schools of the past and in the mystery schools of the present. What do we call mystery schools? Well, those groups that are formed by earnest seekers after truth; those groups that meet to hold communion with God. Not by word of mouth, but in the great silence of the soul, these brethren meet to hold communion with eternal life, with spirit life. These groups know that in the silence of the physical, the spirit begins to be active. It reaches out to that life beyond the shell, beyond materialism. It is in the great silence and in the great love that man feels when he is attuned to the spirit that he finds truth. It is not only in the printed word that man gains knowledge. When these things of the spirit are understood, man is able to release himself from the limitations of the physical brain and go beyond into a state of life which is all truth – where there is all truth – and in that state of consciousness, universal truth is known to him. When a man or woman makes this earnest endeavour to find truth he is pecking at his outer shell and, in due time, he releases himself from the limitations of the physical and the mortal life, and he then becomes an eternal soul in full consciousness of the glory of his Father–Mother God. He becomes full of light and love, and recognises his brethren whoever and wherever they are. There are no limitations to the soul who has broken through the limitations, the bondage of the shell – materialism.

The Cosmic Egg

A239 Sunday Address 6th April 1952 St Mary Abbots Place, London Palm Sunday Service

What has all this to do with Easter, you will ask? Because the festival of Easter is an enactment of the journey which every soul has to take and the experiences which every soul must pass through. He must, the soul must, of its own free will and by its own endeavour, release itself – and it does this by stages. These stages are called initiations, or degrees of spiritual enlightenment and expansion of consciousness. The soul at one time thinks it has arrived at the door or the gate leading to the Golden City. It takes – it is taking – the journey towards Jerusalem and it calls, the soul calls, for the ass to be its carrier into that Golden City. The ass is the symbol of the soul and upon the back of the ass is marked a cross. Some people may say that the cross on the ass's back is there because Jesus Christ rode upon that ass into Jerusalem, but it is a much older truth than that. It is not only a symbol of a physical happening. It is a symbol of a spiritual happening. The cross is the symbol of matter. The ass is the soul and upon the soul rests this cross, the symbol of matter upon which man is eventually crucified. And as man takes his journey towards that City and he appears to be making progress, he will receive perhaps much adulation from the crowd, from the masses. If he is a successful individual his fellow men will praise him and bow down before him and make great – what shall we say? – great praise, praise him, sing his praises; but the wise man journeying on the ass knows that all that praise and adulation means nothing because those same crowds will eventually crucify him. This is what happens to every soul. The earth crucifies man. It was enacted for the Christian world by Jesus Christ. He knew the profound, the cosmic truth that He was enacting for His disciples and for the multitudes. He knew that He had to demonstrate the way of the human life.

Now, every incarnation brings to man a certain degree of crucifixion. Man has to be crucified, and many of you here may not like to hear us say this. But do not forget what we said in the earlier part of this talk. If you did not pass through the experiences of pain, you could not possibly realise the glory of happiness. It is impossible because the pain and the crucifixion are preparing to open up the vision and the realisation of the wonder and the glory of the spiritual life and the love of God.

This story of the crucifixion is not only known in the Christian world, but as we have already told you it is to be found in all religions. All the enlightened ones, the saviours, the avatars of this earth, have been in some form hung upon a tree. And it is a symbol, a symbol of the way of man's life. Man, the material man, is crucified, but the spiritual man is not. The material man is continually finding pain and suffering, however much he tries to deny this, but the man who has pecked his way out of the shell has found freedom in a world of spirit and there is no crucifixion because he feels no pain through hanging upon the cross of matter. He does not feel it. You are told about the agony of Jesus Christ upon the cross, but it was only the body. Jesus the spirit was not there. He was away, because he had conquered the flesh and the flesh had no power over him.

Remember this, dear ones, for it is something – a lesson – which all must learn; and the sooner you learn it, the less you will suffer physically or mentally in this earthly life. But understand this, it does not mean throwing aside your responsibilities. Oh no, man has his responsibilities in the flesh! He has to accept these responsibilities and carry them, but it does mean that the man who has freed himself from the darkness of the cross is able to go through his experiences of life with a tranquil spirit – for he has seen the vision glorious upon the

The Cosmic Egg

A239 Sunday Address 6th April 1952 St Mary Abbots Place, London Palm Sunday Service

mountain top. He has raised his eyes to the hills and seen the glory of the Lord. He knows that if he does his best with matter, the rest is in God's hands, but that will mean resigning himself meekly and humbly to the Will, the Wisdom and the Love of God, the Great White Spirit.

The Great White Spirit is with you wherever you are, whatever condition you are in. Hold fast to that truth: that eternal truth, the cosmic egg or Easter egg. Remember this – your Easter egg contains this certain truth of eternal glorious life and happiness. Every man must pass the way of crucifixion. He does it when he leaves the physical body at what you call death, but he goes forward into a world of light – a world which is far more just and kind, far more loving than this earthly one.

The souls who pass through death, and are able to come back to you with their messages of love, will tell you that they would not care to exchange the life and freedom and joy, the perfect life which is theirs in that state, for your life with the limitations of the flesh. But the point we would leave you with is this: that man can learn and will eventually learn that even in the flesh there need be no limitation, no pain, no sorrow, because the spirit of Christ has arisen triumphant over the crucifixion of the flesh and is in full command of the human life on earth.

God be with you. God bless you. We speak the truth. We will be with you, whoever you are. We will help you to comprehend and realise this eternal lovely truth of Easter.

Love to every dear brother and sister in this congregation.

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:

life after death, ascension, rebirth, path of the soul, Lent, natural world, enlightenment, initiation, light within, inner silence