

One Vast Brotherhood of Life

A384 Sunday Address 18th September 1966 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

Text: MB typescript, a black carbon copy, no contemporary markings

Context: IC's introductory words confirm that the Lodge was reopening after the summer break and introduce the first hymn, 'We plough the fields' (no. 14 in *Songs of Praise*). Minesta then gave an invocation, recorded elsewhere, and the reading is described as 'from the Song of the Creatures' by St Francis, presumably the well-known canticle beginning 'Praised be you, my Lord, with all Your creatures'. The second hymn was the children's hymn, no. 358, 'God who made the earth'. Then came the prayer for humanity 'with an unspoken prayer of thankfulness for our reunion here' and the Lord's Prayer. Then the choir sang 'O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' as an anthem. After White Eagle's address, the closing hymn was 'God is working his purpose out' (no. 300). Minesta's Benediction was again separately recorded and the service closed with an anthem from the choir with a text beginning 'O ever blessed Lord, we praise Thee and adore Thee'. MB's script quotes the words in full. It may have been a homegrown composition.

General notes: there's a particularly strong attempt at the beginning of this address to bring all the congregation together in brotherhood and an implication that this is something that spirit can facilitate. As the address unfolds it becomes clear that White Eagle is showing how love for nature and love for each other go together, hand in hand. He speaks of our living in a world of radiation, which may be a confusing word, but by it he seems to mean the way in which a source radiates creative light, with physical manifestation forming just the crust. The radiation is both something from within and something which comes from without. There are then rather mystical words, when White Eagle tells those who are bereaved that in return for their loss God has planted in their beings the tree of life. He acknowledges that this phrase is a mystery his hearers will not understand, but goes on to say that 'the Tree of Life is the ability, the power, the spiritual essence by which you as an individual can become awakened to these vast worlds – heavenly worlds – around you', the heaven worlds. In short, it is only loss that awakens us to greater wisdom. Rather relevant in the twenty-first century where it has become imperative, is the absolutely clear injunction, 'man has to learn to live on earth in harmony with nature'. Through thankfulness, he says, man will realise he is part of 'one vast brotherhood of life'. Can you not feel, he says, the power which you are linked?

References: 'man does not live by bread alone' is Matthew 4 : 4. 'God moves in a mysterious way' is the first line of the poem by the eighteenth-century poet William Cowper, frequently sung as a hymn. The use of the phrase 'do not look down into the slough' after the exhortation to be hopeful and brave, is a quiet reference to the Slough of Despond in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, and looking up to the golden hilltops, which follows that phrase, refers us to Psalm 121 : 1. 'A gift of great price' looks to the 'pearl of great price' in the parable in Matthew 13 : 45-6. The story of the tree of life in the Garden of Eden is in the first chapter of Genesis.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren of the earthly life, we the Brotherhood in the spirit life draw very close to you now, particularly during this service of thanksgiving. And we would draw you all close together in the grand spiritual brotherhood. Now do not think that we are only using fine words which really mean nothing when analysed. We bring to you, dear children of the earth, our love and our help, and the blessing of the Great White Spirit as we inspire you and help you to feel truth in your hearts, truth which will bring to you that deep sense of thankfulness.

Now we once said to our younger brethren that thankfulness is a quality of the character which opens wide the gates to the inflow of increased blessing. Now, we particularly stress

One Vast Brotherhood of Life

A384 Sunday Address 18th September 1966 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

this ancient truth, this ancient wisdom tonight, because you have met together in worship and thanksgiving for the provisions of God the Father, and especially the gifts of God – the Great Mother, Earth.

And we would from our temple in the spirit help you to increase your knowledge, your understanding of the gifts of the Great Mother – the Divine Mother – the Great Mother Earth, for she gives abundantly of her fruits and grain and her flowers and her healing herbs. She gives to mankind her comfort, her healing and all the blessings of the physical life. And with the great Mother Earth we include all the angels of nature.

Now, the Brotherhoods of old, as many of you know, worshipped – *worshipped* – and loved nature. And they endeavoured to live in harmony with the grand family of nature – Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Rain, Brother Wind and Brother Cloud, Brother Air and especially Brother Water.

Now, the Ancients, as we have told you on many occasions (and we are now thinking of that period of life when we were clothed in an American Indian body of the south), and we used to gather together in a grand company, a brotherhood of the Great White Light, all working together, praying together and serving each other as we endeavoured to serve the Great Mother Earth and the Great White Spirit, the Heavenly Father.

And this was our life in those days – to work in harmony with the laws of nature. And we would sow our corn, we would sow the seed for our corn directed by the invisible Brotherhood. In the days of the Indian brethren we used a ritual unknown to man at the present time – but the knowledge will come back when man is ready to be a channel for this ancient wisdom – by which man would sow his crops and call upon the invisible forces to feed the crops, to stimulate the seed in the soil – in the soil of Mother Earth – and by a powerful ritual to call down the rain, and to pray for the sun to warm the grain and cause it to be made into bread for the sustenance of the physical body.

Now man at the present age is concerned chiefly with physical science. And he is very curious and his curiosity is so strong that he wants to penetrate beyond the radiation of the earth planet. And he is really seeking to make contact with humanity on other planets, throughout his solar system. But man must not overlook the most important wisdom that he needs for his evolution, both for his physical growth and development (for the development of the capacity of his brain) for the development of his spiritual capacity. Man must remember that he does not live by earthly bread alone, but by every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Now what does this mean? Man does not live for physical sustenance alone, but he lives, and he must recognise that he is living in a world of radiation. And that round this physical life, round this physical plane of life, there are many radiations of goodness, radiations of wisdom and knowledge. And above all, he is encompassed by the love of the invisible worlds. And when man recognises, when he is humble enough to do so – recognises that all around him is the *power*, the life force, that he needs for his growth and development both physically,

One Vast Brotherhood of Life

A384 Sunday Address 18th September 1966 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

mentally and spiritually, then he will tap into forces at present unknown to any man living on earth in a physical body.

Now, if you will learn to go inward in meditation, into the centre of truth, in silence, in prayer, in search of those infinite powers which await man, you will touch the spring of all happiness and health. Now don't forget this. This is the spring, this is the centre for everyone, not a few elect, but for every human being when he wills to take that path, which is the path of the spirit.

Now there may be, indeed there are, some of you here tonight who have a sorrow in your heart. You grieve because you have lost the physical sight of a very dearly loved one, a child maybe, a husband or wife or brother or sister, and you have not yet had cause (so you think) for thankfulness to God. You only have grief, my children, sorrow and grief because your dear one has been removed from your mortal sight. Now to you particularly we would say that 'God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform'. And God never takes away without giving his children a gift of great price. And if you have lost the companionship and the love of that dear, dear child, husband, wife, brother or sister, mother or father, just remember that God has planted within you the Tree of Life. You will not know exactly what we mean by this at present, but all of you will come to know and understand and appreciate our words tonight. The Tree of Life, the eternal Tree of Life is within you, and it is the greatest gift that God has planted in man – planted in the eternal garden of life. You are told in your scriptures that God had planted a special tree, a Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden.

How many teachers of today comprehend this secret? What is the Tree of Life? And why do we say that it is in you? Because we know, and all our brethren in spirit who are around us now know, and they speak with us to you now, telling you that the Tree of Life is the ability, the power, the spiritual essence by which you as an individual can become awakened to these vast worlds – heavenly worlds – around you – etheric kingdoms all around you. You are not separated from your loved ones except through your own ignorance, or your own lack of spiritual unfoldment of those powers – or the fruit of that Tree of Life which is within you.

Now, we would further tell you that you must pursue this path of spiritual awakening and development patiently and steadfastly. Now, it is not easy – it is not an easy path. But as we said at the beginning of our talk, the quality of thankfulness in yourself, thankfulness to God, knowing that His Will, although so hidden from you at present, [that]. His Will is all good and wise – so pray, my brethren, that you may learn to accept the Will of God, and pray too that you may pray yourselves to accept the Will to pray that you may learn to accept and to will the Will of God [*sic*]. God's Will is All-wise and all-loving. And what may be bitter disappointment to you now will in due time be revealed to you as a great gift, because through your disappointment, through your sorrow, the seed of spiritual, the spiritual harvest, will have been sown. And so be of good cheer, be hopeful, be brave, and look up into the heaven world. Do not look down into the slough, into the marshes, because they are very dark. We are speaking of the earth marshes of materialism, and they will not help you, but strive to look up to the golden hilltops – because there is your strength. And as you look to those golden hilltops you too will be raised right up to the golden Kingdom of God. And not only will you be raised up, dear brethren, by your effort and your aspiration you will be

One Vast Brotherhood of Life

A384 Sunday Address 18th September 1966 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

raising all the people who dwell in the marshes, who dwell in the low country, the country of darkness. Look up to the *light*. It works. It means an effort, we know, but we also know the reward which will be yours as you strive to look up to the Kingdom of God.

Now lastly, as you are celebrating a thanksgiving for not only the harvest of the earth plane, but the harvest – your own spiritual harvest both in this Lodge and in your own souls, we would remind you that man – once again we say – man has to learn to live on earth in harmony with nature.

Now the masses of humanity do not live in harmony with nature. They live in a very inharmonious state. How many men and women think to look up to the sky with their faces turned to the sunshine or to the rain and say, ‘Thank you, Brother Rain; thank you, Brother Sun’? How many people – you, now, at this very moment – how many of you are breathing in the air which is your life and without which you would no longer be in the possession of your physical – every second you are breathing in that life-giving air – how many stop to say ‘thank you for the air we breathe’? We are just reminding you dear ones of these gifts. Do you ever say, ‘thank you, Brother Water’? How lovely is the water, the water which can flow through your being, cleansing and purifying and refreshing!

Now, all these gifts, my children, are the gifts of Mother Nature. People should be in tune and in harmony with these natural forces, should be growing their food by the love within their hearts and the love of the Great White Spirit. And we, in the past, learned how to direct these invisible and spiritual counterparts of these natural gifts of Mother Earth.

So take stock of yourselves now and strive in the future to put yourselves in harmony with these wondrous natural forces, and never omit a day – never omit any day to say thank you Mother, Great Mother of Life. Thank you, Heavenly Father for the gifts of the spirit. Thank you, the beloved friends and guides and teachers, brethren of the Ancient Brotherhood – the Wise Ones, you sometimes call them – thank them, my brethren, for their constant vigil and service to humanity. You may say you have no proof of their watchful care for you. My children, if your heart is filled with love and thankfulness you will see in every step how you are guided, protected, cared for. Life is one vast brotherhood. No man lives alone. No man can live by himself or unto himself. He is living in a community of life invisible as well as visible.

So the great lesson mankind has to learn is the lesson of brotherhood with man, brotherhood with angels, brotherhood with the nature kingdom. All one vast brotherhood of life, all springing from that one central nucleus, God.

Now, can you feel now in this very service – can you not feel the power with which you are linked? It is the power of spirit, the power of eternal life, a power which will never allow one atom to die, for we are all – are all in it, the vast Cosmos. This is cosmic truth, but not beyond the simplest man or woman or even child to understand. We are all part of the Great White Spirit, the Spirit which comes into us, manifests through us and through our food, through all the spiritual gifts which have been given to us from God the Father and the Mother, God, the Christos, the Son. For it is here in man’s heart, and when self is cast out, and that light of the

One Vast Brotherhood of Life

A384 Sunday Address 18th September 1966 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

Christ can burn brightly within, man enters into the kingdom of happiness, union, reunion, no separation, for there is no death in that life eternal.

When you now partake in your spirit and in your higher mental body, [when] you partake of Holy Communion, accept, accept from the Lord Christ – the Holy Mother – the bread of life, the bread of heaven, the bread of earth. Accept it now with thankfulness, for He – your Creator manifesting through the Christ – gives it to you now. And bids you eat visible and physical bread, remember your communion and accept this bread of life at every level, and it will sustain you in bodily and spiritual health.

Now He stands in our midst with the Holy Grail upraised, from which issues a great light of the Christ Spirit and power. He bids you sip. And He holds to your lips, now to your soul, the Wine, the divine essence. Now sip, and feel yourselves raised up in spiritual power and strength, for this is the divine essence of the grapes, remember. ‘I am the true Vine, what I give you is the essence of Divine Love. Take it in, absorb it, feel its strength and blessing.’ [At] this moment, you are united in spirit with your loved ones. There is no separation at this level of life.

This service is full, full of fire and power. The Lodge is blessed, and all the activities will be blessed during this session of service. All blessings will flow into your work as you are all united in spirit, united harmoniously to the Cosmic Spirit. Go forward, brethren, hand in hand – remembering the company of the angels who are with you daily, hourly, nightly ... *always* with you.

So the peace of God, the Great White Spirit, enfolds you and blesses your lives always.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

We thank and bless our angels of music. We thank our earthly brethren in the Choir for their beautiful rendering of heavenly music.

Brother Faithful:

White Eagle has been speaking to us about a particular kind of work, a particular brand of riches which is available to everyone, to everyone to earn – a kind of wealth or riches which once earned will never become inflated, will never become devalued, is not subject to any government ‘squeeze’, or any kind of emotional treatment, is safer than any bank or any form of investment, and which stays by a person no matter how much he gives away so long as that person lives in both this world and the next and in any subsequent worlds. And so this kind of pure gold, purer than ever we have known, is a very valuable form of riches, a priceless treasure to hold in the bank of the heart.

So we come to our closing hymn, no. 300: ‘God is working His purpose out’.

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:

One Vast Brotherhood of Life

A384 Sunday Address 18th September 1966 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

*Cycles of life, natural world, wildlife, mother goddess, native americans, life after death,
spiritual path, spiritual work, spiritual service, path of the soul, path of service, spiritual
contact, world of light, spirit world, Lammas*

