

The Raising of Lazarus

A117 Sunday Address 7th March 1943 St Mary Abbots Place, 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: from *Angelus*, April 1943, which also gives the date – as Sunday 9th March, but the Sunday was the 7th so *Angelus* is assumed wrong and the date is here as amended. The address has been broken into headed sections, and may have been substantially edited.

Context: it sounds as though the reading was from the later part of chapter 10 of St Matthew's Gospel; the whole context there is unlikely for a White Eagle service, but it does include Jesus's words 'Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing' as well as the words White Eagle quotes from verse 28. Maybe the reading was a set of passages from the Gospels. The 'quiet' hymn before White Eagle spoke was evidently 'Breathe on me, breath of God', to the words by Edwin Hatch (1835-89).

General Notes: most of White Eagle's teaching on the Gospel of St John came in the form of Inner Teachings, but this address, the one preceding it (7 February) and the one following (4 April) are strongly focused on John's Gospel. The series of Inner Teachings had begun just a month before this address and continued through to the summer of 1945. The book *The Living Word of St John* takes the Inner Teaching about the raising of Lazarus as the source of the relevant chapter, rather than this address. Near the beginning White Eagle makes comment on Jesus's travels, outside of his documented ministry.

References: the whole story of the raising of Lazarus, the subject of this address, is to be found in chapter 11 of St John's Gospel. 'Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul' is Matthew 10 : 28. White Eagle often makes the statement, 'God has never left man without a witness' but it is non-biblical: the closes biblical comment is Acts 14 : 17. Jesus' words about it being better for a disparager to have a millstone around his neck are from Matthew 18 : 6 and Luke 17 : 2. Jesus' reference to there being 'many mansions' in heaven is at John 14 : 2. 'I go to prepare a place for you' is the following verse. 'I am the resurrection and the life' is John 11 : 25 and 'Lazarus come forth' is verse 43.

White Eagle's Address:

Brethren, you have just sung some very beautiful words: 'Breathe on me, Breath of God; so shall I never die!' I want to stress those words; keep them in your memory, please....

'Breathe on me, Breath of God; so shall I never die.' You have also heard these words read from the Bible, 'Fear not those who have power to destroy the body but not the soul; but fear those who have the power destroy the body and the soul.' Following upon this, we are going to speak on the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

We have already spoken at length upon the psyche, or soul of man, and the soul of the world; and we explained that all living things possess a soul, interpenetrating the physical body, which evolves and develops through the experience the soul gains by contact with the physical body. Not enough knowledge has come to man yet regarding the importance of the soul, and that knowledge which he possesses has become distorted. As a result much confusion of thought has arisen. We shall endeavour to clarify this confusion and to give the simple truth as it has been revealed to those of a wider vision.

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Truth Cometh Forth

You may ask why we are permitted to tell you of that which we have learnt. Because it is vouchsafed to man from time to time in the world's progress to receive more truth as he treads the difficult path of human incarnation. At this period of the world's development the light shines forth again on man's path. You cannot see it yet; but ever in the history of mankind this inner truth which concerns the soul of man has come forth from hidden centres of wisdom. As time passes, that truth becomes confused by the materiality of the mind, and so a restatement has to be given. So it has continued; yet through aeons of time God has never left mankind without a witness.

We speak tonight from the teachings of Jesus, the Christ, but want at this juncture to state that truth being universal, that which came through the lips of the Master Jesus did not originate only from that Source. It is on record that Jesus travelled far over the earth, visiting many countries in order to communicate with centres of wisdom, with centres of initiates, during those years of which the Gospels omit to speak.

The Sin of Ridicule

Jesus visited a number of centres in the East and travelled as far west as this island. Groups of wise and holy people have been recipients of the wisdom teaching. These brotherhoods all over the world have received some aspects of universal and cosmic truth and a ray of truth can be found in all religions. Because of this, we quote another saying of the Lord Jesus, who speaking of the man who disparaged the faith of another said: 'Better it is that a millstone be hung around his neck, than that he should destroy the faith of one of these My little ones'. This indicates the respect in which Jesus held the faith of the individual. The teachers from the east also make this statement: the true devotee can visit any church, any mosque, any temple where God is being worshipped, and mingle with the worshippers. He can worship the same God in spirit and in truth; and for any one sect to decry another sect, or for any man to ridicule the religion of another, is a grievous sin, because each individual worships God according to the light in his heart. He sees God from one angle and his brother may see God from another; but remember more harm is done than one realises in attacking the religion of another. The true devotee honours the religious conviction and worship of his brother. To attempt to destroy a man's religion is to attempt to destroy his soul.

The Many Mansions

Jesus spoke often in parables, and even His miracles are still a source of great question and misunderstanding. Before the parables and miracles of Jesus can be understood there must come a great raising of human consciousness from the material into the spiritual. Man must be able to arise and go to the many mansions of which Jesus spoke. Sometimes the 'many mansions' are thought to be beautiful homes in the spirit world. That is partially true; but the 'many mansions' are actually different states or planes of consciousness which man can enter only after due preparation has been made for him by the Christ within. 'I go to prepare a

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place for you!' said Christ. The Spirit, the Son of God within man's heart, has to rise through planes of mental consciousness and enter the heavens, the celestial spheres. He has to follow in the way of Christ. Christ goes first to prepare a place; the soul of man can follow and thereafter can function on those spheres, can live in those many mansions.

The Earthly Temple

Some wise initiates maintain that the miracles of Jesus did not concern man's body or physical life at all. We do not say one way or another. But Jesus did not lay much stress upon the body, which suggests that while the body had its function and place, and should be kept clean and pure and holy, His first concern was with the soul. The physical body should maintain its health, wholeness, poise and tranquillity, so that the soul may act as a bridge between the mansions above and the earthly tabernacle or temple. There is no doubt but that Jesus referred to the physical body when He spoke of the 'Temple' of God, for the physical body *is* the Temple of God. Would that all mankind would recognise this, and use the Temple of God worthily, for within the heart centre of man, within the holy of holies, is the inner shrine whereon the Light burns. Why! all down the centuries it has been the work of the Brotherhood to keep the Divine Light burning on the Altar in God's Temple.

Death of Lazarus

Lazarus, the friend of Jesus, died; and Jesus was called to raise Lazarus from the dead. Some schools of thought would say this was purely a spiritual and not a physical death. We have no reason to doubt that such a man as Lazarus lived and died as we are told; but also, there is many a Lazarus on the earth and he of whom the Bible speaks may stand as a type, a symbol for many. We do not question that Jesus restored Lazarus to life. But we add that the body aspect of Lazarus was not important; nobody's body is nearly as important as those who live in the body think. Not until you get out of your body and function consciously in the spirit do you realise its minor importance. The physical body serves as a means to an end. That is all.

Jesus did not hurry when called to help Lazarus. His enemies were lying in wait to kill Him – so His disciples thought. But Jesus made no account of this, implying that he would not be touched, indicating thereby that until the time was ripe, He was safe; and thereby recognising the law of karma which controls these events. You will notice that not until Lazarus had been dead (so called) for four days did He arrive. This is important, because you may have been taught that the soul is not wholly severed from its body until three days after its death, when the body commences to decompose.

When Jesus arrived, the sisters of Lazarus were overcome with grief, crying, 'Lord why didst Thou not come sooner, for now he stinketh!' We believe this to be a reference to the *soul* of the man, rather than the body. For the soul of Lazarus had died to Christ, to those higher planes of consciousness, to those many mansions; and it was the soul of Lazarus which was on the point of decomposition and maybe his body too ... but it is the soul that we stress, for

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the soul was so involved in the materiality that it had died. So deeply had Lazarus sunk that he was on the point of losing his soul.

You remember what happened? Jesus commanded them to roll away the stone from before the cave where Lazarus lay. Can you apply this esoterically to the lives of the many thousands and millions of Lazaruses in town and village and country everywhere? Men and women who are as dead souls, and who lie shrouded and buried from things spiritual! Why! walk along the streets of any great city and you will see thousands. They look dead, with no light or radiance; with their faces so pinched and worn that you could almost mistake them for corpses.

‘Lazarus, come forth!’

Jesus said, ‘Roll away the stone’. What is the stone that lies before the cave in which man is buried? His arrogant and destructive intellect. Although the soul may long for light and belief in God, the stone lies heavily upon it. Until the stone is rolled away, Lazarus cannot come forth.

What Happened then?

Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life’, thus asserting that Christ has power to restore life, to raise the soul and the body from the dead. Then said Jesus, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ He was called forth by Christ, our Lord, your Lord, his Lord. Then the soul feebly stumbled to its feet, still swathed in graveclothes, still blindfolded. And Jesus said, ‘Loose him!’ Maybe those who take the bandages off the eyes and unbind the graveclothes are the spiritual pioneers who come from the spirit world with their message. But mark this, my brethren, *that only Christ Himself* can call a man from death to life; only Christ can awaken the Christ spirit, the Truth and Life which is buried in a man's soul. Only Christ can raise a man from death to life.

But Christ is not always recognised. Christ is pure and simple human love, which is truly divine. Love is the Voice which calls man back from death to life.

Here lies our responsibility, yours and ours. We bear a responsibility to every Lazarus in the world, to give them love; so that the Voice of Christ can call to that human soul. ‘Come forth and live!’ Live? To what end? To glories undreamed, the joys of the many mansions. Such mansions, my brethren, are the places of lodgement, spheres of consciousness, of conscious life into which the soul may rise while still in the physical body. We would help all the world, all mankind, to rise from the death of materiality greed and selfishness and help them through the love they must bear to their brother, to enter into the glories of heaven which Christ prepares for all those who love ...Him.

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May the Light and the glory of our Father–Mother God illumine your souls and open your eyes and lead you ... into eternal happiness and peace, both on earth and in heaven. Amen. Amen. 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:

path of the soul, spiritual path, redemption, spiritual planes, rebirth

