

# White Eagle's New Year Address

A223 Sunday Address 7th January 1951 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

*Text:* from a good carbon typescript with alterations and marks in a number of hands. The typing style is that of MB but it seems to have been worked over after by AMI. Marks in AMI's distinctive hand have been incorporated here, in the understanding that they are actual corrections. The typist seems to have lost one word from the shorthand and marked it in the margin, but it seems to have been inserted by AMI afterwards: the word 'IT', in capitals, at the end of the sentence beginning 'And every hair of your head is numbered' roughly two thirds of the way through the teaching. All marks but AMI's have been ignored, except for those that are part of the typing.

*Context:* the typist has noted that the reading was Matthew 6 : 19-34. This is the passage of Jesus' teaching initially about not storing up treasures on earth, and then about taking no care for the morrow. The opening quotation, 'The sense of life that knows no death', suggests that the hymn immediately preceding this address was 'O life that maketh all things new', by Samuel Longfellow (1819-86, brother of the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow).

*General Notes:* not many White Eagle New Year addresses look back so clearly to Christmas as this one. However, White Eagle speaks of burning the used Christmas decorations as something akin to a ritual; at the time of collating this collection that ritual is scarcely known. Christmas trees are collected in the UK by the local Council and shredded to make wood chippings. The talk of the Magi, and of the cave with glittering jewels in it, is reminiscent of the ancient text known as *The Revelation of the Magi*, but this was not widely known when White Eagle's talk was given. For more details of it, see Colum Hayward's article, 'An ancient text about the Star' in *Stella Polaris*, February–March 2021. The theme of following the Star recurs at the end of the address.

*References:* for 'The sense of life tha knows no death' see 'Context' above. The mantra or prayer, 'From the unreal, lead me on to the real' is often associated with Theosophy, but comes originally from the Sanskrit of the Birhadaranyaka Upanishad. It is known as the Pavamana Mantra. White Eagle comes back to the saying at the end. 'The light shineth in the darkness' is John 1 : 5. 'Except ye become as a little child' is Matthew 18 : 3, and 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God' is Matthew 6 : 33. At the end, in the paragraph beginning 'That is all very well, you do that', White Eagle makes several quotations from that chapter of Matthew, which, as we saw in 'Context', above, was the reading in the service.

## White Eagle's Address:

'The sense of life that knows no death, the life which maketh all things new.' This shall be our New Year message.

We come and speak to you from the spirit with one object. This is to help you to recognise the life of the spirit and the power of the spirit. We do not come to turn you away from your duties and from the work that you have to do on the physical plane and through your physical bodies. But we come at this time and age to help you to disperse the mists of darkness and materialism which are strong and thick in your earth at the present time, which are always very dense in the world round those souls who cling to physical matter, who cling to desire for gratification of physical senses. Those men and women who cling to these physical senses encircle themselves with mists, very dense mists of their own creation. And when these souls leave their physical bodies because the body has become old or diseased, these people then see that they are in the mists. They have to work through those mists guided by helpers from the spirit side of life. Now these helpers are many and their mission is to receive the souls who are called earthbound, to guide them away from the mists into that world beautiful. But

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there is a painful process that they have to pass through before their vision clears and their hearts are strong with desire, not for the earth, not for physical contact, but for God, the glorious light and heavenly life.

Now, dear ones, this is our message: that you make a resolution now, as you stand at the beginning of a New Year. There are those people who do not believe in making resolutions. Pardon old White Eagle if he says that that state of mind is lazy. To make a resolution means work. It means self-discipline and training. We call to our brethren on earth, not only for their own sakes but for the sake of the great Brotherhood of life, to make a resolution now at the beginning of the year to strive to understand these two aspects of life.

One of the sages, or all the sages – we will not say one because all the sages are as one, for all the sages have reached the heart and centre of eternal truth – and they all give to you that truth. The sages, or the White Brotherhood, the Elder Brethren, will say to you [that] there are those on earth who know and there are those on earth who do not know. Let your prayer be; 'From the unreal, lead me to the real'. Now, this is of vital importance to you all who sit in this congregation tonight, that you pray and you seek to be led away from unreality, which is the world and all the claims of the senses. Lead me to the real – the real is glorious. We come back to you for this one purpose – to inspire you and to help you to keep your vision open to the Star which is the real life, the Christ-life, the only-begotten Son – the spiritual sun, the life force behind the physical sun, that great life which has taken upon itself the form of man. The light shineth in the darkness, but the darkness seeth it not.

Remember this, beloved brethren: Christ upon earth in the form of the highest creature upon the earth, man; the son of man and the Son of God. That man is shrouded in the mists, because the pull of the earth is strong, but he must rise and behold the vision of the invisible life from which his spirit has descended. For man comes at the command of God into a physical body, and upon the physical plane of life, for one purpose, one sole purpose – and that is to unfold the qualities of the Son, the qualities which God has endowed him with. So you see that in living in your physical body you are accomplishing good work upon your soul. Life is hard, it is very confused and there are many tests and trials for every one of you, but these tests and these trials are bringing out the fuller life from within the seed, the Seed of the Christ man in your inner being. You are doing good work by living nobly.

Noble, what a grand word! Some people, some teachers, interpret – the Magi – one of the Magi, one of the Kings who came at the birth of Christ, who brought the gold to the Christ – the Teacher will tell you that the Gold is indicative of a noble life; a noble life which is bringing forth gold, golden light, golden life; the Son. May your resolution be this year to penetrate into the inner cave where the jewels glitter. Leave the attractions of the physical life in their place and recognise the outer world as the unreal world, and the inner world of spirit as the real one, dear ones.

About this time you put aside your decorations, your Christmas decorations. You have, according to ancient custom, you have been celebrating the season of the Christ Mass. Now, you burn the symbols of that festival and these symbols that you burn can be likened to the material life, the physical life. After a period, the usefulness of this physical life is past, and

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the outer covering, the husk, is consumed; consumed by fire, or it may be buried in the earth. You are now doing this, burning the husks of Christmas, and you are looking forward to a new life. You are passing from the physical into the life of the sun, which has been hidden from you for a time. The sun has now turned and is rising and bringing new life upon the earth. See the symbolism in this: the symbolism of your physical life which, in due time, is finished; its work is finished, its work with physical matter.

O beloved ones, we beg you to realise, to recognise the company of the wise men who come to you. They have been guided by the star, the star in the heavens. But you also are the star. The wise men worship the star. They are guided by the star, but you people on earth, you reflect the light of the star and you attract the wise men to you by the light of the star within your heart. We are not telling you a fairy tale. We tell you deep truth. The wise ones come to you, drawn to you because you pray, because you aspire to truth. You aspire to that life which is the life of the spirit, the real life. The star shines in you because of your aspiration, because you turn your face towards the Sun. The wise men from the East, the Elder Brethren, come to you attracted by the light of the star in your hearts. You know the earth plane looks very dark to the wise men. It is only when they see the light of little stars all over the canopy of the earth that they are able to come to the light, to the little light which is you. If you do not shine, if you have no light, how can the wise men – how can the Master – be guided to you?

We would impress upon you self-choice. God gave His children the gift of free will. God does not force His child to do anything he does not want to do. God has given His child free will. You may choose to follow the earthly life, the physical life – drowning yourselves in the dissipation of the earth – and, like the prodigal son you may wander a long time in the wilderness and indulge yourself in the earthly life. But, beloved brethren, we are now moving forward into this new age of brotherhood; the age of the spirit. We know it is the mental age too, but mankind will learn that in the same way as his body is unreal, his mind is unreal too; that is, his mind of earthly things, his earthly mind – it is unreal. But beneath all this mental stimulation which will, in time, just go off like steam, there still remains the real man. Intellect alone cannot save a man's soul and, as the Master Jesus said; 'Except ye become as a little child ye shall not enter the Kingdom'.

At the beginning of the New Year then, my beloved ones, choose the way of the spirit. Now this does not mean just being airy-fairy and dreaming dreams and seeing visions, it means putting into practice the law of brotherhood; putting into practice the spiritual law of life. In thought, in word and deed, live the life of the spirit which is the eternal life and the real life. Beneath all sound, beneath all thought is the eternal sea of life, the eternal now, IT. Seek to become more acquainted with that and you will lose your fears. What does it matter if foolish men follow the side track which leads them nowhere but into the jungle? Your business is to be true to that unnameable power and life. It is within you. It is all around you. It is in the heavens.

When you leave your physical body, if you have worked as you know you should work to disperse all the mists of materialism which gather round you, you will be then living in a state of light. And oh, my children, we would like to draw back the curtain, the veil between the world of spirit and your world of mists so that you can see into our world, the world of

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sunlight, the only beautiful real world, which is eternal. Form may change. It does change in our world, the same as in your world, but the light never changes. The happiness and the joy of the denizens of that spiritual world never changes; grows more beautiful, more satisfying. O dear ones, take no thought for the unreal things – and the unreal things are those which wear you out, break you down, bring pain and suffering and mental anguish to you; they are the unreal, they are the unreal. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God. Seek the power of the spirit, the glory of the spirit.

That is all very well, you do that, but when the test comes, so stretched that you think that it is going to break [*sic*] and sometimes your faith fails. Hold on, my children, hold to your faith, for when you feel at the end of endurance, the light comes and your needs are supplied. God never faileth His children. Divine love is all you need and it is your life. Take no thought for the morrow. The lilies in the field are clothed in the glory of God. Solomon, the earthly king, in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Not a sparrow falls to the ground but your Father knows it, because the sparrow is part of your Father. The sparrow cannot fall to the ground without God knowing it, because the sparrow is part of the whole. And every hair on your head is numbered because the Creator has caused the hairs of your head to grow and they are a part of IT. You cannot at any time be separated from your Father, only by the mind of the earth. The earthly mind will separate you, because the earthly mind denies God. God is ever present, ever watching, bringing good, bringing light and life out of nothingness.

O my children, as we pray for the blessings of the light to descend into your hearts, we pray that you may resolve at the beginning of this year to follow the star of Christ: to recognise that those things which are invisible, those things which are spiritual, are the real things which shall not be taken away from you. From the unreal of earth, lead me to the real.

All the blessings of God's life will be upon you, upon us all.

From darkness, lead man to light. 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:*

*spiritual contact, inner voice, light within, intuition, enlightenment, guides, wise men, Epiphany, winter solstice, path of the soul, initiation, spiritual path*