

Eastertide

T261 The Inner Teachings 24th March 1960 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

We pray that the blessing of the Great White Light, whom we worship as Father-Mother God, may be upon this gathering. O Lord, we pray that every soul in this assembly may be raised in consciousness to the glory of Thy Spirit; and we thank Thee that through Thy love we are able to commune in this place. We pray that the peace and beauty of the heaven world may illumine the hearts of these Thy children.

Amen.

Close your ears and eyes to the outer life whilst you are gathered in this upper room, remembering that 'the upper room' means a higher level of awareness of spiritual things and those who live in the spirit. Some of these have a physical body like your own but have learnt to function in another world and are therefore able to come here, and you may be *en rapport* with these elder brethren. There are also beings present who always live in the spirit, but they come back to be with you, to bring help to you through their spiritual contact. You are therefore in the midst of a vast heavenly concourse; as you think of this you will be raised into the light. Moreover, as you are able to rise into this spiritual awareness, share in this spiritual life, and join company with the vast White Brotherhood, so you are able through them to serve mankind*.

*[*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

There are many forms of service but this service of the light, this quickening of the vibrations of the Earth, is a rare service and brings a great blessing to man. We are thinking at this moment of the great need your Earth has for the kind of help which the light projected from your heart can give. We think of the conflict now taking place between man's heart and mind, being well aware of how the intellect is becoming so arrogant in man. We take no sides in any conflict because we know that a spiritual, a cosmic law is at work on earth, and that although growth and unfoldment of the light within man comes about slowly, it comes surely. You see trouble and disquiet affecting all peoples within all nations, and there may be a tendency for you to say, 'All is lost! How terrible! How devastating!' But this is not the way. You must work steadfastly to hold this conflict in the light. Here we remind you of the great need of the holy men*. At this you may say, 'Surely these holy men have sufficient understanding, so don't need our help.' All peoples, holy or unholy, need the help of their brethren, for even the holy men are passing through travail not for themselves but for their companions, for the whole world. It is a question of pouring into a central pool or reservoir as much light as the human soul can give out.

We live at a time when there is a tremendous uprising of the light, and it is expressing itself in crude form in some areas of the world. Therefore we ask you to be understanding and send all the help you can to the holy centres existing in Tibet, Egypt, India, the Andes and in the various parts of Africa. These holy centres can be protected by your work, your service. Your work is to bring into the world a greater power of God. Some people think that individual man can do little or nothing to forward God's plan but truly man can do so much because God, the Great White Spirit, works through His children on the earth.

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We have said before that the many religions take form according to the spiritual evolution of nations. People need the word of truth in a form they can understand. We would suggest to you that all religions contain at least the germ of truth. Remember, religion deals with the human heart, for true religion springs from the heart, not from the mind. Its basis is in human life. You have heard it said that charity always begins at home; so also does religion begin at home, in the heart.

Symbols, as we have told you before, are the language of the spirit, and it is well for you all to try to read these symbols so that you may be able to communicate with your brother man through the language of the spirit; in other words, through your religion. Now your religion lies within your heart and it is expressed in daily life. When you are in sorrow, you naturally turn to the comfort of religion because sorrow has come upon you in order to speed unfoldment of your spirit, so it has its purpose.

At this time of the year your orthodox church celebrates the great Christian festival of Easter. The week before Easter is regarded as Holy Week, a time of cleansing, of self-discipline and preparation. Brethren who possess inner knowledge of the meaning of Eastertide can see the preparation which is going on in the hearts of the candidates for initiation. The culmination of this season is the crucifixion. We would like to try to dispel some of the bogey of gloom and sorrow which has been built up, which overshadows the Christian world on Good Friday, which has become the great symbol of the passage from your world to our world of spirit.

This pall of gloom which has been built up around Good Friday has also been built up in your own lives. Every human being can think gloomy thoughts about his own death or that of friends, relatives and dear ones; thus you are all preparing for a time of grief and pain, building up a great bogey. You will say, 'This is all very well, White Eagle; but when you see someone you love passing into the unknown, how can you help being sorrowful?' My dear ones, we are striving from our side of life to bring you a clearer understanding of what you call death. Properly understood, death does not exist. Those who pass through the veil seldom, if ever, realise what is happening to them. Before you fall asleep at night you may have anxiety of mind, but the actual moment of losing consciousness is unknown. So also is a passing to the next world. Any physical reaction at this moment has no bearing upon the consciousness of the soul. To give you a more beautiful conception of death, we would always use the word 'birth' because it means a soul's rising to a richer and more beautiful life. The spiritual man can understand this truth. The more spiritual a man becomes, the less he fears death.

Think again for a moment about Easter, a time of the bursting of the seed, the sending forth of great shoots, and in the spring plants, the opening of flowers. How delightful it is to go into the garden or into the country at Easter time when everything is rising to new and more glorious life! Oh, how happy are the birds! How brightly the sun shines! How green is the grass! All things rejoice because of the demonstration of new life.

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Do you know the meaning of the Holy Grail? Come with us in spirit, and we will try to describe to you this mystical bowl of light. Can you see revealed on the horizon this gradually expanding and rising bowl of light, the cup of the Holy Grail, symbol of a more glorious life?

The story is told of how the knights of King Arthur, on their return from their long journeying, during which they had been tested for their purity and gentleness, strength, wisdom and love, gathered at the Round Table, at the centre of which was the symbol of the Holy Grail, or the cup of communion, offered to each knight on the return from his long quest. The Round Table signifies unity, the at-one-ment of the spirits of all the knights, and in this state of oneness they take Holy Communion. We are trying to relate this experience to what the soul finds after undergoing its own crucifixion of human bitterness, human suffering and experience. You must learn that it is not the suffering alone which teaches but rather your own attitude, your reaction when facing difficulties and sorrows. The various events in the life of Jesus Christ symbolise the events affecting the life of every one of you. Every happening throughout the life of Jesus the Christ will take place in the soul of every man. That wonderful Son of God who lived to demonstrate the story of human progress, human evolution, spiritual evolution of man stands as a great symbol.

At the time of Easter, when the sun is in Aries, you will see with your inner vision the cross of light upon the horizon—not the cross of death, but of life. Preceding this rising of the sun is a period of solemnity while the birth of the spirit is taking place – or, put in another way, when the knights of the Round Table are holding their solemn and beautiful communion – a quietness is over the whole community. At Eastertide, a mystical and wonderful happening, an event of glorious spiritual birth takes place; and it is a birth and awakening which comes to every human soul. But before this birth can take place in any human heart, something else must happen.

The elder brethren of mediaeval times described it as the mystical marriage. Do you know what this means? The marriage between the human soul and its pure spirit. This mystical marriage must always come before birth of new life, of a life more beautiful. Before the new birth there must be union between man's personality, psyche or soul, and pure spirit. Jesus demonstrated this when he turned water into wine. The pitchers were filled with pure water. The vessels were ready waiting, and at the word of the Christ, the water was changed into wine. In other words, Christ's vibrations, his blessing, went into the prepared vessels (human souls cleansed and made ready) and his spirit, penetrating them, performed the miracle of the mystical marriage, the blending of the opposites which man, in his unregenerate state, finds so difficult to comprehend, for man will not accept the truth that good and evil, light and darkness, are both alike in God's sight.

Here then is the picture, the story of Eastertide. Try to relate this to your own lives and see in that symbolism a truth which will fill you with joy. It points not to death but to life, but it must be by the way of surrender. The soul must accept the way of God, must work in harmony with the powers of the light. We suggested earlier in our talk that you send all the light, love and faith that you can to all the distressed areas on your planet, especially to the

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centres of the Holy Ones, for God needs the cooperation and the work of all his children in the final perfecting of this planet and of the human race.

We think we have said enough (and perhaps more than enough) for tonight. May a few seeds have fallen upon the prepared ground of your souls in order to bring flowers and beauty and joy into your lives! Do not let your mind batter at you with trivial questions. Rather cultivate steadfast faith in goodness and in evolution. Cultivate a very steady and calm mind and a heart full of love towards God and your fellow man.

My children, when the inrush of God's life comes to you, as a natural happening, you will know weariness neither of mind, body or spirit. You will say, 'Oh, that belief is all very well for you, White Eagle!', but do not forget that we too have passed along the same road as do you. We know the weakness and weariness of the flesh, but we know that you can only arrive at constant renewal by cultivating awareness and faith in God.

Benediction:

Goodnight, and may God give you all a joyous Eastertide.

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