

Bringing in the Light

A426 Sunday Address 20th December 1970 St Mary Abbots Place, London Festival Of Carols

Text: MB typescript carbon. The address seems not to have been used in *Stella Polaris* but notes suggest it was issued as a tape cassette – there are notes in ink by RAE and in pencil by AJH. A very few corrections by those preparing tapes have been retained. The title has been chosen for the present project.

Context: MB heads her typescript 'Exquisite white lilies on the Altar – Christmas Tree ablaze with Light' and continues, 'Choir Processional – each chorister carried a lighted candle, singing very sweetly, "Once in Royal David's City"'. As each chorister advanced to the Altar Jeremy and Colum took each candle and placed it in front of the rostrum. By the time each chorister was in her or his place there was a lovely radiance both from the candles and the choristers themselves. In this delightful atmosphere all the lights in the Lodge were switched on and the congregation were asked by dear Brother Faithful to join in the carol, "O Come, All Ye Faithful". Minesta gave an Invocation (wrongly described in the script as 'Benediction') that was once again separately written down. The choir then offered 'On Christmas Night', 'I Sing of a Maiden' and 'Tomorrow shall be my Dancing Day'. 'Very lovely', says MB. Brother Faithful then gave the familiar 'And there were in the same country' reading (Luke 2 : 1-19). After it, the congregation sang 'While Shepherds watched their Flocks by Night' and then, after the prayers, the Choir offered 'Infant Holy', 'Away in a Manger' and 'O Little One Sweet'. The congregation sang 'Whence is that Goodly Fragrance' and Brother Faithful offered the second reading, Matthew 2 : 1-11, the story of the Wise Men. Then the Choir offered 'Star in the South' and 'In the Bleak Midwinter', the latter probably in the Harold Darke setting. Next came White Eagle's talk. After it, MB notes 'Exquisite organ music rendered by Brother David' and Brother Faithful announced the hymn, 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'. Minesta spoke quietly to the Choir and offered words about the Star reproduced here. The choir then withdrew. MB notes, finally, 'In the antechapel the beautifully illuminated nativity scene of the angels guarding the Holy Family and the animals gave great joy. The detail was so perfect and lovely.'

General notes: in this address there is a strong early focus on stars and the Star, with a reminder that the Star represents the interpenetration of the two worlds. Identifying light as the crucial symbol, White Eagle states definitively, 'Religion is universal. Love is universal. There cannot be division or conflict in religion. There must be one pure light which lighteth every man as he journeys through his physical journey on earth.' At one point, talking of eternal life, White Eagle says, 'This does not mean you have to be constantly, continually pious. It means to be joyous, to be happy, to be pure. Pure because from the purity of the heart, the purity of the individual, the Christ child is born, is born.' The word 'pure' needs a little explanation. We think it means simple, free of distraction, like a river without debris. After his focus on universality, the next symbol White Eagle focuses on is that of the child. As we move to the communion White Eagle speaks of beauty and of eternal life; the communion, when it comes, particularly stresses Divine Mother and her presence. He reminds us, 'The Mother isn't just Mary. The Mother is the source of all form.' In her afterword, Minesta takes us back to the original theme, the theme of the Star and its meaning.

References: by 'the lighted stars, one on either side of this altar', White Eagle must mean the candles carried in by the choir and laid out on tables by JCH and AJH, as MB notes. This tradition continued until both the London Lodge and the Temple changed form. The phrase 'My lambs know their shepherd' derives, not exactly, from John 10 :27. 'A little child shall lead them' is from Isaiah, 11 : 6, whereas 'Except ye become as a little child', referred to alongside it, is Matthew 18 : 3. 'The ones who have been through great tribulation' are mentioned in Revelation 7 : 14.

White Eagle's Christmas Message:

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Beloved children of the earth life, we come to you from the realms of spirit, from the world of light, to bring you the love, the love of heaven, the love of the Christos.

In the stillness and quiet of your own heart, when you learn to be quiet and withdraw from the noise of the outer world, the noise of the marketplace, there in the stillness and silence you will hear the true voice of the Son of God.

And the message which Christmas brings to the earth plane repeatedly is the message of the Star which all wise men follow. All wise men in the past have always followed the Star, which is the symbol of the 'man made perfect'; the interpenetration in man of those two aspects of life, spirit and matter. And when this interpenetration comes into the consciousness of man, it is said, 'Lo! Christ is born!'

We have a symbol here before us in the lighted stars, one on either side of this altar. The altar is the symbol of the communion table, communion between spirit and matter, between heaven and earth. And the lighted star – stars – which you will see before you, is a symbol of the light of the Christos, the true light which lighteth every man to happiness. You may doubt this when you see so much cruelty, so much conflict in your world. But it is because of this conflict which has ever been on the earth plane, ever since the origin of human life on this earth plane; because man in the beginning brings conflict, conflict in himself, conflict in the community. And man brings conflict between himself and his Creator, the source of all truth and wisdom and love.

You may have noticed that these lighted stars became a blaze of light because each one of the choir carried a little light. And this is to illustrate to you that in every living soul there is this light.

Religion is universal. Love is universal. There cannot be division or conflict in religion. There must be one pure light which lighteth every man as he journeys through his physical journey on earth. Remember this. In your country, and in many countries in the world, there is conflict, but do not be despairing, because there is this wave of light, this great concentration of the light, of the Christos, the light, which is love upon all mankind, and is symbolized by the lighting of these two stars before us for each one of you – every man irrespective of colour, caste or creed. That matters little. What matters is the love in man's heart, the kindness in the human soul. When men learn to be kind and gentle and patient and tolerant, then the Christ will be born again on this earth.

Remember brethren, that this message did not come originally with Christianity, or shall we call it modern Christianity, or orthodoxy. We have known this truth. This message was given to mankind countless years ago, millions of years. Now you cannot, in your present state of life, you cannot possibly comprehend time. When we speak of millions of years, it is impossible for you to comprehend what we mean. But, if you can, just remember that in every one of you is this inner light, this spark of divinity, which is the love of Christ. People are inclined to worship at the shrine of the newborn Babe, and they think of the saviour of the world as an individual. You may call that individual Jesus Christ, Jesus being the name. But Christ is something different. Christ is Universal Love. It is the spirit of love in a person – the

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spirit of love. And this spirit can walk through all the nations. Christ of the Indian way. Christ of the African way. Christ of the English way. Christ of every country that you can name on your earth.

We have known the Teacher. You know the Teacher. And as he said, 'My lambs know their shepherd'. They recognize his voice. And this is truth. Dearly loved children on earth, you recognize truth in a man. You recognize when a man is speaking to you from his heart, and from the spirit. And you are celebrating at this season of the year the wonderful birth of this Christ Light. Now if all of you can do your part to cultivate this light in yourself and help your brother man also to express that light, you will indeed have not lived in vain.

The symbol of the little child. What did Jesus Christ, the Christ, say? 'A little child shall lead them. Except ye become as a little child ye can in no wise enter the Kingdom.' And this expresses humility, humility and simplicity. And the Cosmic Christ is born into a child, into the childlike heart. Remember there is a difference between childish and childlike. A childlike heart, the simple heart, is the heart which reaches out to love all creatures. This is the message of the Christ Mass.

And before we leave you, we want to raise your thoughts above this earth plane. The earth plane is beautiful, and it will become more beautiful when humanity has learnt to make it beautiful, really beautiful. The beauty of the earth will become transcendently lovely because, my brethren, there is now concentrated upon you all, and upon the whole world, this great light. And there is a heaven world. And there is a life beyond this physical life, even though many of you may doubt the reality and the truth of this. But the real things of life are invisible. What you see in form is only the casket or the shell, but the reality both in humanity and in all beauty – in music, in art, in literature – all beauty comes from the world of light or the heaven world.

And there now is a vast company of illumined souls who are watching over humanity. Do you know, brethren, that the Christ Mass Festival is a most beautiful ceremony from our world, from the spirit world? We are in the company of these shining heavenly ones. And these are they who have gone through great tribulation and who have escaped by their own aspirations from the bondage and the heaviness of a material life. They congregate round you now, and amongst them you will know those whom you have lost physically. Those whom you think have died. There is no death. There cannot be death in spirit. Spirit was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: eternal in the heavens. And the ones you love are spirit. It was the spirit you loved, although the physical form became dear to you, and the spirit shining through that personality became dear to you. But the real person whom you love does not die, cannot die. Eternal life is the message which the Christ Mass brings to each one of you.

And let us say this to you now, if you will use your imagination and aspire to a higher sphere of life, you will see this vast assembly of shining ones singing their praise and thanksgiving to their Creator; because they know they have received that great gift of eternal life. And eternal life, dear ones, is born of the Christ within man's own heart. This does not mean you have to be constantly, continually pious. It means to be joyous, to be happy, to be pure. Pure

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because from the purity of the heart, the purity of the individual, the Christ child is born, is born.

See the Brotherhood behind the veil of materiality. See the most ancient sign, the Cross of Light encircled by Light. The Cross of Service; every man serving according to his opportunity and his capacity; every man serving life; every man loving life, all life – the most ancient message. And we ourselves have heard from the very heart and centre, the peak of truth and love. So simple, *so simple*.

And the Great White Spirit has blessed you. And remember that in this light and in this love there is only unity. There is no separation when love is in the heart. You are all at one in the Eternal Light.

When the world learns this, every man and woman and child will be cared for by his brother man. There is no question about this. Learn, my dear children, to sit in the stillness, the peace of the spirit, aspiring to the Most High. They are coming now. The Comforter will come.

A blessed and happy Christmas to every one of you. Remember what we say. Peace be with you brother, sister. And remember the symbolism we have given you, together with the picture of the Great Mother. The Mother isn't just Mary. The Mother is the source of all form. The Mother receives into the womb the seed, the energy of the Father God; and the woman, the mother, is the receptacle. And the human mother has the power in her to mould form, to mould form. And all form on earth is moulded by that Divine Mother Spirit. So will the sisters here remember this, and remember their calling to mould perfect forms of life on the earth plane. Women of the world can do so much to alleviate suffering and pain, and bring to mankind peace, peace.

The Brothers behind are all around you, sending you all love and peace.

Minesta:

[a few words were said quietly to the Choir – not heard]

I wish you all a very truly happy, peaceful Christmas. I mean peace within you. And I am guided to say these words to this congregation. The symbol of the Star, which is the symbol of our Lodge, is a most powerful and magical symbol. And whenever you can, if you can think or imagine that six-pointed Star here, *here* in your heart, and with all the will of your mind send it out to humanity, you will be doing a very wonderful and magical thing, only for good, for good, for peace, for goodwill on earth.

Let us remember that it was the Star which the Wise Men followed. And all wise men on earth will follow the Star, the symbol of that universal Christ Spirit.

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And now let us together think and imagine this blessing of the etheric Star, which we all as individuals contribute to making it shine bright and clear in the enveloping mists of materialism on earth.

May the peace which comes to us from this Star abide in our hearts.

For all the blessings of life, material and spiritual, we humbly and simply thank Thee, our Heavenly Father and Mother, God.

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:

nativity, winter solstice, magi, light within, inner light, spirit world, inspiration, intuition, illumination, enlightenment, initiation, faith, multicultural, world religions, life after death, eternal life, ancient faiths, spiritual power

