

The Teachers of the Ages

A192 Sunday Address 2nd May 1948 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, June 1948

Context: as with so many of the 1948 addresses, the dating of 'The Teachers of the Ages' is extremely difficult. Pattern would suggest that being published in June this address was from May, and so this date has been chosen. A reading from the Bhagavad Gita is cited; although the Gita is not Buddha, it would maybe feel particularly relevant in the month of the Wesak festival, Buddha's birthday, and of course Buddha is mentioned with the other teachers later in the address.

While we know that the reading from the Gita spoke of the imperishable spirit, that is a principal subject of the Gita and does not define which passage was read. Consider, however, Bhagavad Gita 2 : 20: 'The soul is neither born, nor does it ever die; nor having once existed, does it ever cease to be. The soul is without birth, eternal, immortal, and ageless. It is not destroyed when the body is destroyed.'

We also learn that one of the hymns was 'The King of Love my Shepherd is' (a rendering of Psalm 23 by H. W. Baker, 1821-77).

General Notes: an address on the subject of building the 'Christ body', despite its title, although showing that this is the key message of all the teachers. An interesting note is struck when White Eagle talks of hearing from the congregation the particular hymn sung before the address, and says 'We all enjoy hearing you sing "The King of Love my Shepherd is"...'. Speaking of the White Brethren alongside whom he works *as listeners* is quite unusual in the teaching: we get, more visibly than usual, a sense of the group. White Eagle mentions Krishna, Buddha and Jesus as a tradition of teachers and also mentions, once again, the Albigenses or Cathars, except that here he talks of their Master coming from the Himalaya. He goes on to mention Christian Rosenkreuz, the Knights Templar and the knights of the Round Table, showing their common inspiration. One of White Eagle's final requests is that we should believe in ourselves, as spirit – a sentiment never far from his lips but in this case spoken with clarity.

References: the idea of imperishable spirit runs through the Gita, so that it is impossible to give chapter or verse to the reference White Eagle makes. The phrase about God never leaving man without a witness is frequent in White Eagle's teaching, but its origin is obscure. 'The pure in heart shall see God' is Matthew 5 : 8, while 'A little child shall lead them' is from Isaiah 11 : 6.

White Eagle's Address:

We once told you that any service given in this material Lodge was building a temple of the spirit in the unseen, a building of finer ether than the physical, but nevertheless quite solid and real. When your eyes are opened, when your higher faculties are developed, you will be able to see for yourselves the structure which your love, your service, your worship to the Great Spirit has created.

Your reading (from the Bhagavad Gita) spoke of the imperishable spirit. Never was there a time when spirit was not. Never will there be a time when spirit will die. It is immortal – and you too are learning that you are spirit. You are learning that the constant use of, the expression of the spiritual qualities in daily life, brings to your emotions, to your mind, to your body and your surroundings harmony and happiness, peace and wonderful illumination. As you develop the spirit within you realise a little of the beauty, the love and the grandeur of the Almighty Spirit from Whom we all derive. This Almighty Spirit is called God, but has

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many attributes, many aspects, many forms of manifestation, not only on the physical, my brethren, but on higher planes which for you lie behind a veil. That veil is your material life, your material mind and your material conception of life. You have before you the opportunity, if you tread the path outlined by those who are able to tell of spiritual truth, to find a more abundant life.

We know that the flame within flickers in the human heart. Sometimes it shines brightly, and at these times the mind becomes illumined and the emotions transformed; at other times the light burns very low. There are reasons for this. You do not appreciate periods when you are feeling depressed and heavy, and wonder if there is something wrong with you. We would explain, perhaps for your comfort, that periods when you are depressed may be due to certain influences, often astrological, which are playing upon your outer life and your soul within. Rightly viewed they are bringing before you opportunities for spiritual growth, spiritual enlightenment – so do not be cast down, but keep very calm within. Realise that these influences come to test and if you are strong enough to stand against their buffetings you will be rewarded with an expansion of consciousness and understanding.

You have been singing one of our favourite hymns. We all enjoy hearing you sing ‘The King of Love my Shepherd is’, for with those words the vision opens and we see a glorious, a heavenly light – and in its heart a figure of the Perfect One, known to you as the Son of God. In other words, we see the human personification of the Perfect One, a representation of the love, the wisdom and the power of the Almighty. For the Almighty must manifest to His children in human form, but this does not limit His power, his greatness, His omnipresence, because whilst the First Cause of all life is without limit and eternal in the heavens and on earth, He dwells also within every human heart. He also is the cause of the lives of all brethren who have attained mastership, and whom you have learned to call the Great White Brotherhood, Brothers of which have been always with and instructing mankind on different levels of evolution; teaching man how to develop his vehicles of expression at each of those levels – teaching man how to express God through the physical, through the emotional, through the mental body, and how to build up that glorious soul which in some schools of thought is referred to as the causal body, but which we simply call the temple of the spirit. Could you only see this temple which each individual is slowly but surely building, you would recognise that life on earth with all its problems, temptations and tests is well worthwhile – because the spirit, the divine spark which comes from the heart of the Logos, must learn to find expression through perfect form; and all the experiences which each individual soul encounters on its earthly path are received as part of the structure of that temple of the soul, which might be described as a body similar in shape to the physical, but full of light, colour, great radiance and beauty. Think on this when you meet difficult people.

Remember, brethren, that all souls are developing although not all are at the same level of understanding as others. Nevertheless, even the humblest and simplest man or woman contributes, by the experience undergone during mortal life, a substance which goes to the building of that temple.

With so wide a subject it is impossible to deal with every point which arises, but we repeat that the divine spark within every soul is learning through earthly experience to contribute to or build a form which will become in time a perfect son–daughter of God. Even as we are

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able to behold the perfection of the elder brethren, so also we can know that before every soul lies a path leading to a like perfection.

It has been said that the Almighty has never left man without a witness of His power and His wisdom. We look back as far as we can along the path which humanity has travelled, and we recognise the great ones who have descended from time to time to instruct man at the particular level on which he most needs instruction. Thus we see that all teachers of all ages have brought exactly the contribution man most needed at his particular time and age. When we recognise this fact we realise that all religions have or have had their part to play in the spiritual evolution of mankind. No one can say, 'I have the whole truth'. No religion can claim, 'This is the one and the only way to the goal'. Every religion and every wise man knows from the centre of truth that the teachers are selected according to mankind's needs. Thus we find the teachers responsible for the scriptures of the east came not all at one time, but in successive visitations. Shri Krishna brought teaching about the first great cause and the way of life, truths which answered the problems of the people of that time. The great Lord Buddha came to help men to control and train their emotional body, by the way of wisdom, silence and peace. He taught that the animals were men's brethren, he taught of the wide brotherhood of all life. He also taught men that the way to God was the way of sacrifice; enjoining them to care not for the things of the earth and of the flesh, but to follow the spirit in simplicity and humility. Then we see the advent of another brother from the great White Lodge, Jesus of Nazareth, who brought his message not so much for the eastern as for the western world. His coming heralded the stimulation of the mental body. We see its gradual awakening and growth in the centuries following upon the coming of Jesus, who was overshadowed by the Cosmic Christ.

These wise elder brethren had not attained their mastership in your present earth cycle but in one lying far back in time. They had developed their powers of God-life or what you call mastership; they had developed all the bodies necessary for the perfecting of the human personality in preparation for the overshadowing of that divine personality which will manifest in the future. For even now man is on the path to develop his highest faculty, and it is in the western worlds that you will witness the rapid unfoldment of this sixth sense, intuition.

Remember that messengers from the White Lodge in the next sphere of life have descended to the earth not only as these great figures we have referred to, but as lesser brethren. We look back again through the centuries not far distant. We would make special mention of the brotherhood of the pure, white gentle spirit known as the Albigenses, which took up their abode in France. Their leader came from the Himalayas, from the Great White Lodge which is invisible to materially-minded people, to bring the message and to establish a community in which the purity of life, which they knew was essential if man would regain full consciousness of the Almighty Spirit, was devoutly practised.

We would emphasise again the quality of virtue of humility and of purity of life, because in the present age so much complexity exists upon the mental, upon the emotional and upon the physical plane. The one direct path to the Almighty Presence is that of purity in the body; purity in the mind; purity in thought. What was it the Master Jesus said? 'The pure in heart shall see God.' 'A little child shall lead them.' The Albigenses were brethren of intense purity

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of thought and simplicity of life. They had their contribution to make to the world; they drew men away from complexity, a path which had perhaps originated from a church which had become overburdened with power, forms, ceremonies and ritual. Not that we disregard the purpose of ritual. In its right place it is good, for it has a part to play in the development of man's soul. But all things tend to get out of hand, so that they overbalance – as is evident in your world today. There is conflict between democracy and what you know as communism, but it is the balancing power which is coming to keep man upon the pure path of brotherly love, brotherly motive and love for God. We see this influence will always be at hand when there is tendency for overbalance to destroy mankind, as a stimulation for the side which is good and necessary.

Remember that what happens to be evil can be used to bring about good. So we look with great love upon our brethren of the Albigenses community. We realise what that community brought to the good of the whole, although so little is known or written about their work. We see later the introduction of what you call the Rosicrucian Brotherhood, brought to Europe by one calling himself 'Rosenkreuz' (Rosecross): also a brother originating from the same centre. His real name and that of his family or parents are unknown. The name he bore refers to the crucifixion of the material self and the birth of the rose of Christ in the heart. The Knight Templars were men of a similar order. In your own country is the story of King Arthur and his knights. All such groups of men and women were souls directed from the great White Lodge. They came to help mankind to understand the purpose of their creation.

So it is today, my brethren. God has not left mankind without a witness. Brethren are still coming from this centre of truth, or from one or another of the brotherhoods behind the veil. Their purpose is to bring the particular help you need in your present stage of evolution. They would say unto you, 'believe in yourself': not the little, not the mortal self which may be changed with the darkness of earth, but in your true self, that which is the divine spark within. Learn, my children, to look to not only the God of the Universe, but the part of God which dwells within your own heart. Remember that the God within is all powerful, but do not mistake your personal self for pure spirit. The virtues of God within are unmistakable, and when you need help in everyday life seek this God within of virtue, goodness and love, and this divine presence will never, never fail you, because it is all wisdom, all knowledge.

When you tune in to that divine self in meditation you will receive pure and direct guidance through the spirit. This same spirit is the Christ within; the Son of God which God has created. God has also created each son–daughter in His own image and always has that image been held in the mind and the heart of the Eternal. All lower planes of life – the mineral, the animal, the vegetable – have a part in the building up of the divine and perfect nature in man, but man himself was breathed forth from the heart of God as a son, albeit unaware of his own potentialities. The experiences of earth life have taught or will teach that son to realise the power which his Father is bestowing upon him. For as Jesus the Christ said, 'The Father and I are One'. 'I am in the Father and the Father in Me' ... and also in you, my brother, my sister. Within *you* lies the power and the glory.

The teachers of all the ages have come to show you the way of the truth, the way of life.

The Great Spirit pours forth His blessing upon you all. Amen. Amen. Amen.

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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:

creating form through love, depression, the causal one, the temple of the spirit, purpose of the great brothers, sixth sense, Albigenses and purity, evil can bring good, Rosicrucian Brotherhood, dual aspect, Christ in humanity

