

Peace on Earth – Goodwill to Men

A063 Sunday Address 1st October 1939 Pembroke Hall, 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: Angelus, November 1939 – a duplicated typescript.

Context: Sunday address, coinciding with a national day of prayer (see Historical Notes).

General notes: in a more general way, this address is still a comment on the impact of the outbreak of war despite the assurances of spirit. The whole address is a discussion of what peace really is. Once again, White Eagle separates dramatically the man/woman of earth and the man/woman of God.

References: in the paragraph about the disciples of Jesus, there is an oblique reference to Matthew 22 : 14: 'Many are called, but few are chosen'. The phrase returns later in the talk. He refers distantly to a number of stories about Jesus, including the temptations and the role of Judas, which are to be found in the synoptic gospels. White Eagle later refers to a number of other traditions popular in the day the address was given: 'orthodox Christians, Christian Scientists, New Thoughtists, Theosophists'. 'New Thoughtists' (apparently, White Eagle's own coinage of a word, although the influence of Brother Faithful, IC, is felt) probably means the school of applied right thought and similar programmes, in which the work of Henry Thomas Hamblin and Joel Goldsmith stands out. Strictly, it is a movement going back to the work of Phineas Quimby (1802-66) and has come down to more recent times by a number of different paths, e.g. the work of Unity and Science of Mind.

*Historical notes: the national day of prayer was organised by the Archbishop of Canterbury and churches across the country were involved; there was another on 26th May 1940. For more details, see the book *Bombing, States and Peoples in Western Europe 1940-1945* edited by Claudia Baldoli, Andrew Knapp and Richard Overy (A&C Black, 2011).*

White Eagle's Address:

This day has been ordained throughout your land as a day of prayer for peace. We would emphasise this note throughout this service, and remind every soul present that according to their own will and desire they can be assisted, by Those who dwell in the land of light and truth, to greater freedom of spirit and to fuller comprehension of the meaning of peace.

Forget, for this hour, beloved brethren, the claims of the lower self; and try to understand that the Elder Brethren are behind the dark veil of materialism and selfishness which alone cuts them off from the life of man on earth. In the remote places of the earth also, in every continent, dwelling far from the clamour and turmoil of man, dwell the Masters of the Ancient Wisdom; and they are working unceasingly to help you, to help humanity. They look across the darkness and see some men shine forth like stars upon the night of materialism – you may be such a star, for all you know. The wise and humble man usually thinks he is of little account. But we tell you that as you aspire in sincerity to God, as you aspire to become the confident yet meek and gentle man or woman that Christ's example shows forth, your light shines in the darkness. God will perceive, and His Angels recognise your light. So also will the Masters dwelling in the fastnesses of the mountains, and there will be an instant contact between you and them. The Grand Master of all true brotherhood lodges and all true churches, the Christ himself, will reinforce the light in His young brother's heart and soul.

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Bearing these things in mind, then, it is well that you not only pray for the coming of peace on earth, but rather pray for the coming of peace and light to the soul of every man. You should so live and conduct your daily life that you contribute to peace on earth – and this not only by prayer and meditation but in the outer world by keeping your mind steady and calm, so that it may not reflect the darkness and confusion of poor humanity. Do not be reflectors of your daily press, be reflectors of the Grand Master, even Christ, the true and only begotten Son of God. Do you understand? The Christ in you, your spirit, that which yearns towards the light and truth, is the only begotten Son of God. Christ shineth through those men who reflect Him. Not he who calleth ‘Master! Master!’ is the chosen one, but he who doeth the works. This does not necessarily mean the work of your hands, but the work of brain, heart and spirit – the continual sending forth of gentleness and love, the holding fast to confidence within your breast that God is working to bring through wisdom and brotherhood, and the light of the spirit, to humanity.

Yes ... ‘peace’ as you call it, which means an understanding between nations – is coming. But we must work for the true peace of brotherhood between men, which will enable Everyman to recognise the Christ within his brother. Brethren of earth, take heed, we pray. When a settlement, or an agreement comes between the governments of the countries, pray to God that you may hold fast to pity and love and brotherhood in your heart for all suffering humanity. No disciple of Christ can triumph at the downfall or discomfort or suffering of any other brother. This is our message ... be not triumphant over another’s discomfiture or downfall. Peace and triumph will be yours when you can feel sure that Christ himself is walking on earth, for this will begin a period of true peace, of triumph for all humanity.

At this period preparation is being made for the coming forth amongst men of the Masters of the Wisdom. This is what you are working for today. A peace which brings satisfaction only to the few, who can thus remain indifferent to the sufferings of their fellows – such is not peace, but a cloak for selfishness. You and we together must work for the coming of that true peace of Christ upon the earth.

The disciples of Jesus Christ were the initiates of that age. When the Master called the disciples together we read that He frequently taught them from some mountain height. The words of wisdom recorded in the four Gospels were spoken to the initiated as a rule, not to the multitude. So also the message given from the spirit world over a period of years has been spoken, not to the multitude, to the great mass of humanity (who cannot yet understand the inner truths) but to the few who were chosen, who were called, even as the Disciples were called in those far-off days, and as disciples have been and will yet be called, throughout the ages. Always the few will be called and initiated into the inner truths. Because your heart had turned to the light and wisdom of the Spirit, to the higher worlds, you heard the voice of your Master, the voice in your own heart, and you responded. Thus you come to this and other similar places, to hear what the spirit people have to say concerning world affairs. You are expected to respond according to the light within your breast. You are not expected to respond as one who is of the multitude, because the multitude does not yet understand. But the Disciples of Christ, the Master, should understand. Man cannot serve God and Mammon. We must lay aside the thoughts and the temptation of Mammon; we must forbid Judas to

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betray his Master again. Yet this we fear is what the earthly man, or Judas, is doing; he is betraying his Master... Christ. The chosen disciple must follow the voice of the Master without reservation.

The critic says 'God has given man reason, and man's reason must guide him through the pitfalls and delusions of life'. True, God has given man reason. But this still has to evolve, even as man's body is evolving. Reason is not all-wise. But God has given man intuition, and this is now being quickened in the disciples, the sixth sense. Intuition must become the voice calling in the wilderness. Intuition will inspire reason with wisdom and understanding, and the higher reason of man will thus evolve, enabling man to comprehend in greater fullness and clarity the works of God; [it] will enable man to comprehend the universe, and his own being, and to look upon his brother man with love and comradeship.

Our last point. You, disciples of Christ, called to the service of Christ, are being tested. It must be so. Every piece of metal used in machinery must be tested in the laboratory for strength and durability. All who call themselves Spiritualists are facing a test. We do not limit Spiritualists only to those who have proved survival after death, or who think that communion with the beyond is the end-all and be-all of knowledge – we use the word in its philosophical sense, to include all men and women who endeavour to understand spiritual science or to follow the spiritual life. Spiritual-ism – the study of the spiritual aspect of man, of life and man's being and all these, whether they call themselves orthodox Christians, Christian Scientists, New Thoughtists, Theosophists or by any other name, are facing their test. Their metal, their character, is being tried out. Many are called ... few are chosen. In other words, few pass the test of endurance and courage and confidence in the Omnipotence of God.

In the ancient mystery schools of Egypt, the neophyte was tested to the very limit of his endurance. There came a time when we felt all was lost, that we had lost even God; and yet something within, like a glimmer of light, urged us to hold fast to God, and to God's love; at that same moment, Initiation opened up before us. That very testing, to our extreme degree, caused the soul to respond to the light of the Son of God, of Osiris (or Christ). His spirit dwelt upon our soul. We responded to the Light, and thus Initiation took place.

Initiation means, as you know, an expansion of consciousness to a realisation of the allness and completeness and universality of God's love. That expansion or initiation comes when you can respond to the Light of Christ, and hold fast, no matter if the earth you know is dashed to pieces – even if it seems that all you have worked and stood for, all you believe and hope, crashes and crumbles about you. Now is the very limit of your test, and your Initiation is at hand. Not long, my brethren, now; for those who have been pushed to the very last degree of endurance, the light will break, and they will be assured that what they stood for and what they held to, is eternal truth.

The spiritual path is not easy; otherwise the masses would clamour to follow it. The very fact that so few out of this great metropolis gather to listen to these words, proves that the spiritual

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is no easy life; it is not easy to have faith, to hold on to surety that God is good – but that is what the Disciple has to do.

And so, my brothers, our prayer during this service is that we may all work for peace.... We labour to bring peace to the troubled soul, to bring light to those in darkness. Whatever God wills, wheresoever the path leads, be it up the mountain side or down the valley, we joyously and gladly follow, because it will bring peace to earth, peace to all men.

In the stillness of your spirit, hear the voice which tells you, my brother, the truth ... there will be no war. Seek that quiet place of the spirit; get away from the clamouring voices of ignorance on earth and you will hear the Master saying; ‘Lo! I come ... and peace shall be!’

In the silence, my brothers, unite in prayer and thanksgiving to God.

Holy Spirit, bless Thy children with Thy peace.

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:

doubt, trials, trust, no separation, right thought