

A Message of Joy

A409 Sunday Address 26th January 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

Text: MB typescript, a pale black carbon. In YGH's hand, on the cover page, 'This address "A Message of Joy" is on record WE1002'. We have kept that title. There are plenty of pencil markings on the script, which may coincide with the slightly cut version used on the LP (no check has been made), but no alterations to the wording. There is a marginal note by MB, '? Have perhaps misheard' – apparently relating to the phrase 'Christ always matters as we should say', the sense of which is not entirely clear. She also missed two words or phrases in Brother Faithful's closing words.

Context: MB tells us that there were 'Lovely spring flowers beautifully arranged on the altar'. The opening hymn was 'All people that on earth do dwell', no. 443 in *Songs of Praise*. Minesta's Invocation was again recorded elsewhere, and the Choir then sang Psalm 121, 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills'. It's not clear if this was a straight psalm chant, or a full anthem setting. The reading was from *The Christian Mysteries*: MB simply says 'selected sentences and passages from pages 92, 93, 94 and 95'. The second hymn was the Epiphany hymn, 'As with gladness, men of old' (83), the Choir alone singing the fourth verse. Next, the Choir sang the anthem, 'Lead me, Lord; lead me in Thy righteousness', by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, with one verse solo. After the address, MB says there was beautiful organ music from Brother David (Philip Jones). Then Brother Faithful gave his few words and introduced the final hymn, 'These things shall be' (312), the words by John Addington Symonds. Minesta gave a Benediction, recorded elsewhere, and there was a vesper as usual. White Eagle once again expresses gratitude to those who have made the Lodge beautiful – once again, we wonder if there had been a work party spring cleaning.

General notes: very much a runup to the new Temple address, it begins with a very reassuring reminder not to give in to earthly worries – and an assurance that spirit is triumphant over earthly concerns. This leads to a clarification about the meaning of 'Son of God' and the allied term, 'the Spiritual Comforter'. There is an account of the spiritual sun, and how all the power in the universe comes back to the one simple quality, love. There are words on forgiveness, and a celebration of how far humanity has come along the road of throwing off outworn conditions. A new way of life is coming. There is thankfulness for the work of the Brotherhood at the Lodge. 'The time draws near when man will not live entirely encased in flesh; but will be aware in his daily life that he is companioned by Heavenly Beings.' Finally, there is a message about the Temple at New Lands, a response to possible criticism as to why money should be spent on a building. There are two reasons the temple is needed: because man needs to be able to withdraw in silence, while in the process he–she needs to have the company of brothers and sisters. White Eagle then leads us in thought into an imagined Temple. Then he reminds us that this is symbol only: 'You *are* that temple'. 'You have to create your personality and your soul as that pure white temple so that the golden Sun of the Christ can shine into you and through you.' The final message is 'there is nothing too great for you to achieve'.

References: 'love one another' is John 13 : 34. 'Except ye ... become as little children' is Matthew 18 : 3.

Historical note: it is interesting that White Eagle speaks of the circular temple being raised above the ground. The original design for the White Temple, which was expected to be built, was a circular mushroom on a stalk designed by the Guildford firm Scott, Brownrigg and Turner, and knowledge of this design may have filtered through from Minesta's mind to White Eagle's, even though that design was eventually abandoned for the later design by Elidir W. Davies and Partners, Elidir being close to the ideals of the Lodge and regarded as having greater insight.

White Eagle's Message:

A Message of Joy

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Beloved, O beloved children of the earthly life, we come amongst you in spirit with so much joy and happiness to be with you, in close contact once more. For we come with all love, my children, to bring you a message of comfort and inspiration and illumination. You have now stepped across the border into a new – shall we call it – Age, or New Year of the physical life. And as you have heard us say on many occasions, in the heart of all good people is the wish that their friends, all peoples, shall find happiness in the future year.

We go one beyond this, and pray and work, my children, for your happiness now and evermore. And we know that happiness can come to you and *will* come to you, no matter what happens on the physical plane of life. You are spirit, and you have the gifts of the Spirit. We do not mean by the gifts of the spirit that you have psychic power only – psychic power which is of the soul, the psyche. But we mean the power of the Spirit within you. And when you have learnt to understand what this means, you will then be able to conduct your life in such a way that you will walk the journey in physical matter with inner peace and surety. Now this we would convey to you in no uncertain manner.

Can you get this idea from now, from this very moment? Just use your imagination, your inner knowing that you stand before your Creator, your Heavenly Father, with your hand in His, and your other hand in that of the Great Mother of Life, the Earthly Mother, the provider of the sustenance for your physical body, the provider of life on the physical plane. God, the Supreme and Almighty Power, gives to you your spirit; your Divine Mother gives to you your physical body and all the needs of that physical body. From Mother Earth man draws everything he needs for life, for without Mother Earth there would be no physical life.

And with the union of these two forces or powers or symbols of life – with the union of the Heavenly Father and the Great Mother Earth there is brought forth the *Light*, the Son. Now, we particularly want you all to understand what we mean by the Lord Christ, by the Son of God. Now, we are repeating this message again, and shall repeat it many times, for we have a purpose in so doing. We are commanded by those in authority behind to once again emphasise the grave importance of you and of all men on earth understanding the significance of the *Son of God*, the Son of God, which is the Great White Light, which is not confined in one individual alone. Now, there are many great Teachers who have come to the earth plane with a special mission to teach man at this particular level of evolution a message, a lesson, which he needs to learn. And so you will see through these great World Teachers throughout the Ages a certain measure of the Divine Light, or the Christ spirit coming through.

When we speak of the Son we have two meanings. We want to convey these meanings to you all in this Lodge. The sun in the heavens in your solar system – you look up into the sun – without the shade on your eyes it is impossible for you to gaze into that great light, a great ball of fire. Now then, my children, surrounding or attached to the life, the life force in that sun is the Spiritual Comforter, the *Light*. And this is the Great Spiritual *Son*, or the first born of the Father, the Son of God. This is what the Brotherhood means when it refers to the Son of God. God said, 'Let there be Light!' Before the light came there was darkness and chaos. The Lord said, 'Let there be Light!' And the light was born, the first-born of the Father. And in that Light is life.

A Message of Joy

A409 Sunday Address 26th January 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

We will not go through the story of creation tonight, but suggest that you read that story again many times, and you will be inspired by your own Guide to comprehend the profound and beautiful truth in that story of Creation.

Now, my children, this spirit which we call Christ is not a man as so many dear orthodox friends think, not one man. It is the Great White Spirit, the Great Light. It is the Christ spirit. And this Christ spirit is love. And this Christ spirit has been implanted in the soul or in the heart of every living human being. Remember this as you walk your cities and you mingle with many hopeless and suffering souls. Never forget that in each one of those souls has been planted a seed.

We differentiate between God and Christ, because God is the power, the force which is being driven into matter – Christ always matters, as we should say – which causes it to be formed and used. But the Christ is something different. The Christ is the Light, the light in man. It is something which causes man to love, to feel love and to be responsive to love, and to give love to all creation, to give love to those with whom he is immediately concerned and to give love to all men irrespective of colour, caste or creed. Love thy brother man. Jesus, the Great Teacher, and the Great Initiate and Master, gave the same simple message, ‘Love one another’. We stress this because it is the one and only salvation for man.

Now, as soon as ever a man responds to the power of love, to the beauty of love, to the loving-kindness, putting himself completely on one side, thinking only of loving others – we know that it is a gospel of perfection! But the Great Initiate Jesus said: “Be ye perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect”. And remember, dear ones, that although you fall many times and you will feel disappointed with yourself, forgive yourself.

Have you ever thought of what forgiveness means? And you, your own self, your own personality needs your forgiveness. Your personality is a little less than your spirit. Your spirit is divine, and until you have overcome all things your personality is human, and it needs the forgiveness of your spirit. And as you forgive, your spirit forgives your personality; so you will forgive your brother man for all his seeming errors and the suffering he apparently inflicts on his brother man. But, of course, this is not for anyone on earth to judge: only the Law, Divine Law, will set all these things right.

You look into your world at the present time, and you see confusion, hatred, resentment, sorrows; and you feel sad. But don’t be sad, my children; the Law of God is just, perfect and true. And it will work through human hearts and through human society. If man himself, or if only a few of you will endeavour to speak the word of love and compassion, and to act love and compassion, then God will see that His Law is effective. And all these crooked places will be made straight.

You know, children, when we come into this physical condition of yours to speak to you we feel more and more a great sense of joy and thankfulness, because we can see the clearing away of outworn creeds and old conditions that have served their purpose. We see this wonderful spirit of change coming into the heart of man. We see the most beautiful and

A Message of Joy

A409 Sunday Address 26th January 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

wonderful developments. Of course, man immediately, *immediately* criticises his brother man, and all the things which man does. There is the critical faculty given to you for a wise purpose. But those of you who are enlightened, be gentle with your criticisms and infuse them with compassion and understanding and love. We cannot tell you, my dear ones, how valuable you as a brotherhood can be, holding together in your Lodge as a pure and true sincere brotherhood of service. There is so much to be done. And you must do your work in peace of spirit knowing that you are surrounded by a Shining Band of Spirit Helpers.

Now, in the New Age we see, not so far distant, as many of you may think, but it is coming, this new type of life, this new way of life – when the spirit world and all the Great Ones of that higher world will be able to draw very much closer to humanity. The time comes when man has commenced to unfold those spiritual powers of which we have spoken. The time draws near when man will not live entirely encased in flesh; but will be aware in his daily life that he is companioned by heavenly beings, by his own guide, teachers from the heavenly universities. Yes! Yes! Yes, definitely. And man will be an instrument in the service of all life – and not least in the service and companionship of the animal kingdom and the nature kingdom. There is coming this great brotherhood of men and angels.

Now, this truth is nothing new. There is no new truth. But only a slow and gradual unfolding of truth from the higher spheres of life to man when man unfolds his own receptivity and his own inner spiritual gifts. Man was given his knowledge, as we have said, millions of years ago. It was implanted in man, and teachers came to the earth planet from afar and taught humanity, who were then so simple and pure; but they did not develop that grand intellect which they are now developing. But remember that the intellect is an instrument and must be an instrument of the spirit. Man must develop his intellect in order to comprehend the grandeur of the Universe and the grandeur of spiritual Law and of his own inner powers. Remember the value of intellect, but never deny the power of the spirit. For, except ye become as a simple little child in your own eyes as well as in the eyes of all other people you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The Great Initiate Jesus told you this grand truth, ‘Except ye become as a little child, ye can in no wise enter the Kingdom’. We can tell you that the great advanced personalities and beings in the higher spheres are very simple and humble and loving, oh so loving! And do you not realise how important as an individual you are to the Wise Ones? You are spotted, you are known, your life is plotted and your actions. And you will say, ‘Then I can have no freewill’. Oh, but you have the greatest freewill of all, the freewill of response to the highest way. We won’t talk about the lowest. Your freewill lies in your selection of that which is most valuable, as apart from what is valueless. And this is man’s choice. And we say to you, remember that there is nothing more important to you, or to any man in this world and the next, nothing more important than God and God’s will, God’s Power.

And now before we leave you, my children, we want to say a word about the Temple. Most of you here are energetic and thoughtful in your efforts to raise this physical Temple on your earth plane. Some people will say, ‘What is the use of spending money on a building?’ Now, we are answering criticisms which can come into your heart, can come to many people. ‘Why spend money on a building? Man doesn’t need a building. Man only needs his own inner development.’ We will tell you why the Temple on your earth is not only necessary but most

A Message of Joy

A409 Sunday Address 26th January 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

valuable to humanity. As you live in your world you must mingle with the worldly thoughts. Naturally, humanity must concentrate on his needs of life, of sustenance, and certain measures he needs for the development of his intellect. He needs all kinds of things which in this growing age are necessary to him: books, music, knowledge, all kinds of things, implements that he needs to assist him in his work and so on and so on. So man has to give much attention to the material and physical needs. Nevertheless, there should be an equal division between the needs of the physical life and the needs of the spiritual life. And man needs to withdraw from the outer life, from the material life. You all become completely overshadowed and dragged down at times with weariness and confusion, with the noises and the turmoil and the struggle of your physical life. You need to withdraw from it. But man needs companionship and man learns from companionship with his brother man. Remember that you are all gradually learning that you are of one spirit, that you are all of the spirit of the universal Christ, the Lord. You all have love; you all need love and you all need each other, although you don't always think so – but you do. You all need the warmth of companionship and harmonious people around you. And you will learn as you withdraw from the outer world into the White Temple which is going to be symbolised on the physical and material plane of life. It is a symbol of yourself, the symbol of man's spirit and the symbol of every *man's* need, the Temple we are going to describe do to you before we leave this night.

We take you in thought – imagination – into a world of spirit, into a heavenly state of life. We point to you a path, a path of soft green turf very beautifully kept. We choose this to show you because you will feel, as you walk that soft green turf, the softness of the life force which you will absorb into your feet as you walk quietly and tranquilly along the path towards the temple. You will see the temple raised above the ground. And it will be white and glistening, conveying to your spirit the brightness of spirit, substance of spirit material if you like – we prefer to say spirit substance. It is all so pure, so white. And as we enter into this temple, this perfectly round temple, we feel the enfoldment of the pure white light of the infinite love of God. We look up and see the golden rays from the spiritual Sun shining through the canopy, which is transparent. This is in the spirit world, and we see the white-robed brethren silently enter and perambulate round this lovely simple and holy temple. In your meditations, enter this temple and feel and see the company of White Brethren. Just to see them clairvoyantly will make you feel happier and better and confident, but most of all you will feel the purity, the complete holiness in this temple of God.

Now, this my children, is a symbol for you. You *are* that temple. You have to create your personality and your soul as that pure white temple so that the golden Sun of the Christ can shine into you and through you. Again you will say, 'O White Eagle, how so?' There is nothing too high for you to achieve. Remember this, there is nothing too high, nor too great for God's child to achieve. This is our New Year message to you all. It should comfort you and heal you of all pain, of all weariness of the flesh. It should raise you up into the consciousness of that illimitable world of the spirit in which you live and in which you will continue to live through countless aeons. There is no death, but only eternal life, God's gift to man.

God bless you with this light; with this consciousness of the spirit.

A Message of Joy

A409 Sunday Address 26th January 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

Before we withdraw from the physical body we wish to say from all our companions in spirit, don't ignore us! We are always about, and we know for we see your labours in the service of your brother man. And we see you cleaning and polishing and perfecting your Lodge. And we thank you most earnestly; the Brotherhood thank you, dear brothers, for your co-operation in your work and for every minute you spend in the service of God and humanity. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you all. Thank you and God bless you.

And unto Thee, Great White Spirit, we come. We place our hand before Thee and know that we are safe.

Brother Faithful:

You would describe White Eagle as a confirmed and resolute optimist because of his resolution to [...] chaos the pain of the world and occasional burst through [...] and see the heart of man as inclining towards purity and truth and indeed almost eager to learn truth. Perhaps his optimism and his resolution come from his vantage point. His own message, his own work, his own power of blessing is reaching out into the world, out far beyond this little Lodge and its people, and touching almost innumerable lives and hearts and moving them again towards truth. And so this is indeed a time for we Lodge people to feel something of his optimism and something of his resolution in this New Year. And so in the echo of his words we come to hymn no. 312, 'These things shall be! A loftier race'.

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:

Genesis, Adam and Eve, messiah, masters, brotherhood, community, spiritual unfoldment, spiritual development, age of Aquarius, temple of light, golden temple, freedom, solar system, light within, inner light, communion, inner peace, holy spirit, heaven world, world of light, spirit world