

The Spirit of Christmas Past

A026 Sunday Address 6th December 1936 Pembroke Hall, London Sunday Service
on the second Sunday in Advent

The text of this address is as prepared for machine-duplicated circulation shortly after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: duplicated script in blue, from a bound volume.

Context: stated to be one of three special services for Christmas that year. No details given of the service itself, but there is reference to a hymn sung before, which seems to have been one of the Christmas carols aimed at children, such as 'Away in a manger'. There is also a Benediction.

General notes: the title – along with the other two in the series – refers to the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future that provide the structure of Charles Dickens' famous story, *A Christmas Carol*. In the address, the reference to White Eagle's 'lecture on the Hidden Years' is intriguing; it may have been an Inner Teaching, or it may have been one of the lectures at the Marylebone Spiritualist Association around 1934, such as the one on the Birth and Early Life of Christ on that year, or the next one, 'Jesus the Great Initiate'. None of these are very particularly about the so-called 'Hidden Years' (i.e. those between Jesus's childhood and the start of his ministry), so another alternative is that there had been a White Eagle talk recently on the subject, which is no longer known. For the context of this address within the political crises of late 1936, see the previous address (11 November); in the duplicated script, a footnote referring back to the start of the long paragraph just short of the end ('Lastly, in these troublous times...') states 'This address was given during the "Crisis" concerning the King's marriage'. But the international crisis loomed large, too.

References: 'There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy' is something Hamlet says to his friend Horatio in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Act 1 scene v. 'He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her' is a reference to John 8 : 7 and the story of the woman taken in adultery.

White Eagle's Address:

We are delighted in the singing of the last hymn; to hear grown men and women sing from the heart the sentiments of children is beautiful. It takes a great man to be as simple as a child; and at this season of the year, many express their view of Christmas by saying 'It is all very well for children, but not for those who have got beyond.' But it takes the heart of a child to enter into the beauties of heaven; only when the heart is simple and can rejoice over the little things, the trivial pleasures, the simplicities of life, can the soul begin to glimpse the glory of God.

Most of you here must look back, particularly at Christmastide, with mixed emotions: sometimes with sorrow and sadness for the joys which have passed; but sometimes you are able to review past experience with wisdom, regarding past events as something woven into the fabric of your being, something which can never die, which is with you, always. This is the true way. It is not only a question of what you have gained by experience; but more – what sweetness and beauty you have contributed to others. Have you grown in strength, in God consciousness, because of the experiences of the past? If so, and you must grow, you are indeed bringing a Christmas gift to humanity, for the whole purpose, the whole answer to life must be 'What do I contribute to the good of the human race as a whole?'

The Spirit of Christmas Past

A026 Sunday Address 6th December 1936 Pembroke Hall, London Sunday Service
on the second Sunday in Advent

Today is the reflection of the past, tomorrow is the outcome of today. At Christmastide it is customary to commemorate familiar events which took place – or are supposed to have taken place, some many hundreds of years past. You associate Christmas chiefly with the birth of the Child, with shepherds keeping their flock on a starry night and the visitation of the angelic hosts; and some ponder on this pretty story and say ‘Yes, it is very nice for children, but as to its reality – no! We grown people do not believe in angels, they only exist on Christmas cards.’ Modern science and the great reasoning powers with which God has endowed us, forbid such superstitions. No, it cannot be true... Pause... did not one of your greatest poets say ‘There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in our philosophy.’?

The wise man does not reject that which he does not comprehend, but waits until he can understand truth.

The birth of the Master Jesus, although doubted in some quarters, is first and foremost the Mystery of the Ages. The Birth as represented in Christian teaching is only an outward illustration of a deep esoteric truth, a universal truth, a cosmic truth. Let us go back – not a mere one thousand, nine hundred and thirty six years – but to millions of years ago, to the birth of the human race, of earth humanity. There we shall come to the original of this wonderful story of the Birth of Christ who is the Lord God of this earth.

We find that the Birth of the Child destined to be the Saviour, took place millions of years ago. At that period the shepherds keeping their sheep were actually the elder brethren of humanity, come to help the earth evolution. They were on the ‘hills’ – were raised in consciousness, as distinct from the ordinary men in the valley. Picture this great Coming, the unveiling of the angelic hosts to the elder brethren of the human family, then meditating, then contemplating the great heavens – Lo! Suddenly the skies were illumined and the angelic hosts drew nigh.

Who were those angels who visited the elder brethren, the then initiates of the earth humanity?

They were those beings who had come to this earth plane with their power and their light and their wisdom to help in the creation or the birth of the Babe, the Child, in the minds of the men then ungrown and undeveloped ... bringing into the mind the Light which is the Son of God, the Christ-Child, the Christ-Light.

These angelic ones, from other planets of which your scientist has yet to learn, came with their message of peace and goodwill, revealing the true light which will eventually save humanity from the husks of materialism. Witness these two great powers continually pulling against each other – in yourselves and in the world. On the one hand materialism and the lower mind, resulting from the growth and evolution of the physical body – and on the other, the birth and growth of the Christ-Child, the Baby born in the beginning of time, implanted

The Spirit of Christmas Past

A026 Sunday Address 6th December 1936 Pembroke Hall, London Sunday Service
on the second Sunday in Advent

within man, the Light which would save him from himself, from the destruction which materialism must eventually bring.

Thus we have this ancient mystery repeated again in the story of the physical birth of the Master Jesus, who was in existence long before this earth plane was inhabited by humanity. From the Beginning it was ordained that the Master Jesus would at the right time come to this earth, He having prepared His physical and subtler bodies for the incoming of the great spirit, Christ, the Light, the Sun.

And now, as to the Wise Men who came from the East, those of you who are attached to any Brotherhood, Masonic, or the White Brotherhood, know that the ancient wisdom comes always from the East, even as the light rises in the East passes over the heavens and sets in the west. The Wise Men travelled from the East... They followed a Star, a Star guided them. Those who were Initiates in the mystery schools were students of the heavens. The orthodox say there is no truth in astrology, yet they uphold the story of the guiding of the Wise Men to the babe in the stable.

These Wise Men, studying a map of the heavens, saw that certain constellations revealed the coming of the Master and by the planets they would see the Master would be born in Judea. Being Initiates of the Sacred Mysteries they were in touch with the inner planes of life. They knew that the time had come for this particular Master to be born and so by the time they reached their destination, the story had been spread far and wide by the shepherds. Thus they found no difficulty in locating the babe who they knew was the Master promised since the beginning of the world.

By some it is said that the Child, when visited by the Magi – which means such men as are Initiates of the White Magic – it is said that the Babe held up its hand in the Sign of the Ancient Brotherhood, which they recognised. This may sound a foolish story, but why? The Wise Men kept watch for the many years between the birth and the ministry of the Master Jesus and to these the Master journeyed during that time (as we told you at our last lecture on the Hidden Years.)

Thirdly... The Babe was born in a stable, in the humblest circumstances. Some teachers say the Child was born in a Cave... Ponder: the Child was born in a cave, in the cave of the human heart. There is no separation in the universe, all must be cohesive, as even your own science teaches. You cannot be separated from the birth of your Lord and Your Master. Jesus being born in the cave is symbolical of the birth of the Son, the Light of the World, in you, in your own heart. Is this childish? We who come from the spiritual realms do not waste time in futilities. Christ, the Babe ... in you.... At this Season we would have you all remember this.

Materialism clamours always to assert itself, to destroy the Child, the spiritual Child, in you. Each anniversary, each festival that comes round, must reinforce that Child in your heart.

The Spirit of Christmas Past

A026 Sunday Address 6th December 1936 Pembroke Hall, London Sunday Service
on the second Sunday in Advent

So when you look back over the past years, may you recognise not only the Babe, the Master in your heart, but that which is growing in stature and in wisdom within, as He did in the story told in the Christian Bible.

Bear this in mind; it matters not one iota whether your Christian scripture is based on material facts or not; what matters is that it is based on a cosmic truth; and this mankind must recognise before it enters into the joys of the Christ-Mass, the Christ Festival. He is your Master. The Light within must be your guiding star and must grow to maturity and eventually reveal itself as the Master Whom you seek, the Master for Whom the Wise Men searched.

Lastly, in these troubled times, you on earth look only at the surface and sometimes speak unworthily of the Master Who is within you. During this present period, when your country seems chaotic, we ask you to cast out that which is shameful within you, that which is hypocritical... It is called by other names. BE TRUE to the light of Christ within you. Get your values straight, beloved children of earth. Do not keep the veil over your eyes. You who are so proud of your reason, your logic, bring the present situation right into the open and see it truly, with the eyes of the Son of Peace. Then you will recognise that which is coming, in which your nation has to play its part – it is the UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD OF MAN. The time approaches when those in command will be set in their place at the appointed hour, by the Great Angelic Hierarchies. Nothing happens by chance, all moves forward towards a desired end. All you need to consider is your reaction and your attitude to your brother man. It must be love. The Master, when asked, replied ‘Let he who is without sin amongst you, cast the first stone’ – and none durst reply...

Be true, beloved children of earth, to the Christ-Child, born in you to truly direct your path, to lead you to the mountain top, from whence you will have a clear vision of humanity wending its way upward towards freedom.

Benediction:

Putting aside all fear and all unworthiness, we open our hearts to the light of Christ and pray for the coming of that universal Brotherhood of Man which angelic hosts proclaimed in the beginning. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. 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:

winter solstice, festival, celebration, birth of Jesus, nativity, Christmas story, devas, epiphany, messiah, light within, inner light, fate, destiny