

The City set upon a Hill

A124 Sunday Address 7th November 1943 St Mary Abbots Place, London
Remembrance 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, December 1943.

Context: technically the date is conjectural, but its publication the next month and the description 'at the service of remembrance' remove most doubts; it could in any case only be a Remembrance address from a different year if the conjecture were wrong.

General Notes: at the outset White Eagle inserts a reminder not just that for him words like 'brethren' cover both sexes, but that from his perspective gender definition does not carry the significance it does on Earth. He firmly embraces internal duality. Then the theme of the title, which clearly derives from Revelation chapter 21, which just might have been the reading on this occasion. It is intriguing that he then holds a two-minute silence, even though the date is four days before Armistice Day – the meditation that follows then takes into contemplation of the Golden City. This address also touches on the British mysteries. In his Benediction at the end White Eagle seems intriguingly to take us to Native American times, and we must wonder if he is somehow involving in the 'Remembrance' those who died in the 'Indian wars'.

References: throughout, Revelation chapter 21 is relevant, but not quoted more than in phrases like 'Golden City'. The 'jewel set in a silver sea' is a reference to John of Gaunt's famous speech in Shakespeare's Richard II, Act II scene i.

White Eagle's Address at the Service of Remembrance:

Brethren, this is a Service of Remembrance, and we would endeavour to bring before your vision, your understanding, your realisation, the vast company of invisible brothers and sisters here present with us. It is an error to think that the word 'brethren' denotes those only of the male sex, instead of souls who can be both brothers and sisters to us. And so, as our thoughts turn to those whom we love, not only our personal friends, but the whole family of mankind. Let us think of them as both brothers and sisters, dual souls, aspects of the Great White Spirit who is a dual Being. Father–Mother, positive–negative. My brethren all, as we endeavour to catch a glimpse of the real life, let us in meditation think of the city set upon a hill, the old orthodox conception of heaven which has become so unfashionable. Let us consider the Golden City of Jerusalem, set upon some great height. Let us visualise the pathway wandering up this mountain to its apex; let us see upon that pathway millions of souls toiling slowly, sometimes stopping, some falling and being trampled on by the jostling crowd, some being raised to their feet again by their companions and helped onwards.

Let us see this vision, my brethren; humanity strives and climbs towards the Golden City; and the brave souls and the true keep within their breasts that vision of the perfect life to which they will attain if they keep faithfully on their journey.

And lining this path on either side, we see the whole heavens filled with shining forms some of them winged – yes, winged beings, which are called angels. We are not telling some fairy tale, my friends: we are drawing aside the temple curtain behind which lies the holy of holies. So also from the holy of holies within your being, if you will be true to Christ, which is the

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spirit of all beauty, you will see that by the side of each toiling man and woman walks a guardian angel, the guide, the companion of the spirit.

This is a Service of Remembrance, and the word 'service' means a giving forth of yourself. At this juncture we are going to be very still once again, because our giving shall be that of the spirit of Christ within each soul present. So we are going to be very silent for two minutes and keep the vision of the shining army who assist, accompany and help humanity. While we are silent, we shall feel a deep love for our friends and companions who have fallen in their journey prematurely; we are going to remember all men and women who have given their lives in devotion and in service to this world for an ideal; to help forward the progress, the evolution of their brother man. In this silence, my friends, we are going to lay our hearts upon the altar of service and rededicate ourselves, spiritually, mentally and physically. We shall not remember anything evil in this two minutes, but rather recall with thankful hearts all men and women, first of all of the present age, and then of all ages, who have been sacrificed because of man's ignorance and cruelty in the past; but who are now in the Light, in full understanding and with love in their hearts for us all.

The Silence was then observed.

There stands in our midst our Elder Brother, the radiant Christ. He holds before Him the Cup.... 'This is My spirit, My body in Remembrance ... and ye shall both drink and eat.' This means, my brethren, that even as a man opens his heart to the loving spirit of Christ, he drinks of the Cup. As he partakes he is so filled with the spirit of love and brotherhood that he eats the Bread (or the cosmic body of Christ) in his practical everyday service in the world. This is the true communion which the Lord Christ means: 'Eat this in remembrance of Me'. Even thus all men are asked, are called upon by the Christ spirit to live in consideration, in thoughtfulness, in kindness for their brother.

My friends, the world is so much older than anyone at the present time realises; its age is beyond man's calculation and earth's humanity has travelled many cycles of involution and evolution. There have been periods of time when true brotherhood was a living vital thing. Traces remain, symbols and signs which will reveal to man this truth. Scientists will awake one day and exclaim, 'Oh, this is all so different from what we thought!' Races and civilisations have lived in the far, far distant past who practised a brotherhood such as we do not yet know.

Think, then, of this age of perfect brotherhood in that Golden City upon the hill which we have described. We do not mean some city tucked away in heaven which the soul will only reach after death. Rather this is an ideal held in the heart of God, in the heart of Christ. There it is, there it has always been and there you will find it; and there all men will find it when they have learnt to follow the pathway. An ideal, we say; yet some day the city will be established on earth.

The City set upon a Hill

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Remembrance Service

Now the questions come crowding, because I can read your thoughts as I stand here. 'Can it possibly come in our time? How will it come? When will it come?'

First of all, my friends, it will come into being within your heart, within your mind - beauty and peace and brotherhood. *It must commence with you!* – and in your own heart and in your conceptions of the beautiful state of life. As each individual realises this, so the light will spread like leaven in the dough. This ideal, which is being broadcast from the city beautiful itself, will be received by the human receiving stations all over the earth. When the message is well and truly realised, then the work will commence.

But remember, the material reforms you are planning for your own country and other nations after the cessation of hostilities will not be truly built unless upon a solid foundation. The foundation must be spiritual and material education. You must commence with education, with enlightenment, so that the souls of men and women get the vision, absorb the spirit of the living Christ, drink the wine and eat the bread.

Now we devote a short time to remembrance. Memory is an extraordinary thing. Is there anyone anywhere, scientist, psychologist or medical man, who can tell you much about memory? I doubt it. Strange, is it not, that memory seems to be limited by the powers of the brain? When the brain is injured, or when there is a shock to the nervous system, memory vanishes – or at least it ceases to function for a time, but not entirely.

When telling of previous incarnations, the critical mind immediately says, 'Well, I can't accept that! How can anyone remember as far back as ten thousand years? It is ludicrous'. Well, to those who know, such a remark is itself ludicrous. In the realm of spirit, time is no barrier, and as soon as memory probes into the realm of spirit, then past lives are revived and brought to life. Then they become real. Memory does not always function through the brain; the soul memory is only occasionally tapped or stirred, and it is not understood. Sometimes it is vaguely referred to as the subconscious mind. But the subconscious mind is not the soul memory.

Consider the akashic records. Those unfamiliar with the term can learn that these records retain the events and more, even the thoughts and words of man, of nations, of races; every action, every thought which has ever welled forth from the soul of the mind is recorded both in the soul of the nation and in the soul of the individual. When any soul reaches a stage of evolution where this truth breaks in upon it, when it realises this universal fact, then it is able to read the record of all the events of the world's history. A stupendous thought! It will be proved, it has already been proved by occult and spiritual scientists. As the world evolves these powers will be accepted and understood by the scholars of the day.

It is therefore a profound and universal truth when we urge you to keep on making efforts, which efforts may not be seen or recognised on the outer planes, but which are recorded in the soul matter, in the soul-substance. Because of these records, or these memories in the soul, we arrive at the understanding of the law of karma, of cause and effect. With the soul

The City set upon a Hill

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Remembrance Service

memory there come a direction within yourself, an urge, if you like, to certain action. You do not know why you do certain things; you may think afterwards that acted almost automatically; you went to a certain place, or spoke to a certain person. Why, you do not know. We can tell you; because there was a record in your soul. Your soul urges you and your brain and body responds. Some people may like to feel that they have freewill and control their destiny. And so they have, they control their future, but not their past. They control their future because as they think and act today, so they will shape the future.

The soul will decide whether to respond to the highest within itself, or whether to some lower instinct which emanates from the physical or animal nature. If the soul gives way to instincts instead of obeying its higher urge, then it will be creating karma which must be paid for. In this way the soul creates its future. But remember that past memories in the soul will sometimes prove so strong, so deep, created by definite and clear karma, that the soul will respond purely and truly to the higher self, to the voice of conscience. This is the true explanation of sudden impulses and urges. The soul of man, much as the national soul of a nation, can also assert itself and stir the nation to action.

What is there in the soul of Britain? Certainly something which has caused the Britain today to rise up and become a leader. Something which has touched the soul of the nation. Holy feet have trod the soil of Britain.

If you study the folklore of your own country, you can read into these stories this truth: the Master's feet have walked upon this Isle. There is a memory stored in the soul of this nation which causes it in times of danger to stand like a rock; because Britain is known in the heavens as the Mystic Isle, the rock or jewel set in a silver sea - a natural fortress, 'the Holy Isle'. We are telling you truth. Implanted in the soul of this land and its people is strength, nobility, dignity.

There is also a great thoughtlessness, a selfishness and greed which has to be eliminated. Such elimination must start with the individual... Each house must be set in order first, cleaned and tidied and all that which is unwanted and useless and disgraceful must be consumed in the fires of sacrifice and love. Each man for his brother! The soul of your country stirs, and it will lead the world. The effort of all spiritually-awakened men and women and children of this island will be needed to inspire the rest of the community with the truth of being, which is spiritual.

You must recognise your great inheritance, true sons and daughters of the living God, lovers of all that is beautiful and right and clean and noble, healthy and holy not for the possession of the few, but for all. None must wander in darkness and suffering. A great golden light from the heavens must inspire the hearts of all sons and daughters of this island to give and to share and to inspire and to love each other.

This is the message which this day brings. This is the way for us all to enter the City of Gold set upon a hill, where men and women walk in dignity, with a great light shining upon their

The City set upon a Hill

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Remembrance Service

faces; where all are equal, all are brothers and sisters, all are recognised for what they truly are. Those who have passed before us are the peaks of the human race; these are the great army of shining ones who draw very near the crest of the mountain.

The young men and woman of today who went forth with hope and belief that they were helping their country and the world towards a better day – all these noble young souls are in our minds. Blessing and love flows from our hearts and clothes them in the golden light of the new Jerusalem, which is now hidden in the mists, but which will be clear to see when the mists have faded away.

The blessing of the Father–Mother God, the blessing of the Cosmic Christ is upon you; the blessing of prophets and teachers of all time; the blessing and love of all human friends and relatives who have lived and served and dedicated their powers and their soul force to the coming of the new age.... Their blessing is upon you. Their love reaches you – a great, great love from every soul whom you have ever known or loved. Their love blesses and lights your path.

For all these things, we thank you thee, O Great White Spirit of the open prairie and wind-swept skies, great Spirit brooding over Thy children. We thank Thee with deeply grateful hearts.

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:

Armistice Day, Veterans' Day, path of the soul, progress, cause and effect, gratitude, inner voice, inspiration, illumination, enlightenment