

(Anniversary Service)

A031 Sunday Address 21st February 1937 Pembroke Hall, London Anniversary Service

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

Text: from the duplicated version, in a bound volume. The title evidently added at this point.

Context: the first Anniversary service of the newly-established White Eagle Lodge. The address ends with a benediction.

General Notes: the anthem described as having been sung earlier in the service is almost certainly 'God is a Spirit' from *The Woman of Samaria* by William Sterndale Bennett (1816-1875). The date of foundation of the White Eagle Choir is uncertain, but it came about with strong support from the first Lodge organist, Reginald Botcherby, and Ylana Hayward. This occasion may have been one of the first times the choir performed in a service. The topic requested for the evening is said to be 'Life is good, for God contrives it': those words are the opening of a hymn by Percy Dearmer (1867-1933). White Eagle referred to his Lodge as a lighthouse on the day the Lodge opened, February 22nd the previous year; the phrase is also ascribed to the Spiritualist author Shaw Desmond on that occasion.

References: see General Notes. 'Life is good, for God contrives it' is a well-known Easter hymn with words by Percy Dearmer.

White Eagle's Address:

We greet you beloved, one and all. We greet you in truth as brethren of the spirit.

We have heard a beautiful anthem sung by the choir – 'God is a Spirit' – the God Who is our Father–Mother, the God Who has given us life and, for a home, beautiful Mother earth. If, my brethren, we would worship and thank God we must do so not with body and mind only, but with the spirit. The Wise Men of old knew truth and through the ages comes the same message to mankind. 'God is a Spirit.' And the same Godlike spirit rests within the human heart.

The brain, the mind, has its function as an instrument for the soul. The intellect can enable man to grow in Divine Intelligence. But God, Who is Spirit, rests in the human heart. Therefore those who would worship God must worship through love. One present here was heard to say a few days ago that so few comprehend the meaning of love and mistake love for an emotion, regard it as sentiment or call it mere weakness; but a God-like love is LAW. Law is exactitude. Law means cause and effect. Love in the human heart is a quiet recognition and acceptance of the Divine Law governing human life. Such love is all-embracing and cannot fail in its results because upon such love creation itself is built. Therefore to truly worship God, we must love and love and LOVE.

True love brings recognition that every soul incarnate treads a path of evolution not only physical but spiritual. With this recognition in mind, we cannot fail to treasure love for each man in our hearts; and then every action of our brother, with its corresponding reaction in ourselves, means that we are partners in a divine plan. Once we can grasp this fundamental fact of our being, we shall walk the path serenely, joyously, forever.

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A few days ago we asked some of our brethren who work in this Lodge what they would like us to speak about tonight. A soul who is at present passing through so dark a cloud that it might make many resent the suggestion that God is Love, said immediately, "White Eagle, will you speak on 'Life is good, for God contrives it?'" This soul had courage and courage makes for greatness.

When we can, with all our strength, with all our being, know that God is good, we open the channel to the inflow of the golden light, the Divine Light. As soon as we become discouraged, full of fear and doubt, we close our being so that the Divine Light and power of life is obstructed. It never forces its way. When we do not open the gates of thankfulness, we reject it – a very simple lesson, dear ones. But will you try? Try this night to be thankful for your creation, for the gifts which God has showered upon you, and thus bring yourself into harmony with the Law, a law entirely scientific and indeed the foundation of all creation.

There are many, many friends known to us here tonight. Old friends, new as far as this incarnation is concerned, yet actually old friends, each one of you, for we know you all. There is not one here who will not be enfolded in the golden aura of the Brotherhood within the veil, that Brotherhood unseen and yet so close tonight. Throughout the ages God has not left man without His witness and you men and women now incarnated in western bodies are being touched by the radiance and the power of the Brethren within the veil, those who guide and work for man's regeneration.

There have been periods in history when mankind, immersed in materialism, became separated from his own soul, from the higher aspect of himself. Therefore about him came confusion and darkness and he was shut off from the unseen influence and help. Today many lodges like this, some small and obscure perhaps, are opening throughout the world and behind the earthly workers are the Brethren, the Wise Ones, who have passed through the Gateways of Initiation and who labour in the Great White Temple above.

The Wise Ones will not abandon the earth until man has won to regeneration, until mankind becomes reunited with the Divine Origin of his creation. The Christ Light is breaking through the mists of materialism. Be not disappointed not depressed with the conditions prevailing on earth today. The Wise Ones know the purpose which lies behind. We ask you to give your heart in love and thanksgiving to your Creator and thereafter carry with you in daily life the Light of the Ages, the light of Christ. Not only must you affirm, 'I believe in Christ', but you must be; again according to your understanding, you must be as Christ Himself.

Cultivate discrimination, so that you may recognise, behind the sorrows of the world, a divine purpose at work.

Twelve months ago we spoke in this Lodge and said it would become as a Lighthouse – we knew the angelic power which was being concentrated upon this place. We emphasise this again. There are those present tonight who are fully conscious of the close companionship of their own loved ones. Indeed, many here need no convincing of the spirit life and love to

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think of human spirits ever helping humanity. True; it is good that your love can go out to those within the veil, that you can hold communion and be sure of their continued activity. Good! But this is not enough. We wish you to realise that there are also the angels, those radiant beings not of human evolution, who have risen from their spheres and other planes of life into the great angelic heaven worlds. Such beings are drawn to earth humanity to help men towards Divine Illumination. In the Ancient Mysteries, the Greek and Egyptian Myths, and even before, in the Temples of Atlantis, the advanced souls upon earth were fully conscious of such angelic beings. Humanity is now travelling on the upward arc of evolution and the human intelligence has again to be quickened, to be enlightened.

Those who have eyes to see may see the angelic forms; those who have ears to hear may hear the sweet cadence of the angel's song....

A great Light is your true birthright. Whilst weary feet may have to tread a wearisome path, may your eyes behold the guiding Angel. May the Star which guided all Wise Men to find Christ, guide you. The Star shines, not in the mind, but in the heart. And thus the time will come when heart and mind (or spirit and soul) will be united. The three great, creative forces, the Trinity, which, whilst reigning in Heaven above, can dwell also in man on earth. The Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, which is yet one harmony and unity – these three being one in man will bring to him complete illumination and initiation into the Divine Temple above.

And now a prayer:-

Eternal Wisdom, Divine Love, All-Creative Power, we Thy children lay upon the altar of service our lives. Thy Will be done, O God! Our hearts we give to Thee and we thank Thee for the blessings, for the joys, and above all for love, for the gift of love.

May we, O God, increase our power to love and thus fulfil the purpose of our creation.

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:

music, gratitude, higher mental, karma, spiritual journey, spiritual path, path of the soul, positive thought, faith, light within, purpose of life, God's plan, divine plan, initiation