

The Anniversary Address

A100 Sunday Address 22nd February 1942 St Mary Abbots Place, London Festival Service for the sixth anniversary

The text of this address is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from Angelus, April 1942

Context: service for the sixth anniversary of the Lodge. The hymn before the address was apparently 'Breathe on me, breath of God', by the Victorian hymnist Edwin Hatch (1835-1889). White Eagle gives an alternative title for the address, 'the cornerstone which the builders rejected'.

General Notes: with the amount of teaching that had been given by 1942, it is extraordinary to realise that the Lodge had been in existence as little as six years (though teaching had been given for eight or nine).

References: in the phrase 'the cornerstone which the builders rejected Matthew (21 : 42) is himself quoting Psalm 122 : 5. White Eagle tells, not for the first time, the Master seeing a dog dead by the wayside and exclaiming how white were its teeth. This story about Jesus in fact comes from an Islamic poem of the twelfth century by Nizami Ganjavi, known in English as the Treasury of Secrets, presumably relying on earlier sources. 'Watch and Pray; for you know not the day or the hour when the Son of God cometh?' is a rendering of Matthew 25 : 13.

White Eagle's Address:

We often look with a little sadness into the congregations of your greatest churches, of all churches. We draw close to men and with the aid of God's love we are able to see into their hearts. What we see fills us with love and a deep longing to unveil their eyes so that we may behold the true life; so that they may drink of the waters of life and be refreshed. Words, words can be like dry chaff, and after a time can prove exceedingly indigestible. We all find this. We reach a point where no longer can we absorb words. We long only for truth, and then the time comes when the Divine consciousness, the cosmic consciousness opens within us and we see truth and light and life.

We have just heard you sing, 'Breathe on me, breath of God'. May we attempt a simple explanation of these words? When the soul is able to breathe in or to become aware of, to absorb the life-consciousness or the God-consciousness in life, the soul then cannot die; it never dies. When once the vision of the soul has seen into what we describe as the 'Land of light', a great change takes place. For then it knows God for the first time and never again loses sight of its own relationship to God, its Father and Mother. It becomes immediately, instantly united to its Source, [is] a Son of God.

The Triune nature of God can be symbolised by the triangle, and when that triangle of life is expressed on the earth through man it becomes the six-pointed star, the symbol of man made perfect, the symbol of our Brotherhood in this Lodge.

This is a joyous day for all of us, for all the Brotherhood of Light. We are celebrating, both we in spirit and you in matter, the sixth anniversary of the opening of the White Eagle Lodge. But this is not the first White Eagle Lodge established on earth. There have been others in the distant times and places. This is the sixth anniversary of the White Eagle Lodge in London,

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and we rejoice in the faithfulness and constancy of our beloved friends of the Lodge – nay, may we call you brothers of our Spirit and aspirants to the Great White Light?

We wish to give a specific message – call it a text if you like. These are the words chosen: *'The Corner Stone which the Builders Rejected'*. We would help you to understand simply and fully the meaning. Your world today appears to be chaotic. To White Eagle it looks very much like a household spring clean. I see confusion; I see certain pieces of furniture being removed; I see windows flung open so that the daylight can enter: a general renovation. We see many good people striving to rebuild a social state which will bring about everything that seems desirable. We would like to remind you that no building can stand whilst the builders reject the corner stone.

We respect and admire men of keen intellect, men with great minds and perhaps of leadership. We recognise them as children of God endowed with valuable gifts; but unless the great intellect and the great leader are aware of the White Light or the Divine Consciousness, or the Light of Christ, the building is bound to collapse. We respect peoples, nations who have built the house of God in their midst and honestly striven for the welfare of men, but we see in many instances the Divine Light is lacking. We hear more acutely than does man, we receive instantly the cry of the sorrowful. Sometimes you yourselves are amongst the number, because we know you more personally, more individually, because a link has been made between yourselves and the White Brotherhood. We come to you in a flash. We travel to many parts of the earth. Many young men and women are absent from their homes and all they hold most dear, and feel isolated and sad. Those who know of the White Eagle Lodge send a message sometimes unconsciously, sometimes direct to White Eagle – just a thought, just a yearning that is always registered in our consciousness. We are with them instantly. We give them what you would call a little 'uplift'. Sometimes they know, other times they do not, that an invisible Brother stands at their side and whispers in their heart.

God is in His Heaven and God is Love and as soon as you and all men recognise this universal truth – that God dwells within the human heart, God encompasses with love all His creation – there will be no more fear of anything. There is nothing to fear in God's life. The great enemy which is called darkness – evil – is born and bred of fear. Cast out fear, my brethren, and you will take a long stride forward; when you have cast out fear, a vision of beauty will dawn.

People do not assess beauty at its right value on earth. There is talk of realism – 'stark realism' – is that not a phrase used by men? They do not want to have life painted in beautiful colours. Let us face stark realism. What does this mean? Ugliness, brutality, greed, anguish. Do these things help man to find God? My brethren, the need for humanity, the quest of humanity today, is happiness. The nations scream out for freedom, for triumph over the enemy; alas, the enemy is within, not without; and when mankind understands that the enemy that you are all fighting is within man's own heart, wars on the outer plane will be no more. Man must follow the God-principle in every form of life. Therefore, we suggest to you the importance of striving for beauty: it is no waste of time, but is indeed the secret of happiness

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and peace. The ancients sought for beauty as a pearl beyond price. Lost races have left behind on the earth traces of their regard and the reverence in which they held beauty. Modern thought does not yet recognise the beauty which still remains from those past days, but beauty will come into its own – beauty in nature, beauty in music, beauty in the heavens, beauty in the human form, beauty in human voice and in human actions and in the daily service of the common round – in all, beauty will be recognised. It is said that our beloved Master was once walking with His disciples. They came across the body of a dog, dead, so the story goes, for a long time. The disciples were horrified at the sight. But the Master said, ‘How whitely gleam the teeth!’ You see, the Master noted something beautiful even in that decaying body.

Awareness of beauty is the first step in the building of the temple of God and through beauty the soul commences to learn wisdom. Wisdom enters through the influence of beauty and after wisdom comes a love which is not mere sentiment, but an awareness of divinity; love is the endowment of Christ, or the Son, and by the Son love reaches to the earthly. In the Brotherhood of old this was understood and the life of the community was governed by beauty, wisdom and love.

Some of you are perhaps thinking to yourselves – ‘that has not yet come about in this time and age. Who would linger hankering for beauty, wisdom and love in this material world?’ Shall we tell you? *Every* man; and it is only a question of time. There is that within every man which cries out for beauty and sooner or later that voice will be heard. Every man will have to listen, because no other course will be open to him.

The Brotherhood of the Light live for humanity and desire above all things to give this message. Man must awaken to reality and truth; he must grow to recognise that all social rebuilding is incomplete without the corner stone – Christ the Light of the World.

What then is the Light of the World? And who is this Christ, the corner stone of the temple of earth? Is it something, someone, some person outside man’s heart? Is it some being which dwells apart from you, from all men? This is the mistake which has saddened the centuries. The Spirit has been silenced and only the letter and the dust of words given to men. Men have longed for Christ, have been searching for truth. It matters little what religion a man follows, for all religions lead to the same goal and always have done from the very beginning, and will continue until the end of the earth. What men seek is the corner stone of their life, truth the inner light. They seek a consciousness of God, of eternity, of the infinity and affinity of all life. They seek relationship with the kingdoms of nature, of the angels, the kingdoms of Heaven; then indeed man will find his way home. The development and enlargement of man's intellect, his mind, will follow when the heart opens and expands, when the cosmic consciousness, man's next degree in his development, takes place.

This may all seem a long way ahead. Do you remember these words: ‘Watch and Pray; for you know not the day or the hour when the Son of God cometh?’ Do you know their meaning? My brethren, at any moment, or any day, that cosmic consciousness may break

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upon you. the day and the hour and the moment will be hastened as soon as you fix your whole being upon this inner light, the light within you and within every man. It behoves us all to seek for this light in our own hearts and to watch for its expression in beauty and love and kindness. If we look for it, how surprised we shall be to notice that it has been there all the time and we have not seen.

What is the greatest need of man? Light! In the words of our Masters of the past, the present and the future, we say, *'Let the light shine!'* Light and love is the corner stone of the building which past builders of your age have neglected. Let the light shine! and death will be abolished, shadows be no more and man will show that there is no death! Take this message and broadcast it; give of your best to help mankind to hear and to read the message of the Brotherhood of Light. Peace be unto you all and in the days ahead keep your vision fixed upon the dawn. It breaketh. The love of all the Brethren to all their beloved on earth.

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:

Enlightenment, world of light, Trinity, spiritual contact, intuition, light within, light in the heart, ancient wisdom, sending out the light, life after death

