

The Keynote of Life is Service

A314 Sunday Address 1st March 1959 St Mary Abbots Place Twenty-Third
Anniversary Service

Text: typescript by MB, a blue carbon very heavily worked over by IC and also YGH. What is given below contains none of the alterations except corrections of typos. The edited version appeared in the June 1959 *Stella Polaris*, and also in the February 1987 one, where it was given the title above, 'The Keynote of Life is Service'.

Context: MB gives the reading as the 23rd chapter of the Aquarian Gospel, the heading of which summarises the chapter thus: 'The friendship of Jesus and Lamaas. Jesus explains to Lamaas the meaning of truth, man, power, understanding, wisdom, salvation and faith.' MB's headnote indicates that there were two anthems by the choir: 'Now let every tongue adore Thee' and 'Thou hast a work for me to do'. Hymns are not mentioned but we know from IC's afterword that the final one was 'God is working His purpose out' (words by A. C. Ainger, written in 1894). For the Anniversary, there were three prayers (and, presumably, the Lord's Prayer): the Prayer for our Teacher and the Prayer for the Lodge preceded the Prayer for Humanity.

General Notes: rarely has White Eagle given a more unified talk on a single subject than this one, in which the theme of service recurs constantly throughout. It is a most appropriate topic for an anniversary address.

References: 'the story in your scriptures about the one who slept with his head upon a stone' is a reference to the dream of Jacob, for which see Genesis 28 : 11-12. 'Comfort ye, my people', familiar from Handel's *Messiah*, is from Isaiah 40 : 1. 'God has given his angels charge over you' is from Psalm 91 : 11. The phrase from the prayer that Brother Faithful recalls, 'bless his great endeavour' is surely from 'For White Eagle', a prayer that he himself almost certainly wrote, and was printed in the February 1937 White Eagle prayer book later entitled *A LITTLE BOOK OF PRAYERS* and in all White Eagle prayer books since, though it has subsequently carried the title 'A Prayer for our Teacher'.

White Eagle's Address:

We are full of love as we come into your midst. We speak to you from the world of spirit. And when your inner vision is open you will see the company of shining spirit beings who are with you. There is so much power now in your midst. The Great Light of God the Great White Spirit is pouring upon you all, for there is rejoicing for you and with you on this Anniversary Day.

We too have worked from our side of life to bring to the earth plane the stimulation of spirit, of spiritual consciousness within the human soul. For at the present time humanity is wavering at the crossroads in its spiritual evolution where it is wavering between the two paths, the path of darkness – materialism – a path which will only lead to darkness and greater misery [and] the other path, which points upwards to a more beautiful life for man whilst he is in the physical life. But as he journeys onward into that blessed land of light and love, and because humanity is now at the crossroads in his spiritual evolution, work is necessary on both planes of life.

Now many people may think that when they pass out of the physical body they sleep, awaiting the last trump; this is boloney, of course, and other people think that life in the spirit world is a life of laziness, a life where every desire is satisfied, but it is not so. Life means work. And when man recognises this truth he begins to find a true meaning to life. Now,

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when we tell you that life is work it does not mean that life is toilsome and wearying. No, it means that life is full of interest, full of activity, full of service.

Now this is the purpose of life, service – work – but we prefer the word service. The universe is full of service. Every unit, every creation in the universe has its place and its service to fulfil from the smallest insect right the way up the scale of life to the Great White Spirit and the Spirit whom man worships as his creator is the greatest Servant to all.

On this your anniversary we come to bring you all, whoever you are, all love – to help you in your service to life. As you know, we do not spend time in this Lodge in giving you descriptions of your spirit friends or messages from them. We use the time in other ways. Our work, my friends, is to bring to you the help that you need to help yourselves to unfold the priceless gifts of the spirit.

When you receive what you call evidence, a convincing message from a friend who has passed over to the spirit side of life, this message impresses you for the moment. It stimulates you to greater curiosity, so that you want to find out more; but at the same time, unless your heart is fed by God's love your memory very quickly fades and your first impression or conviction begins to recede. Maybe it leaves you quite cold.

Now the work in the Lodge has always been the same. It is to stimulate in the human heart and soul an awareness of spirit both within you and surrounding you; so that you will be able in time and in God's way, you will be able to behold for yourself the glorious truth of spirit life – a spirit life beyond the grave.

Now this is what the New Age will bring to those who tread the right-hand path, for it brings to the traveller ever increasing joy as he journeys onward. It brings to the worker ever-increasing satisfaction and happiness as he continues in his service to life. No matter what form that service takes, if it is the humble service in the sight of your Creator it is the greatest service. Certainly as great as the soul who can perform more spectacular service. And the reading you have listened to tonight on the subject of toil reveals to you what can be found in true service; instead of the body and the soul becoming wearing it continues march onward and upward with ever-increasing joy and happiness. It is the true way, my friends, the true way to happiness; and those who serve truly serve instead of toiling. They find that they have been given the means, the knowledge, the understanding to penetrate materialism – the material aspects of life, the physical life. And underneath, beneath the darkness of the physical suffering and difficulty there is to be found rich wealth, jewels of the spirit: gold, the purest metal, spiritual gold.

We have told you on other occasions how the metal gold was used in an esoteric manner – was used in ways in which it cannot be used today while humanity is on the lower rungs of life – while humanity is bound by the chains of greed and selfishness. While man has no thought for anyone but himself he could not probe the true power within the metal gold. We tell you that gold is not only a symbol of spiritual power, but it contains within its element power which cannot be used – which cannot be revealed yet to mankind until it has overcome its selfishness and its greed, until mankind has worked its way upward up the spiral of

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spiritual consciousness – until it becomes at one with the Great White Spirit in love, so that the desires for the self have been consumed in the fires. You talk about hell fire, and you say today that your great intellects know so much – there is no hell fire. Many men are in their own hell-fire now while they are on earth! But fire is the great consumer, it melts and purifies. It separates the fine pure gold from the dross. This is the process of life, this purification until the pure gold remains.

Whilst this process of evolution [and] purification is taking place, as it must, there comes to man the help of the beloved Lord. So we gradually awaken to the presence of the angelic company. Those who suffer are not left comfortless, but the soul has to work for itself, has to reach out its hand onto that higher level and feel the clasp of the hand which is stretched down to it from above.

Behold, my children, the company of loving shining friends of yours who are around you, waiting to help and to lift you up. Oh yes, the story in your scriptures about the one who slept with his head upon a stone and dreamt that he saw a ladder reaching from earth right up into the heavens beyond all the mists; and saw the angels descending to him and ascending to heaven is a real picture, a true picture of what is taking place – heavenly beings for ever serving the souls of man. But man has to look up. He has to raise himself through humility and prayer and service to his fellow creatures around him, and then the very cosmic law draws him upward, the angels succour him and his vision is opened to the needs of his brethren on earth. No man can see truly into the spheres of light and truth without at the same time becoming aware that his brother man needs his love, his service, his comfort.

And as we are speaking to you, in all love we hear the Voice saying: ‘Comfort ye, my people’ No matter who the individual is, what he or she is, they are in need of help – they are in need of service – your service – our service.

And so, my dear friends, you now embark on another year of service to humanity, You have passed through so many years which are so infinitesimal in time; you have all eternity before you, my children, to keep on with your service to mankind, the service which will touch their spirit, which will quicken them to an understanding of the worlds beyond this world; will give them the vision glorious of the country which means a state of bliss – of glorious being – the glorious country to which all men are journeying; the country where all men will live in fellowship, in service, in truth, in companionship – enjoying all the gifts of God, which means the gifts of the spirit. All mankind will be in a state of life where it can express God from within and so make beautiful life all around it.

God has blessed you. God will keep you. God has given his angels charge over you. Will you accept these gifts?

Now, he who is all love comes into your midst, the form of the Master offering the symbols of the heavenly Bread and the chalice of Wine – Divine Essence. We in the spirit life continually receive these gifts in the temple of the heart. Take, eat the Bread. Sip the wine. And remember the service which is given to you by the Son, the Great White Light, the gift of life.

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Amen, Amen, Amen.

To thee, O God, be all honour. We thank Thee. Amen.

Brother Faithful:

As we said in our prayer for White Eagle tonight, bless His great endeavour. And when you consider that that endeavour has continued for twenty-three years in this Lodge, and that this Lodge with its public services is only a minor art of the full scope of the White Eagle work, we can see how very hard he has laboured for humanity's salvation. And that individually and collectively how richly God has blessed us and given His angels charge over us.

So we conclude this anniversary service with hymn no. 300, 'God is working His purpose out'.

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:

spiritual development, spiritual unfoldment, inner peace, path of service, path of the soul, communion, spiritual path, devas, purgatory, spiritual work, spiritual service