

The Presence of the Brotherhood

A436 Sunday Address 23rd January 1972 St Mary Abbot's Place, London New Year Service

Text: carbon typescript by MB, tape recorder copy. There are references to what we take to be RAE's filing system on the front page. There are a very few corrections, in ink and in pencil, which we have taken to arise from hearing the recording, and which we have taken to be correct.

Context: unlike 1971, when White Eagle only spoke at New Lands, 1972 offers a White Eagle New Year service from both addresses. MB notes, 'Exquisitely arranged lovely blue, white and yellow spring flowers on the altar'. Brother Faithful welcomed the congregation and announced the first hymn, 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation' (SoP 626). Minesta's invocation was recorded separately, and then the Choir sang the anthem, 'God is a Spirit', probably in the setting by W. Sterndale Bennett. MB notes, 'exquisitely rendered'. Brother Faithful then read John 1 : 1-16 ('In the beginning was the Word'). Hymn 303 followed: 'Thou whose almighty Word'. Brother Faithful read the prayers, and then came the 'quiet' hymn before White Eagle, 'Breathe on me, breath of God' (458). After White Eagle's address, there was 'Beautiful music from Brother David on the organ' and Brother Faithful gave as usual a few words (reproduced here) before announcing the last hymn, 'Lord of all being, throned afar' (564). Minesta gave a Benediction, separately recorded, and the service ended with the Lodge Vesper.

General notes: there is an interesting contradiction, apparently, in that White Eagle first introduces himself on behalf of the Brotherhood of the Cross of Light within the Circle of Light, and very shortly after says he speaks for 'the ancient Brotherhood of the Great White Light'. Later in the address he refers to 'We of the Brotherhood of the Ancient Days'. We suggest there is no real difference, although he has at certain times spoken of three brotherhoods drawn together to make the White Eagle Brotherhood. It's possible that the Brotherhood of the Great White Light (which he goes on to describe as being 'the love which is in life') is intended as a general, overall name and that of the Cross of Light is meant to be more specific, and of the Ancient Days simply a reminder of the Brotherhood's antiquity, but we doubt whether a difference is meant to be heard between all three. White Eagle is quick to discard the idea of God as a being to fear. Rather, He is all love. The first part of the address develops the idea of the God within. During the address, White Eagle makes some interesting claims. One is that there are parts of the brain which seem to have no purpose. These are, in fact, the means by which man contacts spirit. Another, later in the talk, is that the Dead Sea Scrolls contain a better statement of the Law than the commandments given to Moses. Maybe; but maybe also White Eagle's knowledge of the Scrolls is of a larger collection known in spirit but not yet found on earth. He might also be confusing the Scrolls and the Nag Hammadi Gospels, which are largely gnostic. For more on this confusion, see the address of 19 September 1971 (and the following week also).

When White Eagle speaks of the Downs he means the hill systems in south-eastern England, of which the South Downs are close to New Lands and the North Downs a little further away. There is much teaching about Britain in this address and an explanation of why it may have a special role to play; but it is also a way of introducing the subject of karma regarding Ireland and particularly Northern Ireland – with an acknowledgment that there might be historical injustices yet to be righted. Later in the address he reminds us that the power is not just in the main isle of Britain but in all the islands that comprise it. But the overall path forward for humanity is a moving towards unity, towards all humankind coming together as one.

There is also a touching allusion to the gentleness of Jesus and how he is a model for all human beings. A third claim is that a Jesus-like teacher came to his people 'in the Far West in America'. But the conclusion of the address brings us back to its starting point, which is the real closeness of the Brotherhoods. 'They are all here. They are all around you.'

One last question is worth putting. White Eagle's North American people are generally thought of as being among the nations of the Iroquois, which would put them on the East of the continent. But here he refers to the Far West. Is this evidence that, maybe in another incarnation, he belonged to a Pacific coast tribe?

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References: 'God is a spirit' is a reference to John 4 : 28 and White Eagle made mention of it the previous week. At one point he talks of having referred to 'gentle Jesus' the previous week and while we would expect that to have been in London, perhaps in a Brotherhood talk, he almost certainly meant his talk at New Lands on 16th January, when he made just such a reference. 'In the beginning was the Word' is John 1 : 1, and 'the light which lighteth every man' is John 1 : 9. 'What a man soweth, so shall he surely reap' is Galatians 6 : 7.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved children of the earth life, we bring to you the peace of the Brotherhood of the Cross of Light with the Circle of Light. We bring you, each one of you, this eternal peace. And in the stillness and quietness of your spirit here now you will begin to feel the presence of the great company of Shining Brethren. And you will know in your heart that they speak to you by the power of God the Creator. The world of spirit and the world of matter interpenetrate.

We cannot emphasise too strongly this basic truth, that the world of spirit and the vast company in that spirit world are very, very close to you in your physical state of life. Now we are saying this because herein lies a truth, an ancient truth, an eternal truth, which all mankind has to learn sooner or later. Man is inclined to think of death as a closed door. Men pass through the door into another world so those who are left behind on the physical plane are quite shut away from their loved ones who pass through the dark veil of death. Now, it is a great mistake that mankind should think of death as the final manifestation of life. We mean by this, men have been encouraged in so many religions in the fear of death, and in the fear of God. And nothing can be farther from the truth. God is all Love. There is no death. And when man quickens his own soul with the light of God's spirit within him, he begins to see and know that there is no death. Now, this is a truth which must come to every man, woman and child on earth. There must be a complete overcoming of fear. Now, this is man's great error; it is because he fears. He fears his fellow man. He fears the future. He fears the unknown. And above all he fears a great Being which he thinks of as God.

Now, we come to speak to you from the Ancient Brotherhood of the Great White Light. And what we mean by the Great White Light is the love which is in life. And this, man has yet to comprehend, this power, this creative power which is called God, is interpenetrating all life. Without God there would be no life on this planet. The planet itself would disintegrate. The whole of the universe, not only of your solar system, but beyond and beyond in outer space, the whole of the universe is held in life, in the life of this Supreme Power which man has been struggling to understand and to worship for aeons of time. My children of earth, you will only comprehend this truth when you learn to discern the light and the power of the spirit within your own heart. You must not look to other men. You must not look beyond, which so many people do. It is right to aspire to the highest of which you as an individual are capable of, but you must also withdraw your thoughts, your consciousness from the material plane of life, the physical plane of life. And you can do this by becoming very still and clam and tranquil. And in the silence, in meditation, you will find God. And when you have had such an experience you will know ever more the truth [that] God is a spirit, *God is Spirit*. In every

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man is the spirit of God. And the spirit of God in every man is the light, the *light*, which leadeth man above and beyond the limitations and the darkness of the earth life.

It is the custom, particularly in this present Age, for men to place all their reliance upon the mind and the intellect. Now, we are not saying this has not its proper place in the development of man's higher powers. What we are telling you all is to learn discernment and discrimination. And remember that the brain is a physical instrument, and that the soul is a covering or a body which man himself is building in his earthly life, and not only in one earthly life. He continues to add to the building of his soul as he moves from labour, which is on the physical plane, to refreshment, which is in the heaven world or the spirit plane of life. And after a time, he knows that he needs more knowledge. He needs to add to the building of his soul body, and so he reincarnates in a body of flesh, the earth body, because it is through the life on the earth plane that man learns the lessons that he needs for the building of his soul. Let us call it the temple, the temple which man uses or worships in.

Now, beyond all this, beyond the physical and the brain and the thought and what man so dearly loves and places so much reliance upon, is proof, proof of everything he sees and hears. He wants proof, and he wants proof through his mind. But he does not understand that the last proof which will come to him about the reality of God and the life of God interpenetrating all matter, the proof that he wants will not come through his intellect, it will only come through his spirit from God; God within him, which is his spirit.

Now we have told you before, we repeat it again for those of our dear friends who may not have heard it in the past, there are parts of the brain, certain centres in the brain which appear to be useless, to have no use at all. Now, it is these parts of the brain that are the receiving station for the spirit. *Think on this.*

Now, when you enter into your meditation, even when you worship and pray, even when you walk into your countryside and walk over the Downs, and breathe in the pure fresh air and the prana, the white light which is interpenetrating all life, when you are breathing it in you are quickening those sensitive cells in your physical body which enable you in time – not immediately but in time – to become receptive to the Word, the sound. We are so emphasising this truth, because people in Britain today need to know this because you have a mission.

Now, there may be many of you here who may not entirely agree with what we are saying to you. Never mind, you go your own way and think your own thoughts, we do not want to persuade you. Nevertheless, we make a statement which in time you will realise is true. There is a light, an *invisible light*, it is this Son of God. Now we are not talking about Jesus. We are talking about that *Supreme Light*: 'In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. And the Word was God'. God, good, all light.

What is good? What is God? God is Light. And the Son of God, which is in your own heart, is the light which is in you, which is urging you to find truth, to find your loved ones, to reach the ones who are in darkness. Now, why are people in darkness? We are not condemning or criticising. We are only full of love and compassion for our brethren who are in a state of

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darkness, because they are very unhappy, and they suffer terribly. They suffer physically, mentally, emotionally. They are in great suffering because they have no light. There is only one way to relieve darkness anywhere, either in this country or any other country on the earth plane. And that is for the people concerned to aspire to the light. There is only one way to relieve darkness, and this is to switch on the light. And this is exactly what the spirit will do for every man, the spirit which is the divine spark, which is the Son of God. Because, remember, the Light was the first-born of God, the first-born child. And that child is in you, is in every man. Now, 'This Light lighteth every man which cometh into the world'.

Now, we are speaking to you about Britain. Oh, 'Britain, [this] beautiful Isle set in a silver sea'! There is a light, there is a spirit, the power of the spirit in this nation. Now, we are telling you because we know the truth. There is a great deal of conflict through ignorance and darkness. We admit the injustice in the world, and the infliction of injustice, [even] perhaps by your own British nation. But remember this, that God is the King and rules over all His Creation. And there is a law, a divine law, which is put in your own Christian Bible in very simple words, 'What a man soweth, so shall he surely reap'. But, you see, so little notice is taken of those words today, because mankind does not understand, or very few understand the meaning. Now, when there is pain and suffering and conflict as you are witnessing today in your sister island, Ireland, it is the karma of those who inflicted suffering on the peoples of that country. Therefore, it is bound to react. It must come out. It must come out.

Now, on a happier note, we are going to tell you that we know there will be such a complete reorganising, there will be a day of *unity*. Not through the domination of one set of people over the other, but through understanding and desire to work together as brothers. There will be unification. Now, this is what the New Age of Brotherhood and the Spirit is bringing to the earth plane: brotherhood, understanding and a working together as one world. And you may think this is impossible at the present day. And some may feel a great pride in their country. And you may well have pride in your country when your country has learnt to express itself in *light*. Because when the light shines there will come a great love and peace amongst men. Man must love God, and take care of God's creatures, creatures of the air, creatures of the water, creatures of the land. All living things God has made and God loves –because God is life, and in God there is unity and harmony.

And you dear people here tonight, you have it within your power, within your heart, to dissolve this darkness of misunderstanding, misjudgment, criticism and cruelty. Now, it must come from the few. You know the old story about the tree. From the little acorn grew a great oak tree, to which all the birds of the air flew, to find shelter. You are a little acorn. There is no excuse, you cannot say, 'Of myself I cannot do anything'! We of the Brotherhood of the Ancient Days assure you that you the individual can do so much to alleviate the suffering and the pain of your fellow creatures and your fellow men and women.

May we point to you the figure of Jesus? As we said to you last week, *gentle Jesus*, gentleness. Do you know, my children, that one of the greatest stumbling blocks in man is his ungovernable emotion? This emotion which bubbles up and causes man to commit very sad deeds which he would not commit if he was in command of his own temple, his own ship. (By the way, a ship is a symbol of the soul.) And so we suggest to you that you start on

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yourself, as we all have to do, and endeavour to control the storm in your own heart; and to aspire to that Figure, the gentle Jesus, the *gentle man*. The gentle man or woman has strength, quiet and calm strength, which can overcome all the problems, all the difficulties. But no, when the mind gets arrogant and the self-opinions rise up, 'And I think this and the other man thinks that', and then you get this confusion, and there is no spirit of co-operation at all. Now to seek peace, seek the presence of God and peace comes.

You know, in our days, in one of our incarnations, and we are now thinking of a very ancient life in the West, in the Far West in America, we were a peaceful people, although we have the reputation by the ignorant who think we were very cruel. Not at all, our Indian Brethren were gentle. And they worshipped the Great White Spirit, the Great Father and Mother God. And they looked to this Great Spirit for their sustenance, their bread for their physical body and the spirit, for their inner strength. And we had a visitor, as you have visitors now. We want you all, every one of you, to accept what we are telling you, because it is truth. God never leaves man without a witness. And in those far-off days – many, many, many thousands of years ago, time is nothing – of course time is here, time is eternally now. Nevertheless, it appears to the finite mind that it was a long time ago when we had a Great Teacher who came to us. We knew not from whence he had come. But he came in love, in meekness. He healed the sick and he taught us how to live. And he explained to us that in the beginning of human life God gave the law to human people.

Now, in your Christian Bible you have a record of the great initiate, Moses, bringing down the tablets of stone upon which was written the *great laws*. Now, we cannot go more deeply because that is a deep subject and we could speak to you at great length. But we just want to point out to you that the Law was brought to the people in the wilderness. Humanity is all in the wilderness at present. That law was brought by the great initiate, Moses, to the people. Now that Law is on record not merely in your Christian Bible, which is not exactly accurate; but the records were found of that law and they are known to be the modern scholars as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Now upon those scrolls was written this ancient law which was given to the people of earth to enable them to conduct their lives and themselves in such a way that would enable them to find health, goodwill, brotherhood, co-operation with the angel world, communication with the heaven world and with the angelic forces and with the natural forces. Now, all these wonderful things are written in the original Law of Life. And when man trains himself by self-control, meditation, aspiration and loving service to all life, to human and animal and spiritual, yes. Then he will attain to true happiness and the world will be filled with the light and the love of God.

This is our New Year message to you. Start on yourselves, you own country. And remember that we the Brotherhood are working behind you to bring through a *Great Light* in Britain. Now, we said many years ago that the British people, or the people of these islands – not one – these islands would lead the world spiritually, in spiritual truth.

Remember, dear ones, that life is eternal, and every individual can make it eternal, because you and we are all building the temple of our soul. We are builders. Think of yourselves as builders. Think of yourselves as light bearers. And think of the hosts of the ancient Brotherhood who are just there with you. Don't push them out, welcome them and say, 'Here

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am I, use me according to my capability'. Keep on keeping on this path of light, my dear ones, and you will know such happiness, such health, such peace that the world can never give you; [that] your minds can never give you, but your spirit can give you. This is our destiny.

They are all here. They are all around you. And the world of spirit and the life of the spirit is interpenetrating. It is so close. Death means just often an unconscious slipping out of a prison into a world of freedom and fresh opportunity. And then coming back and taking up the life again. And don't think of it as coming into a burdensome life, because it is you a spirit which can bring through the physical body into the world wonderful joy and light and peace and brotherhood. This is it! Keep on keeping on keeping on keeping on. See good, do good, be good.

God blesses you, every one.

And your own loved ones in the spirit are very close to you, whispering words of loving companionship.

Never think of death as being the end. It isn't. Life goes on and on and on getting ever more beautiful. Goodnight. God bless you, every one. God bless you.

Brother Faithful:

We may be only very little acorns, but they are sound and strong and all ready to be planted. And under the inspiration of the words of wisdom, love and truth, these acorns which are our lives we would plant in British soil, and see the great oaks grow. These oaks are Britain, strong to withstand any buffeting, beautiful enough to ennoble any land. Trees which offer shelter and goodness and comfort and wisdom to all comers, to all nations in the world which are in distress. And therefore as the beginning of this our planting we finish this Service with the hymn no. 564, 'Lord of all being, throned afar'.

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:

life after death, eternal life, rebirth, the brain, mental development, nature, natural world, sensitivity, spiritual unfoldment, spiritual development, light within, inner light, communion, conflict between nations, hostilities, compassion, reconciliation, colonialism, historical trauma, harmony, ancient laws, spiritual laws, biblical laws, bible figures