

Love and Brotherhood

A347 Sunday Address 4th March 1962 St Mary Abbots Place, London Twenty-Sixth Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

Text: typescript by MB, a blue carbon copy. In pencil, YGH has written 'Used S/P Feb/March 1963' and 'File'; there are no other marks. The title has been chosen for this project; by way of a title, the printed version in 1963 just mentions the occasion. A marginal note against the word 'trifling' in the fourth paragraph acknowledges a hearing difficulty and that the word might have been 'trite' or 'trifling'; we have preferred the latter. There is a sentence in the latter part of the address that may be imperfectly transcribed, and just after it another where there seems to have been some external disturbance preventing the stenographer from hearing.

Context: a year has passed since the big celebration at the twenty-fifth anniversary but this is still an important moment, to judge from the hymns and the two anthems. The first anthem, 'Come now, all people' is not recognised in the mainstream repertoire so may once again have been written by Mary Brameld or another associate of the Choir. MB failed to record what the second anthem was, but White Eagle's opening sentence contains a hint that we ended on a vision of the higher life in some way. The reading was the very closing passage from *THE RETURN OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* (pp 178-9). The hymns were 'Now thank we all our God' at the beginning, 'Come down O love divine' after the reading, and 'Jerusalem' at the end. Tunes would almost certainly have been the great Reformation tune 'Nun danket' for the first, Vaughan Williams' 'Down Ampney' for the second, and Parry's eponymous tune for the third. Brother Faithful's note explaining about the inclusion of two extra prayers is retained here, along with his few words at the end. The practice of including these prayers at anniversary time lingered long after 1962. A further note says that Minesta's two prayers were taken down, but typed separately.

General Notes: after initial words that bring Spirit, in the form of the Brotherhood and the Cosmic Christ, particularly close to the assembled congregation, White Eagle explores the well-known maxim, 'God helps those who help themselves' (here, in the singular). There is a focus on the law and on mercy, which was to be something of a theme in 1962. He explains that events such as anniversaries also help humankind in their spiritual work, for a special power is connected to these events. He speaks of humanity's 'infinite possibilities' and of the spirit purpose and effort that went into the forming of the Lodge. As the address proceeds, White Eagle refers to the words of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the reading, and notes, maybe surprisingly for some, that the personality of ACD was not important: he simply allowed himself in humility to be used by the Great White Brotherhood 'to establish on earth a certain work for mankind'. This leads into a very interesting and unusual account of the meaning of the term, 'the years of fire'. White Eagle makes quite a surprising allusion to hell-fire here, not suggesting the rekindling of old dogma so much as reminding his audience that its karmic learning process is continuous. The years of fire are always with us. Continuing his theme about the spirit guidance behind the work, he mentions 'three Wise Knights' who are behind it. Maybe he means the three great masters of whom the singular Wise Knight is one, and the others possibly the Master R and the Master Jesus.

References: 'God helps those who help themselves' is a motto that goes back at least to ancient Greece. It was a favourite of Benjamin Franklin, but in the UK was popularised particularly by Algernon Sidney. It is not biblical.

Brother Faithful:

At each anniversary service we have had two prayers before the main prayer for humanity, the prayer in which we send out the Light. And the first is for our gentle Brother White Eagle and then the prayer for the Lodge. Prayer for humanity.

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White Eagle's Address:

Beloved children of the earth plane of life, we bring now a direct link to you from that higher world, that heavenly sphere. And we would raise you up in consciousness beyond your physical plane of life, to help you to receive in full consciousness His blessing, the gentle and yet powerful blessing of the heaven world.

And He Whom you call the Son of God, whom we call the Cosmic Christ, draws close to you now in heavenly form to bless, to heal, to inspire you with an understanding of the wondrous gift of your Creator.

Now this heavenly group, the assembly of White Brethren, are in direct contact with you all now in this Service. We would remind you that without their help, the service of the spiritual company, this Lodge would not be in existence. We shall have more to say on this point a little later, but in the beginning of this service we want to bring to you a reassurance of the loving guidance which is ever with you. Not only with the work of this Lodge and the workers in this Lodge, but we speak firstly to every individual here – whatever your life, whether it be free from anxiety, or whether it is full of uncertainty, perhaps sickness and pain, we want to assure you that what you may have to experience day by day has come to you for a good wise purpose. And not only are these experiences brought to you by Divine Law, that law is not only exact and just and true, but it is merciful. Now, this is a very important point for all on earth to understand: God's mercy, mercy and love – of the Divine Law which governs all human life, which governs the Universe. It does not happen just anyhow – there are no mistakes in Divine Law, every detail is worked out exactly. But at the same time, the mercy and the love of God, the Divine Intelligence, sends to you always wherever you are, whether you are in your physical body or when you leave your physical body and you are in the spirit world, there is always a guide, a companion and a very loving friend with you. The reason why the majority of people living on earth do not understand this, and will not understand it, is because they have not learnt to attune themselves to God. They have not learnt to meditate upon good things, godly things, spiritual things. They are overwhelmed by the body, the physical body with all its demands. They get held down to earth.

We do not condemn any soul for this. We are only full of love for those who have no understanding, and who cannot reach up to receive the hand of the angel guide sent by the Creator to help them. We remember, all of us, that *God helps him who helps himself*. Now what is the significance of this sentence? God is pouring upon mankind love and spiritual Light, but He cannot force man to receive his gifts. Man himself must aspire, he must make the effort, and perhaps the greatest effort that man can make on earth is firstly to pray in his heart to his Creator; and secondly to look about him to see how he can help his fellow man. This is an important point, because the world suffers pain and agony and unhappiness through the thoughtlessness and the selfishness of man. Now, you will say, 'Well, we know all this, but if the other man does not behave himself as I think he ought to, what can I do about it?' Well, you know the answer. It is what *you* do and what you think about the other man that is of first importance; not what he thinks or does to you. Now, dear ones, we think that you may think that this is all very trifling and you will not want to listen. But we ask you

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to be patient, because we have to round off our message with words and with love and with a blessing which we know can help you.

Now, let us return to this most special service, this Anniversary Service. There must be many services of thanksgiving in many parts of the earth plane, and each one – for the individual people who are holding that Service – is of the utmost importance. We recognise this. We recognise this. We recognise the importance of all anniversaries whether they are individual particular anniversaries to the life of the individual, or whether they are anniversaries of a worldwide event. We want to explain to you that the recurring date upon which an event took place always brings to those who are celebrating the anniversary a subtle and special spiritual power. Very often this is entirely missed and ignored, because those participating in the anniversary are quite unaware of their own receptivity to invisible forces. They are unaware of how much good they can receive, how much good they can send forth. You have been sending out the light from your own souls during this service. We would like you to know that as this is the Anniversary Service that the light goes out with an added force, an added power. Birthdays – your birthday, again you may not know it, it is a special day for you; and if you attune yourself, from your waking moment, to your Creator to give thanks for your life and all that it is bringing to you of experience, knowledge, joy, even suffering, you will increase your – the quality of your consciousness, the spiritual quality of your consciousness.

Now, we want you all to realise this: that you are on earth, you are in incarnation in a body of flesh for one purpose: to increase, to develop your consciousness, the quality, the spiritual quality of your consciousness. And as you respond to those spiritual forces – and more than this, to the intelligent companions who surround you from those Higher Spheres, you are increasing your God-consciousness, which means you are increasing the power within you for joy and happiness, and your power to help mankind. How often have we told you this: no man can live to himself. There is no such thing as splendid isolation. What a man thinks and says and acts influences all around him. This is a serious thought. It is a truth, and this is why it is of the greatest importance that every man, woman and child knows all his infinite possibilities. Remember this, *your infinite possibilities*.

This Lodge was brought into being, as we have told you so many times, by the Brotherhood of the Great White Light. Shall we call it the Christ Brotherhood, the Christ Circle in the Heavens? But it is an assembly of men and women both without physical bodies and with bodies of a greater density, physical density, all working under the direction of Divine Love to bring into being a Centre on earth from which could be sent forth the Healing Light. We know again that there are numerous centres on the earth plane operating in varying degrees for the healing of humanity, and for the comforting and uplifting of mankind. But there was a special message, a special reason for the formation of this work. This, we from the Spirit would like all our brethren here to understand. You have heard a reading from a certain book which contains the messages and the revelations of a certain personality. This personality was only used by the Great Brotherhood of the Light. In this you have a demonstration of humility of the individual concerned, and the power of those in the spirit life to direct and bring through and establish on earth a certain work for mankind.

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The basis of the whole Teaching which the Messenger brought, the basis is love and brotherhood. But, of course, everyone has heard of love, and everyone has heard of brotherhood; but it is not making a great impact yet on the consciousness of man. This work was brought into being through love – love of the purest kind, which is sacrifice – thinking of others before the self. The Brothers beyond the earth acting under the direction and the command of higher authorities brought down by degrees the message of what they in higher spheres wished to happen on earth. And when this message came through the words also came: ‘This is to help humanity during the years of fire’. Now then, everyone who heard those words naturally thought of the war. Mankind was very close to a world war; and in that war there were many fires, and the people suffered from the fires which dropped upon them from the sky. Of course, the message was interpreted [to mean] the years of fire mean the years of the war. But if you think a little more deeply with a clearer vision of the purpose of life and with the sympathetic understanding and the imagination of the suffering of your fellow men through lack of love and brotherhood, through lack of knowledge of their spiritual selves and of the powers which lie within men, you will understand that the years of fire are not contained in four or five years of war; but they are continually with man during the whole of his life in the physical body.

You have been accustomed to hearing people condemn and criticise the old foundation teaching of hell fire, saying: ‘That no God of Love would ever visit that punishment upon so-called sinners’. But God does not visit such punishment upon his dear, loved humanity. Man draws to himself the suffering of his own acts, his own selfishness. We just leave it in that one word – selfishness. But man has to endure years of fire within himself – pain, anguish, suffering of all kinds – because he does not understand the Divine Law which governs life: the law of love.

Now, the Supreme Teacher of this Law is the Lord Christ. There have been many other teachers throughout the ages, but the Great Teacher, the Supreme Teacher, is their Lord of Love, God. People confuse the Great Initiate with that Supreme Son of God: the Light, the Spiritual Light and Life which is behind the physical Sun, behind the physical form of the Son. It is a law – the Son of God is a law, the law of love. And all creation is born of that law of love. And all creation has to grow and unfold and develop until it comes into complete at-one-ment with that law of Divine Love. And then the help which man needs during years of fire whilst in a physical body the law – the law of love – he finds it means – he finds in his own soul, in his own heart [*sic*]. It is as simple as that.

There are, too, the three Wise Knights – Wise Men – who are guiding and helping onward the work of this Lodge. They come to you and you do not know them. You do not recognise them; you know not who they are, though you think you do sometimes; but they watch over this growing family, this growing congregation, not only in this Lodge, in this City, but the uttermost parts of the earth. They understand you, your needs, the karma which confronts you. But I want you to recognise that all life is working in the stillness [*Disturbance at this point so failed to hear. Regret.*] and that all good comes in time to the earth, and to all the peoples of the earth. And we want you to remember this, that although there appears to be confusion and a great deal of suffering and years of fire for so many nations as well as

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individuals, fires purify. And all that you have to endure, remember, is purifying you, healing you. And not only is it healing *you*, but the influence spreads far and wide.

Now, as we have already told you, those three Wise Ones are given the charge to bring this work of the Lodge into being so long as all the friends and adherents of the gospel of love serve and do their best to help others – incidentally to help the whole of creation to rise up and advance on the path of spiritual evolution. So will blessing upon blessing flow to the work.

Every age, and to every nation, there has always come a Messenger. It is written in the history of the earth planet the coming at the appointed time to humanity of the Special Messenger, and the message which would help mankind in his need. The message for this time and age is now flowing, flowing, flowing into the heart of mankind – the message of brotherhood. You cannot stay it, it will come. There will be this advance – this growing Light in the souls of all men.

And, lastly, we would like you to remember this, that the acceptance of the teaching of love, the attempt to put it into operation in a simple way in human life has an effect upon the very atoms of the physical body. The time is coming when the spiritual meaning will be fully recognised and put into operation as the normal form of healing. The time comes when men and women will understand that they must give time and attention to periods of meditation. They must learn not only physical science but spiritual science. They must learn to tap their own infinite possibilities and develop; and open up the windows their souls, so that it will not only be the mind through the brain which operates, but it will be all the windows of the soul that will open to the Light. And man will receive the Light of Heaven, his vision will clear and he will see a glimpse into those heavenly places. He will hear the words of wisdom and the harmony of the spheres beyond the earth. He will have vision to penetrate into the heights of nature and use them, not to destroy, but to *glorify* life.

O my children, we see into the future perhaps a little farther than you, but we can assure you that quickly, even quickly according to your time, comes to the physical plane reforms – things which are committed – the evils which are committed, which exist on your physical plane through ignorance will entirely vanish. Yes, there will be no possibility of man taking the life of his brother man in whatever cause. There will be no thought or possibility of man torturing the animal kingdom, or taking the life of animals for his own wanton selfishness. There will be no cruel sport. And these reforms will come quite quickly, you will find, for there comes to the earth a gentle – gentler spirit, the spirit of the Son of God, the Spirit of Love. And it comes gently and imperceptibly into the heart of man.

You are pioneers, and this Lodge is doing pioneer work. Now, you all know, because you express your appreciation and your thankfulness for this Lodge, and you know that in its walls there is a sense of love and brotherhood. There is a sense of helpfulness and peace. This is the demonstration to you that from the spirit world there continually flows into the centre of the White Eagle Lodge that Supreme Power, Love. It may seem very simple to the mentally quick and clever; but no man will be able to live joyously and fully until his heart is burning with love, for love of his Creator and for his fellow man and his fellow creature,

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because it is love which unites the whole of creation, and perfects, beautifies, life and glorifies God.

As we prepare to withdraw from this physical body we must tell you how this glorious Presence in human form of that light of God, the Son of God in perfect human form, is here. He offers you the bread of heaven ... and the wine of life. Take, eat and sip the wine and be filled, filled, filled with the consciousness of the Divine Fire of Love.

Amen.Amen.Amen.

Forward, forward and upward. And may God our Father receive from our hearts all thankfulness, all thankfulness for this work given to you, given to all who labour in love.

Brother Faithful:

Our gentle brother has tonight brought us a message of gladness, hopefulness and indeed great joy concerning the future of mankind and of this troubled world in which we live. May it hearten us to go forth bravely on the path of life.

Our closing hymn, very fittingly, is No. 446: 'Jerusalem'.