

The Way of a Brother

T284 The Inner Teachings 4th May 1967 New Lands, Liss

Invocation:

Beloved brethren, we will open our hearts to the inflow of the love and peace and power of our heavenly Father, of all the angels of the celestial spheres, the angels of the elements. We open our hearts to all that is good and pure and holy, wholesome, healthy. O, Great White Spirit, we are thankful to Thee for life, for the sustenance of our lives, for the joy which life brings. We are thankful too for the tests and trials, for the sorrows of life, for we learn that through these experiences our consciousness is opened to the glory of Thy worlds, of Thy heaven world, and to the sweetness and beauty of Thy love. Thou knowest, O Lord, the need of all Thy children, who humbly pray that they may be receptive to Thy wisdom, Thy words of wisdom, which Thou dost speak to them according to Thy laws. May the presence of the Great White Light, the Christos, bless this communion.

Amen.

We call you brethren because you are all held within the love of the Great White Spirit, in Whom we all live and have our being. Dear brethren, we speak to you from the world of spirit and would reach not only your minds but your hearts—reach to your innermost spirit; also we are happy to welcome many of those whom we know but who may not yet know us. We know you because of your thoughts towards us. You have read our words, our message, perhaps in books and when you read these you set up a vibration, you send out thought forces which reach us, and so we come to you. We come very close and bring our love and would give you all the help and strength we are permitted to bring. So, though this may be the first time you have heard us speak, it is not the first time we have met. We want you to remember this, and also to remember what happens when you send out thoughts not only to ourselves but towards anyone. The more loving and true your thoughts, the greater good you are doing, not only to those of whom you are thinking but to yourselves as well.

Most of you will already know that nothing can happen by chance. You are all here because you yourselves at some time have set up a correspondence with us in the world of spirit. You may not be conscious of this, but as you pursue your investigations you will learn more about these forces which play on you from a higher life or a higher ether. Every soul living is a child of God and sets up within himself* a radiation which will attract to the soul either positive or negative forces. This is one reason why in the work of the brotherhood we are taught to control our thoughts as far as we can. We know that men and women find this most difficult. Nevertheless, brethren, we advise you to try to control thought and to direct that thought into good and wise channels.

[For editorial policy around gender issues, see the introduction.]*

As we were saying, you live in a vortex of forces both positive and negative, and according to your own reactions, your own thoughts, your own response, you will be affected by the many different forces and magnetic currents of thought power which are ever flowing around you. Included in that vast area are the human spirits or souls which have left their physical body and are living on the astral plane. Other forms with which you may come into contact live on the mental plane—divine sons of God it is true, but unaware of their origin or of the divinity

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within them. At the present time there is much interest growing in what you call psychic manifestations, or manifestations which are inexplicable to the ordinary man. At the same time there is keen scientific interest in the unknown, the unsolved problems of physical science. This is because mankind stands at the beginning of the Aquarian Age, the age of spirit, of the mind, and it will not be very long before the scientist discovers a point of contact between his studies of the physical world and our world of the psyche or the soul. You may have heard us say that the earth itself has a soul. The soul of the earth is composed of all the life existing on the earth, of humans, and all the time it is evolving.

Some of you want to know more about the Brotherhood of the Light, the White* Brotherhood, or as you in the White Eagle Lodge know it, the Christ Star Brotherhood. This Brotherhood is not limited to Christians as you understand the meaning of the word. Brothers of the Great White Light exist everywhere and have manifested in all religions during all time since humanity first came to live on the earth planet. But apart from the great brotherhood of human souls, we want you first to think about the brotherhood of all life, consisting of human beings, the animal kingdom, the nature world, the spirit world, the angelic kingdoms and about all the natural elements, each one having attached to it an angelic being, or beings, concerned with that particular element. You will remember Brother Francis of Assisi referring to Brother Air, Brother Water, Brother Fire, Brother Sun, as though the elements were to him part of the one great family. Brother Francis was one of a great number of highly evolved souls who have come to earth from time immemorial to help mankind to become aware of all this infinite, universal life.

['White' means light-filled and does not refer to colour.]*

The Brotherhood has never been restricted to orthodox Christianity. All are of course brothers in the Christ Light. In that sense they must be Christian brothers, but when you study the history of the races on earth you will find that quiet and secret brotherhoods have gathered in many countries, in the East, in the West, in the North, and in the South, throughout time. Always they have been established in remote places where the brothers could live according to what they understood to be the law of God. Before any brother was accepted and initiated into the inner brotherhood, he had to face severe tests and trials—tests in his everyday human experience and also spiritual tests of the quality of his love for God, his devotion to the brotherhood, his strength of purpose and for his motive.

The reason why the brothers of all time have had to endure certain spiritual and in some cases, physical, tests was because they had to prove themselves ready and able to use certain powers which were within themselves, and which initiation into what was called the Ancient Mysteries would stimulate. Initiation was looked upon as a very serious and important step, and there are dangers on this path of spiritual service.

We don't want to scare anyone, but only to make you strong in your wisdom. Nevertheless, understand that when the inner light is opened and these inner powers are stimulated, you are going to meet certain dangers. For this reason the ancient brothers were tested for courage, wisdom, soundness of mind and healthfulness of body. They had to live wisely, physically

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they had to eat pure food; they had to control the desires and instincts of the body. In other words, the brethren had to learn to discipline themselves—pure food, pure air, pure thought, the cleansing of the body with brother water daily. Before the neophytes were initiated they had to prove that they could perform all the disciplinary rites which would be required of them in their life and service in the Brotherhood. So you see, it was not easy for any soul to enter the innermost centre of the Brotherhood of the Great White Light.

But it is not God who keeps man outside the heaven which can be found in the very heart of the Brotherhood, it is man himself. Within you lies all that you will need for your journey through the many lives leading upward and onward to the golden world of God, but were it easy for man to enter the promised land, if he did not have to discipline and train himself, he would not be able to realise the beauty, its worth and radiance. In all scriptures is to be found this symbolic story of the development, the growth, the unfoldment of man's soul, his breaking away from the land of Egypt, for instance, leaving behind all the flesh pots or temptations of the flesh. In pharaoh's court there was a great deal of undisciplined living, a great love of possessions and a worship of the body and the senses. At certain stages man goes through this worldly phase. Then a call comes to him, and he finds a leader, a guide who, like Moses to the Israelites, explains how he can leave behind the darker things—the negative aspects of life—and can arise and follow his master to the promised land. In this way Moses led the children of Israel who were searching for the light, for 'Isra' the Great Sun, and who had been slaves to the pharaoh, slaves to the physical material life, out of the bondage of Egypt. First you will remember, they wandered in the wilderness and got very discontented because they did not find the promised land. Everything proved very hard and very difficult.

Compare this with your own experience, those of you who have heard the call, and note that you also came up against rather dreary work and felt chained to what you did not like, so that you couldn't get away from your wilderness. Now Moses heard the voice of God; he climbed up into the mountain (he was raised in consciousness, in vision, to a state of spiritual ecstasy) and received from his Creator stones upon which were written the law of God. When he came down before the people and saw that they had set up and were worshipping a golden calf (again materiality) so shocked was he that he dashed the stones to the ground and they were broken and the law lost. Again he was called up into the mountain and received a fresh statement of the law. We interpret this to mean that man can only be given what he can understand and accept at a given time. He cannot receive more than he can comprehend. You may notice that you too only get a little at a time, and sometimes you may be tempted to think, 'Oh, I know all this! I want the next step.' But you see you cannot have new revelation until you have not only accepted but absorbed into your very being the first simpler teaching. You must thoroughly absorb and live it. It is no good reading books; it is no good listening to talks. You must feel. You must know and feel truth deep within your heart. When you have really *become* that light through your service to your brother man, then you are ready for the unfolding of deeper mysteries.

So will you, my dear young brethren, be patient and keep on keeping on. You see, you cannot rush the gates of heaven; you have to keep on patiently, perhaps with a very humdrum task,

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and you may feel sometimes that you could do much better than your brother if only you were in your brother's place, but if you could you would have been given that place. No, my brethren, during this present life it is hidden from you maybe. Presently you can open up memories of your former lives. This is what we want you all to understand.

Yes we know how every brother feels; we know how sometimes the way seems tedious and difficult. You think if we could present you with something exciting, even thrilling, which would excite your appetites and make your mouth water, oh how attractive everything would be, but you see, there might be little flavour in the fruit that you covet. No, there is only one thing before the brothers and that is to see clearly the choice between the material and the spiritual life. Man cannot serve two masters at the same time. He must face the truth. So if you really long with all your heart and soul and mind to follow the path of truth, then whoever you are, whatever your service, whether it be purely spiritual or whether it lies in the material world (and you can give great service at that level, remember)—are you prepared to give up everything which has been desirable in the physical and material sense and follow the one path? You are! Very well, then you are accepted, but do you know what this means? It means unremitting work, but there is compensation, and the compensation lies in the joy inherent in that service, the ineffable joy which comes to the servant of God. He feels no regret; possessions mean nothing when he has the greatest possession of all, the joy of being able to serve God and his brother man.

You may think that we are painting too gloomy a picture. Not at all. Read your Apocrypha. You will see exactly the same meaning given there. Look at the great ones of all time and see that their lives were ever lives of service. Do you remember how weary Jesus became at times and yet his disciples would still plead, 'Oh, there is a man here who needs you,' or 'The multitude have come from afar and would hear you speak,' and instantly Jesus would leave his weariness and go forth again and again to minister to all the souls gathered around him. This is what we mean by unremitting service. You will see therefore, why you must necessarily be very sturdy and strong in your body and soul and in your character. If you were not healthy you would crumble up, and just when your people had great need of you, you would be unable to serve them. Because of the great tests, and the burden laid upon those who would serve their fellows they have to be strictly trained and disciplined.

Now for something lighter to finish with, because you may be feeling that life will not be very happy. Dear brethren we do not mean to depress or dash you; we just want you to see a true picture of what it means to become initiated into and to become an inner brother.

There is a difference between an inner and an outer* brother, but the law of brotherhood is the same. The true brother seeks to live healthily, which means in holiness and purity. He seeks to live lovingly and joyously, and he worships not individuals alone (although he may have great respect and affection for his teacher or guide); he lives to radiate the light and beauty, the love and truth of God and he loves all creatures. He could not wantonly inflict pain. All life is one and all life is governed by the divine law—love—and every hurt, every cruelty inflicted upon life in any form, man himself will have to suffer because actually he has inflicted it upon himself. Once you recognise, once you comprehend that you are all part

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of an infinite, universal life, you will know that you cannot hurt anything because it is in you and you are in the whole of it.

*[*The term 'outer' brother has now been replaced by 'star' brother.]*

At the present time your consciousness may be very limited, but in due time your consciousness will expand; in the course of possibly many incarnations. Spiritual unfoldment must of necessity be slow, but the reward for this spiritual unfoldment and service is beyond all description. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, the glories which the Lord has prepared! Oh, dear, dear brethren, we long to help you onward and upward, and although the way may sometimes seem stony and you may get weary, you will all the way receive that ineffable sweetness and happiness which will make all the experiences of your life more than worthwhile.

Each one of you has been called. You have a mission. Every individual soul has his own work to do. None can do the work of another. Each must do his own work. Therefore we say, accept it, my child. Pray to the Great White Spirit that you may not fail in the task laid before you.

The Brotherhood are all gathered around. They leave you with their love, their peace, and remind you to be happy and joyous. Although you have to work hard, work can be joyous too. We hope that you will go forth happy and even joyous. We want only to help you all to understand that, although the spiritual life may seem difficult, it brings the sweetest, the most lovely, heavenly blessings. God never owes anyone anything. He always pays His debts. Another precept tells you that the labourer is worthy of his hire. In Masonic* language, the brother was sent to the temple to receive just wages for his work. If we asked you people here to testify to whether you had ever been sent to the temple and received just wages for the work you had given, we know that there are many of you here who could raise your hands and say: 'Aye. Aye. Aye.'

*[*White Eagle refers to masonry as a form of universal truth or teaching, with no specific reference to the freemasonry of today.]*

So, dear, dearly loved ones, go your way in peace and remember all around you are the angels of light, the angels of nature, the angels of the Christ Circle. At the appointed time, at the right time, you can enter the infinite and eternal Garden of Reunion where you will meet your loved ones and hold sweet and perfect communion, spirit to spirit. There is no death but only life ever unfolding. Think of your loved one and he or she receives your thoughts. Speak to them in thought, in love and in the spirit and they will hear you, as we hear you. We come always to your aid because it is the law of attraction, the law of God. God be with you, my children, God be with you, my family.

Benediction:

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Let us raise our hearts to the Infinite Spirit, our heavenly Father, and divine and earthly Mother, to the great masters and all the angels of life. As a vast company we see them in the golden light of Christ the Son, and we feel the blessing of these golden rays pouring down upon us, filling our hearts now with joy and thankfulness, for we live in Thee for ever.

Amen.

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Challenges, why?, choice, journey, expansion, help

