

Breath of God

A160 Sunday Address 7th April 1946 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

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

Text: from *Angelus*, May 1946: the date is stated in the heading.

Context: Easter fell very late in 1946, on 21 April, so that this address was given two Sundays earlier. No Easter Sunday address is recorded for this year. Maybe this is why White Eagle addresses the crucifixion so fully in this address. It was preceded by the familiar hymn, 'Breathe on me, breath of God', with words by Edwin Hatch, published in 1878. This is not the only time White Eagle quotes the first three lines of this final verse but not the fourth, which is 'Of Thine eternity'. The other time was on 1 April 1945. From the quotation he makes from Luke chapter 9, it would appear that part of that chapter formed the reading or one of the readings, for the service. A likely first line would have been verse 14, where a new narrative around Jesus' words 'Whom say the people that I am?' begins; it might have continued just to verse 27, or possibly included the story of the Transfiguration too (and thus to verse 36).

General Notes: White Eagle quite frequently speaks, as in the third paragraph here, of 'the masses'. No disrespect is intended; he simply means those whose preoccupation is with the material plane only. White Eagle gives a very clear account of the symbolism of the cross within the circle in this address, and also speaks of the religions of ancient Egypt, the Americas (Maya) and of India. The *crux ansata* is like the tau cross but has a loop extending upwards from the crossing point. The nature of the 'I AM' is a point White Eagle took up a number of times in these addresses (e.g. 6 July 1947). This is a very fine address.

References: 'Let him take up his cross and follow me' is from Luke 9 : 23; 'I am the Way' is from John 14 : 6, and 'I Am', is either taken from that phrase or else from one of the many 'I Am' verses in John, such as 'Before Abraham was, I am' (8 : 58). The prophet caught up into heaven in a chariot of fire was Elijah (see 2 Kings, chapter 2). The story of the two thieves on the cross beside Jesus is from Luke's account of the crucifixion: see Luke 23 : 32-43. The form of the *crux ansata* is that of a Roman cross with a loop rather than a vertical as the top piece; in ancient Egypt it was known as the *ankh*.

White Eagle's Address:

Greetings to you all. We have been wondering how many understand the meaning of the words that have just been sung:

'Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life.'

We ask this because people become so accustomed to hearing some phrases that they fail to meditate upon the extract their meaning. If they thought more over some of the words of the poets, say, or concerning some passages in the Scriptures, they would receive a wealth of knowledge, they would be uplifted to a heavenly state of consciousness. What is this heavenly state? It means peace and joy.

The words that we have just quoted are full of truth. Yet there are millions in the world today who are turning their faces away from, deliberately refusing to listen and to think about the spiritual knowledge which is truth; and so the masses remain in ignorance and darkness and suffer. You may be thinking even as we are speaking, 'It is not much use talking to a hungry

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man as you are talking to us'. It may not be so. But it is right to speak out truth as it has been revealed in the quietness of one's innermost being, because when the world is enlightened and spiritual knowledge comes to man, there will be no more hungry, no more homeless people – there will be no more suffering.

This, my brethren, is the old, old story. It has become so familiar that men cannot be bothered to listen. Yet we come back from the realms of spirit to try to bring to man truth which will liberate him if he will but accept what we have to tell him concerning the life of the Perfect One.

The Christian world believes that the Perfect One is Jesus Christ, and it is right. The Master Jesus, having attained his final degree of Christhood, becomes the Perfect One manifesting through the flesh; but the mistake in this present age is to think that never before has there been a previous manifestation of the Perfect One – Christ, the Cosmic Son of the Father–Mother God. Yet the divine Seed must ever be the Son of the divine Parent. It is a law of the Cosmos. Christ is the Son of the Father–Mother God. The Perfect One has manifested since the world began. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be – world without end.

My brethren, in the Christian teaching there is contained the truth, the pearl, the jewel of great price. It is a mistake, we tell you, to throw away the casket which contains it, which is the Christian scriptures, thinking they lack the vital truth which mankind today is needing – nay – for lack of which present-day humanity is destroying itself. It is not possible to tell you in one short talk of the vital and magnificent truth which lies hidden not only in the Christian scriptures, but the scriptures of all ages. But we do not discard the revelation of the Christos simply because Christianity as practised or taught today appears to be failing. That is not the fault of the scriptures. The fault lies within man – within yourself. In the world of spirit the soul has to delve for itself, search and seek for truth which will raise it into illumination.

At this season of the year, about the time of the Vernal Equinox, the Christian religion holds a festival. It is a mistake for anyone to think that this festival was established to commemorate the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. It is a festival known throughout the life of the world, which always has been and always will be. Some of the ancients used the symbol of the cross. Of this we will speak later. To many people today the idea of a man being nailed to a cross and left to die is brutal, abhorrent; and all the ceremony and the trappings of the Christian festival which revolve round the crucifixion of Jesus are therefore distasteful. The worldly man prefers to refuse to think about it. It means nothing. It was a cruel custom of the Romans at the time; therefore, the crucifixion of Jesus stands for no more than the execution of a man in the present day because he has broken the law.

For these and other reasons many people ignore the story of the crucifixion, not realising how important it is to them *personally*. Every soul living on this earth is treading the path to Calvary and not one soul will escape. This sounds a sombre prospect, but not when you come to understand the inner meaning of crucifixion. It contains all the truth of life. It represents not the nailing of a body upon a cross but rather the surrender of man's lower self, the personality of earth, to the supreme light of the Heavenly One. It means that every soul living has sooner or later to come to the degree of Christhood when the soul lays down its mortal

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self, thereafter to be raised in spirit into the realms of heaven ... a glorious moment, when the soul is reborn into a life of perfect happiness.

It is true that earthly man cannot conceive the glory which awaits the arisen soul when it has at last surrendered to its Father–Mother God. Did not our reading say, ‘If any man will come after Me, let him take up his cross and follow Me?’ ‘I am the Way.’ What does this mean? Who is ‘I am’? Jesus was not speaking of Jesus, but of the divine principle, the seed of divinity implanted within His heart.

Every man contains this divine seed. In every man its resting place is in the heart and not the head. That is the mistake – to think that the head, the intellect, is supreme. Men follow the intellect until it destroys them, but no man is ever destroyed through following the heart. It is the ‘I am’ that is the way, the truth and the life. This means that when man allows that inner voice to guide him, not the self-will but the divine will leads him into a happiness which all men are subconsciously seeking.

But we learn that Jesus was crucified and hung upon a cross. The ancient initiates taught that the symbol of the wooden cross meant *aspiration*. So the man Jesus was nailed upon the cross of aspiration. He aspired to His Father in heaven and lay down His mortal, His selfish, His earthly life. This does not mean that man is forced to quit his body, but that he surrenders his will, his life on earth, to the will of his Creator, According to worldly understanding such a man is crucified. Crucifixion then means the surrender, the crucifixion, the killing of the lower man, the old Adam, so that the Perfect One the Christ, may arise.

‘Breathe on me, Breath of God
So shall I never die.’

What does this mean? That the crucified man, the man who is no more chained to earth surrenders his life to God. God breathes upon him and he never dies.

Some people think, ‘Yes, that is all very well, but we know that the spirit of man cannot die’. Even physical matter changes its form, but is never destroyed; therefore the spirit of man can never die or become extinct. There are men and women who have not even died in the accepted way. Your Bible tells about a prophet being caught up in heaven in a chariot of fire. Jesus was crucified, but His body disappeared from the tomb. This is another mystery which is unsolved and insoluble until man passes a higher degree of spiritual life. Then he knows that the body of the saint and of the saviour does not decay. The spiritual atoms which are drawn to the body change the physical atoms to the spiritual atoms and the body ascends to its Creator. It does not die. We do not expect you to believe us. You will puzzle about it but you will not understand what we say until you too have reached that degree of spiritual attainment. Then you will understand.

There is no death! Yet you can look upon a body which is dead. Still there is no death! there will not even be decay of the body once man has learned the secret of his life, of God's life. This story of the cross, as we have stated, is as old as the world and no man living knows the age of the world. Each fresh calculation of the scientists causes them to lengthen the age of the world, but even now they have not arrived anything like the truth. Yet since the world

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came into being and life began the symbol of the cross has been known to man. In the ancient temples of India you will find this symbol and in Buddhism also. In Egypt you find figures holding the *crux ansata*. The cross has always meant to the ancients life, not death. In the ancient Maya civilisation we always used this symbol. There is the same story amongst the Indian people. The Indian saviour Quetzalcoatl was said to have come out of the sea wearing a crown of feathers (the plumed serpent) and in his hand he carried a cross, a symbol of the laying down of the lower self. Only when the lower self surrenders or is crucified does the higher self ascend into the heavenly state.

This is wonderful, beautiful teaching. Some of the ancients regarded the cross as symbolic of the four elements. We find as we go farther on the spiritual path that man has to pass four initiations before he ascends into the heavens. The cross is encircled by universal love. Only when man submits in humility to the divine spirit does he know the meaning of universal love. Then we say that he is encircled by light. How many of the ancient ones, saviours and teachers are depicted in this holy, glorious light of the heavens? It is true that when man has been raised above the earthly life he carries with him an aura of saintship and of Christhood. The cross stands for not death but life. Therefore the ancient Egyptians held aloft the cross of life.

This is no easy path, my brethren, that winds up the hill. It does not mean that man is expected to give up all the joys of life. You have never heard us telling you to put on sackcloth and ashes. God has placed you in this world to give you joy and happiness. He has placed you in a beautiful world. He has given you beautiful bodies and he has placed in your heart the key to enter the place of all happiness. Enjoy your life. Be happy and thankful for every glorious sensation which your body rightly gives to you. Enjoy your food. Let it be clean, pure food. Enjoy your recreation. Enjoy your playhouse and your cinema if you will. Enjoy all forms of bodily exercise. Enjoy every good gift of life, but never forget the Source of your life, to which you owe everything. That is the secret, that is the way to hold constant communion with the spirit. Live in spirit. Live by the spirit and let your heart love much. Love life, Love everything. Love all peoples, but above all love the Perfect One, the Christ in the heavens and love your Creator, your Father–Mother God. Give thanks for your creation and live to glorify your Father in heaven.

The Bible tells you that as Jesus hung upon the cross two thieves were crucified, one on either side. Who are these two thieves? You all have them. One is called the lower mind. Did not the their representing the lower mind call upon Jesus to save him. ‘If Thou be the Christ, save us from this fate.’ Does not the lower mind of man always cry upon God saying, ‘Why don’t you do something?’ It is ever the way. The lower mind always rails at God. But the other thief was the higher mind of man and he remonstrated with the lower mind and said, ‘It is not good that you say these things about this man who had done you no harm’. Jesus said in reply to this higher mind, ‘It is good. Today thou shalt be with Me in paradise’. All that is good in you, all that dwells in the higher mind is raised when the man Jesus is raised or when the man John Smith is raised. For the higher mind of man goes to the heavenly state. But the thief, the lower mind, is destroyed. That is the meaning of the two thieves: but the higher mind was true and lived on.

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Therefore our parting message to all is: allow the guidance of your higher self, your higher mind, to lead you. May you follow the path which winds up the hill and ends on the mountain top in the sunlight, in the glory of the Perfect Life which your Father–Mother God has prepared for you. Take courage; and may the blessing of the Holy Spirit within you crown your days with peace and happiness.

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:

ancient faiths, Mayans, Ancient Egyptians, ancient civilisations, messiah, Easter, spring, rebirth, renewal, enlightenment, initiation, intuition, inner voice, life after death, path of the soul

