

Have Faith in God's Providence

A101 Sunday Address 1st March 1942 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*, October 1942. This address was reprinted in *Stella Polaris*, volume V and volume XXIII.

Context: the date is entirely conjectural; the address was printed in October, and the slot nearest to this date for which no address recorded is March; the first Sunday was on the first of the month. Another possibility is that the address conjecturally assigned to 5th July 1942 is actually from 1st March, and this one is 5th July. The address begins a trifle abruptly, which might mean that White Eagle's normal opening greeting has been cut off.

General Notes: the whole subject is having faith, but the crucial moment comes just short of the end when White Eagle states categorically that even belief in life after death only really exists through absolute faith in divine life.

References: the phrase 'Have faith in God' which White Eagle ascribes to Jesus is not a direct quotation from the Gospels so much as a summary. The story of the milkmaid and the priest is a frequently-told story by Sri Ramakrishna (1836-86) the Hindu mystic and philosopher, whom White Eagle seems to have quoted two or three times during this period. Likewise at this time he had a similar view of the great wisdom teachings of the world, cited here and, as elsewhere in the early forties, including Hermes Trismegistus. White Eagle elaborates somewhat on Matthew 6 : 33, 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God'. For the thought, 'ascend into heaven and find me, descend into hell and I am there' see Psalm 139 : 8. 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all...' Is, variously, Matthew 22 : 37, Luke 10 : 27 and Mark 12 : 30-31; having faith to move mountains is Matthew 21 : 21 and Mark 11 : 23. The source of the second story of the priest walking on water, with the amulet, is not known.

White Eagle's Address:

Jesus said, 'Have faith in God'. Upon this text we build our talk, for there is no soul today who does not seek divine strength, divine faith. It is a pity that in the present century faith is disparaged by the intellect and that over-emphasis is laid upon reason and upon material power and material equipment. Men say, 'Yes, it is very good to pray to God. By all means have your Days of National Prayer, but don't forget to build up your armaments!'

Well, well; we leave it at that; but it does bring to mind a story which the Saint Ramakrishna told to his listeners. It was this: a poor milkmaid once daily brought the milk to a priest. She was dependent upon a boatman to bring her across a broad river and sometimes the boatman was late. Of course, it was very trying. Many of you have to endure such little irritations – so in passing we say, see these details in their right perspective and realise they are too trivial to occasion the loss of divine peace, divine harmony and divine love within. Well, the priest made the error of getting irritated because his milk was not delivered punctually, so he remonstrated with the milkmaid, demanding to know why she was late and if she could not improve in regularity. The little milkmaid was rather perturbed and explained to the priest that when the boatman was late she could not help being late also. Nevertheless, the priest still scolded her.

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The little maid went away and spoke the sacred name of God and prayed to God to give her faith to cross the river without the aid of the boatman. Next day she came to the river's edge, in the name of God stepped upon the water and walked across quite safely. Some days later the priest enquired the reason why she was so punctual and the milkmaid told him that God enabled her to cross the river, to walk upon the water. The priest was doubtful and so he returned with her to the water's edge, thinking to himself that if the milkmaid could across the river by walking upon the water, so also could he. He stepped out on the water with the milkmaid. The milkmaid said to him, 'Why do you take so much care not to get your robe wet?' and then the priest sank. He had not such faith as the little milkmaid. It never entered her mind to worry about her clothing getting wet; she did not even entertain the thought. But the priest, whose mind was not centred upon God, but upon material things such as clothes, had not sufficient faith.

This is a very important parable and if it be meditated upon great good will come, for it illustrates the need for complete faith in God. This the mind of man will not allow the true self of man to exercise. We are within the mental age and the intellect dominates. Intellect can be very powerful and can become like a leaden weight hanging around the neck of man. We do not say that the mind and the reason are not given for a good purpose, but that man must first seek contact with the true self within – seek first the kingdom of harmony, the kingdom of love and all things will be added unto him.

My friends, when a man seeks first the kingdom of love and becomes love within and without his being, he attains complete faith in the divine power to guide and to sustain him across the river of life. Faith is an attribute spoken of in all the Scriptures. All Scriptures contain the same truth. The four Gospels of the Christians, the Bhagavad Gita, the Koran, the book of Hermes – you will find running through all the same truth. And why? Because truth is divine law, the law of the Universe; and as it was in the beginning, so it is now and so shall it ever be, world without end.

Truth is the law. It matters not what language you speak; water or air may be called by many names, each according to the language of your country, but it makes no difference to the element. God is within man, God is within everything. Man cannot be separated from God, No. Not at any time. Ascend the heights of Heaven and God is there; descend into the depths of Hell and God is there. Therefore it behoves man to strive for the ability to recognise God everywhere in all circumstances, in times of joy, in times of sorrow – and how many of us but have felt closer to the divine Presence in times of sorrow, in times of sickness, in times of separation from a beloved?

Having once tasted, having once seen and known this divine Presence, no man can turn his back upon truth, because he realises that he has at last seen God. He has heard the vibrations of the divine and the holy Name pulsate through his whole being. He has heard the holy World and seen the divine Light, and he has known ... Love. My friends, every Scripture speaks of the inner self of man, of truth, of law. Law is universal, spiritual law is unalterable. Did not Jesus the beloved say to His followers, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy

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heart with all thy soul, with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself? – clearly referring to man's divine origin and man's relationship with his brother man.

Love God; love thy brother: upon these two laws hang all the wisdom of the sages and the prophets. You cannot escape from fundamentals. Therefore we crave for faith in the name of God. Did not Jesus further say, 'If ye have faith, command that mountain to be removed, and it will be so'? But today a living faith is relegated to the background. People have no faith in God, but they have faith in things which are perishable, possessions which when withdrawn leaves man in a state of collapse. Still man persists in his blindness, ignoring the real things of life. He chases shadows, shadows, shadows. These shadows seem very real, tangible and strong, but are but shadows. Strength lies in the Law which was the beginning, which is new and which ever shall be – the law, the truth continually revealed to man through all the Scriptures of all time.

My brethren, we beg that we may all continue in faith to call upon God, for the vibration of the holy Name pronounced in faith will remove every obstacle. You do not believe me because you function in outer mind. Your reason tells you that this is nonsense; but this is fundamental truth by which all miracles are wrought. This is why the miracle happened to the milkmaid. She did not doubt; it did not enter her mind that her clothing would get wet as she walked across the river. But the priest was developed intellectually and had pride. He thought of his appearance and his clothing and he had no room left in his heart for divine faith.

May we tell you yet another little story? A priest wanted to cross a river, and so he went to a sage and asked how he could walk on the water. The sage gave to the priest an amulet which he was to hold and that would enable him to walk upon the water. After the priest had been walking upon the water for a little while he became curious and he thought, 'I wonder what there is in this amulet which keeps me up? I will look'. He peeped inside and what do you think he found written there? The name of God. The name of the Lord, the holy Name. The man was very annoyed. How quickly we are apt to annoyed! 'Why, good gracious me, only that?' exclaimed the priest – and as soon as he thought thus, he sank. He did not believe the name of the Lord had power to hold him above the water's surface and so he sank.

Proof of anything, true proof, everlasting proof, comes only through man's faith in the divine love. Many people seek proof of an afterlife, and they are satisfied and content to receive so-called proofs from the other side of life. But the real proof of life after death and of man's eternal life is man's faith in divine life. That is a proof that will never fail, a proof which comes to your heart, my brethren, in the silence. This is proof indeed that there is no separation between you and your loved ones. This is proof indeed of a more beautiful life than the life of matter, the life on earth. This is proof that a world of beauty, a world of divine harmony, divine goodness waits for every soul who wishes to reach it.

Nor need you wait until you die to reach these divine worlds. You may start now upon the journey. The inner self can proceed by faith on the path of spiritual progress and step by step climb to that land of light which is its true home. Do you realise, my brethren, that only a

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very small part of your consciousness uses your physical body? – the greater part, the true self, dwells in higher spheres. When you sleep, the part which animates the physical body is withdrawn into that higher self. This can awaken in the higher worlds and can travel about and see and learn and hold communion with friends, loved ones, guides, teachers – and enter into the Halls of Wisdom and listen to the words of wisdom pouring like jewels from the mouths of those who dwell eternally in the light, in the divine Wisdom and the divine Love of the absolute Father–Mother God.

So, my friends, we pray that the power around us all may inspire you to press forward by faith on life's pathway; and know by the divine faith, the divine God within, that nothing can do wrong, that whatever happens (if you are attuned by faith to the divine life forces) all will be well. Harmony will prevail. Greater and greater opportunities of service will open up before you. Nothing can go wrong in God's kingdom, once you place all your faith not in materialism but in the divine Wisdom. The divine Motherhood of God can comfort all her children. Can you think of any greater love than that of a true mother? Even the earthly mother will sacrifice herself without stint for her child. All women are potentially the divine mother, no matter whether they give birth to a child or not. Implanted within is the desire to give and serve and love the weak, lonely and unhappy. Therefore, my friends, how much greater must this love of the divine Mother be for all on earth? Let us wonder at Her divinity, Her beauty and Her love. Let us also look to the power, the energy, the creative force which flows forth from the Father God. This will give power and strength and inspiration for all.

That energy which flows from the mind of the Holy Being of God enables man to labour. Never again think in terms of the 'I'. No man or woman can truly say it is 'I' who have done this, that or the other. No; it is God who worketh all the things of good, and if your mortal mind questions why God permits seeming evil through the materialism of man, it is because he is working out a great purpose designed to bring to man's consciousness the truth, the twin laws of life. One: man must live by faith in God; to live truly and abundantly man must love the Lord. Two: he must love his brother man as he loves himself. Upon these two laws all creation is build and all life is sustained.

So, my brethren, we turn once again to the holy Centre of all creation, the beloved, the absolute, He who is Father and She who is Mother. We who are Thy children renounce all things to Thee. Thou art all in all. Do Thou that which is according to Thy will and unto Thee be all honour and glory, now and always, Amen.

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:

belief, Hinduism, ancient wisdom, Islam, spiritual law, life after death, light within, mother goddess