

The Keynote – Love

A132 Sunday Address 7th May 1944 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

The date of this address is conjectural (see below), while the text is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from *Angelus*, June 1944. Broken into headings, it has probably quite thoroughly been edited by Ivan Cooke. The footnote follows the address in *Angelus*.

Context: the date is entirely conjectural except that it mentions the Buddhist Wesak, which would have fallen the very next day, 8 May. There is nothing to indicate that the address celebrated Whitsun, but in 1944 it fell late, on 28 May. Otherwise, the reason for choosing this date is simply its publication in the normal way the next month.

General Notes: White Eagle makes the surprising statement that this is the ‘first time’ he has spoken on behalf of the great company of loved ones, guides and teachers on the other side of life, presumably as opposed to the company of Elder Brethren for whom he normally speaks. The Sara of the second heading is Sara Burdett, and the footnote is from the *Angelus* version. Sara Burdett had probably taken down in shorthand and transcribed many of the addresses in this archive. Her obituary appears in the June 1942 *Angelus*, but acknowledges that she had died some twelve months previously. In the first paragraph of the address proper, the word ‘masses’ is part of normal forties usage, and not intended to be denigrating other than in the precise context of their not understanding the particular truth of non-separation. The address is also unusual in White Eagle’s teaching in touching on the doctrine of the Vicarious Atonement, which is not (as White Eagle says) his natural territory. However, he shows very beautifully how that vicarious suffering is something we all share, by understanding and loving one another.

Historical Notes: this was evidently a time of optimism, even if the war had nearly a year to run. White Eagle at the end of the address looks forward to the time ‘when the bloodshed ceases’ and the June *Angelus*, in which this address appeared, states ‘In a word, we are *ourselves* again at St Mary Abbots Place’.

References: the familiar quotation, ‘Except ye become as a little child...’ is from Matthew 18 : 3. Annie Besant, mentioned in the footnote, is the tireless social campaigner and President of the Theosophical Society from 1907 until her death in 1933.

White Eagle’s Address:

In the spirit let us worship the Lord. Let us open our hearts in adoration, in praise, in thanksgiving, to our Creator, Father–Mother God; and pray that we may be uplifted to the planes of pure spiritual being, so that there we may hold true communion with those who dwell in the land of light in pure love and joy and service. May we remember as we worship and commune with this world of spiritual power, that we must keep our vision centred upon this life of truth and love, because to this we wend our way. Even so, we would give all to Thee, beloved Father–Mother God, endeavour to realise our sonship and daughtership with Thee and at all times be at one with Thee. We are Thy children! May this realisation rush into our hearts here and now; may the blessed and glorious power of Thy love fill every soul, and may all be healed in body and soul that the spirit may shine forth.

We speak for hosts of invisible friends and brethren. Your eyes may or may not behold the great company of witness now present. But we speak for them. This is our first message from the host of invisible friends, beloved dear ones of your own guides, teachers, angels and those radiant saints who have passed beyond this earth into the world of spirit. Nevertheless, they

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are not separated, they are not apart from earth's humanity, a truth yet to be absorbed and understood by the masses. The day is fast approaching when the veil will be drawn aside, nay, will be torn down and mankind be conscious of the presence of spirit people and of angels. They will walk and talk with men as in past ages.

The Age of Materialism

You are traversing the age of materialism; matter in its ugliest form apparently triumphs over the spirit, but its day is short lived. There will come the reaction, the swing of the pendulum, and mankind will open its heart to the truth of spirit within himself and within his brother man. He will open his eyes to behold the manifestation of the Spirit, of the omnipresent Father–Mother God in every form of matter, animate and inanimate. Nothing can exist without the light and the creative power of the Father–Mother God.

A Message from a Friend

We have preceded our talk with this message because of the spiritual presence of one of our friends. A few years ago she sat with a book and pencil taking down in shorthand notes all that was being said. Our dearly beloved sister whom we know as Sara is here, a shining and radiant womanly spirit. She wishes to send you, her friends and her brethren, her deep love and assurance that there is no death, that she has triumphed over the grave and is living in a world of supreme light and happiness, from which she comes to give her help, her inspiration and her love to her friends.

But do not think that you can drag these spiritual beings down here from their heaven. You can no more do this than you can drag a saint from his centre of light and peace. The spirit which has departed from earth finds heaven within itself and this heaven radiates forth so that it lives in a heavenly state. Although it may see darkness reign upon the earth it does not grieve and sorrow over a passing phase, and knows that those whom they love who suffer sorrow and trial are merely at their lessons like children in a classroom. You do not sorrow because your child has to work at its lessons. You rejoice and are interested in its progress. You look forward to a report from the teacher as to the child's progress. So it is with those who dwell in the land of light, who have been withdrawn from school. They look back and see the lessons which are being learned. They know the lessons are difficult, so they send help and comfort, inspiration and guidance to those still in the school room. This is the message which Sara would send to all. Look up, keep your vision clear! We thank God for you, Sara and for your work and faithfulness in this Lodge; and we pray that God will be very close to you, dear sister, always.*

The Wesak Festival

At this season when the life is bursting forth in tree, bush and flower, when the corn is rising in little green shoots from mother earth, all people feel the stirring of the creative force. Spring has been a season throughout the ages at which have been held festivals of thanksgiving and praise. At this season a special festival is held at the full moon. Some

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schools of thought will tell you that a central point for a great outpouring of light and power is in the East, Tibet, at this time. We would not confine this only to the East, although you will notice about this period that this spiritual concentration will stimulate all that is working for alleviation of mankind in the East. We would also tell you that this outpouring is to be felt all over the face of the globe and its degree of receptivity depends upon the degree of spiritual light in the individual man and woman. This is known as the Wesak Festival.

This stimulation can be felt in different ways and on different planes of consciousness. The materialist will say, 'Oh, it is springtime; the birds are nesting and the corn is growing, it is the time to love', little realising the depth of truth that lies behind these words. This spiritual outpouring will stimulate the centre of love at the heart of man.

A Little Child

At this season the moon is representative of the mother aspect of the creative force now stimulating the earth. The Greeks and the Egyptians, as well as the Christians, worshipped or now worship the Holy Mother as Isis, Diana or Mary. The moon is her symbol; the influence of the moon is the influence of a mother-love which brings forth the child. What is a child but a creation of love? When Jesus was asked which is the greatest in the eyes of God, He took a little child and stood it in the disciples' midst as a symbol of simplicity and humility. He said, 'Except ye turn, and become as little children ye shall in no wise enter into a kingdom of heaven'. My friends, is it not also true that when a man of mighty intellect, of arrogance and power, is stirred by the simple truth and power of the spirit, perhaps through an experience of great love, his heart is touched, he forgets all his arrogance, all his preconceived ideas; and he falls upon his face, emptied of everything except adoration and love. He becomes then as a little child. The sonship within him is quickened and he feels his relationship to God. He has become reborn.

These tremendous experiences, my friends, can come to the great and to the very humble, to the king on his throne, but more often to the obscure man and women who suffers. The experience will be the same, a realisation of the stupendous power of God to heal, to inspire and to bring happiness.

This is the wonderful message of the spirit. To be convinced of the spirit's survival of death is only a small step on the way. It is good to be assured that there is life after death and communion between the two worlds, but that is only the beginning. Following upon that must come the quickening and awakening of the spirit of the man to the boundless possibilities which lie before it while still living in the world.

We have spoken of the great festival which takes place at the full moon. All assemble to receive an outpouring of love from the beloved Master. Even grander ceremonies take place on the spiritual spheres of life. A vast assembly of the spiritually great gather, the grand master being Christ. Assemblies of beings such as you cannot at present conceive gather together to send forth this creative power of love. Before it is possible for souls to take part in

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such ceremonies they have to be tested and tried spiritually in exactly the same way as you on earth individually and collectively have to face up to certain tests.

The Vicarious Atonement

The greatest of these is the testing of the spirit of true brotherhood. In the higher spheres this is a very wonderful experience, when the soul becomes united with all. Instead of being individuals they are one great whole, yet they are also individuals. On earth you are mostly cut off from your brother man, separated from him by selfishness and greed. The purpose of life, of education, of training, of the spiritual development of life itself is to enable the spirit to expand in consciousness and to realise brotherhood and union with all men. What does this mean?

It means that men and women have to learn to feel the sorrows and the sufferings and the joys of their fellow men, a spiritual experience which must be first realised in spirit before it can be put into practice. Do you understand? It must be realised by man first in his spirit. He must feel as his brother and as his sister feels before he can understand, before he can have a real desire to alleviate the sufferings of others. This process of unification of the spirit in brotherhood has an inner meaning. What is called 'the vicarious atonement' by the Christian church is not what we in the spirit world understand. Do you know its true meaning? Brotherhood! When a soul takes upon itself the inner most feelings of another and understands them, it is suffering vicariously for its brother; or in other words, the spirit of Christ within suffers when its brother suffers. The man thus becomes united with his brother and the meaning of atonement is really an at-one-ment through vicarious suffering with one's brethren. This, my friends, is the true meaning of Christ's agony for mankind. The Christ in every man will in time suffer when man feels as he should about the sufferings of others. In this way the Christ will help to raise all mankind from misery and poverty and sickness and suffering to the level of the Christ love. This is what the ceremonies in the spiritual planes teach the soul in heaven, and this is what the suffering now sweeping your earth is very slowly and painfully teaching the souls of men.

We do not hope that the world will immediately become a Utopia when bloodshed ceases; but we do know that a great number of souls will be pushed forward on the path of spiritual evolution, and that there will be a greater degree of love and therefore of happiness as a result. For the mighty will experience suffering and become purified and as little children before the great love of their Creator; and so we shall live to see the spirit of Christ walking abroad, inspiring every receptive heart with love and patience; and above all with hope and confidence in the perfect outworking of God's plan through the love of Christ His Son in the heart of man. Love is the one key which will solve every human problem.

God bless you all, God bless you, everyone.

*Miss Sara Burdett was for many years a friend, secretary and companion of Mrs. Annie Besant. For some years before Miss Burdett's passing she rendered invaluable help to the White Eagle Lodge and always believed that it had a great mission to fulfil. She is remembered with warm affection at the Lodge.

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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:

spirit world, world of light, heaven world, spiritual contact, spiritual path, messengers from spirit, Buddha Day, initiation, spiritual unfoldment, pain, learning, rebirth

