

Parables of the Harvest

A360 Sunday Address 10th October 1963 Ascot Daughter Lodge Harvest
Thanksgiving

Text: typescript probably by AMI, no contemporary markings and no notes about the service beyond the talk itself (but see 'context'). We have added a word, 'nurturing' for the sake of logical sense, and for the sake of grammar. And sense have changed 'journey towards that spiritual state of life to which every one of you are journeying on' to 'journey ... on which every one of you is journeying'.

Context: after the year (indicated in pencil by YGH on the script) the date is entirely conjectural. As a harvest address, October seems a reasonable guess and a further guess is that it was the day of the week when travel to Ascot was most likely, namely Thursday. But Ascot may have met on a different day from other Daughter Lodges. Earlier in the month (for harvest) would offer the 3rd or the 10th, and we have proposed the latter, with all these caveats, as it simply would have been heavy timetabling for Minesta to offer trance messages in London on 22nd September, New Lands on the 29th and Ascot on the 3rd following. But White Eagle also spoke to Eaglets at New Lands on the 20th, so it was a busy time whichever the date of this address. Ascot was a recent Daughter Lodge, dedicated on 18 March 1961, and this is the first White Eagle address recorded therefrom. Although he conducted the dedication service records of it have not survived.

White Eagle gives an exegesis of a parable about the growing seed. This gives us a clue to the reading, the most likely one being that of the growing seed in Mark 4 : 26-9, though the reading was probably longer and may have offered other of the several 'seed' parables in the chapter as well, e.g. the Sower and the Seed, and the Mustard Seed. He does not refer to the parable of the Mustard Seed so tentatively we might guess the reading was from near the start of the chapter through to verse 29. There is a communion.

General Notes: the whole basis of this address is the parables of Jesus, particularly those about the seed and the harvest. 'Thankfulness is the solvent of trouble' is a useful takeaway from the opening of the address. White Eagle moves from this to explain the role of the Great Mother as the one who nurtures the seed of life, and explains a parable of growth (see 'Context'). After a discussion about earthly and universal time he moves on to another story, that of Jesus cursing the fig tree (see References): we must offer service, if we are to be seen bearing fruit. The next topic is the ancient wisdom, in particular the laws of reincarnation and karma. Another parable is interpreted, that of the wheat and the tares. White Eagle claims a better interpretation 'which we have from spirit' – namely that it is about karma, not about one person against another but about the individual, in whom the good qualities are gathered and stored, and the bad qualities are purged in the fire. Finally, there is a 'well done' to the brethren of the little Ascot Lodge, and a communion.

White Eagle seems to assume a similar audience in Ascot to the ones he was used to speaking to in London and at New Lands – and indeed acknowledges the presence of 'old friends'..

References: the parable of the growing seed seems to be unique to Mark. In all three synoptic Gospels there is mention of the fig tree – it is first seen as leafy but unproductive; Jesus then curses it, and it is later found withered. See, e.g., Mark 11 : 12-20. White Eagle also speaks of Jesus using the metaphor of a big tree, and later 'a tower of strength'; these have so far resisted identification as biblical sayings. For the parable of the wheat and the tares see Matthew 13 : 24-43. 'I am the true vine' is John 15 : 1.

White Eagle's Address:

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Beloved brethren of the earthly life, we come to you with great joy and we are so pleased to recognise many old friends here, not only you who are in your physical body, but many who are with us from the heavenly state of life. We would have all of you realise their presence; be sensitive to the company of shining souls who join with you in your harvest festival.

Now we have here the expression of your thankfulness for the gifts of your Creator. We feel with you this spirit of thankfulness, and would like to explain to you that a thankful heart is something which opens wide the doors for the blessings of God. Whenever the heart is humble and thankful for the gifts of life, and especially for the gift of the Christ Spirit which man can feel in his innermost being, then the gateway opens and all things work together for good to the man, *for* the man who loves God. This means that when man is thankful – even when there are difficulties in the earthly life, there is always something for man to be thankful for – and when man feels this true gratitude for the blessings which God and good brings to him, and accepts the way of life, accepts the karma of life, then all the difficulties commence to melt away. Now, thankfulness is the solvent of trouble. Love is the solvent of trouble. When man is thankful he must be full of love, because it is only through the love, or the God in his heart, that he is inspired with thankfulness.

Now, we have listened to the reading of the words of our beloved leader and Master, Jesus, through whom shone the Christ light, and His teaching, his message to mankind was so perfect. He describes in the parable reading to which we have just listened, he describes the exact path of man's life, and he illustrates this path by saying that God sows a seed in earth. The physical body is earth; God has sown in man's being a seed, a seed of the Christ life. And he describes how the seed is buried in the dark earth, the warm mother earth, the unfoldment of the seed of life by the mother, the mother who loves selflessly, the mother who nurtures in her heart the seed, the child of God. The initiates worship the mother; through the mother they recognise the source of life, from the Great Mother; so we get the feeling of the Divine Mother enfolding all her children on earth. She has been nurturing you through many lives. Think of the Great Mother not merely as a physical form of woman, but as an all-enfolding, protective, wise, loving spirit, [nurturing] the seed of the Son of God, or the light of God, which is sown in every human being. And so it slowly comes to life and it grows.

You on your physical earth don't comprehend the meaning of time, nor do you understand the meaning of space. Now, when you come into the higher consciousness of spirit, you know that there is no distance in space, in time all is in the eternal now, so many people are looking forward to what is to come. Many people look back, sometimes with sorrow because they have lost things and people that they love; but man has to reach that level of consciousness which reveals to him that there is no past, no future, but all is now. Now if you think that out logically you will see how true this is. All you are aware of at this present moment is *now*. You are here, you are in this service, you are conscious of now; and when the spirit of Christ, or the divine Light, has grown and expanded in you to the degree that you find your heart one with the Infinite Spirit, with eternal life, you are in eternity, and all is here and now. Now, life is consciousness, and as man develops his own God-consciousness he is able to see the whole vista, he is able to feel and realise the meaning of eternity.

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Now, Jesus was always speaking to his disciples and the multitudes in parables. You will remember the very puzzling episode in the testament where Jesus cursed the fig tree. This has been a puzzle to many people. The fig tree bore no fruit, and yet it had grown into a fine tree. He was teaching his disciples the importance of men bearing fruit. In other words, man must make a contribution to life, he must give service to life, that is a law. Every man, woman and child gives something, or must learn to give something to life. Now, the keynote of life is service. You see the service which Divine Mother renders to the needs of her children on earth, the harvest. If there was no harvest, man's physical body could not be sustained. And so man gives thanks for the fruit of the earth, and later on he learns to give thanks for the fruits of the spirit.

Now most of you here understand the ancient wisdom, the teaching, or shall we call it the message, of reincarnation and karma. You are familiar with the knowledge that life is eternal, it continues on and on, and as man grows in spiritual power and knowledge and understanding he becomes like a great tree, which again Jesus used as an illustration, for as the spiritual aspect of man grows he becomes a tower of strength. Not only a tower of strength but he is able to give shelter; he is able to give shade and comfort and healing to others who need what he can give. I want you to think of a developed or an evolved man as a great soul being as we think of beloved Jesus, and others who are his companions in the great White Light. We see them as beings of love and power; we know that if we search for, we seek for their help, by the power of God and under the direction of Him, they come to earthly people to help them on their journey towards that spiritual state of life on which every one of you is journeying.

Let us remember the parable of the wheat and the tares. The sower went forth to sow the seed and, unbeknown, another sower came after him and sowed the seed of tares, or weeds; and when the Master, the sower, was asked if he would not be better to tear up the weeds, he said no; let them grow together. When the harvest comes the wheat shall be gathered into the harvest, into bundles and stored, and the tares and the weeds shall be cast into the fire and consumed.

In the olden days, in the more orthodox time, the interpretation of this parable was that the good men would be gathered into heaven and the bad men would be cast into the fires of hell. But we have from spirit a clear interpretation of this parable, perhaps a juster interpretation, for every man has within him the power, the ability to grow spiritually and to become a son of the Light, and he also has within him, due to his past karma and due to the evil of the physical body and the materiality of the world, he has the pull of the darker things of life. These two aspects are in everyone, but that which is good, which grows into the golden corn, can never die; it is harvested; it is stacked into heavenly barns. In other words, all that man does that is good and true and kind to his fellow men, every effort that man makes towards Christliness, all that is preserved eternally. But that which is of the earth, that which is of the darkness, has to come through the fires of purification.

Now this happens with each successive life. Is it not a wonderful thought that if you have failed or feel you have failed in this life, you have another opportunity before you? God has provided opportunities in your future life so that you can learn to put into practice what you

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learn of goodness, of brotherliness, of Christliness. This is the purpose of reincarnation, and it is the law of karma which works this out exactly. The evil, or the darkness, goes through the fires of suffering, not necessarily the burning of fire outside the walls of Jerusalem, but a fire in his soul, so that the tares which have grown up with the wheat have to be consumed. Jesus spoke again and again about the need for man to produce fruit, the need for man to give service to life and his fellow creatures.

Think for yourselves over His parables and you will see the simplicity and yet the beauty of His message. Man is born from the seed of God. Man has to grow towards the likeness of God. The Son of God came to show man what he, man, should become, what he must eventually become: the perfect son of God. Of course it applies the same to women, and indeed we prefer to say the soul becomes a son–daughter of God. This is the true harvest of perfection, and not one effort you make in your everyday life, your loving service that you make towards other creatures, other people, not one effort that you make yourselves to progress spiritually, is ever lost. It is pure gold, and although the ore of gold may be melted in the fires, the pure gold remains – that is never destroyed. And dear, dear ones, we just have to say to you from all our brothers who are working in the group with us, ‘Well done, in this little Lodge here. Well done; keep your vision upon the Star, don’t waver in your forward movement, because it is through such little groups – faithful and true as you strive to be here – such little groups that are springing up all over the world are now shedding the simple, pure light of the Christ spirit; and although nothing is claimed by spirit, nevertheless we say to you that the workers in spirit rejoice because the light is going forth, not only in the spoken word but from the hearts and minds of the true brotherhood of the Christ Star, and this light is permeating darkness on the earth plane and the minds of leaders, and the controllers of man’s destiny on earth. These minds are being penetrated by the rays of light from the great Star of Christ which shines in the heavens.

Now, before we leave you, whilst we are here in spirit we want you to try and feel for yourselves the presence, the holy presence of the Lord Jesus, the Christ. His presence is in your midst. Visualise this form clothed in pure white robes with the golden girdle, and the golden aura round his head. He is bringing to you the heavenly bread. He stands before you holding the plate, the golden disc with the bread, the broken pieces of bread on the plate, and he offers it. Take from him the bread of life, take it and eat. He holds before you the cup of wine, golden wine. Sip; it is the symbol of the crushed grapes, His grapes, for he said, ‘I am the true Vine’, and the fruit from that vine is crushed and made into wine. Sip, it is the symbol of my love; divine essence. The at-one-ment with the cosmic Christ, the Spirit of all life. And in this holy moment we are united in spirit, and your loved ones who have cast aside the physical body still love, still live in that glorious heaven world, and they are with you now. Be still. Their love is speaking to your heart now. There is no death, no death, but only ever-progressive life.

Now, to God be all honour and thanksgiving. Amen. Amen. 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:

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*spiritual unfoldment, spiritual development, light within, path of the soul, inspiration,
intuition, illumination, enlightenment, mother goddess, renewal, inner light, communion,
spiritual path, life after death, rebirth, cause and effect, thanksgiving, reincarnation*

