

# The Five Great Laws

A165 Sunday Address 1st September 1946 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*, October 1946, where after the title there is the description 'An Address by White Eagle (Reading from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation). In the paragraph beginning 'We would have you think of life as a journey', the second sentence 'Then on the apex shines the heavenly life' would have a more obvious sense if 'life' were in fact 'light'. This is impossible to verify, but given the ease of errors arising in transcribing shorthand, must be considered possible.

*Context:* the date is conjectural, and the largest piece of evidence in its favour is only that it was printed in *Angelus* the following month. White Eagle normally spoke on the first Sunday of the month, which is why the date 1<sup>st</sup> September is chosen: given, though, that it was the reopening service after the August holiday, and there were five Sundays in September 1946, the date of the 8<sup>th</sup> is also possible. The subject matter also fits with the sequence for Summer 1946, during which White Eagle had moved from a series of addresses on the life of Jesus to the principles of the Lodge – he spoke of the Sixth principle on 7<sup>th</sup> July (again, conjecturally) and the Five Great Laws form the Fifth.

*General Notes:* White Eagle intriguingly describes Revelation chapter 4 as 'one of the most beautiful readings in the Bible'; it is certainly poetic in character. It is only eleven verses long, so was probably read in full. It describes the twenty-four elders, the seven lamps or spirits and the four beasts, all ranged around the throne. In addition to what White Eagle says, the four beasts are traditionally associated with the four evangelists.

*References:* the four fixed signs of the zodiac are Aquarius (air), Taurus (earth), Leo (fire) and Scorpio (water). 'The light shineth in darkness' is from John 1 : 5. A well-known masonic precept is quoted. 'Whatsoever a man soweth' is Galatians 6 : 7. When White Eagle mentions the four Great Initiations and says that he has already dealt with them in his Inner Teachings, he is referring to the series of teachings collectively known as 'The Path of the Soul', and available in book form, currently, as INITIATIONS ON THE PATH OF THE SOUL. White Eagle's reference to 'these six principles' is to the principles of the White Eagle Lodge. 'As above, so below' is a precept from the Emerald Tablet attributed to Hermes Trismegistus.

## White Eagle's Address:

Blessings be upon every soul in this assembly. Because there has been a request, unspoken possibly, from the hearts of some of you for us to speak on the Fifth principle upon which the work of this Lodge is based, we have chosen this subject.

The five great laws which govern life are the Law of Reincarnation; the Law of Cause and Effect (called by some Karma); the Law of Opportunity (called by some Dharma); the Law of Correspondence; and the Law of Equilibrium.

We have given to you these guiding principles as a basis for the work in the White Eagle Lodge, but they are not intended ever to become creeds or dogmas. We would clear such an idea right away. These principles are cosmic laws and as such have to be recognised by all and interpreted by every man according to the light which is within him. Every soul is given freedom and freewill within the limit of cosmic law. There is no such command as 'Thou shalt not', but only the plain statement, 'These are the cosmic laws; and if you break the laws you must suffer in consequence'.

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We have been listening to one of the most beautiful readings in the Bible. We chose this reading because it contains the laws of God and outlines a path of opportunity which every soul must follow before it can enter into realisation of the God life. In the reading we notice that St John had vision of the four fixed signs of the zodiac, signs which indicate the four major initiations through which the soul has to pass. For the soul entering the presence of the Most High is a completed soul, having won for itself the crown of glory. In this manner the twenty-four elders were crowned with the glory of their attainment, which means they wore divine illumination upon their brow. Then, realising the truth of life, they cast their crowns before the throne of God – which means, of course, that all human attainment must eventually be lain at the feet of God. So man in his journey through life must first and foremost hold in his heart the vision glorious of his Creator.

We now come to this vexed and controversial subject of Reincarnation. We are fully aware that there are many who cannot yet accept this truth for many reasons, but others who recognise the Law of Reincarnation not only as a law of justice but a law which presents the soul with fresh opportunity. Do not imagine that Reincarnation only means a process of continual transition backwards and forwards across the borderland into the spirit realms and back again to earth. No. Each time the soul is given fresh opportunity in physical matter to grow towards cosmic consciousness, like the putting forth of a tiny light – which, with every effort it makes to shine brighter, grows stronger. Its light is encased in darkness, its light *shineth in darkness*. The darkness is the material world. The object of life is for the true light of God to manifest through darkness. Then the light will eventually claim the darkness and absorb it so that in time there is a perfect blending, the perfect equilibrium between positive and negative.

Reincarnation means the coming forth of the soul to labour in the world; but creation is governed by the supreme principles of love and wisdom, therefore the life that comes forth from the Supreme into matter learns through handling the physical conditions the power of its Creator. Having lived for a span of life (which to it in retrospect is as a flash) it recedes or withdraws from activity to join its true self. It returns for refreshment, its real home being in the heaven world. Some of you have heard the phrase, ‘The Master Mason returns from labour to refreshment; from refreshment to labour’. Now what is the purpose of this labour? So to quicken the indwelling light in matter that the raising of all physical atoms from darkness into light takes place. This teaching is to be found through all the ancient religions. There is no new truth. Truth always is always has been, always will be; and it does not matter how much a man disputes or argues against truth. The wheels of God grind on and every scrap of the law is fulfilled.

Reincarnation answers for many of you all the problems of the inequality of man’s lot in the present life. You are content to know that what you meet in this life, either of good or ill, is the result of your past actions. Then the question immediately comes, ‘But why cannot we remember our past lives?’ Because their memory is stored in one of the higher bodies and until sufficient spiritual development is attained it is impossible for the brain or physical memory to receive from that higher memory. With development of the soul the cosmic

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memory returns or becomes awakened. Many people have already glimmerings of their past lives. Then the soul recognises why it is faced with certain conditions in its present life. Afterwards it accepts these conditions, knowing that the law is just, perfect and true; also that its reaction in its present day life to any adversity which befalls it creates new opportunity in the future.

Coupled with this Law of Reincarnation, then, is the Law of Cause and Effect, which is spoken of in your New Testament: 'Whatsoever a man soweth that will he surely reap'. It is a statement of the Law. You cannot sow unkindness and reap roses. This does not mean necessarily that you are going to reap only after death. Often karma returns in this life, following quickly upon action, but not always. Many good, faithful and orthodox Christian friends believe that when their toil is over in this life they are going straight to some glorious heaven and there they will praise God all the rest of their days. The glorious heaven which is pictured in the Bible is a state which every soul will eventually attain ... but not after one short life: only after a long journey, and not until the soul receives divine illumination. This can only come about through human effort and spiritual aspiration. The life glorious has to be earned.

This brings us to yet another law which follows after the Law of Cause and Effect, called the Law of Opportunity. The soul receives continual opportunity to attain divine illumination. During its every incarnation, lessons are presented – tests, if you like. These are actually opportunities for initiation. Ultimately, we shall have the four major initiations as described in Revelation: those of Water, Air, Fire and Earth. These we have already dealt with in our Inner Teachings. These same tests, in lesser degree, are coming to you in almost every detail of your present life, by which you can gauge the reaction of your emotions to human events; the reaction of your minds to life; the reaction of your *heart*, your love towards your fellow men; and finally the bringing through your physical nature of the divine attributes and your ability to direct and control your life by calling upon the supreme love, power, wisdom and intelligence of the Most High, your Creator.

We would have you think of life as a journey which continues on and on up the mountain until it reaches the apex. Then on the apex shines the heavenly life, by which the soul realises and becomes aflame with God. Thenceforward it is unaffected by sorrow or separation, holding within its being complete and supreme domination over all inharmonies of the planes of darkness. Beloved brethren, such a glorious opportunity stretches before each one of you. The little things of every day, the disappointments and the petty annoyances and the hurts which you allow yourself to receive from daily life are all very small; but you allow them to become very big. Let them recede, my brethren. Concentrate on your whole being upon the love of God. BE his Child! Surrender your self-will to the divine will. 'My Father–Mother God which art in heaven, O! *hallowed* be Thy name! Thou art the one true glory. Thy will be done in every soul.' All is a question of submission and surrender, of taking life steadily, tranquilly. This does not mean lack of effort, but effort of the right kind, continual effort to let the Christ light take possession of your emotions, of your thinking and of your doing. Of your standing on one side and saying, 'Only God is great. I am nothing. All the good which has

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been accomplished in my life is the work of God'. The surrender of self to the divine love is the meaning of all the laws which have been written down in these Six Principles.

The Law of Correspondence: what does this mean? The law of harmony. It is the law by which the human self reflects itself upon the finer ethers of life, upon what is called the astral plane, the plane of desires and emotions. You know this is true, my friends, because of the descriptions which have been received from the astral plane which tell of the conditions which souls find when they pass away from the body. Such conditions on the astral, the mental and the spiritual planes are the soul-reflections which the soul's life on earth throws upon the planes of fine ether: 'As above, so below; as below, so above'. Therefore, when the soul endeavours to receive divine illumination and express the qualities of God, he is reflecting the heavenly life in his everyday life. You cannot fail to recognise the saint or the elder brother, because such an one is reflecting from the heavens. Like presents like.

Thus we come to the Law of Equilibrium, the law of perfect balance, supreme justice. We have said on previous occasions there is no such thing as innocent suffering. Nevertheless you will see many instances which will appeal to your sense of justice and you will say, 'This is unjust'. You will cite many cases of the innocent condemned to suffer. Perhaps those souls which appear to suffer unjustly are being presented with an opportunity for soul expansion about which you know nothing. May not they have earned such an opportunity by good karma in the past? Do not think that all suffering eventuates from bad karma. Remember the Law of Opportunity ever goes hand in hand with the Law of Karma; the karma earns new opportunities for soul-growth, soul-illumination. Although that soul may apparently suffer unjustly, by its reaction it will learn vast truth. So it is as well for us all to recognise the law of equilibrium as the law of absolute and perfect justice for human life, the balancing up of apparent injustice and pain. There is always a joy to come corresponding to the measure of suffering endured rightly. If there is loss, remember God never takes away without giving. You will say, 'But God can never give back to me my loved one in this life'. God is offering you a gift, my child, which will perhaps prove more precious and more beautiful both to you and your loved one. It is for you to surrender your will to His and so to recognise divine justice permeating all the happenings of your human life. It is for you, because opportunity has been given to you to open your heart to this warm radiant love of the divine. It may be that your sorrow and your love will enable you (if you will) to receive that gift of God.

We know that all that we have said may give rise to questions. Your earthly mind will never receive satisfaction because it does not react to divine truth; but the mind of your spirit, which is in the heart centre, will be comforted once you let the questioning of the arrogant earthly mind fall away and look in simplicity and faith and trust and love to your Creator. Then will flood into your heart all the satisfaction you need. You will know truth. You will know that your life is full of opportunity to grow in wisdom, love and divine power. Beloved ones, put your hand into the hand of God, and He will lead you step by step. Make the effort to walk His way and you will pass your tests and initiations, which means expansion of consciousness, until you become as one of those twenty-four elders around the throne. Then you will know as never before the meaning of the word 'humility'. Once you know humility you will strip yourself of your crown of light – which means that you will know that you are

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nothing, for you live and move and have your being in God. In God's life alone you live and know happiness supreme, beyond all earthly understanding.

Peace bless you, dear ones. You are not alone. You all have age-old companions of your spirit walking by your side. Be not afraid, for you are encompassed by a cloud of unseen radiant witnesses. In love there is no separation. Reincarnation will never separate you from your true loved ones. This is impossible. You move up the arc of spiritual progress hand-in-hand with those you have always loved.

*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:*

*Zodiac, four evangelists*

