

The Spirit of Christmas to Come

A028 Sunday Address 20th December 1936 Pembroke Hall, London Third of the special Christmas addresses of 1936, and the one closest to the Christmas festival itself.

The text of this address is as prepared for machine-duplicated circulation shortly after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: duplicated script in blue ink, from the time; no contemporary markings

Context: prayers and hymns are referred to at the beginning quite generally but can be assumed to have preceded this address along with all the others. Fourth Sunday in Advent.

General Notes: there is a reference a third of the way through to brothers of the Lodge wearing their blue robes, apparently in the service. The practice did not last very long, as far as we know. It may help to explain the (annotated) reference in the address of 6 December, a fortnight previously.

References: the name Dickens gave his third ghost in *A Christmas Carol* was 'Christmas Yet To Come'.

White Eagle's Address:

Tonight we hope to embody our previous two talks on the subject of Christmas, and would make it clear that in our hymns, in our prayers and in our words we refer always to the birth of Christ, the Saviour, the Child Christ within every man; thus we do not limit this Life of the Christ Being to two thousand years, but look back to the very beginning of life, the cradle of humanity, and there recognise the birth of the Christ, Son of the Father-Mother God. True, we recognise the Christ Child as revealed more clearly, more definitely through Jesus of Nazareth; and because it is the custom of the western world to celebrate Christ-Mass at this season, we emphasis at each of these three talks the birth of the Christ Child within Everyman. We do not forget that in the majority Christ is a wee babe in the heart, so young, so frail that He is almost obscured by materialism like a rampant weed in the garden of life. We recognise that materialism has its place, but at length every man must recognise the growth of the Christ Child within himself.

We referred in our first talk to those Angelic Ones who hailed, who hallowed the birth of the Christ Child – those who came to this earth-plane from the heavenly places, from heavenly planets in this solar system which still remain unrecognized; we referred to the shepherds as Initiates, those raised to such a degree of perception of the Light of Christ as to receive, hear and see the Angelic Messengers. What do we mean by Initiates? This term may convey nothing to you. There have always been, since the beginning, souls more receptive to the spiritual power than the masses, souls more aware. Such souls received greater inflow of this spiritual force because they were capable of receiving it; and the act or ceremony of receiving a special inflow of divine power is Initiation.

In the past there were selected groups of Initiates; the masses of humanity remaining unaware of such a spiritual force in their midst; and they lived, as do the masses, conscious only of a physical body and contact with material things, only aware of things which they could reach with their five senses. On the other hand the Initiates were grouped together in Schools, in Brotherhoods. These were the vanguards of the human race, and known to you as the Elder Brethren.

The time is coming, and we believe not far distant, when these groups of Initiates will become so enlarged as to finally embrace all humanity. This is the vision we would unfold to

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you, of the Spirit of Christmas to come. There are today, as many know, in your country and in the western world, as well as in the East, an increasing number of groups, an increasing number of brethren forming these groups, who become channels for the Christ Light. There is much talk about individualisation of man, the necessity for the growth of self-expression, a phase of evolution vitally necessary in the development of the human mind. The growth of self-expression is of the utmost importance, but in this struggle for self-expression there comes selfish expression. Thus we see much which is sorrowful in man's desire and urge for self-expression and individualisation. We see him trampling over his weaker brother, and recognising this, we also recognise that in self-expression and competition may come a healthy growth towards that which transcends self, and expression of the Christ Child which will someday be born in every man, once he has learnt through the suffering brought upon himself by selfish expression.

Selfishness is a breaking of a cosmic law. Splendid isolation has no place in creation – all must work together in harmony. Do not the laws of nature reveal cohesiveness? So also man cannot injure his brother, no matter whether by his side or across the world, without injuring himself.

In the groups which we call 'brotherhoods', this step towards selfless expression or expression of the Christ Child is made plain to the candidate for initiation into the brotherhood. The power which may accrue as a result of this spirit of brotherhood and cohesiveness is simply revealed. Thus in the small brotherhood groups there grows within the heart of the individual brother not the desire for selfish expression, but a desire to live to help, to serve.

We assure you that in the spirit of Christmas to come will lie this recognition of group work. This does not mean that the individual concentrating upon self-expression will altogether abandon it, but that through recognition of the needs of his brother, he will develop selfless or Christ-like expression in life.

Some of our beloved brethren are present at this service, and of these there are some who have not liked wearing your robes of Brotherhood in public. Oh, we understand the heart, and recognise the sensitive shrinking of the soul which would seclude from the public sight something deemed sacred. But you wear your robes with honour, my brethren.

A Freemasonry exists through the brotherhoods on the earth-plane. In the past the brotherhoods lived in seclusion in monasteries; but the brotherhoods of Christmas to come have the harder task, and must live in a world of conflicting emotions and criticisms; and go their way regarded by the rest of humanity as humanity ever regards those who walk the path towards God. All this is part of the growth of the soul, for a soul must learn to live in the world, to come up against material life, and pass through the fire untouched.

This is why, my beloved brethren, you were invited to attend this service in your robes. The time will come when the brotherhood of man will extend throughout the world. Thus you will

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not recognise a brother in Christ by any outward badge or uniform, nor yet by outward signs, but by the light in the aura man will recognise his brother, since those developing or growing towards the light not only reach to the higher vibrations, but actually grow within a body of light.

Of this the average human is not aware. Only as the soul grows, as the individual becomes aware of the rays of light in the universe, so by action of the body of light interpenetrating the physical body, the latter loses its opaqueness. The average etheric body is also opaque, but it can absorb the light invisible. And the brethren on Earth who have absorbed the light, radiate it, even as Jesus gave forth healing power and love.

Let us make one point clear: it is not necessary to withdraw from the world to grow in stature, in light. The more you mingle with your fellows, with absence of criticism, with increase of kindness and love, the more you enter into human joys and sorrows, the more you grow in radiance, and to the perfect man – Christ...

Our last point: what can we reveal of the spirit of Christmas to Come?

If you have followed our trail of thought, you will readily visualise the beauty which shall attend man in the Christmas to Come. You will visualise an expression of beauty in life.

Can we feel today that this expression of true God beauty exists on your earth-plane?

Can you recognise God's beauty apparent in the life, the form, the apparel, the homes, the public buildings, of present humanity? Rather do you see selfishness, slums, squalid homes, ugly streets, and still more ugly factories? God! ... where is Thy beauty in our land?

God in the fields, the hills, the skies and clouds ... yes, we see an expression of beauty, of harmony and peace ... from the hilltop we may gaze upon the sunrise and the sunset, and beauty rides even in the windswept stormy sky.

But a future when God's beauty shall be expressed through the mind and the hand of man can only come when harmony reigns in men's hearts. Accompanying this beauty, in the spirit of Christmas to Come will be a wisdom which shall surpass knowledge and which shall guide man into the ways of truth. Knowledge is attained through much study, by absorbing that which others teach. Wisdom grows within man as a result of experience and life, by growth of the Christ Child within.

Without learning, [but] by observation of life, of the world and his fellow men, man may gain deep and universal wisdom, not contained in any written work, but which shines through the mists of materialism.

And finally, the spirit of Christmas to Come crowns life with a love which knows no fear, which knows no sorrow; for with the coming of such love there is no separation and no death,

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no division between the world of matter and the world of spirit, no cessation of life. With the coming of that love, life continues to beat its rhythm of harmony and beauty and wisdom ... life continues without separation and with no weariness.

What a terrible prospect you may think we unfold! 'Life without ceasing.... Oh no! I am a-weary, weighted by the heaviness of the flesh, the weariness of fear, a-weary of the ugliness of life!' But these things shall pass away – they *will* pass away – and man will go forward, onward in the glorious life of God.

And so, beloved, make daily contact with the things of the spirit, whether through mingling with your fellow man, through a church gathering, or through services such as these – it matters not. But reach to the heart of your brother, and close not your mind to the powers behind, in and through you and vibrating through every created thing.

So may the peace of the Christ Child now in your hearts enfold you, and give you a joy and love this Christmastide which shall extend to Eternity.

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:

eternal life, dual aspect, community, communion, celebration, spiritual organisations, ancient brotherhoods, positive thought, inner peace, devas, guides, teachers, inner light, light within