

# A New Year Address

A212 Sunday Address 8th January 1950 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year 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, January 1951*

*Context:* this is the third address in sequence where we have made the assumption of the festival address from twelve months before having been printed in Angelus, putting topicality over immediate publication. The very first Sunday in January was the New Year's Day bank holiday, so we have assumed that the service was held on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The hymn immediately before the address is given clearly as 'Breathe on me, breath of God' (words by Edwin Hatch and many times noted in these addresses). The verse White Eagle quotes is the third verse in SONGS OF PRAISE, from which the congregation probably sang, which is omitted in some online versions today, but particularly suitable in a White Eagle Lodge context.

*General Notes:* White Eagle usefully compares New Year resolutions with ritual, and comes back to this topic at the end of the address. The address reiterates White Eagle's most radical message, that humanity will fully overcome death, and speaks of the role of spirit in matter: 'The spirit brings about a perfected life'. White Eagle also describes the cosmic significance of the Christmas festival or Christ Mass.

*References:* for the hymn words see above, 'Context'. For St Paul on the spiritual or celestial body (as well as the physical), see 1 Corinthians 15 : 39-45. 'I am the Way, the Truth' is John 14 : 6 ; 'I am the way to eternal life' is White Eagle's addition. 'Except ye become as a little child' is Matthew 18 : 3.

## White Eagle's Address:

Beloved brethren, we would like to talk for a little while about the New Year; although we might summarise our message tonight in the words you have just sung:

*'Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Blend all my soul with thine,  
Until this earthly part of me  
Glows with the fire divine.'*

It is doubtless both easy and comforting to come to a service and sing words such as these, and to feel inspired and uplifted by the presence not only of your brother at your side, but also of those who come from the spirit. You feel the spiritual power they bring and while thus inspired life appears to you to be a wonderful experience. You remember, perhaps, some of your past failures, but console yourself with the thought of how different everything will be during this New Year. So it will be. We would not dissuade you from this sense of power and aspiration which comes as you commune with the host of invisible white brothers, who draw close on such occasions as this.

Many times we have said that if you could only close your senses to the material plane on these occasions, and in the earnest prayer endeavour to open your inner vision you would see a wonderful and beautiful light around and above you. You would see material things, not as a dark and dense mass – you would see that permeating each person's body was a light. You would then be seeing the true or the celestial body described by Paul, and also the great

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illumination and power vibrating from that body. You would be comforted when you thought that from the celestial self you may draw down into physical life a spiritual light, healing, vision, strength and power to enable you better to serve your Lord. You would begin to see beyond the letter of the words of the Master Jesus to which you have listened tonight, and would understand their profound depth of meaning; so pregnant are these words with truth and reality. This truth and reality, my beloved brethren, is what we would convey to you this night, with all possible simplicity and humility.

Let us think about this coming year and its possibilities. At this you will perhaps say: 'No, I never make resolutions; such resolutions only seem made to be broken!' In this manner the idea can be lightly tossed on one side, because many people think it enough to live out this life to the best of their ability, and not to bother about the next.

This indicates something amiss in that person's outlook. We would explain that to make a resolution is like performing a ritual. Some people say they do not believe in – they do not like ritual – but only because they do not understand it. In ritual you must keep on performing the same ceremony. By this continual performance spiritual power is generated and accumulated, and is being built up on this earth. In the world of spirit ritual is always used in order to gather in the creative forces, and to redirect the creative power into the life of form – thus gradually building a perfect form – a perfect condition of life. In this manner by continually making and re-making your own resolution, not only at New Year's Day, but every day, you are practising a ritual and thereby gathering to yourself, to your personality, a spiritual power which can be used in daily life for good.

We have already described that celestial self, which unfortunately is so little known by reason of the fact that many people (even those who think they know something about spiritual truth) fail to recognise their higher, their celestial self. Instead, they grope around in earthiness, and declare that they have quite enough to do to get on with life here without bothering about a life hereafter. What a foolish remark is this when it is analysed! How can man possibly live as God created him to live without conscious contact with his spirit part, his celestial self? Such loss of contact, brethren, is the reason why you grow old. We speak truth, although you may not believe us; although you may feel unable to accept our truth. Nevertheless, we say that the reason why the body ages, decays, and eventually passes away, is because people fail to keep their contact with the spiritual life, with their spiritual self. You know, because we have told you on former occasions, that there are instances in religious history where the body of a saint has preserved itself for hundreds of years after the spirit has withdrawn, whereas in the normal course of events man's physical body disintegrates after death takes place. Did not the Master Jesus continually say: 'I AM the way, the truth and the life'? 'I am the way to eternal life.' But many people still think of eternal life as something apart from physical life.

The message of the New Age, which you will hear more often in years to come and from other lips than these, is that matter itself is destined to become spiritualised, and thus perfected; and that in this manner death will be overcome. *There is no death*, and we mean what we say. True, the physical atoms will decay after the spirit withdraws; but spirit does

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not always choose to withdraw from matter in this fashion; and when the spirit at the command of the God within has spiritualised your life and also your body, there will be no death in the accepted sense.

You may think that this is an impossible gospel that we preach. We tell you again that it is truth; and the world will in centuries hence comprehend how divine is this truth. Today you are pioneers. This New Age is the age of spirit, as well as the age of mind. An interpenetration, a balancing of mind and spirit must come about, for the mind without spirit can grow too powerful, and become indeed destructive. The spirit brings life to matter. The spirit brings about perfect life. Such a progress of perfecting in your daily work, in your health, in your surroundings, in all your conditions, is essential; because spirit is divine love, and love such as this is the creative power of life.

We would like to tell you something which happened at the time of the Christ-Mass. Try to close your senses to material things; try for a few moments to follow our description. See deep into your inner self, for in your spirit, in your mind and in your heart glows a great, a glorious light, brighter than the sun, filling all space. Within, contained in the light, are countless millions upon millions of forms – sons and daughters of God – those who have passed away from the bondage of the flesh – who have arisen into the light. At this moment, while we are in the spirit, visualise these millions of spiritual beings stretching away into infinity. All are concentrating upon the one point of Light in their midst. That point of Light is the heart and form of the Cosmic Christ, by whose Light is the heart and form of the Cosmic Christ, by whose Light you each live. Without that Light you would be non-existent. It came to the earth, and all humanity was bathed in this Light. This was the first Christ-Mass. This Light comes still to fill you with life and strength, vision and courage, for humanity needs this baptism more than ever at the present time.

Great things are happening now within the heart of humanity; and those in the world of spirit, who hold you and all men in their care, come with greater strength to help you to resolve to live – not the everyday life, but a life of the spirit. May this be your resolution at this New Year. Even if you fail every hour of the day, still may you resolve to contact your celestial self and the hosts of the White Brothers. May nothing in your outer experience cause you to forego your aspiration, [nothing cause you] to grow weary of striving. Go quietly, each day; daily resolve to make your contact with the power and light. Remember the words of Jesus: ‘Except ye become as a little child ye cannot enter the Kingdom’. To enter means to lay aside the material mind with its demands. Seek first the Kingdom of God. Daily feel this contact from the centre of truth and light. May this be your inspiration and your direction in every decision you make; in every thought you think; and in every action may you be guided by the great light and power of the Cosmic Christ.

You see the importance of making this resolution, because this is the ritual of the spirit; and by this ritual you are building up power both in yourself and helping to build it up on the earth plane.

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At this time you all go about wishing each other a Happy New Year. Good! But the only way, my beloved children, to ensure real happiness is to resolve to hold fast to the one true Source of happiness and eternal life. You have no need then to be anxious for tomorrow. You have no need to be anxious yourself, about what you shall eat and what you shall do and how you shall live. All the treasures of the Kingdom of God are quickening within your heart; and where divine love finds a harbour there is neither anxiety, nor fear, nor shadow, but only peace of heart expressed in quiet, tranquil living. In this manner live onwards into the years to come, living in the glory of God's life; and thus, directed by God, safeguarded by God, you can safely advance on the path which opens before you.

A happy year to you all. God bless you as you turn your face to the light. 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:*

*importance of ritual, overcoming death, eternal life, body of light, celestial life drawn to physical, divine love and creative life, New Age, matter spiritualized*

