

The Heavenly Country

A337 Sunday Address 8th January 1961 St Mary Abbots Place, London New Year Service

Text: blue carbon (probably second or third carbon) from MB's typescript, no markings. In roughly the middle of the teaching, the phrase 'smug up', used as a verbal pair, seems to be a typo. Maybe it was 'suck up'. The address was printed in *Stella Polaris*, December 1961-January 1962, with no unique title – 'The Heavenly Country' has been added for this project.

Context: we are told by the typist that in the place of the anthem YGH gave a solo, 'Lead me Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness' ('beautifully rendered'). This is an anthem by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-76), which must have been either adapted for soprano solo or simply sung as one part out of four. The reading was the Aquarian Gospel, 7 : 9-28, a passage about the spiritual education of Mary the Mother of Jesus and her sister Elizabeth, the mother of John. It describes their sons as 'Revealers of the Light' and talks of the future destiny of the race, when 'men will see the light, walk in the light, and be the light'. MB tells us that Minesta herself gave the reading. White Eagle refers to one of the hymns and it would seem to have been 'My soul there is a country', with words by the seventeenth-century poet Henry Vaughan (1621-1695). The final hymn is given as the all-day hymn, 'Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy', whose words are by Jan Struther (1901-53) and which is normally sung to the tune Slane. There is a communion, after the final happy new year wish.

Scripts exist of the service on 29 January, also in London, at which Minesta spoke; the occasion celebrated the installation of a new central heating system. The Lodge must therefore have opened on the 8th and then closed again shortly after. Interestingly the script of the 29th gives a full account of the service including all hymns; this then becomes MB's normal practice. In place of White Eagle speaking on the first Sunday in February, Minesta was billed; it would appear that her talk was brought forward to add to the commemoration of reopening.

General Notes: the address claims to address 'how you as an individual can help humanity' (the keys, it later transpires, are purity and love). Taking up references in the reading, White Eagle also seeks to talk about Jesus and John – in this case John the Baptist, whom White Eagle calls 'the harbinger of the Light'. He speaks of 'two, possibly three, Johns in the four Gospels'. Later he refers to another of these Johns when he says 'in John, Saint John, if you like, and in the Master Jesus, you find pure reflectors of this one true Light'. He speaks of the value of an unusual quality in the twentieth century, purity (although he never quite makes clear in what he sees purity consisting). Very unusually, he addresses psychology – not wholly favourably, but it needs to be remembered what psychological understanding lacked in subtlety in 1961, with a Sixties focus on overcoming repressions, and also that White Eagle is dealing with it as a branch of mind, not exactly on its own merits completely. Afterwards, he goes on to speak of the problems of youth at the start of the Sixties.

References: 'Except ye become as a little child' is Matthew 18 : 3. 'Whatsoever things are lovely', etc., is Philippians 4 : 8ff. 'I am the light of the world' is John 8 : 12; the other references in the communion are, inevitably, to the story of the Last Supper, retold in each of the Gospels.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved children of the earth life, we come to you to bring truth and a message of hope, and to point the way for you in the coming days. You stand at the commencement of another year, a year of great opportunity.

Many of you will say, how can we help humanity in its dire need? This is what we want to tell you – how you as an individual can help humanity, for man is God's instrument. Now, this has been demonstrated to humanity many times in past ages. Unfortunately, man has his

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head so buried in the sand, in the dust of earth, that he cannot see, nor can he hear the messengers which God continually sends to the earth plane.

Unfortunately the physical body is both a barrier and a mirror. Sometimes the physical body completely obscures the sun, the light. At other times the physical body and the human personality is a mirror; and it reflects the Light of Heaven, so that earthly people are arrested by that reflection of heavenly light and God's truth. And they pause and listen to the words of wisdom which the teachers of all the ages have given to mankind.

You have heard a reading tonight about the visitation of the messenger, the Messenger from Heaven, who spoke through the earthly teacher to those two women, Mary and Elizabeth; the women who were the chosen mothers of two great teachers. Jesus was the son of Mary, as you know; Elizabeth the mother of John. There is confusion about John. Who is meant by John? There are two, possibly three Johns in the four Gospels.

Now, we do not attempt tonight to enter into any – shall we say argument – about who John really is. We just hold before you a picture of a visionary John who was the harbinger of the light; Jesus who was the messenger of love.

You have just been singing a hymn about the heavenly country far beyond the earth. Now we want to, as you stand at the beginning of a new year, we want to draw your thoughts to this heavenly country, a country of perfection, a country of light and harmony and love. Now you will say, 'We do not see much love manifested on the earth'. Man does not seem to have any conception of love – call it divine love or call it human love, love is love – but remember that it is manifesting at different levels. Man suffers because of all the sorrow which the difficulties and the problems of life bring to him. Is it possible for any man or woman to go through an incarnation without sorrow, anxiety, pain, parting, war; war in himself, war in his own life, quite apart from international war?

Remember that man is usually in a state of war within himself. Now, how can this be met? How can peace come to the warring souls of man? Man is born onto the earth and his physical body becomes a blindfold for him. He cannot see through his physical body, through his material life. Therefore, he is a prisoner, he is a prisoner in physical matter. But does his Creator mean to enslave His son, man, for ever? In every incarnation? No, God does not intend to enslave man in physical matter. God has vision. God has an ideal for His child, His son, that little spirit to which He gave birth, and which comes into incarnation to live, to grow in self-consciousness. And in the process of that life to grow towards God-consciousness.

And the God-consciousness is light, glorious light. And this state of man brings to him understanding and wisdom, and he knows then the truth. He removes himself, he raises himself from the dust, he lifts his head which has been buried in the sand or the dust. And he gradually rises to his feet and he looks up into a far country. There he sees a vision glorious. He sees how man may be, how man will be when he has reached that stage of life which causes him to live in peace, in harmony, which causes him to know no fear, no inharmony, no disease, no sorrow. How many of you will question this statement? But we know that we speak the truth to you, dear children. We know that as you persevere, holding before your

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vision that picture of the Perfect One again made perfect, and the perfect life in the heavenly world, you will be gradually growing in stature. Now, this is not attained purely through science as you know it, not through material science, not through intellectualism. But a fine intellect, mind, is important, because it enables man to comprehend the universe. But more important than a fine powerful intellect is a humble and pure heart. But intellect can do nothing unless the heart is simple and humble. The words of Jesus were, 'Except ye become as a little child, ye can in no wise enter the Kingdom of Heaven'.

Now you see physical matter is a barrier, but it is also an instrument, a mirror; and it can be a pure reflector of that Supreme Light. Now, in John, Saint John, if you like, and in the Master Jesus, you find pure reflectors of this one true light. It is so simple, that light is so simple, its purity, its love. How can any man or woman reflect that God light unless he follows the ideal of purity of life? In your modern age so little is placed, so very little notice is taken of purity in an individual. There has been so much cleaning away, clearing away of barriers in your immediate past age, a breaking up, if you like – a breaking up of certain materialism and material thoughts, even religion which has become so clothed in materialism. And there have been ideas sent through to the earth plane, there have been certain types of music and paintings, as an instance of what we mean, which confuse and baffle the majority of people. There has been a certain type of what we will call physical psychology, which particularly the young – we do not necessarily mean in age – we mean young in spirit who have seized upon it because these things break down all inhibitions in the physical man. There is a purpose in breaking down.

Now let us instance what you call modern psychology applied to the human life. It can in individual cases do a great deal of good, but at the same time in other individual cases it can do a great deal of harm, apparently. Whilst we see the necessity to break down the hard, the hard materialism, we were going to say to stuffiness of a dying age, it also has the power to destroy, or at all events to cover up and smug [*sic*] up that little, little seed of purity and love which is within the soul of man. The repressions, as you call them, of man have to be sublimated and this can take place in every instance. It can take place if the individual will look into that country afar. It isn't so far away, dear brethren, as may be thought. That heavenly country is very close to the man or woman who holds the true ideal, the ideal of a pure life, pure thought, pure deed.

Set yourselves, dear brethren, to look up to the golden-capped mountain range – call it the Kingdom of Heaven if you like – but remember that the Kingdom of Heaven is found within yourself. It is not really a far country. You can make it a far country, or it can become a country, a world of infinite beauty, within yourself.

Why does the artist at the present day create pictures which many people think are senseless or ugly? Because within himself are these emotions, these puzzles, these problems. Now this is a very serious matter, at the present time, in your present age, because of the youth of the world. The youth have not been given, by the elder, high ideals. Youth, youth is struggling for love. It doesn't know where to find it. Youth sometimes appears to you to be outrageous, committing crimes, being entirely uncontrolled. Why is this? And how can youth help it? The reason why youth is as it is today is because it has lacked love and understanding. These poor

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young people who are doing so much damage in the world are hurting themselves, and they are longing for light. You may contradict this, and say, 'It is not true'. We can see these young people in their loneliness and their sorrow. Now who is going to help them? Now, we are speaking not only of youth in years, but youth in evolution, who can help the youth in this? Those of you who have an ideal, who have vision.

Now, as we have already said, you will not find what you are looking for in words in books. You will find what you are looking for in your highest ideal of the Christ man. Do not dwell on the things which appear to you to be ugly. Remember that all life is in the process of growth, of evolution. Those who are at the lower rungs of the ladder are looking up. They need a helping hand from the one who is higher up the ladder.

Now, when you are in a high position, when you are in the heights, when you are at the mountain top you have a vision of the whole country all around you. Those who have been helped by spiritual powers to climb a little higher than their companions, their companions of earth, they have a clearer vision of truth. They are able to serve a heavenly country. They are destined – as the Spirit Messenger told Mary and Elizabeth – they are destined to be the parent of a leader, a teacher, a guide. Remember, that there are plenty of people on the earth plane, people who are living in a physical body who are appointed guides of humanity.

What we are trying to bring to you tonight at the commencement of this New Year is an ideal. Your ideal cannot be too pure, too loving, too beautiful. 'Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are good; think on these things.' Up, up, up, my brethren, towards the Light. Remember that you can be a reflector of that Light.

Do not succumb to the temptation of excusing yourselves. That is a very bad thing to do, to self-excuse. Now, the modern psychologist gives you an opportunity to excuse yourselves by saying that you should get rid of your inhibitions, be normal, be natural. Yes. But even there, there is a way of doing this. You need to discipline yourself. That is what you are here for on the earth – self-discipline – not licence which allows you to do whatever you like, however ugly, however impure. Discipline yourselves, earth children, purify yourselves! Let your ideal be spotless purity within the love and the vision of your Creator.

Now, in this way, we beg you to carry on living from now; let your vision be of heaven. Let your life be one of dedicated purity of body, mind and soul. Let your life be one of dedicated love. And love means thinking always thinking of the other man in tenderness and understanding, not of yourself and your own desires. Never excuse yourself, that is a very weak thing to do. Make no excuses. God knows all. God and His Messengers know all. And they have their orders, which means that they work under Divine Law to help you at every difficult corner. Give yourselves unto purity and love – to that higher relation of the law, divine law, that you may be guided and steered along life's pathway. It may not be easy for you at times, but as you journey on you will find added strength, added vision, added light: the light which will never, never fail you.

So once again we point to vision. If you study your Bible you will find again and again the Teacher gives this guidance, this message. Look above the physical and the material life, to

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that pure heaven state above, above the physical. We all know you all have to live in the physical, but you are there in that spiritual state of life; you receive all that you need to answer your earthly problems. You receive the peace, the wisdom, the comfort, the strength to meet whatever problem comes towards you. You cannot meet it with merely your intellect or your brain. You need something beyond this. You need that inner certainty, that inner knowing that God is with you. And God is purity, God is love: your two companions leading you upward and onward, enabling you to overcome, even, the fears of death.

We, who are gathered round you now, bless you with love. We offer you our hands to assist you to climb the ladder unto that heavenly country. And when all humanity learns this simple truth there will be on earth one grand brotherhood, brotherhood of nations, brotherhood of mankind, brotherhood with the animals, brotherhood with nature, brotherhood with the angels.

And the man who knows, who has attained – even now, has attained all these ideals – he sees, he knows that in due time when all mankind has his vision of the heavenly places, naturally the human and the physical life will be a reflection of heaven. And you as individuals can start now, this very minute, to reflect that glorious truth.

A Happy, Happy New Year to each one of you, a Happy, Happy New Year.

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Now as we prepare to leave this physical instrument we describe to you the figure of the Lord Christ here, right in the centre of the Lodge. Use your own imagination, give your soul substance, and you will see Him, that Perfect manifestation in human form of the Lord Christ, the Son, the Light of the World. 'I am the Light of the World. I come to bring you the bread, the heavenly bread, truth. I come to bring you the heavenly wine, the love. Take these symbols. East the bread, sip the wine now. Every day through the coming year let your thoughts come up to Me. I shall be with you always.' His words to you.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

God bless you, each one.

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:

spiritual unfoldment, spiritual contact, light within, path of service, path of the soul, spiritual path, guides, spirit guide, John the Baptist, Saint John, conflict, teenagers, self-control, mental illness