

The Gift

A363 Sunday Address 22nd December 1963 St Mary Abbots Place, London
Christmas Carol Service

Text: one of MB's usual display typescripts, without any contemporary markings. The word 'bogey' after the break, has been typed in after – evidently a word the typist did not recognise in her shorthand. The address was reprinted in *Stella Polaris*, December 1964-January 1965, under the title 'This lovely throng, this heavenly host'.

Context: first, a note that White Eagle was due to give a Remembrance Address, as usual, on 10th November 1963. There is not known to be a surviving script of this address, nor does it seem to have been printed in *Stella Polaris*. Just possibly, Minesta was indisposed. The number reference A362 has been reserved for the missing address.

According to the typescript, Minesta's Invocation and Benediction were recorded, but separately. After a carol, the first reading was one about Divine Mother taken from *Stella Polaris* in 1953; the second reading was Luke 2 : 8-20. MB then moves to White Eagle's address with no other indication of the carols

General Notes: this is a particularly intimate Christmas address, first for the initial focus on Divine Mother, then for the very detailed description of the nativity scene – in particular, after the family scene, the shepherds and the angels – thirdly, for the very personal thanks to the Choir and helpers and the invocation of its founding organist and conductor, and finally for White Eagle's self-description and the reference to his own height. In referring to human ignorance in past ages, White Eagle says that 'at least the masses' were so. It is unlikely that by 'the masses' he means anything more than a numerically large proportion. For the personal thanks to the Choir, see also 'References'.

There is a little bit of a puzzle around what White Eagle seems to describe as angel forms actually being loved ones who have passed on. He may mean this figuratively, as elsewhere he regularly has described the angelic stream of life as being distinct from the human. With maybe more deliberate irony, he at the end insists that his human presence is recognisable and real, and then announces categorically, 'I am a spirit, yes'.

References: 'the meaning of the jewel at her throat' is a symbol we are expected to recognise, but it is not today as apparent as White Eagle expected in 1963. The Christmas story is in all the synoptic gospels, but in particular 'For unto you is born this day, in the city of David' is Luke 2: 11. The singing of 'Peace on Earth' is verse 14 of the same chapter. The one known as 'Hoary Nob', invoked as the founder of the Lodge Choir, was Reginald Botcherby, Brother John in the Brotherhood, who was initiated in April 1937 and died in February 1945, having contributed enormously to the work in London. 'Hoary Nob' was a nickname, probably devised by himself, and used particularly of himself as a much older man in the close friendship he enjoyed with Ylana Hayward, who is the one here described as his pupil and successor.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved ones of the earth life, we speak for those whom you cannot see, for the spirit of them who have left a physical body, but who dwell in the light, the hosts of heaven.

And this is their message. We bring to you the picture of the Divine Mother, the spirit of all love and wisdom. And cradled in her arms [is] the Child of Love, and protecting them both there stands behind her the noble, strong form of the Spirit of the Father. Now this story is not only a Christmas story, it is one of life, for in all things of creation there is the Holy Trinity, the positive fatherhood, the negative motherhood, and with the union of these two aspects is brought forth the child of love, harmony.

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And we want you to hold this picture in your minds, because it will help you. It is not fantasy. It is an age-old truth we describe for you, that picture, that form of the Perfect Mother, the human perfect mother. Can you, in your inner sight, your imagination, see that form clothed in a pure white, soft, flowing garment, and around the shoulders the cape or a canopy of heavenly blue, fastened at the throat with the jewel of gold? Those who have any knowledge of her symbols will immediately recognise the meaning of the jewel at the throat. Cradled in her arms, that tiny Babe – yet as we look at the little face it is full of light and age-old wisdom. It is not the face of an ordinary babe. In it we see the commencement of the Christ nature, the Christ spirit within that Babe; and enfolding the Mother and Child, the Holy Father – noble and true and tender.

Now in those three Forms you have the key to the true meaning, the scientific meaning, if you prefer that word – of the Universe: for this is the Beginning. And in the Beginning was Light, and the Light is there in that tableau. We would remind you that those who may have doubts about the authenticity of the story of Christmas that this story has been known through the Ages all over the Earth from the north to the south, from the east to the west: the same story of the coming of the Sun God in the form of a little child. But the Christian story of this profound and eternal truth has lasted and strengthened through the past nearly two thousand years.

Now, to those critics who say that Christmas is merely a time of commercialism, a time to make money, we would disagree with them and we would say it is a time of giving money – giving, giving, giving, for on all hands we see in your world an increase of gifts – not only pretty little gifts for the children, but gifts from the heart which are given to all kinds of good causes. So, we would say to you, never allow yourself to be misled by the suggestion that Christmas is a time of commercialism. We know that there are levels, there are different grades of outlook in the human family, but the foundation of Christmas is *the gift* – and in the present time we are glad to be able to tell you that from the spirit world we see an outpouring of love from human hearts, a desire to help others, a desire to give pleasure to the children, a desire to look after the elderly, a desire to think about the shocking cruelty to the animal kingdom. Now, this is something which has to be faced, and it can only be resolved by thoughtfulness and imagination. Did the Prince of Peace, the Child whose name is love, come to incite the human family to kill and to slaughter in order to feast and celebrate His birth? The Child of Peace came to help man, who was, remember, at that time in a very much lower state of evolution – at least the masses were – than people are today. He came to inspire in the human heart purity and love. Purity of life, of habits of thought.

Now, see again that tableau: the Divine Mother in white and blue with a golden rose; a babe in shining white. Glowing rays like the Sun, and the Father, the noble, wise, kind, good Father, protector of the Mother and Child. Now this story can be taken from the human to the animal kingdom, from the animal kingdom to nature, to the nature kingdom, to the fruits and the flowers, and even to the mineral kingdom – to the jewels and the metals. Remember that all creation is in God, the Universal Creative Spirit.

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Now this is the story of Christmas. There certainly was a birth of a Saviour at Christmas time two thousand years ago. And today, not only your Church celebrates the Christmas Festival, but all peoples and more and more are entering into this spirit of the Christ Mass, the Christmas festival. Remember the beauty of Divine Motherhood and Fatherhood. Be very still and open your inner sight, and use your creative power and see the shepherds on the hills in Bethlehem watching their flocks. The sky is a dark blue canopy studded with brilliant stars, and all is still and silent. Presently a light begins to dawn in the sky, and the form of a Spirit is seen, a Spirit which appears to be winged, because it is holding out its arms in blessing, and to call to the shepherds watching their flocks. The shepherds, of course, are those people who have flocks to mind, which means people who have the care for the helpless, the younger ones: the teachers, the minister, those who minister to the helpless and to the ignorant. And it is to them that the angels come.

And from one spirit form slowly the whole sky is filled with this lovely throng, this heavenly host of messengers from the spirit world, from a heavenly state of life. And they are bringing a message – which the angels are bringing you now. Listen, we bring you good tidings of great joy: ‘For unto you is born this day in the city of Bethlehem – the city of love – a Child who shall be a saviour of all men’. What a wonderful message! And the greatest message which the world has ever known. And it is true, because it is only when you, humanity, can bring forth from its heart that child of love, peace and goodwill, that the whole world will become a ‘united nation’ – one united nation.

Now sceptics can say what they will, but we see the coming of this united nations of this earth planet. Look for yourselves, and you will see here and there in the most unlikely places – spoken by the most unlikely men – you will see and hear words of light, of goodwill, of hope and faith. And you, dear brethren, are not the least of the shepherds to whom the angels came, because you are learning how to open your spiritual vision and hearing, so that you can hear truth, you can see the beautiful spirit forms in your own nearest and dearest.

Now in the angels who are even now all around you here in this service are so many who have worshipped and worked in this Lodge. There are so many who are your own dear relatives, who dwell now in that heavenly state of life. And we want you at noon on Christmas morning to give a thought to those angel forms, and for a brief time in the silence of the spirit listen, listen to their message to you, their message in your heart. And it may be to you soundless, but in your heart will come a stillness and a love which is not usually known to man on the outer planes of life. In the silence, dear brethren, the voice of your own loved one, the voice of God, the voice of the Great White Spirit, the voice of the Lord Christ: ‘I AM with you. I bring to your heart peace and goodwill.’

Give it forth to all men, and sing with all your soul, ‘Peace on earth’. Don’t let that naughty little material, analytical mind rob you of your birthright. ‘Get thee behind me, tempter’ when it commences to scoff and laugh and say, ‘how do you know?’ Say you know because the very life and breath in you is that truth, and it is telling you that God is infinite and eternal, and man must live by the very bread which cometh down from heaven: the bread of life, which is the voice of the spirit.

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Now, will you be very still? For two minutes close your eyes; close all your outer senses and come with us into that higher world where the people are shining with love and beauty of spirit; where the Divine Mother with her Son by her side is blessing all peoples. Unto you, unto *you* is born in your soul the Christ babe.

And this message, so gentle, so true, is upon you. May it remain with you all your days as you journey in physical matter, until you are released – until the angels comes to draw that unwilling bold and set you free.

God blesses you. From Father, Mother and Son, God and the Holy Mother spirit, may you be blessed.

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You must feel the company, the invisible company here now. You must feel their love. And we, for them, have to specially thank you for all your gifts, the gifts of love, which you have given to this Lodge throughout this year and past years. For the gift of your truth and sincerity and loyalty, for your material gift of toys, which will go to cheer the lonely and sad children; for the gifts of monies which will go to those who want, who are in need. For all these physical gifts the angels now thank you.

And we have to thank all the Choir and everyone who has at personal sacrifice come – although it may have been a pleasure, nonetheless there is always the little bogey which pulls and says, ‘I don’t want to go’ – but the good angel triumphed, and along came the Choir through all kinds of weather to sing for us tonight.

Now then the angels know, if you do remember this, that whatever you do in the silence – and you would not like everyone to know what you think sometimes but the angels know, bless you! – and they smile and love you for your sacrifice and service. And one, who is known to some of [you] here by the name of Hoary Nob is very much in evidence. And he says, ‘Not too bad, not too bad, I will pass it!’. We think he is very pleased to see his Choir – he calls it ‘his Choir’. To those who do not know we will explain that dear Brother Hoary Nob formed the very first choir in the White Eagle Lodge, and his pupil has carried it on and the Choir have been faithful. And we say to you, ‘Well done, good and faithful servants, and the reward is in the joy which you have in your song and the knowledge of the joy that you give to the congregation, both visible and invisible’.

And lastly, we have picked this up from our channel, our instrument, she so much wants to thank all her friends for their beautiful greetings cards, their letters and their words, and WE have to say thank you, because so many of your messages came to White Eagle. Now don’t think White Eagle is not a very real person, very active, and quite tall and can look over the heads of a lot of you. And he wishes to thank you, thank you, thank you, dear dear ones, for your loving message, and if we are able to continue to help you to find your way on a rocky earthly path, well, it is our joy and our privilege to be able to speak to you.

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Oh, the joy to be able to speak to you from behind the veil of materialism and the hard, critical mental plane. You won't lose anything, we assure you, by becoming as humble as little children in listening to the voice of the angels. You won't lose any human power, or intellectual power, by becoming as a little child and entering the Kingdom of Heaven.

And so we know that you will all enjoy, within your hearts, your spirit, a Happy. Happy Christmas with Him, with Her and the whole company of Shining Brethren. So with this blessing and wish, we withdraw from the physical manifestation into our spirit world. Yes, I am a spirit, I assure you. Now that is answering someone, and they know who it is – quite different from his body. I am a spirit, yes.

God bless everyone.

Brother Faithful:

We have been listening tonight to one of the Watchers on the hilltops. One of the Shepherds, who has seen tonight the vision glorious and heard the wondrous message, and in solemn words in a few deeply moving moments has tried to pass that message not into our minds so much, but into our hearts.

I want to say something more personal. It is very difficult to recognise people from this platform – it takes quite a while – and as I have been standing here, little by little I have been spotting you, as it were, and recognising people who have been coming for a great number of years, and realising how close a link there is between you and myself and ourselves, because you are part of the very structure of the Lodge, because you have helped to build it, and because you uphold it. And realising this, I have found my heart going out to you, and it has made me realise if we mortal people can feel this about each other, how much more widely must the spiritual people feel, all those people who have worshipped here and passed on and formed the Lodge not so very far away on the other side.

And so with this feeling of unison, of comradeship, of Oneness almost, I wish to you from myself, from all of us, a very happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

And so we come to our last carol.

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:

nativity, yule, angels, messengers light within, holy spirit, divine plan, mother goddess, inner light, communion, initiation, heaven world, world of light, world peace, globalisation, family, nature, winter solstice, healing light