

Christ is Risen!

A203 Sunday Address 3rd April 1949 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

The text of this address is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from Angelus, June 1949

Context: despite the title, which would seem to imply Easter Sunday, *Angelus* is clear that this was given on the first Sunday in April 1949 – whereas Easter Sunday was two weeks later, the 17th.

General Notes: White Eagle speaks of the universal experience of crucifixion and ties it to the earth initiation. In 1945-46 he had given the series of Inner Teachings that shared the title, 'The Path of the Soul', and there discussed the initiations of fire, water, air and earth. He refers back, here, to that series ('We have already dealt quite at length with these initiations'). White Eagle also speaks here of the resurrection and the ascension. Lastly, we are given a beautiful picture, undoubtedly for our meditation, of the Master.

References: the phrase 'acquainted with grief' in the first paragraph comes from Handel's aria, 'He was despised', in the *Messiah* – a rendering of verses from Isaiah chapters 52 and 53. 'O Death, where is thy sting! O grave, where is thy victory!' is 1 Corinthians 15 : 55 but brings with it further hints of Handel's *Messiah*. 'They who have passed through great tribulation' are mentioned in Revelation 7 : 14. For 'Then Jesus, in full view of his disciples, was caught up into heaven', see Acts 1 : 9.

White Eagle's Address:

We would raise your consciousness to the true plane of spiritual life, for tonight there is a mighty power and a gentle presence with us. Some people are inclined to be sceptical about the possibility of any manifestation from the higher world of the Master Jesus, who was the vehicle or channel for the Christ Light and message in the age of Pisces. He still works amongst men; and for those whose eyes are opened he is to be seen, particularly amongst those who are sorrowful and acquainted with grief. We do not speak idly. We are speaking to certain souls in this assembly who need the touch of the beloved Jesus. For he whom you little understand but in whom your innermost soul longs to believe, and to know for certain of his care for you – to you he comes. For he still walks the earth.

We are going to speak tonight on the inner significance of the crucifixion. At the outset we would banish all gloomy thoughts, by trying to present the truth as something infinitely beautiful, loving and wise, and as an experience which awaits every soul on its path of evolution – in fact an experience which you may even now be passing through in your inner selves, and on the inner plane.

Jesus, knowing all things, knew what was to come. In this short sentence we see the Master soul pictured as one who had passed through many lives, undergone great tribulations. His eyes being opened he could see truth, and he knew what he must undergo, not only for himself but for all men. *For all* – we emphasise this truth, my children – for every one of you who undergoes some experience which might be described as a crucifixion, something which involves great pain and soul-anguish, is doing something for the whole world. For anyone who meets such testings of the soul in the same resolute and tranquil spirit as did the Master Jesus is raising the vibrations of the whole earth.

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Let us talk for a while about the meaning of this great symbolic act, the crucifixion. Do not make the mistake of thinking that crucifixion commenced with the crucified Jesus. In almost every religion this same piece of symbolism can be found. We think we are correct in saying that the origin of crucifixion had to do with sun worship, and is concerned with the sun rising in the heavens and then passing into darkness; with the seasons rising and falling; with the coming of spring and summer, autumn and winter. The origin was due to the so-called crucifixion, or passing away of the sun at the onset of winter's darkness. Throughout the ages all religions have referred to this natural phenomenon. The Eastern, the Greek and the Egyptian teachings present the same idea in another form, this time as the sacrifice of Osiris, or of Mithra, or of Krishna and Buddha and other great leaders. Even in the west you have the story of the crucifixion of the American Indian God or Christ, called Quetzalcoatl. These several religions tell in symbolic form of the crucifixion of their saviour, for the sun was then conceived as the saviour of all mankind.

We want to get behind this to something deeper. We would not rob you of your adoration for Jesus the Christ, but rather reinforce both your belief and knowledge of this great and perfect One who came amongst men to help to save men from pain and suffering. He comes to bring you light, and love, and joy. He comes to bring you inspiration and spiritual power. We feel that all of you at this moment can feel the outpouring of his blessing. We would impress upon all that the Christ spirit is a cosmic spirit without limitation; Christ is both the spiritual Sun and the Son of God, even as you are taught in your Christian church. We want you get an even grander realisation of the Lord Christ, for not only was the crucifixion a symbol of the crucifixion of the sun in all religions; it had an even deeper meaning, which applies to you.

You will be able to think over what we shall now say. The reason why the crucifixion applies to you as well as to Jesus the Christ and other great teachers is because this act is indicative of the last of the four great initiations the human soul will undergo. Life seems to most people very ordinary, and sometimes you wonder what is the use of it all. The truth is that life has a grand purpose to serve. Each and every day's experience is of value; whatever your stage of spiritual evolution, you are still preparing for initiation, for man has to make himself ready and to undergo four particular initiations while in a physical body – the water, the air, the fire and lastly the earth initiation.

We have already dealt quite at length with these initiations. We are going to tell you briefly about the earth initiation, which is the culmination of man's life in a physical body, and which was demonstrated to the world by the crucifixion of the Master. One thing we wish you to remember in your meditations: we emphasise that all that the Master Jesus has called upon to endure during his crucifixion was endured in a spirit of perfect love. This is the very heart of the spiritual meaning of the earth initiation. In the first place Jesus demonstrated his great love for his fellow man in his treatment and attitude towards his betrayer, Judas. Here we would give you two interpretations. One regards Judas as representative of the lower aspect of every man. All of us have a Judas nature in us, and it is this Judas nature which continually denies and betrays our Lord, the Christ spirit within us. There is yet another interpretation: Jesus recognised in Judas one who had created a karmic debt. Jesus knew that karma existed which had to be paid off. When karma exists between two souls, the one to whom the debt is owed should forgive the debtor. Too often there is retaliation instead. First

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one soul incurs a debt, and then the debtor instead of forgiving immediately wants to repay that ill, and so the debt is tossed backwards and forwards between the two. On this occasion Jesus forgave Judas. Not only did he forgive, but he relieved Judas of his karmic sin.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, you will remember, the disciple Peter struck the soldier with a sword. Jesus immediately healed the wounded man, even though he was apparently his enemy. The whole story of the crucifixion demonstrates, as incident follows incident, the exceeding love in the heart of the Master. In loving thus, he clearly showed to all that in passing through a spiritual initiation the most important point was to maintain the attitude of love; for the soul to meet all trials, hardships and bitterness in a spirit of love. This is where so many men and women fall short in their attitude towards the difficulties of everyday life. It is natural for the lower self to resent both pain and suffering. But when the soul can once surrender to the Father God, so that the heart overflows with love and acceptance of the wisdom of God's plan, then the soul makes real progress.

This crucifixion of the soul means, then, in essence, a complete surrender of the lower self; all being surrendered to God, it is then that the soul enters upon a path which is called mastership – having been thoroughly tried, tested and not found wanting.

You may remember the teaching we have given before concerning the transmutation of the very physical atoms of the body to perfect spiritual life. This Jesus demonstrated in his resurrection, and later in his ascension. His body did not die, did not decay as you understand death. It was recreated, and arose purified and glorified, even as every man's body can and will arise in due season. Then Jesus, in full view of his disciples, was caught up into heaven.

These same blessed saviours of the world are real, are still alive and active behind the curtain of materiality. You cannot see them, but this does not mean they are not there. You are continually being given proof that the souls of men who have passed out of the body still live on. On occasion they can come back and convey their message. But it is a different and a far higher thing when the soul becomes so pure and perfected that it can master the very atoms which cause decay and death to the physical body. In this manner the last enemy, death, shall be overcome by the power and the glory of the Christ spirit in man.

All this is only touching the fringe, brethren, of a most profound spiritual truth. Nevertheless, as you tread the path of aspiration and endeavour, in due time you will not only see this glory but you will release it within yourselves. Then at last you will understand the triumph of those words, 'O Death, where is thy sting! O grave, where is thy victory!'

We would draw for you a picture of the Son of man, the Master Jesus, coming here into your midst as a perfected man, afire with the light of the Christ spirit – as a man, warm in humanity, gentle, understanding you and your every need, understanding your problems and difficulties, your disappointments and your fears. He comes with arms outstretched and is encompassed by shining angels. These are they who have passed through great tribulation, and who are now free, and robed in the glory of the Christ. Yes, Christ is risen! Christ cannot be dead. Christ is life and light and perfection in human and heavenly life.

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This, beloved, is the esoteric meaning of the crucifixion. So when the Easter season comes round again and many thoughts cling to the agony and grave, think of the heavenly places, and remember that the Lord, the Great Being, the great vehicle of the Christ spirit glorifies and blesses you, and triumphs with you over the darkness and sorrow of earthly life.

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:

Jesus walks the earth today, individual crucifixions raise the vibration of the whole, initiations, eternal life, karma, master soul

