

Harvest Festival

A208 Sunday Address 4th September 1949 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest Festival 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, October 1949

Context: although October feels to have been a more regular month for addresses with a harvest theme White Eagle here speaks of the fruits and vegetables before the altar with just a hint of novelty – implying that 1949 was a pilot year, rather than in an already-established pattern, for a harvest service. Thus it is reasonable to believe that this address was given in September and published in October that year. There is a rather beautiful editorial in the issue in which it appeared, about the golden colours of autumn. It would appear from a reference that one of the hymns, probably the traditionally quiet hymn before White Eagle spoke, was ‘Breathe on me, breath of God’, with words by Erwin Hatch, based on John 20 : 21-22. The reading, we are told, was the Parable of the Talents, which occurs in both Matthew (25 : 14-30) and in Luke (19 : 11-27).

General Notes: White Eagle makes it clear that Harvest is a new manifestation of an ancient equinoctial festival. In Celtic regions of Britain it is still celebrated as Lughnasa. There is a striking thought in the middle of the teaching. ‘You also are as a Mother Earth’. White Eagle also applies the Parable of the Talents to the position of his listeners – if true to his word, they will carry forward the spiritual truths they learn. There is also a useful paragraph distinguishing the soul and the spirit.

References: for the reading, see ‘Context’, above. ‘As you sow, so will you reap’ is from Galatians 6 : 7. The twenty-four elders around the throne of God are described in Revelation 4 : 4; they cast their crowns before God in 4 : 10. The penultimate sentence refers back to Psalm 100 : 4: ‘Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise’.

White Eagle’s Address:

You may not realise it, but we can assure you that you can breathe into your whole being, including your physical body, a spiritual element, or a power already known to many of you as the source of true healing, a power which raises your consciousness above the level of material matters, enabling you to hear the voice of the great teachers, the voice of the spirit.

‘Breathe on me, breath of God!’ – breath of good, all good, all truth! When man consciously in-breathes this spiritual life-force he spontaneously lives the life of brotherhood with all creatures and spontaneously reacts to the inspiration of God’s breath. We know, my children, of no better way of opening the soul and the spiritual bodies to the inflow of God’s light and power than to give forth continual praise and thanks to the Creator for all life’s gifts.

We see here before the altar a demonstration of God’s and of man’s giving. Here is your Harvest Festival; for those who have given to this collection of produce have been instruments of the Great White Spirit demonstrating the law of giving, and of brotherhood. It may seem little enough to you to bring a few flowers, some fruit, or vegetables to this festival, but by so doing you are manifesting or making plain God’s will to man. God’s will is that man should never withhold goodwill, love and brotherhood from any living creature.

This is no modern festival, but has been celebrated throughout the ages. We have memories of grand equinoctial ceremonies when the fruits and the harvest were gathered in, and our whole people gave praise to the Great White Spirit for life itself – for each harvest actually

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meant another lease of life to the people in those days. We were taught to look upon the earth as the great Mother, or symbol of motherhood. Mother Earth produces food for all her children, yet of herself she is unable to produce this food. She is dependent upon the lord of the sun, for not until the sun warms the earth does seed germinate, grow and produce a harvest. Without sun there could be no harvest. The children of earth were taught these simple truths by their wise men, by those great ones who came from afar, some even from another planet. This is taking you a long way back. Suffice it to say that the children of earth in the beginning received their knowledge from teachers who, being wise and good, were able to demonstrate to them, not only by the quality of their harvests but by the richness of their Spiritual power, that they should give thanks to a spiritual sun, which is the actual life-force behind the physical sun. They learnt then, from their wise teachers, that the sun was the actual giver of life; and the mother opened herself to receive the sun's rays, and after nurturing the seed within her womb, in due season brought forth the fruits of the earth.

You are blessed indeed – although you do not think so – to be living in this time and age. Confusion may exist in the outer world, but you must learn to see with the eyes of the spirit; to see behind apparent conflict the dawning of a new day. You stand on the fringe of a mighty spiritual manifestation. But you must search for it, and you yourself must be a channel for this manifestation. You must remember that you also are as a Mother Earth, and that within you lies a seed, implanted by the light from heaven. For the Eternal Light which bringeth forth all life is continually giving forth spiritual rays to which you are able to respond. If you open your consciousness to this spiritual baptism, and only if you thus open, will you produce the fruits of the new age; the fruit of the new world.

We think that harvest time demonstrates one of the great laws of life, not only a physical, but a spiritual law. For all teachers throughout all time have given an identical message: As you sow you will surely reap. This is a demonstration of the law of cause and effect. As you sow means that as you think, you speak, as you write you are sowing seeds. On this account we cannot too strongly emphasise the importance of sending forth only constructive thoughts and words, as well as being constructive in action; that is, wisely constructive for the good of all mankind, not just concentrating upon some small group such as a family circle. For as you personally sow, as you nationally sow, as you internationally sow, so the world will reap the harvest.

We would like to emphasise another point. We have listened to a reading on the Talents, which tells us that those men who received the talents from their Master – those who had the greatest blessing in return – had first learnt how to make the best use of their blessing. The one who had received only a small blessing of one talent failed to value even that. People still puzzle over this parable. We can only say that it is of the utmost importance for any man who has received knowledge to make use of that knowledge, and not to bury it, and especially at this present time. People hesitate to speak about the truth which has been revealed to them. By so doing they bury the light of truth. My children, you undertake a grave trust, particularly you who are listening to our words. Your responsibility will be to make use of the gift of knowledge which has been given. Do you think that such demonstration came for your own particular and private benefit? Because if you do – if you cover up your one talent, and bury

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it, in future days you will find that you have lost your talent; which means that in some future life, possibly on this earth, you will have lost your spiritual awareness. For there are people (we have spoken with them) who are now most earnestly regretting that they failed to use the spiritual vision which was entrusted to them in the past.

Do not accept such gifts, my children, without due thankfulness. Do not take things for granted. Realise that the smallest faculty, be it psychic or spiritual, or a gift of the mind, or a gift of expression in art, music or literature, or writing, is your particular talent; and that it has not been entrusted to you for yourself alone. It is not yours merely to earn daily bread with. It is entrusted to you as a talent to be used for the blessing of your brother man. Therefore make yourself a clear channel for the pouring through of the divine light of the Sun; for, as we told you before, mother earth receives the sunlight which stimulates and causes the seed to grow; and you, each in your degree, are that mother earth. When God has given man the seed, no matter whether it be a seed to plant, or whether it be a spiritual seed – which means some spiritual attainment of the soul – remember it is for future sowing. Your spiritual seeds are given to you, not to keep to yourself, but to sow again in life, so that others may benefit from your sowing.

The earth, the mother, is a symbol of the *soul* of man; the sun, the *spirit*, is a symbol of the Christ-light, which again is the seed planted in the heart of every man, woman and child. The purpose of man's life is to bring forth this child, the Christ child, that the earth may be peopled with happiness. God does not intend mankind to sorrow, to a life of wretchedness [*sic*]. God has given life to His sons and daughters that they may enjoy greater glories. It is therefore our duty – yours on earth, ours in spirit – to help in the harvesting, the bringing forth of the new fruits of the spiritual life upon earth.

In Revelation there is a passage which tells of the twenty-four Elders around the Throne of God. The twenty-four Elders may be symbolical of the souls who have achieved, who have attained the divine illumination of spiritual realisation. They are crowned with the golden crown of perfect life.

When you are filled with the power of the spirit in your particular degree (even as the Elders around the Throne were filled with the divine light to a much greater degree), there is no way other than to give back your harvest. The man who becomes spiritually illumined, who has found the joy of spiritual inspiration and love, must give and give and give to his fellow man. He cannot do otherwise; he must give back to God that which is God's, even as the twenty four Elders around the Throne cast down their crowns before Him – meaning that when the soul has attained fullness of knowledge, of understanding and glory of the soul it can but give back again that which it has received, so loving has it become. This act of giving and thanksgiving may bring a wonderful blessing into your lives.

Those who want to be healed, open your hearts and give thanks to God for His gifts to you.

Let us enter into the courts of the spirit with raise and thanksgiving and glorify God's life on earth.

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May the power of God's love be with you all and the peace of the tranquil mind and spirit
abide with you always. 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:*

*spiritual life force, ancient celebration, harvest the blending of Mother and Father God;
humanity to bring forth the New Age; purpose of life: become channels of light and truth and
share with others.*

