

The Ancient Religion of Brotherhood

A396 Sunday Address 12th November 1967 St Mary Abbots Place, London
Remembrance Sunday

Text: MB typescript, a very pale blue carbon, with annotations in different hands, one of which (most unusually) is GEC's. GEC's corrections do not seem to be corrections back to what was actually said, rather to simpler or better phrasing, and thus even given their source they have been ignored here. At one point MB was uncertain whether to type 'Arthur' or the more mystical form 'Artor', and we have chosen the latter. At some point in time this address carried the title 'Brotherhoods in Britain', but that seems to relate more to a section at the end which was reproduced as a recording. The history of this recording is not currently known.

Context: MB seems progressively to have added detail about the services. Here, she says, 'The Altar was tastefully adorned with gold and white roses on either side of the Cross on which beautiful red roses were intertwined. White Eagle's Choir robed in white with dignity and grace processioned to their seats immediately previous to the entrance of dear Minesta and dear Faithful. The latter introduced the first hymn, 'For all the saints' (*Songs of Praise*, no. 202). Minesta's Invocation was, MB says, recorded elsewhere. Introducing the reading, Brother Faithful said, 'It is true that the congregation tonight vastly outnumbers we people who were within these four walls'. His reading was from the book *HEALING*, chapter 4, 'The Mind in the Heart' (the actual reference being p. 32, third paragraph, to p. 33, first paragraph, presumably inclusive). This section of the chapter is about the ancient centres in Britain, something about which Brother Faithful, the editor of the book, felt passionately. There was then the hymn, 'For those we love within the veil' (no. 289). After the prayers, the Choir offered the anthem 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace'. As usual, MB describes it as 'beautifully rendered'. The words are from Isaiah and they are commonly sung to the simple hymn tune from the Scottish Psalter, 'Duke's Tune'. At the end of the service, doubtless on account of the references to Britain, the final hymn was changed from no. 76 ('It came upon the midnight clear' to 'Jerusalem' (no. 446). Once again, Minesta's final words of benediction were recorded separately. The theme of brotherhood, heard so strongly in this address, also pervaded White Eagle's previous addresses, his dedication of the Reading Lodge on 4 October and his harvest address at New Lands on 1 October. White Eagle describes at the end a shower of golden rose petals – he had used the same symbol a year previously (13 November 1966).

General notes: there is an interesting account at the beginning of the talk about how White Eagle uses his medium, using a very physical analogy of electrical equipment. Entering upon the subject of remembrance, though, he gets very close to human emotion in speaking of the double-sided nature of sorrow and joy. White Eagle says he is making a very special point in this address: 'the action of nature upon your soul'. The reason, he says, is that it was how the Sun-beings communicated with, brought their teaching to, humanity at the beginning of time. White Eagle goes on to show that it was in this way that the awareness of Divine Mother grew; but equally central to the ancient wisdom is the knowledge that all life is Oneness; there is nothing outside the 'grand family' of life. Lastly, this is why the original religion of Earth was simply brotherhood – the recognition of the oneness of things. As a Remembrance address, the whole teaching, until the penultimate section, is more about thankfulness – to souls who have advanced humanity throughout the ages – than about the more traditional themes, and it is unusual in this respect. Then, quite suddenly, we are in true Remembrance mode, with an account of what those who have passed on, not necessarily in war, are doing now, and how close they are. But there is a section yet to come, the one which was excerpted for the recording (see Text, above) which is about the history of brotherhood in Britain – particularly as exemplified and led by the great Arthur, although the significance of the city of Winchester, just twenty miles west of New Lands, is also stressed. There is a great call for Britain to forget its present uncertainties, to rise and accept its true destiny, its spiritual power deriving from such times as that of Arthur. Then we go back to traditional Remembrance for two minutes' silence.

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References: White Eagle refers to and quotes the popular poem 'God's Garden', by Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932). He also refers to the opening words of St John's Gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word'. The 'Isle set in the silver sea' is a quotation from John of Gaunt's famous speech in Shakespeare's *Richard II*. There is a reference at the end to remarks White Eagle made a year before about the light being already lit (the typist's word here is 'burning' but it is one of Minesta's alterations – she has put 'born' instead of 'burning'. Search of the Remembrance address for 1966 does not reveal a very obvious remark to which White Eagle might have been referring.

White Eagle's Message:

Beloved, beloved brethren of the earth life, we speak to you from the spirit. We mean by this that we use this physical instrument as you may use any physical instrument which you have on the earth plane to make a record of sound, of speech. We use this instrument in a similar way. And by the power of the spirit and the mind we concentrate upon the golden microphone which some of you may see at the back of the head. And we *think* very forcibly and very powerfully into the centre of light. And we direct the sound of voice so that you on earth may hear what we are thinking and what we would speak to you

Now, in the age which is upon you there will be many investigations into the possibility of life existing beyond the physical death of the body. Many of you already know this. But our message to you tonight is about this life, this future life, both at the physical level or the material level which is being lived by you, as well as ourselves at the level of the spirit – spiritual life.

Now, you have met in this sanctuary tonight in a service of remembrance. Remembrance is a most important function. Have you ever thought what life would be like if we had no power of remembrance? You would be robbed of one of the most beautiful gifts which the Creator has given – the power to remember.

And whilst we are speaking of remembrance, in connection with simple humanity and the ordinary man in the street we would call your attention to all kinds of memories. Some of you may think that memories are too sad to contemplate. Yet memories hold the sweetest happiness, even if the memories are sad, because joy and sorrow are twins. And in sorrow, in grief, the human soul registers a beauty which can only be described as joy. You talk about a bitter sorrow and a joyful sorrow, but there is always an element of beauty in sadness, and there is always an element of sadness in joy. And so we see that these two aspects of life come together in memory bringing to the human soul beauty. We would like you to think about this.

Now, when you take your mind into the land of memory, shall we call it – or, we prefer to say, the Infinite – a beautiful garden of the spirit. Now, any one of you if you meditate at all, or even if you just sit and dream and contemplate, you will find that your thoughts will come more easily if you in imagination enter a beautiful peaceful garden; or even if you go physically into the countryside and dwell on the beauties of nature. The poet will tell you that you come very close to the heart of God. And God is nearer one's heart in the garden.

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We want you to remember this, the action of nature upon your soul and upon memory. It is very important, and we will tell you why. In past ages, oh, in the dim past, in the beginning of life as it is known on this Earth planet, there came – we have told you this before – there came beings from afar, from outer space. Oh yes, oh yes, they came. And they came to help young humanity on this earth plant to learn how life should be lived. They were taught, humanity; humanity was taught in that – we are going to call it – the Garden of Eden. But this is symbology, of course. But they were taught the laws of living. How to live in a physical body on a physical plane of life, healthfully, happily. And they were taught the mysteries of higher things, of Invisible Beings, the mysteries of Heaven.

And part of this mystery was the power and the help which man could receive in his daily life by understanding the laws of nature. Now, some will tell you that nature is just automatic action. It goes on under a law. But what law, we ask you? *In the Beginning was the Word* – and the Word was a vibration, it was a sound, and it was reverberated in a circle. The earth is a circle. It may expand and expand or contract. But we suggest to you that you think of life as a circle of light in which you are encased, or unfolded. You all live in the Word in this circle of light and power and protection.

Now, we are putting a very simple truth in unusual words. But let us go back to the beginning when humanity received from the God-men, or the men who came from outer space. They received from them the basic law of life, and they were taught to reverence the Divine Spirit, which later on was called the heavenly Father. And they were taught to reverence the Mother, the creative power of form.

Now any of you who are students of the ancient ways will know that the mother was venerated by the simple people of the past, because in the mother they saw the symbol of birth. It was from the mother that life came forth. Mother created form and the form was used by the Divine Spirit, the Father. And the mother, the Divine Mother, or the early mother, was the creator of all form, not only human form, but all the form that there is on this earth planet was created and birth was given to it by the Divine Mother. And this is why the ancients worshipped the Mother God. You must have those two aspects of life. And the ancients were taught this simple and yet profound truth.

Now, they were taught something else besides this. They were taught that all the creatures which were born on the earth were all part of those two, Father–Mother God. Therefore they understood, these simple people of the ancient days, that life was one grand family, and that all creation existed with that divine and illimitable circle. Therefore, all life is as one. All men are brothers.

Now, from this simple truth the first religion ever known on this plant was instituted. And it was the religion of brotherhood, brotherhood of the spirit.

Now, we skip the ages and we come down nearer to your time, but not very near it. And if you ready the history of the different peoples on the earth plane you will find that these brotherhoods, these holy brotherhoods existed in all parts of the world.

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Now, this is the Cosmic Law, the basis of natural and spiritual life – brotherhood. In the spirit world you will discover when you come how the human people really in the spirit meet in their Lodges, and they worship and serve as a vast brotherhood.

Now, all this seems a long way from our original words about remembrance. We want to explain to you that when you look back over life, and remember what you yourself as an individual have received as a result of the service and sacrifice and love of brothers who have existed long before you were ever born in your present state of life. Let us remember, let us remember all the service we and you have received from the brotherhood of life; from all the saints and sages who have lived to serve God and to serve man. For if it had not been for the lives of these sainted ones and these Christed ones, life as it is known on this earth planet would not exist. You all owe your life, your existence and everything that you enjoy today in your physical life, you owe it to the servers of the past, to those who have put mankind before themselves. Those men and women who have lived to serve God first of all, and then to serve the country in which they lived, and then to serve their friends and comrades.

Now this is a very great truth, my friends, and vitally important for every man to understand, every man to recognise. No man can live to himself, for man is dependent upon his comrades, upon his brethren. It is a thought. Therefore, today we meet in remembrance of all those men and women in past years who have given their lives. Not only have they given their physical life in sacrifice by death, but they have given their lives unselfishly and in service to all mankind.

Let us remember all these who have given to us life – and more than life, they have given to us this spiritual evolution which we are now beginning to benefit by. Now, when you look back over the past years in your own country you will recognise how this nation has developed. You may not agree with this at the present time, but you will see it, you will see it. You will see how the spirit in your own people has evolved and developed through pain and suffering and sacrifice.

Now, there has been a question coming up to me as we have been talking to you. And it is about those who have left the physical body through war, who were killed in the war, or died of disease through war, or war conditions. What are these friends and loved ones doing now? Now, this is a pertinent question that anyone on earth would like to know. A large percentage of people pretend, *pretend* to dismiss it by saying they are not alive. What is he doing, what is she doing? This is the question.

Well, we answer briefly to start with. Most – when we say *most*, we have a reason – most of those friends and dear ones who have discarded the physical body are still living in exactly the same way as they lived with a physical body. And there are many interests in the spirit world, many activities. The young enjoy their games. The boys with their motor vehicles still use them if they want to. The boys who enjoyed flying their instruments through the air, they can still operate those instruments, those – what do you call them – those aeroplanes, if they want to. You see, life in the spirit world (in the spirit) is a replica of life on the physical plane. The bodies they use are merely replicas of the physical body in which they have created soul matter – higher ether – but to them, just as solid as the physical body which they vacated.

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Now, what we want to tell you all tonight is this, that the life in the spirit world, in that Eternal and Infinite Garden, is very, very close and interpenetrates your own physical life. Oh so close, so close are they with you now, my friends. Your memory plays a great part in giving them joy and happiness, because when you remember them and thankfully and joyfully; and you imagine them, or picture them as you knew them in health and vigour and happiness, that thought of yours, that memory of yours goes to them instantly and they know it – that you are with them. There is no distance, no separation.

Now tonight, we assure you that there is a host of shining men and women, shining souls with you here and your own nearest and dearest if you are thinking of them as alive come very close to you, close than breathing: right inside your soul, they are with you.

Now, this is the life, the life which is being lived at the level of soul, the soul life, the life in the higher ether. We do not know in what way to describe it to you, because it would be useless for us to use, even if we could, scientific terms; but we cannot. We can only give you a picture. And we can only assure you that the picture we give you is a true one. It is as we see it ourselves, and know it. And the proof of this continued life is being given to you all the time. But many, many people deliberately shut it out and will say, 'I had a thought of old – shall I say – Thomas or a friend that they had. I had a thought of him, I imagined he came back. Of course it was all nonsense, all rubbish, and I put it in on one side.' But we say to you that these impressions that you receive from those who have passed out of the physical body are true impressions. And they come to you from that vast brotherhood of life at a higher level.

Now, to complete our talk with you tonight, we want to refer you to the reading with which you opened this Remembrance Service, the reading about the ancient centres of Britain. Remember that we have referred to the brotherhoods which were formed in many parts of the world, but we are speaking now particularly of these ancient brotherhoods which were formed in Britain.

Now they were not necessarily, indeed in the early days they were not associated with any particular church or any particular religion. They were just brethren drawn together by the power of God and by their mutual aspiration towards God and nature, Mother Nature. And these brethren formed communities and they made a big contribution to the development and the growth and evolution of mankind.

Now, you heard in the reading a reference was made to the ancient City in the West, the City which is associated with one of the great brotherhoods of Britain. The leader, the king at the time was called Arthur. Now do not think that Arthur came for the first time as the king in Britain to reside in Winchester. Now that name is associated with another and an even greater king, a king who lived – shall we say – at one time in the distant past in a continent which is unknown today, that continent in the northern spheres known to some as Hyperborea. Now, from that Continent there came forth this Great Being, one of those to whom we have already referred in our earlier talk, Artor. We find him again in [... word or phrase missing] of time referred to in the reading tonight, because it was King Arthur. And you all know the good he

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did to this country of Britain. How he served his people, how hard he worked for their education and their development.

Now, at that centre, Winchester, great power accumulated and was built up. He was the centre of that power. Now your history will tell you a great deal about fighting, etc. We want you to think of the spirit of that man and his radiation of light and truth from his early teens, and from this ancient brotherhood.

Now, there are many confused stories about the brotherhood of Arthur and the knights of the Round Table. We want you to go deeper, deeper than this, beyond the physical appearance, and learn of the centre of spiritual truth which then existed and was established in this land. Now, that radiation from the centre went very far, travelled all over Britain. Consequently there were many others who were inspired by this light, this invisible power, this truth, this beauty. And other groups were formed all over this beloved island, this Isle set in the silver sea.

Behind us now, my friends, this power, this light is at work. And you will see in spite of appearances which seem to be so disheartening for many of you today, you will see this light shining through the hearts and minds of your countrymen.

Now, this is our special message to you tonight. Britain appears to be at the present time in great need of strength and help. Many pessimists may think that her power, her usefulness in the world, is fading away. Not at all, my children, not at all. And we are come with this message to you that, within the soul of Britain, is this power, this light, which will raise your country up again to be a spiritual and mental leader of the whole world, not a country with great possessions and the enslavement of peoples, but a country free, blazing with light. A country to whom the rest of the world will turn. Now this does not seem likely now, but you will see – for as we told you twelve months ago – the light is burning, the light is burning. And as soon as the young people turn their interest to the beautify of spiritual truth, as soon as the old discard that which is outworn and finished, having served its purpose, and all are willing to march onward and upward towards the spiritual light and truth, towards the truth and the purpose of life on earth, then this country of yours will be like a blazing Star in your world of physical matter.

Britain is alive, it is alive. And the fire of the spirit is in men's hearts. And men and women respond in simplicity and in truth to the blessing of the Great White Spirit, to the heavenly Father and the great Mother of all life. Let all men awaken and pursue their investigation into life eternal, life after death and the life of the spirit here, now, whilst in a physical body. Man must be true to the light within his heart, to the light of Britain which is shining, and which has shone in the hearts and lives of all those noble souls, saints and teachers and servers in the past, soldiers of the King, the spiritual King, the heavenly King. These are the battles that have to be won, the battle of the spirit over the darkness and despair and sickness and suffering brought on by man himself – not inflicted on man by God.

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Follow the Star, dear brethren, follow the Star. And rise in spirit and fight the battle of spirit over the destruction of the lower mind and the ugliness which now prevails on the physical plane. Make your stand for truth, for beauty, for love and for the great brotherhood of all life.

Now, let us remain silent for two minutes, aspiring to that golden world of truth and light. And in that golden radiance there gradually comes descending upon you all, like a heavenly blessing, a shower of golden rose leaves: the symbol of a new life, a new way to establish goodwill on earth, kindness to all creatures.

You, my children, now receive the baptism of the golden petals which fall upon you from the King of Love.

There are thousands and thousands, countless numbers of spirit beings who now assemble here with you, for you are in the spirit now, with the companions of your spirit....

We remember. We remember.

We would serve as you have served.

My Thy grace be established in the hearts of all this vast family on earth.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Brother Faithful:

We are changing our hymn from 76 to no. 446, 'Jerusalem'. The battle for Jerusalem is fought by the soldiers of the King. Jerusalem.

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:

spirit world, life after death, rebirth, reincarnation, spiritual contact, guidance, heavenly temple, cause and effect, garden of reunion, poetry, natural world, wildlife, creation, mother goddess, divine feminine, ancient Britons, ancient faiths, adam and eve, communities, ancient brotherhoods, ancient civilisations, Arthurian legends, chalice, grail