

The Nature of God

A313 Sunday Address 1st February 1959 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday service

Text: typescript by MB, a blue carbon copy, no markings. It does not seem to have been published.

Context: second service of the year, actually at Candlemas. MB gives the reading as the 28th chapter of the Aquarian Gospel and describes the subject: 'Jesus speaking on the unity of God and the brotherhood of life'. There is a comment by IC reproduced at the end.

General Notes: after the January addresses focused so much on spirit being the reality, this one is much more about the experience of finding God and subjective experience of the Presence of God. In this discussion there is a particularly beautiful passage about the soul finding God: it is the paragraph that begins, 'Now it depends upon man's unfoldment and progress as to whether he can see God in form, in a human form.' There seem to be reminiscences here of a line of teachers such as those that culminated in Yogananda – whom GEC may have met in 1936. The communion given is particularly beautiful, too.

References: as in the 25 January address, 'from labour to refreshment and from refreshment to labour' is a classic masonic phrase. Masonic imagery continues with 'squaring your building' and making the temple. The 'gentle rain that droppeth from heaven' is an indirect (possibly unconscious) allusion to the similar line in Shakespeare's *THE MERCHANT OF VENICE*, Act 4, scene i, line 2. 'It takes a God to see a God' is one of the phrases that White Eagle loves to quote, but no source has been found; sometimes Emerson is suggested. White Eagle slightly misquotes St Paul's statement about rewards in heaven at the end: it should actually read 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him' (1 Corinthians 2 : 9).

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved children, whoever you are, whatever you are, remember that we are all in the Presence of God. We hope that every one of you here this night will realise this Presence.

As we speak to you, we ourselves can feel a mighty power and a sweet pure power which is descending upon all. And as the individual is able to remain still and quiet, he or she will feel this Holy Presence enfolding you and pulsating within you.

Have you ever heard us speak of the aspirant, the neophyte who sought the teaching of a sage? He went to this wise man and said to him, 'Teach me about God'. There was silence. He waited for a little while and again he said to the sage, 'Teach me about God'. And still there was silence. A third time the aspirant asked the wise man to teach him about God and the reply was, 'I am teaching you God is in the silence. God is everywhere. God is within your heart. God is in the world. God is in all nature. God is everywhere.'

Now, during this Age of Aquarius, the age of spirit and development of the mental qualities, the age of science, there is a great tendency for the intellect to try to disown God; to try and prove to weaker intellects that God – as a Being, a Divine Being and a Spiritual Power – does not exist. But if any individual will have the humility to pause and go into the silence of his own heart and review his life, he will find and will admit that a mysterious power has guided his life. A mysterious power works in a most mysterious way to smooth the pathway. He has to admit that there is something, even if you only call it law, which is governing life.

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Many people think – they admit – that there is a power, an intelligence which is behind all form. It is a power which works through nature and directs nature's development, but it is quite divorced from human emotion and human love.

Many, and there may be some of you here who seek diligently to comprehend God or a Divine Being [*sic*]. And you may have arrived at the conclusion that there is a Divine Intelligence, a cosmic force which is governing the universe, keeping the stars on their course and the earth planet in its place – causing life to continue and enabling man by the development of his brain power to discover more and more the secrets within the earth and in the earth's atmosphere. All very well, but the question is what has all this to do with the individual? Now, the individual soul, so often, if not at all times, pursues a lonely path, and almost certainly there are times when the soul of man is in the depths of darkness, despair and loneliness. But again, there are times when the soul of man is uplifted. Whatever the degree of the spiritual development of the soul, it knows there are times when it is on top. It feels on top of the mountain and all life is a joy. But that state cannot last. It is only a glimpse into the higher state to which – towards which – man is journeying. Now we speak of the life after death.

Now as we speak on this matter we have a friend by our side who wishes to send loving remembrance to one who is in the congregation, because she says it is the anniversary of her passing from your world to the world of spirit. He who is present will know from whom this message comes; a message of love, remembrance and encouragement.

Now, dear brethren, when a soul comes over onto our side of life or to our state of life, it does not immediately change and find God if it has not made some progress on the earth plane towards the understanding of the Great White Spirit. Remember this, that when you come over to our world in the beginning, at the first step on the astral, or maybe the lower astral plane, life appears to be very similar, if not exactly the same as, the earthly life. And very soon the spirit of your loved one meets friends and teachers and is able to learn quite rapidly of those basic principles of life which you are learning now whilst you are on the earth plane. Do remember that there are many degrees of life in the spirit world, the same as there are on your earth – many different ways of life. There are even different people, different nationalities and different countries. This is in the beginning when the spirit comes over from the earth plane.

But it begins to learn in due course through the guide of the spirit and the guardian angel which every soul encounters in course of time that it has a goal. It realises that it is on a journey. The soul discovers that it is journeying onward. This is a puzzle to many people, particularly our dear brethren who call themselves Spiritualists. They say, 'Why is it when we are in the spirit world [and] we are journeying onward and upward you people come back to earth, you guides come back, and tell us that we shall have to be reincarnated?' And they cannot endure the thought of reincarnation.

If you can look upon life as a journey and you are journeying towards a divine goal, you will readily accept the truth that your journey will take you from labour to refreshment and from refreshment to labour. In other words, you come to the earth to labour, but it isn't all labour.

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God has given you a certain amount of joy intermixed with your work. Life is work and you are given working tools in your earthly life: tools which are within your soul, working tools which will enable you to square your building, to make the temple that you are destined to create and to make it perfect.

Now these tools perfect the character. We may name some of these tools. The most effective is love, and then faith. You must have love to work effectively upon the temple of the soul. You must have faith. What is faith? Faith is an inward knowing, an inward knowing that God is with you and that the power of God is in you.

And also, you have received, and are always receiving, knowledge. Where do you think all the ideas that come to you come from? Of course, some people say, 'my brain'. The brain is an organ which works under the power and the direction of its Creator, and you are not the Creator of your brain. The power of the Creator works through man's brain.

Now in the invisible worlds, the worlds from which you have come and to which and towards which you are journeying, are those servers or servants of God – servers of the human race, those who have advanced farther along the path or the journey of life than man on earth. And these servants, under the direction of the Creator and by the will of God, broadcast to the earth certain ideas. Man picks them up because man is an instrument of the spirit, whether he admits it or not. He receives exactly as your television and radio receive the waves in the atmosphere. Man receives from the air, from the creative sphere. He receives ideas. Haven't you noticed how an idea, a fresh idea, is suddenly propounded by a number of people at the same time? You see this power of God is at work everywhere and at all times.

What we feel sure you will like to hear is this: that as you, by faith and love, prepare yourself for initiation into the inner mysteries, so will you draw closer, ever closer, to God.

Now man has to learn to live in harmony with nature's laws, God's laws, because nature is God at work. Nature is the vehicle or the expression of the Great Mother, the Divine Mother. And God is the expression of Divine Will or Energy. Nature is receptive to the power of the Sun [and] to the power of the Light; receptive to the blessing of the gentle rain that droppeth from heaven. Do remember these two aspects, the positive and negative. The Father and the Mother – the Divine Energy – and the forces, two elements, two aspects of life always at work to create and to perfect.

The question that you will ask, [that] some of you are asking, is [is] God just a Force, an Energy, a Power, or is God a Person? Do we accept, do we teach of an anthropomorphic God as did the ancients? O dear brethren, when you come to the spirit world your question will be answered. One of the first realisations which a soul has after the second death (which means the falling away of all material and mental confusion and arrogance) is a vision of the Creator, a vision of God; of the love of God and the wisdom and the beauty of God. And all these qualities are implanted in man.

Now it depends upon man's unfoldment and progress as to whether he can see God in form, in a human form. Are you clairvoyant, have you the clear vision, have you entered into the

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state which our brethren in the East describe as *samadhi*? If you have, you will know God as formless and Absolute Life. You will also know God in the shining face of the brother or sister who draws close to you. You will recognise God in the beauty and perfection of the Christ form. You will know God in the shining eyes and the sweet smile of your Master or Guru. You will see God in form in the delightful happiness and joy of a child. And also you will see God in form in the eyes of a dearly loved animal, either domestic or otherwise. How do you suppose the sages are able to control the passions and the fears of so-called wild animals? Because they recognise God in the animal. They speak to the God in the animal. They draw out the God and all the wild fears of the animal are subdued.

You know these things happen. You don't need a spirit from the spirit world to tell you these things. You know that man, by love, by recognising the God life in all creatures, can control an animal. One of the great philosophers of your world said, 'It take a God to see a God'. It takes the God in man to see God in all creatures and all peoples. So many different religions [exist], but there is only one God. There are many approaches to God, but God is the same yesterday, today and for ever. God is Spirit, and you are spirit, and therefore you are part of God. There is that affinity in you with your Creator. Therefore when man recognises divine justice in human life, divine love, and learns to attune himself through love and goodwill to his fellow creatures, he has learnt the secret of all life, of healing, of vision. He has to learn how to penetrate the veil between the physical plane and the higher planes of life. God has created you with all the powers, and has given you all the tools necessary to enable you to become perfect and in full consciousness to become unified with God.

So, dear brethren, every effort is worthwhile. Every effort that you make to obey what you have learnt by Divine Law; every effort you make to overcome cruelty in all its forms; every effort you make to help your brother man to respond to the power of goodwill on earth – so will you be making quite good progress on your journey towards that home of bliss and perfect reunion with all whom you love and all who love you. Yes, life may seem to you to be confusing both now in your present conditions and even after death, but we assure you that life should be harmonious. It should be lived in accord with the law of love. Then the Power of God recreates, heals all sickness and brings all that your higher self longs for. But man is a worker. Work! Work! – but after work comes refreshment. As we have said before, 'Eye hath not seen nor ear heard the glories that God has prepared for His sons and daughters in heaven'. Heaven may be on earth. Don't forget, heaven is not removed. Heaven is where you make it.

God bless you, dear ones.

And now, as we prepare to leave you, will you be still? For He comes in human form: the Perfect One, even the Lord, the Cosmic Christ in a higher body than the physical, but a body is here in your midst. He offers you the Bread. Take it and put it in your mouth. And sip, from the chalice which He offers to you, the Divine Wine, the Divine Essence. Sip and feel its glory, its illumination passing all through your being; this is it.

May the peace of the Eternal Spirit possess you, illumine you and show you truth. May it heal you and comfort you now and ever more.

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Amen.

Brother Faithful

We have been hearing about our working tools, the tools which work upon man's spirit. We have been told that faith and love and hope are some of these, but surely knowledge is another valuable working tool – or, a better word than knowledge, understanding. It is understanding of our lives and what we are here for and of the nature of God which tonight has been given to us in full measure. May it be that we shall profit by the wonderful message that we have heard tonight and carry it with us in our souls.

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 unfoldment, spiritual development, light within, communion, spiritual path, path of the soul, holy spirit, new age, God's law, great laws, divine plan, God's plan, trust in God, acceptance, flowing, inspiration, intuition, illumination, enlightenment, mother goddess, inner light