

The Evolution of Bird Life

T119 The Inner Teachings 16th September 1941 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

With one accord and in communion of spirit, let us pray to the Infinite and all pervading spirit of Wisdom, Love and Power—the perfect Trinity of the Godhead—that we may be blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that we may be lifted, raised into heaven as on the wings of angels, so that in this higher consciousness our vision may clear and we may see the truth of the inner life, so that understanding of the divine message may dawn within our souls. We pray that we may seek these things because of our love for God and His Purpose, and for the love of all human life, all created things.

Amen.

We introduce our talk by suggesting the importance of motive, ere we seek knowledge and enter this sanctuary of spiritual communion. In receiving divine revelation, we should seek such experience not for ourselves alone, but that through the increase of light and wisdom which can come during our communion we may be the instruments of the Light and give it forth in daily thought and action, radiate the light of the spirit into the world. Let us pray that our desire may not be for ourselves, but only that we may enter the great stream of God-consciousness, God-conscious life, and work with God to heal the body and soul of the sufferers, to give comfort, consolation and blessing to those in darkness of sorrow and self pity, and in all ways of life to assist in the divine plan for the redemption of all human souls.

Regarding birds and their symbolism, we would draw your attention to the connection between the eagle and the one who was called beloved disciple, St John. Before the Christian Church was established, these two symbols of divine revelation were known and understood by the priests and the sages of the ancient wisdom. These two represent one ray, one life stream, one aspect of the divine life which permeates humanity. According to our school of learning, the phoenix and the eagle are synonymous. The phoenix is representative of the initiate, or the man who dies to the lower and is reborn in the higher self or in the spirit, and the eagle is representative of the Word of God, which was made flesh in God's own image, the Divine Word, which descended from the heavens and was clothed in the flesh. The Divine Word lies within the innermost of every son of God.

Many different types [*sic*] of developing this consciousness within man have been taught throughout the ages by the Sages. Through different ages and in accordance with the zodiacal sign then prevailing, the different methods have been introduced, because each age (roughly two thousand years) brings to the earth a special planetary and angelic influence. Man's* nature, containing all the twelve zodiacal signs, responds according to the rung of the ladder or cycle on the spiral of life on which the soul happens to be.

*[*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

To return to the meaning of the eagle: the white eagle represents the higher aspects of the sign of Scorpio. On earth it is Scorpio—a scorpion; in the heavens it is the white eagle. The soul of man at certain times in its cosmic life—the length of which it is impossible to state—comes under the influence of the sign of Scorpio. These times bring special

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opportunity for spiritual development, for the unearthing of the Divine Spirit in the man. The ancients say that initiation only takes place when the soul is under a powerful influence from Scorpio, or when the soul reacts to the heavenly stream of life-consciousness known as the White Eagle of St John.

We will try to make this deep subject as simple as we can. Many of you are aware of the seven centres of power existing in the body, and of the centre known as kundalini, which holds within its cradle the divine fires of life, or the creative powers. In the more animal types, these creative powers find expression in animal instincts. But remember that they are seats of the God in man; they contain the powers of creation and the powers of aspiration, consummation, transmutation. As man evolves from the animal to the God-made-perfect man, these fires raise man aloft to heaven as on the eagle's wings. All that was centred in the lower instincts is evolving, rising higher in his consciousness, until the man becomes illumined. The word which was once made flesh, or born in man, is thus raised in glory and perfection of God-conscious life. This is the esoteric interpretation of the truth which the white eagle represents. You will find the eagle referred to all through the Bible and many another religious book, in masonic teaching and indeed in all the ancient mystery teachings.

We promised that we would deal with the angelic line of evolution and try to explain how birds and angels are linked on the evolutionary path.

In ancient mythology a bird conveyed the idea of an angelic messenger. Birds were associated with certain soul qualities in man, symbolised a certain aspect in the soul. Certain qualities in the human soul were likened to birds, or birds likened to these qualities. Thus birds played a great part in teaching men of heavenly things, of heavenly qualities. The song of birds—many a neophyte or aspirant after spiritual wisdom would spend long hours listening to the song of birds, studying their habits and learning to interpret the language of birds. In the spirit world, when the soul first comes over, it finds itself in very lovely natural surroundings, in a beautiful sunlit garden, among birds of beautiful plumage and colouring, or the soul will find a lovely sunlit wood and spend long periods communing with the birds; the spirit birds will sit upon the spirit man's hands and shoulders and head. Are there not pictures of saints on your earth surrounded by birds? —an attempt to point out to you that the birds symbolise heavenly qualities, teaching the soul heavenly things, and that the soul of man can learn to communicate with the birds and interpret their songs.

Birds, then, are symbolical of soul qualities, streams of life force from the Godhead, and therefore they form a link between man and God. They have their own special place in the plan, but bird life does not follow the stream of animal evolution. Birds are entirely associated with the nature kingdom, not the human. The spirit of the bird, when it leaves its earthly form, finds life in what is called the fairy world, about which you know so little. It is of little use trying to tell you about the fairy world whilst you are engaged in your material work. Still only a special type of soul can appreciate or understand the life of the fairies or the gnomes, or the great devas which live in an etheric world—not the spirit world—composed of substances less dense than the material world, but denser than the astral and mental planes. Think of the fairy worlds, however, as being just hidden from your vision but interpenetrating

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your earth. Fairy stories tell of how humans are lured away by fairies into their own country (which appears to be actually on the earth plane), but when humans outside the range of etheric life try to explore these kingdoms they are baffled without the aid of these little people. The fairy stories contain a foundation of truth. Once we said we believed in everything, which may have seemed a sweeping statement. Because we know of the many worlds above and beneath your material world—worlds of great beauty—we say we believe in everything. We believe, we know, that what is called nonsense is often all-sense and is true.

When birds die, they are reborn into etheric bodies in the nature kingdom. Without being too definite, they are reborn according to their age, size and consciousness, as fairies, gnomes, or brownies—the little people who populate the etheric worlds, whose work behind the veil of matter is to assist in the growth of flowers and bushes and trees. They are busy the whole day long, but particularly in spring and autumn, carrying the life force from mother earth up the stems into the flowers; they are also busy tidying up in the autumn, when the life is being withdrawn. If your eyes were opened when in the woods you would see little gnomes, anything from one foot or two feet high, dressed in their own choice of clothes, with little brooms, tidying up nature's kingdom. You are living in glorious worlds, full of happy little souls working to assist their divine Creator in the expression of the life forces on earth.

The birds share in this nature kingdom, and as they evolve—it takes a long time—they evolve eventually from lowly little creatures. We are all lowly when first we are breathed forth from God, unconscious of our true estate. We learn God consciousness through a process of spiritual life and experience. Different streams of life force go forth from the heart of God, and whereas some are the children of the Sun, of Sun's rays, others are children of the unconscious rays of life force, and later become redeemed or awakened to their divine origin. But this is a very deep subject, which I must leave for the present.

From the physical, then, birds enter the invisible nature kingdom, and as they evolve higher, become spirits of the air, or spirits of the fire, or spirits of the great seas. Eventually they become what are called angels or devas, and continue to evolve until they pass through solar initiation and become planetary beings. These angelic beings work in harmony with the Lords of Karma, and the great angels around the throne of God, for the evolution and redemption of humanity. Thus you will see that some angels, according to the life-stream upon which they have been sent forth from the heart of God, evolve through bird life, through the nature kingdom, before they take their place in the great heavenly hosts who watch over humanity.

Q. I have often wondered what meaning the song of birds has for us.

A. It touches hidden vibrations in the soul which can respond to heavenly influences, which can be played upon by the heavenly forces, and helps to strengthen and bring into the consciousness that aspect of the heavenly life with which it is in harmony.

Q. Does it also do something in nature—help to build it up?

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A. A very good question. If you can train yourself in the woodland, shut out all earthly sounds and enter into the innermost in yourself, you will hear sounds, or music, harmonics, and you will get beneath physical sounds and hear the deep musical harmony of nature—but nature *within* nature. In that music, nature spirits have being; these sounds quicken their life force and enable them to receive instruction from their god, not the great Father-Mother but the one at the head of the ray upon which they live. The songs of the birds are the vibrations which assist them to bring forth the fruits of the earth.

The nature spirits work in groups, under direction. Birds are the same; all are controlled by a master mind; nature does not do this or that, or the other, without a directing mind. God is of course the Supreme—but under God are countless millions of master minds who plan, order and control life forces manifesting in physical form and in spheres of life below and above the earth.

Q. Do those who are agents of destruction in their passage through the atmosphere change the magnetic streams round the planet?

A. The flying machines bent on destruction are very unpopular with the air spirits and are often prevented from carrying out their designs, but also there are spirits of the air who will assist if they are working with the forces of darkness. But this evil aerial activity is upsetting the magnetic currents of the earth for the time being. Round the earth is a dark fog, due to man's thoughts, the destruction and violation of all good, and that is why confusion comes in the transmission of messages from the heaven world to the earth.

White Eagle is a peaceful brother. We preach peace, we bring peace, we would restore peace. But there are times when even the spirit must fight the enemy of darkness, of hatred, of ill-will. Unless the people try to see reason, adopt a reasonable attitude, there will be unnecessary suffering to humanity. You can send forth thoughts of goodwill and kindness, pity and compassion; these thoughts will help to lighten the burden of the world. Help people to see that to kill and to take life is wrong. All true teaching from heaven, from the sages, from the Saviour of humanity, declared that war is wrong. Do not delude yourselves by saying, 'This one was right, and that, wrong'. Bloodshed is wrong; it is against the divine law for man to slay his brother. Think in terms of peace, of the coming of peace, and of the brotherhood of nations and of men. Keep your minds focused upon this divine truth, 'Peace on earth, goodwill amongst men'.

Benediction:

Let us wait to receive the blessing of the Most High. May all the powers of the Light bless and keep you safe in the heart of the Father-Mother God.

Amen.

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Astrology, chakra, sacred centres, myth, natural world, flying

