

# Christmas in the Spirit World

A052 Sunday Address 4th December 1938 Pembroke Hall, 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*, January 1939, and carrying the page nos. 315-9, a duplicated version. Headed 'Christmas in the Spirit World' and the date, as in the text. It was also printed in *Angelus* in December 1941.

*Context:* Sunday service. The Christmas carol, 'Away in a Manger', is described as having been sung beforehand.

*General notes:* White Eagle refers to the 'cinematograph', which is the now little-used word for what we would call a movie camera. Towards the end White Eagle retells what he has often told about his own passing on the mountainside, but links it with dawn at Christmas in a particularly beautiful passage.

*References:* the two biblical references to children in the first paragraph are to Isaiah 11 : 6 and Matthew 18 : 3.

## White Eagle's Address:

You wonder why we pause – it is because the strains of that hymn are still vibrating. A child's hymn! Yet it brings to the strongest a tenderness. How wise those words spoken by the Master; 'A little child shall lead them. Until ye become as a little child ye cannot enter the kingdom.' So often we find the clever brain misses the way to the kingdom!

Christmas is a time for children, say you who are parents, or perhaps grandparents, or whatever your relationship to the children. You feel the spirit of Christmas very strongly and you say: 'Well, it pleases the children! Yes, we have a Christmas tree; the children like it!' But you are all children at heart – who amongst you does not like to see the Christmas tree alight with the fairy lights?

In every man's heart is the childlikeness of God. As we have said before, strive to be childlike, not childish. Discriminate between the two – the childishness that is peevishness, smallness; and the childlikeness that is simplicity, humility, a delight in the simple and gracious things of life; to be childlike is to be expressing happiness because you are able to see and appreciate the beauty in trivial things all too often passed by. Are we too childlike tonight, speaking as to children? We speak as from one brother to another – that is all.

We stress childlikeness and simplicity on this occasion because we are going to take you in thought to the spirit world, to the worlds beyond the visible world of matter. Remember that were it not for these spiritual worlds behind, there would be no life at all on earth. Because God called into manifestation the invisible powers was the world created, and life came upon the earth. Man is living both in material and spiritual worlds and to the childlike the vision of the spiritual worlds will be revealed. Children, very young children, are close to the spirit world; it is not difficult for them to see the nature spirits and their spirit companions; nor to see the bright-robed angels. But later in life the children become – would you call it? – sophisticated. This means that the earth mind is taking prominence, dominating the pure spirit mind. When young, the mind is fresh from the realms of spirit, and comes into the earth body bringing memories of those radiant worlds. A few mystical writers retain such memories

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which crystallise into charming fairy stories. Dear ones, these fairy stories contain the germ of truth. The mystical writers, perhaps of the Middle Ages, perhaps of modern times (though few indeed of modern times) bring back to the worldly the germ and beauty of the spiritual worlds. Even some of the ancient Mystery teaching can be traced in the stories. Open your eyes; open your inner mind and endeavour to comprehend.

In the ancient Mystery Schools, many lessons were taught by plays. It was a favourite method of presenting truth to the student. In the future you will find the cinematograph largely used for the purpose. A method – of which the cinematograph is a crude reproduction – is employed in the spirit world to teach the student about past and future lives. All that is past, all that was, is now, and ever shall be. All life is eternal, is here and now; the past is always here and the future also. This you cannot understand with a finite mind. There is no episode which does not register upon the ether and these etheric records can be brought forward by the will of certain teachers and masters and as pictures can be represented to the student.

You may think that we have deviated from our subject; ‘Christmas in the Spirit World’. But no; all the foregoing is to make ready your minds for the picture which we have to describe to you of the festival of Christmas in the Spirit World. Christmas is not a celebration on your earth plane, nor in your particular continent only, but an age-old festival practised long before the Christian era. Rather it was re-presented by the Christian Fathers. Since the creation of the world and of humanity, there has been in existence the promise to mankind of a Saviour. We know that modern thought states that each man must work out his own salvation and man alone is responsible for his life. This to a degree is true. But salvation does not lie within the reason or mind, but in the heart of man; the light which lights every man. This light has always been known to the mystics as the ‘Saviour’, the Son of God. Christmas is a festival of rejoicing because of the re-birth of the Sun, the sun above. The Sun-worshippers of old made great preparation for this festival of the renewal of the Sun’s life and the promise of fruits of the earth for humanity’s sustenance.

There is an inner symbolism to this story, which tells not only of the rebirth of light to the heart of man, so that he treads the path of life not wholly in darkness. When man is in darkness – whether material or darkness of the soul – what is his first cry? ‘The light! Where is the light? I want light!’ And the light is always found, not in the intellect, but in the heart.

Therefore, my dear ones, we see the great need to become childlike, because only through childlikeness can the light within manifest.

Throughout the ages mankind has celebrated this yearly festival. And when the spirit of man leaves the physical body at death, the spirit is still looking for the coming of the ‘Saviour’. The soul does not come into the presence of Christ merely through the change of death, but still the search goes on.

Do you not see the importance of keeping Christmas? People sometimes feel it so troublesome. But those people (bless their hearts) who run away from Christmas because it makes so much work, will not find the joy of Christmas either here on earth nor in the spirit.

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Whilst you are entering into the spirit of Christmas on earth, and striving to celebrate the festival in your heart, and to send out its joy to the lonely and sorrowful, so you create in your own soul the power to enter into the joys of Christmas in the higher worlds, not only after death, but whilst on earth.

Remember this; that you only live half your life here in a physical body. The other half is lived whilst the body is asleep. The astral world is full of earth people who at night journey to a particular home, or place of learning on the spirit side. The only difference between those who have 'died' and those asleep on earth is that the silver line from the soul body to the earth body is severed by death of the physical.

What is Christmas like in the Spirit? Well, there are many, many people in the spirit world. They are not all English, you know; they are not even all Europeans. I am speaking now of the astral planes surrounding the earth to which the soul of man passes immediately the physical body dies. According to their nationality, these souls migrate to their own particular part of the astral plane. The national spirit and the national temperament is preserved for a time. If you passed away and found yourself in a strange country you would say, 'This is not home, I want my own English people, my own country!' As below, so above; as above, so below! Therefore people go at death to what appears to them to be their own country and according to its customs they will celebrate Christmas. There will be the most wonderful parties – I have seen such joy! We are all young, we all like parties. You must not think of us as being very sanctimonious and proper in the spirit world; do not imagine the angels as strolling about playing harps and looking very stately. Even angels smile! Indeed, we often think that the beloved Lord Himself has a keen sense of humour! There is greater fun in the spirit world than on earth.

Imagine the peoples of all ages in a grand temple, a great hall, resplendent with every colour. Instead of the twinkling lights of a Christmas tree, imagine a heavenly rainbow arched within the temple where the great festival of Christmas is being celebrated. Visitors too from other planets assemble in the great hall and sing praises to the King of Kings, the King of all the Solar System, known to you as the Son of God, the Christ Spirit. At Christmas these angels descend to the earth plane and they pour forth over the earth the light and the peace which is known in the higher worlds.

I have known a children's party in the spirit world. Many of the children were from the slums; many children who knew riches, but not of the spirit, and had been lonely and unhappy, starved for love. Such children are drawn together in a great hall of happiness and joy, where games much more beautiful than the games you know on earth are played. The children, full of joy and happiness, play with the little fairies living in the great Christmas pine trees (the pine tree has a great significance) alight with the light of angels and decorated with rare and beautiful toys. Not as your toys are these, but each a symbol, teaching a certain lesson.

And now one more illustration.

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I would like to describe what Christmas has meant to a North American Indian. I remember, so vividly, the passing out from my physical body. Many of you possibly have heard the story of how the Indian brother, an old, old man, nearing two hundred years, journeyed up the mountainside and, on its crown, laid the body down to await death's coming. As a chief, it was covered with the ceremonial robe of white. Thus the Indian brother waited for the coming of the dawn. And with the dawn the great red sun rose on the horizon and to his vision the earth and sky seemed to hold a great multitude of Indian brothers. Then the earth seemed to slip far away. There was no feeling at all of earth. The physical body simply faded away and the newly born brother was only conscious of the rising of the sun and the approaching array of Indian brethren.

Now this picture that I give you was not a picture only of the earth, but one which I have witnessed many, many times at Christmas in the spirit world; the hush over all as we waited in the dimness for the coming of the dawn. It is not really that the light was dim, but rather because of the expectancy of our souls, quickened by the vibrations of the great Lord Who was to visit us during this Christmas festival, that the atmosphere surrounding us appeared to grow dim.

So in the hush we waited and the sunlight gradually spread over the horizon. As the light ascended, the birds commenced to sing, the flowers to send forth their perfume, and the wind, the gentle breeze, seemed to be as music to our waiting hearts. The golden light was shed over the great company and we arose. The sun came nearer and still nearer, so that we could see in the heart of this great ball of light the form, the figure of a man. As he drew close, his eyes became radiant with love and from his raiment poured forth the golden light and we were all bathed in his aura; each one quickened with the spirit of Christ. He stretched forth His hand as we waited in the silence. We felt the touch on head, on shoulder and on heart.

And then the angels broke forth into song, praising and thanking God for this gift of the Christ Spirit.

And this you may also feel – the happiness of Christmas – because your heart is attuned to this great Master of Light.

To those who have lost beloved friends, we say you are not separated at Christmas time, for as you leave your earth body asleep, you journey to the sphere of reunion and there you are united with those you love. You will celebrate your Christmas Festival with them in their homes in the Land of Light.

May you all be happy and remember what we have told you about the happiness and the beauty in the spirit world. Will you too become childlike and give the spirit of Christmas to your brethren on earth? – and you will receive it from the heavenly kingdom, full measure, pressed down and running over.

The Master, the Great White Light, touches your heart with His love and peace.

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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:*

*Christ Mass, trusting, descent, materialism, timelessness, White Eagle's transition, reincarnation, heaven on earth, life after death, astral plane, simplicity*

