

# Life Beyond Death

A120 Sunday Address 6th June 1943 St Mary Abbots Place, 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*, July 1943. It was split into headings as part of the original editing, which may have been substantial.

*Context:* this address undoubtedly pairs with the address dated to 3 May 1943, because of the reference there to Life after Death as an intended topic for the next address. As noted with that address, similar internal references make this a clear series from May to October, where the date is certain.

*General Notes:* a very long talk rather carefully constructed and trying to be comprehensive about its subject.

*References:* Sir William Crookes (1832-1919) was a scientist of enormous repute and the discoverer of the element Thallium, who was also deeply interested in psychical research and became entangled with the medium Florence Cook and her associated spirit Katie King. The Witch of Endor is a woman Saul consulted to summon the spirit of the prophet Samuel in 1 Samuel, chapter 28. White Eagle also refers to the flowers on the altar commemorating an airman who gave his life in the war; this might possibly be the same airman as was commemorated with flowers on Sunday 2 January the next year (1944), though why flowers should have been appropriate on quite different dates of the year is unclear. This may be the same airman mentioned in a published letter in *Angelus* March 1944 (p. 62) and the apparently connected 'Letter from the Spirit World' bearing the title 'The Great Adventure' beginning on p. 63.

## White Eagle's Address:

In response to a request we shall speak tonight on the life after death. Many of you, no doubt justifiably, think you already know much regarding this life. All we can say is that when you have passed through the portals of death into the world of light and truth you will be amazed at the little you once knew. Many of you require no further proof that life continues after death and that in certain conditions and in certain circumstances people return from the spirit world to communicate with the earth. This knowledge, of course, is given to man with a purpose, so that it may enlighten individuals and communities, and thereby bring help and guidance to men and women ready to receive such help and guidance from the spirit world. On the other hand, there may be those who have had no proof of life beyond the grave and who need proof. Others again require no proof because they have reached a certain state of spiritual awareness and so, deep within the soul, they know there can be no death of the spirit and therefore life continues.

## Proof and Truth

With regard to those who require proof. We can only repeat what we once said to a man who asked us to prove to him that we were spirit. In the first place we asked our questioner to give *us* proof that he was himself a spirit; and then to give us proof that there is *no life after death*. This no one can disprove. On the contrary, many thousands have received evidence of life beyond the grave.

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We would then say to any questioner demanding proof that proof cannot be confined to one episode or isolated fact. Were we to produce psychic phenomena at this instant, it would not prove the continuance of your life in spirit. It would not prove that we who are speaking are spiritual beings. Although supernormal powers may be exhibited, they do not prove that the speaker is a spirit. Truth is a revelation of the God within man's own being. Proof is a revelation which comes to the innermost spirit. Then you are assured that certain things are true; but if you are asked to prove these truths to others you would find it very difficult. You can prove them to your own inner satisfaction because the God within you knows truth. Similarly, the God in every man recognises truth of God in his brother man. Therefore, to those who demand proof of a life after death we say: follow your path; follow the light within your own breast, seek revelation, and as surely as night follows day you will accumulate experiences which will to you be absolute proof of a life beyond this earthly one.

Apart from this, we have only to become students of occult sciences and arts to accumulate an inward conviction of the super-physical worlds. We have only to become students of the religions of all the ages and we shall find both in the East and the West the fundamental truth of eternal life, of the continuation of the spirit after death, a proof culminating with, to most of you, the greatest exponent in this past Piscean Age – the great Founder of Christianity. Some say that He neglected this subject of life after death. We say that his whole teaching concentrated upon the fundamental truth that man is spirit, that man when he wills can enter into eternal life. The man who believes on the true spirit, on the spirit of Christ, within his breast would not know death. To demonstrate this truth the master Jesus returned from the world beyond, not only in spirit, but in a form which could be seen and handled.

There are many who are not unfamiliar with like phenomena. Many have seen the spirit form of man after physical death. You have only to investigate the records of Sir William Crookes with the spirit, Katie King, which tells of this return of a departed spirit in a form which could be seen, handled, touched and could speak. Then, in your Bible you have the story of Saul; even though there are some who despise this 'witch' of Endor, not realising that the term in those days meant the *wise* woman of Endor, or channel for the return of the spirit of Saul.

The records of Psychological Research furnish proof heaped upon proof of the return of those who have passed beyond the grave. We would add that our service tonight is dedicated to those in the Services who have passed into the great beyond; the flowers on this altar are placed there by the love of woman for a fine airman who gave his life to mankind during the present war.

This question of life after death has become a burning question in the hearts of millions today. Some feel that their dear ones are swept from their side never to be seen again. They are wrong. We can assure you that the veil between the two worlds is very thin. From now on there will be a continual stream of returns from the spirit world of those men and women who have been called by their fate to lay down their physical bodies in this tremendous initiation (or birth of the Christ spirit in man) which opens the new Age of Brotherhood.

What is the Life Beyond Like?

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A little while ago we were asked what life in the spirit world is really like. My friends, if you journeyed to another continent, and on your return tried to describe that continent, you would largely fail to paint a true picture. Moreover, you would find after a while that your listener was not quite so interested in your description as you had hoped. So also with the many, many books which have been published describing experiences in the higher worlds. As the experiences of each life are individual – individual according to your environment, to your character and your reaction to life – what would be joy to one soul proves only boredom to another. So we can only answer you in this way, that life in the spirit world is very similar to life here on earth, except that the matter which forms the spirit world is not so dense or solid, it is more malleable than earth matter; but at the same time that realm, so close to the physical, would appear as solid to its inhabitants as does earth matter to men. Nevertheless, its atoms vibrate at a great rate than here in the physical world.

The earth life is reflected in the spirit life; but there is a difference: over there, that which is ugly and crude and distasteful becomes intensified, more apparent, more difficult to disguise and conceal. So also with the more beautiful and the more refined life, which expresses art, science, kindness and beauty: all these are also intensified, both in the soul and its surroundings. We find that spirit people are overcome with joy when they see the wondrous beauty of the world, see the Godlike expressed through nature, through art, through music, through science, through healing, through the angelic world and through the nature kingdom. Then they are able to see the *within* of life instead of only the surface. They see this *within* as an expression of God, as an expression of love, beauty, absolute justice, absolute peace, absolute communion and brotherhood. We can find no words to describe the wonder and above all the freedom of the spirit world. No soul fails to note this thing ... freedom to come and go, to move about according to their will or their thought. They have only to think or wish to be in a certain place and they are there. They have only to think, to strongly create in their minds a garden where exquisite flowers bloom and they are within that garden. They have only to think or dream and their thoughts or dreams become their realities.

Remember, their dreams over there are as real to them as your life here is to you. For your life is also but a dream, having little reality. Life after death is a life of greater freedom, of greater opportunity.

Our second point: Greater opportunity, because true aspiration brings opportunity to the soul immediately. While on earth you may dream, hope, aspire; always you are limited on every hand by your environment and fate, or karma. In spirit man is free. If he truly loves God – in other words, if he is endeavouring to express the God within himself – he finds himself in exactly the condition of life that his soul is aspiring to; he finds himself with wide opportunities to learn, to study, to work, or for research. All rich creative joys are opened up. Here we would speak of the *mother* aspect of spirit life, because many women seem ordained to live a life of loneliness, which means they forego the companionship of husband, family and children. In the spirit world a woman has opportunity for all the maternal expression for which her soul craves, even as a man has the opportunity to pursue the creative arts for which he has longed.

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## Do they Eat?

Another question which is frequently asked is 'Do spirits eat?' Many people enjoy eating; if they had to starve in that beyond they would find things somewhat flat, and they would long perhaps to satisfy an innate craving or hunger. Our answer to this is, Why, yes: there is food in the spirit world to be obtained according to the desire and the taste of the astral body – ordinary, normal food. By normal food, we are thinking of the fruits of the earth, the natural fruits, and not of animal food provided by the slain bodies of our younger brethren. But certainly; very beautiful, sustaining and pleasurable food is to be obtained in the spirit world.

## Work in the Spirit World

Our life in spirit is natural, normal and a beautiful existence, but by no means slothful, for the keynote to life in our world is work, is service. When we have gained our balance after leaving the earth, forgotten our surprise at our new surroundings, we are like patients now become convalescent. The question is, what are we going to do? We must work. There is no service without work. Then many channels of service open and the individual may choose which type of work he will accept. Again, the keynote is service. Much waits to be done in the spiritual realms, and some work is concerned entirely with humanity, with the initiation and organisation of great institutions, the direction of governments. New thoughts and conceptions are waiting to be passed through into the educational stream, for education is continually evolving. This may not appear so to you; this is because you are newly awakened. Old-fashioned methods are now dead. You are feeling an impetus towards something wider, more enfolding, more inspiring, more useful in education. You begin to see how outworn are the old methods. We assure you that in the spirit world the future of education is considered and planned. Indeed, this is where all inspiration for reform comes from, although men arrogantly and perhaps naturally take the credit to themselves. Those in the great beyond often wait and labour for a long time to get a man or woman into a state of receptivity so that they are able to pass through to the physical brain new ideas, creations of art or music. One thing to be learned in the spirit world is that individuals can gain very little for themselves ... and yet they gain very greatly. A paradox? The whole idea of the great Plan of God for the evolution, upliftment and ultimate glorification of man's life both here and in the future is that all shall labour, not for themselves but for the whole community – all for each and each for all.

## Glorious, but Impractical?

This seems a glorious picture we are painting. Some may think that this is all very well, but not practical. So many ills crowd upon man. How can the denizens of the spirit world cope to change his nature and destiny? Nevertheless, it is being done. Man receives his inspiration. The denizens of the spirit world do not receive the credit. They do not wish it. The labourers in God's higher vineyard work with pure love; but being pure in heart they have seen God. They work because they see in mankind the spirit of God, of God's Son, of Christ, and therefore love mankind.

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## What of those Killed in Battle?

Some will now ask what happens to men flung out of mortal life by war – the airmen, the sailors and the soldiers who die in battle? My friends, if you can think of your body as an overcoat; and then think of that overcoat as being shot, or being immersed in water, or being burned, you will recognise that the overcoat does not feel. Neither do you, because you are not in it. At the appointed moment the spirit is withdrawn from the physical body in a way which no living man can comprehend. Death is a beautiful experience, in spite of what many say. There may be fear in the heart before death, but when death actually comes all fear goes. The soul is simply aware of great beauty, of great peace ... aware of God. Our words are borne out by multitudes. When in grave danger or when the soul faces death, it cries upon God instinctively, urgently. God never fails the soul as it passes through the portal of death. The actual moment of death is not felt or realised by the soul. They know its near approach; then they find themselves out of their body; they may even see their body fall – but they feel exactly the same. No change at all takes place in themselves. Shortly after their passing someone meets them, talks to them in a perfectly natural way and asks if they require water and refreshment. They are told someone is expecting them and they are taken to a house, a home, a place of refreshment – all is natural, normal and happy.

## Shun Cruelty

There is nothing to fear in death, but my friends, there is something to fear in cruelty, in ill deeds. We assure you a time of reckoning must come. Not until that soul has seen the beauty, the truth and the love of God does it grieve for wasted opportunities, for unkindness and cruelty inflicted, for untruths that have deceived and brought suffering upon others. To see the suffering that one has inflicted upon one's brother man is hell – or the state of remorse – when the fires of Gehenna commence to consume all that is evil or ill in the soul, when the soul longs to expiate its evil and serve those whom it had before despoiled.

An unfailing Law of Cause and Effect eventually works out all that is impure and cruel in the soul. This is a natural process, even though it involves suffering. But then all people incur suffering for ill deeds, even on earth. All men undergo periods of sorrow and remorse and fear. There is nothing worse in the spirit world than on earth, but in the former it is a state of inner and not bodily suffering. That is to say, what a man is in his true, in his innermost self – that which was hidden from the eyes of his companions on earth – is what the man displays to all in the spirit world. If a man is considerate to others, selfish and cruel, then he finds himself surrounded by confusion, darkness, ugliness and crudity in the spirit world. These are of his own creation: what a man is *within*, he finds himself surrounded by in the spirit world. That is, when he commences to awaken to the state of spiritual life that he has earned while here below.

## Immortality

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We have spoken at length about Life after Death. If you require proof, search for it and you will receive it. Religion throughout the ages stands based upon the immortality of the soul. The annals of Psychical Research offer ample proof of survival of the soul. Proof also lies deep, deep within your own innermost, within your own consciousness. There is no death in the material world, but only change and decay. After decay there is continuation in a different form. The same laws which exist in the physical world exist in the spirit world. Man is spirit, a fact proved frequently by you yourself in your reaction to the impressions and aspirations received from the spiritual world. Also in telepathy. How many realise that thought transference is a scientific fact? You pick each other's thoughts up; you can receive thoughts from anywhere. You can feel sometimes what your dear one is doing when miles away. These messages which pass telepathically prove that man is more than a physical body and more than a physical brain. Furthermore, you have the modern instrument, the radio - the transmission of sound waves to your own home. You tune in and hear voices from the uttermost ends of the earth, a material demonstration of what exists in the super-physical worlds.

So we leave you now with great love and blessing. Those of you who wish to can always receive communication from those in the beyond; those who will can have their lives blessed and inspired by communion with illumined spirits blessed by the love of God.

Peace be with you.

*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:*

*reincarnation, rebirth, faith, belief, imagination, enlightenment, psychic contact, heaven world, world of light, passing over, transition, beyond the veil, mediums*