

# National Symbolology

T084 The Inner Teachings 26th October 1938 Pembroke Hall, London

## Invocation:

We raise our consciousness to the Most High, to the infinite Spirit, our Father–Mother God. May we be strengthened in the light of His Son, Christ, the perfect man of earth and heaven. May His beauty inspire our lives and work; His wisdom direct our lives and work, and His love make manifest His work in us, through us, to all living things.

Amen.

*[White Eagle commenced his talk by asking for certain written questions to be read aloud. They were as follows:]*

Q.The nations adopt certain colours and signs for their flags. Can you explain the esoteric meaning of some of these?

Q.Changes sometimes take place. Germany has recently changed her flag. What is the significance of this?

Q.Can you explain why certain nations have special national gifts—England, literature; Germany, music; Italy, painting and sculpture; ancient Greece, architecture?

*[White Eagle:]*

These three questions open a wide field and cannot be answered in a few words, but certainly they come within the scope of our previous talks on cosmic rays and the effect of colours, music and perfume upon humanity. All colours have their esoteric aspect, as we have been learning: all symbols have their meaning, and each colour and symbol can be regarded as a focal point to draw certain invisible forces to earth's humanity. All have their place in the grand scheme of spiritual evolution. Those who would lightly dismiss these symbols are unwise. They do not yet understand the way adopted by the guardians of the human race to bring through into manifestation certain forms of power, religion and art. This we have told you before, but we all forget sometimes!

Behind earth's humanity is a great brotherhood of wisdom—wisdom which has been revealed at various stages of man's evolution; according to humanity's need, certain rays of knowledge and wisdom have been sent through. These rays take form sometimes as religion, sometimes as material, occult or spiritual science, sometimes as an art. Each ray can be symbolised or represented by a symbol (as is Christianity by the cross) and in that symbol lies the meaning, for those who can read it—the esoteric meaning of the ray made manifest at some particular time, to some particular people or nation.

Hence we begin to see that even with the flags of nations, although apparently compiled by earthly minds, behind is to be found spiritual guidance. The master knows that God's power, God's influence is at work. All is of God, and the wise men, or brothers of the wisdom, know nothing else. They do not draw to themselves any honour or glory for work which they are permitted to do by the Father. The wise know that the children of God, whether babes or

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grown men, are always the children of God. To Him they owe origin, birth, all they have on the spiritual and the mental planes, and all their worldly goods; all these belong to God, and they too are God's. The wise man is only another child of God, obeying His commands, and recognising that from the Divine alone comes all good, all that is helpful to the nations; he is merely an instrument. We would stress this point. We do depend upon the brothers of wisdom; through them the will of God is accomplished. They are His servants, they obey His commands, and only when the individual soul arrives at such absolute humility that he is able to be a recipient of God's will—only then can he be fully entrusted with God's work.

Many of you have heard of the elder brethren behind the human race, and aspire to follow, to come into closer contact, to commune with them. But one thing separates you from them, and that is your lower self, the selfishness which dwells in all young souls. As we learn to regard self as nothing, as we learn to overcome self, so do we rise to a higher plane of consciousness from which alone we can understand the mysteries of life, and what our elder brethren are working for. On the lower plane all appears chaotic; we regard the world as lost! 'Oh dear, dear, dear, what is the world coming to!' you say, because it does not work out to our particular liking or plan. We criticise what this, that or the other country is doing, we ask why Hitler does this, or Mussolini that!\* We feel thus because we are all looking through a tiny window—I was going to say mirror—and see only the reflection of our little self, or perhaps the little nation we represent.

[ \*This teaching was given shortly after the Munich agreement of 29 September 1938.]

The tiny window reflects only the little self. We need to get behind, or above to look with wider vision, to see with the eyes of the spirit, the wonderful pattern into which the fragments and untidy pieces are being woven. We must get above the work, ere we can see the vision.

Where is all this leading? What has it to do with the flags? I have not forgotten.

Nations have a purpose, not to themselves alone but to the evolution of humanity. We are concerned not with one nation alone but with the whole. Human egos\* incarnate, or reincarnate, into particular nations either to learn or to teach that nation something. All men are either pupils or teachers. If they are elder brethren they are used to transmit to their nation certain knowledge, certain wisdom. You will notice that poets and musicians appear to have strong predilections towards certain countries. Born into one country, they have leanings towards another. As instance, Byron was an Englishman, but where was his heart? In Greece. Can we say the same of Keats, or Shelley? I think so; born English, yet they seem to have a liking elsewhere. Why? Because in former incarnations they were Greeks.

[\*i.e. individual beings]

*The questioner said: 'England seemed to be the home of literature, Germany the home of music, Italy the home of sculpture, and ancient Greece, the home of architecture'.*

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Beloved brother, you have just skimmed the surface. But ponder on this, and you will realise I think that Greece was, or is, the home of the arts. From ancient Greece came the seed of the modern arts. Now we see reincarnated in other countries certain advanced egos, used to bring through to ancient Greece forms of beauty. They come from higher spheres, and work to bring through archetypal forms. The love, the passion for art and beauty caused the Grecian mothers to be guarded and surrounded, in the period before the birth of a child, by beauty in all its forms. Beauty was the god of Greece! Now Greece had its work to do, to contribute a conception of beauty to the new world, and it lasted perhaps for a thousand years—it served its purpose and passed away. But in Greece were certain egos acting as links between heaven and earth, and later we find many of these egos incarnating in other countries, in France particularly; the Greek temperament is found in many of the French today, as also in Italy. Some will dispute that Germany alone is the home of music; I think you will rather find a distribution of that ray over many countries.

Many of you have a great love for Egypt, and the English race have certainly a link with that country; many here today are reincarnations of the Egyptians, because they have the wisdom of the Egyptians, in many aspects, to contribute to the new age. You ask 'How long did the Egyptian civilisation flourish?' It is difficult to say, but let us say that for ten thousand years—I think longer—the Egyptian nation flourished. Why was Egypt so long at the heyday of her work? Because she was doing her destined task; she had a great work to do, and she did it. The present day of life owes much to the ancient Egyptians, and that which was revealed to the Egyptians in religion, architecture, mystery schools and music, is now being regained. Egypt contributed a great gift to humanity. The same can be said of India: India changed little for a long period; this country contributes to the world the mystical and philosophic mind. India is full of soul. Why is India a British possession? She has much to teach the western world; the western civilisation has something to contribute to India; perhaps to bring to it stimulation, activity, force. Nevertheless, India has the soul of things to contribute to England.

*[\*This was the case until 1947.]*

Britain and her Empire\* has a mighty mission. Her mission is that of peace. Am I right in saying that the red cross of St George forms the foundation of the Union Jack? Think of the word alone—the *Union*—the union of all these young peoples. But into these same young colonies are being brought the more advanced egos. You do not see it now, but wait—a few more years shall roll, and you will see our prediction come to pass. We see the British Empire become a wonderful union of nations. Of course the earthly mind admits a certain pride, a certain vainglory! Nevertheless, the British Empire has only come to being because it has a work to contribute, a mission to fulfil. The cross of St George, a red cross, a rose cross—thus was introduced the Christian cross. Does this mean that the Christian religion has any part to play in the new age? Yes indeed, the principles of the Christ brotherhood have a vast contribution to make to the new age. Rome brought Christianity to England. You will notice the great similarity between the British people and the ancient Romans; many are incarnated today in English bodies, because they have certain qualities to contribute to Britain, the mission of which is to bring peace on earth, and an international brotherhood. From behind

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the scenes the guides of humanity have worked for many thousands of years to bring into being gradually this great brotherhood, and the symbol of your flag is based upon the symbol of brotherhood.

*[\*The British Empire declined following the Second World War, officially ending in 1997, but has given birth to the British Commonwealth of Nations. This makes White Eagle's words later in this paragraph especially significant.]*

The wise man knows that when the old has finished its usefulness it must fall away, and men taken on to fresh fields and pastures new. The old must pass, and yet it never passes because there lingers in the soul of a nation, or an individual, all the good it was intended to bring. Old conditions must pass; they must give place. But remember that even when the new is fully born, there will be within the soul of that new religion, or nation, or form, all that was finest in the old. The shell only of the old passes away. Your body will crumble and pass away eventually, but all that you have gained from incarnation on earth will be stored up in your soul. The body is finished, the old forms of religion are finished; they disintegrate and pass away, but the soul remains and is expressed in new forms.

## Benediction:

Let us wait for the realisation of God's life within and without. And this realisation causes us to feel great thankfulness to God our Creator. It brings to us courage, light, truth and peace which is eternal. So mote it be: Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven!

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:*

*Poetry, symbolism, past lives, unity, internationalism, national identity*