

The Soul of a Nation

A138 Sunday Address 5th November 1944 St Mary Abbots Place, London Armistice Day Address

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 1945; headed, 'White Eagle's Armistice Address'. The paragraph in the middle italicised here was italicised in *Angelus*.

Context: technically, the date is conjectural, but the ascription is almost certain: not only was this address printed, as would normally happen, almost immediately after (missing the Christmas issue, though), but it also refers to Armistice Day 'drawing near' – which, since the Sunday before fell on the 5th – would be correct for 1944. And the heading in *Angelus* reads 'White Eagle's Armistice Address' – in other words, one just given – rather than 'A White Eagle Armistice Address'. There would have been little point in printing such an address from another year in January. It seems to have taken priority over printing a Christmas address.

General Notes: this is a very direct appeal to put, at all times, the divine before the material, and the title is not borne out in the earlier part of the address. At the end, though, there is an evocation of the spirit of Britain, and a nice insistence on understanding the international spirit as well as the national one. Earlier, the sentence, 'As surely as you are alive now, you will be alive for all eternity' introduces a number of sentences which form one of the classic readings in the White Eagle funeral/cremation service.

Historical Note: White Eagle mentions the introduction of the two minutes' silence. This goes back right to the Armistice itself in 1918 and was the instrument of King George V, although the model was a practice that had been instituted in South Africa earlier the same year, on a daily basis. This whole history may be present in later White Eagle calls to prayer such as that at 12 noon.

References: 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' is 1 Corinthians 15 : 55. Jesus calming the waves, with the command 'Peace, be still', is in all three synoptic Gospels: Matthew 8 : 23–27, Mark 4 : 35–41, and Luke 8 : 22–25.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved friends, we have met here to remember many things; but as Armistice Day draws near you would desire to send your love and your assurance to those dear ones who have passed into the life of the spirit, perhaps through conditions of war. It is good that this day of remembrance has been instituted. Before it came to be celebrated people had become careless and indifferent to the things of the spirit. The introduction of this day of remembrance, especially the two minutes' silence, gave an opportunity to stop the noise and the clatter of the material world. During those two minutes' silence it became more possible than before to create a harmonious vibration that would dominate the worldly turmoil and clamour. In the stillness and peace that was created it was possible for angelic hierarchs to draw closer to mankind and even for the King of Kings, Christ, the Lord of Lords to pour upon the people of a flood of light and love.

The two minutes' silence is of so great an importance that we would advocate a like silence every day of your life – a time when you resolutely withdraw from the outer plane and enter into the innermost sanctuary of the spirit. Encourage this, my friends, for it is what the world needs even more than church services of praise and worship. The collective power of the people contacting their innermost spirit and opening up from within those spiritual powers,

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that sensitiveness of the soul and entering into and becoming aware of the Eternal Presence of the Creator.... This is the supreme need and what mankind must have if it is to survive.

As we speak, a grand company is gathered in this temple of light, a great concourse of your friends and your loved ones, as well as our brethren and our loved ones. We see a company of shining forms and radiant faces, one or more attached to each of you. They are the souls of those who have passed away from physical life, but nevertheless their lives, their interest, their hopes, their aspirations, are all interbuilt with yours and with the progress of humanity. Amongst this vast concourse we see saints of all ages radiant in spiritual power. We see the pioneers whose courage and effort made possible the gifts and progress now enjoyed by men. Many are apt to forget our debt to those pioneers who, although they have passed onward, still live happily and thankfully because they see the result of their service to mankind. We see too young men and (in some instances) woman and children who have surrendered and perhaps sacrificed mortal life in its prime during the last great war – and some even during the present conflict. All these are now released and have been given their opportunity to find the happiness which they may have missed on earth. Don't forget this fact, don't try to hold any soul back which has been released. Whatever the circumstances of that release, a cosmic law works always for the ultimate good of mankind and brings good forth from evil.

We would feel someone's thoughts as we said those words. 'Is it then God's will that these young lives should be sacrificed? Is it God's law?' The answer to your question, my brother, my sister, is 'No'. It is not God's will. It is never God's wish that lives should be cut short and sacrificed before their time. God Created his children to enjoy life – not to suffer. We say this with full conviction. God does not will his children on earth to suffer. He created a law which is Love. This law comprises many facets, many lessons, many truths, and yet all this is contained in one great truth. If mankind breaks the law of love, he sets loose by his own act certain destructive forces which will turn upon him and perhaps rend him if he stands in their way. These destructive forces sweep through mankind bringing with them suffering and pain in manifold forms. If you look round the world as we do, you will see the law of love broken. What hope remains for mankind then? There is hope, a great hope and we will tell you why. God is our Creator and is the source from which we come; God is also the home to which we shall return. God is the centre of universes. Because God is also the centre within man's own being, He will through man restore the balance, the equilibrium of life and bring man back to a realisation of his own true self, his own true dignity. God will restore humanity by means of His own law – which is love, brotherhood, justice, perfect happiness and the perfecting of life.

Many people are saying today that the world is finished, that it will never become any better than it is now. That is a very bold statement. We would say that the soul who speaks thus is speaking only for itself and is unquestionably delaying its own realisation of that state of perfect happiness which is the will of God for man.

Oh, my dear ones! although you are invisible to this congregation of physical beings, we call upon you young beautiful souls who now live in the radiance of the spirit, in gratitude, in

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thanksgiving for your sacrifice, for your surrender of life in order that the future generation of men may be born into the sunlight of a new age. We would infuse these people of the earth with gratitude for your sacrifice. We would instil into them the urge to carry to the world the power of love, the power of God within, to quicken and to bring to birth again the spirit of the blessed and holy White Brotherhood which once lived and reigned in harmony and happiness, before there crept into the hearts of the people the love of self and lust to dominate their brother man.

Beloved brethren on earth, we now call upon you with all the power of the spirit not only to keep alive the God within and the spiritual outlook on life, but also to look for this spirit and to call it forth from your brother man. Remember that all invention, all good on earth is there because it is the will of God. This 'will of God' means the will of God in man's heart to construct and not destroy, to express positive not negative thought, courage and not fear; hope and not hopelessness. With all your heart, expect God to give unto you the blessings from His own heart and life, and such blessings will assuredly be yours.

The great company here with us today remind us that there is no death. How many people say with their lips that there is no death! You sing it in your hymns. It is affirmed at your burial service. 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' There can be neither sting nor victory, because there is no death. As surely as you are alive now, you will be alive to all eternity. The shedding of the physical body does not mean death. Those whom you love have merely passed through the curtain to continue their life with greater opportunity, for they are released the earthly limitations and these destructive forces which have been drawn to earth by man's selfishness. These souls live lives of useful service and happiness such as you who are in bondage cannot yet appreciate. What you call death is a transition from life of limitations and intermittent sunlight to a world of radiant sunlight, beauty and peace, into a world in which the soul judges itself. It does not stand before the bar to be judged, but sees for itself its own mistakes after which the guide by its side says: 'Come along, brother, what has your spirit wanted most during your life on earth?' The spirit of the man or woman remembers how in your it wanted a certain ideal. The guide then says: 'Another chance is given you. Here is the material. See what you can do this time'.

This, my friends, is the law of love, the law of God. If that law was applied on earth, a state of harmonious happiness, perfection, beauty would exist. Even as it is the world is not hopeless, because God has lived and continues to live in you and in all mankind. God has ever lived within His creatures and endures with them. Because of this, there is hope that the golden age will return to men, an age of brotherhood.

Get away from the idea that life is fragmentary, and that you live only for seventy, eighty or ninety years and then pass on for ever more from the earth. Life goes on and on. Eternity is every present, life is every present and God is every present. Life changes its form, that is all. Although God allows man to learn his lessons through suffering, it is not God's wish that pain and suffering should be undergone. As soon as you truly contact the God within and feel a sense of peace and assurance, all the little troubles and ills of the flesh will seem trivial. In a

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very little while they will fall away, having no longer power to upset or disturb you. For this the God within you waxes strong, takes possession and calls for peace – just as the Master Jesus in the storm-tossed boat on the sea of Galilee said: ‘Peace, be still’. The tossing waves are symbolic of the uncurbed emotions in man. As soon as peace is restored in your heart, all goes well with your affairs. It is the working of the law of cause and effect the cause of the change being in your heart, in your soul; the effect takes place outside on the physical plane.

One more thought: We cannot close this service of remembrance without making an earnest appeal to every soul present – an appeal for this mystic isle of Britain. Many people think that it is not a good thing to be nationally minded – one must be international. Most certainly. You must recognise the brotherhood of all living men and women; none should be separate, all should be regarded as sons and daughters of God. The foundation of life should be international brotherhood. But when we speak of this mystic isle we speak with a purpose. Buried in the soul of Britain is a beautiful spirit, a great Being; and under his control are other great beings, as well as lesser spirit beings who are much older than this earth, and who have been in existence through aeons and aeons of time. These beings are still entwined within the hearts of this race, within the very stones and soil of Britain. Is it not true that in spite of their stark materialism the hearts of the common British people show goodness, love a sense of fair play? This is your national honour, your national spirit.

You have already seen a demonstration of its power in material form in what you know as the Battle of Britain. The warriors in the air and the millions of air-spirits worked by their side (although you know it not endeavouring to keep this mystic isle free. The purpose was not the continued self-indulgence of a greedy people, but that Britain should rise and uphold the light of the ancient White Brotherhood, the Shekinah. The light shines over Britain and burns within the very earth and stones of Britain; it can be released by ordinary simple people by being strong in the true spiritual life and by having confidence in the future of mankind, the nations of which will eventually be united in one vast brotherhood under the ancient White Light, Christ, as Lord and King. We call earth people to dedicate their lives to spiritual truth and to the future of the White Brotherhood, that it may reign supreme on earth.

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:

communion, fate, freewill, great laws, eternal life, karma, spirit world, heaven world, world of light, heal the world, power of silence, oneness, England, United Kingdom, patriotism