

The Great Communion

A431 Sunday Address 19th September 1971 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

Text: MB typescript, a carbon (tape recorder copy). Notes by YGH on front, made at various different times, include one saying, 'This is a good one, & contains "The great communion". Suggest for London & Temple in 1984.' Another note indicates it was read in London in 1979 and at New Lands in 1980, presumably at the Harvest service in each case. AJH notes that he made a new tape of it in 1986 (presumably another cassette from the reel-to-reel master, replacing an earlier one sent out to Groups). In at least two places we have accepted added words probably taken from the tape recording, 'It will only *be* a trickle at first', and 'But *these* things', the italicised words being added. We think most of these notes are in RAE's hand, but some may be in AJH's. Another addition the tape recordist seems to have found is the phrase, 'and say, 'oh yes, he is a dear old man' although the pencilled handwriting is not entirely clear. We have also followed an emendation, 'suns in the Universe' rather than 'centres in the Universe'. The sentence beginning 'And they instituted', when White Eagle is discussing the Dead Sea Scrolls, is a little uncertain: MB queried her own word 'instituted' and felt she had missed something just after, but the tape recording seems to have offered no additions or corrections, except that the word 'remember' comes four times in the typescript, and according to the recordist the fourth of them was the word 'see', which we have preferred. Here, we have preferred 'intuited' to 'instituted', but left it in square brackets as purely conjectural. There are a few other small corrections taken from the recordist's pencil notes, but most importantly there is one we cannot quite read, with the result that a [...] has been left, in the Communion.

Context: White Eagle seems not to have spoken between May and this service in September, and in London not since the Anniversary service in March. This is confirmed by the lists of activities in *Stella Polaris*. His London congregation will have been glad to hear him again. However, advertised activities in the magazine list evening talks to be given and New Lands on Wednesdays 5 May and 7 July, the recording then to be played back in London on the 11 and 13 respectively. See the 'Special note' against the 7 March address for more details. This Harvest service was also the reopening service after the summer break. MB says, 'The Lodge was very tastefully decorated with beautiful flowers, ferns, fruits and vegetables'. Minesta gave a special greeting, 'It fills my heart with joy to see you all, and to know we have joined together to start for another session in the Lodge – hard work no doubt these coming months. But it is lovely to see you all. And we give you a very warm welcome.' The Choir offered 'I was glad when thy said unto me' as an Introit. It's unlikely it was the famous C H H Parry version, later to be sung at the Temple opening; more likely, a simple chant of Psalm 122, from which the words come. As always, it was 'Beautifully rendered' (MB). Brother Faithful announced the first hymn as 'Let us with a gladsome mind', *Songs of Praise* no. 12. Minesta spoke again, this time with a full Invocation, recorded elsewhere, and Brother Faithful read from *Golden Harvest*, pp 46-8, a section entitled 'The Fountain of Life'. The Choir then offered 'The Heavens declare Thy Glory'; this is likely to have been 'The heavens are telling the glory of God', from Haydn's *Creation*. Brother Faithful led the prayers and introduced hymn no. 593, 'O Christ who holds the Open Gate'. White Eagle's address followed. At the end, there was 'Beautiful music by Brother David'. Brother Faithful introduced hymn no 300, 'God is working his purpose out', and Minesta offered a few closing words, reproduced here. Her actual benediction was recorded elsewhere, and the service ended with the usual vesper, 'Father, we bow in humble adoration'.

General notes: White Eagle early speaks of 'the Great Son', a phrase he does not commonly use, but the concept of the Son/Sun runs through the address. In this address White Eagle relates much of what he is says to the Ancient Wisdom, but when he refers also to the saints and others he is talking of historical ones, not of prehistory. Not unusually, he seeks to counter the dominance of the intellect in the culture to which he is addressing himself. There is a slightly puzzling moment when White Eagle refers to his need to give the congregation a charge, as indeed he usually has to give one to the Harvest congregation (so he says). This may be true, but nowhere we can think of is it referred to as a charge. The charge this time is to teach all the people that his followers encounter that 'the source of

The Great Communion

A431 Sunday Address 19th September 1971 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

truth lies in the spirit, not in the mind'. He speaks of the seed, or the grain of corn buried in the earth. Later, he seeks to expand the consciousness of his listeners and bring in the whole Cosmos. There is a section halfway through about the discovery of papyrus scrolls in the desert. White Eagle is uncertain about naming them, and it's worth stating that the Dead Sea Scrolls, found between 1947 and 1956, were mainly Jewish texts, apparently from the community at Qumran. In the New Lands harvest festival a week later (26 September) he is clear that it is the Dead Sea Scrolls he means. The Nag Hammadi gospels, found in 1945 but released only gradually after, are mainly Gnostic texts. It is these that best bear out what White Eagle says, although it would be a brave scholar who completely authenticated White Eagle's interpretation: it is difficult to accept his description of them as 'scripts of the Ancient Wisdom' unless we accept deep underlying truths not literal ones. He is right to say, though, that only a proportion had, at the time of his address, been allowed to circulate.

The final section is what White Eagle himself calls 'the Great Communion'. If this is to be taken as a special term, it is just a fuller and very beautiful bringing together of all the elements of Creation in one united moment. At the end there is the phrase, 'knowledge of God and His Kingdoms'. We may speculate on the plural here, but it may just be a typist error.

References: 'Leave all and follow me' is probably a reference to Mark 9 : 23.

White Eagle's Message:

Beloved, beloved brethren of the earthly life, there is a grand company here with you now, the Shining Brethren of the higher world. And we particularly want everyone to feel the warmth of love and strength which is now being poured upon you at this moment.

And in the centre of this fountain of golden light there is the form, the human form, of the Great Son. We mean by this the man both human and divine, the man made perfect by his life in physical matter and by his mastery of all the forces and the elements which tend to hold man down in the darkness and ignorance, aye, and self-will or selfishness.

Now, dear ones, we do not come from the world of light to judge, nor to condemn any living soul. We only come to bring love and a message of truth.

Now, it is this central figure here in your midst which is the channel, the focal point, for that infinite spirit of light, of warmth, the Spirit of the Sun. Remember the physical sun is but an emblem, the same as the physical body of man. And from that Sun there pours onto the earth planet and other planets this lifegiving power. And in your human life it is your brother man, the companion of your life; and, we trust, the companion of your spirit whom you have got to know as a spiritual companion, maybe one whom you have lost sight of because the physical body has been removed, having finished its work on the earth plane. But the spirit remains full of life, increased life, increased love, and that spirit draws very, very close to your spirit, to the spirit of the one to whom it is most attached.

Now, this is no new truth, this is the Ancient Wisdom, and those of you have studied – shall we say – the mediaeval teaching of the saints, of the wise ones, know how often these radiant spirits were referred to as the familiar Spirit. Now, we want you to feel not the obsession of a domineering influence, but the gentle, sweet love and understanding from the One whom we familiarly call the Master, the Master Jesus, the Great Healer and Teacher, who not only lived

The Great Communion

A431 Sunday Address 19th September 1971 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

in Palestine two thousand years ago, but Who has lived and communicated with men on earth through the ages: the Great Teacher. Of course there have been other world teachers. We know this. But in the degree that this *light*, this golden love which comes from the heavenly heights right down into the heart of man – in the degree that this light shines through a human being, a human personality, so that personality becomes alive and radiant, and lovingly and wisely powerful on the earth plane. The Great Ones of the ancient schools of thought are still very concerned with humanity.

Now, this is a service of thanksgiving, *thanksgiving* from your heart – not only for the blessings in your human life, [but also] blessings which you must admit have come to you, help which has come to you unexpectedly in moments of dire need, guidance which has worked through to your life. From whence has it come? It has come from the divine centre or law.

Now, man in this intellectual age, this age of the mind, is inclined to trace everything to the mind and to the brain, to the automatic action of forces, the elements, the automatic action of the sun and the rain and the earth and the air. And they will tell you that there is no wise, divine intelligence behind nature; no guidance, no wisdom. And that same mind of man rises up and questions, if there is this law of love, why does such a God permit sufferings on the Earth, sudden catastrophes which overwhelm man – at times sweeping away by death, or possibly causing him acute pain and suffering? How can a God of love permit such suffering? Now, this is a very important question which men are quite unable to answer from the intellect. And we want to make this very clear to you on this occasion of the harvest thanksgiving, because we know that at the present time the intellect or the mind of man is attempting to answer the problems of life, and it will never be able to answer the problems of life by the mind or the intellect only. There is one source of truth, dear brethren, and that is *God*, the infinite Great White Spirit, whom people have worshipped because they have realised the wisdom and the love which flows through from heavenly states of consciousness or life.

Now, you are celebrating your thanksgiving service in this Lodge, and usually we have to give you a charge, a very earnest charge, and tonight it is this. In your endeavour to learn truth, and to comprehend the innumerable problems of humanity at the present time, remember and do your best to help every man, woman and child to understand that the source of truth lies in the spirit, not in the mind. It is in the spirit, the spirit which is within every man, buried very deeply like that golden grain of corn buried in the dark earth. Now that seed atom of truth, of spirit, of life is implanted maybe in the darkness of man's own being, and if man wants have understanding of life and of nature; if he wants to understand why the birds and the animals seem to obey an instinct, or a law of life which causes them to procreate their young, and do exactly what is necessary for their babies; if you want to comprehend the wonders of nature, of the growing grass and the trees and the flowers; if you want to understand the air currents and the life in the waters; if you want to understand the action of light and warmth, go deep within your own heart. Seek that place of stillness and silence. Leave behind – what did Jesus say so clearly? – 'Leave all and follow Me'. We are not suggesting you leave your earthly responsibility – that is all part of your life and your discipline, your training, your spiritual training – but man does not realise this. We do not say

The Great Communion

A431 Sunday Address 19th September 1971 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

neglect your responsibility to life and to your fellow man, but we are telling you to make it a daily rule to withdraw from that outer rabble and noise and conflict, and go to that place of stillness and peace beneath all thought, for thereby you will find truth. It will only be a trickle at first: just an idea, just a thought, which will come into your mind; your higher mind, not your earthly mind. You have got to train yourself to raise your consciousness into the heavenly state of being.

Now we are not foolish. We understand the life on earth, for we have lived as you are now living in a physical body. We know; we understand the problems and the difficulties and the injustices. But these things can only be put right by bringing into action the right spirit, the spirit of the Son, the Christ. Such a simple message. *Love is the key and the answer.*

Now, brethren, let us with one heart here in this service rejoice and thank our Creator for this wonderful life into which we have been born, not only in this one limited incarnation, in this one country, even in this one planet, but the outer life, the greater life. Think of the heavens; think, my dear brethren, of the innumerable centres of life – planets, worlds, suns in the universe and beyond and beyond. Impossible for your finite mind to grasp the vastness or the grandeur of that life. And yet you are a seed, a spark of that Infinite Life.

And this is the message which we from the Lodge of the Great White Light are commended to bring to the earth plane, to bring to mankind now: to work for the growth of the true spirit within his heart. This will solve all the economic problems, all the political problems, all the difficulties in the many religions in the world. There is only one truth, and that is love and an awareness [of] the consciousness of the infinite life in which man lives.

We said a little while ago that man in his mind thinks that nature works automatically; that there is no system, no intelligence behind it – it just works. We want you to comprehend the vast company of angelic beings and etheric beings, not merely spirits of men who have passed on into the astral and then into the higher worlds of beauty and peace. We want you to contemplate and try to understand the grand company of nature. Now, those Ancients understood this.

And we told you many years ago that there would [be] unearthed certain scrolls or scripts which would reveal to humanity a deep and glorious truth, the Eternal Truth. You did not take a great deal of notice – we have noticed this – you do not take a great deal of notice of old White Eagle – of what White Eagle says. Oh yes, you think you accept it and put it on one side, and say, ‘oh yes, he is a dear old man’. We know you human people forget. But we remind you again – some of you may remember – it was not in this Lodge, it was in the former Lodge, we told you there would be the discovery of these ancient scripts. Now, a little while ago – a few years ago – they were discovered. What do you call them, the scripts of the Ancient Wisdom found in the desert in the Middle East?

Now they are proof to you – if you study those ancient scripts – they are proof to you that the ancient brethren of the Great White Light, including those brothers who we call the brothers of the Cross of Light within the Circle of Light, brothers in the west as well as the brothers in the east and in the north and in the south of your planet; they have all had the same

The Great Communion

A431 Sunday Address 19th September 1971 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

knowledge, which was the knowledge of the power of the angels, the angels who were directing the four elements. And on these scripts is to be found – they have not all been circulated yet, some of them are still being kept secret – there you will find evidence that the ancient brotherhood, throughout this planet at least (and that is limiting it), had knowledge of how to command, how to get the obedience and the help of the angels of earth, air, fire and water. And they [intuited?] from their knowledge, thousands and thousands of years ago, a time when we ourselves and probably some of you too were there (although you cannot remember it yet, but you will remember the past), and as you remember the past you will see the future, because the past creates the future. And these wise ancient ones knew how to call upon the angels. And remember this, that every great being of the elements has in its charge innumerable, *innumerable*, little elementals – fairies if you like, water spirits, salamanders, fire, sun spirits – all the elementals attached to the four elements.

They have them in their service. We want to explain this to you tonight so that you will realize that the harvest that you enjoy, the harvest which blesses mankind, is not just accident, it is the result of a direct and perfect law which is operated from the great centre of creation. There is no such thing as chance. Everything works out according to law. And if only man – he will in time get to understand this – and he will know he has within himself that golden seed which promises him a wonderful golden harvest, a harvest of the perfect life, not only spiritually, but physically, a life made perfect by the law. Though man has a certain degree of freewill and he can reject and break the law, and every time he suffers for it. With this you will see this is the cause of all the suffering on the earth. You will not possibly agree, but that does not matter, but you will know one day.

And finally, our final word to you tonight is about the great Communion. Man becoming aware that he is within the whole of the glorious life of God, God the Heavenly Father and the Earthly Mother. What did the Ancients mean by worshipping the Heavenly Father and Earthly Mother, by meditating upon the Heavenly Father and the Earthly Mother? And the Great Masters, what did they mean? And we assure you that all the true brotherhoods of all time have performed this same ritual and worship of life, of the divine fire of life, of the source of life and the Great Mother. Think, my dear brethren, of the great earthly Mother who brings forth for your sustenance, your physical sustenance, the food which keeps you alive; the great Mother, often symbolized by the moon, but that great Mother of Earth which brings forth the beauties of nature, the Mother which enfolds all her children to her heart.

Try, dear ones, and open your consciousness, your spirit, your soul to this quiet gentle Mother love. It will comfort you in times of stress. It will heal you in times of pain. Remember these gifts of God which have been prepared by God, given to you for your healing, your peace, your happiness. They are incomparable with the things which men seek for on the earth plane – pride of possessions, enjoyment of the flesh – all these things crumble and die and can be swept away at a moment's notice. Very often they are. But that deep rich happiness and peace, that union with God, can never be taken from you. It will be with you when you leave your physical body and you cross into that world of Light.

Now, when you hold communion and you are given the symbol of the bread, remember to meditate and contemplate its true meaning: the Cosmic Bread, [...] not all fed consciously by

The Great Communion

A431 Sunday Address 19th September 1971 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

the very loaves of bread you eat. Everything you eat is given to you by God, comes from the Cosmos. So every meal and every crumb of bread you eat should be communion. Do you know in our Indian life we would never commence a meal without giving thanks and blessing the food? And as we ate the food we accepted it as God's gift.

Now, we know what is going through the minds of some of you here. What about eating meat? 'That is a question sometimes of geography – when there is nothing else to sustain the life of some people except the flesh'. And our answer to the question is, when man is forced to eat flesh, [let him] accept it with a humble and grateful heart, grateful to the little brother animal who has supplied that food. Better still for man in his more evolved state to eat only the fruits of the earth, the seeds of the earth, the grains of the earth; much better for the purified physical body. And the time is coming, as we told you before, when conditions will be such on the earth that man will be fed entirely by the purest food supplied by the great Mother Earth.

And He Who is all love, Who is here now, visible to those with clear vision, He comes with the food, the food; the food not only of heaven. That is a symbol. The heavenly bread is a symbol, but it is intended to impress man's mind with the truth that all food accepted and eaten with a thankful heart is a true act of communion. Even the water, the fresh spring water, the mountain water sometimes containing the juice of the grapes or the fruits of the earth made into wine; that too is the gift of the Creator to man. The bread and the wine; the bread which not only sustains the body but feeds the soul; and the wine which quenches the parched mouth of the one who is longing for truth, knowledge of God and His Kingdoms.

Accept, now, in the silence, remembering the meaning, the symbology of the bread which he is offering you, and the clear mountain and spring water and the juice of the fruits, the essence of His spirit of love. Take, eat; sip the fresh water and the juice of the fruits, the divine love, the essence of life.

O Great White Spirit, we thank Thee. All Thy children here who understand thank Thee for these mercies, these blessings. And they pray that they may continue to be Thy servants in communicating the truth of the life eternal of the spirit, the spirit, the Spirit; the power of creation, all Creation.

Almighty and Eternal Spirit, for these Thy blessings on all planes of life we thank Thee. We thank Thee.

Brother Faithful:

I hope before you leave you will come up and see how carefully and how lovingly and how beautifully the harvest decorations have been done by the various workers in the Lodge. Our closing hymn is No: 300, 'God is working His purpose out'.

Minesta:

The Great Communion

A431 Sunday Address 19th September 1971 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Festival Thanksgiving Service

Before giving the closing prayer I would like to say how delighted we are to welcome you all again to the Lodge to this new session. We are all filled with joy and thanksgiving at our reunion.

And I can see by your faces that you are feeling very happy to be back. I shall not be able to welcome everyone with a handshake as I would like to do, but I hope you will understand. I am not quite – I was going to say – *compos mentis*, but I am not quite back yet. But I do with all my heart shake your hand.

And I would like to thank the Choir, particularly, for that lovely singing, and our organist for his music, and for those of you who have so beautifully and lovingly arranged the flowers from the country, and the fruit from New Lands. And I hope that if you do get a chance to have an apple you will enjoy it and know it has come from New Lands gardens, from the trees.

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:

thanksgiving, lammas, communion, inner peace, spiritual work, spiritual service, natural disasters, natural laws, inner truth, authenticity, dead sea scrolls, sacred doctrines, ancient wisdom, esoteric knowledge, devas, eucharist, divine mother, vegetarian, vegan, wholefoods, health food