

The Remission of Sins

A162 Sunday Address 2nd June 1946 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

The date of this address is conjectural (see below), while the text is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from *Angelus*, July 1946. A typescript also exists and shows the level of editing in this published script, which is not enormous; it is just possible that the typescript is itself a later version.

Context: the date is conjectural, and chosen not from internal evidence but from the address's apparent next-month publication. Neither the script nor the printed version carries a date, and there are dated teachings for all months in 1946 until June. There is no internal evidence other than a reference to Judas Iscariot, which could suggest a Lenten or Easter date, but not very strongly – there is no wider mention of the Easter story.

General Notes: the term 'Mahomedans', for Muslims, in the third paragraph, is no longer liked within the Muslim community, but was normal in 1946.

References: 'Whatsoever a man soweth' is in fact from St Paul (Galatians 6 : 7). 'Drink in remembrance of me' is Luke 22 : 19.

White Eagle's Address:

In the world there is too much haste; there is no calm, no period of retirement from the battle of life. Some of you are so filled with eagerness to get on with a particular plan that you feel yourself frustrated by any halt. Then nothing goes right. People are so difficult that it seems impossible to make any progress with your particular project. You become filled with a kind of fever; and maybe when you are told to be patient you become even more impatient, saying to yourself, 'But the people of the spirit don't understand the needs of the flesh and the demands of the earthly life'.

My friend, my brother, my sister, you make a great mistake. The spirit understands only too well the claims of the physical life. Those who come back to speak with you do so because they have stored up in their souls experiences like those which you are now undergoing. So when you are told to make time to withdraw from feverish activity, will you remember that those who proffer this advice have learned the need for this withdrawal from haste, from anxiety; for surely, surely only in the secret places will man make contact with the source of his being; only in the secret places can he truly pray.

We have chosen for our subject the Remission of Sins; because here is a truth which all people, no matter whether Christians, Mahomedans, Buddhists, Hindus or Jews, or whatever other label they wear, must learn; since all will pass into heaven through the one gate which we are told is very small. The Christian teaching is that man, if he will only believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, will be redeemed from sin. Some of you wince when you hear of words such as 'washed in the blood of the Lamb'. Some of you will say, 'But no-one believes in *that* in these intellectually enlightened days; all that was in the past. Every thinker today believes that he himself is responsible for his deeds, and it is this personal responsibility for every good or evil deed which will carry the soul into a state of heaven or hell'. It is true; and in spite of the teaching in the four gospels about the blood of the Lamb having the power to remit sins, the Master said elsewhere that '*Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*'. How are we going to harmonise these two apparently contradictory statements? On the one hand we are saved by the shedding of the blood of the Lamb; and on the other we are told, 'Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap'.

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Let us first analyse the meaning of the term 'Lamb', a very ancient name given to saviours in the world's history. The Persians, for one, used this form of symbolism. The first sign of the zodiac is also Aries, symbolised by the ram. The son of the ram would be a lamb. The lamb means purity. Freemasons are accustomed to use the lambskin in their regalia as a symbol of this purity. By the sacrifice of the Lamb, He – Jesus Christ – redeemed from sin all believers in Him.

What does this really mean? What is the *esoteric* meaning of this statement? The blood is the life, very definitely connected with the divine spark in man. The name 'Jesus' indicates every man. (You see, we are endeavouring to interpret an allegory.) The whole life and ministry of Jesus is the symbolical story of man's life in the physical and his passage to spiritual unfoldment and, if you like to use the word, redemption. Every man is the *Jesus man*. In every man and woman and child is the divine spark, the life; and the spiritual life-blood of the man is the Son, the Christ. In man's journey through life he has to learn the one supreme truth of life which, as most of you know, is realisation of the two aspects in himself – the material and the earthly aspect, the man part; and on the other hand the Christ, the divine aspect. These two loom up before everyone. Everyone, sooner or later, has to learn that lesson which is indicated by the shedding of the blood. It is not physical blood. It is the shedding of the spiritual heart's blood. As the soul toils in in the darkness of earth, as the soul is striving and struggling to rise into spiritual freedom, the man is sorrowing because there is ever this pull, this tug-of-war between the higher and lower self.

'Drink', the Master said. 'Take this cup and drink in remembrance of Me.' What does this mean, my brethren? That you should take the cup of human life and human experience, however bitter it may be. Accept it. Learn your lesson of acceptance; for as you take the cup and drink, remembering the Christ in you, your acceptance means that you are being redeemed by the Spirit of Christ that is within. Say, 'In the name of Christ, the Supreme Light, the Perfect Son of God, I accept my karma and I take it; I drink the cup and the life-forces of the Christ fill my whole being, my past errors are washed away'. Why does this cleansing take place? Because with the accepting of the cup, the vision is cleared and the soul sees its past error and, having realised it, experienced it, it is finished.

Karma is a law of God; and whether or not you believe, you cannot alter cosmic law. But when the soul has passed through the experience of what you call evil or bad karma, the soul has had its opportunity to pay a debt, remit its sin. The soul can only remit its sin by accepting its own guilt. It is not (as we have formerly supposed) the fact that the Master Jesus was crucified that has redeemed us from our sins. It is the fact that we ourselves in physical life are being crucified by our karma, and because the lower self is purified thereby by the higher self or the Christ self, past sins are washed away.

We have commenced this talk by referring to the heat and passions of every day, the anxiety to make progress, to do this, that or the other, and also the anxiety we experience when we are coming up against other people. What are these difficulties but our karma? We are speaking as one of you. We *are* one of you, my brethren, because we suffer as you suffer. The thought comes to use from someone, 'But why should you, a spirit, suffer because we suffer?' Because, my brethren, it is love which makes us understand, or feel as you feel.

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Although we have said that we suffer, it is vicarious suffering, which means that we feel for you, we understand you, we absorb from you your heartaches.

But your sorrows do not weigh us down, because love is the divine transmuter. Love, as you have learned, is the alchemist which transmutes metal – which term means the earthliness, the pain and the passions of earth. Love transmutes all this, absorbs it into itself and changes it into pure gold.

When the spirit helpers say they suffer with you it is because they identify themselves with your experiences, but they absorb from you and transmute. This is why you feel strengthened after contact with your guide and you know that all is well. Your guide has brought the light and the love of God which reigns supreme in the heavenly states, and you are thereby uplifted and strengthened and blessed. But what you have to learn is to yourself receive the cup and transmute the sorrows and suffering of your earthly life. *The Christ in you* has to transmute and redeem you; then the lower self passes away and has no longer power over you. Jesus the Christ upon the cross demonstrated this cosmic truth to all the world. The crucifixion spells the surrender of the man to God, the heavenly Father. Remember this, whatever you are enduring at the present time. It may be a minor crucifixion but it is actually the salvation of your soul; your higher self will draw much closer as a result of the remission of your particular sin.

This is a true story concerning every man. It is a truth which all initiates learn. No matter what their religion or their belief, all will come face to face with this opportunity of reaching upwards. The divine power of love will be their saviour.

Before we close we would like to draw your attention to the betrayal of Jesus by one Judas. Judas again dwells in every man. We are all Judases in that we deny our Lord. But Jesus, who might have felt much resentment and indignation, forgave Judas and pitied him. He knew that Judas could only end in one way, which was by self-destruction. The Judas in every man can only end in this particular way because the Judas is the evil genius and evil is self-destroying. Nevertheless Jesus felt great love and pity for Judas. Another aspect of the story is that the Master drew upon Himself the karma of Judas because He could forgive Judas and give him love which wiped out the karma.

On other occasions we have said that to keep up a feud or a quarrel, no matter whether within your own family or in the larger family which is the outside world, or between nations, can only end in one way – destruction. This is the vital lesson which the world today must learn. We know the many arguments that will leap to your intellect – how impossible it is for one nation to forgive another – or even for one individual who has a righteous claim against another to feel forgiveness. But, my brethren, it is the cosmic law which no soul, no country, can escape. There *must* be forgiveness because without it the soul cannot be redeemed. Without forgiveness the sins of the individual cannot be washed away; but when the person or nation will drink the cup, accept, admit the fault, then man or nation will be saved. Miracles mean some manifestation which is outside normal material happenings. The only power which can bring miracles upon earth is the Christ power of love, of forgiveness – the only power which will redeem the present race. Unless this gospel of divine love is accepted, absorbed and applied in every detail of human life, there can be no continuation of the race.

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But do not go away, any one of you, and think or repeat that the race is going to be destroyed'. This we have *not* said. We are emphasising a divine truth, which is that love, forgiveness is the only saviour of mankind. Brotherhood and goodwill must be broadcast first of all by the spoken and the written word and secondly by the application of this way in every human life. You will help, won't you? You will help, my brethren, by doing your utmost in your own quiet lives to manifest the true love of Christ by brotherly love, by withholding that which is false, by accepting that which your inner voice tells you is true and gently expressing it, while rejecting that which your inner voice tells you is false.

May the keynote of all thought and action be gentleness and love. This is the vital lesson with which mankind is now faced. This is the meaning of the remission of sins through the Lord Christ, the Light, the Son of the Creator, the Father–Mother, and when this truth is understood we shall become once united as the Holy Trinity: Father–Mother–Son, Power–Wisdom–Love. The light shall shine down on the earth and man shall reach upward to the heaven; and the perfect form of the six-pointed star, which is the basis of all creation, will be once more manifesting in all its glory on earth. Then man's incarnations will cease and he will pass onward into spheres of more glorious life and joy and happiness.

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:

mindfulness, calm, inner peace, sacrifice, learning lessons, flow with it, letting go, teacher, intuition, cause and effect, absolution, atonement, peace within