

The Son of God

A417 Sunday Address 21st December 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London Christmas Carol Service

Text: black carbon typescript in MB's inimitable style. It is heavily annotated in ink by YGH and was printed in *Stella Polaris*, December 1970. The printed version follows many of the editorial changes indicated by YGH here, but contains further cuts as well, probably because of shortage of space but possibly to limit the theme to one focus for the magazine. At the beginning, MB's 'early brethren' has been silently amended to 'earthly brethren'. A few paragraphs into the address we have substituted the word 'crampedness' for 'crampness'. The title, 'The Son of God', is the one used in the printed version. We have also removed an unnecessary 'in'.

Context: for the atmosphere at the start of the service, see below. We understand that there were two processional carols, 'There is no rose' (which could have been the setting by Richard Terry or maybe the modern one by John Joubert) and then the familiar 'Once in Royal'. Perhaps 'There is no rose' was sung entirely from the 'antechapel' (vestibule). The violinist mentioned might have been Mary Kennard, while the organist would certainly have been Philip Jones. The first congregational carol was 'O come, all ye faithful', followed by Minesta's invocation, which as usual was recorded separately. Three Choir carols, one with solo, followed, after which Brother Faithful read Isaiah 9 : 2, 6 and 7, and 11 : 2-6 and 9. Then the congregation sang 'It came upon the midnight clear', with three Choir carols following it. Brother Faithful led the prayers, and afterwards the congregation sang 'O little town of Bethlehem'. Finally, before the address the Choir offered a setting of 'In the bleak midwinter' (the Harold Darke version lends itself more to choir singing than the one by Gustav Holst, and was probably the one chosen). At the end, there was 'beautiful music from Brother David' and words from Brother Faithful, reproduced below. Then the congregation sang 'Hark, the herald angels sing'. Minesta gave a Benediction but also some personal words, which here follow Brother Faithful's. The Choir recessed to Brother David's 'exquisite organ music', although Minesta spoke of the Choir's final carol about to come, so maybe MB missed something.

General notes: This is a longer than usual Christmas address, and in many ways unusual in its content. White Eagle emphasises the deep truth in the words of Christmas carols, but extols the value of an open mind in seeking this. The centring of Christmas around the family is no coincidence, he says, for the shared fire is central to human association, and is a receptacle of memory. There was doubtless laughter when White Eagle confessed difficulty in remembering all his incarnations. After this, he offers a vision of a society so evolved that 'the whole world has become a blazing fire' – he presumably means that brilliant light fills everything on earth. He is anxious his congregation should remember, too, the ancient symbolism of the coming together of the Father and the Mother to create the holy Child. There is a confusion in this section, not uniquely in these addresses, between the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, which pertains to the birth of Mary, and Jesus's 'Virgin Birth'. Another apparent mistake is to link the Chinese culture with the 'Festival of Lights' when, as Diwali, it is primarily a Hindu festival. These errors may relate to the way in which White Eagle used his medium's mind. Addressing those who have no family, White Eagle speaks of the families we have had in previous incarnations and how they will be present, too. White Eagle offers a phrase 'as we heard a little girl say'; it may have been one of Minesta's grandchildren. There is no evidence in the typescript as to where the remark ends, and the closure after 'loving you' is entirely conjectural. Lastly, before the communion, White Eagle makes quite a passionate case for everyone having laughter and fun at Christmas and beyond – and with our animals too. 'Do your best, beloved children, to give out love to all, for there is no thing that God hates. God loves *all*.'

Introduction:

MB's introductory description is so full for this service it is worth quoting verbatim:

The Son of God

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The Lodge was tastefully decorated in various places with arrangements of masses of flowers, leaves and candles burning brightly, apart from those on the main altar. On the altar were exquisite pink roses with one single red rose in front of the Cross. On the blue velvet draping each desk was a beautiful Star with a golden rose in the centre of each Star. The Christmas tree was beautifully decorated, the star at the top was surrounded by many lesser lights – quite symbolic!

The beauty and the peace of the main chapel was made the more poignant by the lovely atmosphere in the antechapel created by the very exquisite tableau of the Christ Child and the angels in a setting of Christmas roses.

Into this beauty and peace, with dignity and grace, came the beloved Founders and Leaders of the White Eagle Lodge, followed by White Eagle's Choir, robed in white, singing most sweetly during the procession, 'There is no rose' and 'Once in Royal David's city', accompanied by violin and organ music (very beautiful).

Up this time, the chapel had been only dimly lit. However, to our great joy the Festival of Carols and Preparation for Christmas 1969 was heralded in with a great light on the main altar and beloved Minesta and Brother Faithful.

White Eagle's Address:

We bring all love, all love, to our earthly brethren. But before we proceed to talk about Christmas, we would thank the Choir. And we are sure that everyone present will join with us, with the spirit company here, to thank our Choir for the beautiful rendering of those lovely carols. You have given great joy, not only to your brethren on earth but to the angels – because, you know, it is true that the heavenly company cannot draw close to the earth without harmony and beauty being established in minds and in the heart of those assembled. And we would thank the Choir for their devotion and hard work for so long, because one must not accept all these gifts without recognizing the giving and the giver. You know, on earth there is so much that is taken for granted. You get used to events; you get used to beautiful things, and you come to expect them. Well, of course, it is right to expect beauty, truth and love – but always in your heart give thanks. Let us give thanks for the blessings that we receive; never forget this, because as a man or woman pours forth his heart in gratitude for what he receives, he is opening his consciousness – he is opening every centre of his being to receive from God the blessings of love and happiness, and health, and peace, and goodwill.

Now, as this is the season of goodwill, we take the opportunity of emphasising the value of thankfulness, and giving to the very best of your ability. We mean not only material gifts, surely material gifts, these are symbols. We mean the gift of yourself. This is what the world is needing, for every man and woman to give of himself, of herself, in the service of the whole of creation. Never forget this. Whatever kingdom – we mean the nature kingdom or the animal kingdom or the human kingdom – always give yourself.

Now you have been listening with attention to the very beautiful old carols. And in this modern age, particularly during the past few years, there is a tendency on your earth plane to

The Son of God

A417 Sunday Address 21st December 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London Christmas Carol Service

dismiss the Christmas message. Yet you must not confuse orthodoxy with the message of the Christ mass.

If you listen very carefully, and if you read the words of these Christmas carols, and ponder on them, you will begin to discover a deep and eternal truth contained in the words of the Christmas carols. But first of all, dear ones, you must dismiss from your mind all sense of – we can only say – orthodoxy, and all crampedness of mind. You must open your heart and mind to the world of light, to the world of spirit. You must feel in your heart that simple love, that simply human love which Jesus demonstrated to all his listeners – to his disciples, to the multitude, that sweet human love. Now, this is the message of the Christ mass.

Let us for a brief moment consider in the heavens the Holy Family, the Mother, Father, Child. This contains a mystical truth, an eternal truth, the age-old truth. Because of this Christmas centres around the family gathering. It centres around the hearth, and we specially wish to give this message to everyone tonight. For you will all be arranged either round your hearth, or your festival table. And when you are assembled we hope that you will remember our words, because these two simple festivals – shall we call them – these two simple gatherings round the hearth and the table, signify a mystical truth.

The family gathers around the fire. The fire is the symbol of God – the fire, the light, the *light*. Without the fire there could be no light. And as you sit round the fire, remember this: that all the thoughts, all your thoughts, all the thoughts of the many people who have sat round your hearth are concentrated there upon that centre. And in our time – in one of our incarnations – oh dear, there are many of them, we lose all sense of time! – the fire meant so much to all our brethren, to the ancient Indian tribes and to the Eastern peoples, especially to the Chinese, the Festival of the Lights. And it was carried out in very different ways in different countries.

Now in your land you have established a certain form for your Christmas festivals which have arisen, you think, from the orthodox Christian church story. But we would say to you that the Christmas festival is older far than Christianity as you know it, orthodox Christianity. But your present form has been taken from these age-old festivals of the simple peoples of the past.

Remember when you sit at your Christmas board, your Christmas table, with your friends around you, your lighted table maybe, that really you are sitting at the Communion Table. And when man can do this with all his understanding, understanding that the food he is eating has been provided for him by the Great Mother and Father of all mankind, he will absorb into his body, his soul, his mind, his spirit, the very essence of the Son.

Now we think of the sunlight as being a body of light in the heavens, a symbol. Let us tell you of a humanity which has evolved and evolved to such a degree that the whole world has become a blazing fire. Now this may be difficult for some of you to accept, but we are telling you of the truths of our ancient brotherhood, the White Brotherhood. And all our contact with your earth plane is for one purpose, to help humanity, to bring healing and light and comfort to the sorrowful and the sad and the sick. That is one aspect of our work. But the most

The Son of God

A417 Sunday Address 21st December 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London Christmas Carol Service

important of all is to help mankind to see with clear vision the grand purpose of life, the purpose for which he was born. And this purpose is the gradual development and unfoldment of the divine spark in his own heart, which is the Son of God.

Two thousand years ago that little babe was born and was worshipped as the Saviour. We are referring to the birth of Jesus. But behind that wonderful human babe is the great cosmic truth which is of the union of the Father–Mother – or we will put it to you in the mystical language, the union of the mind and heart, the Divine Intelligence and the Divine Love. This is the meaning of the union of the Father–Mother God and the birth of what is called the Immaculate Conception, because it is the immaculate, the perfect conception of that divine life, which is Love.

This, dear brethren, is what we would have you hold in your heart and mind, and keep as long as you live in this incarnation. Do your best to keep the spirit of the Christ Mass burning, burning brightly on your earth plane, because this is the holy truth which is the only salvation of mankind. It is not by scientific pursuits that man will be preserved, but rather destroyed unless he brings forth the birth of the Son, the Light, the Love, which must blend with the mind and bring through this simple story of the family.

Now there are some here who may say, 'But we have no family'. Some of you here may be alone on Christmas day. But we assure you, my children, that you will not be alone unless you yourself close the door upon your visitors. You know you have not only had this present life. You have had many lives. And in those many lives you have met many, many people, and you have had many relations. And some of those relations of your bygone days draw close to you. You do not know, or you may know them as guide or helper from the spirit spheres. But we can assure you that every living soul in this Lodge tonight has a family, and if they are not in the flesh on earth that family will draw close to you on Christmas morning, because it is then at the mystical hour that the birth of the Christ Child will take place in many, many hearts.

Do not be limited in your thoughts. Be wide, be broad and be high in your concept of the Holy Family in the heavens – which brings us to our last remarks.

We notice here a number of families that we love. Now, you may not know it, but the Brotherhood, our brotherhood in spirit, keep a watchful eye on all you dear ones and your families. And you never know, as we heard a little girl say, 'You never know who is watching and loving you' – and blessing, *blessing* you and bringing into your heart thoughts of love and thankfulness.

Let us sweep aside the heavy curtain of materiality. Now this does not mean that you will be incapable of dealing with your material affairs. It means that you will open yourself in full consciousness to the heavenly company; and those whom you love who have left the physical body and gone into that world of light. We assure you that they can and will bring to you, into your hearts and your home the beauty and the happiness, the fun and beauty of the Christ spirit. Do not be too long-faced or heavy-hearted, for one of the gifts of a good White Brother is his sense of fun. If you could see those whom you would call Masters, you would see that

The Son of God

A417 Sunday Address 21st December 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London Christmas Carol Service

they have a very gay twinkle in their eyes and are always ready to smile. Smiling, you know, does a great deal to smooth your way to unite you with your fellow beings!

And just remember our animals, the brethren of our animal kingdom, whom we love, and are working to bring love to every man and woman on earth; love of nature and love for the animal kingdom; for the etheric kingdom; love for God. Do your best, beloved children, to give out love to all; to *all* creatures of *all* kingdoms – because all these creatures of this creation [are] the creation of the great Holy Family. Do your best, beloved children, to give out love to all, for there is no thing that God hates. God loves *all*. We were going to say even the darkness, because the darkness contains within it the spark of light. But never forget this.

Now see, my children, all the brothers, those who are here. We see them all around us, all the brothers. And with them the One made Perfect, the One Man Perfect in the human family, whom you call Jesus the Great Initiate, he who made that physical body and character perfect, so that the Supreme Light, the Light of God, the Son of God, could show mankind through the human personality the true meaning of the Christ.

May everyone be blessed with the happiness of the Christ Mass spirit. Friends will be close. We shall be close. Goodnight.

And thank you, thank you for being patient to listen. And thank you, dear Choir.

We give the blessing of the Heavenly Father–Mother–Child, and the worshipping Wise Men who know the true wealth of that Christmas gift.

Brother Faithful:

Of course, we are a family. The Choir would not have sung with such sweetness and devotion. The congregation would not have sung so wholeheartedly. We would not have these members here, or the sisters from Scotland. I can only see a few. It is very difficult to recognise here more from all over the place. We are a family.

We have had some pleasant advice about Christmas and the kind of life we are going to have – advice which is invaluable to us all. And so for this most gracious and welcome Christmas present we are correspondingly grateful, and will express that gratitude very loudly and very melodiously:

‘Hark the herald angels sing [etc.]’

Minesta's Words:

Before we listen to the last carol of the Choir, I would like to wish you all from our heart a truly happy and blessed Christmas. Whatever the circumstances of one's life, one always has

The Son of God

A417 Sunday Address 21st December 1969 St Mary Abbots Place, London Christmas Carol Service

that inner silence, that inner sanctuary. And there let us be happy and be a channel for the happiness of the rest of the world.

Of course, I cannot speak to everyone – that is impossible – but I would like you to know that we, the family of White Eagle, read every one of your cards, and some of your letters have brought so much happiness to our hearts. And the little messages you have written on your cards we have read with very, very great gratefulness, much gratefulness. And we do thank you for every kind thought and the message you have sent. Our parcels we have not opened. We always keep those for Christmas Day. But for all your cards we thank you, every one. And although I cannot write individually, I write individually in mind, but being human I cannot do more. I hope you will understand this and accept my sincere and warmest thanks for all you do to help the work of White Eagle here in the Lodge.

God bless you, and thank you. And as Tiny Tim says, ‘God bless us, every one’.

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:

nativity, winter solstice, yule, inner light, communion, community, illumination, enlightenment, hanukkah, diwali, celebration, loneliness, singing, music, holy fire