

Initiation

T001 Inner Teaching 4th March 1936 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation

O Gracious Spirit, Light and Wisdom of the Ages, Thou Who dost understand every human problem, Thou Who art working in perfect love throughout the Universe, we Thy children come into this inner sanctuary, leaving without all anxiety and fear. We seek to enter into Thy peace; to feel Thy strength; to know that in Thee, united to Thee, we are safe from all ill. We pray, O Great Spirit of the Universe, that each heart in this place shall be touched, shall be illumined and baptised with Thy gracious Love, with Thy Power. Thus we stand before Thine Altar, surrendering all anxiety and perplexity of the outer mind, entering into Thy spirit of Peace, knowing that in Thee we are safe.

Amen.

We greet you all, beloved; do not feel in any way constrained. We would like this to be a happy group, wherein we can each and all interchange thought.

Q. White Eagle, I have never been baptised, and I feel that I have missed something. Is not a form of baptism a good thing?

A. Yes; if you feel that you would like to have a baptismal ceremony which will, shall we call it, initiate you into the mystical planes of life—yes. It would be very beneficial.

Apart from the spiritual power behind the ceremony, I would speak of the quality of water. You have often heard us recommend the use of water, inside and out. Water, as many know, possesses a special spiritual vibration. Water is the great life-giver; had you no water you would die. Try to understand it in this way—water is liquefied spirit; water, being the first element, has a wonderful power, and possesses wonderful properties on the spiritual and on the etheric plane. Water used in baptism, if by an officiant who understands, has a very powerful effect upon the etheric body of the candidate. If you but sponge the body with water, there follows a cleansing effect upon the aura.

You will notice a bowl of water on this altar; that is for the purpose of purifying the conditions, and water sprinkled in a room will always purify. But first the water must be prepared by an officiant who understands; and thereafter such water can be used for baptism, and will help to make that contact, or initiation of the soul with pure spirit, with the Universal Spiritual Powers.

Many still ask ‘How can the sprinkling of a few drops of water make any difference?’ We say that with knowledge behind, it can definitely raise the vibrations and greatly help the candidate.

To bathe the feet in water ... but of course in your Western world you consider not these things; but the Wise Ones in the East know of their value. The Master Jesus, you will remember, went through the rite of bathing the feet of his disciples, and although there are interpretations other than the one I am going to give you (one being that the bathing of the feet symbolised humility on the part of the Master) we suggest if you feel that it is true and

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right, that the disciples experiencing the act of having their feet bathed by the Master went through a form of initiation and baptism. I can say no more now, except that the rite Jesus performed was more than merely bathing the feet; it was indeed an initiation onto the path which he knew awaited these men. They were all initiates, as doubtless you have realised.

I wonder if the beloved sister was thinking about a form of baptism in the churches of the new religious thought?

Q. Yes, I was thinking that it would be good if we practised a form of baptism in this movement.*

*[*By 'this movement' both the questioner and White Eagle may mean Spiritualism, rather than the White Eagle Lodge]*

A. Let us remember the many different aspects of thought in this great movement; while some would like it, others would reject it with contempt. One would have to be ready to receive baptism and know that it was good. A link is made at a true ceremony of baptism with the spiritual planes of consciousness, and a union and strength is born to the soul which is never broken, however far that soul may wander. Does this mean that those souls never baptised are lost, you ask? No; because the All-Wise Father, being All Love, His children are a part of Him.*

[For information about gender issues see the Introduction.]*

Q. What do you mean by 'initiate'?

A. There are many degrees of initiations and initiates, but I think you refer to those greater ones that you have been in the habit of thinking of as initiates? Of course, any soul who has passed through any form of initiation into the soul planes—you follow me?—becomes an initiate. For instance, immediately a candidate enters a masonic lodge and passes through his degree he becomes an initiate of humble degree. Any soul may pass through many forms of initiation. However, we would describe an initiate as one who has been accepted into the Holy of Holies. Do you follow? Others, although initiated into various planes, are only in the outer courts.

Q. What of disciples?

A. Disciples are those who have had their feet bathed and are so made clean for the path; but initiates in the real sense of the word are those who have entered the sacred mysteries. Yes, there is much more to be said....

Q. You have spoken of water. What of wine, when used in its sacramental sense?

A. Wine, when used in its sacramental sense, is an advance on water. It is rather a quickening of the vibrations of the water; and when used as a sacrament can bring about a very

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wonderful union—do you remember the marriage feast, and how the Master turned the water into wine? There is the esoteric as well as the exoteric meaning of every parable and miracle.

Q.Can you explain the water initiation?

A.I hope that you may understand. Think of one who passes the water initiation as being stripped of all possession, of all material things. That is the first step; when most are confronted with this mighty test, they find themselves very doubtful as to whether they can accept a complete renunciation of self, of all possession, and undergo this union of the naked soul with the pure inflow of water, or the spirit, a complete baptism and purification. This is indeed the lonely path, not according to the earthly way of thinking, but the lonely path of the spirit. Think of a soul raised into mystical union with the Son, the Christ—I am trying to put it through [so] that you may understand. Water is the focal point, the *rod of power*, the magnet through which the Christ rays are projected.

Q.It has been said that blood must be turned into water. Does this imply the same thing?

A.I think so. Again there must be the vital link, the vital contact with the spirit, again the same lesson for those who have ears to hear, and understanding to understand—the Master on the Cross ... from his side flowed blood and water....

Perhaps we touch on dangerous ground if I were to go on to the subject of fire? I wonder if any present can remember the fire initiation? Yes, there are some....

Q.Is that a further step than the water?

A.No, not a further step according to White Eagle's path—no, rather a previous one. Does Egypt bring any memories of the fire initiation? Can any of you feel the burning of the fire?

I spoke of the fire initiation because there are many in this group once familiar with it. In this present age it is the will of the Great Ones that memory shall stir, that recollection shall come to some ... a word dropped may be the key to unlock the door of memory.

Although to speak of these mysteries is absorbing and interesting, we want you to remember at all times never to lose sight of simplicity. Remember that in the beginning of your creation you lay in the heart of the Logos, the heart of the Father—I would not separate you from God the Father. All truth lies in that one simple central thought. In the beginning was God (or God's mind), was God's thought (or God's word). He created light. As you departed from the heart of God and found that you possessed free will, you have used your free will like a wayward child. As a result of being wayward you fell into suffering, into the mire ... but always through your path you have maintained contact with the Heart.

Try to understand—it is so simple, and yet all-inclusive. If you would progress to the heart of the mysteries of the Cosmos, of Life, your way lies always through contemplation, meditation, realisation of the still, small voice, the God within. All the wonderful mysteries of

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Mu, Atlantis, Persia, Egypt, China—all such soul-experiences are still within your heart. This is why you must learn to *be still*....

It sounds so hackneyed— ‘Be still, and know that I am God’—to you who think there is no time to be still, too much to do on the earth plane. Well, should your earthly life absorb you, then you must forego the knowledge and continue to live in a little mud hut. If, however, you long to know the mysteries of eternity, they lie within. No book can teach you. In books can be found mental stimulus, but wisdom comes through the heart. For this reason we tell you to plunge into the very depths of life.

A paradox: I tell you to be still and yet to plunge into the very depths of life. To know God you must live. Who can find God if he remains isolated from his kind?

Those of you who can go into the slums, who can see terrible human conditions, and still enter into those conditions and feel with those brethren who live thus, are getting nearer to the heart of the mysteries. ‘It takes a God to know a God’—and the man who in depravity can see through the outer covering to the heart of God lying behind comes very near to understanding the mysteries of eternity.

So although it is difficult at first, we suggest that you enter into the joys and sorrows of your fellows, and while retaining your poise, cry when they cry, laugh when they laugh—*be* with them. You will be amazed at what you will learn. If you enter a place of amusement and feel yourself very sensitive and highly attuned, the vibrations coarse and crude, and still can see something beautiful shining through, a warm humanity in the people about you, then you are again come near to the mysteries of eternity. It is life, human life that you must participate in and *feel*, be at one with, never aloof from. Live life with your brothers.

This brings us to an all-important problem. People ask what is the use of sweating and struggling and striving when, despite all, there is so much suffering in the world? ‘None have troubles such as mine!’ ‘Were I in a different position, I would do so differently; had I more money, I would do so much good to my fellows.’ ‘My brother has the money, but he does but little, compared with what I would do!’

But, beloved, life being governed by law, you find yourself in exactly the place and with the very circumstances which you yourself have chosen. ‘But that is rubbish’ you say, ‘the choice was none of mine’. So speaks the outer self, the mortal mind; the real self, the divine urge, knows what you need. Think of the God-urge as a radiant light ever guiding your soul on the path. Not a moment of your time should be wasted. It is not what is happening to you on the outer planes, not your circumstances, not the riches which you have or have not—but only your relationship from within to your fellow man and to God; your inner reaction to those circumstances, which is the all-important thing and which is actually a form of initiation through which you are passing daily. Life is worthwhile, very much worthwhile, hard and bitter though it seems; as compared with what you learn, what you are absorbing, it is indeed worthwhile.

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Q. In the fire initiation, the initiate or the candidate had to hold on to a central thought or power. There was a temptation to give way to thoughts of fear and it was necessary to concentrate on some central power—rather like holding on to a rope. Is not this so?

A. Yes ... so you remember? Yes, you are quite correct. Initiation happens again and again and again, much as reincarnation, rebirth, a coming back to learn the lessons not quite perfected.

There can be no slipshod methods in this spiritual training. If you construct a temple or a great building, you must have every stone perfect—each rough ashlar must be perfected. It is just a question of keeping on keeping on perfecting. When you want to look back and feel sorry for yourself it is a sheer waste of time because there is no escape. Do not think how much better you would be able to build had you someone else's bricks. On the earth plane many of us have played with toys, but when we became men we put away childish things. We find courage, and joy in courage.

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