

The Great White Lodge and the Science of the True Prayer

T126 The Inner Teachings 12th May 1942 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

Let us meditate and pray—Thou Who art omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent; Thou in Whom we live and have our being—Thou Who art the deep well of truth, through Whom art all love, beauty, peace; Thou Who art Christ, the Light of humanity; Thou Who art nameless; Thou Who art within the Silence...O Great Spirit from Whom we all derive our life, we pray to Thee to open our eyes, to arise in us, saviour and deliverer from all evil. We worship Thee, we praise Thee, we adore Thee. We live to serve mankind* for Thee. We pray that we may be aware of the spheres of life beyond this physical world, beyond the astral plane and the mental plane. We pray that we may be aware of the spheres of the Christ Light.

And now may we feel the grand company of the radiant ones, of the saints of old and of today and all the beloved who have passed from the flesh to the world of spirit. O God, may there be no separation between us, and may we be, now, united as one grand brotherhood of life in Thee and in Christ, the King, the Lord God of all mankind. May Thy blessing rest upon every soul here, now. We thank Thee, we thank Thee, we thank Thee and praise and glorify Thy Name, Father, Mother and Son—the blessed Trinity of life.

Amen.

*[*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction]*

We would speak for a short while on the Great White Lodge and some of our elder brethren. Most of you know both of the existence of the Great White Lodge and of the elder brethren but vaguely. We notice a certain amount of misconception concerning this organisation, which has for its object the helping onward of the spiritual evolution of mankind. The question will be asked: Where is the Great White Lodge and who belongs to it? And are we, who are one of the mass of humanity, in any way linked to this Lodge of the Masters? You do not need to pass through any particular school to make you a pupil of the Great White Lodge; pupils are not confined to any earthly organisation. No earthly form or ceremony of initiation will of itself link you with the White Brotherhood. The White Brotherhood consists of men and women who are treading the path towards illumination. Race*, caste*, creed make no difference. A soul living far away from all occult teaching may yet be an initiate of the Great White Lodge. We mean by this that many souls who have qualified for initiation have done so unconsciously. The purity of their lives, aspirations and motives naturally draw them as steel to a magnet to the Great White Light. Shall we revert then to the old name used by the ancients: The Temple of the White Magic, enthroned on the holy mountains of the west, the east, the north and the south. Certain books teach that the Temple of the White Magic was situated on the holy mount in Atlantis. There are a number of holy mountains in different parts of the earth where assemble the brethren whose work it is to watch over the progress and spiritual growth of mankind. In such places these advanced souls who are called masters or elder brethren live and work. At certain times of the year there is a common meeting ground. Remember that these elder brothers are not confined or limited by time or space and can travel in a flash to any point on your earth. There they gather in a grand ceremony to further their work and to project the rays of light and truth into groups and countries working for the good of mankind, and also into the hearts of individuals.

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*[*The terms 'race' and 'caste', common usage in the 1930s, are now seen as problematic. It is unlikely that White Eagle would use either term today.]*

We suggest therefore that the White Brotherhood is a universal body composed of the great teachers of all ages, of all the saints of all time, and also numbering many disciples of those saints and sages. The Lodge watches specifically over humanity. Of course there are other beings even beyond and above the greatest of the white brothers; all—and when we speak of 'all' we now include planetary beings, angelic ones and all the nature kingdom, all the beings working upon the earth both human and solar—all come under the direction of the one Supreme Lord Whom you call Christ; Christ is the Supreme Light of all men, of the world.

Some of the names of the Elder Brethren are familiar to you, but we again suggest that many more are unknown than are known. You will ask the question, 'How can I, simple John Smith, know my master and who he* is? How can I approach him, hear his teaching, know his companionship?' This is not impossible; indeed, it is for every true aspirant on the path. No man can judge another; therefore when told by well-meaning people that you are unlikely to find your master, keep very quiet within—be unperturbed by such a statement. But we also warn all younger brethren that it is of primary importance to work to reach the state of realisation of the Presence. All must come through effort and such effort must come, not from the head—you will never, never, never reach your goal purely from the intellect—but primarily through the heart centre, through true, pure, honest, sensible prayer. No gabbled lip service will help, although to repeat certain prayers truly and sincerely can be helpful. Mantrams** are used by some people very powerfully, wisely and helpfully and are means of raising vibrations. All these are valueless however unless the aspirant works conscientiously from his or her heart. Then the heart centre will open, will radiate. You cannot utter a true prayer from your heart without it being sufficiently powerful to cause your heart centre to vibrate.

*[*While the master is referred to with masculine pronouns here, White Eagle would state that a master is 'beyond gender' and this is made clear later in the teaching.]*

*[**Repeated words or sounds, used to aid concentration in meditation. See teaching T 027.]*

The trouble is that so few know how to pray. Many of you will question me about prayer; you will tell me how difficult you find it to pray, saying, 'I try to pray, but I do not know whether my prayer has any effect or not'. The difficulty is that the mind cuts across the aspiration of the heart, breaking up the contact which the heart has made with the Infinite. Then all kinds of thoughts come pouring in. But, my brethren, we assure you that if you can make a perfect contact, if only for a second, it is a true prayer and will have an enormous effect.

You do not need to enter into a quiet place, although it is better to shut away the world when you wish to get into contact with the Infinite, but remember it is possible to withdraw into the innermost even if you are walking the streets of a great city. It is possible for the body to perform its duties almost automatically on the outer plane whilst prayer is taking place within. Do not misunderstand me and say that White Eagle declares there is no need to go to

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church to pray. We do not say that. We say that it is better to go to a temple to pray, or to your own private sanctuary—it is better, but it is not impossible to pray anywhere, wherever you find yourself when the need arises for sustenance and help and guidance. It is wiser to so live that at any moment, in any place, you can pray, open your heart to the great Silence, to infinitude, to eternity, and ask for help. Ask that the principle of love may be expressed through you in your dealings with your fellow men.

By constant practice of prayer and meditation and this realisation of the omnipresent, you will begin to recognise and realise the presence of your master. Do not bother about his name. It is better not, for the present, but only to recognise a radiant and very wise teacher. Every man's teacher is his master. Your particular master may come from the Lodge or the Holy Centre, the Temple of Light (the City of Light if you like) in the East; or he may come from the West, or from the Himalayas or the Andes, or the Hyperborean* or from the southern regions—I do not know. It all depends on who you are and what your work is and on your past incarnations. But you will find great help if you will strive for realisation of the presence of the companionship and of the love of these elder brethren. How old are they? Well, many are ageless as far as your earthly time is concerned.

[Hyperborea is the name of a lost continent in the far north, known in Greek mythology as a 'perfect' land.]*

It is noticeable how frequently the mountain top is referred to in connection with the masters, with groups and lodges. Think for a moment about this; it is natural to go up a mountain to seek light, to seek peace. You want to raise your consciousness away from the plains, away from the depths; to the heights you naturally aspire, so you think of the centre of holiness as on a mountain. Actually it is a raising of consciousness to a plane above the material, above the world of darkness. For the earth plane is the plane of darkness and the earth planet is the darkest planet, but even the darkest planet can become light, and the day will come when through the efforts of God's humanity, Christ's humanity, the very particles, the atoms of the earth will change; the earth will then gradually evolve into a state of light and beauty, an ethereal state in which it will become invisible to young souls on other planets in the far, far distant future. For there are ethereal planets, spheres of light and glory, which are unseen as yet by the men on earth, who are still in a state of heaviness and blind to spiritual beauty and glory.

Q. Can you tell us whether we have passed the absolute material stage and are on the upward path?

A. As far as we can tell you, humanity is now on the upward arc. Do not, my brothers and sisters, regard the present condition with despair, but rather with a thankful heart and a hopeful one. It is a good sign, the breaking up and throwing off of unwanted outworn conditions, both materially and mentally. It is a great upheaval, but you have not got to go any lower; you can look up now, look up and remember that from your individual effort this earth plane will become spiritualised. No man and no woman can live to themselves. The

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responsibility is great but the joy is greater, when the soul makes the effort to draw closer to the Great White Light.

Q. I once heard Arthur Conan Doyle say that the period before the Great War of 1914-18 was the darkest of this cycle; have you any comment to make on that?

A. We should hardly separate the time of the last great upheaval from the present—it is a continuation of the same condition—but all the time there is this process of evolution taking place. White Eagle's personal opinion is that the darkest time was at the beginning of this present conflict, and now the turn has just been taken upward.

Q. Do the Masters of the Great White Lodge meet at the Wesak Festival?

A. There are other occasions which are not so well known, but that is most certainly a powerful meeting when the East distributes its blessing upon mankind.

Q. Why is it that one always hears talk of men masters but not of women? It seems strange!

A. It is strange, but it is not true! Prejudice remains against what you call the weaker sex*, but do not be too sure about this. There are both men and women masters. They, the White Brotherhood, the Wise Ones, recognise and accept women masters. By their fruits ye shall know them. Therefore my brethren, let us all try through self-development and mastery to learn discrimination, to learn how to recognise a true brother or sister of the White Lodge—by signs, by grips unmistakable, but not earthly signs nor earthly grips. That is only an outward symbol very much abused, but there is always the true inner side by which a true brother can recognise another.

[An expression in common usage in the 1930s; White Eagle would be unlikely to use it today.]*

Q. You upset an idea I had when you said that the earth was the darkest planet. I had always hoped there was one darker even than the earth—Saturn.

A. I suggest to you that Saturn is the planet of light, of illumination. Saturn is the great teacher of the Earth. It is the influence of Saturn upon the Earth which causes the earth humanity to awaken and become initiated.

Q. I rather thought that there was some connection between the word Saturn and Satan, and also that the influence of Saturn could have an evil effect. I quite follow what you say, but I think that we must have evil controlled by Saturn.

A. We see it as a planet of illumination and light. We still say that the earth is the darkest planet.

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Q. It is interesting that Saturn is the planet of time, and from the point of view of the signs it rules, it is opposite the Sun. We are breathed forth from the sun, and become conscious of time and gain individual and God-consciousness through the time and space limitation.

A. Therefore Saturn is the friend of humanity. It is rather like force and energy. If force were removed, what would happen to energy?

Q. Can we take it that the other planets are more advanced spiritually than earth, and that is why they are brighter, and that we shall evolve until we reach the same state?

A. Yes, most certainly. All life is moving, evolving—all the planets, all life, all people, all animals, all nature, all planes—all moving forward, evolving, all working up the spiral—that is life.

Q. Humanity regards such things as disease as 'ill fortune' whilst we have an idea that good fortune is a great benefit, but when I study the results upon humanity and realise how often disaster spiritualises life and good fortune materialises it, I wonder whether we should reverse our conception of good and ill fortune—and to the same degree, the influence of Saturn upon the earth?

A. Is it not that the lower part of man desires to draw to himself and wants everything to go his way? He does not love God, he does not give to God all that is God's. Humanity wants everything its own way, but God moves in a mysterious way and is continually bringing to mankind good through what man calls evil. Evil is often God's way of withholding from man what man wants to pull upon himself—much as a babe drags the cloth off the table and brings an avalanche of china upon himself. Then man blames God because the china breaks on his head.

Q. The influence is really a testing influence?

A. It is certainly a testing influence. Saturn is the great initiator, and until the individual soul has passed the tests of Saturn it cannot enter the Temple of Initiation. The password of initiation is conveyed to the candidate through the influence of Saturn. I would counsel you all to look upon Saturn as a beneficent, a kindly wise schoolmaster who knows what he is about and who has to inflict the rod—though he does not like to do it!

Q. How can one open one's heart to prayer and silence the intrusion of the daily mind?

A. I often think that one of the best ways of doing it is to treat the intruder with contempt—ignore it. Concentrate more strength than ever upon the God within, and that concentration will become so absorbing and so powerful that the little outer mind will wilt and fall away and be unable to overcome or penetrate the enormous battery of prayer to God. Do not worry about turning out the culprit. Just ignore it. Concentrate with all your strength and all your being upon God. It possesses you and fills you with power and light; everything else falls away and you become a living battery, a force of God light.

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So also in dealing with humanity. When you have little difficulties, it is far better to ignore and let them pass; concentrate on the power and strength of Christ within and these foolish difficulties will disappear. Too much time is wasted on fussing and worrying. Concentrate on God and the expression of the Christ within. Nothing else matters. You make mountains out of molehills. Remember, 'Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord'*. When you feel inclined to retaliate because you have suffered an injustice, don't: you can safely leave the working of the law of God. Justice will be enforced to the uttermost. It is the law.

[*Romans 12 : 19]

Concentrate on God; nothing matters in life so much as this, because by concentrating on God and awakening the true faculties of your higher self you are doing all good, you are putting forth every effort in the finest and the truest way in life and on the earth plane. You need not bother about negative things. They automatically right themselves if you get to the centre of truth and God, power, love and knowledge.

Q. Are our prayers ineffective until we have got to the stage of the true power of prayer?

A. No sincere prayer is ineffective. No sincere prayer is ineffective. The prayer of a child reaches its mark. A child has complete faith in Jesus Christ, or in the Father God. It does not question, its little heart goes straight to God. It is not necessary for a soul to become an initiate or highly evolved before it can truly pray. Sincerity is what counts—simplicity, true humility and sincerity, but remember that prayer is a very powerful instrument and before praying for any particular thing, be careful. Pray for one simple thing, which is God's love; pray for an increase of God's light, not for yourself but in order that others may benefit and be blessed through that. That is the best [way] to pray. Pray for God, pray for good for your brother and resign all to God—not my way, O God, but Thy way. Into Thy loving keeping I commit all those whom I love; Thy will be done on earth as it is being done in Thy heaven world.

Benediction

Great White Spirit of the great open spaces, the mountain tops and the quiet peaceful valleys;
Great White Spirit of nature and of the heavens above the earth and of the water beneath.
Great White Spirit of eternity, infinity, we are enfolded within Thy great heart. We rest our heart upon Thy heart. Great Father and Mother God, we love, we worship Thee, we resign all into Thy loving keeping, knowing that Thou art love, and all moves forward into the Light.
Amen.

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