

Thanksgiving

A049 Sunday Address 2nd October 1938 Pembroke Hall, London Sunday Service

The text of this address is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: duplicated copy, as in *Angelus*, November 1938.

Context: an address given supposedly at Pembroke Hall on 2 October 1938. The year is not stated but it is confirmed by the issue of *Angelus* in which it appears, by the political issues mentioned and by the fact that that date was a Sunday in 1938. There is a reference at the outset to a hymn about angels: this might have been 'Ye holy angels, bright' or 'Angels and ministers, spirits of grace'. There is a strong connection between the themes of fear in the Address of 4 September and of reassurance in this one. White Eagle says that his theme was going to have been 'The Unfoldment of Spiritual Gifts' but was changed to 'Thanksgiving' to match the national mood – see Historical Notes, below, for the explanation. 'The Unfoldment of Spiritual Gifts' is the title of the address of 6 November, five weeks later.

General notes: see *Historical notes*.

Historical notes: the second paragraph of this teaching refers to the listeners having been spared 'a great tragedy, horrors innumerable'. The four powers at the Munich Agreement on 30 September agreed that Czechoslovakia would cede the Sudetenland to Germany by 10 October, and Neville Chamberlain returned to England with his famous 'Peace for our time' comment. It is quite unusual for White Eagle to comment so specifically on worldly events as in this teaching, and it contains the powerful comment, 'Do not make the mistake of thinking that you could beat any enemy through the might of arms'. He later asks for special light to be projected to Europe, to those feeling harsh injustice: these are presumably the Czechs.

White Eagle treats the Munich Agreement as 'the dawning of a new day' for the world. In fact, of course, it was not; but seven years later, and after six years of war, it is probably true to say that that day really did come. Some of White Eagle's predictions will seem strange, bearing in mind how the events of 1938 led into the war of 1939, but if they are to be seen as anticipating 1945, they seem much more appropriate. Some seem still far off, but maybe not.

References: near the end, the phrase 'These things shall be' is from the first line of the well-known hymn with words by John Addington Symonds (1840-93); White Eagle had earlier parodied the line in saying 'These things shall not be!'. Symonds' poem is called 'A Vista'.

White Eagle's Address:

Beloved, one and all, do you feel, as we do, the presence of the Great Light?

You have been singing of the coming of the angels to the earth to praise and bring peace – a familiar tale to most Christians. But they think, and rightly, that this happened two thousand years ago and then the door was closed. Never since have the angels proclaimed the glad tidings that the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, was born in earth.

You have gathered tonight with hearts overflowing with thankfulness. You have been spared a great tragedy, horrors innumerable. Not so many days ago the hearts of men were filled with terror; today the clouds are passing and there is to be seen the silver lining. The reaction is such that as yet you can hardly realise how deep was the anguish, how black the clouds. But as of old, so today ... as it was in the beginning; is now and ever shall be. God never leaves His children without a witness. The angels of light, the messengers from the very throne of God, have descended and their song is still to be heard by those with ears to hear.

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You have been through dark places and have suffered many horrors in imagination. Yet had you desired, had peace been in your heart instead of fear and discord, you too would have heard the angels singing.

May this be a pregnant lesson to all concerned. It is now over. It is now easy to say 'How foolish was I? Had I but listened, but stilled the torrent of fear, had I but stilled the emotional storms, I should have known that the light was coming; I should have known that the thunder and fire would pass'. Many will acknowledge, 'But I did know, deep down'. Here is the crux; many knew, in their inmost self, but the mind, which can be the instrument of so-called evil, overrode the intuition. Intellect and mind, fear and emotion, grow turbulent like unto a raging stream and then it is that the gentle voice which whispers 'Stay! Peace can be on earth, peace will surely come!' is subdued, overruled, denied. May you all learn! Hold fast to intuition, bend down and hearken to its gentle voice which tells of friendship, justice and peace.

Our subject tonight was to have been 'The Unfoldment of Spiritual Gifts', but instead we would join with you in Thanksgiving and deal with the unfoldment of spiritual gifts at some future date. Remember, if you would unfold so that eyes and ears are opened to the worlds beautiful, the worlds of spirit in which you now live (did you but know) – if you would do this, the first essential is to learn to be still; to listen to the voice within your heart. Listen to the promptings of your intuition. If you feel a certain condition is right, then right it is; but if you feel uneasiness and you are disturbed, be sure all is not well. The first step on the path is to follow the light of your own heart. Then you can make no mistake.

Beloved, those of you with spiritual vision will see the presence of angels. Few can fail to be aware of the blessing which is being poured upon the earth. After this experience, humanity will never be the same – never. Time must elapse before the full manifestation of the power of the Spirit, of the Light of Christ be realised on earth or becomes manifest. Nevertheless, humanity has passed through an initiation and henceforth will come an expansion of spiritual consciousness in the minds and hearts of men. It is not enough that you, my brethren, have worked hard to bring peace through into manifestation on earth. You are only on the fringe, have only just begun the tremendous work which lies ahead. Six weeks ago, before the Lodge re-opened, we told a few brothers that there waited plenty of work for them. They little knew what that work would entail or that it spelt the surrender of time, strength, their very soul essence in service.

We are fully aware of the earth point of view regarding what is called the 'Crisis'. But the earth people only see half of the picture; unless their eyes are opened to the spiritual spheres. We know. They say your possible opponent was fearful and was brought to heel because of the might of arms, the fear of war with your nation or the group of nations. We say to you in all sincerity that this is not true. On the astral plane there has been war between the light and dark angels; the pressure of this invisible conflict has weighed upon all. Is there a man or a woman listening who has not laboured under an unusual, an indescribable influence, pressing down, causing heaviness and depression, so that even the bravest hearts quailed and footsteps stumbled at the last gateway? Difficult was it indeed to hold fast to that faith – nay, that inward knowledge – that all was well. Therefore we in the invisible sympathise with and

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understand our beloved brother who has faltered. So well do we know how hard it was to maintain calm, placidity, tranquillity. But through the light and Christ power kindled in many hearts – not in your country alone – have the powers of the light conquered. Do not make the mistake of thinking that you beat any enemy through the might of arms. The power of the Light, the Prince of Peace, came very close and all men who could responded to that tremendous outpouring of spiritual light upon the earth. Humanity in its dire need rose to touch that vibration and what followed was like the quickening of the Christ Child in the womb of Mother Earth. There is still much to accomplish, for the Child is not yet born, but the time draws near.

We ask you to render a service to us; it is this – Hold your tongue. That is one of the hardest tasks you can be asked to do. So much confusion! Oh, the mists which surround humanity caused by idle chatter! The angels fold their wings and bow their heads, unable to minister to you when there is so much idle talk on earth. Brethren, when you are tempted to say; ‘I think so and so; I believe so and so; I like this man, I don’t like the other,’ be silent, wait and see. If you can restrain yourself from expressing any foolish opinion about the affairs of the world, then you will greatly assist the angelic brethren in their work. We say to you that there dawns a new day for humanity – not only for your nation, not only for Europe, but for all the world. Be patient; do the work which lies before you; do that which you have been shown is the way of service and you will witness a gradual beautifying of all the earth.

We say to you again; not the power of earthly mind, nor might of armaments, but the inflow of Grace, Wisdom and Love to balance the ray of Power (which was getting over-stressed) has brought humanity back to its equilibrium.

We foresee a period of peace, not only for Europe, but for the Far East. We see that the messengers and the angels – who by command of our Father God have descended to humanity to give light and guidance – we see that they come very close and turn the faces of men towards the light of true peace. Cast out of your mind all doubt, all criticism, all suspicion. There is far too much suspicion in the hearts of men. Beloved children, you must learn to trust. The old mind of earth will demand ‘But why should we trust?’ The spirit answers that trust is the basis of spiritual growth. Learn to trust your brother man, to have faith in the light in the heart of your brother. Remember, nationality does not matter; the Light of God shines in the heart of all. God is not British alone, but He is All-love, All-wisdom and All-Power. Live unto God, and you shall see the birth of the Christ again on earth.

The angels came to the shepherds! Who and what were the shepherds keeping watch over their sheep on the hills? Now we say unto you that the shepherds are the Initiates ... those souls who have gained an expansion of consciousness. Their sheep are the younger souls, those whom they tend. The shepherds watched from the hillside ... they stand upon the hills because they are raised in consciousness above the plane of earth. Do you not realise the symbolism? Even as the angels came long ago to the shepherds to announce the birth of the Christ Child, so do they bring today their message to those who are able to receive. They come again, bringing tidings of peace and goodwill. They come to you, to all who are

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working for the great White Light. They come to you again and yet again, and say, 'Behold the light shineth ... the Prince of Peace is waiting to be born'. Harken, they are singing! 'Peace on earth, goodwill towards all men.'

Beloved, we are all overwhelmed with thankfulness that the light has broken through to the earth plane. There is to be no war! Yet if you would play your part, you must do more than say, 'How glad are we, how thankful! Now we can do so and so; now we shall enjoy ourselves again!' Stop! It is because mankind thinks slothfully that it is necessary for suffering to come. If peace brings only a sense of relaxation, if you feel there is nothing better than to have a good time, then peace is not peace. This lesson must be learned. All must see the necessity of continual effort and service, because there are many beloved in many countries who need succour, healing, our love and consideration. In thankfulness, may we not be self-satisfied, but rather spurred to further effort to spread the light of the spiritual worlds into the hearts of all men.

We see a time coming when there will be recognition and understanding of the worlds beyond. The next step ... the unfoldment of spiritual powers which all possess, so that with unfoldment will come vision, wisdom, justice. Thenceforward no brother will suffer oppression and maltreatment because he lacks material power or wealth. No man will keep his brother in serfdom. These things shall not be! There will arise no question of bloodshed, because the spirit of love and goodwill will leap in the heart of humanity. War, suffering for another, will become unthinkable ... cruelty to an animal will be unknown. The light in man will forbid him to inflict suffering upon any one of God's creatures. Children will be nurtured in an environment of beauty and harmony, no longer ill-fed and clothed, nor suffering the oppression of a system of educational cramming; but rather will the child unfold in harmony the spiritual aspect of its nature. We shall see the ray of healing so penetrating the physical bodies of man and child that suffering, the incurable and terrible diseases of today, will vanish.

For as Christ enters into man, [there] comes the perfecting of the physical, as well as the higher vehicles. With the opening of the spiritual eyes will be power to see into the land of light. No longer will the mind hold domination over the heart, but the perfect blending of intellect and divine love will bring to mankind divine intelligence and wisdom. These things shall be! You are pioneers labouring for the near coming of the day when the light of Christ shall dominate the whole earth.

Before we leave we would ask you all to unite with us in sending forth light and power, love and sympathy and understanding to those brothers in Europe who are feeling a sense of injustice. So shall you give them help to bear their burden, for out of their darkness shall also come a great light; peace to their nation, growth and prosperity; as they learn their lesson, so shall they receive the blessing of God.

Work unceasingly to give love, to give light. First in the gentle, quiet ways of service, in the humble ways of life. Work not merely with the tongue, but with your heart, keeping it continually alight as a lamp. For all humanity, knowing or unknowing, seeks the Holy Grail,

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and the light of your heart will help the pilgrim in his search. All humanity has set forth on the quest; they shall come, in due time, to the temple of prayer, of quietude, of the spirit; and there, within that temple, will they find the Light ... within ... on the altar of the Holy Grail.

Peace be unto you. Peace – not the peace of indifference, but the peace of renewed effort and service, be ever with you.

The angels are singing: ‘Peace on earth; goodwill to all men. The King of Kings cometh amongst His people!’

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:

World War II, power of thoughts and words, the New Age, timelessness, continual service, inner light, light within, intuition, spiritual contact, world peace, faith, spiritual unfoldment, sending out the light

