

# Birthday Celebrations

A250 Sunday Address 1st March 1953 St Mary Abbots Place, London Seventeenth Anniversary Service

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

*Text:* from the printed version in *Stella Polaris* (see 'Context'). It was reprinted in a slightly shortened form in February 1998 and again in February 2018. The title in 1953 was simply 'White Eagle's Anniversary Address' but we have chosen the title from the later versions to distinguish it. There is no surviving original typescript known, and even in the 1953 printing it seems that paragraphs were left out, where the asterisks have been placed. Otherwise, the address is untypically short.

*Context:* printed in the April-May *Stella Polaris* for 1953, without a date but the text makes clear that it celebrates the Seventeenth Anniversary of the Lodge, the celebration of which normally took place on the first Sunday in March. From the first paragraph, it sounds as though the weather was unpleasant. The address is shorter than usual, which might be an indication of other festivities within the service – or simply that there was to be an anniversary party after. It was normal for this to be both a celebration and an annual general meeting, but it is not clear what the practice was in 1953. The same issue of *Stella Polaris* contains, in its cover pages, an editorial entitled 'Keep the Lodge fires burning ... by One who stoked them'. It could easily have been a talk at the said event. At some point in these years, however, the party was commonly held on a Tuesday evening.

*General Notes:* in this anniversary address White Eagle speaks more than usual about birthdays, which makes the chosen title the more appropriate. He speaks of a new era, and also draws attention, once again, to the fact that 1953 is Coronation year. But the new era is intriguing because he says it is a new era 'both of the messengers who come to you, and of you who are labouring on earth'. What is the new era for the messengers?

*References:* none

## White Eagle's Address:

We who greet you, with love and thanksgiving, would draw your vision away from the coldness and darkness of physical matter upward into the realms of spirit. There may you see, within a vast temple, an assembly of shining spirits, looking towards you in the Lodge and to all such gatherings all over the Earth.

Our message from the hierarchy in the heavens is that they rejoice with you and thank you for the help which you give to their work; for without a listening ear and a willing heart on Earth their efforts cannot fully succeed. From the spirit, then, we give thanks to you, just as you give thanks to those who help you in spirit. Thus do we come together to give thanks for this seventeenth anniversary of the birth day of this Lodge, of this work of the spirit.

Now, birthdays are not always regarded very happily by those who are advancing in years. An ordinary material, physical birthday brings to you, when you are young, joy and anticipation; but as you advance in years this does not always continue. But you must remember that you do not die, and you do not get old, except in knowledge and in wisdom and in love. A birthday should find you richer in these qualities, and you should indeed have cause to celebrate your birthday with praise and thanksgiving to God, for the many opportunities which have been given to you to attain knowledge and wisdom and to grow in love.

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It is important that you rise above the dark thought of age and death, because in truth there is no death. For you look upon a shell which has been shed away from an individual, a body which has been vacated like an empty house, and you think that the inhabitant of that house is then dead. But psychical evidence proves that there is no death, and that when the body has served its purpose it is abandoned, and that the spirit is as much alive as it was the minute before this 'death' took place. Yet you may be surprised to hear us say that there are many in our world who do not know that they are dead. This applies particularly to the materialist, commonly to the man or the woman who denies the existence of a Spiritual Being, and that they may live within that being. Thus, when these spirits come to our side of life they appear to carry on life in very much the same way as they lived while on Earth, sometimes for centuries, because time with us is not as time is on your Earth. Sometimes it passes more quickly in the spirit world, sometimes more slowly. A man can cram a century of experience into a few short hours according to your earthly time, or he may find the reverse is the case. In our world, time is a state of consciousness and of experience. The atheist continues in our world to live in that state of mind, possibly for a long time, but in the end experience opens his vision and awakens him to the heaven which he has earned. This deep soul experience is the Second Death, through which every soul must pass.

Remember that on your Earth at the present time, this spiritual awakening is taking place in millions of souls. Deep within, the truth is stirring. This is a special anniversary marking a new era in the work of the spirit: both of the messengers who come to you, and of you who are labouring on earth to bring through the light of the heavens. This is a great thought for your realisation.

Thus do we in spirit come back to labour with our friends on Earth to help to stimulate the God-consciousness in humanity. We need your help as you need ours. You all know the indescribable joy which the expansion of the spiritual consciousness in the heart has brought. Then remember that it came to you because of a friend; whether you know it or not, someone on this Earth was an agent of God to bring to you the sweet knowledge of the truth of the spirit life. The rest of humanity – [who] are, as yet, unawakened – will thank you for making it possible for them to pursue the same path along which you yourself have journeyed. You do not know how you are used to this end. But we would impress upon you the importance of your service, your help and your presence in this community. A number of torches gathered together make a much greater blaze than many lone lights. Add your torch to this group; you will be aiding humanity far more effectively than you realise.

This year is vitally important to the whole world, for a great outpouring of the spiritual Sun will come. It is a coronation year, not only for the British Queen, but because the golden crown of the spiritual Sun will enfold the whole world. Those who are unawakened to the spiritual truths will be awakened: but they will need the help of brethren who have already

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been initiated into the glory of the spiritual Sun life. It is for this reason that this year and this anniversary are of such grave importance.

Realise how close to you we are; how close our world of spirit is to your world. For you think of yourselves as being down on Earth, and of your friends being away above in a far-off heaven. This is not true. The spirits of those who have left the physical body walk with you every day of your life. And if you are strong in the spirit, strong in the love of the Son of God, you will be able to radiate help and brightness; and you will be able yourself to pass on knowledge to those spirits who are wandering and lost, and at the same time will be the recipient of the wisdom of the sages. As you attune yourself to the good, to the true and the beautiful, so you will be a channel for all that is of the finest and the best. In this way you can simply and humbly be a child of God, a blessing to your fellow men: by healing the sick, comforting the bereaved, and radiating light and peace and joy all through your life.

Let us thank God for this anniversary, for the continuance of our work here and for those hearts which are strong and true. May they be even more strengthened! May you all realise the opportunity offered to you in your present incarnation. Do not treat it carelessly and lightly. Do not let the earthly mind turn you aside from the path of the spirit, but live in service to humanity. We ask that all of you may draw together and make a great central light. Strengthen this Lodge by adding to it your loving help, so that a greater power may be given to the rest of the world, that ever more healing, comfort and light may flow from this place.

Let us turn our faces upwards to Him who is enthroned in the heavens, radiating golden light and life. We worship Thee, we humbly give thanks to Thee. Oh make our hearts wise and understanding. Give us knowledge. Give us strength to labour that all souls may be liberated from the darkness and limitations of matter. May man on Earth learn to overcome limitations of the physical life and enter into that glorious life of spirit, passing through the Second Death, even while still living on Earth!

For the Second Death does not only await man beyond physical death, but is an initiation which can be passed while still on Earth. That initiation comes when you know that you are spirit and not a finite mortal being, extinguished by death.

May all realise their true sonship with God; that they are immortal and live a spiritual life while still in the flesh. May they know that there is no death; that man goes on without a break, and enters into a fuller, more glorious life. Let us thank God, our Creator, for the glorious heritage that He has given to us all.

The angels in the heavens are now singing, 'Glory to God in the highest, peace and goodwill to men on Earth...'. Listen in your hearts; still the earthly mind and listen; and rejoice for this Anniversary Day. Amen.

*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:*

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*life after death, eternal life, Second Death, service on the Earth plane, gratitude from spirit,  
earthly challenges opportunities for spiritual growth, initiation, importance of service*

