

Joy in Life

A140 Sunday Address 3rd December 1944 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

The date of this address is conjectural (see below), while the text is as issued in the magazine Angelus after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: from Angelus, February 1945

Context: the basis for the date given is highly conjectural. The February *Angelus* traditionally published the New Year address, but while there is an indication of a hymn preceding this one, there is no reference to the New Year in it. It would be unusual for White Eagle not to wish everyone happiness in the new year. Also, a New Year address without a date was published in January 1949, entitled 'The Age of Gold', and it seems more likely that that was a late publication from the 1945 New Year.

In the present address, the reference to the world being rent asunder in the first paragraph makes it most certainly a wartime address. Nearer the end, after references to the karma of those inflicting suffering (which also indicates a wartime date) White Eagle uses the words 'God is working a purpose out': there is just a tiny possibility that one of the hymns had therefore been 'God is working His purpose out'. White Eagle does, at the end, speak very much as if humanity is at a threshold – but it is the threshold of the new age of Aquarius. Thus, we might reasonably place it when war seemed in sight of ending. The choice of 3 December 1944 is itself problematic, as there is no hint of Advent in it, but it may be that early December still felt well detached from Christmas. It is just possible from the first sentence of the address that one of the hymns was 'O love of God, how strong and true', which has words by H Bonar. Three bible references in this address are to the Epistle to the Romans, which might be an indication as the bible reading in the service – but they are all to different chapters.

General Notes: White Eagle speaks of air and sea travel as if it was in the experience of many of his audience. This is indeed possible, but a sense of wartime pilots and ship's officers may also have been an imaginative locus for his audience. He allows himself a rather strange digression, moving from the Epistle to Romans to the Romans in Britain and today's Britons being reincarnations of those. It is intriguing, but probably a coincidence, that the biblical quotations in this address are from that same Epistle.

References: the words from Romans that White Eagle refers to are chapter 14, verse 12. 'Vengeance is mine' is also from Romans (12 : 19). 'Casting off the works of darkness and putting on the armour of light' is still from Romans (13 : 12).

White Eagle's Address:

Brethren, while you have been singing we have been thinking about the love of God. You have come here because your soul aspires to that which lies beyond material life. You come to search for truth, and more, to search for the gift which is your birthright, the gift which God placed in the heart of every child He created. This gift is happiness. It is true that you have not known much happiness of late because the world has been rent asunder with cruelty. Yet you will agree that in spite of the conflict between nations there still remains something most beautiful in the human heart. What is it? Is it something dependent upon material conditions and gratified only by selfish pleasure?

No; this deep-rooted wisdom which comes in all manner of trivial human experiences, and those greater experiences such as love, reunion and even parting is beyond and transcends self. (True, a parting can bring sorrow and perhaps bitterness, but it can also contain a

Joy in Life

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tenderness and beauty which can prove an actual happiness if the spirit of God lies deep within the heart). You can still enjoy the beauties of the countryside – possibly even see those beauties as you fly through the air in an aeroplane. Then you will know something of the glory of space and the wonder of its freedom. You may have sailed the seas, and perhaps when there was a storm have felt the grandeur of the power which some call Nature, forgetting that behind Nature is ever a controlling force, the Divine Intelligence. You may have stood alone and watched the incessant motion and rhythm of the sea, have seen the moon shining over a dark ocean. The only way you could express your emotion was by saying, ‘How glorious!’ You may have walked across some rolling downs and felt the fresh air buffeting you; you have braced yourself to meet the challenge and walked in rhythm with it, saying, ‘How glorious is this!’

Such manifestations of the love and beauty of God come to man through the action of nature; but behind the natural forces is something intangible, indescribable and inexplicable which can touch your heart and make you feel the thrill of God’s life, a deep glory of the spirit which is love, which is God. Indeed, God is the law of all life and the fulfilling of that law is Love. You have stood, perhaps, under the skies on a beautiful starlit night, particularly if you have been in a land of the south where there is greater glory in the starlight. You have looked up into the heavens and pondered on the heavenly universe until your mind has reeled with its expanse and wonder. These things stir your heart with – what? With worship, joy, happiness – but not happiness as it is usually understood, a happiness which can come to the lowliest of men and the simplest soul, and yet is not denied to any man of wealth and power once he has learned that God, the universal spirit, is behind all form, behind all manner of life. God is the only giver of this almost infinite happiness. While it is true that such a happiness must be fleeting in these present days, we suggest again that God’s purpose is for all people to be happy. Do you think a God of love would create His universe to delight Himself alone? No, He wishes to share that divine happiness which is His with all creation.

You may say that if God’s purpose is for man to enjoy the universe and particularly this world, why does man endure so much pain and suffering? Why has He given man the urge to cruelty, the lust for blood, the capacity to inflict hurt on others? We answer that these things are not God’s choice. They come about when man breaks the law of love, which includes unity, injustice, mercy, peace. Love is the fulfilling of the law. If this is so, how is it then that the innocent suffer? And what have you yourselves done to cause the suffering of the present time, and how is it that a God of love allows suffering when man is ignorant of its cause?

Is man so altogether ignorant? We doubt it. God has implanted in every human soul the aspiration to all good. God has also implanted in the human soul something which is called the ‘power complex’, or sometimes the ‘self complex’. Although man feels in his heart that he should be loving and giving, he finds some excuse for not fulfilling that urge and for seeking to attain power to dominate other people. Love or Power: these two aspects are implanted in the earthly man, who has the freewill to respond either to the selfless or the selfish urge. To respond to the selfless urge he will need a long viewpoint; if he is short-sighted his response is to the selfish.

Joy in Life

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Here is another aspect of our subject. Those people who are wilfully inflicting pain on others today will at some time have to face the consequences of their breaking the law of God. You are told in your Bible that every soul has to be judged before God. That is not palatable and many people put it away, particularly today. Their policy is to eat, drink and be merry and selfish and let tomorrow take care of itself. But, you see, a tomorrow has always to be faced. It may not come in twelve hours' time – it may not come in a century – but it will certainly come to the sinner.

What did Paul mean in his Epistle to the Romans when he said: 'So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God'? It may interest you to know – you may believe it or not – that the people in this island are reincarnations of the Roman period. It is strange, is it not, that those very words were first written to souls then living in the Roman Empire? The British race is a reincarnation of the Roman. We can't tell you the origin of the other nations now engaged in conflict. It would take too long; but we can say that those who have inflicted wanton suffering and pain during this past year will surely reincarnate in the future to face their karma. They may not have to wait too long; they may be facing it even at this moment. Your Bible tells you: "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay", saith the Lord'.

This universe is created and governed by a law which is exact, perfect and true. It takes its toll. Therefore, knowing this, the soul can act lovingly and in a Godlike manner and remain perfectly tranquil within; for if the act is true and the law abiding there is nothing to fear, but everything for the soul to be happy about. Such a soul is fulfilling the purpose of its creation. God created man to be law-abiding and to know happiness. When there is unhappiness and inharmony, such as pain of the body, suffering, it comes for a wise purpose; and again the soul should accept these happenings knowing that God is working a purpose out. Every soul will have to come before God and be judged by God. Who is God? Where shall we meet and be judged by God? My brethren, God cannot be represented (as of old) as an old gentleman sitting in judgment like a Pharaoh on his throne; but in the esoteric sense God is represented as seated within the lotus of the heart centre. God dwells in man and man will have to face himself and see himself as he truly is. He will then be judged by himself – his higher self. This is what is meant by the soul coming before his judge, or being judged by his God.

In the ancient mysteries the soul was brought face to face with a looking glass. This was symbolical of the judgment of the soul. The candidate for initiation must look in the mirror and see his reflection; that was his judgment. "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay", saith the Lord.' We are not forced so to exert our power over another soul as to make it suffer. If we do, we shall ourselves suffer in exactly the same way. So the sooner we learn to contain ourselves with tranquillity and inward peace and send forth to our brother man love in thought and endeavour and action, the sooner we shall know the gift of God, which is all happiness. What a different place the world would be then, beloved! But even now you have no need to worry about the other man. All your care must be to express the divine qualities yourself. Then you are fulfilling the law. You are helping your brother man. You have no need to fear anything.

Joy in Life

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This is the beginning of the age of Aquarius, the age of spirit, the age when there is to be an outpouring of light from the heavens upon the earth. You are preparing in these years of bitterness for the advent of the World Teacher. That is a wonderful thought, a wonderful truth. When you are tempted to look with pessimism upon the world, remember that the world is facing its karma of the past. It must make payment for past debts. By so doing it is cleansing, purifying itself in readiness to receive the great outpouring, the coming to earth of a number of advanced souls and which will bring a happiness which is to bless the generations to come. In all probability you will be reborn to be one of the number. At all events you will share this wonderful blessing of the Christ love, the Christ light, which is so near – the birth of which is at hand – the coming of the World Teacher and his disciples and apostles. The world will be and beautiful, for men will walk and talk with angels and with those beyond the veil. There will be no more scoffing at communion between spirit and mortal. The ancient mysteries will return to this land. A very wonderful and glorious time will bless its people and the people of other lands also. In the words of St Paul, ‘Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light’, that we may be prepared to go forth to meet the spirit of the Cosmic Christ and come face to face with joy and happiness, with our God.

May the Great Spirit, the infinite and glorious Spirit, Father, Mother and Son, bless you individually and raise you into the realms of happiness and peace. We bless you.

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:

natural world, joy, punishment, selfishness, judgment, judgment day, cause and effect, new age