

Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Address

A220 Sunday Address 1st October 1950 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest 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*, October 1951.

Context: in 1950 we are entering a phase when the 'Harvest Festival' is a norm (the title feels a little wordy and serves to emphasise the extent to which this is an early example of something that became a regular feature – later examples would carry descriptive titles rather than functional ones like this). The address is not dated in *Angelus* but has been assumed to come from the year before. The reading seems to have been Revelation chapter 4, about the twenty-four elders around the throne of God. Probably the whole short chapter was read.

General Notes: the themes of this address – giving to the Earth as well as taking from it, the gifts of Mother Earth, the miracle of life appearing from the seed – have become quite familiar in White Eagle's teaching as the years have gone by. It is worth remembering that to the auditors of this address those themes were much less familiar, even new. This is a teaching focusing on the nature spirits and the absolutely natural, ancient ways of growing things. The need to give to nature, if we are to receive from nature, is repeated over and over.

References: 'Except ye become as little children' is Matthew 18 : 3; the twenty-four elders around the throne of God are first mentioned in Revelation 4 : 4.

White Eagle's Address:

Were you able to close your physical senses and stay your thoughts, you would become aware of the glory of the inner world. But the earthly mind of man is too busily concerned with thoughts of the outer world to make contact with that true life which lies deep within the outer life.

Jesus once said: 'Except ye become as little children ye cannot enter the kingdom of heaven'. If this be true then the average individual cannot find entrance to that world of glory, beauty, harmony and truth, because he is too complex. This must be so, for spiritual truth and indeed all truth is so simple, although its very simplicity sometimes proves a barrier to people who simply cannot relax. On the contrary they desire to become very clever, and for this reason close the door to the eternal verities.

Many gifts have been brought to this temple as an expression of thanks to the Giver of all life. These gifts of the flowers and fruits of the earth are in themselves physical demonstrations of that inner and spiritual power of God. These gifts of God are beautiful to look upon, yet they are all taken for granted, much as you take for granted the orderly springing up of the plant, the appearance and opening up of the blossom, and then the fruit. These things are given for your sustenance, and because they come to you easily – some people think 'not too easily!' but as a result of man's sweat and toil!

Here let us pause for a moment and ask ourselves why in the modern world things seem to come to man more readily than of old? And furthermore, is it good for the city dwellers to obtain all the fruits of the earth with so little effort, when they do not recognise the Source from which they flow? Again, as man's personal labour grows less and he relies more upon

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mechanical labour, is he not inclined to take these fruits of the earth even more for granted? Yet should these gifts be withheld, man could not produce with all his knowledge, with all his science, any flower or fruit of the earth. In the end he is utterly and completely dependent upon what he chooses to call nature. But he does not see in nature any representation of the great tender Mother love. He cannot regard the earth as the Mother, the sun as the Father of all life. The rays of the sun pouring upon the earth give warmth and stimulation to the growth of her fruits and harvest. She is the great Mother who enfolds in her womb the seed of life, so that the people of the earth may be fed, clothed, and replenished with all their needs.

Yet these same truths were comprehended by the ancient ones. There was a simplicity and purity of life amongst those people who worshipped the Sun – not only the physical sun, but the greater and spiritual Sun which caused the warmth to descend upon the peoples and give them life.

You plant a seed. It grows. Is this a miracle? But then – what is a miracle? Simply a phenomenon not understood by the ordinary mind. Have you ever thought of the activities which go on within the earth, and within the plant? Do you realise the vast multitudes of nature spirits who work tirelessly to feed the plants and to bring forth fruits upon which men depend for enjoyment and for very life? In days of old the peoples recognised the reality of these great hosts, which they could call upon to assist in the production of the harvest. In modern days the harvest is sometimes poor, and you think that this depends upon the vagaries of the weather. You do not recognise that you have at your call a great company of servants, of those tiny people who can be organised by man and directed to work in the fields. You may think that we are telling you a fairy tale? Nevertheless we can assure you that when man has once attained – through simple worship and simple life and simple thought – when he has attained the power of distributing what we will call the spiritual replenishment which the earth needs – or, in other words, when he has attained in himself a greater degree of spiritual life and light, and sufficient knowledge to direct that light upon the earth with a specific purpose, then he will enlist the aid of the nature forces and be able to produce greater and richer crops than will ever be possible by mechanical methods alone.

We come, we speak to you from the heart of the great Sun, of the great Father of life. We tell you that man must return to the Source of all spiritual power if he would save humanity physically, as well as spiritually. The day is coming when scientists – we would prefer to say spiritual scientists – will discover the ancient wisdom of the earth, the ancient truth of how to grow the crops; of how to nourish and replenish the earth and her people.

For a long time, man has been robbing the earth by taking away everything and restoring nothing to the soil. Now you cannot steal from God. In the degree you replenish the earth, in the degree you give to life in all its forms and all its phases, so you will receive the harvest of what you sow. This is the divine law; and man will suffer, he has suffered, and he must continue to suffer until through suffering he awakens to the truth. And this truth is that you must continually *give* and *give* and *give*. You must return thanks for all that you receive. How many people do this? Not all people. Many can and do daily bless God.

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Unfortunately, others criticise and condemn, asking ‘Why does God do this – to me?’ ‘Why does God take away?’ – Oh, my children, the Lord God does not take away from you at any time. God’s gifts are abundant. God is always giving. Should you feel that you have been robbed of something very precious, something very dear, *someone* very dear to you – robbed of their love and their companionship, we do beg you to remember that God never takes away without giving in return. He causes changes to come in your life; that is true; but such changes provide opportunities for renewed growth. Therefore, the changes which come can be like angels sent to bring you even greater gifts in the form of opportunities of spiritual unfoldment and development.

We would refer again to this great question of replenishing Mother Earth. This will be done as it should be done, as it was done in the past, when man has arrived at the divine illumination, when he is able to feel within his heart a great love for earth instead of a desire to clutch profits for himself out of Mother Earth. He will then want to feed the land, not with artificial stimulants but with the natural foods of the soil. What has been given to him – what he takes from the earth – he will give back in full measure, pressed down and running over. Not only will he restore the natural foods, but he will give a spiritual food, which is the Great White Light. In the degree that man stimulates this same light within his own heart, it will become the Bread of Life to him, a food which brings joy and complete satisfaction. Through partaking of that food, the spiritual Bread of Life, he replenishes the earth. He pours it forth. It is earth’s true and natural stimulant. It is this light which the little nature spirits will receive and use according to the direction of the Master of their group spirit.

In the ancient days when the masters prayed in the temples, they gathered the people round them; then they went forth into the fields and blessed the fields with the richness of their hearts and souls; and the little nature spirits responded to the command of the Christ Master. This being so, the harvest of the earth was rich and abundant. So it shall be again when men again understand.

So be sure to cultivate spontaneous thankfulness for all the gifts which God bestows in your everyday life. Also, remember that as man receives, so man must give. Even as man gives, so he receives. The law of love is to *give*, to *give*, to *give* – to let the light pour forth. In this manner will you bless not only those with whom you come into daily contact, but your own harvest will be rich indeed. For you are like a seed planted in the earth; and as you give what you have been created to give, which is love, which is the God-life, so you will strengthen the tree of life which is within you, like a centre pillar within your body. The branches of that tree (or spine) are the chakras – which can be seen like the flowers, the pure lilies of the earth; your plant grows and the flowers bloom and give forth their fragrance; from the flowers must come the fruit, this fruit being the perfect life of man.

This is the meaning of a passage that we have heard tonight from Revelation. The twenty-four Elders were those men and women who had grown within themselves this tree of life, had produced the flowers and the fruits of the life of God. Having this harvest within, they could not hold it to themselves, but in symbolic language they cast the crowns they wore – which signified the illumination of the perfect soul – before the blazing Throne of God, Source of all life and all glory. They gave back to God the gifts which He had given.

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This is the symbol of what every life should be: *giving, giving, giving*, knowing that we of ourselves are nothing. We own nothing. All that we have received in this life has come to us through the love of God. We have nothing. We are nothing. All is the glory of God.

Dear children of earth, let us very simply bow our heads in thanksgiving for the simple pleasures, the joys and the infinite happiness which the life of the spirit brings to us. And as we received let us give.

God blesses you. Never forget this. God blesses you. Good night.

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:

As you give, so you will receive; Divine Mother, thanksgiving, fairies, Mother Earth, spiritual simplicity, seeds contain the light of God, working in harmony with nature, sprites

