

The Spirit of Christmas Present

A027 Sunday Address 13th December 1936 Pembroke Hall, London Second special Christmas Service for 1936

The text of this address is as prepared for machine-duplicated circulation shortly after it was given, apart from correction of errors

Text: duplicated script in blue ink from the time preserved in a bound volume; no contemporary markings.

Context: for the origin of the title, see the previous address (6 December). This is now the third Sunday in Advent. White Eagle somewhat reinterprets the idea of 'Christmas present' to mean 'being present in the Christ Mass'. The address starts straight in and follows the previous week's talk quite immediately.

General notes: for the political context, see the last two addresses; this time, we are just two days past the abdication of King Edward VIII, so White Eagle's acknowledgement, 'Your country has passed through a difficult period within the last week' is almost an understatement.

References: none.

White Eagle's Address:

Now we would help you all to a deeper understanding of the spirit of Christmas. Since the birth of Jesus of Nazareth humanity has travelled many years along a road so beset with stones and difficulties that some wonder if the Christian revelation has really produced much effect. Many at the present time are unable to reconcile reason with the teaching of the Redemption. Many feel that humanity must save itself, and therefore the Advent of the Child at Christmas has little more value than a fairy story.

You are grown men and women, thinking men and women, but all at some time come up against human problems, and troubles less or great. Unless you possess either great faith or a knowledge which reveals a divine purpose in life, you are thrown off your balance.

But at Christmas time you desire to put aside unhappy thoughts, and try each in his own way to catch the spirit of Christmas. Who amongst you does not respond to that spirit of goodwill and kindness to all? At least, you endeavour to make some of your friends happy in this time for merriment and happiness. Everything is forgotten at Christmas. You send greetings to every one you can think of – your heart is overflowing with goodwill. The spirit of Christmas Present fills your whole being ... but when the Christmas season is over, you forget – is it too sweeping to say you forget? You put the season away in a nice little parcel in some cupboard together with certain of your Christmas presents. Christmas is over; and those who have worked very hard say: 'I am so glad that Christmas is over'.

Can we probe beneath the surface of things of Christmas and get to the foundation? The unorthodox reject the teaching of the orthodox Church, reject the whole idea of a Christ born as a little child at a certain season of the year ... and yet, despite rejection and scorn, Christmas still lives, still plays a great part in your life, does not seem to die away nor become less potent as the years pass.

There exists in the universe a power, an actual and scientific power which all may contact. Call it by any name you like, say the Spirit of Christ-Mass, or the Spirit of Christ; a universal

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power which is free to all, the property of no particular race or class, it is not exclusive to any Church or religion and can be possessed by no one group more than another. It is within the reach of all, within the reach of *you*.

The Master Jesus, born nearly two thousand years ago, was a human instrument through whom this universal power manifested, the power we call the universal Light of Christ. It is the foundation of all human growth and development. You may, if you wish, find a certain contact with the Christ or the Christmas spirit, which is not constrained to Christmas time alone, but all the year as well. You may, if you will work for it, be put into direct contact with this power, which will then fill your life with joy, goodwill, peace and health. Its lack means that you lose your grip on life and cannot see things clearly, cannot recognise justice or wisdom in any of life's experiences nor accept any justification for suffering. Thus the average man is completely at sea, in a state of confusion. If an ordeal awaits him, he literally goes to pieces with fear.

Man is consumed by fear, because there is no health, no harmony in him, and he has no contact with the spirit of Christ-present. Remember, we refer to the universal, to the cosmic Christ, which manifested through one man, but which may and will manifest through every man.

In contacting this spirit of Christ, man receives the most potent healing known. There are healers present in this service: you are known, all of you, to the great Master who loves and watches over your welfare tenderly. Your efforts at healing, your successes and your failures, are governed by the extent of your contact with the powerhouse, the universal Christ-Light. It is difficult to make contact, we know, because the mind, instead of being man's friend, the horse upon which he should ride, properly reined, becomes his enemy, and it bolts with him. Mind says: 'I know nothing of this unseen power; I know only that I am out of tune and full of fear, and can do nothing about it'.

Be still within. Within yourself, think of the Christmas Spirit. At Christmas you feel kindly, full of love and goodwill. "Never mind what so and so has done" you think, "It is Christmas time!" With these thoughts within your heart comes a remarkable change – harmony, peace, beauty. Whilst you feel thus you open the door to the direct inflow of this universal spirit of healing. Love brings the power to heal. But remember there must be also the *will* in you to do the Will of God.

There live on earth at present great souls whom you call Adepts, Masters, who have fully realised this universal Christ Spirit, and so have overcome all the limitations of the physical body. While they live on earth in contact with humanity and its needs, they respond to those who have understanding and faith, and call upon this universal Christ for help. These Elder Brethren, these Masters, do nothing of themselves; [it is] not their own power, they will tell you, but the Light of the Son, of Christ, Who is behind and using them as channels for the healing, for the upliftment and the blessing of humanity.

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These Brethren of ours so raise their vibrations that they can dwell both on earth and in heaven. They know no separation between the physical and the etheric life. They live both with you and with those who have passed into the Great Beyond. They so attune their vibrations to the heavenly life that by raising their consciousness they are there in the heavenly worlds. In this condition of life, at this period of the year, when so many souls celebrate the Christ-Mass, these Elder Brethren raise their consciousness so that they participate in the actual Communion of Christ in heaven itself.

May we tell you of something we ourselves have witnessed ... of a great multitude of shining souls gathered in the spirit world, or the heavenly places? About them [was] a harmony which sounded like the most beautiful music that you on earth can conceive – more beautiful indeed, the harmony vibrating through the heavens so that even the very clothing of these people thrilled with the harmony. They were waiting expectantly for the Great Visitor; and gradually, a light appeared in the centre of this vast multitude, like to a sun, a miniature sun; but it intensified in glory and brightness until it seemed to extend right through the multitude until all were enveloped in this light. In the centre became distinguishable a human form ... and as the mists cleared we could see the face ... of a man. The eyes were deep, unfathomable, but full of compassion and love which poured forth and radiated to the furthest edge of this gathering.

The form was perfect, and those gathered there were baptised by an infinite love. Each soul was strengthened and revived by this communion, and yet no word was spoken, for none could convey his love.

In the spheres of heavenly life there is no need for speech – all is known, all is felt.

But those blessed by this ceremony knew something of the power of the Christ Spirit. This same living force is for you, my beloved brethren of earth. Do not allow your lower self to crush out the beauty and the power of the Christ spirit. It is better to be simple as a child than to tread underfoot the flowers of the Christ Life.

Once realised, this universal force once seen behind all the manifestations on earth, you will know that nothing can go wrong, that all things work together for good. But human life is subject to law, so you will know that man cannot escape from the Divine Law which orders life. Two and two make four; two and two will never make five, nor yet will they make three. Life is controlled by this law of exactitude, this law of Karma.

You will ask: “Well, if Karma governs humanity, how can we heal others and ourselves? Surely sickness is the result of Karma?”

True: but recognise also that Karma can be transmuted or worked out through loving kindness as also through suffering. Love is the more difficult way, but if the soul can respond to that love-force of the Christ, shadowing Karma will be eradicated, or be transmuted.

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Your country has passed through a difficult period within the last week, and you do not know what to make of the happenings. May we suggest to you that a law has been at work, not the law of your land – no! no! no! – but a spiritual power behind this physical demonstration. You are told by many that man possesses freewill – but not to the extent he thinks, for it is an inward urge that directs your actions. Many declare ‘I have made my choice!’ but actually have made none – the God within directs and his free will governs only his attitude of mind, his reactions or resulting growth in character. If once fully understood, this law which says that two and two always make four, it will help you to eradicate intolerance from yourself, to realise that all men, all humanity, are subject to the same law as yourself, to the Law of Karma, or Cause and Effect. You have not lived a brief span of twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty or seventy years, but for thousands of years. Once you have entered into that higher consciousness of Christ, you will look back down the ages and see the law working out in exactitude during your whole existence.

And so with this we close. But may the Spirit of Christmas Present so impress your mind with the eternal truth of the Christ Life and the power which may be yours, so attune you to this universal force, that the coming years will bring a certainly and the daily realisation of the eternal Christ-Mass Spirit.

Be noble, and the nobility which in other men is dormant, but never dead, shall rise in majesty to meet thine own.

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:

reason, blocking spirit, Christ Mass, winter solstice, messiah, guides, teachers, revelation, illumination, festival of Christmas, celebration, light within, inner light