

The Path to the Light

T290 The Inner Teachings 8th July 1970 New Lands, Liss

Invocation:

We rise in consciousness to the golden heights, to the mountain peak, and breathe in the golden light. Having left behind all the pull of the earth, we kneel in spirit to give thanks to our Creator, praying that we may become aware of the blessing of the Most High. O Gracious Spirit, we worship, we worship Thee. We would prostrate ourselves before Thy glory, learning true humility, true love and thereby becoming fit to be Thy servants.

Amen.

We talk tonight not only to those who are resident at New Lands at the present time, but to all our students throughout the world. You have come to the Lodge of the White Eagle to learn how to unfold the powers of your spirit. This is a most beautiful state of mind for man* to achieve—to desire to develop his spiritual powers to serve mankind. All gifts of the spirit can be of the greatest service to humanity, and all gifts of the spirit can be embodied into one word. This word is ‘healing,’ because every student who finds the source of life, of creation, is touching the source of healing. All gifts of the spirit, whatever they may be, are all healing gifts. If for instance, you develop clairvoyance, or clear seeing, it means that you develop the gift of seeing into the inner of all life, into the innermost centre or spirit of your brother man, into the centre and the beginning of life—God, the Alpha and the Omega. Once you have made this contact, if only for a flash, you are henceforth a channel, for you have opened the way for the creative power and light to flow into you. Now this is like a little spring of clear, life-giving water. We would liken all spiritual development to the beginning of the flowing river, the little spring which bubbles up from the earth and trickles down the hillside, growing broader and stronger and flowing faster sometimes as it travels, until it becomes a great river flowing onward to meet the ocean.

*[*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

The water element is most important in man’s spiritual development. We’ve used it as a simile to show you how development gradually broadens and deepens and quickens, but at the same time to say that the element of water is life and every student must learn how to use the element water, how to absorb it into his etheric body. The psyche, or the psychic body, is very closely linked with the water element. Some of you may know that the water is most necessary in purely psychic demonstrations. A healer will sip water and needs a bowl of water into which to plunge his hands after treating a patient. Bowls of water are very helpful in a room where manifestations from the world of spirit are likely. A bowl of water, for instance, in this room would be helpful.

Spirit is related to the fire element. You will immediately think, particularly the astrologers here, that when water and fire meet steam is the result! Now when you start to develop your psychic or spiritual gifts you will feel at times very ‘steamed up,’ and this is because those two elements are not yet in complete harmony in you. You will perhaps see from this the importance of your controlling your emotions, or the water element in you. This is one of the most difficult things for the student to do, but his experiences are all helping, teaching him, to control his emotions and his psyche. Ungoverned emotion almost more than any other factor,

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can hold up development of spiritual gifts. This is why we suggest you pray for help to control your emotions and passions.

Those who would develop their spiritual gifts should never seek outside themselves for this development, for instance by reading all kinds of occult literature advising this or that practice or procedure. It is far, far better to concentrate on meditation. Meditation will bring you the greatest help, first of all in controlling your emotions and secondly it will help you to cultivate your imagination or the power of imagery or, a better description, to create form on the etheric plane. With meditation goes training in right thought. So much harm is done by negative thought. Not only the emotions but also the thoughts must be controlled and directed into positive channels, positive thought, God-thought. This is why, in the work of the brotherhood and the absent healing, you are not only serving your fellows but also developing your own spiritual gifts.

As we have already said, it is a mistake to sit for development expecting things to happen to you on the outside. True spiritual development comes from within you, from the spirit, from the jewel within the lotus of the heart. When that jewel, which is the Christ Spirit, the tiny seed of the God-Life planted in you, starts to develop, your whole being, in time, becomes flooded with Light. This flooding of your whole being with Light brings a healing power which will radiate from you wherever you go. If you enter a house or a room you take with you that healing power. If you write a letter you impregnate that letter with that subtle spiritual power which is Light.

You may think this is a little beyond the reach of ordinary material life. It is certainly something which is hidden from man at the present time, but man has something beyond his ordinary five senses. He has a sixth sense which is in the process of growth. In time, even a seventh sense will be developed. Now you have five senses which connect your soul with the physical plane, but the sixth sense is the first sense which connects your spirit with the physical plane. This is what you are striving after in your development, which must start with meditation.

We want, at this point, to tell you about the work of the ancient brotherhoods, for all the spiritual powers of which we have been talking were stimulated and unfolded in those schools of the inner wisdom, of the early brotherhoods. Perhaps it is misleading for us to speak of 'early' brotherhoods because the brotherhood always has been and always will be. There is no end and no beginning, life is one circle; it just IS. You cannot understand this with your brain, but perhaps you can catch a glimpse of the meaning deep within your spirit, in that light, that jewel, within the lotus of your heart.

Brothers in the schools of the inner wisdom were not only taught to meditate and commune with the world of spirit, but they were also taught how to contact the angels of the elements: of earth, air, fire and water. They were taught how through meditation to call on the great angels of the elements to bring to the soul and physical body the life forces which exist in those elements. The brothers in those days lived to a great age because they had learned the inner secrets of nature, and they had also been trained in Godliness. Godliness is eternal life.

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There comes a time when man has served his time on earth and he just goes through the door into the next state of life, but this is not death! You all have a wrong conception of death. Death is just an opening of a door and a leaving behind of an outworn garment, a garment which is no longer necessary, because I, the spirit, am going on into the next state of life to do my Father's bidding.

Brethren when they first entered a school of the inner wisdom were what the masons* would call 'entered apprentices' and had to serve an apprenticeship of seven years, during which they passed through degrees, or stages of learning. As entered apprentices, they had to learn the art of prayer, or meditation, and they also had to learn the art of living in a physical body correctly. They learnt not to sully their bodies by wrong eating. They were taught to cleanse their bodies daily, or twice daily, with pure water. They had to drink water; they had to cleanse their bodies in water. Many were clothed in white garments. That is perhaps why some people call them White Brothers, but of course the real White Brother is one who is clothed not only physically, but spiritually, in a pure, spotless, white soul robe.

*[*White Eagle refers to masonry as a form of universal truth or teaching, with no specific reference to the freemasonry of today.]*

During their apprenticeship of seven years, brothers learned how to serve correctly and perfectly. Their teachers were kind, but they were strict and brethren had to be obedient. Obedience is one of the first and most important lessons for the apprentice. No man can disobey Divine Law without suffering. Today you call this the law of karma, but they had it practically demonstrated to them in their daily lives that if they broke the Divine Law, they suffered in some way, either physically, mentally or spiritually. Thus they came to realise the importance of obedience and self-discipline.

All life is governed by Divine Law. People object to the idea of reincarnation and say that nothing will induce them to come back to earth, but this will not affect the outworking of the Law, for the time will come when they will naturally want to come back because they will see from a higher state of life the desirability of returning to the labours of the earthly life. In freemasonry it is said that the soul goes from labour to refreshment, and from refreshment to labour—from labour on earth to refreshment in the heavens. This, the law of reincarnation expressed in simple terms, is a cosmic law which cannot be disobeyed.

Is it not beautiful and comforting to know that a heavenly garden for rest and refreshment and communion with your loved ones awaits you after the long 'day' on earth? Try to use your imagination. Don't allow yourselves to be so tightly screwed down to earth. Imagine what it could be like to enter that heavenly garden and meet again friends whom you thought you had lost. It's a lovely thought, isn't it, but we assure you it is a more lovely thing to experience.

Seven years apprenticeship did not finish the temple service. Another three years at a higher level of training and development followed.

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Now, this training which the brethren had to undergo on the outer plane in those days, you—although you do not realise it—are going through now in your physical life. So many dear friends live in ignorance of the true purpose of their lives, but when you have even a little knowledge of what your experiences are doing for you, my brethren; when you work sincerely and conscientiously in the brotherhood and in your daily life, then you realise that your work is purifying your body and mind and firing your Spirit. You are so happy and thankful and live so joyously, illuminating your whole being, for as a man lives in close proximity to his Creator, God, so more and more is he absorbing the essence of Divine Life. He is becoming a perfect soul—man made perfect through wrestling, shall we say, with matter, through living in an earthly state.

As you begin to become aware of what is taking place inside you, as you live with your eyes open so that you see always beauty and never destruction, as you begin to see with the eyes of your spirit the beauty in nature and within all the elements, you become attuned to the creative spheres. And as you perhaps start to follow your soul's urge towards some creative art, angels from those creative spheres are drawn to you; they watch your work and inspire and guide you.

Man knows not what he is missing by cutting himself away from those higher spheres of life. It is not impractical to live aware of the spirit. It is impractical when people forget their responsibilities and forget to keep their feet firmly on the earth, but when they are firmly rooted in life's purpose they can safely open their souls to angelic influences. If you are sincere and conscientious in your work you cannot help but draw to yourself more highly evolved souls who have special knowledge on the subject upon which you are working. Earthly things, earthly people, are tools, channels which the spirit uses.

We would like you all to understand that when you become a student in the Lodge of the White Eagle (you notice we put that another way round with purpose. White Eagle does not mean this person who is speaking to you, but something much bigger)—when you become a student in the Lodge of the White Eagle, you are immediately drawn to the heart and centre, the spring. And then you may become a lone healer, or you may become a student in a meditation group, or you may become a healer in a healing group. Whatever work you are doing you will receive the help you need for that work.

Every spiritual art is developed and strengthened by service. There is a difference between the man who wants to gain everything for himself, to grasp and to hold, and the man who only wants to give, to serve God and his fellows. That very love which causes him to want to serve is—can we call it—the sparking plug which sets his soul alight. Love is the key to everything, the whole of life. Even in your industrial disputes on earth, if only love could be applied! Love and real selflessness would immediately release all that is good and helpful in human relationships. We are always stressing the value of love, but it is, as we say, the whole of life. It is, in truth, what makes the world go round. Love is the life-giving creative power. If you love your garden and your flowers they flourish and grow. Some people have what is called 'green fingers.' But their green finger is love; it is the love in that finger that makes the plants grow. This is the White Light or the heavenly manure.

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It seems we have wandered a long way from our talk on spiritual unfoldment, but not perhaps so far as you may think. The teaching in the Lodge of the White Eagle is a revelation of a new way of life, a reversal from everything which most people think as so important, so that what seems so important in the world becomes very unimportant when the brother is in touch with the spheres of infinite and eternal life.

Don't think you've fallen on to a bed of roses when you become initiated into the brotherhood, for it is then that your troubles are going to start! Initiation into the brotherhood is a very beautiful soul experience, but God says to your soul: 'Well, now, you have made these promises. Let's see if you can keep them', and you encounter every possible difficulty and frustration. What are you going to do? Are you going to kick out, or turn and run away? Or are you going to deal sensibly with every situation which arises, by the light of Christ in you? We've talked to you in your own language, but we are speaking the truth.

But, dear, dear ones, if you are determined to follow that path, those problems which rear themselves up and seem so difficult, will by your own way of dealing with them just melt away. And then you will look back and say: 'How silly of me. There was nothing in it, really. It was just a lesson that I had to learn to help me to be more sensible about certain things, that's all it is.' People so often say: 'Oh, White Eagle, White Eagle, why did this happen to me? What have I done to deserve this?' We hear and understand the human cry.

But, beloved children, we can only assure you, that what seems to you to be a tragedy will eventually reveal itself as a wonderful opportunity—an opportunity for you to learn, and to develop those spiritual powers which will eventually remove you from all the anguish, the frustration, the hurts and disappointments of physical life. A soul can only learn these lessons and get this training through living on the earth plane in a physical body. You can't be born into heaven and have everything honey and cream and strawberries. That's no good to you at all! You have to learn to accept what is given to you to bring forth the God in you so that you deal with life in a godly way. And remember, the angels are ever ready to come to your aid.

We hold before you the life of the Master Jesus; such a simple, pure, holy life, but it was a remarkable demonstration of how life ought to be lived in the physical body: a life of sacrifice and service, a life of love, but a life where he had also to be stern and strong. Don't think that love means you've always got to be easy going and soft. There are times when you have to grip a situation with courage and determination, and with trust and faith in the Great White Spirit. As you do this, so you are developing your spiritual gifts, and so you will become a perfect healer, a perfect seer, a perfect listener, a perfect giver.

Benediction:

In the centre of all we have said tonight lies the meaning of the consolamentum*, the greatest gift of all. This you are preparing yourselves to receive—the crown of your life. We hope you understand what we mean. And may the Great White Spirit bless you all and give you peace.

Amen.

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*[*According to the Cathars, the consolamentum was an immersion (or baptism) in the Holy Spirit. It implied reception of all spiritual gifts including absolution from sin, spiritual regeneration, the power to preach and elevation to a higher plane of perfection.]*

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:

Albigenses, spiritual unfoldment, attunement, ancient wisdom, opportunities, opportunity

