

Thought, the Living Reality

A317 Sunday Address 5th July 1959 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service

Text: another MB top copy in blue, without subsequent markings. Not published until *Stella Polaris* for June-July 1969, whence the title. There is a brief lacuna where MB confesses to inadequate shorthand symbols; a suggested phrase to fill the gap is included, late in the address, in the paragraph beginning 'You all know perfectly well'.

Context: Brother Faithful's closing comments give us an indication that it had been an extraordinarily hot day; he is also particularly lyrical about the quality of the address, and his comment about it being suitable for a standard introduction to the White Eagle teaching is not misplaced. MB gives the reading as Aquarian Gospel 40 : 1-15, which is a moving account of Jesus teaching the 'Magians' (i.e., followers of the Magi) about the power of the silence. The choir anthem was a setting of Psalm 121, beginning 'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills'. MB however entitles it, 'Lift thine eyes unto the mountains', which might imply that it was the trio for women's voices from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, which begins with exactly those words. The closing hymn was no. 481, 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind', to J. G. Whittier's words.

General Notes: the address begins with what White Eagle says are words personally addressed to bereaved members of his audience, reassuring them that their loved ones are indeed happy in the spirit world. This leads to a recognition of how everything in life is created by thought. He gives examples of how this is true in realms recognised by science; today, ninety years later, he could perhaps go a lot further with his examples. When White Eagle refers to eastern teachings and how they set out 'the truth of man's fight or battle with his own nature' he may mean texts like the *Bhagavad Gita* or even *Gilgamesh*. He makes the interesting point, 'it is because of the accumulation of the teachings of the wise and ancient peoples that the truth still remains in the heart of mankind'. After talking of suffering and how it comes about, White Eagle moves on to describe how all beings have links one to another (whether incarnate or discarnate) by means of 'little fine threads'. This expression is reminiscent of the mycelium network by which trees are able to communicate with one another, although knowledge of this was not available in 1959. White Eagle also has a strong message to give about the use of nuclear science *for the good of humanity*, which he says is what will prevail in the end. There must have been some particular negativity that he was dealing with on this occasion (see Historical Note, below), for he adds, 'Be gone, gloomy and depressing thoughts!'. He reiterates this particularly for young people present – perhaps the group of Eaglets, as they were then called. There is a final message about the power of imagination, which leads into the communion.

References: the anniversary – presumably of the passing – of loved ones is mentioned at the beginning. It is not known to whom in particular this refers. One possibility would be Sister Judith, co-founder of the Bournemouth Lodge, who passed on 15 June 1958 – but it seems that her partner 'Dixie' (Eunice Dixon, sister Aurelia, was at New Lands for the service a fortnight later (which see for more details). A search of Inner Brotherhood records (in October 2022) reveals no-one else, so maybe Dixie came to both. For GEC, the first anniversary of her sister Beatrice, Brown Lady in the Brotherhood, was shortly to occur – she passed on 24 July 1958. Nor do we have details of the marriage anniversaries and birthdays. The phrase 'shuffled off the mortal coil' comes from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, III i 12: Hamlet's 'To be or not to be' soliloquy. The phrase, 'the Light which lighteth every man on his journey homeward towards heaven' derives from John 1 : 9; the phrase 'journey homeward' might sound to be the origin of the White Eagle book title but it is merely a foretaste. 'Am I my brother's keeper?' is a phrase White Eagle had quoted a month previously, in the address of 5 June: it is Cain's response when asked about the slaying of Abel (Genesis 4 : 9).

Historical Note: the depressing thoughts that may have been gripping White Eagle's congregation are not surprising in view of developments in the Cold War: a renewal of fears about the Berlin crisis, the launching the first submarines to carry Polaris missiles, and the placing of American Jupiter missiles in Turkey, which was one of the events which led up to the Cuban missile crisis in 1962.

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White Eagle's Address:

Beloved children, we come to speak to you from another plane of life. Now there are not many people on your earth plane who are aware of any other form of life or sphere of life but the physical plane. This ignorance on the part of humanity will in due time be remedied.

Now first of all, we want to mention a few personal things. We do not come merely to preach at you, beloved brethren. We come to bring you words of comfort and hope and illumination. We know that some of you in this service tonight are thinking of dear ones whose anniversary is very close to this day. We want to thank you from them for your remembrance. They wish to send you all love and a message of reassurance that they are in the spirit life. In the heavenly life they have found complete joy and happiness. We are going to speak a little more about that.

There are other friends, brethren, brethren in this service, who are celebrating, or shortly celebrating, a joyous anniversary; an anniversary of marriage. There are others in this congregation who, in a few days, will celebrate the anniversary of their birth day. Now to all of these dear loved ones, we from the spirit world together with their own loved ones, mother and father and brothers and sisters, send to you their love, their assurance that all is well both for them and for you.

The rest of the congregation may wonder how we – well, as an individual spirit whom you call White Eagle – know these personal details of your life. You do not realise yet, but you will in due time. You will understand, but not yet, perhaps, how very closely we are associated with the life of the earth people.

We spoke just now of the joy and happiness of those friends who have passed out of the physical body, who have shuffled off the mortal coil. And you wonder how we know they can be happy, because there are certain cases where you wonder, you wonder a lot how those souls who have left the physical body – perhaps in difficult conditions and tragic circumstances – how they can possibly be happy in the spirit world.

They who are released, just as you are released every night when you go to sleep: they go to sleep. They are released from this physical condition of life. But, because the Divine Law has called them to a higher life, they receive beautiful help from God's angels or, as many of you are accustomed to thinking of them, guides, helpers from the spirit world. Those who pass out of the physical body very quickly, and often in a state of sleep, pass through what you call the lower astral plane or the mists and confusions of earth. And when they are fully awakened they find themselves in extremely beautiful conditions. This is the usual happening of those who pass from the physical life to the next plane, which is an etheric plane of life.

We would like here for the benefit of those of you who are recently bereaved to assure you that that plane of life is quite solid. Now many of you have got the idea that our world is all very nebulous and mystic. It is a world of thought, therefore it cannot be very solid, because thought is not very solid. Make no mistake about this, *thought is behind everything in life*. In the Beginning was God, Thought. All of us are held in the mind of God, the Thought of God.

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And it is being proved in your physical world today, that thoughts manifest in material matter. Well, your own medical science is proving this to you; proving that as an individual thinks, so he is. Thought will affect the bloodstream and the nervous system. Thought creates the conditions in which man works and lives. Thought is behind everything. Now this is a very important thing for the world to know. And in our world of higher ether, we mould the ether by thought.

Now there are many instances of this. We will give you one little story to illustrate what we mean. A man came to spirit life and he was shown his new home. He was very astonished to find that it was unfinished – quite a large corner of his spirit home, his residence. Oh yes, we have residences exactly the same as you have on the physical plane. Anyway, the Guide said to him, ‘You have noticed that your home is not quite complete?’ ‘Yes’, he said. ‘and I am very disappointed’. ‘Well, go away quietly and think hard of the perfect structure and come back in a little while’ – which the man did. When he came back he was astonished to find his house, his home, his residence quite perfect. And that is only a very simple little story. There are innumerable stories that we could waste time telling you about people; about people who recently arrive from your world.

But the point of our message is that thought is of infinite power. It is the creative power. Thought and imagination [are] the creative power in your world and in ours. You see what this implies. It implies that man, by his thought, makes his life. Now many of you will disagree with this: nevertheless, it is true. And in due time you will find it is true. As you think, so you become and so your surroundings become. They evolve, they change. In other words, by your thought you are creating conditions. Now not only you, but all humanity is doing this very thing, so you see how very grave the power of thought becomes. It creates man.

Now all through the scriptures – not only your Christian Bible, but the scriptures of the East, of the Ancient Ones both in the East and in the West, [and] the scriptures of the Red Man – give the message of the Great White Spirit to love life and all creatures. The scriptures of the Eastern peoples – those who speak give the truth of man’s fight or battle with his own nature – and the teachings of the Ancient Egyptians, all pointing to the one truth that man is spirit, the candle flame, the burning light. And it is because of the accumulation of the teachings of the wise and ancient peoples that the truth still remains in the heart of mankind.

Now it is of the utmost importance that everyone on earth realises this immortal truth. Truth is the Light which lighteth every man on his journey homeward towards heaven. No man can depend on anyone else to save him from the folly of his own self-will. This means that the way for man to pursue knowledge is not only by the methods of studying history and science and religion only, but to study himself and his own life, his own experiences, his own reactions to everything which happens to him in daily life.

Now the Ancients taught that man was spirit, and he was here in a physical body on this earth plane to develop the consciousness of his true nature, to develop the consciousness of God, and to feel that relationship from within his own being: that he, the microcosm, could recognise his relationship with the Infinite and Eternal, the macrocosm.

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Now we picture the macrocosm, the Eternal and Infinite Creator, watching over every one of His creatures on earth – all His creatures in every kingdom: the mineral, vegetable, animal, human and divine.

Now to be more human and come back to our opening remarks about those of you who are experiencing – just now – joy, happiness or sorrow: remember that you are linked with the Great Architect of the Universe. He holds the Plan, the plan of your life. Why does He hold the plan of your life when you believe that you have freewill and can act as you like? Of course, up to a point you can, but the truth is that human life on your earth is governed by a law, a divine law. As you give, you receive. You call it cause and effect. You do not like suffering from the effects of very unwise causes. Do you see? You kick against the pricks and you say, ‘Why should this happen to me?’ ‘Why should I suffer like this?’ ‘What have I done?’ Cause, the divine law, will prove to you that you have been the cause at some time somewhere of the effect which you subsequently suffer. It is only by this process of cause and effect, suffering if you like, that the soul of man learns wisdom.

Now, as we have already said, you are not only linked by an unbreakable bond with the Great White Spirit, you are linked with all your brethren on earth, with all creatures. You are all part of the great whole, and what your brethren suffer is your concern. ‘Am I my brother’s keeper?’ Yes. So taught the Christed One, the Divine Spirit, the Divine Love speaking through Man made Perfect – physically, spiritually perfect. *Thou art thy brother’s keeper*. It behoves every individual to be concerned with the suffering and the pain which is on the physical plane of life.

It is not easy, nor is it always possible, for you to completely change conditions, but at least, in the world of thought as well as in the world of action and speech, you can help your fellow man towards the light, towards understanding of this divine law which governs all life.

Why are we so conscious of your individual problems? When we come in touch with you, we have a method of linking up with our brethren. Thoughts travel on little fine threads. They travel from one soul to another, whether the soul is incarnate or discarnate. The time is coming, as we have already said, when the physical scientist will be able to penetrate the darkness of ignorance, and discover the extraordinary linking up there is on the etheric plane of life: how the brain of man is impressed by these very fine lines of communication from the etheric world and from the celestial world.

You all know perfectly well that you can receive the thoughts of other people. You say; ‘What a strange coincidence!’. You have all kinds of phenomena on your earth plane that you put down as being strange and inexplicable. Even the psychical researcher has no explanation to give, but when the spirit of [the enquiry and the researcher originates (?)] from within the heart and is able to go forth in full consciousness on the etheric plane and see the *modus operandi* of the communications which are coming from higher planes of life to the physical plane, then much will be understood which now lies in confusion. Your scientists have split the atom and they are learning very extraordinary things about its power. They are going to use this nuclear power for the good of humanity. Now we are telling you, *for the good of humanity* – and, as soon as this is established on your earth plane by your men in authority and those who have the power to direct the policy of nations, as soon as this nuclear power is

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applied to the happiness and the betterment of human life on earth, then you will find that a whole new revelation of the etheric world and the celestial world around your planet will be opened up and beyond your planet. There will be knowledge revealed of the whole solar system.

Now, begone gloomy and depressing thoughts! Send out the right thought, good thought, God-thought. And especially do we speak to our young people in this Lodge and our young people throughout the world, to think good thoughts – to pursue the positive way of life; to believe in themselves and the God that is within them, and [to] try to discover the light or the God which is in the hearts of their fellow beings.

And so with this message we leave you all love and blessing. And for a quiet moment we ask you to use the power of thought and imagination. Not fancy; that is different. There is a difference between imagination and fancy. Pure imagination; create in your imagination the picture of the Golden One, the Christ, the Lord of all humanity. See Him standing in all his beauty and humility and power. See the blazing Light flowing from His heart: Love for all mankind. Link up with Him in full consciousness now, by taking from His hand as He offers you the symbol of His cosmic body, the bread. Take it and eat it. Put it onto your tongue. You are on the etheric plane, remember now. And He offers you the cup of wine, divine Essence, symbolising love. Love, which is the key to all the mysteries of all time; the mysteries of life beyond death, the mysteries of the heavenly life to which you are all journeying. Take this communion into your souls in remembrance of your Creator and His love for you.

Peace, peace be with you. All is well when you are at peace in God's Heart.

Brother Faithful

Two things have been in my mind while listening to this address. One was that it would make an admirable introduction to the White Eagle teaching or philosophy if it were printed in the form of leaflets. If it was printed first in *Stella Polaris* and then extra copies run off as a leaflet. It seemed so human, so homely, so applicable to the life of any man or woman. It would mean a lot, perhaps, to many people.

And the second was, if we want anything of supernormal powers, surely we have had it tonight when Mrs Cooke has, after a distressing journey up from Hampshire because of the climatic conditions and because the same conditions make it most difficult to give an address. We should ask ourselves whether we should have done as well. I think it is plain evidence of the powers beyond the normal powers, beyond the mortal powers. I am not exaggerating. That was a wonderful address that has been given tonight, of all nights.

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:

Spiritual unfoldment, spiritual development, light within, inner peace, service, communion, spiritual path, spirit guides, great teachers, death, passing on, life after death, reincarnation, ancient teachings, God's plan, karma, brotherhood, psychic studies, mediumship