

Thankfulness for Life

A405 Sunday Address 22nd September 1968 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Thanksgiving Service

Text: MB typescript, a black carbon; no contemporary or other markings apart from 'TR' to imply 'Tape Recorder set'.

Context: we learn from MB that 'The Lodge was beautifully decorated with exquisite flowers and gifts of Mother Earth'. Brother Faithful began with the words, 'It is good to be back, isn't it!' and announced hymn no. 12, 'Let us, with a gladsome mind'. Minesta then gave an Invocation, separately recorded as usual, and Brother Faithful's reading seems to have been the words of hymn no. 439, based on St Francis' 'Canticle of the Creatures' check. The Choir then rendered what is described as 'O be joyful in the Lord | And give thanks'. This may be 'O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands' (Psalm 99). Then came the hymn, 'All things bright and beautiful', no. 444. After the prayers, the Choir came back to sing 'O Christ who holds the open gate'. This is a hymn to words by John Masefield; they would have sung it to the tune 'Gonfalon Royal'. At the end of the address, Brother Faithful spoke his usual few words, recorded here, and announced the final hymn, no. 300, 'God is working his purpose out' – something of a tradition at Harvest services by now. Minesta's Benediction is for once recorded here, and the service ended with what MB calls 'The Threefold Amen' (Dresden Amen?). White Eagle's opening thanks to those who have 'worked very hard to make the Lodge beautiful and harmonious and clean' might imply there had been a work party, perhaps led by the Eaglets.

General notes: there is a prayer not long after the beginning which seems perfectly designed for a funeral or cremation service – nicely stressing that the departed is worth praising simply because like every human being they have had the courage to live an earth life. After an introduction about thankfulness, White Eagle picks up a question about the need to improve conditions on earth and how this could fit with the injunction to accept the process of cleansing that goes on. His answer, 'this work is what you have come to do' is ambiguous, because it might mean attending to the physical issues, but rather means what he goes on to say, namely 'being a reflector of the truth of heaven'. Maybe he wishes to get across that if we are perfect reflectors of light, that in itself lifts the worldly conditions. Later he says that the purpose of physical life is 'to work for the unfoldment ... of that divine seed which is in his heart'. Then there is a question about why spirits like White Eagle come back to earth, and the answer is beautiful: they come because God wills but also because of the love they hold for human beings on earth. Further, it is simply longing to share with us on earth the beauty of the heaven world. There is a reminder not to judge another life, because every life is a courageous facing of karma. We then return to the harvest theme, and White Eagle speaks of his Native American life and the love his people had for the air, the water and so on. Lastly there is an encouragement to be kind and loving to each other, and above all to follow the commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill'. A very beautiful communion follows. White Eagle in an earlier teaching explained what he meant by 'the presence form' of the Christ. Here he gives fuller explanation. Describing the Christ as we rise to communion, he says: 'He comes from within to without, which means He comes from the silence and from nothingness into form most beautiful.'

References: White Eagle quotes the first two lines of William Cowper's hymn, 'God moves in a mysterious way'. 'Thou shalt not kill' is the Sixth Commandment (Exodus 20 : 13); 'Love thy neighbour as thyself' is Matthew 22 : 39, and 'He shall give his angels charge over thee' is Psalm 91 : 11.

White Eagle's Address:

We come to speak with you from a world of light and truth. And we come with joy and thankfulness that you give us the opportunity to bring to you all some of the joy and peace and love and brotherhood which we in spirit enjoy.

Thankfulness for Life

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We are full of thankfulness to our Creator, God, and to the Great Mother of all forms of life, and to our Brethren both in spirit and on earth. We are thankful to our Brotherhood here on earth for their co-operation and their service on the physical plane of life. And we would like to say [this] to each one of you who have worked very hard to make the Lodge beautiful and harmonious and clean for this thanksgiving and harvest festival service. As we have told you, our dear brethren, we have told you on many occasions, remember, no-one on earth may see what you are doing, but never forget the all-seeing eye and the messengers who come to the earth by the direction and command and love of the Great White Spirit.

It is a time on your earth for thankfulness. Now, there may be many of you here who doubt our words because you look out upon a very small speck of life. You see with limited vision inharmony, pain, suffering and distrust. But you have to cultivate the inner vision, or the vision of the spirit, [and] then you will see, dear brethren, that what appears to be destruction and inharmony is only a clearing of the way for better things to come. 'God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform'. And this truth we would endeavour to instil into every one of our brethren.

The question comes to me from someone here, 'But are we to do nothing to improve the conditions which are so appalling in the physical life in which we are all now engaged?' We from spirit say to you that this work is what you have come on earth to do; the work of being a reflector of the truth of heaven, the reflector of heavenly light, which is love.

First of all, love for life, and thanksgiving that you are alive. And here we would remind you of the evidence of the guidance and the presence of the spiritual powers and individuals, illumined souls who have passed on from your physical plane of life to the heaven world. They come back to you to help to inspire you, to open your vision and your consciousness to God's love, God's truth. There is no death, only decay and passing away of forms of life which have served their purpose, but the spirit within that form passes on to a great expansion of life. However humble, however simple, however unevolved, perhaps from your point of view, a soul may be, remember that that soul contains the seed of a great being. And that soul has to pass through many worlds, many lives, many states of consciousness in order to reach perfection.

Now this, my dear ones, is what is before every living soul. And the purpose of life on the physical plane is to work for the unfoldment, development and evolution of that Divine seed which is within its heart. And your work, and our work, is gently and kindly and understandingly to help onward every living being, every creature. This is a great opportunity which is before each one of you.

Some long time ago, and yet it seems but yesterday, we were talking to a woman who was very averse to communication between the world of spirit and the earth plane. And she said in a very pitying tone: 'O White Eagle, why do you come back to the earth? Why do you come to talk to people?' Now, our answer to that dear well-meaning soul is this, that without the blessing of the love of God, we could not come. Without the love of our fellow creatures on the physical plane of life we could not come. People on earth make it possible for the spirits of the departed, as you call them, to come into close association with earth's humanity.

Thankfulness for Life

A405 Sunday Address 22nd September 1968 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Thanksgiving Service

And why do they do this? O my dear ones, when you are with us in spirit, even when we are able to raise your consciousness onto that higher plane of life, you feel the atmosphere of heaven. You smell with your spiritual senses the perfume of that glorious heavenly garden. When you feel the fresh air of those higher spheres blowing upon you, when you hear the trickle of the little brooks and the waterfalls and when you can hear the great movement of the rivers, of the seas, all the waters of creation, you are inspired with joy and thanksgiving. And we come back because we know the glory and the beauty of that world of spirit. We know it, we see it, we touch it, we live in it. We are enfolded in its beauty. And we come back to tell you about it, even as your explorers who go into the remote places of the earth; and the explorers of the sciences, and the explorers of the cosmos and outer space, come back to tell their fellow beings what they have seen and heard and found. And you accept what is told you by these travellers, but there are so many dear earthly people who close their ears and close their eyes to the truth which we are endeavouring to bring back to the earth plane about the conditions of life when the physical body is laid aside. Nothing dies! Nothing dies, it only changes its form. Now, you all know this. You all know that what is unwanted, what has outlived its usefulness, falls away, and what remains is that part of the man which enters into the harvest of his labours on earth.

Now, there are many, oh, countless numbers – and even your own dear ones, parents and relatives, whom you have loved in the physical body, they have left this existence, this lower level of life, they have gone into the world of spirit.

Now, what we would advocate is that all mankind should learn not to grieve for the dead, nor grieve for the living. The wise man does neither. But we suggest to you that you can do the greatest good by giving thanks for a life well spent. And who are you, or we for that matter, to judge another life? We can only see that a life has been lived and very often endured with courage in a physical body. When that physical body is finished [with] the soul is released. What have you to grieve about? You have only to be thankful.

O my children on earth! Thank your Creator, thank God, thank all His angels who minister to the lives of men and women whilst in a physical body. O God, we thank Thee for the life of our dear one which has now come to an end for the present, and has begun in a new world. For that soul enters then into the harvest of its labours.

Now, this is a time of harvest on your earth, harvest thanksgiving. Man has so much to learn, but he is learning. He may be learning the hard way. He could be much more comfortable, much more healthy, much happier, if only he would listen to the voice of the spirit, to the voice of God, which is telling him, urging him, guiding him through the little, small voice within him to adopt certain actions; to adopt a certain way of life. There is the other side, the body, which is a very strong pull, and the body so often wins. And when it does then the soul has to suffer pain, physical pain, mental pain, emotional pain. If man would [only] become trusting – simple as a tiny babe – and open his heart to the love of the Great White Spirit. And what does the love of the Great White Spirit do for man? Comforts, heals, guides, gives man enduring proof of the world of spirit and of the guidance and help of spirit beings and angelic powers. These forces that man, ordinary man functioning at the mental level and the

Thankfulness for Life

A405 Sunday Address 22nd September 1968 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Thanksgiving Service

physical level cannot see and cannot hear. And if he does see and hear he immediately closes his eyes closes his ears.

But you do not need, my dear ones, necessarily to develop what you call the powers of mediumship, as you understand it today. A medium is an instrument or a means by which the spirit of man can give a message through to the physical plane of life, and this often depends not upon the spiritual qualities of the medium, but upon the actual physical and emotional make-up of the nervous system – remember this. But at the same time a medium is an instrument who can, and so often does, give or allow to come through them communications of great value to people still living in the physical body. But our message to you is beyond such phenomena. Our message to you is to first of all be thankful, thankful for life, for the opportunities which life gives you.

Oh, do not turn your back upon opportunities. You have heard us say before, accept, accept, accept – because opportunities come to you under the direction of law, of karma, or dharma as it is sometimes called – to give you, the soul, the opportunity first of all to learn wisdom and love and tolerance, all these great laws of God which govern all your life on the physical plane. The important thing is to develop first of all thankfulness to God for all the wondrous gifts around you. So many people cannot see them. They cannot see the wonderful gifts of God. But remember if there was no air, brother Air, the gift of life, you would lose all the opportunities which life on the physical plane brings to you. Brother Water, the cleansing, the cleansing element, which purifies the bloodstream. We always say ‘water, water inside and outside’. We love brother Water. In our last incarnation we learnt so much through our association with brother Water, with the rain and the rivers and the tiny streams and going over the great seas, which we loved to do. And then we found when we got to the spirit land that these elements of nature, air and water and sun, and the beauties of all nature, were intensified for us. And this is what happens in the spirit world: the intensification of life, intensification of the natural elements that they bring to the soul, intensified feelings of joy, thanksgiving. This is how we in spirit, perhaps more than you on earth, learn the value of being thankful for all nature’s gifts, thankful for the opportunity of sowing seeds, not only physically but etherically in the soul of man.

Now be assured that anything you say or do to your fellow beings, even if they laugh at you and ignore you and think you foolish, you are sowing a seed. Sometimes a seed takes a long time to germinate. Never let us forget the love and goodness of God which is like the warm sunshine, which is like that rippling water which waters the seed and warms the seed of life. All these gifts come to the physical life of men under the direction of the great angelic powers. Now, mankind has yet to learn of these intelligences – the intelligence of these nature spirits or the great angels of the elements. Men in the past, in the brotherhoods of days gone by, were taught by their wise men how valuable it was for them to hold true and natural communion and hold meditation with these angelic powers. First of all, giving thanks to their Creator, worshipping their Creator the Great White Spirit, White Spirit. White Spirit which is so beautiful, so true, so just and perfect.

Man in his ignorance on earth does not understand the wisdom of the law which runs all through human life under the Grand and Infinite Spirit, Almighty Spirit. Are you in trouble,

Thankfulness for Life

A405 Sunday Address 22nd September 1968 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Thanksgiving Service

are you perplexed, are you grieving? Our answer to you from our spirit home is resign in confidence to the love and wisdom of God, and you will find that your problem, whether it be of health, or emotion, or material, whatever it is will be resolved by the love, the loving tender care of your Father God and your Mother God.

Now, our last word to you all on this occasion of your Harvest Festival. Look to Mother Earth for your sustenance. We do not enforce any pet ideas upon anyone, but we do say, because we know, not only from the spirit life, but from life on earth through many, many days, you will find all that you need for your sustenance in the golden grain and the fruits of the earth, in the running water and the fresh air. When man learns to use these gifts with gratitude, with thankfulness; when man learns to discipline his desires and his appetites, then he will indeed find that all his needs at every level will be supplied, because man then will be working in harmony with the great law of life, the great law which was given to the initiates in the past. One of these laws was, 'Thou shalt not kill'. 'Thou shalt love thy brother as thyself.' Thou shalt learn to live in harmony with all the natural forces knowing that underneath every man, woman and child are the everlasting arms of love. God has given His angels charge over thee to guide thee and to help thee in all thy ways. And part of the essentials of you is to be kind to brother man, be kind to brother animal, to the birds of the air, and the fish in the water, to give forth the love and the light of the Son, the Divine Son, the Love of God. So simple! So simple!

Now, let us raise our vision and our thoughts to the Grand Master, the Creator. And He Who is the Christos in human form now comes forward. He comes from within to without, which means He comes from the silence and from nothingness into form most beautiful. And he stands in your midst. And symbolically He blesses the symbols of life, the grain, the bread given to you for your physical sustenance. He blesses the juice of the fruit given to man as a symbol of the love of the Divine Spirit which is given to man, every one, when he wills to accept these symbols of the spirit. The golden grain and the fresh fruit: symbols of the Cosmic, *Cosmic* Body, as well as the physical body, both the bread and the wine symbols of the creation of man; and the sustenance for man, and the blessing of the Divine Christ spirit, the gentle love, the inspiration. But man has to plough his furrow *straight*: the teaching of all the Brotherhoods of all time symbolized by the great speculative and operative masons of the past. Just, perfect and true may your building of your life be. And may God give you strength. May you receive it in thankfulness, *in thankfulness*.

O Great White Spirit, these our brethren here assembled stand before Thee with thankfulness for life and all Thy blessed gifts. So may they receive in return perfection and happiness.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Thank you for the beautiful music. Thank you. Thank you for singing to us. Thank you. Thank you all. Thank you, dear brethren.

Brother Faithful:

Thankfulness for Life

A405 Sunday Address 22nd September 1968 St Mary Abbots Place, London Harvest
Thanksgiving Service

We have been told tonight of the main purpose of man's life. The charge which is laid upon man is to attain sympathetic understanding of his fellow man. Be kind to fellow man and the to the animal world, birds and fishes. And by so doing, by the practice of kindness, man identifies his soul with the soul of the world, that troubled and sorrowful soul, and adds his quota to help that soul. And by so doing works out his own redemption. It is the simplest thing on earth – salvation. And that is why most people miss it, or cannot be bothered. And so we come to our closing hymn, no. 300, 'God is working His purpose out'. And that purpose we have been told about tonight.

Minesta – Benediction:

O Gracious Spirit, we now give Thee thanks for all the blessings bestowed. We pray that we may go forth from this service blessed and refreshed in the power of the Christ spirit.

May we walk our journey of life in tranquillity and peace, trusting in Thee, our Creator, and all the angelic beings.

Peace, peace, peace to every soul. Amen.

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:

mother goddess, mother earth, cycles of life, seasons, food, vegetarianism, thanksgiving, Lammas, heaven world, world of light, spirit world, garden of reunion, life after death, psychic studies, mediumship, clairvoyance, world of nature, natural world, nature spirits, devas