

The Christ in You

A133 Sunday Address 4th June 1944 St Mary Abbots Place, London Sunday Service
at the Christ Festival

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*, July 1944. With this teaching we lose the recent practice of breaking the address into headings.

Context: the date is entirely conjectural, although it would have been normal to print, in the July issue, and address from the first Sunday in June. The Full Moon in Gemini, the time that White Eagle refers to as the Christ Festival, would have been about to occur – on the following Tuesday, 6 June. The opening mentions a hymn and even describes the burden of the lyrics, but it is still not clear what the hymn was.

General Notes: the address, which is quite outspoken about the reasons religions decay and decline, also confronts but is positive about the progress of Spiritualism. White Eagle rather usefully redefines the term 'savage races' at the beginning – no suggestion should be considered that his remarks are disparaging of individual races, despite the possible negative currency of the terms when the address was given.

References: the source of 'the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life' is 2 Corinthians 3 : 6. The story of Jesus cursing the barren fig tree is in all three synoptic gospels, e.g. in Matthew 21 : 18-22; and the saying 'God is a spirit, and they that worship Him...' is John 4 : 24. 'I am the Way, the Truth and the life' is John 14 : 6, whereas the extended image 'I am the true vine' begins John 15 : 1-6. 'I, if I be lifted up' is also John, 12 : 32. 'Closer is he than breathing, nearer than hands and feet' is from the poem 'The Higher Pantheism' by Tennyson, and there is a submerged quotation in the final paragraph of Revelation 21 : 5, 'Behold, I make all things new'.

White Eagle's Address:

Let us be still and pray to our Creator in spirit and in truth. Let us open our hearts, the innermost sanctuary of our being, and pray that we may become aware of the all-enfolding love and wisdom and power of our Creator, who is both Father [and] Mother God. Let us pray that as our consciousness is raised above this material life our vision may be open to behold the glorious company of unseen witnesses, those teachers and saviours of all ages and all the saints and the illumined souls of men and women, many of whom we have known and loved on this earth. O God, may the darkness of earth disappear here and now, so that we may be certain of the presence of those radiant ones, of the truth of the love of all the spiritual worlds! In this radiance we remember the need of all our fellows, and we pray that we may be sincere in our search for Thee and in our endeavour to draw the spirit of Thy Son, Christ, into expression in the life of every being we encounter. May this be our continual service, and may joy and happiness be our guides. May the presence of Thy Son, the Cosmic Christ, be present in our midst. And unto Thee all honour and glory and thanksgiving for Thy gifts and Thy love. Amen.

Brethren, the singing of a hymn can create a vibration which has an effect in the invisible, which in return stimulates our thoughts and inspiration. All this goes on unknown to you usually. But the thought which you have this day put forth into the ether by your singing is that from man's creation, eons and eons ago, man has searched and longed for something beyond himself and beyond his conception, which he inclines to revere. It is born in man to

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worship his Creator, although it is true that many religions prove disillusioning when the mind commences to investigate and analyse. Throughout the many forms of worship you want to emphasise at all times the same spirit. The Bible declares that 'The letter killeth, the spirit giveth life!'; and this, brethren, is what happens in religion, the spirit of which is killed by over-emphasis upon forms and ceremonies and by material conceptions and interpretations which override the spirit. Many races of people are called savages today. We may include both coloured and white people in this term, if we recall the vast number of human beings who bow down to a god of power. Such men will worship anything which represents power, such as the accumulation of great wealth, a mighty organisation which controls the masses, or some great church, or the marching armies of war. All these things represent gods of power which the people bow down to.

Yet in the beginning the spirit of man commences as a child searching in deep sincerity of heart towards an ideal, which probably includes happiness and freedom and a right to enjoy life in its own way. The spirit yearns for freedom and love and happiness and beauty. What happens? An aspect of life intrudes itself upon this idea. It is called power, power being one of the attributes of a Deity which is a threefold God, Father–Mother–Son. In other words, the divine life-principles of masculine and feminine can give birth to the Son, or the Light, or the Life, by reason of the union of these two principles. God is threefold: power, wisdom and love. When wisdom departs, power reigns supreme and is inclined to dominate love. Too often the most vital lessons which mankind has to learn lie in the balancing of these two attributes of the creative life-force, power and love.

On reviewing the life of mankind in physical form on this earth, on looking back through history as far as it is possible for you to look (which is not very far), we see these two vital lessons expressed in many different forms. Once man becomes dominated by a lust for power he will destroy himself; this is inevitable, because it is a cosmic law. When the soul is youthful and crude, love appears to be a weakness and until these two attributes become perfectly balanced man is bound to stray from that narrow path which requires absolute balance. We stress this; because every religion which man has commenced hitherto will be overthrown and destroyed by the love of power, which can creep in so subtle a fashion through the priesthood, through rites and ceremonies and through desire of the worshipper to dominate over his fellows. Why should this happen? Because the material self, the earthly self, is pulling its spiritual ideal down into some material or physical form. The Egyptian, the Grecian and the early Christian religions testify to this, and the same factor appears in Christian Science, Theosophy, Spiritualism and most of all in Christianity itself.

We do not suggest that the guidance of the spirit and the inspiration of the spirit can only be found in the spiritual worlds around you, but we do say that man must learn how to harness these spiritual powers and bring them through into physical expression in a spiritual and not in a material way. This is the trouble. Here lies the mistake – in the attempted materialisation of matters spiritual.

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In its philosophical sense Spiritualism is or should be the religion of the spiritual state of man's being. It should be a spiritual and not a material religion. Christianity or orthodoxy has become materialised to a very large extent. Why? Because the people have lowered their standard and therefore worship the material aspect of the divine Son. Instead of Christ, they worship the One whom they call Jesus of Nazareth. This is not wrong in itself, but what they must realise is that Jesus of Nazareth provided a form, a channel through which the cosmic Light, the only-begotten Son, the Christ Light manifested. It is not Jesus, but the spirit and the light which must be revered – the life and the truth and not the individual. It is always the light behind the spirit which giveth life. The name and the letter killeth and drags [*sic*] spirit down.

We are now going to touch upon the religion which is called Spiritualism. What has it become? Where is it now? Do we suggest that it has begun to decline, that its mission is spent? No. We see not a decline but a gradual upliftment, evolution and development. We give this message to encourage and inspire the forerunners and pioneers of what will some day become the religion of the future. Then it will not be known as Spiritualism but as the Brotherhood of St John, the Church of St. John if you will – that church which will inspire mankind with its mystical interpretation of the true message of the last world Teacher, a message which proclaims that every man must be raised up into the heavens, and in the heavens he will hold communion with his beloved and with all men.

This does not mean that you will only hold communion with those who have left the earth. No, more than this: it means that man will learn to touch the spirit in a brother's heart and commune with the spirit of his brother even while both are still living in a body of flesh. Then will the veil of the temple be drawn aside and heart will beat with heart. Then will the need of every true brother be bound with a golden cord to his brother's need and each will work and live and love with his brother. Then will there be no need for the argument which says we would lay down our arms if we could only be sure about the other nations. When every brother is touched, awakened and raised, as Christ said, then all men will be brothers. Then will they find no happiness in seeking for domination over their fellows. No, my friends, it is no use to legislate in the New Age, unless it is realised, recognised by the leaders of the nations that the roots of the tree of brotherhood need to be watered and nourished. Otherwise, the tree of peace will be barren. The Master is said to have once cursed a fig tree because it gave forth no fruit against His need. The tree of the new religion of the new age must be nurtured at the roots; and the roots, although they are fast in the earth, draw their nourishment from the creative life forces of God – Spirit.

God is Spirit and those who would worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth. The letter killeth, but the spirit bringeth life. Fine words! What do they accomplish? My friends, a life rooted in spirit is bound to grow and flourish and give forth that which will sustain and feed all men. The shade of that tree will shelter mankind from the barren wilderness of life. Do you not see the picture? The spirit is the centre point. Unless all reforms are built upon the spirit of God in man they cannot succeed. Do you remember the words of Jesus Christ, who

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said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the life'; I am the true life. I am the true vine. He did not then speak of the man, Jesus of Nazareth, but of the Light of Christ, the only begotten.

Two cosmic principles, male and female, positive and Negative, Father–Mother God, give birth to Christ, the Son, which is the Light which lights all men, the Christ implanted in your breast, the Christ which is both human and divine, the Christ which is both the Son of Man and Son of God. When He said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life', what did He mean? That every man must be true to, must speak from, must open his heart in love and goodwill to life and to his brother. Must open his heart in loving understanding of all that his brother suffers and all he needs. That at all times and in all places he must follow the path of meekness and humility and love, because these are the only attributes which can create and maintain the true balance, the true power in man. Power must be merged into love and wisdom. Love is the Son; Wisdom is the Mother, the feminine; Power is an active dominating principle, the Father. All must form into a perfect triangle, maintain perfect balance. When love is extinct and power is allowed to run riot, there is chaos and destruction. Power can then only destroy itself.

One last word to help you on your path to realise this divinity and to open your consciousness to all the truth of the spiritual worlds, of your real home. We are speaking now of the development of what you call spiritual gifts. We are going to differentiate between spiritual and psychic gifts. There are the powers of the psyche and the psychic and there are powers of the spirit. When the powers of the psyche are developed and opened up without the guidance, control and the inspiration of the spirit, then there is danger; but when the spirit of aspiration and love leads the way, then the spirit and the true love raise up the psyche. If I be raised up – the I Am, the glory of Christ – I will raise up all men to Me. I raise the psyches of all men and in this sense all men are saved. This is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

When you lose your loved ones, when they leave their physical body, we would have you remember that they are living in a world of spirit. They are not unnatural, they are not dead, but their aspirations are different and their love is different, for they have had something revealed which you perhaps lack. The revelation to those who pass into the world beyond is not limited. There are amongst you souls who are truly simple and pure and loving. They can be raised up by the Christ, the gentle One who leads and who brings into manifestation these true gifts of the spirit, whereby you can behold or become aware of the spiritual worlds around you – not only aware of the psychic forms of those in the world beyond, but of the glory of the heavens. Not with the eyes of the body, but the eyes of the spirit do you discern your beloved, closer than breathing, nearer than hands and feet. From the loved one you cannot be separated at any time or in any place.

This is the true Spiritualism. Survivalism is not enough. It may break down the first barrier, but it may become as materialistic as materialism itself. There is only one way, the way of the Christ, the way of every true brother initiated into the great White Lodge of the great White Brotherhood. Behold, such a brother is a son of God, a man made perfect, for the Christ in him has made all things new. He has become his own priest. He does not need to worship by

The Christ in You

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form and ceremony. He is raised in spirit and he raises all souls with him into that world of true harmony and happiness. Then, my brethren, love becomes manifest through the physical form of men and women and in every department, in religion, in worship, even in the commercial world, comes the spirit of cooperation and service instead of competition. Then you can hope for a New Age, a new life which will become the Golden Age, when angels and the spirits of men and women will walk and talk with men and help and companion them. That will be the time of true and perfect brotherhood on earth, when the Church of St John will have been established ... St John, who taught the true mysticism of Christ in you.

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:

music, song, Holy Trinity, spiritual power, spiritual development, spiritual unfoldment, materialism, community, inner light, light within, inner voice, intuition, heaven world, world of light, life after death

